



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

North/South Lake Public Campground

Unit Management Plan Amendment

Final

Town Hunter, Greene County, New York

July, 2018

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

Governor **ANDREW M. CUOMO**

Commissioner **BASIL SEGGOS**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record
FROM: Basil Seggos
SUBJECT: North South Lake Campground

The North South Lake Campground Unit Management Plan Amendment has been completed.

The UMP Amendment 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: _____

August 6, 2018



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Background

North/South Lake Campground is located on County Route 18 (North Lake Road) in the Town of Haines Falls, Greene County. This campground is the largest public campground in the Catskill Forest Preserve and is host to an average of 54,000 day users and 65,000 campers each season. Since the inception of the campground in 1929, there have been very few improvements to increase the recreational experience for campers with disabilities. Until last year, the only amenities offered to people with disabilities were restrooms, pavilions and campsites. The improvements made last year were made at South Lake beach and include a fully accessible boat rental building with a concrete walkway, an EZ dock canoe/kayak launch, an outdoor shower and a wooden boardwalk to the water's edge. With Adventure NY as the forefront of the agency, there is a rising need to improve the infrastructure and accessible recreational elements at North/South Lake. Currently, North Lake beach lacks accessibility. Day users or campers with mobility issues cannot access the beach, picnic area or changing rooms at this location. This beach and day use area is more frequently used than South Lake beach due to its proximity to the campground loops. Presently, there isn't a place for people with mobility issues to experience fishing in the campground. With the increasing popularity of North/South Lake campground and surrounding areas, improvements are vital in providing universal access to campers, hikers and day users.

Proposal

North Lake Beach will need to undergo major improvements to increase accessibility to the beach and day use area. This amendment proposes Loop 6 pavilion improvements, the construction of an approximately 40' x 40' gravel parking area near the Loop 6 pavilion, beach enhancements, parking lot improvements, construction of numerous accessible paths and an accessible fishing platform, changing room improvements, lifeguard cabin rehabilitation, overflow parking lot improvements, proper signage and landscape work.

Proposed Management Actions

The following management actions are being proposed for the amended Unit Management Plan and will be completed as staff and funding allow. This amendment proposes the following actions:

Proposed Management Actions		
	Management Actions	Cost
1	Loop 6 pavilion improvements	\$9,500
2 & 3	Construction of new parking area and gravel access road	\$8,000
4	Remove old path & construct new concrete accessible path/install benches	\$26,000
5	Construction of accessible fishing pier	\$5,000
6	Replace existing tables and grills in day use area	\$2,500
7	Relocation of accessible parking spaces	\$1,000
8	Rebuild existing stone walkway from lot to beach	\$10,000
9	Installation of crossing island in main parking lot	\$4,000
10	Concrete path from accessible parking to changing room	\$6,000
11	Construction of wooden ramp from parking lot to accessible path to beach	\$8,000
12	Beach Improvements	\$17,000
13	Overflow parking restoration	\$6,000
14	Path to beach from overflow parking area	\$1,500
15	Changing Room building improvements	\$30,000
16	Lifeguard Cabin improvements	\$46,500
17	Breezeway improvements	\$12,000
18	Signage and parking lot re-striping	\$4,500
19	Plantings and landscaping	\$2,500
Total Cost of North Lake Project		\$200,000

1. There is a pavilion located in loop 6 near site #182. Renovations of the pavilion include a 700 square foot poured concrete slab and the addition of energy efficient LED lighting, which will include down lighting to reduce light pollution.

2. A 40' long by 14' wide gravel entrance way will provide access to a new parking area and will come off the main campground road 60 feet before entering the North Lake beach main parking area. Approximately 7 trees will need to be removed.
3. A wooded area of approximately 40' x 40' located SE of the Loop 6 pavilion will be cleared for use as gravel parking area. This will require the removal of approximately 15 trees. This parking area will offer two accessible parking spaces with an unloading zone. A stone dust accessible path approximately 130' in length and 40" wide will allow access to the pavilion and also provide entry to the day use area located SW of the pavilion.
4. Removal of old paved path that runs parallel to the day use area. A relocated stone dust accessible path will replace the asphalt and run approximately 120' in length before transitioning to concrete. This path will provide access to North Lake beach and the day use area. Two accessible benches will be installed along the path.
5. Construction of an accessible 10' x 12' wooden fishing pier located in the day use area at North Lake beach. A new aggregate path approximately 36" wide and 110' in length will lead to the new fishing pier from the concrete path in the day use area.
6. Replace fire pits and picnic tables in the day use area with new grills and tables, two of which will meet the needs of people with disabilities.
7. Relocation of two accessible parking spots and the addition of two more accessible parking spots in main parking lot at North Lake beach. The two relocated spots will be moved from in front of the North Lake bathroom building to the NW corner of the lot and provide access to the Loop 6 pavilion, day use area and North Lake beach. The two new accessible parking spots will be located SW of the North Lake bathroom and adjacent to the changing room building allowing access to the beach, day use area and changing room building.
8. An existing stone stairway located on the west side of the parking lot provides access to North Lake beach and day use area. This stairway will be rehabilitated using native stone to keep the natural setting and integrity of the area.
9. To provide a safe route from North Lake beach and day use area to the North Lake bathroom, a crossing island with painted crosswalk will be added in the main parking area. The crossing island will be two keystone shaped raised islands, consisting of pavers and concrete with a bollard at each end of the islands. The painted crosswalk will run from the east side of the

parking lot near the North Lake bathroom through the crossing island to the stone stairway located on the west side of the lot.

10. From the proposed painted crosswalk on the west side of the lot, a poured concrete walkway approximately 130 feet in length will provide access to the two new accessible parking spots and will connect to a proposed ramp for beach access.

11. A wooden ramp will be constructed approximately 60 feet in length and 6 feet wide on North Lake beach. This ramp will provide access from the two new accessible parking spots adjacent to the changing room and to the beach. This ramp will also connect to the day use area accessible concrete path.

12. Beach improvements include the installation of an accessible wooden boardwalk approximately 60' in length and 40" wide. This boardwalk will connect to the concrete day use path and the proposed ramp and will provide access to the water's edge for people with disabilities. Other beach improvements will include the relocation of a culvert and of exposed utilities, and the addition of beach sand.

13. Overflow parking for the North Lake beach main parking area is located off the SW end of the lot and consists of loose aggregate. Proposed overflow parking area improvements include refreshing of aggregate surface.

14. From this overflow parking area, a path will be added to access the North Lake beach.

15. Currently, the changing room building is not accessible. The changing room is located along the main parking area adjacent to the lifeguard cabin. Rehabilitation efforts include foundation work, an accessible concrete ramp with metal railing on the parking lot side of the building, removal of existing landscaping, siding and roofing replacements, and new windows and doors. Interior work includes installation of new floors, partitions, walls and ceiling. All improvements are designed to provide access to people with disabilities.

16. The lifeguard cabin at North Lake beach is located adjacent to the changing room and beach. Proposed improvements include installation of a septic tank and lift station, underground utility work, installation of an ADA compliant bathroom, foundation work and new roofing, siding, windows and doors.

17. The breezeway is located between changing room and lifeguard cabin and allows access to the beach from the main parking area. The current water fountain and foot shower will be

replaced with accessible units. The stairway to the beach will be rehabilitated and include the addition of a railing for health and safety measures.

18. New signage will include informational, directional, parking and facility signs. The main parking lot will also be re-stripped reflecting accessible parking spots, direction of flow and re-stripping current parking spots.

19. Native plantings and sustainable landscaping is proposed throughout the project site. Birch trees and other native species will be planted for any areas that need screening,


Exhibit Index

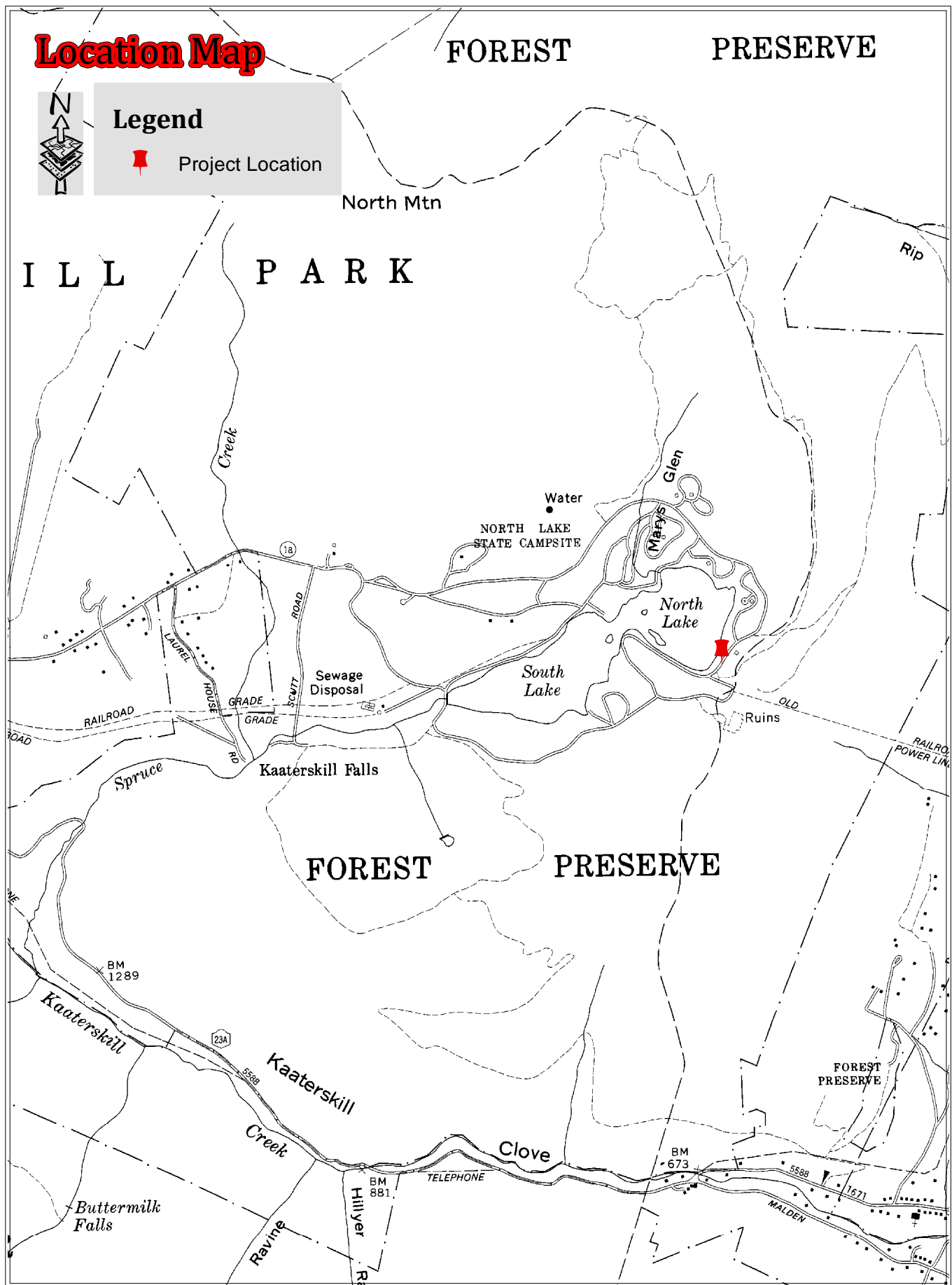
Exhibit #1-Facility Location Map
Exhibit #2-Project Location Map
Exhibit #3-Proposed gravel entrance location
Exhibit #4-Proposed 40'x40' gravel parking area
Exhibit #5-Location of accessible path connecting pavilion, new parking and day use entry
Exhibit #6-Proposed location of two relocated accessible parking spaces
Exhibit #7-Proposed accessible path leading to day use area
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Exhibit #19-Tree Cutting Tally sheet
Exhibit #20-Response to public comment

Location Map



Legend

 Project Location





NORTH LAKE

BEACH IMPROVEMENTS

North/South Lake Public Campground

NYWI North Lake Beach Improvements

Picture Exhibits

Exhibit #3-Proposed gravel entrance road location



Exhibit #4-Proposed gravel parking area



Exhibit #5-Location of accessible path connecting pavilion, new parking and day use area



Exhibit #6-Proposed location of two relocated accessible parking spaces



Exhibit #7-Proposed accessible path leading to North Lake Day Use



Exhibit #8-Old paved path that will be removed



Exhibit #9-Proposed accessible concrete path into day use area



Exhibit #10-North Lake Day Use existing tables and grills



Exhibit #11-Exposed underground utilities on North Lake beach



Exhibit #12-Existing stone stairway from main parking area to beach



Exhibit #13-Proposed location for boardwalk to the water's edge



Exhibit #14-Location of ramp that leads to North Lake beach



Exhibit #15-Existing stone steps between changing room and North Lake lifeguard cabin



Exhibit #16-Existing spigot that will be replaced



Exhibit #17-Landscaping proposed for removal at changing room building



Exhibit #18-Proposed location of concrete accessible sidewalk connecting proposed parking lot crosswalk to the changing room and beach



Region 4 Tree Cutting Tally

TRP:	Accessible Access N/S Lake		Paint Color: Pink Tape
Date:	5/15/08		Forester: Bryan Ellis
Location	N/S Lake Campground		
Site	Species	DBH	Comments
2	EH HM	3	
	HM	3	
	RM	4	
	RM	8	
	RM	8	
	WP	12	Dead
	RD	6	
	RM	6	
	RM	4	
	EH	10	
	WP	6	
	EH	8	
	RM	16	
	EH	8	
	WP	8	
	RP	4	
	DB	6	
	PL	6	
	PD	6	
	EH	10	
	EH	10	
	EH	6	

Forest Preserve
Application for Routine Maintenance Project

Region: 4

Project #:

Application Name: Bryan Ellis

Date of Application: 5/15/18

Address: 65561 State Highway 10
Stamford, NY 12167

Location of Project: North South Lake Campground

Description of Project: Remove Trees for accessible parking location

Who is to Do Work: Operations

Estimated Starting Date: May 2018

Estimated Completion Date: June 2018

Applicant Signature:

Project Action:

Approved ☒ **Disapproved** ☐


Regional Forester:

Date: 5/15/18

Exhibit #20 – Response to public comments

Comments on the North South Lake Campground Unit Management Plan draft amendment were received from June 13th until June 27th, 2018. All public comments were reviewed and the Department's response is posted here as part of the Final Unit Management Plan Amendment.

Comment:

My husband and I live on the other side of North Mountain from the beautiful North/South Lake camping area. We are so happy to see the great improvements being made to this area, including the proposed accessibility projects. We hike all seasons on the trails around the campground and know many out-of-towners that love to bring their families there to camp.

We wanted to make sure you are aware of a public shooting range that opened last fall on Haines road, Catskill, off Game Farm Road, unbeknownst to most of the residents of Catskill. The range, called Sheepdog Warrior, is in the process of expanding the shooting distances and seeking town approval to shoot from 1000 yards to 2100 yards (well over a mile, which is 1760 yards).

There is also talk of having an on-site Pro-Shop, where patrons could purchase the Assault-style weapons used on the range.

The noise on our side is already unbearable at our home, and we can hear it on the Escarpment trail and the beautiful overlooks as we hike the trails.

There is a lot of community opposition to the expansion, but we are fearful that the Catskill Planning Board just may approve it anyway!

Since the improvements you are making will be costly, we wanted you to be aware of the potential decrease in visitors to this wonderful campground in the quiet Catskill forest, due to the unpleasant (and unwelcome) gunfire noise, unless we all find a way to quiet it.

If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Comment:

I am very enthusiastic about the amendment to increase accessibility both as the sister of a person who uses a wheelchair and as a physical therapist who works with children with impaired mobility.

I do have a concern though that I want to share with you, and that is that the peace and tranquility of North/South Lake and surrounding trails are at risk of being compromised by the proposed gun range expansion of the Sheepdog Warrior gun range that abuts state land.

Their gunshots can be heard from the Escarpment Trail, including North Point, and all the way up to the lakes when the shooting is in full swing. They are currently seeking an expansion and have been very quiet in order to keep under the radar of the public, but if they are granted the extension of their permit the sound will definitely drive people away. (They were shooting these long distances last fall without a permit and have been required to come before the planning board to obtain a permit for the long distances)

I heard the shots myself last fall when I was up there and have many friends who have complained to me about the sound.

You may want to look into this with the Town of Catskill before using funds to invest in this wonderful project.

Response:

Thank you for your interest in and support of DEC campgrounds and the accessibility improvements outlined within this UMP amendment.

Actions taken on private lands are outside the scope of this UMP amendment and thus will not be addressed within the final amendment.