



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

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# **Beaverkill Public Campground**

## **Unit Management Plan**

### **FINAL**

Town of Rockland, Sullivan County, New York

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## **OCTOBER 2020**

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

Governor ANDREW M. CUOMO

Commissioner BASIL SEGGOS



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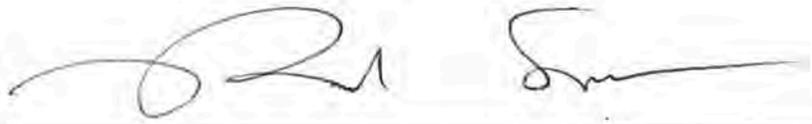
### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Record  
**FROM:** Basil Seggos  
**SUBJECT:** Beaverkill Campground

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The Beaverkill 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.



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Basil Seggos  
*Commissioner*  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Date: 10/19/20

**BEAVERKILL PUBLIC CAMPGROUND**  
**SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II**  
**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**NOTE:** Volume I is a generic plan that 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, along 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 Department of Environmental Conservation Region 3 staff for review. All comments and/or information related to this UMP should be forwarded to Jessie Swinehart, with a copy to Josh Houghton, Division of Operations, Albany.

For information, contact Michael Buzzelli, Campground Program Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, telephone 518-457-2500.

**SUMMARY**  
**BEAVERKILL 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 Beaverkill Public Campground.

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

To help meet these goals, contingent upon funding, the 11 management actions below are being proposed.

**Proposed Management Actions\***

- Reconstruct comfort station #6 to include showers
- Construct an entrance booth at the day use area
- Rehabilitate comfort station #1
- Expand day use and construct a new pavilion
- Pave sections of roads in the camping loop
- Relocate campsites
- Demolish unused buildings and infrastructure
- Bury overhead lines in the day use area
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Perform restoration work to historic sites
- Improve existing trails and create a trail connection to the Wild Forest

\*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 experiences, 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. Project proposals concentrate on improving and updating facilities to accommodate present peak-use periods rather than projected visitor increases.

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

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### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Overview

Beaverkill Campground is a state-owned public campground operated by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) within the Catskill Park. It is located and managed within the DEC Region 3 – New Paltz office working circle. The facility is located on the famous Beaverkill trout fishing stream, a tributary to the Delaware River that flows through the entire developed length of the site. An historic covered bridge, originally constructed in 1865, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and spans the stream on the town road. The facility consists of 267 total acres of forest preserve lands, with 36 developed acres in the camping area and six acres developed in the day-use area. The Beaverkill stream is the attraction for most visitors, both for fishing opportunities and its pleasant scenery. Campground amenities include 52 tent and trailer sites with picnic tables and fireplaces, and a picnic area with tables and grills. There are flush toilets, hot showers, a pay phone, a trailer dump station, a recycling center, and firewood for sale.

Area attractions are numerous. The Catskill Fish Hatchery, located about 15 miles away, is open to the public. Shopping centers, restaurants, and theaters are within 15 miles in Liberty, Livingston Manor, and the surrounding area. North of the campground there are thousands of acres of Forest Preserve lands where hiking trails, fishing access sites and undeveloped recreational opportunities exist. Historic attractions include the D&H Canal Locks; Fort Delaware; Minisink Battleground Memorial Park; Stone Arch Bridge Historic Park; and the Sullivan County Historical Museum, Art and Cultural Center. There are several historic bridges in the vicinity including the historic Roebling Suspension Bridge which spans the Scenic and Recreational Upper Delaware River, a unit of the National Park system at Minisink Ford.

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 Berry Brook Road, six miles north of Livingston Manor and 0.3 miles west of Sullivan County Route 151 in the Town of Rockland, Sullivan County.

## 2. History

The modern history of Beaverkill Campground is similar to that of much of the Catskill region. In 1707, Major Johannes Hardenberg, a merchant in Kingston, NY, purchased the tract of land now known as the Hardenberg Patent from local Native Americans for the sum of 60 pounds. 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 (i.e., land title) was divided into "Great Lots" apportioned among eight proprietors. These Great Lots were further subdivided into tracts and divisions of various sizes. Beaverkill Campground is located within what's referred to as Great Lot #5, Township 5 on portions of lots 382, 393, 394, 406, 409 and 410. Campground lands are also referred to on some real property maps as the Overing Tract and the Tannery Lot.

The first settlers in what would become the Town of Rockland were farmers. They found Iroquois living to the north, Algonquins to the south, and the Lenni Lenapes located in the region as well. At first, these pioneers had trails for transportation instead of roads. The biggest trail was the Sun Trail, which ran from the Hudson River to the East Branch of the Delaware River. Other trails included the Berry Brook Trail, Beaverkill Trail, Mary Smith Trail, and Cross Mountain Trail. Around the year 1815, John Hunter acquired 29,700 acres, and employed workers to improve access, by cutting and grading the Sun Trail into a road, further opening up settlement opportunities in the Beaverkill, Craig-E-Claire, Turnwood, and Rockland area.

Settlement upon these lands was slow due to the landowners' practice of leasing their lands to farmers via perpetual leases rather than selling the land outright, known as the Dutch Patroon System. The Livingstons, who at first owned about half the town, required the lands to be leased for three generations with the following terms: free for the first three years after date of the lease, the fourth year at the rate of five bushels of wheat per hundred acres, the fifth year 10 bushels per hundred acres, after which and during the remainder of the lease, 15 bushels per hundred acres. This system persisted for several decades, and eventually resulted in the "Anti Rent Wars." In 1846, the New York Constitution added provisions for tenant's rights, abolishing feudal tenures and outlawing leases lasting longer than 12 years.

The plentiful supply of hemlock trees and water power spurred further development in the area and throughout the Catskill region. Water power was utilized to grind hemlock bark and extract the tannin for use in processing leather. According to J. H. French's *Gazetteer of the State*, in 1885 there were 40 tanneries in Sullivan County doing a \$2 million in business. In 1832, Henry W. Ellsworth

## I. INTRODUCTION

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constructed a tannery at the settlement of Beaverkill, near where the Beaverkill Campground day use parking lot is located today. According to author Michael Kudish, thousands of hemlocks were cut down and peeled of their bark annually, and by the late 1880s, all but the most inaccessible hemlock stands had been cut. Although some hemlock wood was utilized for bridge planking or other local uses, it is estimated that 95 percent of the debarked, fallen trees were left to rot in the woods.

Other wood-using industries also had an important impact on the area. Trees were cut and the logs were lashed together to form rafts to float down the Willowemoc and Beaverkill rivers to the Delaware at East Branch, where they were made into larger rafts for the trip down the Delaware River to Trenton and Philadelphia. Saw mills also operated in Lew Beach, Beaverkill, Craigie Clair, and Lake Waneta. The Sherwood Mill at Livingston Manor, which produced table legs, Indian Clubs (a physical fitness tool), dumbbells, and baseball bats, became a major wood-using mill in the region. Until 1900, all Spaulding baseball bats were made at Sherwood's plant.

The Industrial Revolution generated a need for certain chemicals used principally in the manufacture of woolen cloth. In the mid-1800s, a technique for making these chemicals by distilling hardwoods was introduced in the U.S. from Scotland. The acid factory business was well suited to the Catskills, as it required an abundance of hardwood timber as a raw material, large quantities of water to cool the distillation machinery, and unskilled labor to harvest the raw material and work in the plants. Heavy demands for wood chemicals during World War I brought a temporary boom to the industry, which at its peak, consumed 100,000 cords of wood annually, and employed 3,000 men in Delaware County and western Sullivan County. However, German scientists, working under the pressures of war, developed a synthetic substitute for the chemicals, which were in great demand. While some factories survived after this new technique by the end of World War II only a handful of plants were left.

Improvements in transportation also spurred further settlement and the beginning of the tourism business. In 1865, a 98-foot single span covered bridge was built to traverse the Beaverkill, providing the only crossing into the rest of the town and county for residents living on the river's north side. On October 3, 2007, the Beaverkill Covered Bridge was listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and today, it is one of only four covered bridges still standing in Sullivan County. Development of the New York and Oswego Midland Railroad in 1873, later known as the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad, not only opened the area to visiting fisherman, hunters, and other recreationalists, it actively encouraged its development. As Austin Francis noted in his book *Catskill Rivers*, the railroads created an accessible remoteness. In 1878, railroad management had 1,500,000

brook trout and a large number of Lake and California trout distributed throughout the region. More trout were stocked in successive years and, in 1891, J. C. Anderson, a passenger agent for the Ontario and Western Railroad made an application to the State Fish Commission for 600,000 trout fry. That same year, a bill to establish a fish hatchery in Sullivan County passed in the State Assembly and is said to have led to the creation of the Catskill (DeBruce) Hatchery on Mongaup Creek. In his book *To the Mountains by Rail*, Manville Wakefield credits the Ontario and Western Railroad management with laying the groundwork for what has become one of the classic trout fishing regions in the world.

Wakefield also speculated on the creation of the Beaverkill Campground. On August 9, 1923, a young Boy Scout from Liberty, bound for a vacation day's enjoyment, was dismayed to see the lower Willowemoc's surface dotted with innumerable dead fish floating downstream. An investigating theorized that some sort of poison had been released from the acid factory at Willowemoc. It's not known if the negative publicity the county received from this was a factor, but two months later, the Beaverkill tannery farm was purchased to be preserved as a state park and campsite area.

As early as 1885, as the available timber and certain markets for timber started to become exhausted, landowners began to sell their lands or ownership reverted to the state due to delinquent tax payments. With the establishment of the State Forest Preserve in 1885 and the Catskill Park in 1905, the state began to consolidate lands within the blue line delineating the Catskill Park. In 1927 and 1928, 23 acres of lands that were part of the Tannery farm, 30 acres of lands known as the Overing tract, and 45 acres of Lot 382 were purchased with money from a land acquisition Bond Act approved by New York voters in the 1924 general election.

In 1931, the campground consisted of 10 fireplaces, a camping area, and bathhouses near the covered bridge pool. During the next eight years, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program expanded the campground by building 30 individual campsites featuring fireplaces and tables. Stone walls were constructed along the river's edge, as along with picnic facilities, stairs, and railings in the day use area near the former tannery site. The CCC camp included land on both the east and west sides of the covered bridge, with the CCC cabin office on the river's west side. A crew portrait taken in 1939 shows 44 men and their supervisors who were employed at the site. When the CCC camp was disbanded in 1939, the cabin was moved through the covered bridge to the east side of the river, where it is today.

Using funds from the Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act of 1960, significant additions were made to the unit, including 170 acres of lands south of the developed campground in

1964 and .56 acres in the vicinity of the day use parking lot in 1978, bringing the total campground lands to its current 267 acres.

Year	Campground Improvement
1928	Picnic tables and fireplaces placed on the north side of the Beaverkill
1930's	CCC developed campsites on both sides of Beaverkill. Eventually there were 97 campsites.
1964	164 acres south of the developed facility added to campground
1966	Rehabilitation of facility septic systems
1968	A garage constructed
1969	Comfort stations #3,4, and 5 constructed
1972	Comfort station #2 constructed
1975	Trailer dump station constructed
1978	.56 acres near the day use parking lot are added to campground
1985	Shower building and comfort station #1 are constructed
1996	Flooded sites along stream are repaired and regraded
2000	Rehabilitation of the sewage system. New septic tanks at dump station, comfort stations 3&6, and the lifeguard cabin.
2006	Sites #1–43 abandoned due to persistent flooding
2017	Rehabilitation of the facility's water system
2017	Rehabilitation of the covered bridge

## 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"> <li>• 52 Campsites</li> <li>• 52 Picnic Tables</li> <li>• 52 Fireplaces</li> <li>• 8 Spigots</li> <li>• Design Capacity – 312 people (52 sites x 6 persons)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.2 Acres</li> <li>• 10 Picnic Tables</li> <li>• 7 Grills</li> <li>• 4 Spigots</li> <li>• Design Capacity – 60 people (10 tables x 6 persons)</li> </ul>

#### 2. Roads and Parking

DEC-maintained roads consist of 0.2 miles of gravel surface and 1.0 miles of blacktop surface. One-way roads range from 8-10 feet in width, while two-way roads range up to 20 feet in width. At the time of this inventory, the paved portions of the campground roads were in fair condition and the gravel roads were in poor condition. There are also four 24" culverts and one 36" x 48" culvert for drainage purposes.

There are two parking areas in the day use area. A 240' x 45' parking area near the covered bridge provides parking for picnickers and anglers. The lot capacity is 16 cars. A second 120' x 45' lot is located near the shower building and provides parking for campers using the shower facilities, as well as picnickers and anglers. The lot capacity is 8 cars.

A foot path, 3,175 feet in length, connects the camping area to the covered bridge day-use area. A second footpath, 1,350 feet in length, provides access to the south shore of the Beaverkill, starting at the shower building.

A direct route from the facility supervisor's registration control booth to the camping area requires crossing the covered bridge. Due to their size, many larger camper/motor homes cannot pass through the bridge and must use an alternative route to access the campground entrance. Some control problems develop as these vehicles take Berry Brook Rd., an 1,800 ft., town of

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Rockland road that passes through the campground, which allows them to bypass the control booth and access the campground at numerous locations.

Bridges and Culverts	
Bridges	Culverts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covered vehicle bridge over the Beaverkill connecting campground to day use area.</li> </ul> <p>Owned by Town of Rockland Maintained by Sullivan County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage under campground roads (4)</li> </ul>

**3. Buildings**

MMS #	Building Name/Function	Location/Description/ Use	Size	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Caretakers cabin (old)	Near bridge	687 sf	Poor	1934
(002)	Garage	Behind supervisor cabin	925 sf	Fair	1968
(007)	Comfort station #1	Near day-use parking area	255 sf	Not in use	1985
(008)	Shower building	Near day-use parking area	1,024 sf	Fair	1984
(009)	Comfort station #2	On island	374 sf	Not in use	1972
(010)	Comfort station #3	Near old site #25	255 sf	Not in use	1969
(012)	Comfort station #4	Near old site #6	255 sf	Not in use	1933
(013)	Comfort station #5	Near campsite #50	374 sf	Poor	1969
(016)	Comfort station #6	Near campsite #60	374 sf	Fair	1969
(017)	Caretakers cabin (new)	Near entrance gate	860 sf	Good	1993
(018)	Ticket Booth (campground)	Near entrance gate	92 sf	Good	1993
(019)	Spring house	Near river	36 sf	Not in Use	1934
(020)	Recycle Center	Near site #96	400 sf	Good	1995
(021)	Reservoir	Near road	225 sf	Not in use	1934
	Chlorination building	Near site #96	299 sf	Good	2015

*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 November 20, 2018.*

#### 4. Sewage System

Effluent from the old and new caretaker’s cabins, shower building, and comfort station #6 flows by gravity to adjacent septic tanks and tile fields. Effluent from comfort station #5, the trailer dump station, and recycle center flow by gravity to adjacent septic tanks and then to a 4,000 sq. ft. centralized tile field in the camping loop. Comfort stations 1-4 and a lift station near comfort station #4 are not in service. The SPDES DEC permit #NY0164950 issued for this campground lists a 6,580 gal/day hydraulic flow limit. (See Exhibit 5)

MMS#	Building Description	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Leach Field (sq. ft)	Fixtures
(001)	Caretaker’s cabin (old)	1,000	600	1T, 2S, 1SH
(007)	Comfort station #1 *	1,000	720	6T,2S
(008)	Shower building	5,000 gal	2,040	8T, 4S, 8SH
(009)	Comfort station #2 *	2,000	500	8T,2S
(010)	Comfort station #3 *	1,000	Central field	8T,2S
(012)	Comfort station #4 *	2 X 1,000	Central field	8T,2S
(013)	Comfort station #5	2 X 1,000	Central field	8T, 2S
(016)	Comfort station #6	2 X 1,000	1,000	8T, 2S
(017)	Caretakers cabin (new)	1,000	Unknown	1T, 2S, 1SH
(020)	Recycle center	2,000	Central field	1S
	Dump station	2,000	Central field	faucet

*Numbers in parentheses are building numbers assigned in the MMS Building Inventory. T=toilet or urinal, S=sink, SH=shower, \* - Building not in use*

#### 5. Solid Waste

The campground has a recycle center where campers can leave garbage and recyclables. Garbage is picked up under contract by Thompson Sanitation Corporation. DEC staff transport the recyclables to the Town of Rockland transfer station. All day-use and camping areas are managed under the carry-in, carry-out policy. Appropriate signs have been erected to inform the public, and a brochure is issued to campers and day-users.

## II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

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### 6. Barriers

Barriers are used for controlling campground usage and are periodically opened or closed for this purpose. DEC policy provides for the design and safety considerations for in-place barriers. There is a 450-foot stone wall topped with a log hand rail in the day use area. It provides a safety barrier and shoreline stabilization. The current inventory is shown below.

Location	Type	Function
Shower building	Metal gate	Control public access
Near ticket booth	Metal gate	Prevent vehicle traffic
Near recycle center	Metal gate	Prevent vehicle traffic
Stone wall and rail	Rail fence	Safety barrier

### 7. Telephone

The main phone number is (845) 439-4281. The phone is on temporary disconnect when the campground is closed, and callers are directed to call (845) 256-3099. There is a payphone on site for public use.

### 8. Signs

Messages directed to public users of the campground are provided by means of standard (yellow on brown) signs, and include information about entering the campground, a bulletin board, the history of the covered bridge, the history of the campers and hiker's association, and directional information.

### 9. Electric System

Three electric service systems provide power to Beaverkill campground. The first system enters the campground from across the Beaverkill via overhead lines west of the well. These overhead lines continue approximately 700' to the well. From the well, approximately 4,000' of buried electric lines service the caretaker's cabin, chlorination building, recycle center, and the two comfort stations. An electric meter is located on the recycling building. The second system enters the campground from Cragie Clair Road near the shower building. Overhead lines continue approximately 980', servicing the shower building and comfort stations #1 and #2 (both buildings not in use). An electric meter is located on a power pole near the shower building. The third system enters the campground from Cragie Clair Road near the entrance sign. Overhead lines continue approximately 100' and provide power to the old caretaker building and garage. A meter is located on the old caretaker cabin. (See Exhibit #7)

### 10. Potable Water System

In 2017, a contract for a new water pumping system included a submersible pump, chlorine metering system, storage tanks, booster pumps, bladder tanks, and connections to the existing water distribution piping. The existing water treatment building near the well was demolished, and the new equipment was installed in an existing building near the recycling center. A second well located on the island was decommissioned, and new waterline was directionally bored under the Beaverkill to connect to existing waterlines that service the day use facilities. The new 3hp well pump yields 45gpm. There are 1.6 miles of water line distributing water to 12 water spigots, 2 comfort stations, the shower building, two staff cabins, and a trailer dump station. A spring house and reservoir located near the covered bridge are not in service. Old water lines and spigots taken out of service remain on the property. (See Exhibit #6)

### 11. Trails

There are .85 miles of trails within the campground, connecting the camping area to the day use area and a trail along the Beaverkill, downstream from the day use area. While there are no hiking trails leading directly from Beaverkill Campground, the 27,800-acre Delaware Wild Forest is located just a few miles to the north. This Wild Forest features more than 35 miles of hiking trails, including the Finger Lakes Trail, and more than 20 miles of snowmobile trails. To the east lies the 14,800-acre Willowemoc Wild Forest, which includes a 40-mile trail network that provides access to six ponds and a world-class trout stream, the Willowemoc Creek. Although hilly, the terrain is not as rugged as the Catskill High Peaks. The Willowemoc Wild Forest has the most expansive snowmobile system in the Catskills.

Distances to nearby trailheads include Huggins Lake (3 miles), Pelnor Hollow Trail (4 miles), and the Mary Smith Trail (5 miles). Waneta Lake, which lies two miles south of the campground, has an accessible fishing pier that offers good fishing opportunities. The lake also offers car-top boating and picnicking, with an accessible picnic table and parking area.

### 12. Fuel Systems

Propane tanks located near the caretaker's cabin provide fuel for that cabin, as well as the assistant caretaker's cabin and the shower building. Annual fuel use is about 345 gallons.

## II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

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### 13. Swimming

There is no swimming area at Beaverkill Campground. Campers are permitted to use the beach at Little Pond Campground, located eight miles away, or at Mongaup Pond, located 16 miles away.

### 14. Boating

The Beaverkill contains more whitewater than flat stretches and has limited put-in and take-out locations. There are several small ponds and lakes in the vicinity suitable for paddling. Canoes and kayaks can be rented at Little Pond or Mongaup Pond campgrounds.

## B. Inventory of Systems

### 1. Staff

Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor II
1	Facilities Operation Assistant 1
2	Park and Recreation Aides
1	Conservation Security Worker

### 2. Fee Schedule 2019

Daily Fees 2019 Open Dates: May 17-Sep 2	
Camping/night – NYS Residents	\$20.00
Camping/night – Non-Residents	\$25.00
Day Use - Auto	\$6.00
Day Use - Walk-In	\$2.00
Day Use - Bus	\$35.00
Day Use - Motorcycle	\$4.00
Firewood – per bundle	\$9.00

### 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 2019.

#### 4. Off-season Use

Camping is not permitted when the campground is closed. A gate above the ticket booth is closed during the off-season, and vehicles are not permitted to enter the camping portion of the facility. The campground roads may be used for cross-country skiing, hiking, birdwatching, nature photography, and similar pursuits. The parking lot in the day use area near the Beaverkill is open in the spring and provides fishing access to the stream. There are no services when the campground is closed.

#### 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 aged 5 through can request a *Junior Naturalist Journal* from campground staff. When the journal is completed, a child can bring it to the appropriate DEC staff person, who reviews the journal and will give the child a Junior Naturalist patch. This program was offered the 2019 camping season, but is dependent on funding being available, and may not be offered every year.

### C. Inventory of Natural Resources

#### 1. Physical

##### a. Elevation

Elevation of the Beaverkill Campground varies from a minimum of 1,410 feet along the Beaverkill River at the western boundary to a maximum of 1,725 feet along Beaverkill Road on the eastern boundary. (See Exhibit 2.)

##### b. Water

The Beaver Kill, sometimes written as the Beaverkill or Beaverkill River, is a tributary of the East Branch Delaware River, a main tributary of the Delaware River, and is approximately 44 miles in length. The river drains a 300-square-mile area of the Catskill Mountains and has long been celebrated as one of the most famous trout streams in the United States. Its preservation helped establish many of the basic conservation principles of rivers in the United States. The river forms the southern boundary for  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a mile on the western portion of the campground, flows within the boundary for  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a mile in the center portion of the campground, and forms the southern boundary for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile on the eastern portion of the campground. The outlet of Waneta Lake flows through the campground for approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles and enters the Beaverkill on the south bank upstream from the campsites. (See Exhibit 2)

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

*c. Wetlands*

Wetlands are inventoried, mapped, and protected by DEC under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The National Wetlands Inventory within the campground boundary includes 1.7 acres of forested/shrub wetland on an island upstream of the campsites, a small portion of a 2.5-acre forested/shrub wetland located along the Beaverkill upstream of the campground, 1.3 acres of freshwater emergent wetland south of the day-use area and 0.9-linear miles of Riverine Wetland, including the entire length of the Beaverkill within the campground. Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands, or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet of the wetland, requires a permit from DEC. In addition, DEC will be consulted to determine whether a permit is needed prior to site disturbance in or adjacent to designated wetland areas. (See Exhibit 9)

*d. Soils*

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

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Notes
Swartswood and Lackawanna soils, steep, very stony	Well drained	Not prime farmland
Wellsboro and Wurtsboro soils, strongly sloping, extremely stony	Moderately well drained	Not prime farmland
Barbour loam	Well drained	Prime farmland
Bash silt loam	Poorly drained	Prime farmland if drained
Fluvaquents-Udifluvents complex	Poorly drained	Frequently flooded
Lackawanna channery loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Well drained	Not prime farmland
Arnot-Rock outcrop complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes	Excessively drained	Not prime farmland
Tunkhannock and Otisville soils, steep	Well drained	Prime farmland
Tunkhannock gravelly loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Well drained	Prime farmland
Wellsboro gravelly loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Moderately well drained	Prime farmland
Morris loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Somewhat poorly drained	Prime farmland

### 2. Biological

#### *a. Forest Type*

There are three forest cover types present in the campground: northern hardwoods, pioneer hardwoods, and plantation.

The major tree species in the northern hardwoods type are sugar maple, beech, yellow birch, hemlock, black cherry, white ash, and red maple. Tree sizes vary from pole to saw timber.

The pioneer hardwoods stands occur on abandoned agricultural land in various stages of succession, reverting back into forest lands. This growth varies anywhere from semi-open brush fields to pole-size stands of trees. Major species found in this type are apple, red maple, sugar maple, black cherry, shadbush, thorn apple, aspen, white ash, hornbeam, and white pine.

Two major plantations are found on the campgrounds. Near the entrance to the camping area, there is a 60+ year old plantation comprised mainly of Norway spruce, with small areas of white pine and scotch pine. Another plantation composed of red pine and Norway spruce can be found near the Beaverkill United Methodist Church on Craigie Clair Road. A small area of larger sized white pine is located in the picnic area.

#### *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. Northern Monkswood (*Aconitum noveboracense*), an endangered vascular plant, has previously been identified in an area along the Beaverkill, east of the campground, but an extensive search in 2012 did not locate any of these plants.

#### *c. Wildlife*

The area is located within the Catskill Peaks and Delaware Hills ecological zone, and the wildlife found here are similar to those in other areas of southeastern New York State. The northern hardwood forest favors black bear, snowshoe hare, wild turkey, gray squirrel, raccoon, and porcupine. Early successional species, such as white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit and ruffed grouse occur, but at lower elevation, flatter terrain, and more diverse vegetation. Breeding species of birds include the pileated woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, red-breasted nuthatch, eastern phoebe, ovenbird, sparrows, and warblers. For more information, refer to the Willowemoc – Long Pond Wild Forest unit management plan available on the DEC website. Hunting and the discharge of firearms are prohibited within the campground.

### *d. Fisheries*

The Beaverkill stream, passing through the campground, with its C(T) classification - best use for fishing, trout, represents one of the most popular trout streams in the Catskill Park region. Chemical conditions are considered very satisfactory for the support of aquatic life. The approximately two miles of stream that flow through the campground provide some of the only public fishing available on the upper Beaverkill, downstream of the Forest Preserve.

The Beaverkill is divided into the upper and lower sections at the confluence with the Willowemoc Creek in Roscoe, NY. Both sections support wild brown trout. The upper section of the river supports a wild brook trout population that increases as you move upstream towards the headwaters. Rainbow trout are also scattered throughout the watershed as a result of both natural reproduction and non-DEC stockings in private sections of the river. DEC annually stocks over 18,000 brown trout in the Beaverkill and seasonal anadromous runs of American shad are reported in some years from the lower section. Fishing for trout is permitted by regulation from April 1 to November 30. Some special regulations apply.

### **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 UMP/EIS.

#### **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.

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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## F. Public Use

### 1. Inventory of Public Use

Attendance numbers are a combination of camper days (the number of campers multiplied by 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 stable levels of visitation with some fluctuation possibly related to weather. The current camping attendance is significantly lower than the 15,257 camper visits recorded in 1994, prior to the closure of 63 campsites in the low-lying areas of the campground. The average length of stay is 2.4 nights and the average party size is 2.9 persons. Most Beaverkill campers are from New York State (72%) and New Jersey (18%), with strong representation from lower Hudson Valley area, as well as New York City and Long Island. (See Exhibit 12)

Day use attendance for the most recent five year period indicates widely fluctuating totals due to multiple causes. While weather plays a major role in day use attendance, with no control booth at the entrance of the day use area, collection of fees is inconsistent. The reported attendance numbers are lower than the true attendance. Recent increases are due partly to increased staff efforts to collect fees. Anecdotal reports from campground staff indicate attendance has also increased since a permit system was implemented at the Blue Hole swimming area in July of 2018. Campground use during winter months is from the use of roads for walking or skiing. 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.

<b>Beaverkill Attendance</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Camping</b>	<b>Day Use</b>	<b>Total</b>
2019	6,749	4,142	10,891
2018	6,119	1,812	7,931
2017	5,652	1,024	6,676
2016	7,118	1,153	8,271
2015	6,702	2,259	8,961
<i>Average</i>	<i>6,468</i>	<i>2,078</i>	<i>8,546</i>

**b. Revenue Trends**

Revenues are important because they are used to offset the campground’s annual operating costs. Operating costs for Beaverkill average \$56,871 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 from the

<b>Beaverkill Revenue</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Camping</b>	<b>Day Use</b>	<b>Misc</b>	<b>Total</b>
2019	\$48,735	\$4,313	\$8,665	\$61,713
2018	\$45,975	\$2,888	\$7,594	\$56,457
2017	\$46,280	\$1,748	\$5,751	\$53,779
2016	\$47,955	\$1,710	\$8,558	\$58,223
2015	\$47,955	\$2,259	\$8,810	\$59,024
<i>Average</i>	<i>\$47,380</i>	<i>\$2,584</i>	<i>\$7,875</i>	<i>\$57,839</i>

rental of the 52 campsites, and generally shows some variability, which is tied to attendance fluctuation, fee increases, length of the camping season, and weather events. The nightly camping rate at Beaverkill Campground has been \$20.00 since 2017. In 2011, an additional \$5.00 fee per night was instituted for non-state residents. Camping revenue has been fairly static at the campground over the last five-year period. Day use revenue is derived from park entrance fees. Miscellaneous revenue comes from a combination of firewood sales and Empire Passport sales. Total day use revenue has increased in the past two seasons. Firewood sales were instituted in 2015, after regulations were put in place limiting the transport of firewood over 50 miles to reduce the spread of invasive species.

**2. Carrying Capacity**

Beaverkill 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 ensure 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 52 campsites is 6 persons per site or 312 persons total. The day use design capacity is 6 persons per picnic table x 10 tables, or 60 persons total.

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. While the number of toilets and sinks is adequate for the day use area, the distance to the

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

bathroom (in shower building) exceeds 500'. Utility sinks are needed in the camping loop to provide a sanitary and convenient location for cleaning and wastewater disposal.

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	1	None
Potable water supply	55 gal/day/site	2,860 gal	64,800 gal	None
	5 gal/day/picnicker	300 gal		None
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	6	8	0
	1/60 picnickers	1	4	0
Sinks (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	5	4	1
	1 for every 60 picnickers	1	4	0 <sup>1</sup>
Toilets/Urinals	2 for every 10 sites	6	16	0
(within 500')	2 for every 60 picnickers	2	8	2 <sup>1</sup>
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	2	0	2
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	3	8	0
<b>*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes.</b>				

*1 – The distance from some of the day use areas to the bathroom (in shower building) exceeds 500'.*

#### **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 all 6,000 campsites maintained in DEC's campgrounds. In most cases, sites that require restoration work will be removed from use for two camping seasons. At Beaverkill campground, sites 81 & 94 were selected and restored during the 2017/2018 season, and site 85 has been selected for the 2018/2019 season. Restoration work will include:

- Planting trees and shrubs
- Replacing lost soils
- Regrading 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. Hazardous trees are regularly removed (in accordance with established policy), and natural regeneration and the replanting and growth of residual trees compensate 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 the 2018 survey, campers were invited to provide any additional comments or suggestions they had about their visit. A total of 28 comments were received, with 14 comments commending the staff for being helpful, 3 comments citing the lack of maintenance in the shower building and bathrooms, and 8 single comments about noise, a slow check-in process, trees needing trimming, a request for a longer camping season, the fireplace needing repair, and an eroded campsite. The low number of respondents in the 2019 survey (10) makes it difficult to draw conclusions on camper concerns and satisfaction.

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.

<b>Beaverkill Camper Survey</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Good or Excellent Rating</b>
2019	10	60%
2018	48	75%
2017	110	87%
2016	141	92%
2015	127	86%

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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#### *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 indicates that archaeological resources may be present in the vicinity of the day use area. Prior to site disturbance of any construction affiliated with this management plan, the nature and extent of archaeological resources in the project area, if any, will be 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 provided a copy of this plan to review, in keeping with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

The Beaverkill Covered Bridge is listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. As such, state agency actions related to the bridge are subject to the provisions of the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) and its implementing regulations (Article 14, PRHPL and 9 NYCRR Part 428). Any state agency undertaking repairs or maintenance that meet the definition of undertaking found in NYCRR Part 428.4 shall undertake consultation with OPRHP as required by SHPA. DEC shall be included as a party to any such consultation.

DEC worked with the Open Space Institute (OSI) through its Alliance for New York State Parks program as well as the Friends of Beaverkill, who developed a Concept Plan for improvements to the landscape and cultural interpretation at the greater Beaverkill landscape and the Beaverkill Covered Bridge Landing. The report was undertaken by W Architecture and Landscape Architecture, LLC in 2015. Many of the recommendations in the concept plan, entitled “Covered Bridge Landing at Beaverkill” were included in the revised UMP.

#### *E. Adjacent Lands*

The campground boundary totals 5.2 miles, 95% of which is bordered by private lands. The Beaverkill Stream bisects the campground and private lands for 1.1 miles of the 1.9 miles it flows past campground lands. There are 10 private parcels on the north boundary totaling 1.6 miles. Berry Brook Road bisects the campground and private parcels on the north for 0.6 mile. There are 10 private parcels on the east boundary totaling 1.9 miles. Campsite Road bisects the campground and private parcels for 0.3 mile on the east. To the south are three private parcels totaling 1.3 miles, and the 14,800-acre Willowemoc Wild Forest borders the campground for 0.3 mile. To the west are two private parcels

totaling 0.2 mile. There are two inholdings. A 1.1-acre private parcel and the 1.7-acre Beaverkill Cemetery are both located on Craigie Clair Road within the boundaries of Beaverkill Campground.

The campground provides employment for local residents, and 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***

DEC is concerned about the threat of invasive species at Beaverkill is, 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 forest users. Infested firewood may come from trees killed by insect pests and could inadvertently spread these pests to new areas when the wood is transported by campground users. DEC regulation 6 CRR-NY Part 192.5 prohibits the import of firewood into New York unless it has been heat treated to kill pests, and limits the transport of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source.

DEC's goal, in collaboration with other agencies and interested groups, is to establish a documented inventory of invasive species by location within the campground. Once an inventory is established, staff implements a management program to help contain and possibly eradicate, further growth of these species.

In 2016, in partnership with the Open Space Institute and the Friends of Beaverkill Community, the Excelsior Conservation Corp identified Japanese knot weed and multiflora and worked to remove these invasive plants from the campground.

#### ***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 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.

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

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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In addition, Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that services, programs, and activities of the Department, when viewed in their entirety, are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. DEC is not required to take any action that would result in a fundamental alteration to the nature of the service, program or activity, or would present an undue financial or administrative burden. When accommodating access to a program, DEC is not necessarily required to make each existing facility and asset accessible, as long as the program is accessible by the other means or at a different facility.

This plan incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities and assets on the unit or area, and an assessment of the programs, services, and facilities provided, to determine the level of accessibility. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, and that buildings, facilities, and vehicles, are accessible to individuals with disabilities in terms of architecture and design, transportation, and communication.

For outdoor recreational facilities not covered under the current ADA standards, DEC will use standards provided under the Architectural Barriers Act to lend credibility to the assessment result and to offer protection to the natural resource.

All new facilities or parts of facilities that are constructed for public use are to be accessible to people with disabilities. Full compliance is not required where DEC can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable to meet the requirements. (*See Text of 28 CFR § 35.151 (a)(b) below*). Compliance is still required for parts of the facility that can be made accessible to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable, and for people with various types of disabilities.

A record of accessibility determination is kept with the work planning record. Any new facilities, assets, and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this plan are identified in the section containing proposed management actions.

#### **28 CFR § 35.151 (a)(b)**

##### *(a) Design and Construction.*

- (1) Each facility or part of a facility constructed by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity shall be designed and constructed in such a manner that the facility or part of facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, if the construction was commenced after January 26, 1992.*

*(2) There are exceptions for structural impracticability:*

*“(i) Full compliance with the requirements of this section is not required where a public entity can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable only in those rare circumstances when the unique characteristics of terrain prevent the incorporation of accessible features.*

*(ii) If full compliance with this section would be structurally impracticable, compliance with this section is required to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable. In that case, any portion of the facility that can be made accessible shall be made accessible to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable.*

*(iii) If providing accessibility in conformance with this section to individuals with certain disabilities (e.g., those who use wheelchairs) would be structurally impracticable, accessibility shall nonetheless be ensured to persons with other types of disabilities, (e.g., those who use crutches or who have sight, hearing, or mental impairments) in accordance with this section.”*

*(b) Alterations.*

*(1) Each facility or part of facility altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity in a manner that affects or could affect the usability of the facility or part of the facility shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be altered in such manner that the altered portion of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, if the alteration was commenced after January 26, 1992.*

For further information contact DEC’s ADA Coordinator at [accessibility@dec.ny.gov](mailto:accessibility@dec.ny.gov).

Inventory of Accessible Facilities	
Campsites	None
Comfort Stations	#6
Shower Building	In day use area

## IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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### IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The management actions below are proposed for the next 10 years and will be completed as staff and funding allow.

Proposed Management Actions	
Management Actions	Cost
1. Reconstruct comfort station #6 to include showers	\$500,000
2. Construct an entrance booth at the day use area	\$ 50,000
3. Rehabilitate comfort station #1	\$ 60,000
4. Expand the day use and construct a pavilion	\$150,000
5. Pave sections of roads in the camping loop	\$100,000
6. Relocate campsites	\$10,000
7. Demolish unused buildings and infrastructure	\$100,000
8. Bury overhead lines in the day use area	\$60,000
9. Plant trees and shrubs	\$5,000
10. Perform restoration work to historic sites	\$50,000
11. Improve existing trails and create a trail connection to Wild Forest	\$15,000

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. Reconstruct and expand comfort station #6 to include a shower facility**

The current shower building at Beaverkill Campground was constructed in 1984 and is in fair condition. Its location in the day use area requires most campers to drive one mile to utilize it. Additionally, the low overhead clearance and weight limit of the covered bridge require many patrons with large vehicles to make a 12-mile round-trip to avoid crossing the bridge. This management action proposes the reconstruction of comfort station #6, centrally located in the camping loop, to replace the

existing building with an ADA-compliant structure, with showers adequate for the entire campground. Two parking spaces will be constructed for people with disabilities adjacent to building. The building will also include an exterior utility sink that will allow campers to wash dishes.

## **2. Construct an entrance booth at day use area**

The day use facility does not have a control booth, which is resulting in an unknown loss of revenue, visitors parking in non-designated places, and overcrowding on many days. Asking patrons to drive to the campground entrance booth to pay an entry fee has proven to be problematic, even when staff is assigned to manage visitation in the day use area. As noted in the public use section of this plan, staff report an increase in day use visitation since a permit system was instituted at the Blue Hole. This management action proposes constructing an entrance booth that will be staffed to ensure day users are paying the required fee, the facility complies with required design capacities, and reported attendance numbers are accurate.

## **3. Rehabilitate comfort station #1**

Currently, day use patrons must utilize the shower building for restrooms. The distance from some of the picnic areas to the shower building exceeds 500 feet, the maximum distance allowable under Department of Health guidelines. Comfort station #1, built in 1985, has been closed for several years, but is central to the entire existing day use area. A new septic tank and tile field servicing the building was constructed in 2000. This management action proposes to rehabilitate the building with modern, energy-efficient fixtures that comply with ADA requirements. In conjunction with management action #1, the shower building will be removed upon completion of comfort station #6 upgrades.

## **4. Expand day use and construct pavilion**

Camping on the island at Beaverkill was discontinued after flooding in 2006. Unlike the low-lying campsites that were permanently closed on the north side of the river, the area subject to flooding on the island is limited to the road crossing of the high-water channel. The island is a scenic, forested area with existing roads, a comfort station, and utilities. This management action proposes to rehabilitate comfort station #2 with modern energy-efficient fixtures, and to comply with current ADA requirements. A new septic tank and tile field servicing the building was constructed in 2000. A pavilion will be constructed in the open area to the southeast of the comfort station. Portions of the campground

## IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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loop road will be rehabilitated, and a 10-15 car parking lot will be constructed near the comfort station and pavilion. Water spigots will be added and connected to the existing waterline. Picnic tables and grills will be scattered throughout the area. Since this area will not be utilized overnight, staff will be available to manage an evacuation if weather conditions threaten a high-water event.

### **5. Pave sections of roads in the camping loop**

Existing roads and parking areas at Beaverkill are in fair condition, but several unpaved sections result in potholes, mud, and a constant need for repairs. This management action proposes to pave the center road in the camping loop, as well as unpaved sections west of comfort station #6. Paving of approximately 1,600' of existing roads will reduce maintenance needs and improve safety for driving, cycling, and walking.

### **6. Relocate campsites**

Several of the campsites along the Beaverkill are small and provide little site separation. This management action proposes closing site #79 and utilizing the space to enlarge adjacent sites #77 and #81. Additionally, the proposed action would close site #91 and utilize the space to enlarge adjacent sites #90 and #92. The closures will result in improved parking, larger camping pads, and greater site separation. This management action also proposes constructing two new walk-in sites near comfort station #5. Parking will be provided near the trailer dump station, and short trails will lead to the sites.

### **7. Demolish unused buildings and infrastructure**

This UMP has identified several buildings and infrastructure that have been taken out of service, with no plans to utilize them in the future. This management action proposes demolishing these facilities and restoring the sites, including grading, seeding, and plantings. The list of structures includes the reservoir building, spring house, comfort stations #3 and #4, the lift station, and several spigots and overhead lines in the former camping area. Additionally, upon the completion of the replacement of comfort station #6 and rehabilitation of comfort station #1, the shower building can be added to the list.

### **8. Bury overhead lines in the day use area**

Most of the electric lines in the camping loop at Beaverkill are underground. There are 1,050 feet of overhead lines in the day use area. Like all campgrounds in the forest preserve, they are subject to

damage from heavy storms with strong winds and lightning strikes. The overhead lines are in constant need of maintenance and have required emergency repairs several times, which cuts off power at the facilities for extended periods. Additionally, over time the lines have had many splice repairs that further weaken their durability. This management action proposes to bury the 1,050 feet of overhead power lines in the day use area.

### **9. 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. Tree 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 improve the visual buffer from other locations.

### **10. Restoration work to historic sites**

Some of the work completed by the CCC years ago is now in poor condition, including pathways, railings, stone stairs, and stone retaining walls along the river's edge, and repairs are needed. This management action proposes to make repairs to restore these facilities as much as possible to the original finished work of the CCC. This action also includes marking the location of the old tannery site, providing interpretive information explaining the history of the site. In addition, the action would mark the location and provide interpretive information at other CCC worksites on the campground property. Plans for this work should be done in consultation with the Friends Group associated with the covered bridge landing at Beaverkill. If funding or additional assistance becomes available, restoration of the original caretaker's cabin could be completed as well. In conjunction with the above restoration work, DEC will pursue nomination of the facility to the National Register of Historic Places.

### **11. Improve existing trails and create a trail connection to Wild Forest**

This management action proposed the following trail improvements within the campground:

1. Currently, there is no clear access to the river between campsites in the camping loop. Along with the proposed closures of campsites #79 and #91, access to the river through these former sites will be marked. Access to the river will also be marked west of site #70.

#### IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

---

2. The abandoned campsite road and trail between the recycle center and the covered bridge will be marked.
3. In conjunction with future updates of the Willowemoc Wild Forest UMP, a connector trail leading south from the Intensive Use Area to the Wild Forest will be considered.
4. Existing trails on the south side of the river will be cleared, where needed, and marked as an interpretive trail to tell the stories associated with history of the Beaverkill, developing the following themes:
  - The industrial history, including tanning and logging;
  - The tourism history, including hotels and resorts;
  - Trout fishing on the Beaverkill;
  - The Civilian Conservation Corps; and
  - The environment, including flora and fauna, and conservation work accomplished by environmental groups in the Catskills.

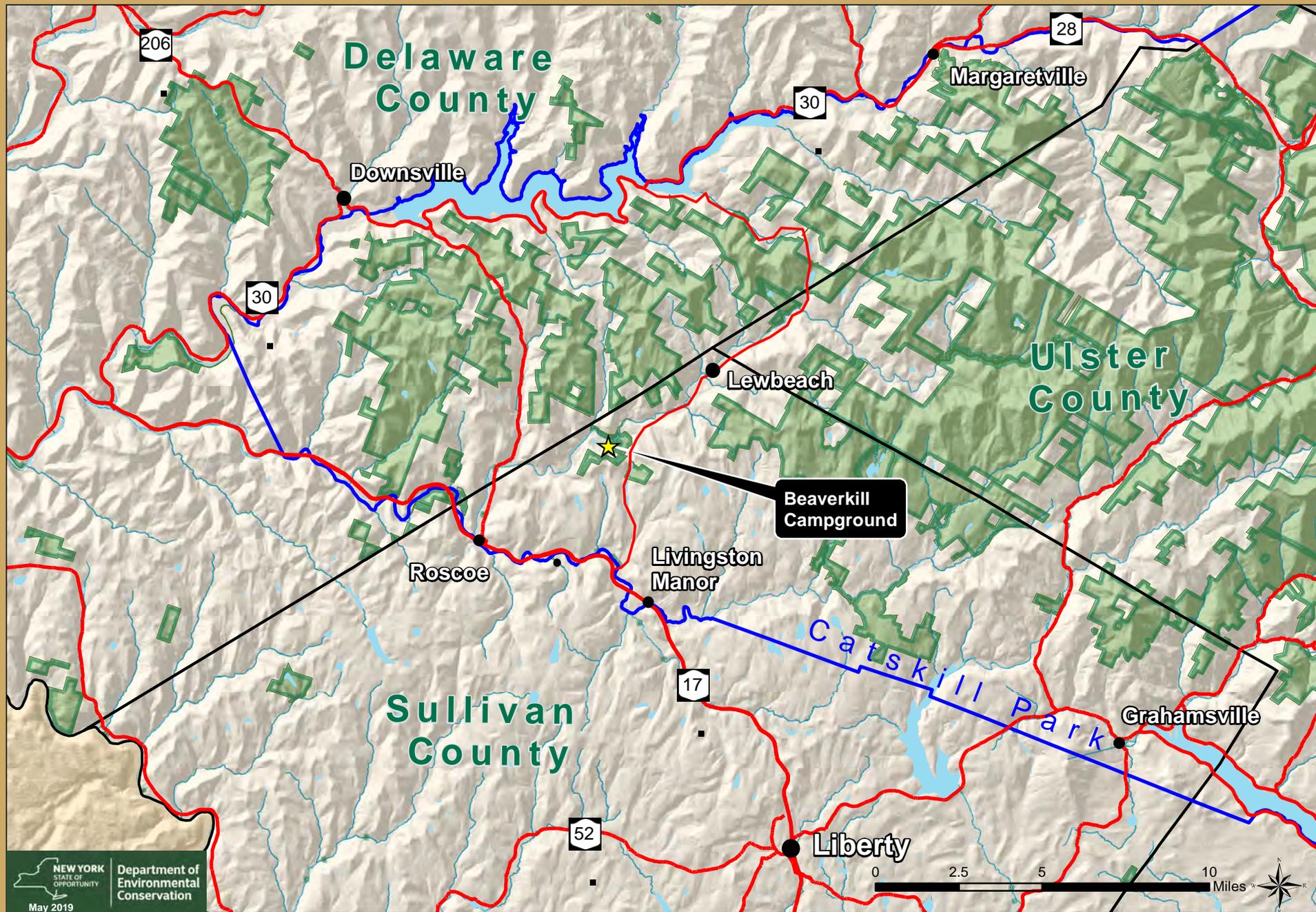
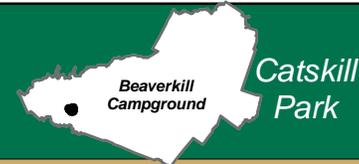
Work would include erecting interpretive panels and highlighting key sites that illustrate the narrative.

**V. EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit Index</b>	
Exhibit #1 – Beaverkill Campground Location Map	
Exhibit #2 – Beaverkill Campground Topography Map	
Exhibit #3 - Beaverkill Campground Orthoimagery Map	
Exhibit #4 – Beaverkill Existing Facilities Map	
Exhibit #5 – Beaverkill Campground Sewer System	
Exhibit #6 – Beaverkill Campground Water System	
Exhibit #7 – Beaverkill Campground Electric System	
Exhibit #8 – Beaverkill Campground Forest Cover Map	
Exhibit #9 – Beaverkill Visitor Demographic Map	
Exhibit #10 – Beaverkill Campground Campsite Occupancy	
Exhibit #11 – Beaverkill Campground Soils Map	
Exhibit #12 – Beaverkill Campground Wetlands Map	
Exhibit #13 – Beaverkill Management Action Map	
Exhibit #14 – Beaverkill Campground Photos	
Exhibit #15 – Public Comment Response	

# Beaverkill Campground

Exhibit # 1 - Location Map



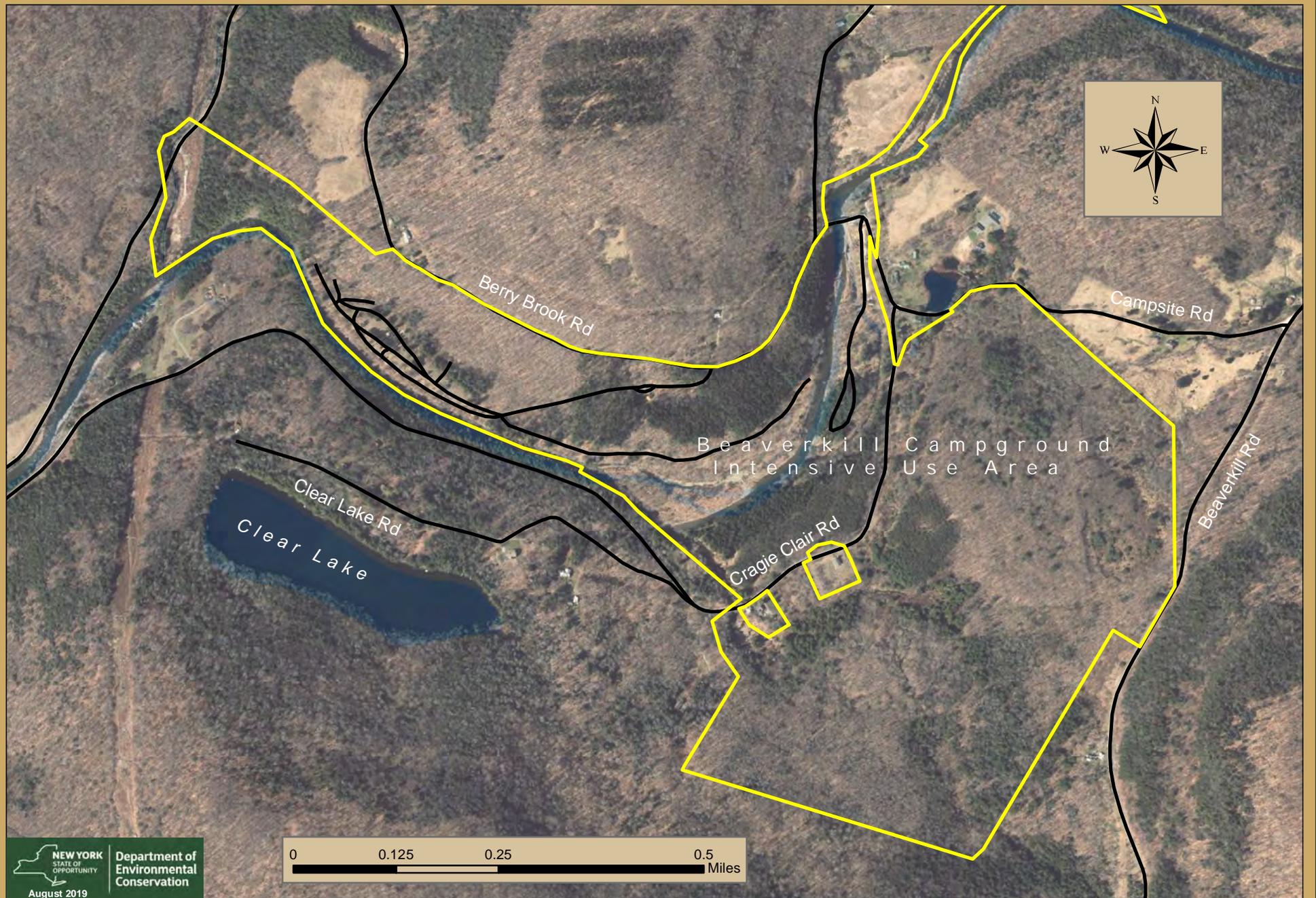
# Beaverkill Campground

Exhibit #2 - Beaverkill Topography



# Beaverkill Campground

Exhibit #3 - Beaverkill Orthoimagery Map



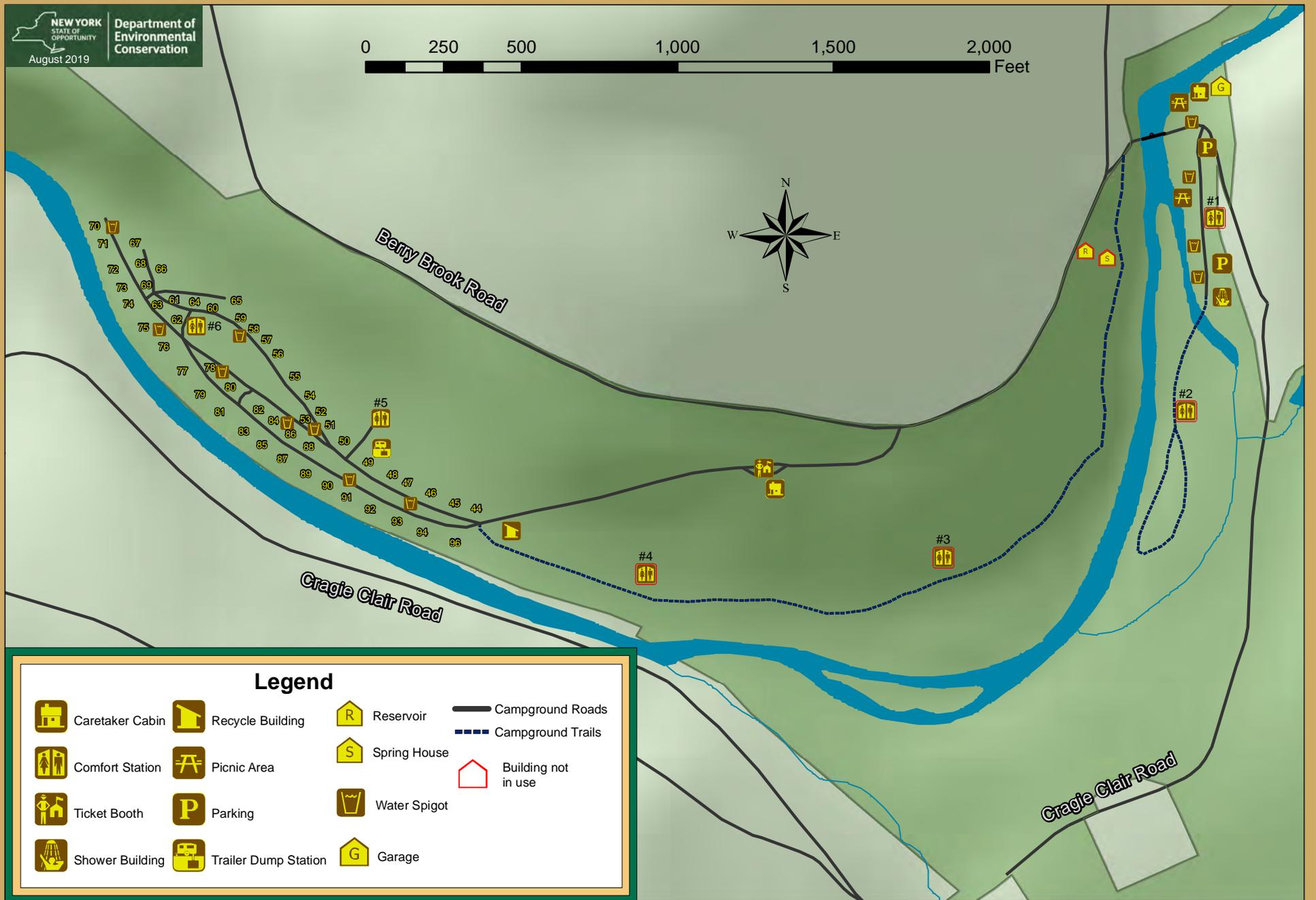
# Beaverkill Campground

## Exhibit # 4 - Facilities Map



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
August 2019  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000  
Feet



### Legend

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

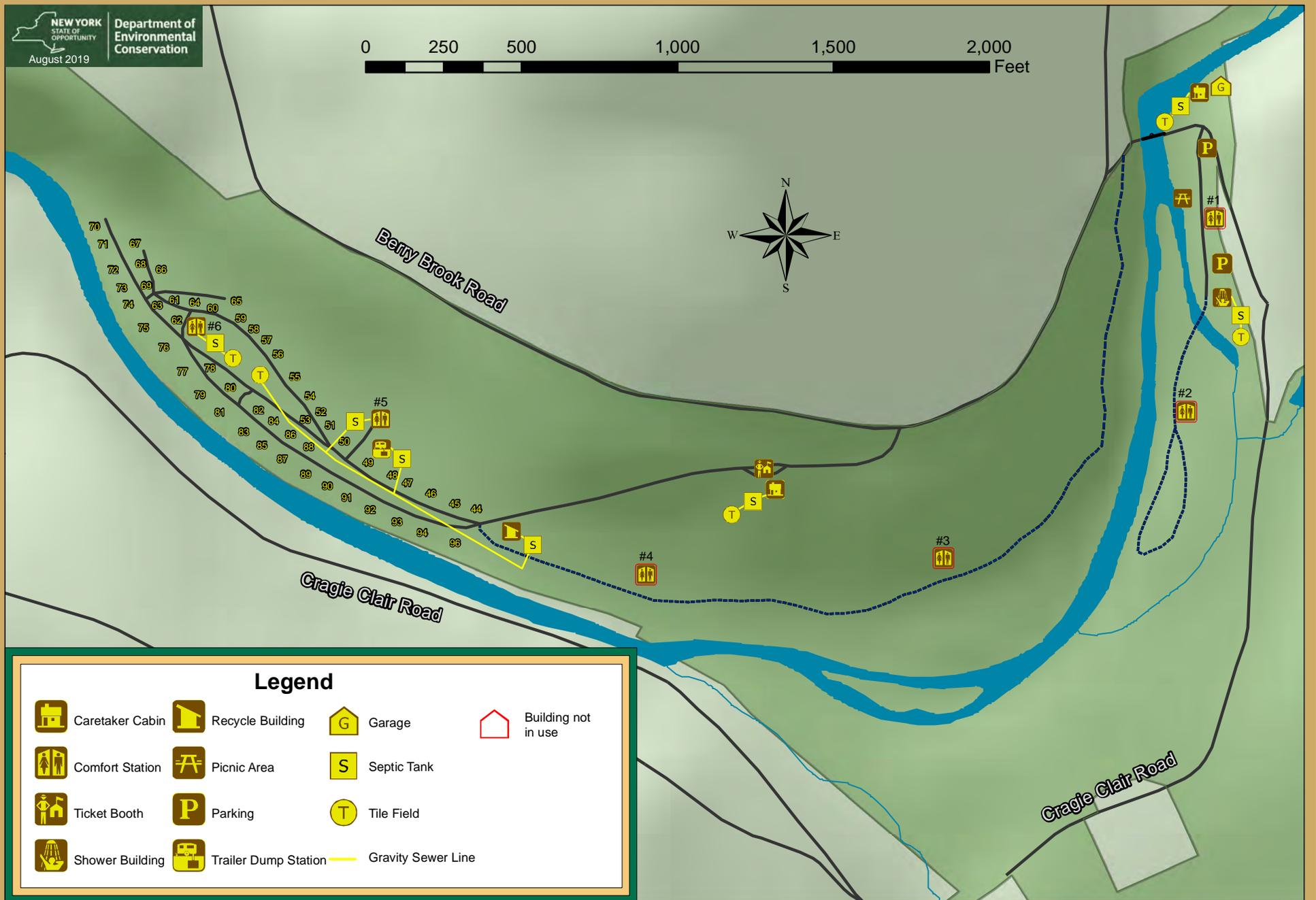
# Beaverkill Campground

## Exhibit # 5 - Sewage System Map



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
August 2019  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000  
Feet



### Legend

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
|  Caretaker Cabin |  Recycle Building     |  Garage             |  Building not in use |
|  Comfort Station |  Picnic Area          |  Septic Tank        |   |
|  Ticket Booth    |  Parking              |  Tile Field         |   |
|  Shower Building |  Trailer Dump Station |  Gravity Sewer Line |   |

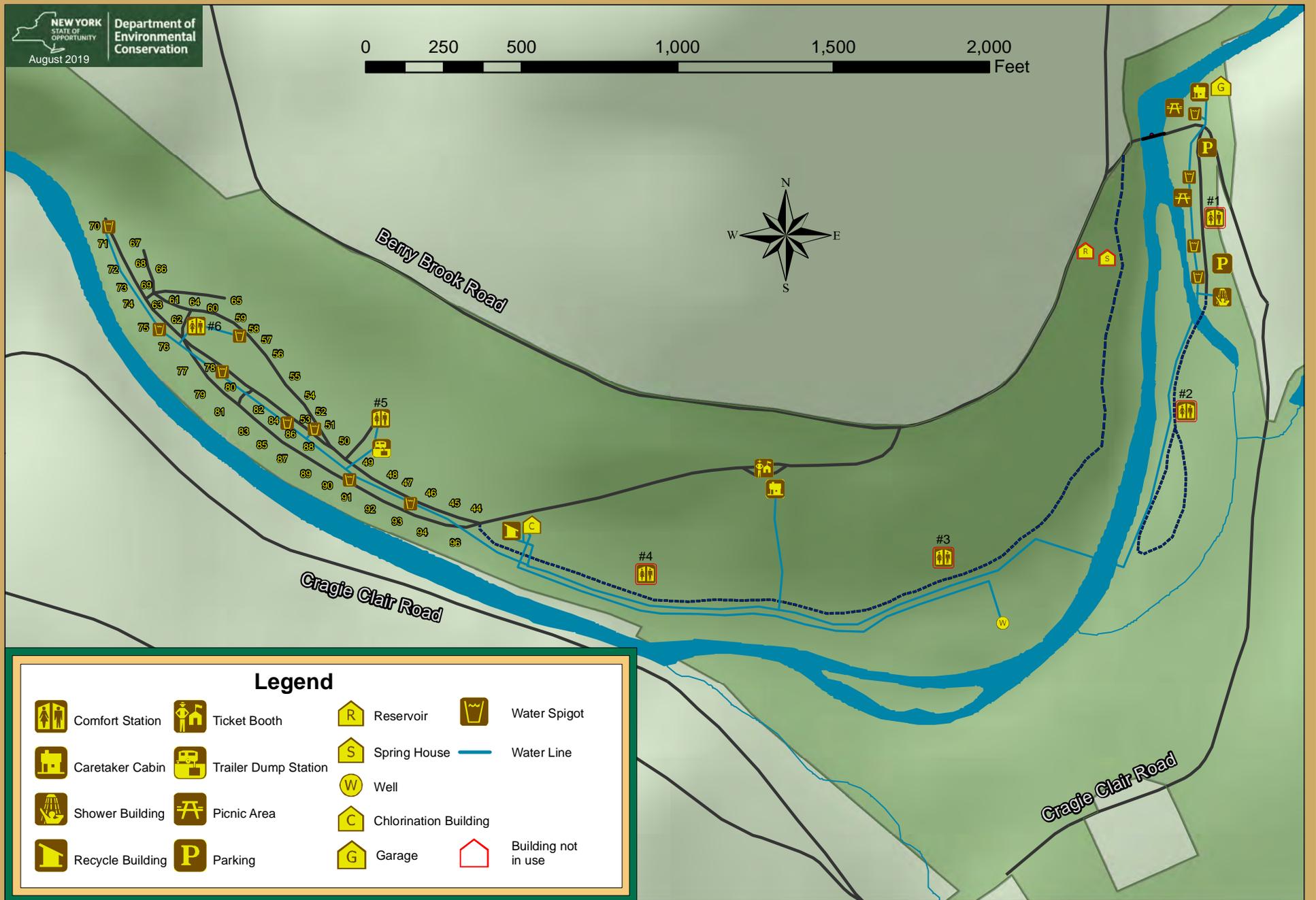
# Beaverkill Campground

## Exhibit # 6 - Water System Map



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
August 2019  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000  
Feet



### Legend

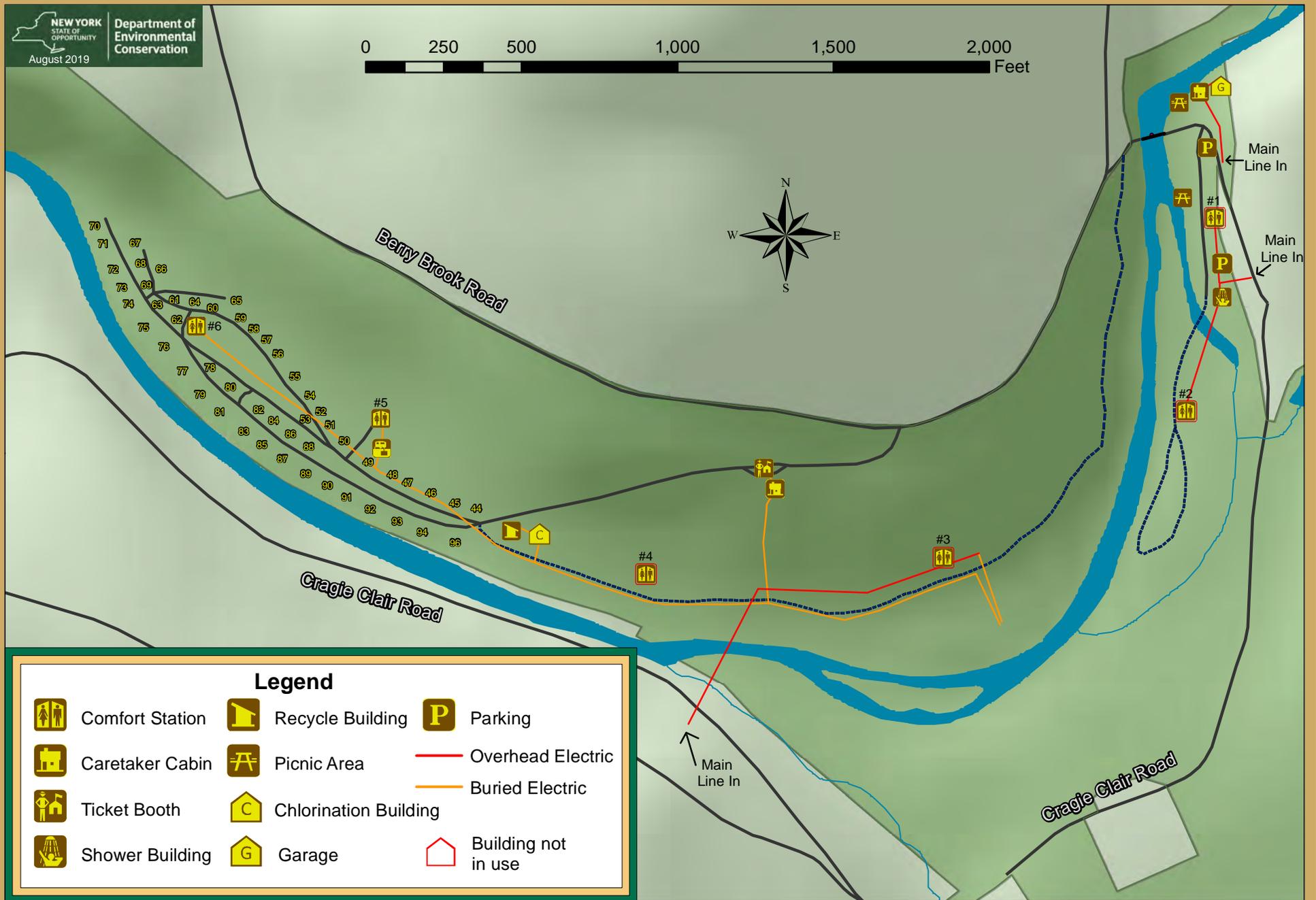
- |  |                  |  |                      |  |                       |  |              |
|--|------------------|--|----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|--------------|
|  | Comfort Station  |  | Ticket Booth         |  | Reservoir             |  | Water Spigot |
|  | Caretaker Cabin  |  | Trailer Dump Station |  | Spring House          |  | Water Line   |
|  | Shower Building  |  | Picnic Area          |  | Well                  |  |              |
|  | Recycle Building |  | Parking              |  | Chlorination Building |  | Garage       |
|  |                  |  | Building not in use  |  |                       |  |              |

# Beaverkill Campground

## Exhibit # 7 - Electric System Map



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
August 2019  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

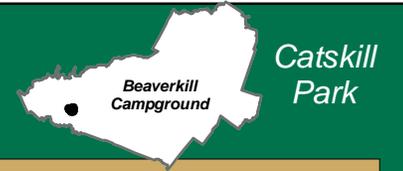


### Legend

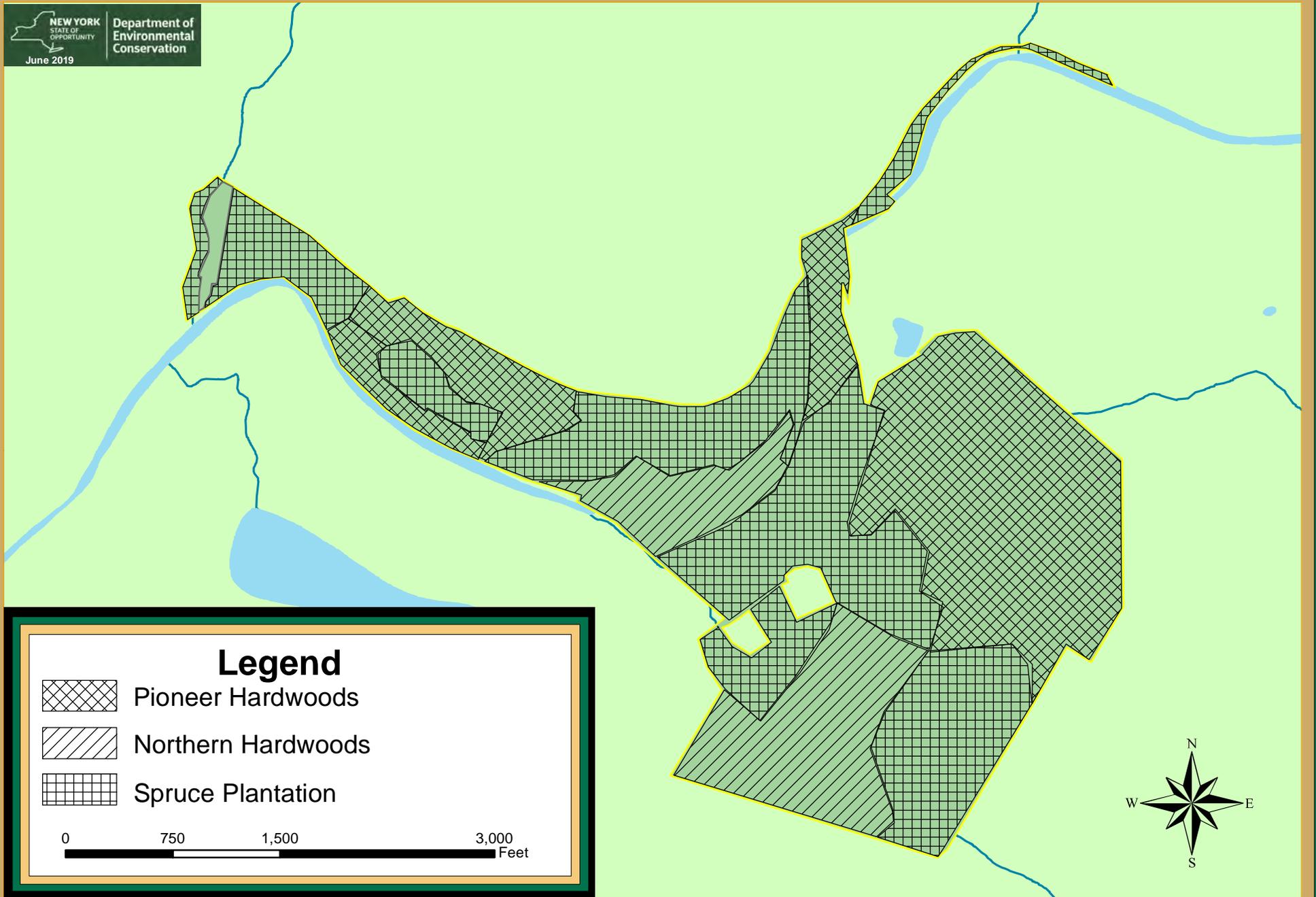
- |  |                 |  |                       |  |                     |
|--|-----------------|--|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
|  | Comfort Station |  | Recycle Building      |  | Parking             |
|  | Caretaker Cabin |  | Picnic Area           |  | Overhead Electric   |
|  | Ticket Booth    |  | Chlorination Building |  | Buried Electric     |
|  | Shower Building |  | Garage                |  | Building not in use |

# Beaverkill Campground

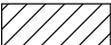
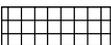
## Exhibit # 8 - Forest Cover Map



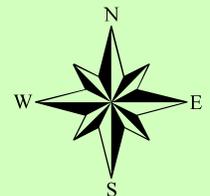
NEW YORK  
STATE OF OPPORTUNITY  
June 2019  
Department of Environmental Conservation



### Legend

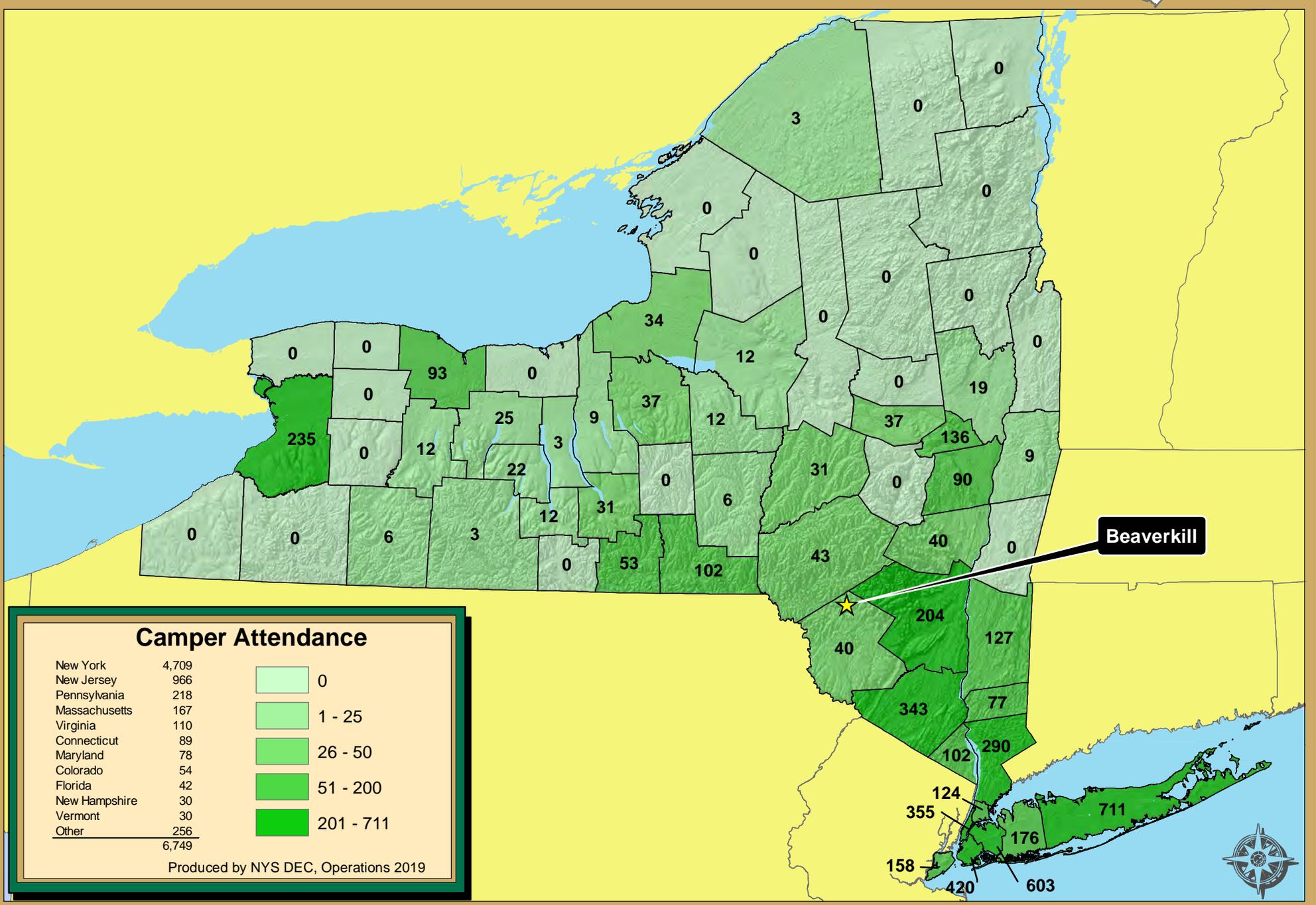
-  Pioneer Hardwoods
-  Northern Hardwoods
-  Spruce Plantation

0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet



# Beaverkill Campground

Exhibit # 9 - Camper Demographics 2019



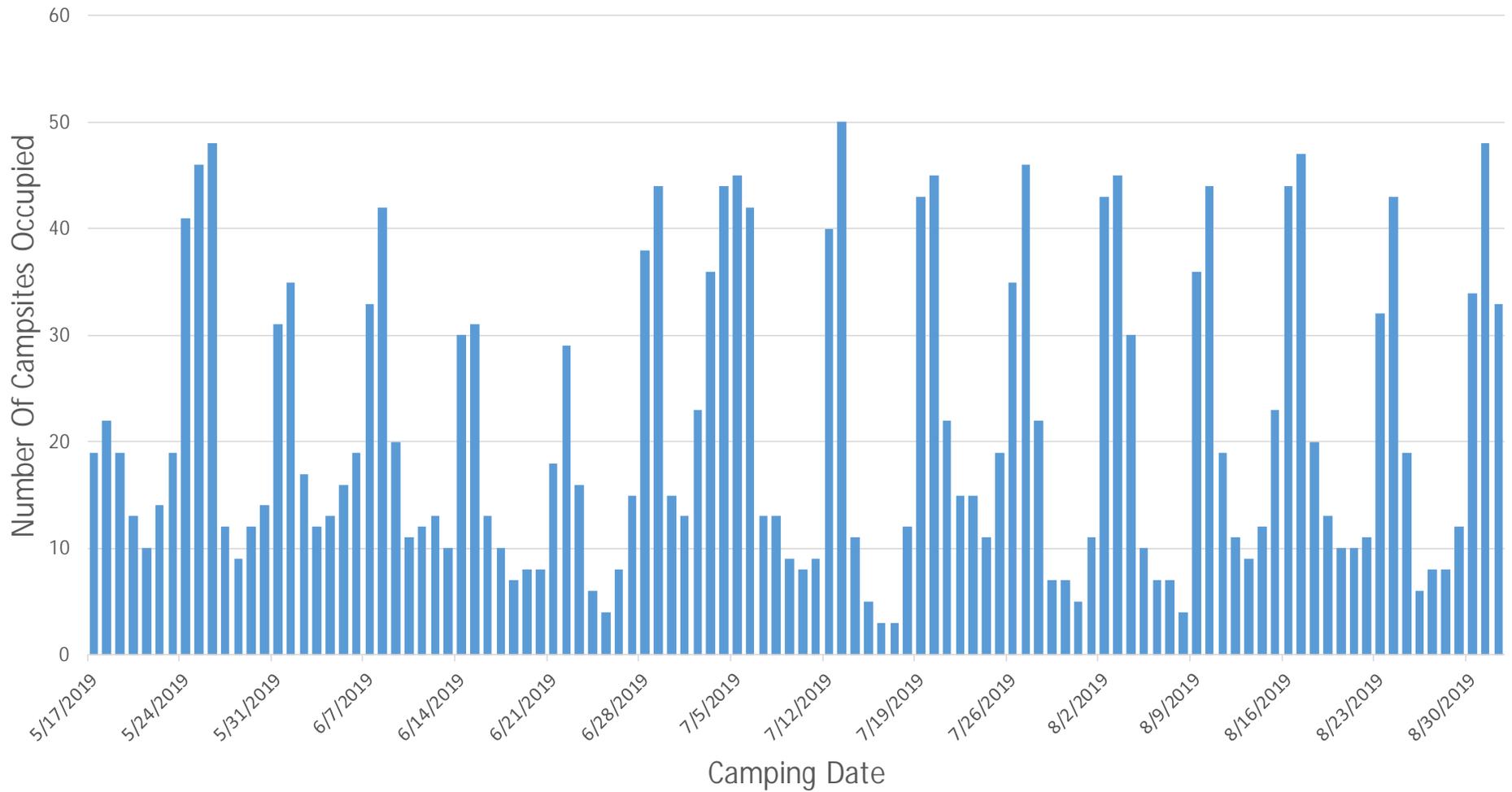
# Beaverkill Campground

## Exhibit #10 - Campsite Occupancy 2019



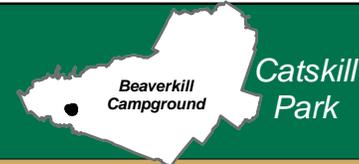
Catskill  
Park

Beaverkill Campground  
Occupied Campsites 2019



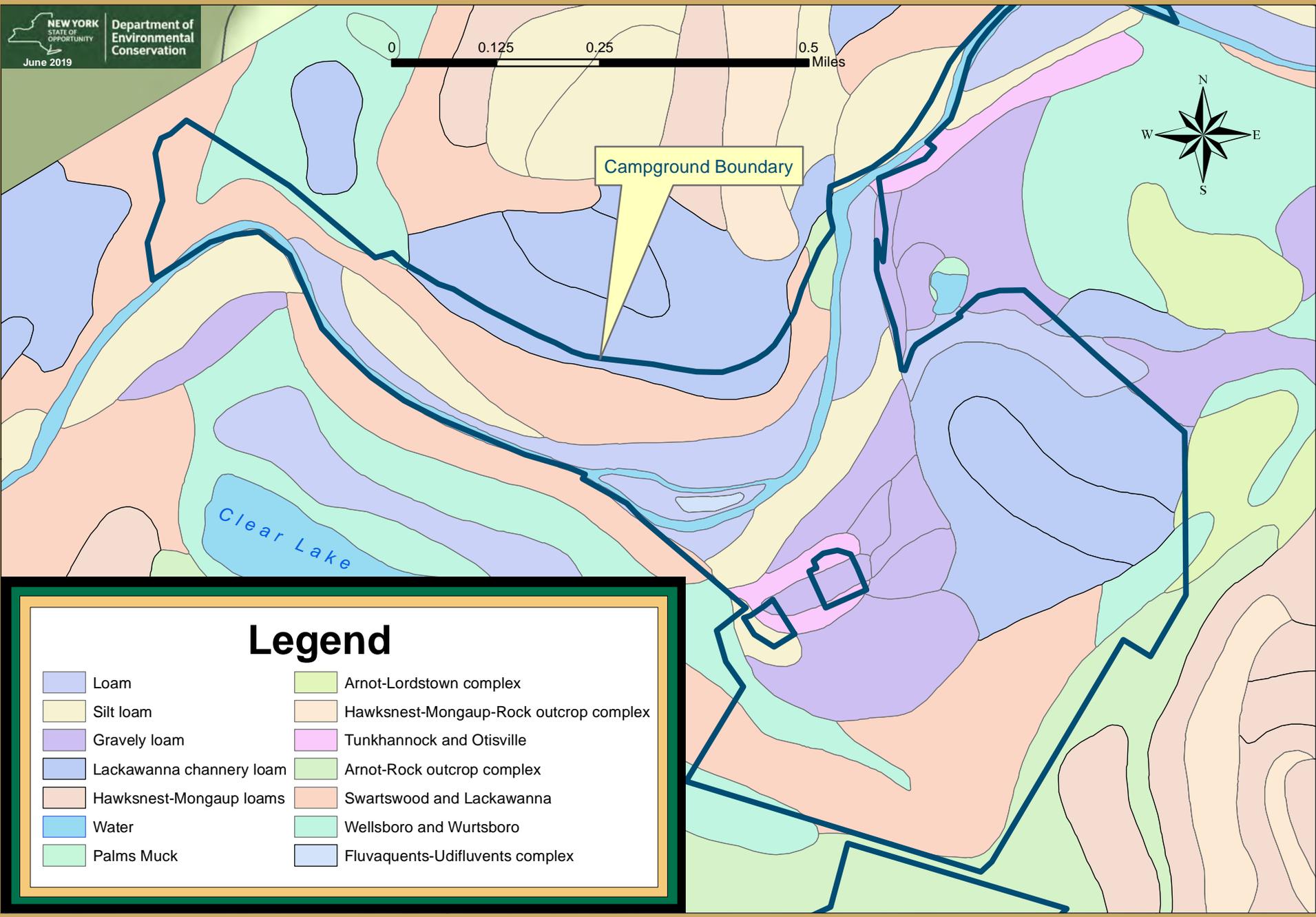
# Beaverkill Campground

## Exhibit #11 - Beaverkill Soils



NEW YORK  
STATE OF OPPORTUNITY  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
June 2019

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Campground Boundary

Clear Lake

### Legend

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Loam                     | Arnot-Lordstown complex                |
| Silt loam                | Hawksnest-Mongaup-Rock outcrop complex |
| Gravelly loam            | Tunkhannock and Otisville              |
| Lackawanna channery loam | Arnot-Rock outcrop complex             |
| Hawksnest-Mongaup loams  | Swartwood and Lackawanna               |
| Water                    | Wellsboro and Wurtsboro                |
| Palms Muck               | Fluvaquents-Udifluvents complex        |

# Beaverkill Campground

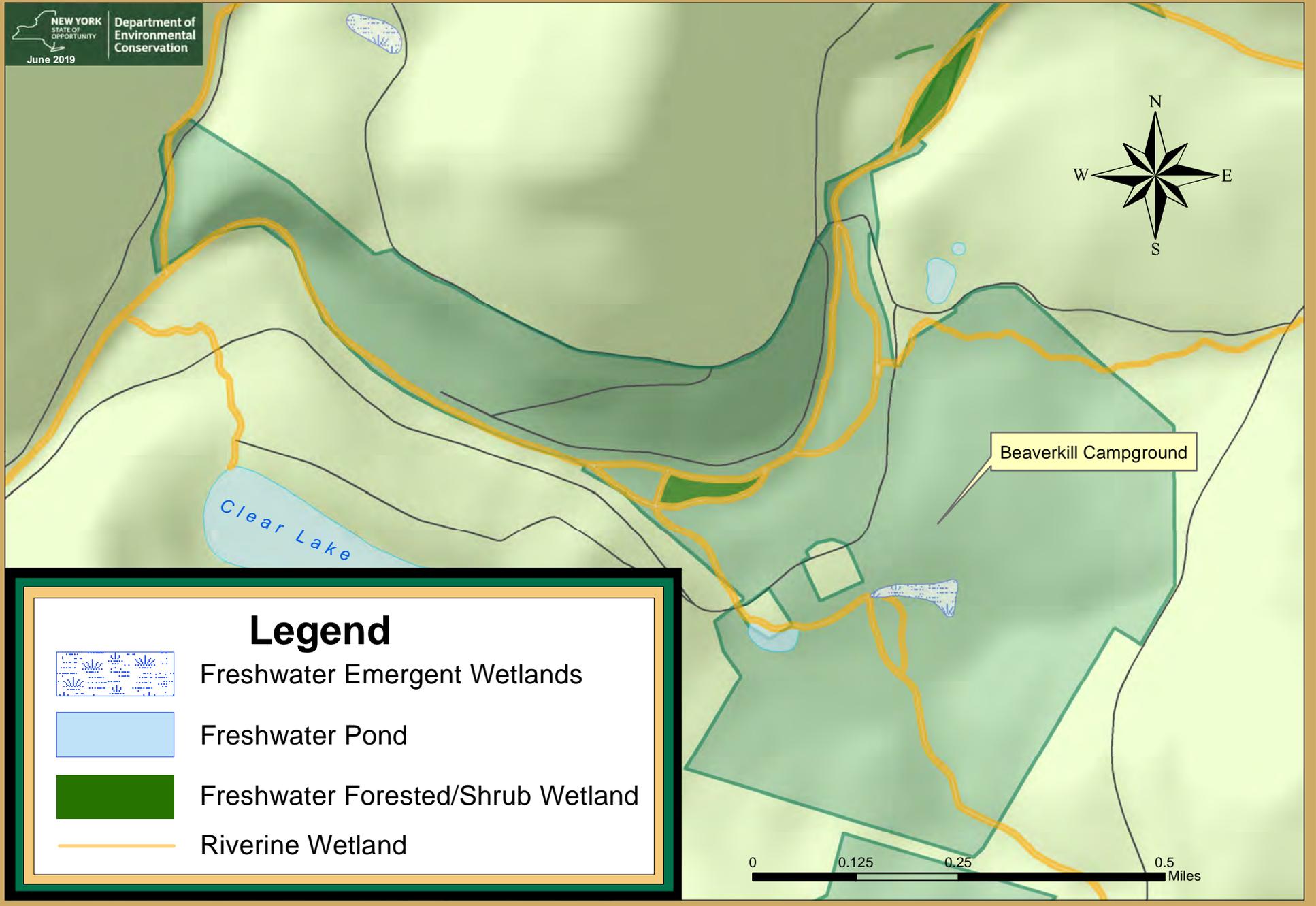
## Exhibit #12 - Beaverkill Wetlands



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY

Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

June 2019



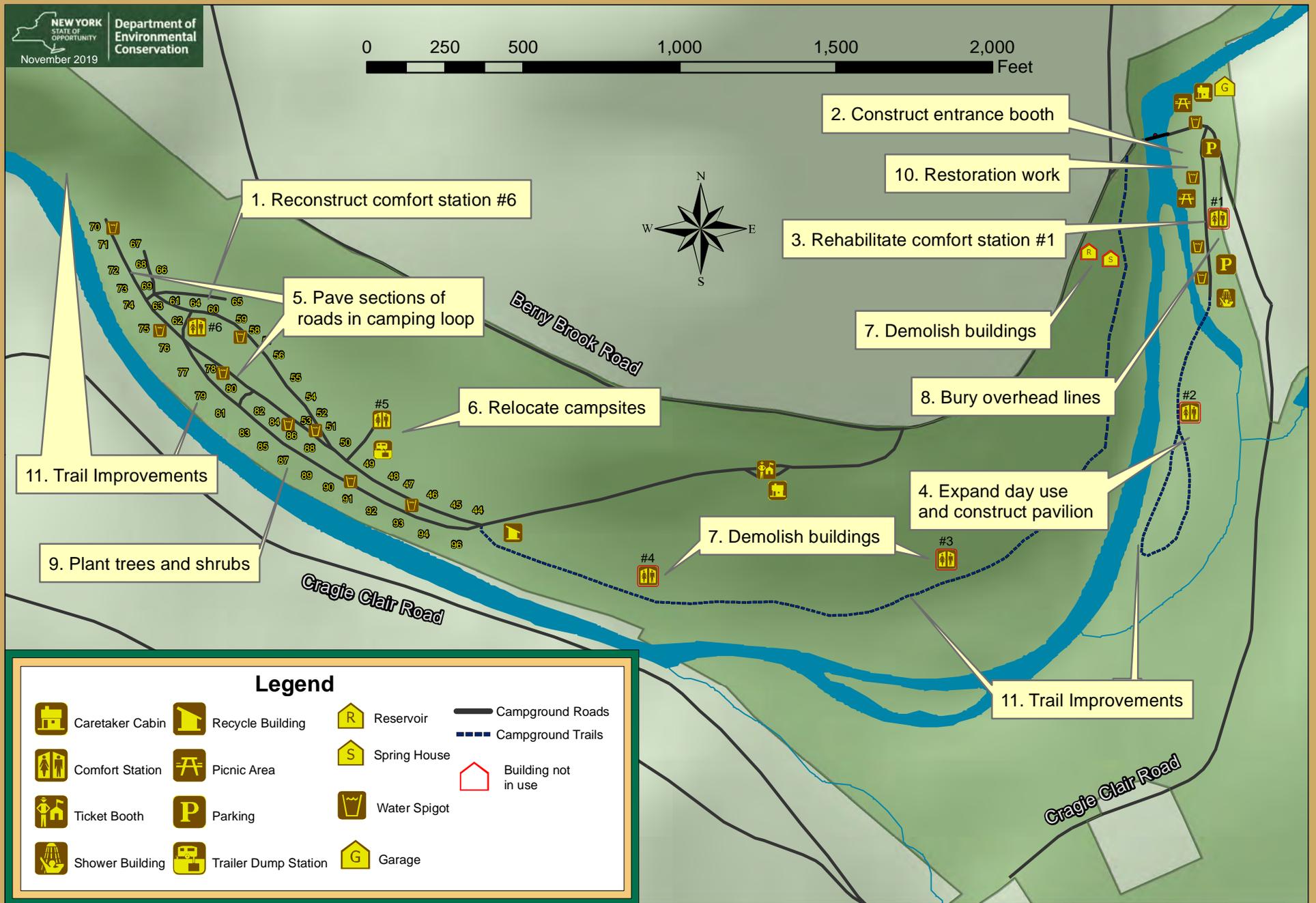
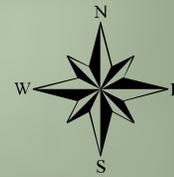
# Beaverkill Campground

## Exhibit # 13 - Management Actions Map



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
November 2019  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000  
Feet



### Legend


# Exhibit 14 Beaverkill Photos





Entrance Booth



Caretaker Cabin



Ass't Caretaker Cabin



Garage



Comfort Station #1 (not in use)



Comfort Station #2 (not in use)



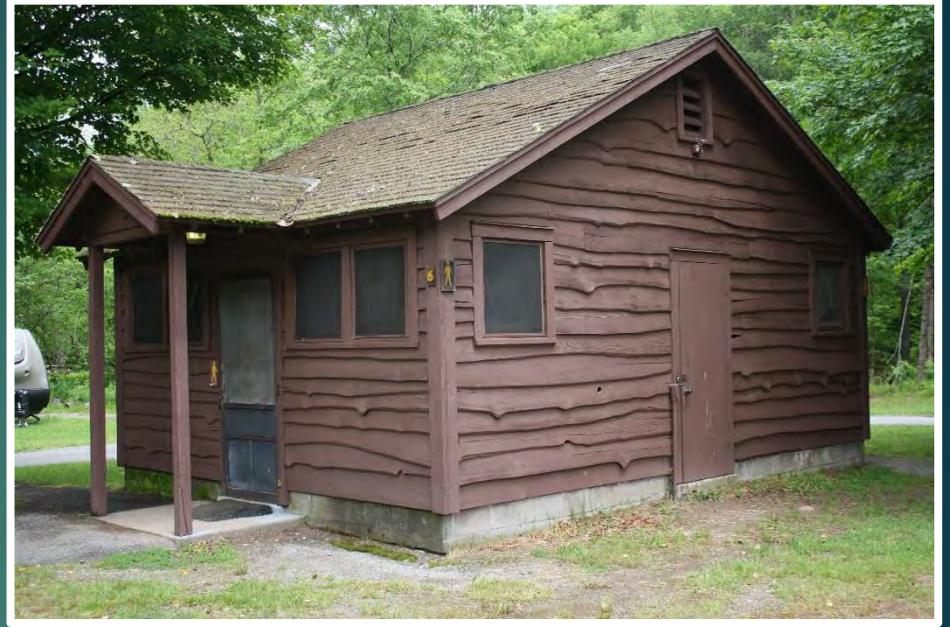
Comfort Station #3 (not in use)



Comfort Station #4 (not in use)



Comfort Station #5



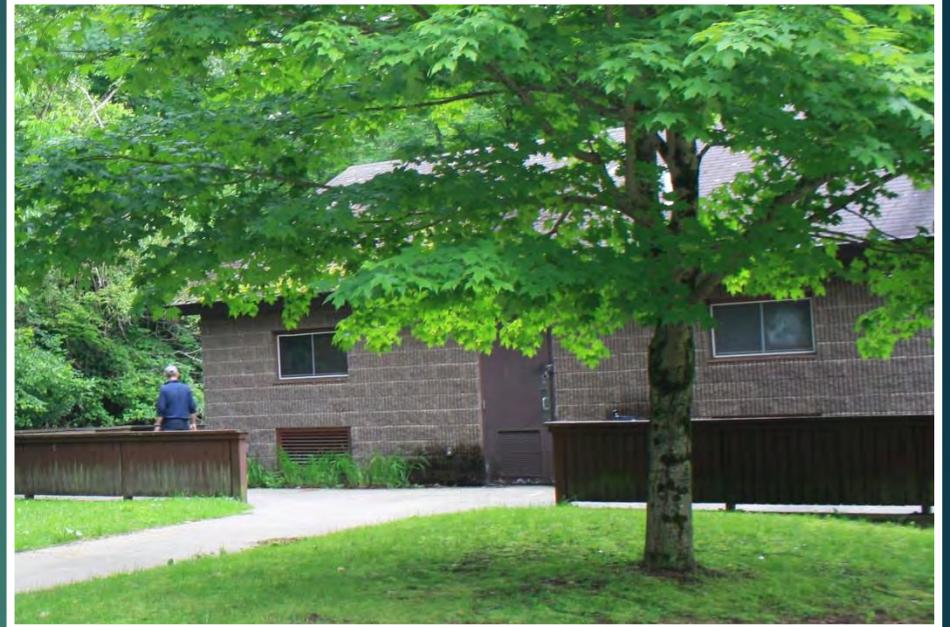
Comfort Station #6



Comfort Station #6



Chlorination Building



Shower Building



Recycle Center



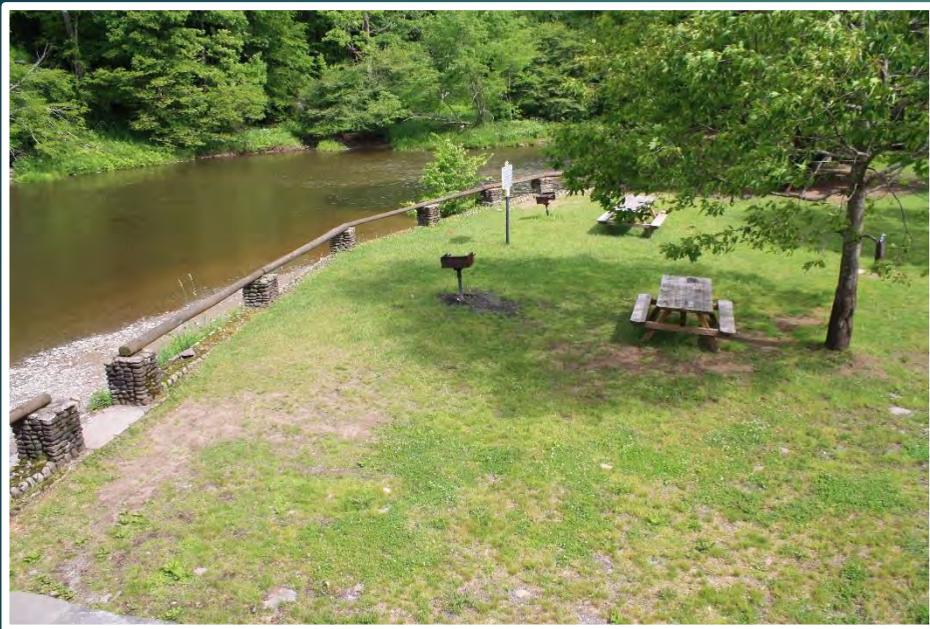
Trailer Dump Station



Camping Area



Camping Area



Day Use Area



Day Use Area



Potential Walk In Campsite



Potential Pavilion Site



Reservoir (not in use)



Spring House (not in use)

## **Exhibit 15 Response to public comments**

The Department held a public comment period from March 10 -April 15, 2020. During that time, one written comment and 120 survey responses were received. A summary of each survey question is presented below. A strong majority of public responses were positive across survey questions. In review of open/narrative responses, two common topics emerged, reestablish camping within closed sections of the facility and concerns regarding campsite density. The Departments response to these two topics is outlined below.

### **Public desire for camping to be reestablished in closed sections of the facility due to flooding.**

The health and safety of the public is paramount for the Department. Upon review of the closed sections, the Department does not consider those areas safe for overnight camping. The potential for future flooding is high and has been exacerbated by previous flood damage and changes to stream channel morphology. In addition to the public safety, continual repair to flood damaged infrastructure would be cost prohibitive and would prevent expenditures on other facility improvements. Further, steps have and will continue to be taken to remove legacy infrastructure from within the floodplain as outlined in management action 7.

With that said, and as a result of the aforementioned review, the area on the east side of the river and south of the current day use area can be safely used for day use and is outlined in management action 4.

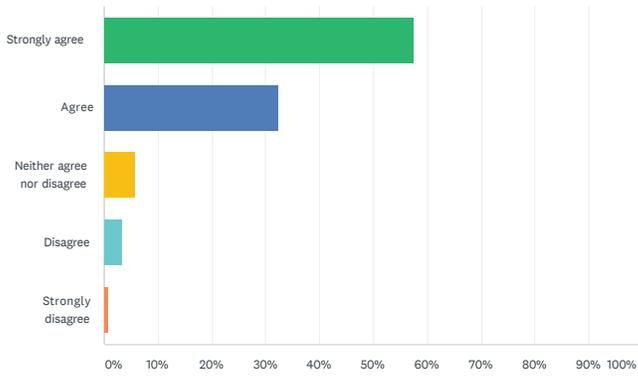
### **Public concerns regarding campsite density.**

Although all campsites within the facility meet DOH standards, the Department will seek to address campsite density in several ways; including campsite relocation, improved vegetative screening and campsite restoration. Management action 6 details the relocation of several campsites to decrease existing site density and also provide a new “walk-in” camping alternative within the facility. Management action 9 details Department efforts to increase vegetative screening throughout the facility and Sec III.b details the campsite restoration efforts throughout the facility.

# Survey Response Summary

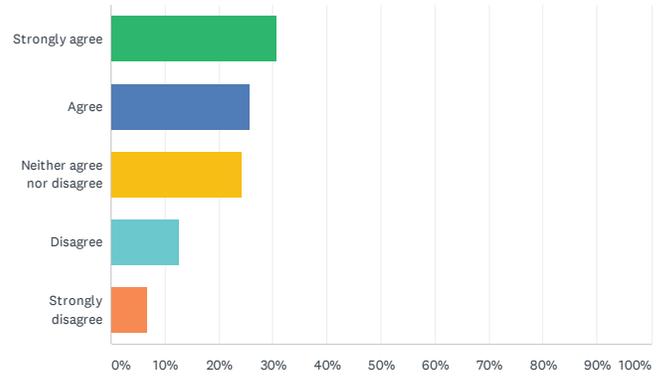
## Q1 Reconstruct and expand Comfort Station #6 to include showers

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0



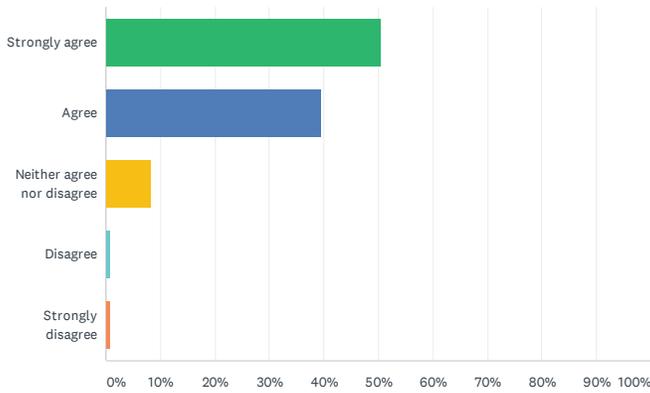
## Q2 Construct an entrance booth at Day Use Area

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0



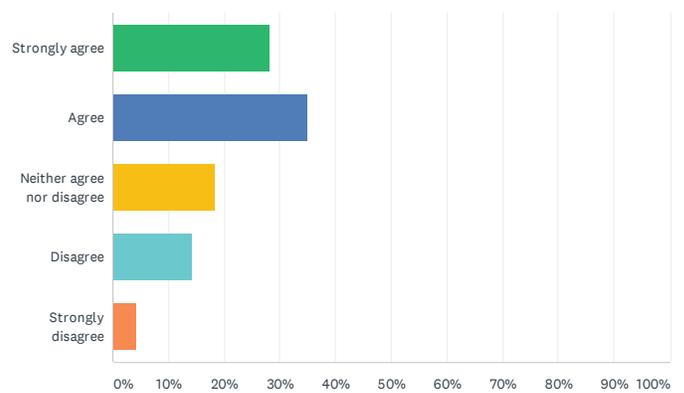
## Q3 Rehabilitate Comfort Station #1

Answered: 119 Skipped: 1



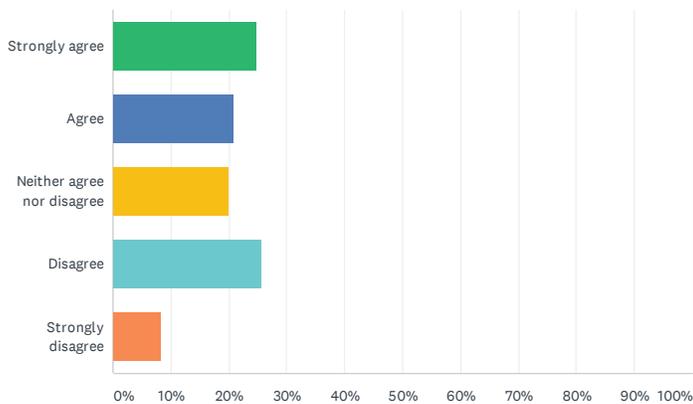
## Q4 Expand Day Use Area & construct pavilion

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0



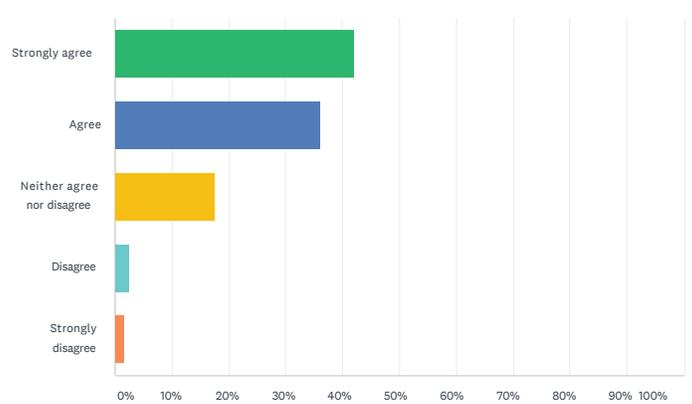
## Q5 Pave campground roads

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0



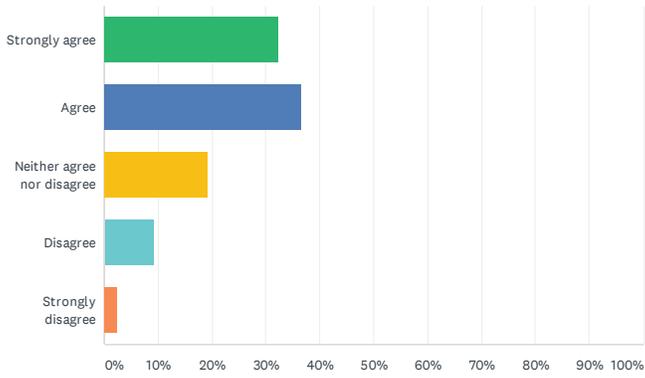
## Q6 Create two remote campsites (relocated from main camping area)

Answered: 119 Skipped: 1



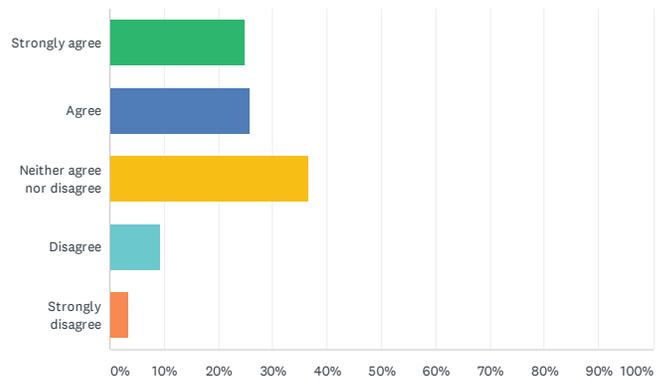
### Q7 Demolish unused buildings and infrastructure

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0



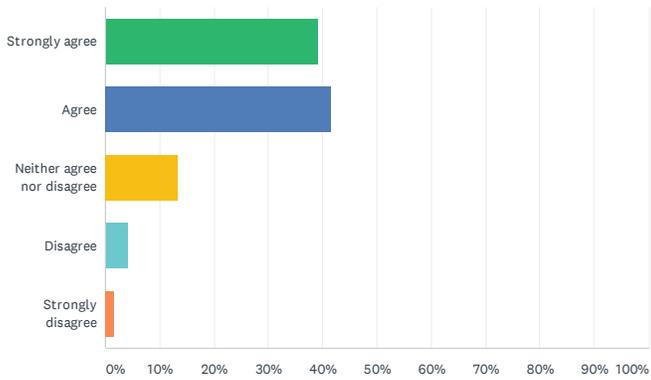
### Q8 Bury overhead power-lines in Day Use Area

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0



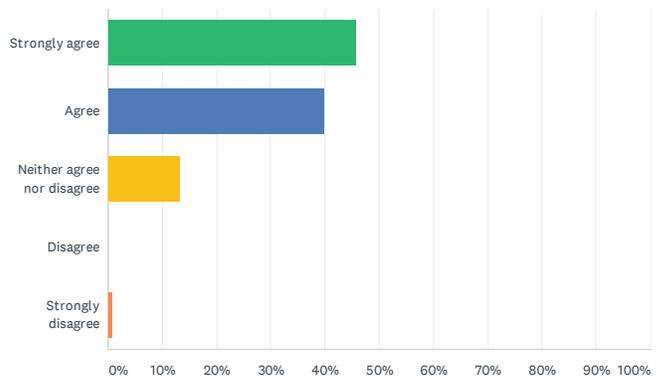
### Q9 Plant trees and shrubs throughout facility

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0



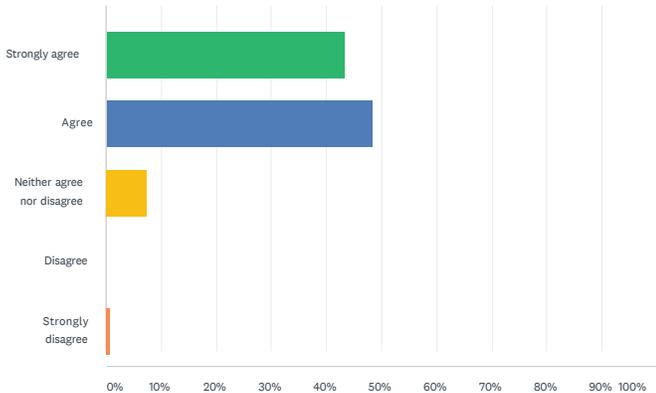
### Q10 Restoration of various points of historical interest

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0



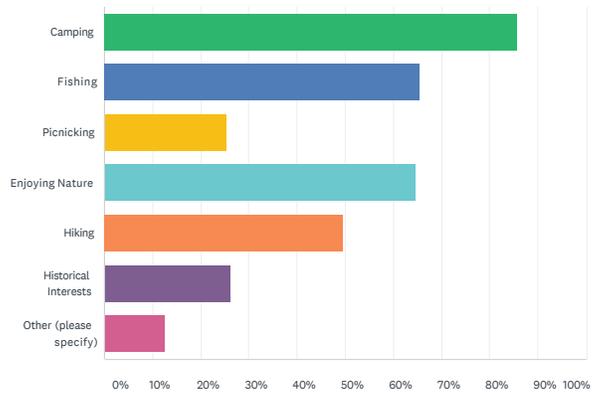
### Q11 Improve existing trails & create trail-connection to Willowemoc Wild Forest

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0



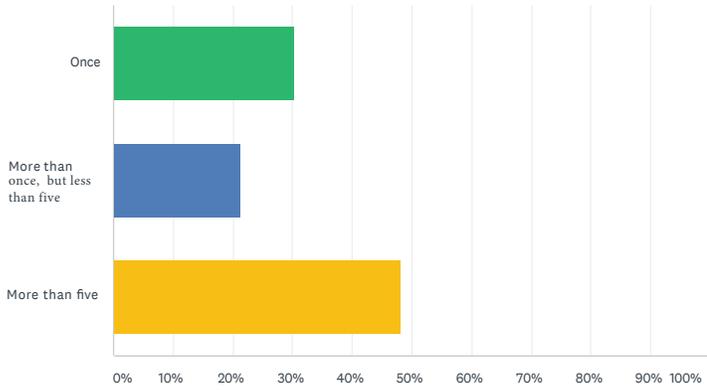
### Q12 What recreational opportunities bring you to this facility? (select all that apply)

Answered: 119 Skipped: 1



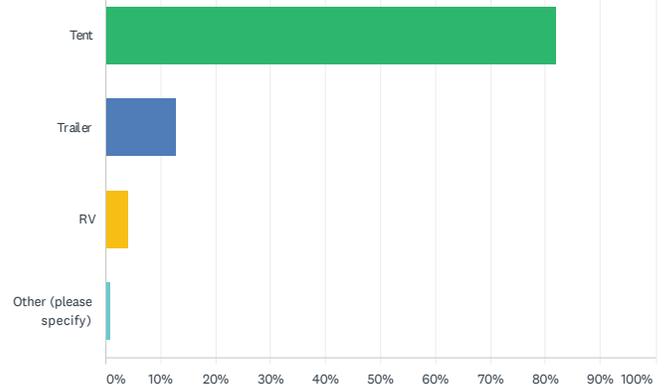
### Q13 How many times have you camped at this facility?

Answered: 112 Skipped: 8



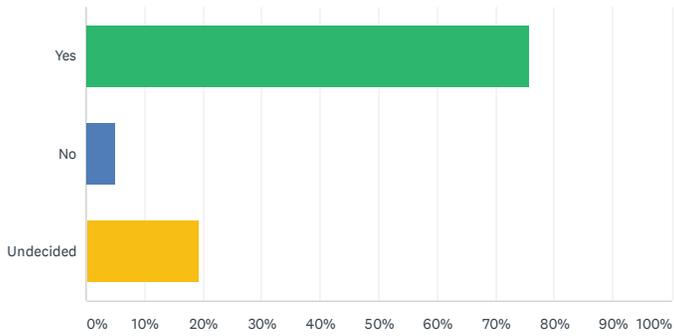
### Q14 What type of camping equipment do you typically use?

Answered: 117 Skipped: 3



### Q15 Do you plan on camping at this facility again?

Answered: 119 Skipped: 1



### Q16 How many times have you visited the facility just for day use this year?

Answered: 103 Skipped: 17

