



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

Devils Tombstone Public Campground

Unit Management Plan

FINAL

Town of Hunter - Greene County, New York

April 2018

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Operations, 3rd Floor
625 Broadway, Albany, NY12233

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record
FROM: Basil Seggos
SUBJECT: Devils Tombstone Campground

The Devils Tombstone Campground Unit Management Plan has been completed.

The UMP is consistent with Environmental Conservation Law, and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies and is hereby approved and adopted.



Basil Seggos
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Date: May 22, 2018

**DEVILS TOMBSTONE PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

NOTE: Volume I is a generic plan and contains an overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria which pertains universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill public campgrounds and special day-use classified intensive-use areas. Volume II is a site-specific document containing inventories of physical, biological and human-made features, together with specific management actions for the individual site. Volume III contains support data in the form of an appendix to Volumes I and II.

Unit management plans (UMPs) are prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to cover the next ten year management period. The final UMP is completed according to guidelines and criteria set forth in the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan.

This UMP has been prepared by Region 4 staff for internal review. All comments and/or information should be forwarded to Wayne Wawrzonek, copy to Tom Folts, Division of Operations, Albany.

For information, contact Michael Buzzelli, Campground Program Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY12233, telephone 518-457-2500.

SUMMARY
DEVILS TOMBSTONE PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

In keeping with constitutional provisions criteria referenced in the *Catskill Park State Land Master Plan* (CPSLMP) and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) management policy for Forest Preserve state-owned lands, DEC has established a management plan for the ten (10) year operation of the Devils Tombstone Public Campground.

Goals include: management of recreation programs to ensure protection of natural resources according to Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and offer recreational opportunities for state residents, ensure that revenues equal operating costs for that portion of the program covered by user fees, and manage the program to enhance economic benefits to local communities and the state.

To help meet these goals, contingent upon funding, the six management actions below are being proposed.

Proposed Management Actions*

- Provide electric service to campground
- Replace vault toilet #2 with toilet/ shower building
- Rehabilitate vault toilet buildings #1 & 3
- Rehabilitate water system
- Pave deteriorated sections of roads & parking lots
- Plant trees and shrubs.

*Prioritized projects to be completed when funding becomes available

Beneficial effects of proposed actions include compliance with state health codes, maintenance of physical plant investment and modernization of facilities. These improvements should enhance users' recreational experience, contribute to public safety, and provide conditions in a setting and on a scale in harmony with the character of the Catskill Park.

Determination of conformance to criteria established in the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (CPSLMP) includes: determining whether proposed activities

- Avoid alterations of wetlands and topography
- Limit vegetative clearing
- Preserve the area's scenic natural resources
- Contain an adequate assessment of actual and projected public use

Mitigation measures to minimize the environmental impacts have been considered. All construction projects will minimize tree removal to reduce clearing and maintain the facility's wooded appearance. Architectural designs will be selected to achieve a harmonious blending with the character of the recreation area and surrounding forest. Seeding and mulching of construction sites will readily reestablish vegetation and effectively stabilize soil. Adjacent forest cover will not be altered. Proposals concentrate on improving and updating facilities to accommodate present peak-use periods rather than projected population increases.

Various alternative actions were considered. Public unrest, adverse effects on local communities, and uncontrolled use of state lands would sharply increase should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved. Current care, custody and control preclude selection of alternatives at this time.

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I. INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Devils Tombstone Campground is a state-owned public campground operated by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). It is located within the DEC Region 4 - Schenectady working circle and consists of 192.96 total acres with 10 developed acres and 182.96 acres available for expansion. The campground is situated in a rugged mountain pass in the Catskill Mountains called Stony Clove surrounded by some of the highest peaks in the Catskills, which makes it a haven for serious hikers. The campground's trails lead to Hunter Mountain, with the highest historic fire tower in New York State, Indian Head and the West Kill Range. This is a small, primitive campground, with wooded sites and a small, shallow lake, Notch Lake. Each campsite has a picnic table and fireplace with water spigots located nearby. The park also has two picnic areas with tables and fireplaces or charcoal grills, a children's playground, a volleyball court, horseshoes and firewood for sale Showers facilities along with swimming and boating are available at North-South Lake Campground, nine miles away. The campground is four miles from Hunter Mountain, which hosts festivals throughout the summer season , a chairlift ride which offers fine views of the surrounding mountains and zip line aerial rides. Nearby towns offer restaurants, shops, and a movie theater. Tubing, go-carts, miniature golf, and a number of golf courses and horseback riding facilities are located within easy driving distance. Guidelines for management of the campground are based on its classification as an intensive-use area in the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (CPSLMP).

B. Area Description

1. Location

The campground is located on Route 214, six miles south of the Village of Hunter. For visitors coming from the south, the campground is 31 miles from exit 19 of the NYS Thruway at Kingston. From the north, it is 25 miles from exit 21 at Catskill. The campground is located on lot 54, which is a portion of Great Lot 24 of the Hardenberg Patent.

2. History

The modern history of Devils Tombstone begins similar to that of much of the Catskill region when in 1707 Major Johannes Hardenberg, a merchant of Kingston, NY purchased from the Indians for the sum of 60 pounds, the tract of land now known as the Hardenberg Patent. This immense parcel

included all of what is today known as Sullivan County as well as much of Delaware, Ulster and Greene counties.

In 1749, the patent was divided into "Great Lots" apportioned by lot among the 8 proprietors. These were further subdivided into tracts and divisions of various sizes. Devils Tombstone Campground is located within what's referred to as the east half of Great Lot 24 and upon Lots 54 and 57. Settlement upon these lands was slow due to the land owner's practice of leasing their lands to farmers via perpetual leases rather than selling the land outright. In 1771, because of lack of settlement on the land, the validity of the patent was contested by the British Army officer Col. John Bradstreet. He argued that while the patentees had been in possession of the land since 1707, there were not yet ten families settled thereon at the time. However, authorities refused to consider the patent invalid. The tenants required to pay rent eventually rebelled in what was known as the anti-rent wars which persisted from 1839 through 1846.

The lands in close proximity to Devils Tombstone took even longer to be settled due to their remote location and the rugged and rocky landscapes. Charles Lanman, a painter and writer, was quoted in the 1840's as describing the Stony Clove as "the loneliest and most awful corner of the world that I have ever seen. It is a type of the valley of the shadow of death; in single file did we have to pass through it and in single file must we pass to the grave". It was not just the appearance that frightened locals and visitors, it was the stories and folklore which led to the belief that the Catskill Mountains and in particular Stony Clove was a favorite haunt of the devil. Devil's Kitchen, Devil's Acre and the Devils Tombstone are all names describing landmarks in the vicinity of the campground. The tombstone itself is a large rectangular boulder, approximately seven feet by five feet, which was most likely carried down the mountain many centuries ago by a landslide or glacier and landed on its end, to resemble a tombstone. The tombstone lies in the lower day use area and more recently, a plaque has been attached on the stone to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1885 legislation creating the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves.

Two separate developments did eventually spur some activity in the vicinity of today's campground. First, the plentiful supply of hemlock trees and water power were utilized to grind hemlock bark and extract the tannin for use in the processing of leather. Several tanneries opened in the area beginning in the 1820's including the New York Tannery, operated by Colonel Edwards in Edwardsville, what today is known as Hunter. As the local supply of hemlock was exhausted, roads were required to haul bark from further away. In the 1840's the first crude road was constructed through

I. INTRODUCTION

Stony Clove which would permit bark to be hauled from as far south as Phoenicia. In a book by author Alf Evers, he quotes a man who recalls seeing as many as 20 teams returning at night through the notch with full loads of hemlock bark. The tannery business would last until the Civil War when the great demand for leather goods exhausted the supply of hemlock in the Catskills.

The second development was the arrival of the recreation business which brought hotel guests, artists, hunters and anglers to the area. In 1824, the Catskill Mountain House opened nearby and vacationers began to explore the area including Stony Clove. Famous Hudson River School painter Thomas Cole's paintings of the cloves and mountain scenes of the Catskills introduced many to what could be enjoyed by visitors to the region. An 1860's photograph used for a parlor telescope shows the tombstone next to a wagon and team and some rough dressed men cooking nearby.

In 1873, the Stony Clove Turnpike Company was incorporated which would upgrade the existing wagon road from Phoenicia through the notch to Hunter and Tannersville. As additional hotels were built on the edge of the escarpment, owners competed to make access easier and more comfortable for their guests.

In 1881, politician and businessman Thomas Cornell, began construction of the Stony Clove and Catskill Mountain Railroad, a narrow gauge track which would start at the Ulster & Delaware railway junction in Phoenicia and go up along the Stony Clove Valley to the bustling Village of Hunter. The line now permitted rail service from New York City all the way to the hotels adjacent to North-South Lake. In addition to the major stations, there was a flag-stop at Stony Clove Notch. The small station and water tower were later destroyed by a landslide falling from the steep slopes of Plateau Mountain.

By the beginning of the 20th century, Stony Clove was becoming a destination for campers, hikers, hunters and anglers. Informal campsites were accessible by wagon or auto along Edgewood Stream and Notch Lake. New York State purchased several tracts of land, from 1906 through 1909, that would be added to the original forest preserve lands protected since 1885. Due to the State's concern for unsupervised use of state lands including the fear of forest fires, Devils Tombstone was "officially" opened for public use in 1926, as one of the first campgrounds operated by New York State.

The Greene County portion of the Stony Clove and Catskill Mountain Railroad, located just east of the campsites, was torn up in 1940. In 1947, a transfer of jurisdiction of a portion DEC lands to the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) allowed for improvement and realignment of the original Stony Clove Turnpike resulting in what we see today as Route 214 which bisects the campground. In 1978, a 113-acre parcel of land south of the campground was purchased by New York

Stated adding about 82 acres to the campground. Today, Devils Tombstone is still a small campground with primitive facilities and wooded sites surrounded by thousands of acres of forest preserve.

Year	Campground Improvement
1926	Facility officially opened for camping
1994	Well was drilled but not connected due to lack of power source
2007	New roof on the vault toilets 007, 008
2016	New roof on the reservoir
2016	New trusses installed on garage
2016	Campground boundaries surveyed by DEC's Real Property Unit
2016	Design estimate prepared for installation of electric system
2016	Replaced siding and windows on caretakers cabin
2016	Replaced deck on bridge on west side of campground
2017	Replaced water lines on east side of campground
2017	Replace water collection tank before reservoir with secure structure

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Camping and Day-Use (Picnic) Areas

Existing Camping and Day-Use Facilities	
Camping Area	Day-Use Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Campsites • 24 Picnic Tables • 24 Fireplaces • 8 Spigots • Design Capacity – 144 people (24 sites x 6 persons) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Acres • 18 Picnic Tables • 13 Grills • 7 Fireplaces • 3 Spigots • Design Capacity – 108 people (18 tables x 6 persons)

2. Roads and Parking

The campground is bisected by State Route 214 which passes through north to south. DEC-maintained roads include .2 miles of paved roads for two-way and one-way traffic. There are paved parking areas at three locations. A 10,000 sq. ft. parking area located at Notch Lake can accommodate up to 25 vehicles and is used by hikers and picnickers. A 3,600 sq. ft. parking area located at the caretaker’s cabin can accommodate up to four vehicles and is used for registration and administrative parking. A 3,000 sq. ft. parking area at the south end of the campground near the playground and information booth can accommodate up to five cars.

As seen below, three bridges and four culverts provide drainage.

Bridges and Culverts	
Bridges	Culverts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foot bridge - across Stony Clove Creek at Devils Path • Vehicle bridge across stream by site 16 • Vehicle bridge across stream by site 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage under campground roads (4)

3. Buildings

MMS #	Building Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size	Condition	Year Built
(003)	Facility supervisor’s cabin	Living and office space	825 sf	Fair	1934
(004)	Generator shed	Behind supervisor cabin	64 sf	Poor	1934
(005)	Garage	Storage and shop	1274 sf	Good	1969
(006)	Chlorinator shed	By site 18	60 sf	Good	1970
(007)	Vault toilet	By site 20	150 sf	Poor	1974
(008)	Vault toilet	By site 1	150 sf	Poor	1974
(009)	Vault toilet	By site 12	150 sf	Poor	1974
(010)	Information booth	Near playground	18 sf	Fair	1929
(011)	Reservoir building	Near spring shed	300 sf	Poor	1950
(012)	Spring shed	SW corner of facility	9 sf	Excellent	2017

Numbers in parentheses are building numbers assigned in the Maintenance Management System (MMS) Building Inventory. Building condition rating from (MMS) building inspection report based on inspection conducted December 13, 2016. The supervisor’s cabin has a kitchen sink, toilet, shower and bathroom sink. Comfort stations 007-009 are vault toilets with 2 toilets per unit for each sex for a total of 12 toilets.

4. Sewage System

The supervisor's cabin has a 350 gallon septic tank with a leach field. The septic tank is pumped periodically, as needed. Comfort station 007 is a vault toilet. Comfort stations 008 & 009 are vault toilets connected to cesspools. The cesspools are no longer utilized. The 3 vault toilets are generally pumped two times per season, mid-season and at the end of season. Pumping and hauling is by a private contractor. No SPDES permit is required for this campground. (See Exhibit 6)

MMS#	Building Description	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Leach Field /Holding Tank
(001)	Facility supervisor’s cabin	350 gal	Leach field
(007)	Vault toilet 007	3,000 gal	Holding tank
(008)	Vault toilet 008	3,000 gal	Holding tank
(009)	Vault toilet 009	3,000 gal	Holding tank

Numbers in parentheses are building numbers assigned in the MMS Building Inventory.

5. Solid Waste

This campground has been designated a Carry-In, Carry-Out facility. All day-use and camping areas are managed under the carry-in, carry-out policy. Appropriate signs have been erected to inform the public. A brochure is issued to the public. Staff refuse is transported to North-South Lake campground for disposal.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

6. Barriers

Barriers are used for controlling campground use and are periodically opened or closed for this purpose. DEC policy provides for the design and safety considerations for in-place barriers. Two sections of fencing are located in the upper day-use area and in the lower day-use area near. This fencing consists of 10 foot long sections of rustic wooden railings. It is used to distinguish the parking areas from the picnic areas. The current inventory is shown below.

Location	Type	Function
Reservoir road	Metal gate	Control public access
Lower day use area	Metal gate	Prevent off-season access
Near site 24	Metal gate	Prevent off-season access
Near site 18	Metal gate	Prevent off-season access
Near site 17	Metal gate	Prevent off-season access
Lower day use area	Wood rail fence	Control vehicle access
Upper day use area	Wood rail fence	Delineate parking area

7. Telephone

The main phone number is 845-688-7160. The phone is on temporary disconnect when the campground is closed and callers are directed to call 518-357-2262. There is a payphone on site for the public to use.

8. Signs

Messages for the public are provided by means of standard (yellow on brown) signs and include information about entering the campground; directions to the supervisor's office; a bulletin board; information about traffic control, commemoratives and regulations; and information and directions to the picnic area, comfort stations and camping sites.

9. Electric System

Devils Tombstone is located in an area where there is no electric service. An electric generator at the campground enables operation of the reservations computer system and the caretaker's cabin is wired so it can be powered from the generator. A propane lighting system is located at the caretaker's cabin. In 2016, an engineering study was completed to determine potential costs to extend electric service 4,360' feet to the campground. (See Exhibit #7)

10. Potable Water System

The water system at Devils Tombstone consists of spring fed water, which is contained in a concrete vault reservoir (10'9" x 21'6" x 10'). The capacity of the reservoir is approximately 17,000 gallons and flows through a two inch main before being distributed to the caretaker's residence and 11 spigots throughout the campground. The water flows by gravity though approximately 0.75 miles of waterline throughout the campground at a maximum rate of 35 gal/min. It is chlorinated at a building located near site 18. In 2017, the water lines were replaced on the east side of the campground and a new water collection tank above the reservoir was installed. The water system presently complies with State Department of Health (DOH) criteria. A well was drilled in 1994 which is 497 feet deep and test-pumped at five gals/min. Currently, the well is not in use, but is available if power is extended to the campground or should DOH require it.

11. Trails

The 24.2 mile long Devils Path hiking trail is considered one of the most challenging trails in the region and passes over the summits of five of the 35 highest peaks in the Catskills. The trail descends steeply into Stony Clove and crosses Route 214 within Devils Tombstone Campground. The parking lot at Notch Lake is a popular parking area for Devils Path hikers. It is a 3.8 mile hike from the campground to the summit of Hunter Mountain, and its fire tower, the second highest peak in the Catskills. A short .25 mile long foot trail connects the campground to the Devils Path and Notch Lake. The rail bed of the abandoned Delaware and Hudson railroad passes through the campground and is a popular short hike for families.

12 Fuel Systems

There is a 100 gallon propane tank located near the caretakers cabin which fuels the generator, cabin lighting and heating devices. Annual use is about 130 gallons.

13. Swimming

There is no swimming area at Devils Tombstone Campground. Campers are permitted access to North South Lake Campground, located eight miles away, which has two beaches staffed with lifeguards.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

14. Boating

Notch Lake at the lower parking area is a small 2.6 acre shallow pond not suitable for boating because of the lack of depth and vegetation. No swimming or boating is permitted on the lake. Rowboats and canoes are permitted at North-South Lake Campground eight 8 miles away and available to rent at that facility.

B. Inventory of Systems

1. Staff

Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor I
1	Park Attendant

2. Fee Schedule 2017

Daily Fees 2017 Open Dates: May 19-Sep 4	
Camping/night – NYS Residents	\$16.00
Camping/night – Non Residents	\$21.00
Day Use - Auto	\$6.00
Day Use - Walk-In	\$2.00
Day Use - Bus	\$35.00
Day Use - Motorcycle	\$3.00
Firewood – per bundle	\$9.00
Empire Passport - season	\$65.00

3. Permits

Peddling permits may be issued annually for firewood and camper supplies. Each vendor is charged a fee of \$2.00 multiplied by the number of campsites. No permits were issued in 2016.

4. Off-season Use

Camping is not permitted when the campground is closed. All gates are closed during the off-season and vehicles are not permitted to enter the facility. Due to its small area and confined position in the narrow Stony Clove, hiking on the Devils Path is the primary winter activity. There is currently a verbal agreement with the Town of Hunter to plow a portion of the Notch Lake day-use parking lot. The size and capacity of the lot depends on how much snow is on the ground. Rock climbing and ice climbing is also popular in the notch when conditions are favorable.

5. Junior Naturalist Program

The *Junior Naturalist Journal* is an activity book that gives children the opportunity to test their environmental knowledge while teaching them about New York State's environment. Children five through 12-years old can request a *Junior Naturalist Journal* from campground staff. When the journal is completed, children bring it to the appropriate DEC staff person, who reviews the journal and then gives the child a Junior Naturalist patch. This program is dependent on funding being available and may not be offered every year. It was offered for the 2016 camping season.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Elevation

Elevation of the Devils Tombstone Campground varies from a minimum of 1,860 feet along Stony Clove Creek at the southern boundary to a maximum of 2,200 feet on the slopes of Plateau Mountain along the eastern boundary. (See Exhibit 2.)

b. Water

Notch Lake is a small 2.6 acre lake averaging only 6"-12" in depth located at the northern edge of the campground. It constitutes the uppermost headwaters of Stony Clove Creek which flows in a southerly direction through the campground. Several tributaries flowing from Hunter Mountain to the west and Plateau Mountain to the east enter Stony Clove Creek within the boundary of the campground. A second small .44 acre unnamed pond is located east of Route 214 near the southern boundary of the campground. (See Exhibit 2)

c. Wetlands

Wetlands are inventoried, mapped, and protected under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law by DEC. The National Wetlands Inventory includes 2.6 acre Notch Lake, 1.1 acres of freshwater forested/shrub wetlands, 3.3 acres of freshwater emergent wetland and a .4 acre freshwater pond within the boundaries of Devils Tombstone Campground.

Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet of the wetland will require a permit from DEC. DEC will be consulted to determine whether a permit is needed prior to site disturbance in or adjacent to designated wetland areas. (See Exhibit 10.)

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

d. Soils

Soil associations and drainage classes found within the boundary of Devils Tombstone Campground are listed below. (See Exhibit 11)

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Acres
Elka channery loam, moderately steep, very stony	Well drained	121.2
Elka channery loam, very steep, very stony	Well drained	32.8
Elka channery loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Well drained	25.3
Tunkhannock gravelly loam, hilly	Well drained	5.8
Ochrepts, frequently flooded	Moderately well drained	2.5
Vly-Halcott complex, very steep, rocky	Well drained	1.7
Water		3.7

2. Biological

a. Forest Type

There are three forest cover types present in the campground. These include Northern Hardwood/Hemlock, Spruce- Fir, and Northern Hardwood. These are high elevation forests but lie in a narrow mountain valley with considerable till and alluvium. The forest trees are generally very healthy and tall; available moisture and deep soils are evident factors. Most of the forest is older growth, being up to 140 to 170 years. The southern third, though, is more recently disturbed and supports a younger variation (open to 50 to 80 years) of Northern Hardwood and here is found a denser forest of smaller trees; this area was only purchased in 1978.

b. Unique Vegetation

The New York Natural Heritage Program keeps track of the status of the state's rare flowering plants, conifers, ferns and fern allies, and mosses. Rough Aven (Geum Virginianum), a threatened vascular plant, has been identified in a broad area surrounding and including the campground. Additionally the Beech-Maple mesic forest community has been identified in the campground. This is large matrix forest that is dominant in the Catskill Park.

c. Wildlife

Wildlife communities typically found in the Catskill Peaks eco-zone inhabit the forests of Devil's Tombstone Campground. 49 species of mammals have been identified in the adjacent Hunter-Westkill Wilderness Area (HWWA) including black bear, white tail deer, raccoon, red and gray fox, bobcat and porcupine. There are no protected species on this list and the small footed bat is the only species on the

list designated as of special concern. There are 14 species of reptiles identified in the HWWA with the wood turtle and eastern hognose snake listed as of special concern and the eastern timber rattlesnake listed as protected and threatened. There are 19 species of amphibians identified in the HWWA with three species of salamander listed as of special concern and the eastern timber rattlesnake listed protected and threatened. There are 121 species of birds identified in the HWWA with no species listed as endangered but several of special concern. For more information, please refer to the HWWA unit management plan available on the DEC website. Hunting and the discharge of firearms is prohibited within the campground and therefore use of these wildlife resources at the campground is non-consumptive in nature. Recreational uses include wildlife observation and nature photography. Bicknell's Thrush has been observed at 3,300 feet approximately a dozen miles south of this campground. With some Balsam Fir forest on site, there is a slight chance of this bird occurring here. This species has no status as threatened or endangered but is of interest because of its rarity in New York State.

d. Fisheries

Devils Tombstone Campground includes Notch Lake and Upper Stony Clove. Notch Lake is a small pond which supports a population of mostly small bullhead. The pond is also called Devil's Pond and it constitutes the uppermost headwaters of Stony Clove Creek. Stony Clove Creek (also called Edgewood Stream) supports wild populations of rainbow trout and brook trout. Brown trout have been collected in the stream. No special fishing regulations apply to the water of the Devil's Tombstone Campground.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

A. Article XIV, New York State Constitution

Article XIV of the NY State Constitution provides in part that “the lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the Forest Preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed, or destroyed.”

B. Catskill Park State Land Master Plan

The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (CPSLMP) requires that all campgrounds and day use areas to be of a rustic nature. Natural materials will be used to the fullest extent possible in the construction so as to blend with the Catskill environment. These constraints are further described in Volume I of the generic plan.

C. Environmental Conservation Laws

The management plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), Rules and Regulations of the State of New York and established policies and procedures for the administration of the lands involved.

D. Campground Generic Plan/EIS

The management plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by the Generic Unit Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GUMP/EIS) and contains an overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria which pertain universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill public campgrounds and special day-use classified intensive use areas.

E. Recreation Program Goals

- Manage recreation programs in a manner that ensures protection of natural resources according to the Environmental Conservation Law, Article XIV of the New York State Constitution and the Adirondack and Catskill Parks State Land Master Plans.
- Offer recreational opportunities for state residents.

- Ensure that revenues equal operating costs for that portion of the program covered by user fees.
- Manage the program to enhance economic benefits to local communities and the state.

F. Public Use

1. Inventory of Public Use

a. Attendance Trends

Attendance numbers are a combination of camper days (the number of campers times the number of nights spent) and day use (the number of people using the beach, day-use areas or just visiting) but not staying overnight. The five-year trend in camping attendance indicates a spike in attendance occurred for the 2013 and 2014 camping seasons over the previous 5 year average of 3,658 and then a drop back to more average camping attendance in 2015- 2017. In 2013, the campground operated until Columbus Day resulting in the higher attendance. Despite the recent drop, the last five year average is slightly above the period 2007 -2012. The average length of stay is 1.8 nights and the average party size is 2.7 persons. Most Devils Tombstone campers are from New York State (67%) and New Jersey (12%), with strong representation from Hudson Valley area as well as New York City and Long Island. (See Exhibit 8.)

Day-use attendance for the most recent five years shows a drop of about 20% from the previous five year period. Most of the drop has occurred in the last four seasons. This can partially be explained by fluctuations in weather but also is due to staff shortages that limits the ability to collect fees at the Devils Path trailhead used by hikers. Campground use during winter months is from use of the hiking trails and some rock and ice climbing. Currently, there is no way to accurately track usage because no permits are required or issued for off-season use, nor is staff on-site to monitor use.

Devils Tombstone Attendance			
Year	Camping	Day Use	Total
2017	3,062	371	3,433
2016	2,934	941	3,875
2015	2,894	651	3,545
2014	3,257	881	4,138
2013	3,707	2,007	5,714
<i>Average</i>	<i>3,171</i>	<i>970</i>	<i>4,462</i>

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

b. Revenue Trends

Revenues are important because they are used to offset the campground's annual operating costs. Operating costs for Devils Tombstone average \$32,917 annually. The operating budget allocation is, in part, based on revenues generated from camping and other service fees as well as economic conditions for the geographic area. Camping revenue comes

Devils Tombstone Revenue				
Year	Camping	Day Use	Misc	Total
2017	\$20,111	\$997	\$2,752	\$23,860
2016	\$19,643	\$2,484	\$3,817	\$25,944
2015	\$19,046	\$1,962	\$3,749	\$24,757
2014	\$19,172	\$1,614		\$20,786
2013	\$23,918	\$3,707		\$27,625
<i>Average</i>	<i>\$20,378</i>	<i>\$2,497</i>	<i>\$3,439</i>	<i>\$24,594</i>

from the rental of the 24 campsites. Camping revenue generally shows some variability, which is tied to attendance fluctuation, fee increases and weather events. The nightly camping rate at Devils Tombstone Campground has been \$16.00 since 2010. In 2011, an additional \$5.00 fee per night was instituted for non-state residents. About 39% of camping revenue is collected from non-resident campers. Camping revenue has been fairly static at the campground over the last five-year period and about 20% higher than in the previous five-year period. In 2013, the campground operated until Columbus Day resulting in the higher revenue. Day-use revenue is derived from park entrance fees including parking at the upper parking lot at Notch Lake which used by hikers and picnickers. Miscellaneous revenue comes from a combination of firewood sales and Empire Passport sales. Total day-use revenue has dropped recently due to the factors explained above. Firewood sales were instituted in 2015 after recent regulations limiting the transport of firewood over 50 miles.

2. Carrying Capacity

Devils Tombstone Campground facilities should be operated within the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the site. Operation within these limits will grant continued character and integrity to intensive recreational use at this location and will assure that public use is conditioned within the campground's carrying capacity.

a. Physical Design

The following is an analysis of existing design capacities compared to NYS Department of Health codes and DEC's design standards. The existing design capacity for the 24 campsites is 6 persons

per site or 144 persons. The day-use design capacity is 6 persons per picnic table x 18 tables or 108 persons.

The table below compares calculated capacity needs with currently available capacity and notes deficiencies. The proposed management actions for this facility are aimed at addressing these deficiencies. The spring water supply generally provides adequate water but can be deficient in dry periods or extended busy periods. Showers and sinks are needed in the camping loop. The day-use area shows a deficiency in toilets and sinks. No restroom facilities at this campground currently meet accessibility standards. Several sites lack adequate vegetation screening, both between sites and from the road. Utility sinks are needed in the camping loop to provide a sanitary and convenient location for cleaning and disposing of wastewater.

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	None
Trailer dumping station	1 for every 100 sites*	1	0	None *1
Potable water supply	55 gal/day/site	7,920 gal	18,500 gal	None
	5 gal/day/picnicker	540 gal		None
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	3	8	0
	1/60 picnickers	2	3	0
Sinks (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	2	0	2
	1 for every 60 picnickers	2	0	2
Toilets/Urinals (within 500')	2 for every 10 sites	3	12	0
	2 for every 60 picnickers	2	4	2 *2
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	3	0	3
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	2	0	2

***DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes.**

*1 - Most campers at Devils Tombstone are tent campers and do not require a trailer dump station. If needed, the dump station at North South Lake is available eight miles away.

*2 - No toilets located within 500 feet of the Notch Lake Day-Use Area.

b. Biological Carrying Capacity

Many campsites have been in continuous use since the campground opened, and, depending on site design and level of occupancy, they are showing their age in loss of vegetation screening, soil compaction, drainage issues and site amenity needs. To address these concerns, a program wide campsite restoration project is underway to evaluate the condition and needs of each facility, including the 6,000 campsites. In most cases, sites that require restoration work will be removed from use for two

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

camping seasons. At Devils Tombstone campground, site 14 was selected and was restored during the 2017/2018 season and site 24 has been selected for the 2018/2019 season. Restoration work will include:

- Planting trees and shrubs
- Replacing lost soils
- Re-grading sites
- Improving drainage
- Evaluating the design and size of campsites
- Replacing deteriorated tables and fireplaces

During the winter, this campground is closed for camping and receives little use as previously noted. In the camping season, most vehicular traffic occurs on paved surfaces, which helps limit soil compaction, rutting and erosion. Although some of the original forest cover was cleared during construction, most of the campground remains forested. Hazardous trees are regularly removed (in accordance with established policy), and natural regeneration and replanting and growth of residual trees compensates for any losses.

c. Social Carrying Capacity

Annual camper surveys have been conducted at each campground since 1996. Campers have been asked to rate their camping experiences on a scale from unacceptable to excellent. Based on responses received over the last five years, this campground appears to be generally operating within an acceptable social carrying capacity at current attendance levels. In 2015, campers were also asked to comment specifically on their concerns regarding the condition and design of campsites at Devils Tombstone campground. 16 comments were received, with 14 comments regarding the lack of screening between sites and two comments received regarding the need for resurfacing of the campsite pads.

Additional impacts associated with planned campground objectives and actions are identified and discussed in the *Generic Unit Management Plan Volume I*. The table below summarizes survey statistics over the past five years.

Devils Tombstone Camper Survey		
Year	Number of Respondents	Good or Excellent Rating
2017	52	77%
2016	85	72%
2015	65	74%
2014	53	74%
2013	44	66%

D. Unique Ecosystems, Historical

No significant unique ecosystems have been identified or are known to exist at this campground. The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map does not indicate that archaeological resources are present in the Devils Tombstone Campground area. However, prior to site disturbance for construction of any facility affiliated with this management plan, the nature and extent of archaeological resources in the project area, if any, are investigated. If it appears that any aspect of the project will cause changes, beneficial or adverse, all reasonable and prudent alternatives will be considered together with feasible plans to avoid and/or mitigate adverse impacts on the property. The agency preservation officer has been so informed in keeping with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

E. Adjacent Lands

The campground is bisected north to south by State Highway 214 for 1.1 miles. Other than a private parcel that abuts the southern boundary of the campground for 820 feet, the entire 2.8 mile perimeter of the campground borders state forest preserve. To the east lies the 16,725 acre Indianhead-Plateau Wilderness Area, covering parts of three towns in Greene and Ulster counties. To the west lies the 19,250 acre Hunter-Westkill Wilderness Area, covering parts of four towns in Greene and Ulster counties.

The campground provides employment for local residents. Their wages are largely spent at local businesses. Various supplies and materials needed for campground maintenance are also frequently purchased locally. Local contractors including plumbers, electricians, carpenters, masons, and others are also used at times.

F. Invasive Species

The threat of invasive species at Devils Tombstone is of concern to the DEC, both for their destructive effect on our environment and the associated financial drain on revenue and resources.

One common way many insect pests are moved around the country, beyond their natural rate of spread based on biology and flight potential, is on firewood carried by campers, hunters and other users of our forests. Infested firewood may come from trees killed by insect pests and brought by visitors from wherever they came from. A regulation is in effect prohibiting the import of firewood into New York unless it has been heat treated to kill pests. The regulation also limits the transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source.

It is DEC's goal, in collaboration with other agencies and interested groups, to establish a documented inventory of species by location within the campground. Once an inventory is established, we implement an invasive species management program to help contain, and possibly eradicate, further growth of these species. While no invasive species have been identified within the boundary of the campground, several have been identified at nearby locations.

These are the species that are unverified but could possibly be found on the property;

- Japanese Knot Weed (*Fallopia japonica*)
- Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petriolata*)
- Field Sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)
- Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

H. ADA Accessibility Guidelines

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title V, Section 504, have had a profound effect on the manner by which people with disabilities are afforded equality in their recreational pursuits. The ADA is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment practices, use of public transportation, use of telecommunication facilities and use of public accommodations.

Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that reasonable modifications must be made to the services and programs of public entities, so that when those services and programs are viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This must be done unless such

modification would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program or activity or an undue financial or administrative burden.

Title II also requires that new facilities, and parts of facilities that are newly constructed for public use, are to be accessible to people with disabilities. In rare circumstances where accessibility is determined to be structurally impracticable due to terrain, the facility, or part of the facility, is to be made accessible to the greatest extent possible to people with various types of disabilities.

Consistent with ADA requirements, DEC incorporates accessibility for people with disabilities into the planning, construction and alteration of recreational facilities and their supporting assets.

This UMP incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit, and an assessment of the programs, services and facilities on the unit to determine the level of accessibility provided. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, including buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities. Any new facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the section containing proposed management actions.

The Department is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible as long as the Department's programs, taken as a whole, are accessible. For copies of any of the above mentioned laws or guidelines relating to accessibility, contact the DEC Universal Access Program Coordinator at 518-402-9437 or UniversalAccessProgram@dec.ny.gov.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The management actions below are proposed for the next five-years and will be completed as staff and funding allow.

Proposed Management Actions	
Management Actions	Cost
1. Provide electric service to campground	\$280,000
2. Replace vault toilet #2 with shower/toilet building	\$400,000
3. Rehabilitate vault toilet buildings #1 & 3	\$60,000
4. Rehabilitate water system	\$50,000 - \$100,000
5. Pave deteriorated section of roads and parking lots	\$20,000
6. Plant trees and shrubs	\$5,000

These actions reflect the need to modernize facilities and comply with health and safety codes and user needs. They will also provide universal access to the campground and improve the efficiency of its management. Implementation of the proposed actions will reduce operating costs and generate revenues for DEC. Prioritization of management actions will be based on the availability of funding, and health and safety concerns.

1. Provide electric service to campground

Central Hudson Gas and Power Corporation electric service currently stops 4,200 feet south of the campground entrance. This management action proposes to extend 15KVA service along the DOT right of way via overhead lines to the campground. Beyond a transformer, approximately 2,500 feet of electric service will be installed below ground extending to a well, service buildings and comfort stations. Having electric service will enhance the safety and the camping experience of visitors by allowing improvements to be made to comfort stations including lighting and ventilation. Electric service to the caretaker's residence/ registration booth will negate the requirement to run a generator in the day eliminating any noise or air quality concerns. Electric service to a well and chlorination building should result in a more reliable water supply system. Previous discussions with Central Hudson indicate that their interest in this project may result in lower costs than standard engineer estimates for similar work.

2. Replace vault toilet #2 with shower/toilet building

All comfort stations at Devils Tombstone were built in 1974. They have vault-style toilets and do not meet ADA design guidelines. Campers must travel several miles to North-South Lake campground to use the shower facility. This management action proposes to remove comfort station #2, near the lower day-use area, and construct a modern comfort station with flush toilets and showers similar to those being constructed at other DEC campgrounds. Buildings will be sized according to the number of campsites they serve. The large open area south of the building should be adequate to allow for construction of sewage treatment facilities. A new accessible toilet building will provide enough toilets and sinks to comply with DEC design standards and NYS Health Department Codes.

3. Rehabilitate vault toilet buildings #1 & 3

Vault toilet buildings 1 & 3 have no lighting resulting in challenges for visitors to access and use them after dark. This management action proposes to add lighting both in and outside the building that will improve safety and convenience to visitors. Lighting systems will utilize energy savings and dark sky designs. With the addition of power to these buildings it is also possible to add ventilation to reduce moisture and slow the deterioration to the buildings as well as reduce odors often associated with vault style toilets by drawing air away from the interior of the building.

4. Rehabilitate water system

Devils Tombstone Campground's potable water system consists of a spring box which allows water to flow by gravity to a reservoir, chlorination building and spigots located throughout the facility. While meeting D.O.H. requirements, the system is old and does not offer the reliability and security from contamination that a well system can provide. A well was drilled in 1994 but never utilized due to the lack of a power source. This management action proposes to utilize the existing well if yield and quality meets current needs, or to drill another well if necessary. The current reservoir will be rehabilitated or replaced if a new well is drilled in a different location. Additional water spigots will be added on the east side of the campground to comply with health code standards requiring distance to spigots not exceed 500 feet.

5. Pave deteriorated sections of roads and parking lots

Existing roads and parking areas at Devils Tombstone are in fair condition but short sections of broken pavement are caused by poor drainage and past flooding events. This management action proposes to repair these areas to reduce maintenance and improve safety for driving, cycling and walking.

6. Plant trees and shrubs

New trees and shrubs are required to replace those lost due to removal of hazardous trees and to establish trees in high-traffic areas where natural regeneration is unlikely to occur. Species will be selected that are both native to the area and will provide needed shading and screening. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the plan. Particular attention will be paid to improving vegetative cover in the day-use area in order to provide shade to visitors and to improve the visual buffer from other locations.

V. EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Index	
Exhibit #1	– Devils Tombstone Campground Location Map
Exhibit #2	– Devils Tombstone Campground Topography Map
Exhibit #3	– Devils Tombstone Campground Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit #4	– Devils Tombstone Existing Facilities Map
Exhibit #4a	– Devils Tombstone Camping Loop Facilities Map
Exhibit #5	– Devils Tombstone Campground Water System
Exhibit #6	– Devils Tombstone Campground Sewage System
Exhibit #7	– Devils Tombstone Campground Electric System
Exhibit #8	– Devils Tombstone Campground Daily Attendance
Exhibit #9	– Devils Tombstone Campground Demographic Map
Exhibit #10	– Devils Tombstone Campground Wetlands Map
Exhibit #11	– Devils Tombstone Campground Soils Map
Exhibit #12	– Devils Tombstone Management Actions Location Map
Exhibit #12a	– Devils Tombstone Campground Drawing of Electrical Service Extension
Exhibit #13	– Devils Tombstone Campground Photos
Exhibit #14	– Response To Public Comments

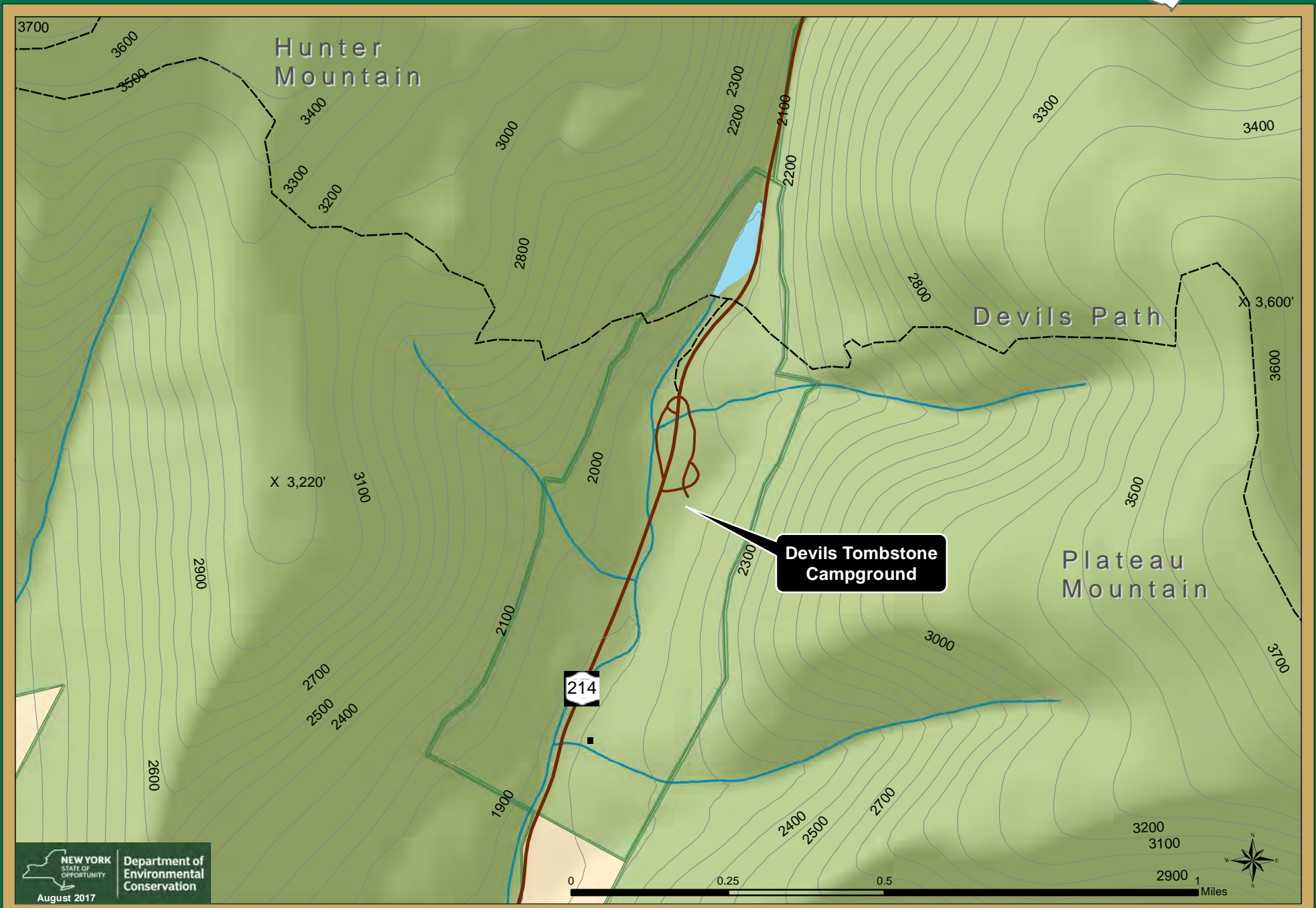
Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit # 1 - Location Map



Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit # 2 - Topography Map



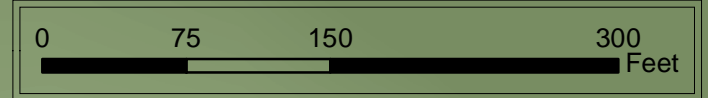
Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit # 3 - Orthoimagery Map



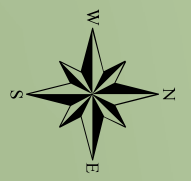
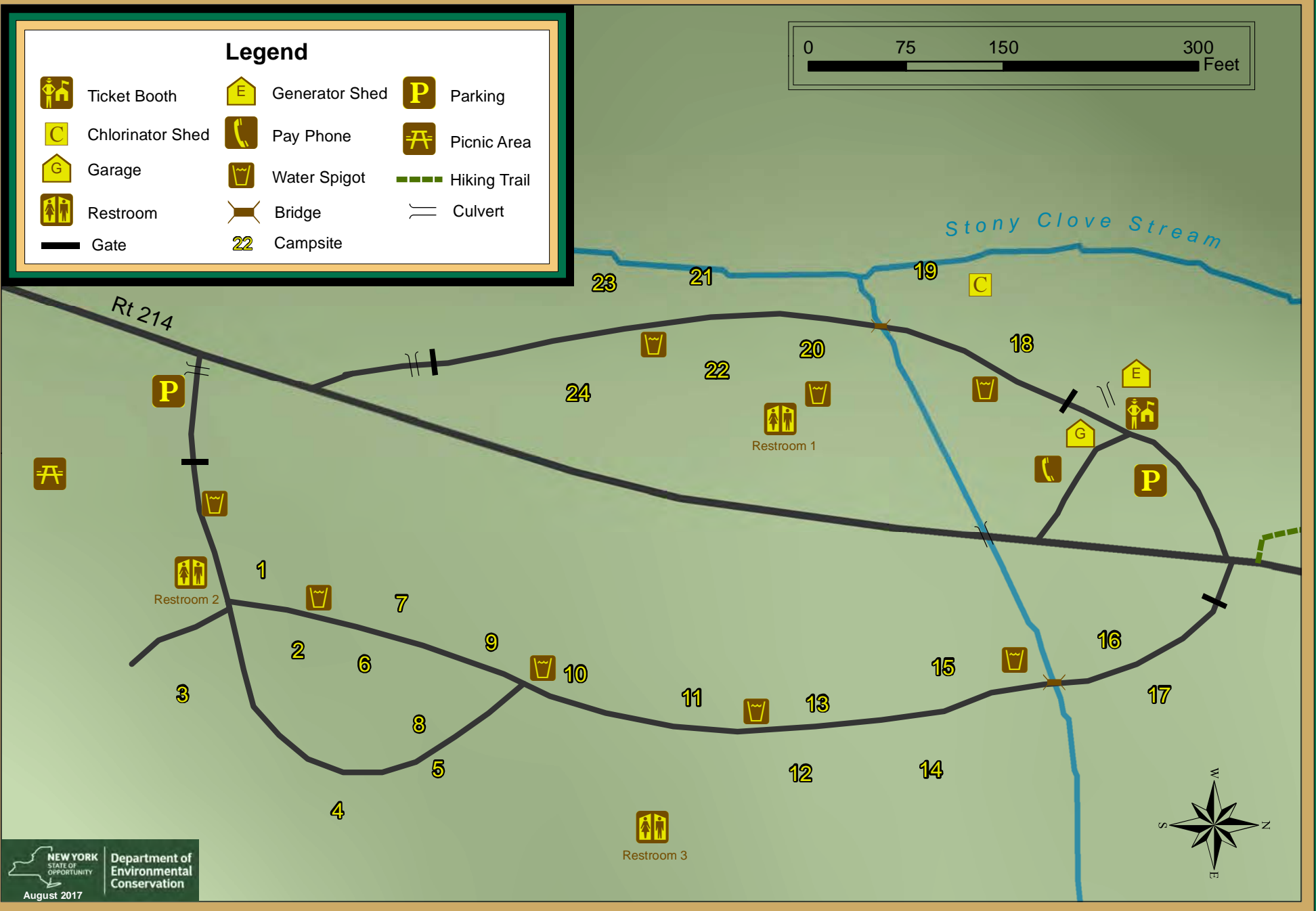
Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit # 4a - Camping Loop Facilities Map



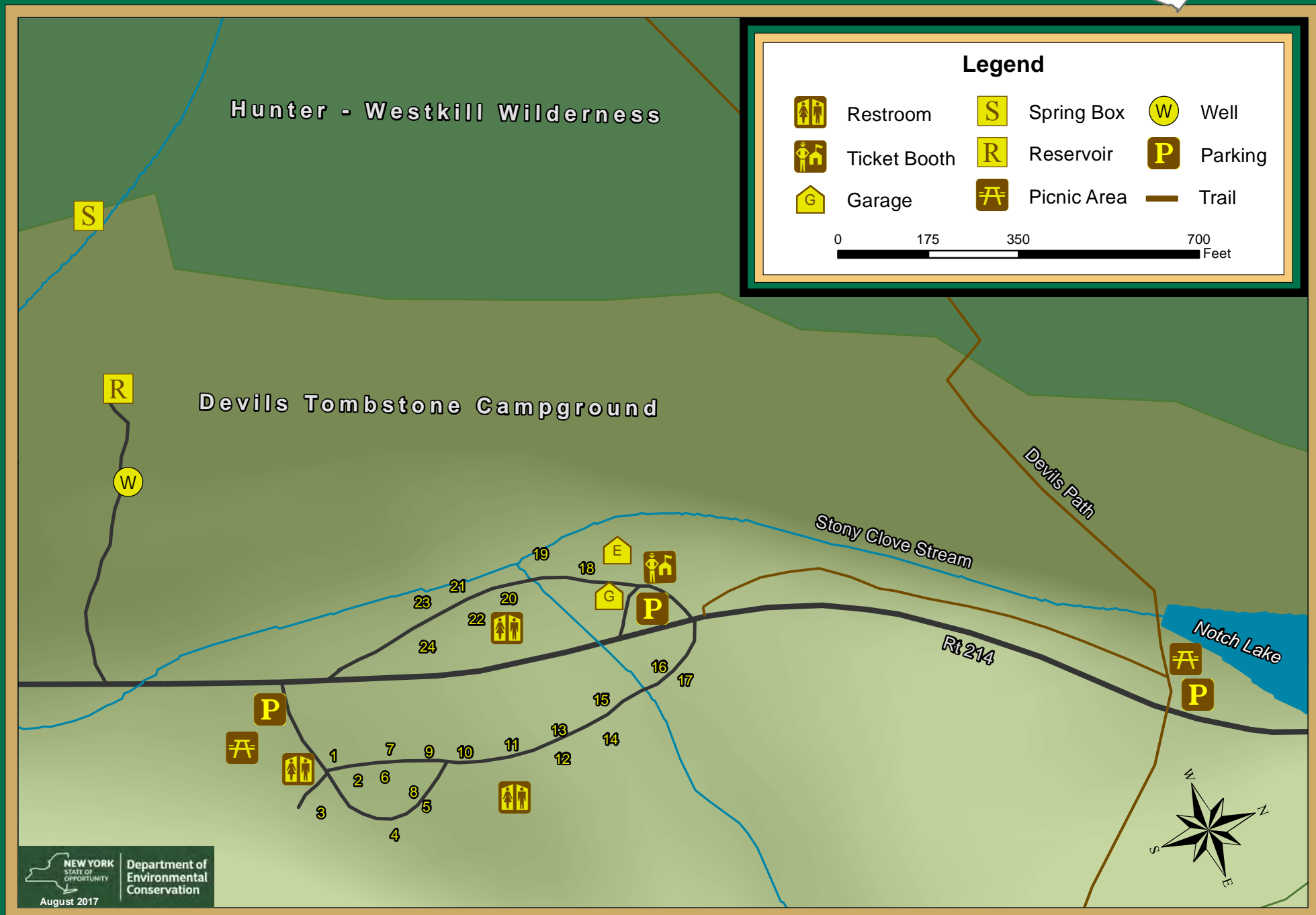
Legend

	Ticket Booth		Generator Shed		Parking
	Chlorinator Shed		Pay Phone		Picnic Area
	Garage		Water Spigot		Hiking Trail
	Restroom		Bridge		Culvert
	Gate		Campsite		



Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit # 4 - Facilities Map



Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit # 5 - Water System Map



Hunter - Westkill Wilderness

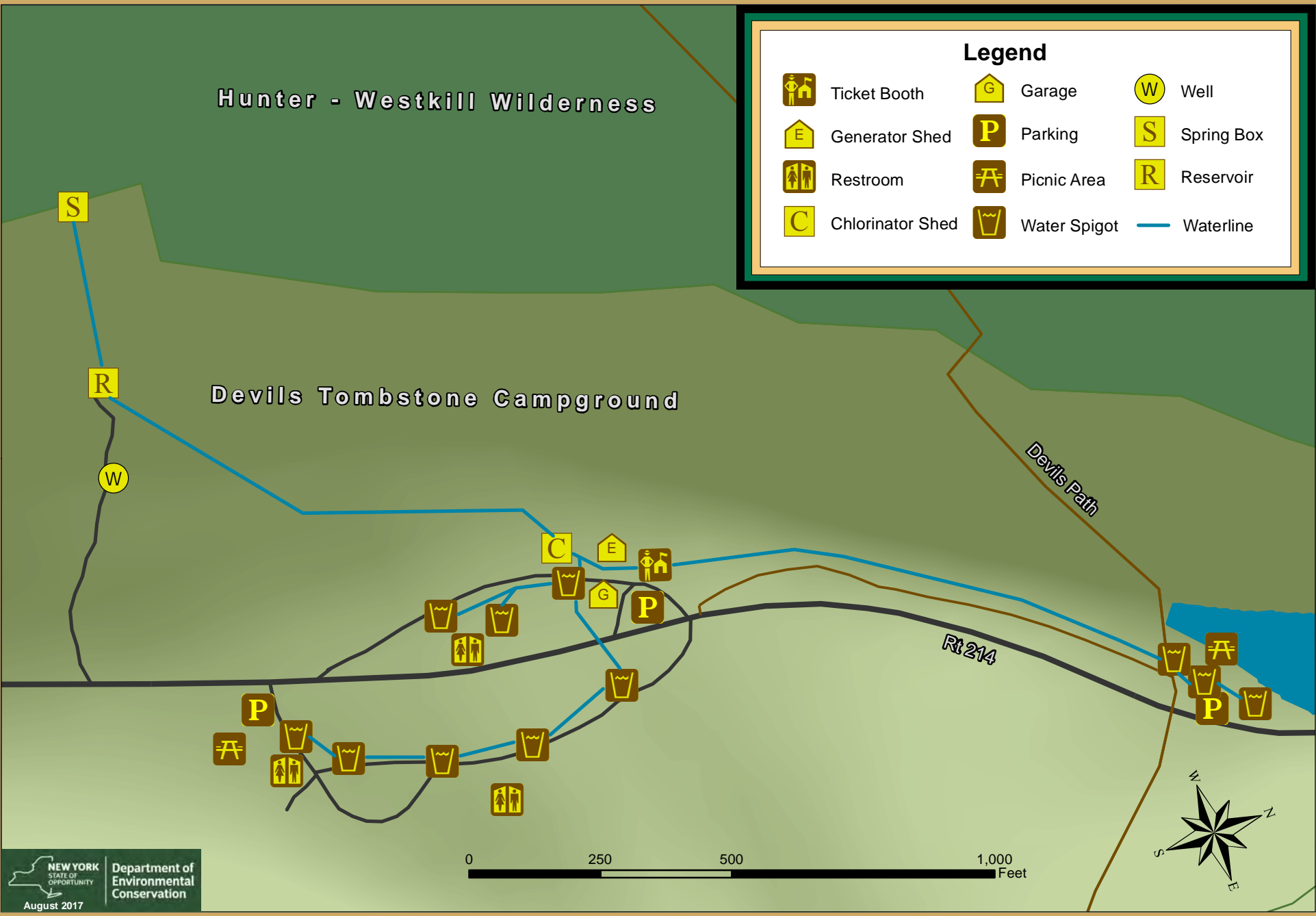
Devils Tombstone Campground

Devils Path

Rt 214

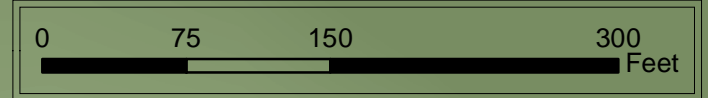
Legend

	Ticket Booth		Garage		Well
	Generator Shed		Parking		Spring Box
	Restroom		Picnic Area		Reservoir
	Chlorinator Shed		Water Spigot		Waterline



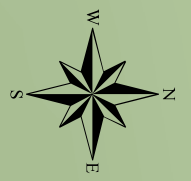
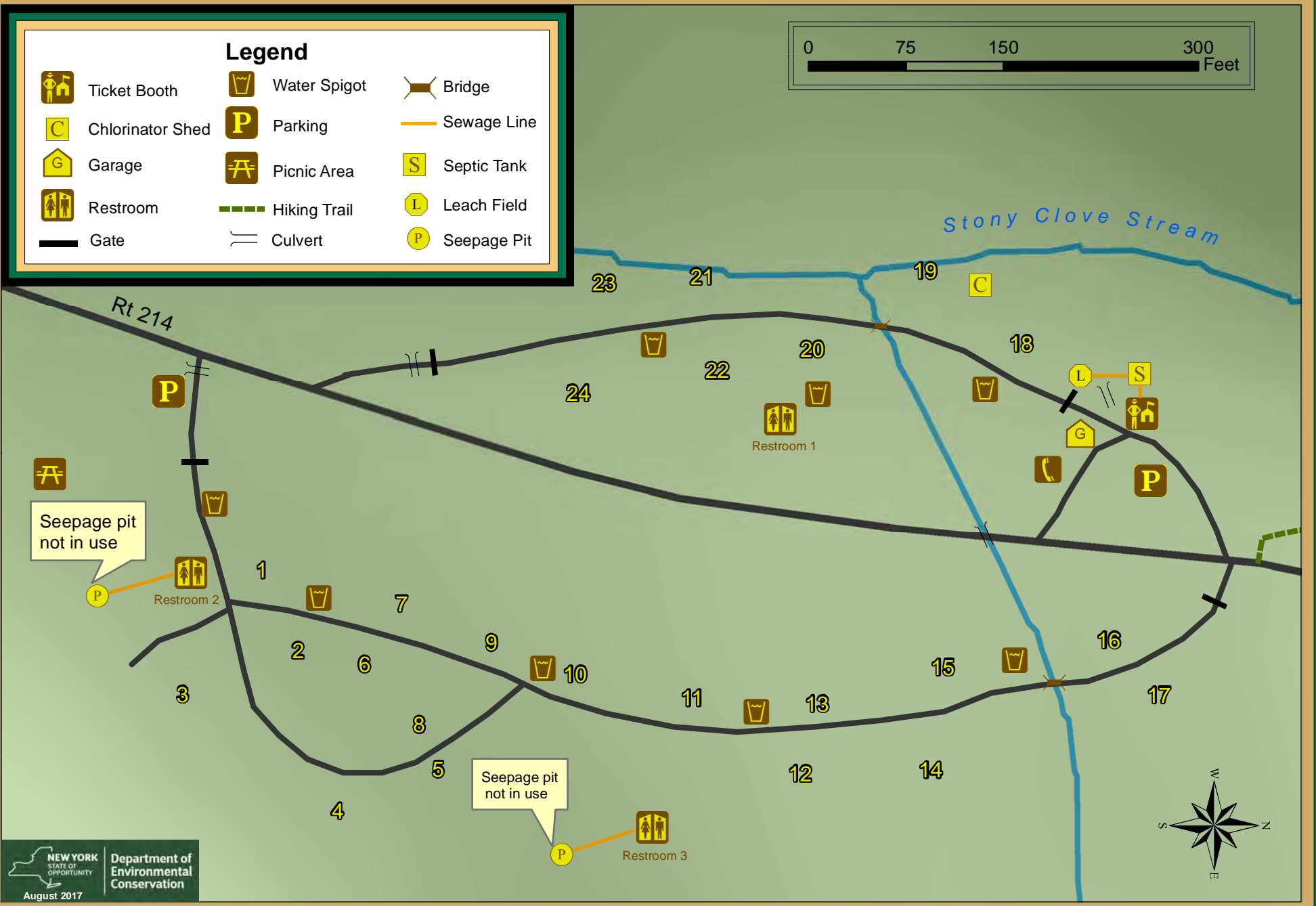
Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit # 6 - Sewage System Map



Legend

	Ticket Booth		Water Spigot		Bridge
	Chlorinator Shed		Parking		Sewage Line
	Garage		Picnic Area		Septic Tank
	Restroom		Hiking Trail		Leach Field
	Gate		Culvert		Seepage Pit














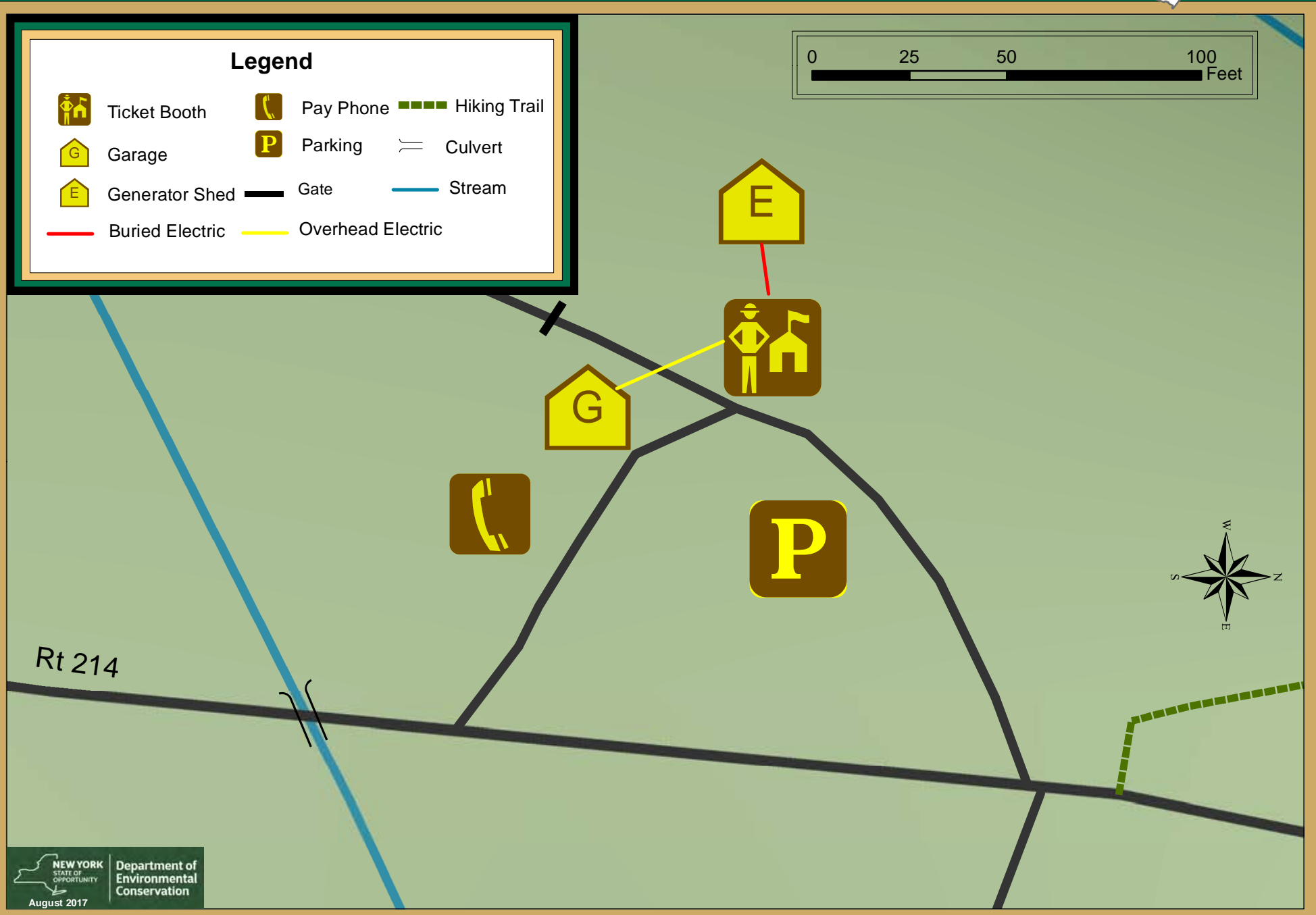
Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit # 7 - Electric System Map



Legend

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Ticket Booth |  Pay Phone |  Hiking Trail |
|  Garage |  Parking |  Culvert |
|  Generator Shed |  Gate |  Stream |
|  Buried Electric |  Overhead Electric | |



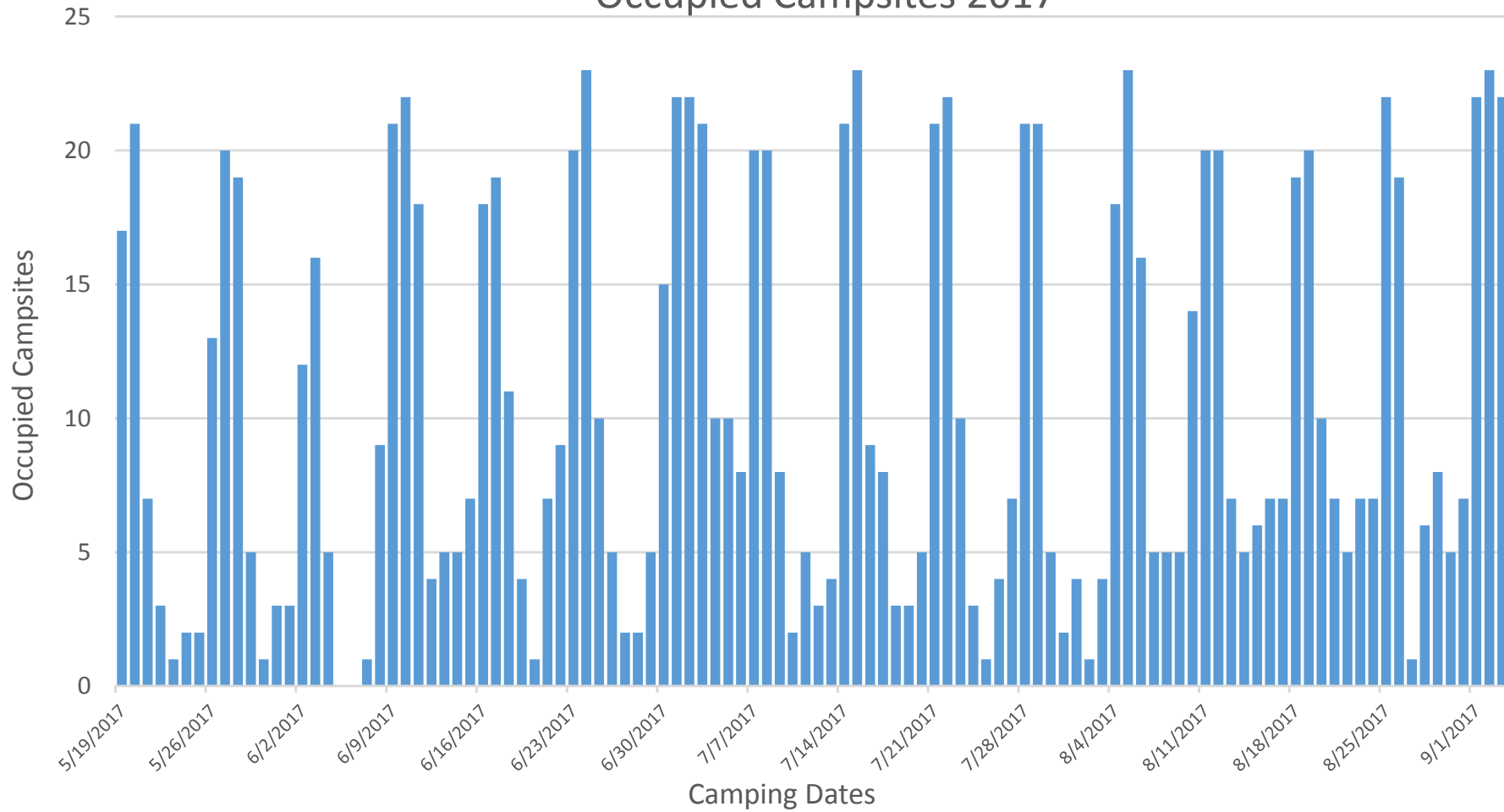
Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit #8 - Campsite Occupancy 2017



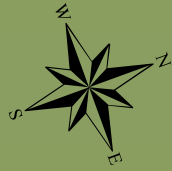
Catskill
Park

Devils Tombstone Campground Occupied Campsites 2017









Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit # 10 - Wetlands Map



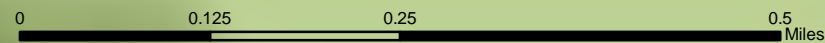
Hunter Mountain

Legend

-  Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
-  Freshwater Pond
-  Riverine
-  Roads
-  Foot Trails

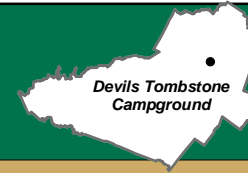
Plateau Mountain

214

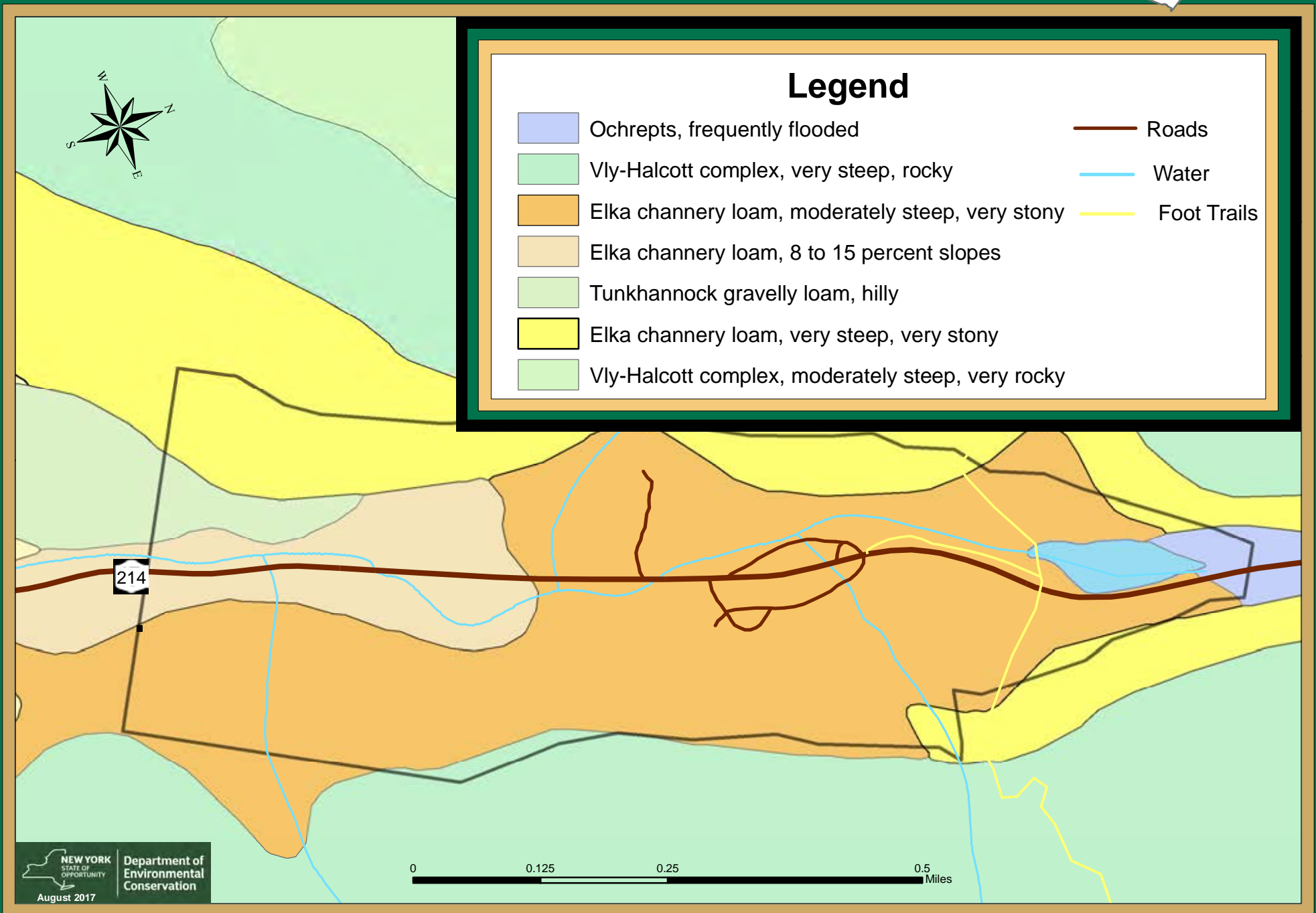


Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit # 11 - Soils Map



Catskill Park



Devils Tombstone Campground

Exhibit # 12 - Management Action Map



Hunter - Westkill Wilderness

Legend

	Ticket Booth		Garage		Well
	Generator Shed		Parking		Spring Box
	Restroom		Picnic Area		Reservoir
	Chlorinator Shed		Water Spigot		Trail

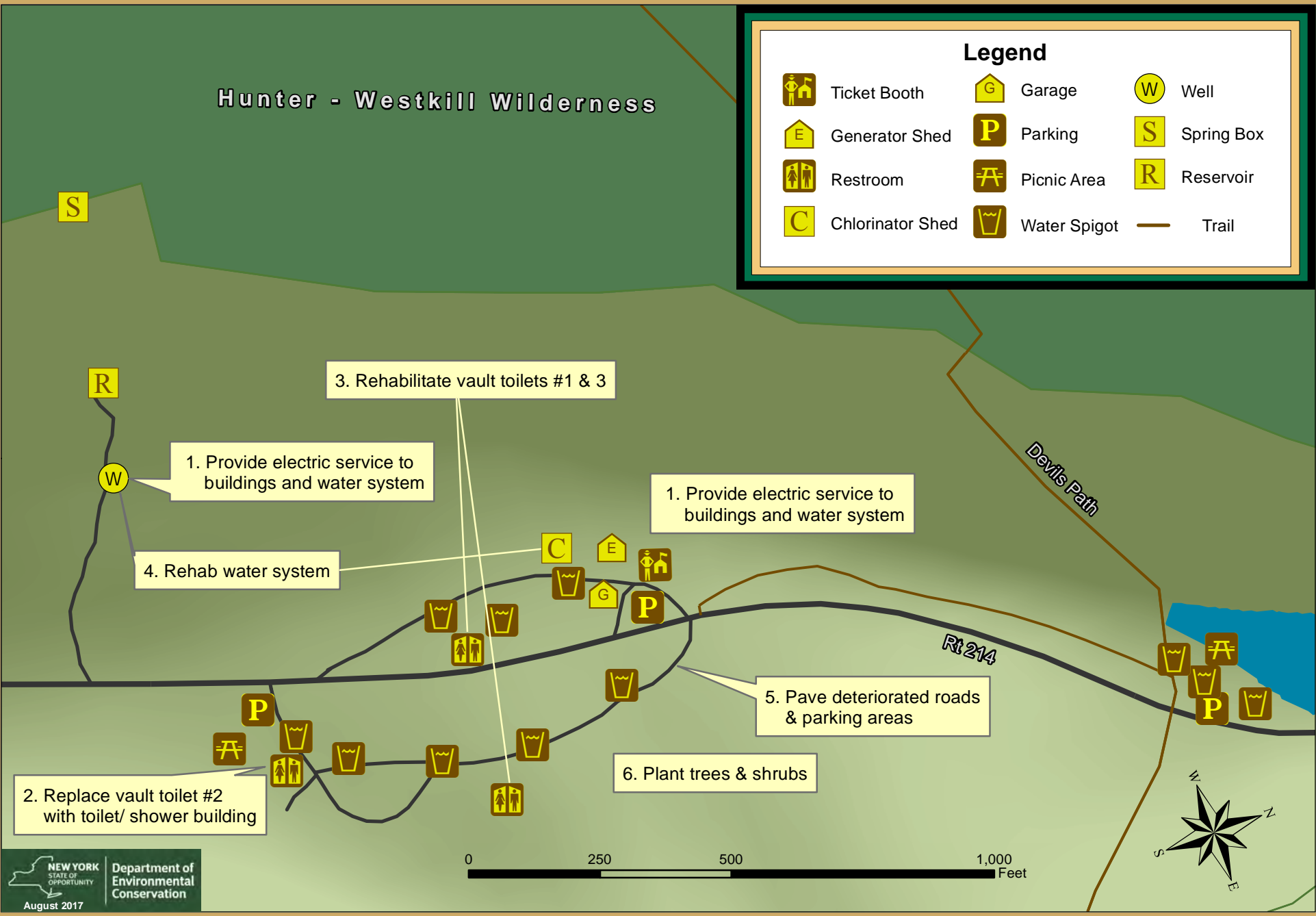


Exhibit # 13

Photos of Devils Tombstone Campground





Caretaker Cabin



Entrance Area



Generator Shed



Garage



Tombstone In Lower Day Use Area



Lower Day Use Area



Lower Day Use Area Playground



Lower Day Use Parking Area



Notch Lake Day Use Area



Foot Bridge On Devils Path



Dam At Notch Lake



Chlorinator Shed



Comfort Station #1



Comfort Station Interior



Comfort Station Interior



Comfort Station #2



Comfort Station #3



Reservoir



Spring Box



Entrance Sign



Information Booth



Bridge Near Site 17



Campsite #23



Campsite #14

Exhibit #14 – Response to public comments

Comments on the Devils Tombstone Campground Draft Unit Management Plan were received from January 10th until February 12th 2018. All public comments were reviewed and the Department responses are posted here as part of the Final Unit Management Plan.

Comments regarding the speed limit on route 214

Comment: *Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway, Inc* Reduce speed limit on Route 214. Work with NYSDOT to reduce the speed limit from 55 mph to 40 mph. This is a busy section of State Route 214 with the campground offering recreational areas on both sides of the highway. During the busy, peak periods, pedestrians cross the highway from one side to the other and the speed limit should reflect a safer speed given the intensive use area. We feel the state agencies need to be proactive and not reactive waiting for an accident to happen or someone to get hurt.

Comment: *Jim Plank* The crosswalks in a 55 mph zone are hazardous. DEC needs to get DOT to reduce the speed limit on Route 214 through the campground area. It is not a matter of “has anything ever happened there.” It is a matter of preventing the possibility, which becomes more likely every year. Additionally, when pulling out of the north parking lot and going north on Route 214 it is always a gamble that no 60 mph car is going to come zooming around the bend to the south as you pull out. Accordingly, your exit from the lot when going north must always be very, very quick, far more so than the normal speed of entering a highway. A reduced speed limit would also address this concern.

Comment: *Town of Hunter* The NYSDEC should immediately seek assistance from their sister agency the NYSDOT, in the lowering of the Speed limit on NYS Rte. 214 through this intensive use campground area TO AT LEAST 40 MILES PER HOUR if not lower.

Response: The Department agrees with the suggestion and has submitted a request to the regional traffic engineer for a traffic speed study to be conducted.

Comments regarding management of day-use parking areas

Comment: *Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway, Inc* Increase parking at the day use area. There is inadequate parking at the day use parking lot. In the warmer months, hikers compete for parking spots and in the winter months, day hikers and ice climbers compete for the few spots available. This should be taken into consideration now during this review process so the state can plan to expand the day use parking to deal with the influx of users coming to Devils Tombstone, including the growing winter activities to the region.

Comment: *Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway, Inc* The day use parking fee should be reconsidered for hikers wanting to do a day hike without having to pay for parking similar to other trail heads in the Catskill Park.

Comment: *Jim Plank* The north parking lot is now of insufficient size to accommodate hikers and day users, and I believe a parking lot could be placed at the old gravel pit area on the southeast end of the unit, which already has a road cut onto it. The boulders blocking access to the area could be removed and a suitable trail run through the woods to the lake area trails a/o

roads. This would allow the increased access now necessary to the Hunter Mt. and Plateau Mt. hiking trails and, if it is fee-based as the existing one already is, can bring in revenue for the state. Outdoor use of state lands in Greene County is growing and growing and growing, and this parking lot would help disperse visitors away from those sites which are overused. Stony Clove is a very attractive location, and, given the acreage for potential expansion and the increased demand for outdoor recreation, it can and should do more to bring people past the head of Kaaterskill Clove. This increased attraction would accordingly also mean increased visitor traffic through the Village of Tannersville, thereby assisting its local economy, and the Village of Hunter's would also see benefit.

Comment: *Adirondack Mountain Club* If DEC would like to continue collecting fees for the day use of the picnic area at Notch Lake (i.e., the picnic tables and grills), DEC can utilize the Reserve-America system that is used for the Devil's Tombstone Campground to reserve picnic tables and grills. Day-Use Area users can check-in at the campground to get their permit. However, hikers should park for free and be able to use picnic tables if they are not reserved. Arguably, it is stretch to call this area a picnic area. It is clearly, and simply a trailhead. DEC does not manage, maintain or snow plow the Devil's Path parking area. DEC does not charge for parking at the great majority of hiker parking lots. It is fundamentally unfair and denies hikers equal protection under state law to charge a parking fee at this lot simply because of its proximity to a public campground. Hikers charged for parking at Notch Lake are getting no more services than are provided to the public at the many hundreds of Forest Preserve trailheads where no fee is charged. DEC could investigate implementing a request for donations by parking lot users at the trailhead kiosk.

Comment: *Town of Hunter* We are already seeing throughout the Catskill Park the needs for expanded additional parking to accommodate the quick rise of the hiking population, that come to hike, in this case the different sections of the World-Famous "Devils Path". Additional parking could easily be developed for Hikers on the right-hand side just south of Campground using the old access road to the field of the former farm. A short spur trail could easily take the hikers to either trail connectors

Response: Parking levels are monitored by campground staff and records indicate that there are very few days where parking levels exceed the design capacity of 25 vehicles at Notch Lake. A fee for parking is collected at the Notch Lake parking lot as it is within the Intensive Use Area where picnic tables, grills and potable water are provided and restrooms are available nearby. There is free trailhead parking available two miles north at the Becker Hollow trailhead.

Comments regarding management of Notch Lake

Comment: *Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway, Inc* Develop a habitat and fisheries management plan for Stony Clove Lake. The health of this lake should be assessed and recommendations for improving the aquatic habitat, including the pros and cons of dredging the lake to re-generate a local headwater trout population in the shady area by the retention dam. The dredging of the pond would also allow for the possibility of Longboards and Canoes adding to the attractiveness of the outdoor experience for the entire campground and potentially increase revenue from the day users.

Comment: *Jim Plank* I believe Notch Lake should be dredged for appropriate depth to maintain a native Brook Trout population, that the shorelines along the eastern (roadside) and southern (parking lot) shores should be planted with suitable shade-producing shrubs and small trees, that the dam be rehabilitated to support a/o assist in providing the appropriate water depth, and the lake be stocked with a self-sustaining native Brook Trout population, which in its early years, or perhaps in perpetuity, could be fishable only with a catch-and-release policy.

I believe that Notch Lake's current use is not in compliance with the requirements of Forest Preserve management. It has, in fact, seemingly no management plan at all, and it is a valuable resource that is not being used to the best interests of either the state or the local economy. I am concerned that there is little, almost no, regard or reference to the condition, status, use, and/or potential of Notch Lake. For a 10-year plan, I feel this is a drastic oversight and needs to be addressed.

Comment: *Town of Hunter* This along with the dredging of the lake to re-generate a local headwater trout population in the shady area by the retention dam. The dredging of the pond would also allow for the possibility of Longboards and Canoes adding to the attractiveness of the outdoor experience for the entire campground and the increased revenue from the day users

Comment: *Town of Hunter* There is a need to supply adequate parking for the paid Day Picnic area, which should be further developed adding more picnic benches and grilling area.

Response: While the water body is aesthetically pleasing and a great place to stop or picnic while taking in the views, the costs of repairing the dam and the dredging of the lake are impractical to implement. Despite making such improvements, the volume of sediment entering the pond would likely require repeat actions on a regular interval. Any failure of the dam or large release of sediment built up behind the dam in a catastrophic storm would threaten fish habitat for miles downstream.

Comments regarding signage

Comment: *Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway, Inc* Increase Wayfinding signage directing motorists to the campgrounds. Wayfinding signage is needed at the corner of State Routes 23A and 214. A NYSDEC Smart Growth grant was awarded to the Catskill Watershed Corporation to install signs throughout the Catskill Park, and whereas, this is primarily NYSDOT's jurisdiction, we feel it's worth noting as NYSDOT's position is to not allow such signage because it is signing from one state highway to another.

Response: While it is NYSDOT jurisdiction and decision to implement wayfinding signage, it is DEC's understanding that approval has been given and there are plans to erect four signs directing travelers to the campground and Devils path along Route 214.

Comments regarding extension of Electric Service

Comment: *NYC DEP* Please note Exhibit 12a, Drawing of Electrical Service Extension, is missing from the document.

Comment: *NYC DEP* It is not clear from the documentation provided, how much actual soil disturbance will be involved with this project taking into consideration the installation of electrical service, construction of shower and toilet buildings, road and parking area repairs and landscaping improvements. The total acreage of soil disturbance should be provided.

Response: The area of soil disturbance cannot yet be quantified as the design and layout of infrastructure has not yet been determined. Once the architectural design for a new structure and/or location for a new utility corridor is designed/selected to meet Program's objectives, a topographic and feature survey of the site(s) to be improved will be performed. This future survey will identify topography and locate site specific features to establish the grading/project limit lines and identify significant features to be preserved (i.e. trees, critically sensitive areas, required setbacks, etc.). Then the site survey and proposed infrastructure designs can be integrated together to determine the actual area of disturbance.

Comment: *NYC DEP* As per the Governor's Executive Order Number 51, the project is not subject to DEP regulatory authority. Nevertheless, DEP respectfully requests the opportunity to review the design and inspect construction of the proposed improvements to ensure no adverse water quality impacts in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for the Protection from Contamination, Degradation, and Pollution of the New York City Water Supply and Its Sources (Watershed Regulations). This request applies specifically to the proposed Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (Section 18-38 of the Watershed Regulations) and the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and any associated Impervious Surfaces (Section 18-39 of the Watershed Regulations).

Response: Comment noted. Similar to projects that this office has completed in the past within the DEP's watershed, copies of both the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Sanitary Sewer Report/Design will be provided to the DEP for review.

Other Comments:

Comment: *Barbara Threecrow* I am making a request that you take into consideration; that there are still Indian people living in the Hudson Valley and the Catskills and surrounding counties and to reach out to them for a meaningful conversation and invitation that they participate in re-naming these sacred sites. I can only see this as bringing about a healing between nations, as well as showing respect for those places that once were held sacred by the First Nations People. If you consider my proposal I would be happy to connect you with those persons in the Indian nation who would offer their suggestions.

Response: Comment noted. The New York State Committee on Geographic Names is established as part of the State Education Department, Office of Cultural Education and is the body that reviews proposals for a change in a geographic name.