Division of Operations | Bureau of Recreation

Hinckley Day-Use Area

Unit Management Plan

DRAFT

Town of Russia, Herkimer County, New York

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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Operations, 3rd Floor
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233

Governor ANDREW M. CUOMO | Commissioner BASIL SEGGOS

HINCKLEY DAY-USE AREA
SITE-SPECIFIC VOLUME II
DRAFT UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) prepares unit management plans (UMPs) to cover the next five-year management period. The final UMP is completed according to guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

Region 6 staff prepared this Draft UMP for internal review. Any comments and/or information may be forwarded to Kevin Reed, copy to Josh Houghton, Division of Operations, Albany. For information, contact Michael Buzzelli, Facility Program Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, telephone (518)457-2500.

SUMMARY
HINCKLEY DAY-USE AREA
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
DRAFT

In keeping with constitutional provisions criteria referenced in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Management Policy for Forest Preserve state--owned lands, DEC has established a management plan for the five-year operation of the Hinckley Day-Use Area.

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

To help meet these goals, contingent upon funding, the following 17 management actions are being proposed:

Proposed Management Actions*

- Construct 2.8 miles of roads
- Construct 150 campsites
- Construct four comfort stations
- Construct a trailer dump station
- Construct a solid waste and recyclable collection building
- Construct a second staff housing building
- Construct a hand-carry boat launch facility
- Extend potable water system
- Extend electric system
- Construct multiuse trail system
- Construct firewood storage building
- Replace bathhouse and beach comforts stations
- Replace ticket booth
- Reconstruct supervisor's cabin
- Reconstruct garage
- Construct pavilion at Price's Point
- Construct playground in day use area

*Prioritized projects to be completed when funding becomes available

The beneficial effects of proposed actions include: compliance with state health codes, maintenance of physical plant investment, modernization of facilities providing a satisfactory recreational experience for users, upkeep of facilities to contribute to public safety, and providing conditions in a setting and on a scale that is harmonious with the character of the Adirondack Park.

Determination of conformance to criteria established in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan includes determining whether proposed activities avoid alterations of wetlands and topography; limiting vegetative clearing; preserving the scenic, natural resources of the area; and deciding whether the plan contains an adequate assessment of actual and projected public use.

Mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts have been considered. All construction projects will limit tree removal to reduce clearing and maintain the facility's wooded appearance. Architectural designs will be selected to blend with the character of the recreation area and surrounding forest. Seeding and mulching of construction sites will reestablish vegetation, which effectively stabilizes soil. Adjacent forest cover will not be altered. Proposals concentrate on improving and updating facilities to accommodate present peak-use periods rather than accommodating increased population projections.

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

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Hinckley Day-Use Area is located on the south shore of Hinckley Reservoir. Amenities include picnic areas with tables, fireplaces, and charcoal grills, pavilions that can be reserved; a swimming beach with bathhouse; and fishing and hiking opportunities. Some facilities are designed to accommodate campers with physical disabilities. Hinckley Reservoir covers approximately 4.46 square miles and is 6.6 miles in length. The Village of Barneveld, located 10 miles to the west, has many shops and services day-use visitors may require.

1. Location

Hinckley Day-Use Area is located on the south shore of Hinckley Reservoir in the Town of Russia, Herkimer County. The entrance is on Stormy Hill Road, 0.7 mile north of the Hamlet of Grant, three miles east of the Village of Hinckley, and 22 miles north of the City of Utica. The facility is on portions of Lots 14, 15, 16, and 17 of the Jerseyfield Patent.

2. History

The Hinckley Day-Use Area is located in the Town of Russia on a portion of lands once known as the Jerseyfield Patent. Henry Glen purchased the 94,000 acre Jerseyfield Patent from the British Crown in 1770. This was a rectangular tract of land located several miles north of the Mohawk Valley, stretching from the West Canada Creek to the East Canada Creek, a distance greater than 20 miles. The patent contained 94 lots, each of about 1,000 acres, and each lot was assigned to a patentee. According to Hardin's *History of Herkimer County*, the portions in the Town of Russia were not settled before the American Revolution. The Day Use Area is located on parts of Lots 14–17 in the westernmost portion of the patent.

According to Town of Russia history, Stoddard Squire arrived from Connecticut in 1792 and became the first colonial settler of the area. By 1797, the first sawmill and gristmill were located at Gravesville, a settlement named for William Graves, a few miles south of the Day Use Area. Lumbering and farming were the principal occupations, and later, cheese and butter-making.

By 1800, the Village of Poland grew to be the largest settlement in the area. Lured by the promise of cheap and abundant land, a surge of New Englanders moved into the region during the first

quarter of the nineteenth century. In 1806, the Town of Union was formed from the Town of Norway, and two years later, Union was renamed Russia.

In 1816, Isaac Woodin became the first settler of what today is known as the Hamlet of Grant, located along Black Creek, and just south of the day-use area boundary. The settlement was first known as Potter's Bush, and later, Postville. After the assassination of Lincoln, the present name was given in honor of General Ulysses S. Grant. In 1820, Walter Howard opened a tavern just south of Black Creek, and in 1821, opened the first gristmill and tannery. All structures near the creek were subject to flooding and fires, but the tannery operated at least until 1885. In 1885, it reportedly produced over 16,000 sides of leather. Grant would grow to be a bustling community, and by 1900, would have many homes, a church, school, sawmill, post office, 2 hotels, gristmill, and lumber mill.

By 1850, lands north of Potter's Bush/Grant had been settled and were being farmed. The 1850 federal census lists the families of Isaac Hoes, William Wall, John Coonrad, and Joseph Rathbune, all living along a road leading north from Grant to the Village of Northwood. These farms all appear on the 1868 Herkimer County atlas map of the Town of Russia and would be within the property boundary of today's day use area. Also listed on the 1868 map and located in close proximity to the Day Use Area parking lots, is a property owned by a W. Looker. This may possibly be the home of William Looker and his wife Sarah, who were listed in the 1865 New York State Census as living in the Town of Russia and employed in farming. Sections of this old road are now under an arm of Hinckley Reservoir but reappear in the northern undeveloped portions of the day-use area along with several foundations and building ruins. A second road appearing on the map, running along the same route as today's Stormy Hill Road, lists the names C. Wheeler and C. Wandover. These farms were also located within the boundary of today's day-use area. A 1906 map of the Town shows the same roads and number of settlements but many changes in the names of the owners. New names include L. Hibbard, D. Jones, J. Laraby, S. Fenner, O. Smith, and G.C. Aurenger. Only the name of Joseph Rathbune appears on both the 1868 and 1906 maps.

In 1854, Gardner Hinckley moved from nearby Wilmurt to the banks of the West Canada Creek and built a sawmill and planing mill. The high capacity mill was powered by water, able to mill as much as 5 million board feet in a year, most of it shipped to Utica and Herkimer. He operated this mill until his death in 1875. In 1891, the settlement near this mill was named Hinckley, in his memory. Today's Hinckley Reservoir also commemorates his name.

In 1855, the Utica and Black River railroad opened and came near to the western portion of the Town, allowing convenient access to markets in Utica, which further aided agricultural developments in the town.

In 1903, the New York State Legislature authorized construction of the barge canal as an improvement of the Erie Canal. Construction began in 1905 and was completed in 1918, at a cost of $96.7 million. Reliable water sources were needed to allow the new canal to operate and would have an impact on residents living and farming near the West Canada Creek. The building of a dam began in 1911 with the clearing of 1,700 acres of land, which included a dozen or more farms and approximately 100 buildings. The dam would be 3,700 feet long, mainly an earthen structure with a concrete core wall and a 400-foot-long, 82-foot-high concrete spillway. It was completed in 1915 for the stated purpose of supplying water to the enlarged canal. It was located at its present site primarily because of its proximity to the canal and its elevation above the canal. Today, in addition to feeding the barge canal, the reservoir provides drinking water to 130,000 people in the greater Utica area, is a source of hydropower, and supports recreation.

In 1928, the name of the reservoir was officially changed to Kuyahoora Lake after locals encouraged the state committee of geographic names to alter the name. Kuyahoora was also an earlier name referencing the West Canada Creek. The new name was never popular, and today it is shown on maps as Hinckley Reservoir.

In 1931, the State Legislature approved a major expansion of the “Blue Line,” increasing the Adirondack Park’s size by over 2 million acres. This area included most of Hinckley Reservoir and all of today’s day-use area.

In June of 1964, monies from a New York State Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act were used to acquire lands intended to be developed into the Hinckley Public Campground, Day-Use Area, and Boat Launch Site. Portions of lots 14–17 of the Jerseyfield Patent in the Town of Russia, totaling 475 acres, were purchased by New York State from several landowners, including the names Price, Rando, N. Smith, Losch, Yale, Wainman, Callahan, Eggleston, Kennedy, D. Smith, and Murphy. In December of 1971, the New York State Department of Transportation issued a permit to DEC for the use of an additional 46 acres of property lying within the shoreline and the reservoir right-of-way line for the purpose of developing and maintaining the Hinckley Reservoir Campsite. Construction of the facility began in mid-1967 with the clearing of roads for comfort stations, 150 campsites, a day-use area, and a boat launch site. Some portions of the camping area were completed, including one loop of 12

sites with one 8-unit comfort station and associated electric and water systems. A second adjacent loop of 13 sites was roughed out, but the remaining 125 sites, as originally planned, were never developed. At that time, funding for the campground and boat launch was delayed, and completion was never realized. The remaining funds were used to complete the day-use area, which was opened to the public in 1973.

Year	Hinckley Day-Use Area Improvements
1964	Lands purchased, funded by the Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act
1967	Construction of the campground portion of facility begins (12 campsites and 1 comfort station completed)
1967	Construction of day use facility begins. Funding levels required construction to be focused on day use facilities
1970	Garage constructed
1971	Supervisor cabin, control booth, pumphouse, bathhouse, 3 toilet buildings completed
1973	Day-use area opened to public. Facility and boat launch facilities put on hold until funding levels restored
1988	Pavilion on northeast hill constructed
1990	North beach pavilion constructed
1992	Southwest pavilion constructed
2008	Repaving project
2012	New roof installed on pavilion #1 (SW)
2013	New chlorination system constructed
2014	New roof installed on pavilion #3 (Hill)
2019	New water tank installed

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS, and RESOURCES

A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Camping and Day-Use (Picnic) Areas

Unfinished Camping Area	Day-Use Area
Comfort Station-	Area – 13 acres
12 campsites- Not in use	90 picnic tables
Spigots- Not in use	62 grills
	3 water spigots
	3 pavilions
	Volleyball and basketball courts
	Design capacity – 540 persons (90 x 6/table)

2. Roads and Parking Areas

The facility has a total of 2,500' of paved roads that are 10' to 24' wide. There are three parking areas: the north parking lot (paved) is 135' x 175', the south parking lot (paved) is 145' x 175', and southwest parking lot (unpaved) is 100' x 200'. Total capacity is 400 vehicles.

3. Buildings

Bldg #	Bldg Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq ft	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Caretaker cabin	West of control booth	748	Good	1971
(002)	Garage	Near caretaker cabin	864	Good	1970
(003)	Control booth	Near entrance	70	Fair	1971
(004)	Pump house	East of south parking lot	120	Good	1971
(005)	Bathhouse	Near beach	1,180	Fair	1971
(006)	Toilet building	In camping loop (not in use)	360	Poor	1971
(007)	Toilet building	North of bathhouse	360	Fair	1971
(008)	Toilet building	South of bathhouse	360	Fair	1971
	Picnic pavilion	Northeast hill	1,344	Good	1988
	Picnic pavilion	North of beach	1,104	Good	1990
	Picnic pavilion	Southwest of parking lots	1,104	Good	1992

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted December 2018.
The three toilet buildings each have 8 toilets (4 each sex) and 2 sinks (one each sex). The caretaker's cabin has a toilet, shower, sink, and kitchen sink.

4. Sewage System

Effluent from the two day-use toilet buildings flows by gravity to septic tanks and then to a dosing tank and combined leach field. Effluent from the caretaker's cabin and garage flows by gravity to septic tanks and then to a leach field. Effluent from the camping loop toilet building flows by gravity to septic tanks and then to a dry well. There are approximately 600' of gravity sewer line. Septic tanks are periodically pumped, and effluent is transported under a contract arrangement. A DEC SPDES permit #NY-020-7098 covers the systems listed below (see Exhibits #5a–5b).

Bldg #	Building #/Type	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Leach Field/ Dry Well	Construction Date
#001	Caretaker cabin & garage	500	Leach field	1971

#006	Toilet bldg (camping loop)	750	Dry well	1971
#007	Toilet bldg. (day use north)	1,000	Leach field	1971
#008	Toilet bldg. (day use south)	1,000	Leach field	1971

5. Solid Waste

Beginning with the 1992 season, all day-use areas have been under the carry-in, carry-out policy. Appropriate signs have been erected to inform the public, and the Albany Office has produced a brochure. Any trash and recyclables that are left at the facility, along with refuse generated by staff, are collected in a trash dumpster and a single-source recyclables dumpster. A contractor hauls the refuse to the Boonville landfill.

6. Barriers

Barriers are used to control facility use and are periodically opened or closed for this purpose. DEC policy provides for the design and safety considerations of in-place barriers. Hinckley Day-Use Area has one pipe-gate barrier near the entrance that controls vehicle access. This gate is closed whenever facility is closed.

7. Telephone

The main phone number for the facility is (315) 826-3800, and calls will be answered only when the facility is open.

8. Signs

The messages conveyed to public users by means of standard (yellow on brown) signs include directions and information for entrance, supervisor's office, bulletin board, traffic control, commemorative, regulations, picnic area, comfort stations, and camping sites.

9. Electric System

The facility receives primary electrical distribution from an overhead transmission line on Stormy Hill Road. An overhead line feeds power 500 feet to a transformer pad near the caretaker cabin. Electricity is distributed via 3,600 feet of buried lines and two additional pad-mounted transformers throughout the facility. Service is provided to comfort stations, staff residence, entrance booth, garage, pump house, chlorination building, bathhouse, and well. National Grid provides power and distribution to the facility. DEC owns and maintains all utility lines on the facility. Average yearly electric consumption is about 9,800 kWh at a cost of $1,400 (see Exhibit #7).

10. Potable Water System

There are two drilled wells, one at the pump house and one at the supervisor's residence. The day-use area well is 75' deep and has a maximum production output of 7,200 gallons per day. There is a 1,600-gallon pneumatic water storage tank and a 4,000-gallon storage tank on the south side of the pump house. Water is distributed through 3,200' of water line to toilet buildings, the caretaker cabin, garage, and four spigots (see Exhibit #6).

11. Trails

The 127,000-acre Black River Wild Forest is located just north of Hinckley Day-Use Area and offers a variety of recreational opportunities. The Stone Pond Trail, Twin Lakes Trail, and Mad Tom Lakes Trail are all located in the south end of the unit and offer hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling options. The 1,590-acre Hinckley State Forest is located just south of the Day-Use Area. A multi-use trail running through the unit offers hiking or biking in a primitive forest setting. Visitors to either area can combine their day with a swim or picnic at Hinckley Day-Use Area.

12 Fuel Systems

There are no fuel tanks at this facility.

13. Swimming

Hinckley Day-Use Area has a large beach and swimming area located adjacent to a bathhouse, pavilions and picnic areas. There are lifeguards on duty as funding and staffing permit.

14. Boating

Hinckley Reservoir is approximately 2,800 acres in size and therefore meets the Adirondack Park Agency’s (APA) criteria for existing launches or for further analysis to determine additional boat ramp construction. Currently, there is no launch at Hinckley Day-Use Area. Boats can be launched at the New York Power Authority (NYPA) boat launch and fishing access area at the Hinckley Dam, located five miles west of the day-use area. Open daily during the boating season, the launch consists of concrete planks extending 200 feet into the reservoir to permit easy access for boaters. The launch will remain open when reservoir conditions remain safe for boating. There is no overnight parking at this facility.

B. Inventory of Systems

1. Staff

Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor II
2	Lifeguards
1	Park and Recreation Aide 5
3	Park and Recreation Aide 4

2. Fee Schedule 2019

Daily Fees 2019 Open Dates: May 27 – Sept. 4	
Camping/night – NYS residents	N/A
Camping/night – Non-residents	N/A
Day Use – Auto	$10.00
Day Use – Walk-in	$2.00
Day Use – Motorcycle	$5.00
Picnic Shelters	$50.00
Empire Pass – Season	$80.00

3. Permits

Peddling permits may be issued annually for firewood, boat rentals, and camper supplies. A fee of $2.00 x number of campsites is charged for each vendor. In 2019, no permits were issued.

4. Off-season Use

The entrance road gate is locked during the winter season. Stormy Hill Road, which leads to the facility entrance, is not plowed in the winter and becomes a segment of the Herkimer Co. Trail & Trade Assoc. Snowmobile trail network.

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 more about New York State's environment. Children ages five through twelve can request a *Junior Naturalist Journal* from facility staff. When the journal is completed, children bring it to the appropriate DEC staff person, who reviews the journal and then gives the child a Junior Naturalist patch. This program is dependent on funding being available and may not be offered every year. It was offered for the 2019 season.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Elevation

The elevation of Hinckley Day-Use Area varies from 1,225′, the elevation of the spillway on Hinckley Reservoir, to 1,340′ at the eastern portion of the facility. The terrain generally rises from west to east but is cut by several steep-sided creeks flowing westerly to the reservoir (see Exhibit #2).

b. Water

Hinckley Reservoir covers approximately 4.46 square miles, is 6.6 miles in length, and has a maximum depth of 75 feet. There are approximately 24.0 miles of shoreline, of which 3.8 miles border the intensive use area. The reservoir is formed by a dam holding waters primarily from the West Canada Creek and a total of 374 square miles of drainage area. Downstream from the dam, the West Canada Creek enters the Mohawk River at Herkimer and the Mohawk enters the Hudson River at Waterford.

c. Wetlands

DEC and the APA inventory, map, and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Within Hinckley Day-Use Area, there are four types of identified wetlands. There are 88 acres of palustrine wetlands, wetlands characterized by the presence of trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation (vegetation that is rooted below water but grows above the surface). There are 0.7 mile of upper perennial riverine linear wetlands, 0.15 mile of lower perennial riverine linear wetlands, and 0.8 mile of intermittent riverine wetlands. These are wetlands found along the edges of streams, creeks, and lakes.

Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands, or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet of them, will require a permit from the APA. The APA will be consulted to determine whether a permit is needed prior to site disturbance in or adjacent to these designated wetland areas (see Exhibit #12).

d. Soils

Soil associations consist primarily of Searsport-Pillsbury-Namburg-Chrogan-Beseman series over most of the unit. This series consists of very deep, poorly and somewhat poorly drained soils that formed in sandy deltaic or glacio-fluvial deposits. These soils are on low sand plains and terraces. The

use and vegetation of this series is predominantly wooded or idle. A few areas are used for growing hay or pasture. Idle areas support poplar and birch saplings or are covered by sparse stands of grass with spirea and similar shrubs. Forested areas support spruce, pine, balsam fir, hemlock, and some hardwoods. The Duxbury-Colton-Adams series is found on the eastern and higher potion of the unit. This series consists of very deep, excessively and somewhat excessively drained soils formed in glacial-fluvial or glacio-lacustrine sand. They are on outwash plains, deltas, lake plains, moraines, terraces, and eskers. The use and vegetation of this series includes extensive areas that are idle or support aspen, birch, and pine seedlings, or sweet fern, spirea, and brambles. Uncleared areas support maple, beech, spruce, and pine. Farmed areas are used mainly for hay or pasture with limited acreages of corn and small grain (see Exhibit #13).

2. Biological

a. Forest Type

There are nine different forest types present within the facility. The Bureau of Forest Preserve Management and SUNY ESF are working together to develop computerized GIS models of forested areas of the Adirondack Forest Preserve (see Exhibit #8).

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. No rare plants or unique natural communities have been documented to exist within Hinckley Day-Use Area.

c. Wildlife

The opportunity to encounter animals in the wild adds a dimension of excitement to a visitor's recreational experience. Visitors to Hinckley Day-Use Area can enjoy wildlife from a number of perspectives, including wildlife observation, bird song identification, and photography. No rare, threatened, or endangered species or unique natural communities have been documented to exist within Hinckley Day-Use Area. Typical central Adirondack wildlife species inhabit this wild forest unit, presumably at levels consistent with other areas of the park. A listing of mammals in this area can be found in the Black River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

d. Fisheries

Hinckley Reservoir is an impoundment of the West Canada Creek, which drains the southwestern portion of the Adirondack Region. The reservoir's purpose is water supply to the canal

system, drinking water for the city of Utica and downstream hydropower production. As a result, Hinckley's water levels are managed for several purposes and are subject to extreme water level fluctuations. These have negatively impacted the water quality of the impoundment relative to its fisheries potential by flushing nutrients from the system, altering water temperature regimes, and limiting the development/maintenance of both shoreline and deep-water wetland areas. As an Adirondack drainage, water quality relative to fisheries has also been compromised by negative impacts of acid deposition which result in periodic episodes of pH depression (usually in conjunction with spring snowmelt).

The most common fish species present in the reservoir are smallmouth bass, rock bass, black bullhead, pickerel, trout, and yellow perch. None of these species are viewed as a significant attraction by anglers who are reported to comprise a very small percentage of the Hinckley Reservoir's annual visitors. In 2017, DEC stocked 5,000 rainbow trout in the reservoir.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

A. Article XIV, New York State Constitution

Article XIV of the New York 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. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

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

C. Environmental Conservation Law

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 administration of the lands involved.

D. Recreation Program Goals

- Manage recreation programs in a manner which ensures protection of the natural resources base in accordance with 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 leisure-time enjoyment for the people of the state.
- 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.

E. Facility Generic Plan/EIS

The management plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by the *Generic Unit Management Plan/EIS* and contains overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria that pertain universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill public facilities and special day-use classified Intensive Use Areas.

F. Public Use

1. Inventory of Public Use

a. Attendance Trends

Attendance is the number of visitors entering the facility to use the beach, picnic area, and pavilions. Fees are collected for autos, motorcycles, and walk-ins entering the facility. Some visitors have pre-purchased an Empire Pass. Some visitors are permitted to enter without paying the entrance fee under special programs, including the Golden Park, Lifetime Liberty Pass, and Every Kid in a Park, and for administrative purposes. Attendance for the latest five-year period shows a significant drop-off in 2016 and then a partial return to previous levels in 2017. Attendance levels for the last five-year period is nearly 50% lower than the levels experienced 20 years ago. The reduction in day-use is partially explained by the recent low water levels in the reservoir resulting in beach closures. There have also been beach closures due to the difficulty in recruiting lifeguards. The increase in No-Fee attendance in 2018 and 2019 is partially explained by an increase in Empire Pass usage, a program where patrons pay $80.00 up front

Hinckley Day Use Attendance

Year	Fee	No Fee	Total
2019	4,849	1,569	6,418
2018	4,016	1,034	5,015
2017	4,075	356	4,431
2016	2,734	451	3,185
2015	7,925	509	8,434
Avg	***4,720***	***784***	***5,497***

and then allowed day-use entry at no charge for the season. Data is not collected at the facility on where visitors are from. A survey conducted online in 2019 asked respondents their zip codes and how many times they typically visit Hinckley Day-Use Area in a season. Statistics compiled from that survey suggest that Herkimer and Oneida counties represent 81% of all visitors. Nearby counties Saratoga, Madison, Onondaga and Wayne account for another 9%. Currently, there is no way of accurately tracking off-season use as there are no permits required nor staff on site to monitor use.

b. Revenue Trends

Revenues are used to offset annual operating costs of the facility. Operating budget allocations at Hinckley Day-Use Area are based on revenues generated from day-use fees, pavilion rentals, and sales of Empire Passes.

Five-Year Revenue Totals for Hinckley Day-Use Area

Year	Auto	Bus	Walk In	Picnic Shelter	Empire Passports	Total
2019	$13,005	$0	$16	$1,050	-	$14,071
2018	$12,670	$0	$6	$1,150	$640	$14,466
2017	$12,565	$100	$8	$950	$585	$14,208
2016	$8,125	$0	$32	$700	$195	$9,052
2015	$23,520	$0	$38	$1,300	$975	$25,958
Avg	***$13,977***	***$20***	***$20***	***$1,030***	***$599***	***$15,551***

Operating costs for Hinckley Day Use Facility average $51,000. While the revenue at this facility falls short of the operating costs due to several factors, such as the lack of camping revenue, the revenue totals of all DEC recreation facilities meet the program goal of ensuring that revenues equal operating costs for that portion of the program covered by user fees. Revenues have mirrored the attendance trends for the last five years with a large drop off in all categories in 2016 due to extremely low water levels which resulted in no swimming. There has been a partial return to previous levels in 2017 and 2018. Fees in all categories have not increased in the last five years.

2. Carrying Capacity

All DEC campground facilities should be operated within the physical, biological, and social carrying capacity of the site. Operation within these limits will ensure the continued natural character

and integrity of the resources at this location and that the impacts of continued public use is conditioned within the capacity of the physical, biological, and social resources to withstand such use.

a. Physical Design

The following is an analysis of existing design capacities as compared to New York State Department of Health codes and DEC design standards. The existing campsite design capacity is based on six persons per site and the day-use design capacity is six persons per picnic table.

The table below compares the calculated capacity needs for each facility with the currently available capacity, with deficiencies noted. A utility sink attached to the outside of each toilet building is needed to provide a place for campers to either wash dishes or dispose of gray water. No comfort stations within the facility meet current accessibility standards.

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	**Design Standard***	**Calculated Need**	**Currently Available**	**Deficiency**
Potable water supply 90 day-use picnic tables	5 gal./day/picnicker	2,700 gpd	7,200 gpd	None
Water spigots	1/60 picnickers	9	4	5
Sinks (within 500')	1 for every 60 picnickers	9	8	1
Toilets/Urinals (within 500')	2 for every 60 picnickers	18	16	2
***DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes**				

**The toilets and sinks at the beach road restrooms are within 500' of the beach and day-use area*

b. Biological Carrying Capacity

The entrance road gate is closed during the off-season and Stormy Hill Road is not maintained during the winter. Hazardous trees are regularly removed (in accordance with established policy), and, in addition to natural regeneration, growth of residual trees and plantings as noted above compensate for any losses.

c. Social Carrying Capacity

Additional impacts associated with planned facility objectives and actions are identified and discussed in the *Generic Unit Management Plan, Volume I*. For the 2019 season, a survey has been developed that will collect data on day-use visitors' experiences.

d. Unique Ecosystems, Historical

The New York Natural Heritage Program maintains a comprehensive database on the status and location of rare species and natural communities found throughout the state. No rare species or unique natural communities have been documented to exist within Hinckley Day-Use Area.

The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map indicates that the facility is not located where archaeological resources may be present. Prior to site disturbance for construction of any facility affiliated with this management plan, the nature and extent of archaeological resources in the project area, if any, will be investigated. If it appears that any aspect of the project will cause any change, beneficial or adverse, in the quality of any historic or archaeological property, all feasible and prudent alternatives will be considered together with reasonable plans to avoid and/or mitigate adverse impact on the property. The agency preservation officer (APO) has been so informed in keeping with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980. The agency APO has reviewed the draft plan with its current concept design, which avoids impacts to currently identified sites. The project has also been submitted to the New York State Historic Preservation Office (see Exhibit #18).

e. Adjacent Lands

The western boundary of the facility borders the Hinckley Reservoir shoreline for 3.8 miles, which is under the jurisdiction of the New York State Canal Corporation. The northern boundary borders 2,350 feet of Canal Corporation lands and 4,150 feet of two parcels of private lands. The eastern boundary of the facility borders 9,430 feet of four private parcels. The southern boundary of the facility borders 1,950 feet of five parcels of private lands.

f. Invasive Species

DEC is concerned about the threat of invasive species at facilities, both for their destructive effect on our environment and the associated financial drain on revenue and resources.

One common way insect pests are moved around the country—beyond their natural rate of spread based on biology and flight potential—is on firewood carried by campers, hunters, and other users of our forests. This firewood may come from trees killed by insect pests and taken down wherever

visitors originated. A regulation is in effect that prohibits the importation of firewood into New York State unless it has been heat-treated to kill pests. The regulation also limits transportation 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 species by location within the facility and to implement an active invasive species management program to help contain and possibly eradicate further growth of these species. Hinckley Day-Use Area has not been included in the inventory inspections due to the lack of fireplaces and burning of firewood at the facility. Hinckley Reservoir was included in the aquatic plant survey conducted by Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) as recently as 2016. No aquatic invasive species were noted in this report.

g. General Operations

Hinckley Day-Use Area is a popular facility used during the summer season (mid-May through Labor Day) for picnicking and swimming. The rest of the year, the facility is closed to vehicle access. There is some visitation from walk-ins and snowmobilers, but no figures are available. Continued maintenance and upkeep of these facilities help ensure safe operation of the facility for both visitor and employee use. Day-to-day operations of these facilities are guided by policy set forth in the *DEC Facility Guidance Manual*. The subject index of the handbook is referenced in Volume III, Appendix D of the 1990 *Generic Unit Management Plan*.

h. ADA Accessibility Guidelines

Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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, has 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.

In addition, Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that services, programs, and activities of DEC, when viewed in their entirety, are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. DEC is

not required to take any action which 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, include buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, and the transportation of and communication with individuals with disabilities.

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 CRF § 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 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 the ADA Coordinator at accessibility@dec.ny.gov.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

As previously noted in section I.A.2 of this document, funds from the 1964 New York State Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act were authorized to acquire lands and develop the Hinckley Public Campground, Day-Use Area, and Boat Launch Site. Construction of the facility began in mid-1967 and some portions of the camping area were completed, including one loop of 12 sites with one 8-unit comfort station and associated electric and water systems. A second adjacent loop of 13 sites was roughed out, but the boat launch and remaining 125 sites, as originally planned, were never developed. The remaining funds were used to complete the day-use area, which was opened to the public in 1973.

For the next several decades, the completion of the facility was stalled primarily due to the lack of funds.

The proposed development will utilize existing facilities to the fullest extent possible. Rehabilitation of the existing site facilities and construction of new site improvements will provide:

- Continued operation of the existing day-use facilities;
- A public campground providing 150 vehicle access camping sites;
- A hand-carry boat launch facility providing access to Hinckley Reservoir; and
- Multipurpose trails within the facility.

The campground and day use facilities shall be developed and operated by DEC as allowed by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, consistent with the State Constitution, the Environmental Conservation Law, and rules, regulations, and policy of the department. It will be staffed by DEC employees as a seasonal facility consistent with the policies of the department. A day-use campsite service fee consistent with other DEC-operated facilities will be charged during the summer season. The service fee will be reviewed annually and adjusted to maintain a balance to offset the costs of operation. This UMP process provides the necessary environmental review to comply with all laws and regulations. As in all approved UMPs, completion of the management actions will require necessary funding.

Removal of approximately 20–30 acres of existing trees will be necessary to accommodate grading and construction of proposed facilities. Estimated tree removal for campsites will total 9.6 acres for 150 campsites, affording adequate space for camping equipment, providing clearance from fireplaces to assure fire safety, and allowing for parking at sites. Estimated tree removal for new road construction will total 8.6 acres, allowing adequate width for roadway, drainage ditches, and a buffer from brush and limbs. Estimated tree removal for new buildings and associated parking, including the boat launch, will

total 1.2 acres, providing adequate clearing around footprints of buildings and parking areas. Estimated tree removal for new septic tanks and tile fields totals 1 acre. Modern wastewater treatment design and techniques will be utilized but actual sizing will be determined when percolation tests are completed. Trees removed to accommodate improvements will be used for firewood or for landscaping and vegetation protection structures. Stumps will be removed or ground flush with grade if they present a safety hazard or interfere with construction. All limbs and brush will be chipped and used to delineate new trails. An actual count of trees greater than three inches dbh that will be removed will take place prior to cutting and clearing. All tree cutting will be done in accordance with DEC's policy on Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Lands (LF-91-2). Unutilized waste materials will be deposited at two locations noted on Exhibit 14.

The management actions below are being proposed for the forthcoming five-year period and will be completed as staff and funding allow.

Proposed Management Actions		
	Management Actions	**Cost Estimate**
1.	Construct 2.8 miles of roads	$2,000,000
2.	Construct 150 campsites	$325,000
3.	Construct 4 comfort stations	$2,400,000
4.	Construct a trailer dump station	$150,000
5.	Construct a solid waste and recyclable collection building	$50,000
6.	Construct a second staff housing building	$250,000
7.	Construct a hand-carry boat launch facility	$100,000
8.	Extend potable water system	$220,000
9.	Extend electric system	$350,000
10.	Construct multi-use trail system	$20,000
11.	Construct firewood storage building	$30,000
12.	Replace bathhouse and beach comfort stations	$650,000
13.	Replace ticket booth	$50,000
14	Replace supervisor's cabin	$250,000
15.	Replace garage	$50,000
16.	Construct a pavilion at Price's Point	$50,000
17.	Construct playground in day-use area	$15,000

These actions reflect the need to provide recreational opportunities to visitors while complying with health codes, safety codes and user needs. They will also provide universal access and increase the efficiency of the facility management. Prioritization of management actions is based on the availability of funding, and health and safety concerns.

1. Construct 2.8 miles of roads

To accommodate the proposed camping loops and hand launch, approximately 2.8 miles of roads will be constructed; 1.5 miles of the proposed roads will be one-way, and 1.3 miles will be two-way. All roads will be improved by regrading and compacting the existing subgrade, adding geotextile fabric where appropriate, subbase materials and topped with pavement. Roads will be crowned and properly sloped with shoulder material, and proper drainage. Of the proposed roads, 1.4 miles will be constructed on the roadbeds of former farm roads, trails, or campground roads previously cleared. Three bridges or culverts will be required to cross streams. The public will be prohibited from accessing administrative roads, including two roads intersecting with Stormy Hill Road, by adding gates and bollards along with proper signage (see Exhibit #14).

2. Construct 150 campsites

The proposed 7 camping loops will each contain between 11 and 35 campsites. Individual campsites will accommodate camping equipment from tents to 40' RVs, a picnic table, a fireplace or fire ring, and provide space for parking a vehicle. The design of the campsites will vary based on the specific characteristic of each site. All sites will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the lake shore and wetlands. The driveways will be angled into the sites to facilitate backing the campers into the site and exiting the site. An adequate space will be provided on the right side of the camper to accommodate the awnings on most campers. No utility hook-ups will be available at any of the sites. All campsites will be located to utilize existing vegetation for screening between sites and to provide shade. A minimum of 50 feet will be maintained as buffer area between sites. Specific conditions at each proposed site will be considered to ensure site parameters are met and will take precedent over attaining the total of 150 sites. A minimum of seven sites will be designed to be universally accessible, and these sites will be dispersed throughout the camping loops. A minimum of tree cutting will be done to allow for sites of at least 1,250 square feet and provide screening between adjacent sites and from the road. As

previously noted, 25 sites in loops A and B were cleared during the original development of the facility (see Exhibits #15–15d).

3. Construct four comfort stations

Four new comfort stations are being proposed for the camping loops. Each accommodate 28–49 campsites and will contain toilets, sinks, showers, and wash sinks. The number of showers, sinks, and toilets will be sized to the number of campsites and will comply with ADA requirements. Each comfort station will provide two to four parking spaces. An on-site sewage disposal system will be installed for each of the comfort stations. The systems will be a conventional septic system consisting of a precast concrete septic tank and subsurface absorption system. The sewage disposal system design for the comfort stations will be designed in accordance with the DEC's Design Standards for Wastewater Treatment Works. The leach field will be located a minimum of 200 feet from the lake and wetlands (see Exhibits #15–15d).

4. Construct a trailer dump station

A dumping station for servicing campers with holding tanks will be located on the south side of the access road to provide easy access to vehicles exiting the campground. The dumping station will provide a sewer inlet to accommodate drain hoses and a water supply with a rinse water hose. Instructions for proper operation of the dumping station will be clearly posted.

An on-site sewage disposal system will be installed for the dumping station. The system will be a conventional septic system consisting of a precast concrete septic tank and subsurface absorption system. The sewage disposal system design for the dumping station will be designed in accordance with the DEC's Design Standards for Wastewater Treatment Works. The leach field will be located a minimum of 200 feet from the lake and wetlands (see Exhibit #15).

5. Construct a solid waste and recyclable collection building

A solid waste and recyclable collection building servicing campers will be located on the north side of loop C to provide a central location for dropping off garbage, cleaning and sorting recyclables, and collecting deposit returnables. The building will provide a wash sink to rinse recyclables. An on-site sewage disposal system will be combined with the system installed for the proposed adjacent staff housing. The facility will not be available to day-use visitors as they will be instructed to follow carry-in, carry-out procedures (see Exhibit #15).

6. Construct a second staff housing building

As a 24-hour facility, it's imperative there are staff in the campground to deal with occurrences such as maintenance emergencies, severe weather events, and a variety of visitor issues. It has also become increasingly difficult to staff campground facilities in these remote locations without providing housing for staff who must relocate for the season. A second staff housing facility located within the campground loops will help with the recruiting of qualified staff and provide additional oversight of campground near the campers. A four-bedroom facility with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities is being proposed adjacent to loop C (see Exhibit #15).

7. Construct a hand-carry boat launch facility

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan provides that boat launching sites will only be provided on lakes greater than 1,000 acres and regularly used by motorboats. At 2,784 acres, Hinckley Reservoir is currently served by a ramp launch site on Rt. 365 maintained by the New York Power Authority (NYPA). The ramp launch consists of concrete planks extending 200 feet into the reservoir to permit access for boaters and provides daytime parking only. This launch is five miles from the Hinckley Day-Use Area. In 2018, NYPA conducted a recreation assessment to evaluate the existing and future recreational use, capacity, condition, and accessibility of recreation facilities providing access to Hinckley Reservoir, as well as to identify potential impacts of reservoir water level fluctuations on recreation sites. There are currently plans to extend the ramp to permit launching boats safely from the current reservoir elevation of 1,210′ down to 1,206′. Materials have been purchased and work will begin when water levels permit. DEC will work in concert with the outcome of this study and modification to the NYPA site with boat launch plans at the Hinckley Day-Use Area.

The New York State directory of public access and launching sites currently lists no facilities available on Hinckley Reservoir.

This UMP proposes to develop a hand-carry boat launching facility consisting of a dock and parking area. Site sizing and design will be done in consultation with DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife and department engineers. This hand launch will complement the NYPA ramp launch. Campers using the NYPA ramp will be directed to park trailers in a designated part of the existing day-use parking lot or on their campsite. Accessible parking spaces will be provided, and the dock will meet

ADA standards. A 0.3-mile access road will lead to the launch site from the day-use area (see Exhibit #15e.)

8. Extend potable water system

The current water system is described in section II.A.10 of this plan. This UMP proposes to extend the service of one existing well to service loops A and B and trailer dumping station. A new water system will be constructed to service loops C–G.

The existing well at the caretaker's cabin will supply service to the proposed replacement garage. The existing well, chlorinator, and storage tank system in loop A will be extended to distribute water through 2,000′ of new water line to water spigots and new comfort station in camping loops A and B, to the proposed trailer dumping station, and to a replacement comfort station and additional water spigots in the day-use area to address design capacity deficiencies noted in III.F.2.a of this plan.

A third well will be drilled near loop C and a chlorination building and storage tank constructed nearby. This system will distribute water through 8,200′ of water line to the proposed staff housing, recycling center, 3 comfort stations, and 23 water spigots (see Exhibit #15g).

9. Extend electric system

The current electric system is described in section II.A.9 of this plan. This UMP proposes to extend the service to the facilities being proposed in the camping loops. There will be no electric service provided to campsites. An estimated 5,000′ of buried electric line and an undetermined number of transformers and associated electric gear will be part of the objective.

10. Construct a multiuse trail system

There are 2.6 miles of unused old roads that crisscross the property. Some of these will be improved to create portions of the proposed camping loop roads, boat launch road, and Price's Point pavilion access road. Other sections will be renovated as part of a 4.2-mile proposed multipurpose trail system. Depending on gradient, width, and surface compaction, trails will be evaluated and marked for a variety of uses which include walking, hiking, and mountain biking. A cross-section of typical trail is included on Exhibit #17. The trails will intersect with campground roads allowing access in several locations (see Exhibit #15i)

11. Construct firewood storage building

In 2010, an amendment to the 1990 *Generic Unit Management Plan* allowed for the construction of firewood storage buildings to aid in offering the public a more reliable source of treated firewood. This action was part of a larger strategic management program to control the spread of invasive insect species that can spread through the transport of infected firewood. With the addition of camping at Hinckley Reservoir, this management action proposes to construct a storage building approximately 30′ x 20′ that will be used to store firewood and serve as a retail sales location to sell wood to the public. The proposed location is near the entrance booth.

12. Replace bathhouse and beach comfort stations

The bathhouse and toilet buildings were constructed in 1971. The plumbing and fixtures are old, are not energy efficient, and are difficult to repair. The buildings do not meet accessibility standards. The bathhouse is oversized for the level of use it receives. This management action proposes to demolish all three buildings and replace with one building that provides toilets, sinks, a baby changing station, and changing rooms for bathers.

13. Replace ticket booth

The existing ticket booth was constructed in 1971, prior to the need for computers, printers, and ADA design requirements. The building is undersized for today's equipment to check in campers and day users efficiently. This management action proposes to construct a new ticket booth in the same location that will meet the needs of today's operations. Some modifications to the entrance road will be necessary to permit proper traffic flow around the booth.

14. Replace supervisors' cabin

The existing cabin has no heating system, the fireplace is not usable, and the building does not meet codes for use other than single family occupancy. This management action proposes a replacement building in the same footprint that will meet all codes and allow for staff to occupy both bedrooms.

15. Replace garage

With the proposed addition of 150 campsites and boat launch, additional staff and equipment will be required to operate and maintain this facility. The existing garage is inadequate to provide the space needed. This management action proposes demolishing the existing garage and replacing with a

new garage that will provide adequate storage space, a shop, a breakroom for staff, and bathroom facilities.

16. Construct a pavilion at Price's Point

Price's Point is a scenic pine-covered point located on the reservoir to the northwest of the last proposed camping loop. The old farm road leading to the point could be improved to provide vehicle access to a pavilion and parking area away from the shoreline but taking advantage of the open understory and views of the lake below. This pavilion would be available for rental in the same way as the three existing pavilions in the day-use area. Access to the lake would be along an existing old road leading south from the pavilion, which will be marked as a foot trail (see Exhibit #15i).

17. Construct a playground in day-use area

To increase the number of recreational opportunities for families, this management action proposes to construct a playground in the day-use area. The structure will meet modern design standards and will be constructed of natural materials to blend into the surroundings to the greatest extent possible.

V. EXHIBIT INDEX

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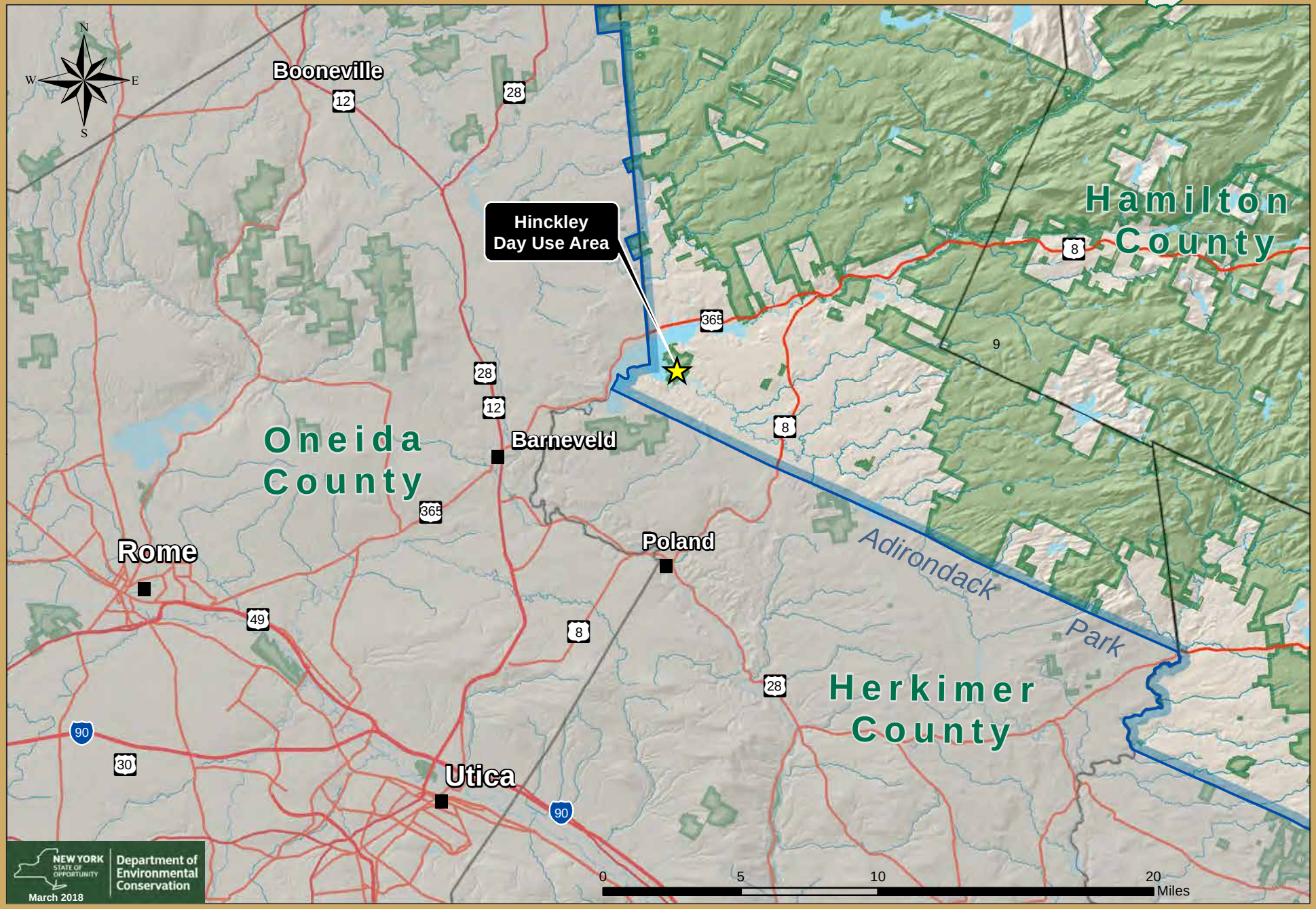
Exhibit #18 – SHPO Letter of Concurrence
Appendix I – Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit # 1 - Location Map

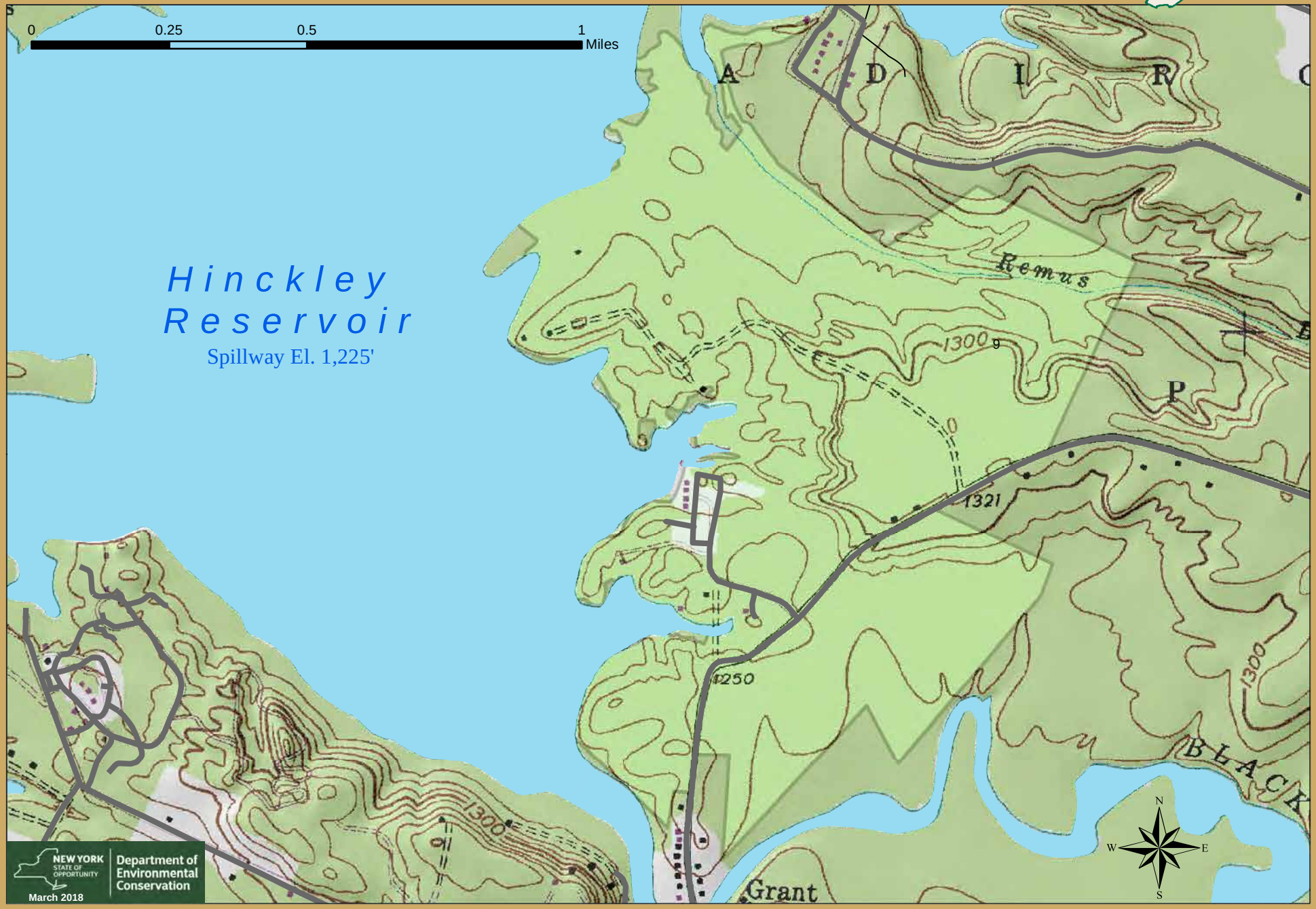
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit # 2 - Contour Map

Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

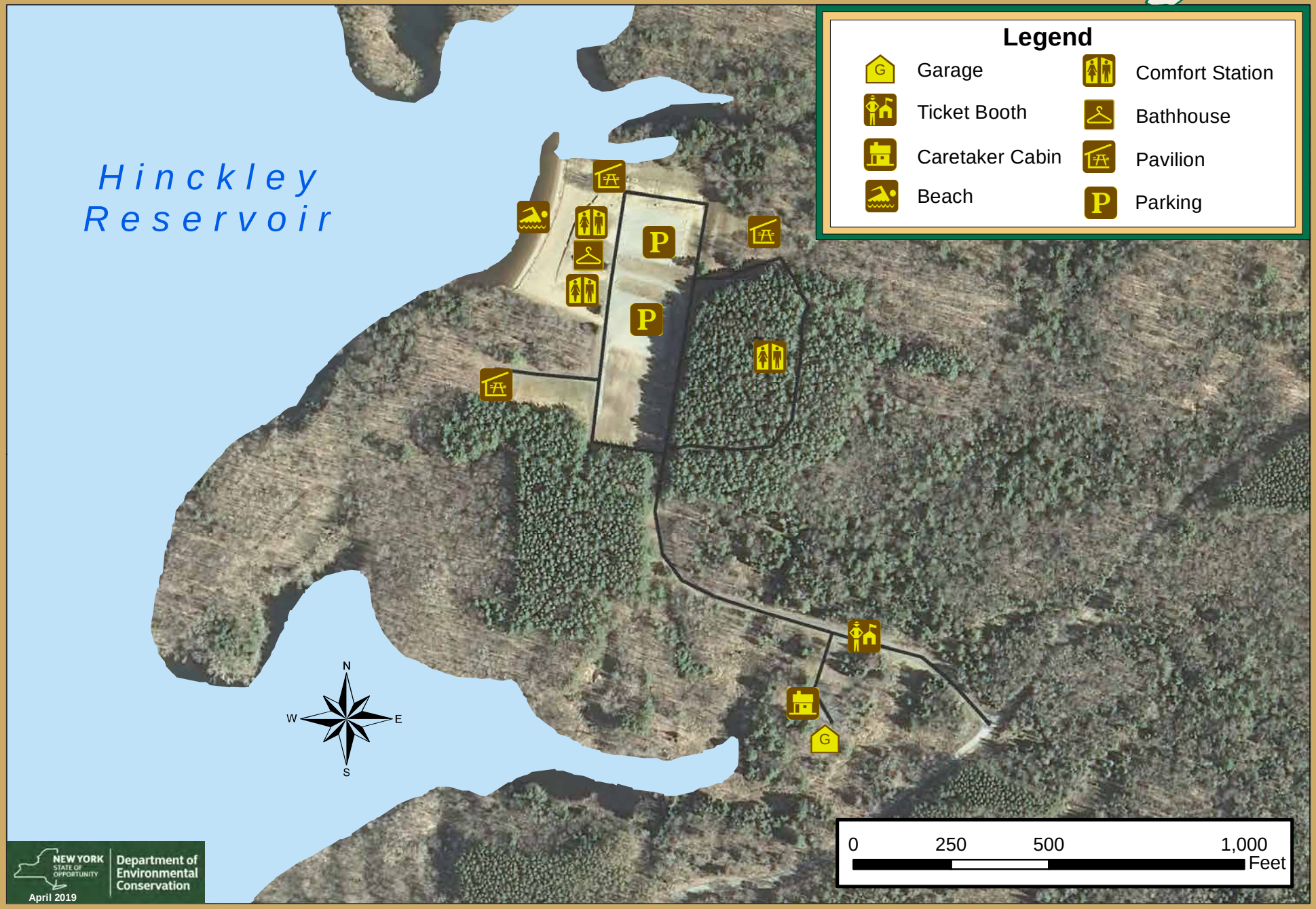
Exhibit #3 - Orthoimagery Map

Adirondack Park

Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #4 - Facility Map

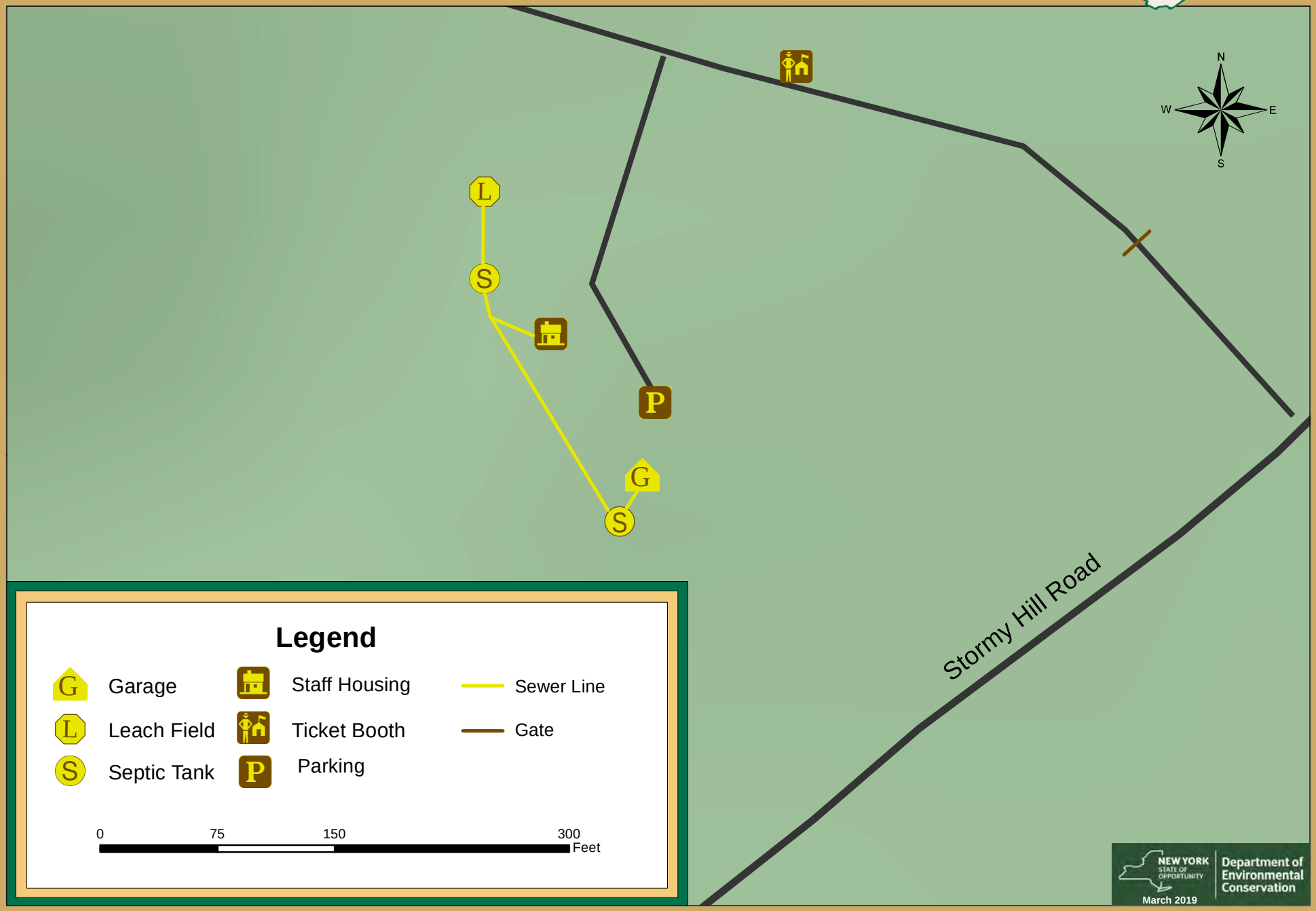
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #5A Sewage System Map South

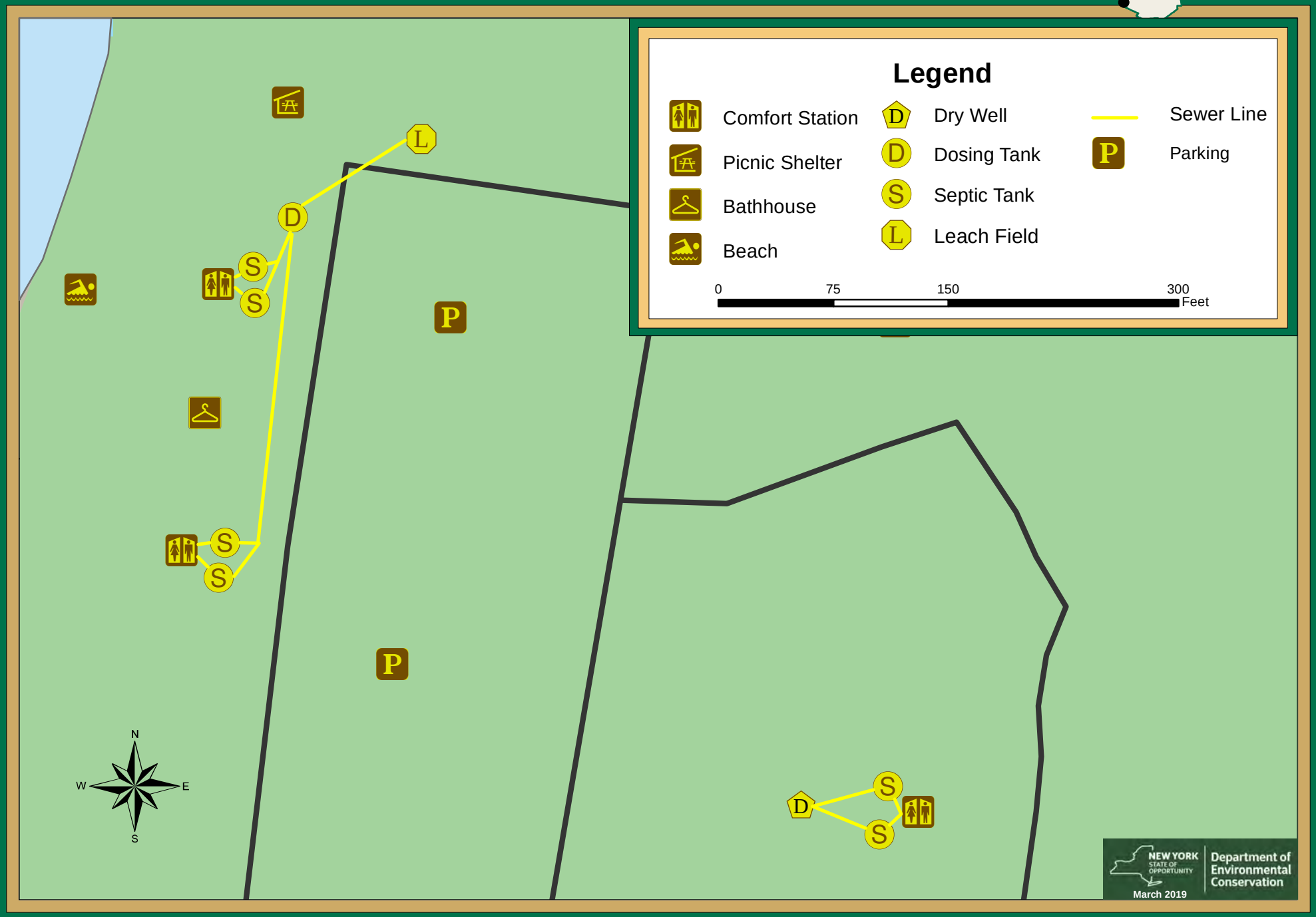
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #5B Sewage System Map North

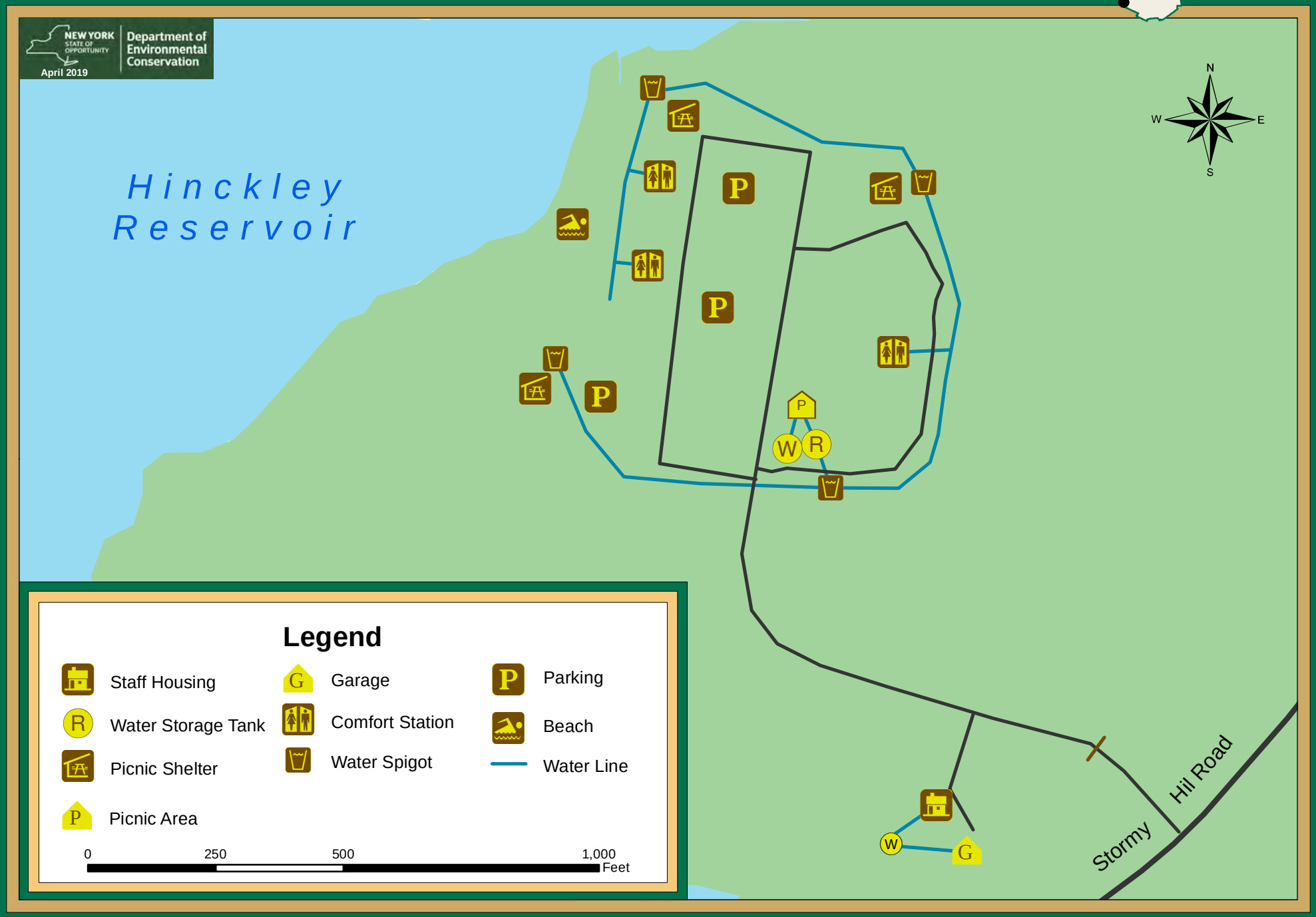
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #6 - Water System Map

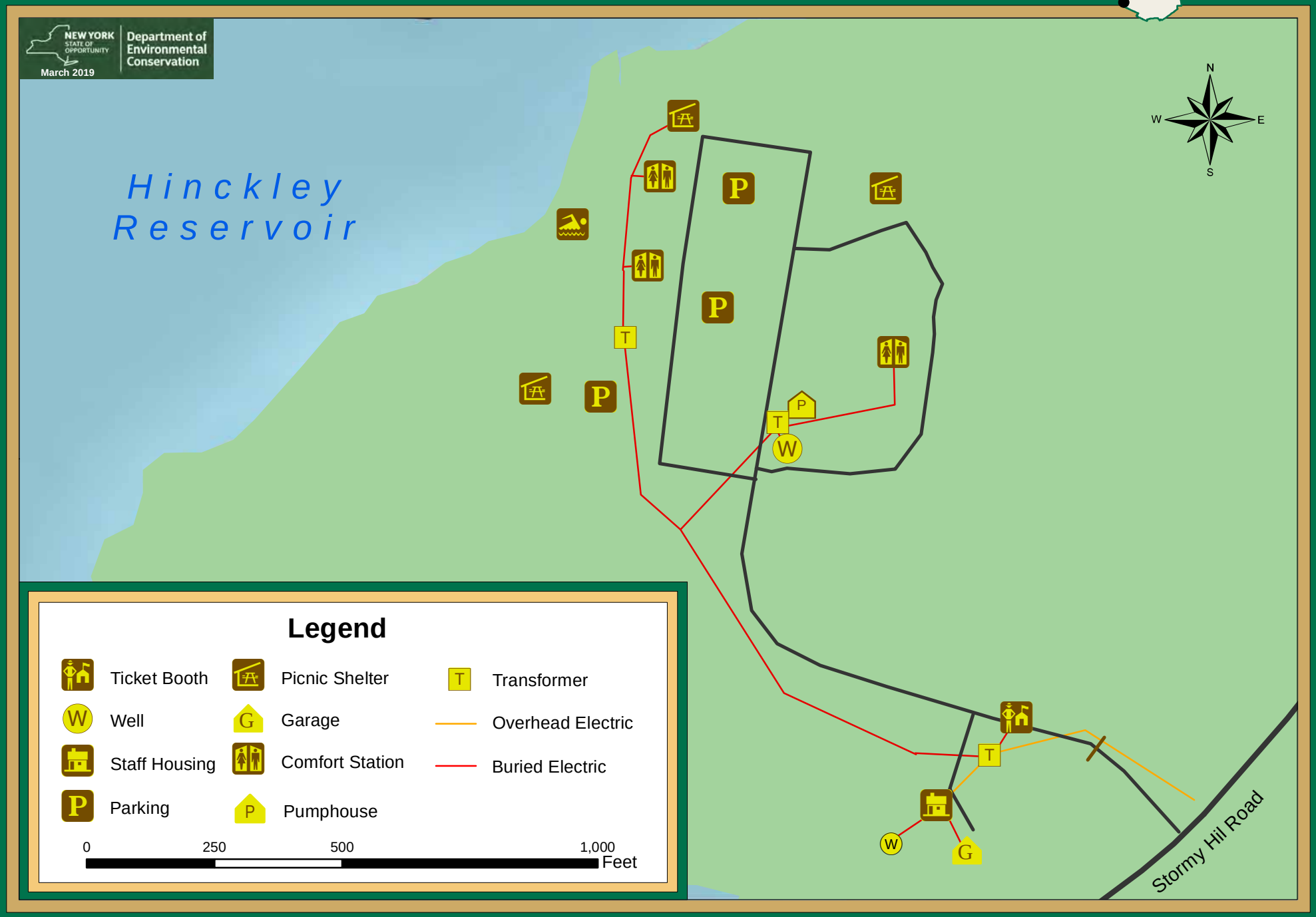
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #7 - Electric System Map

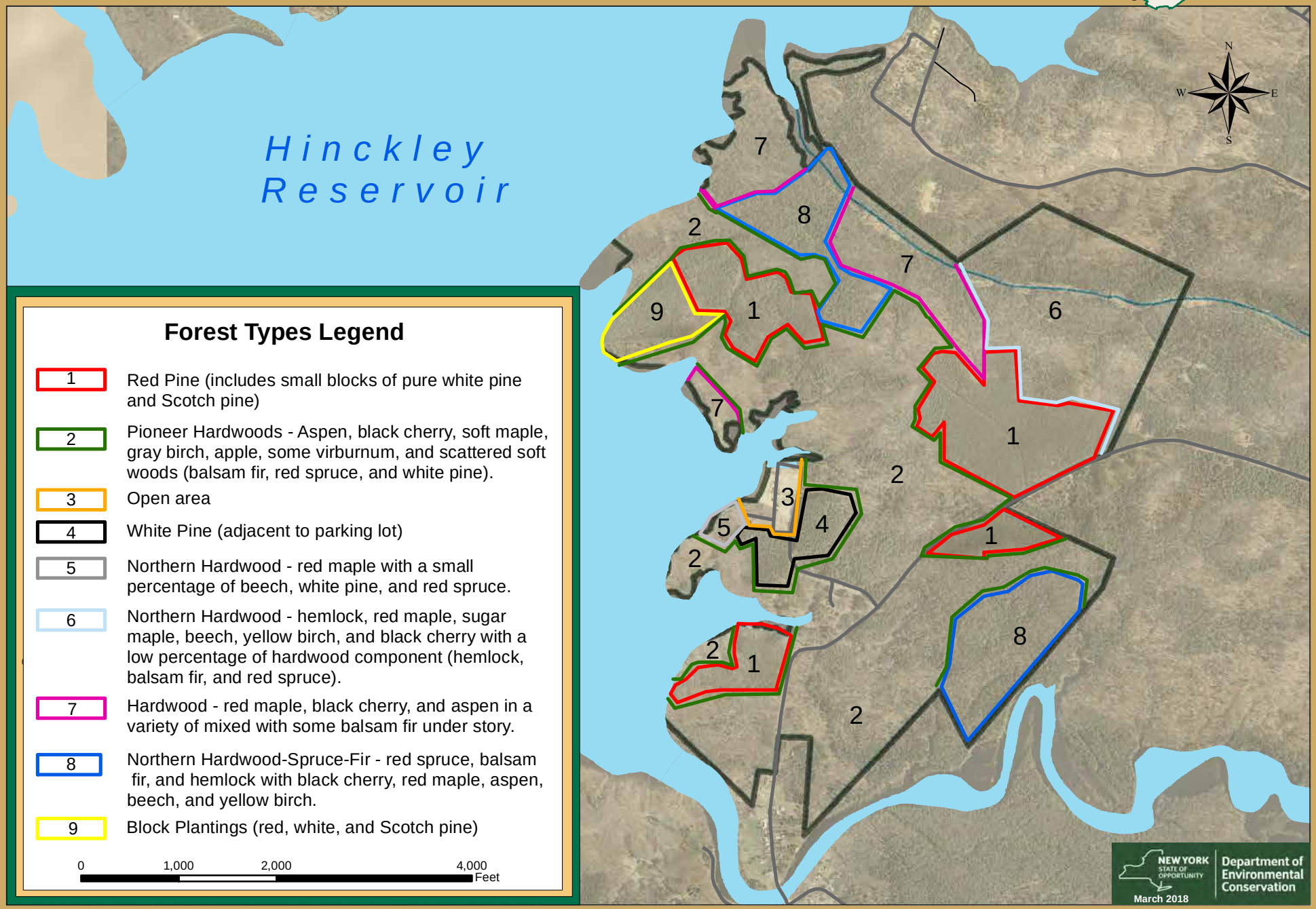
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit # 8 - Forest Type Map

Adirondack Park



Forest Types Legend

- 1 — Red Pine (includes small blocks of pure white pine and Scotch pine)
- 2 — Pioneer Hardwoods - Aspen, black cherry, soft maple, gray birch, apple, some virburnum, and scattered soft woods (balsam fir, red spruce, and white pine).
- 3 — Open area
- 4 — White Pine (adjacent to parking lot)
- 5 — Northern Hardwood - red maple with a small percentage of beech, white pine, and red spruce.
- 6 — Northern Hardwood - hemlock, red maple, sugar maple, beech, yellow birch, and black cherry with a low percentage of hardwood component (hemlock, balsam fir, and red spruce).
- 7 — Hardwood - red maple, black cherry, and aspen in a variety of mixed with some balsam fir under story.
- 8 — Northern Hardwood-Spruce-Fir - red spruce, balsam fir, and hemlock with black cherry, red maple, aspen, beech, and yellow birch.
- 9 — Block Plantings (red, white, and Scotch pine)

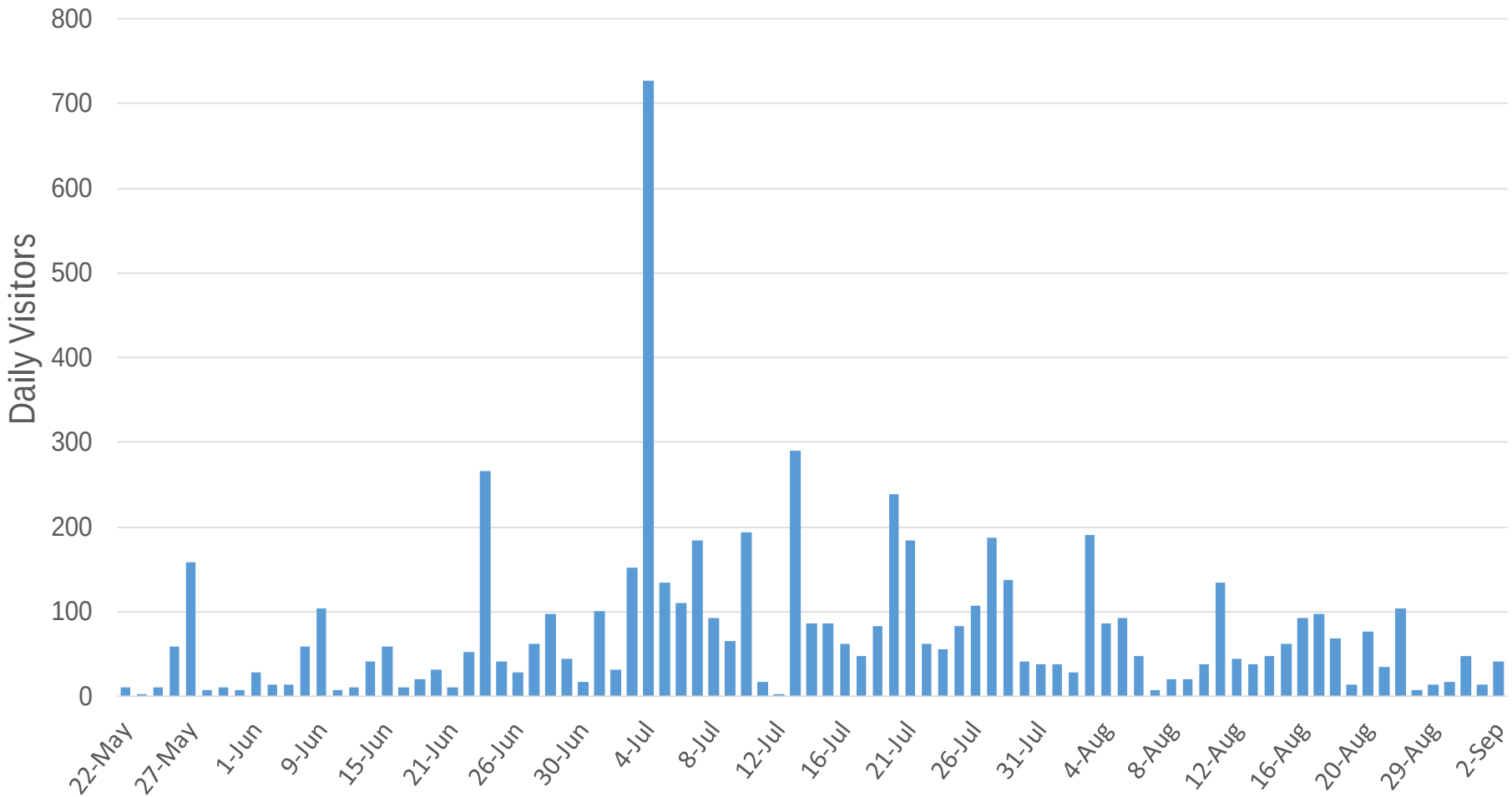
0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit # 10 - Daily Attendance 2019

Adirondack Park



NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

September 2019

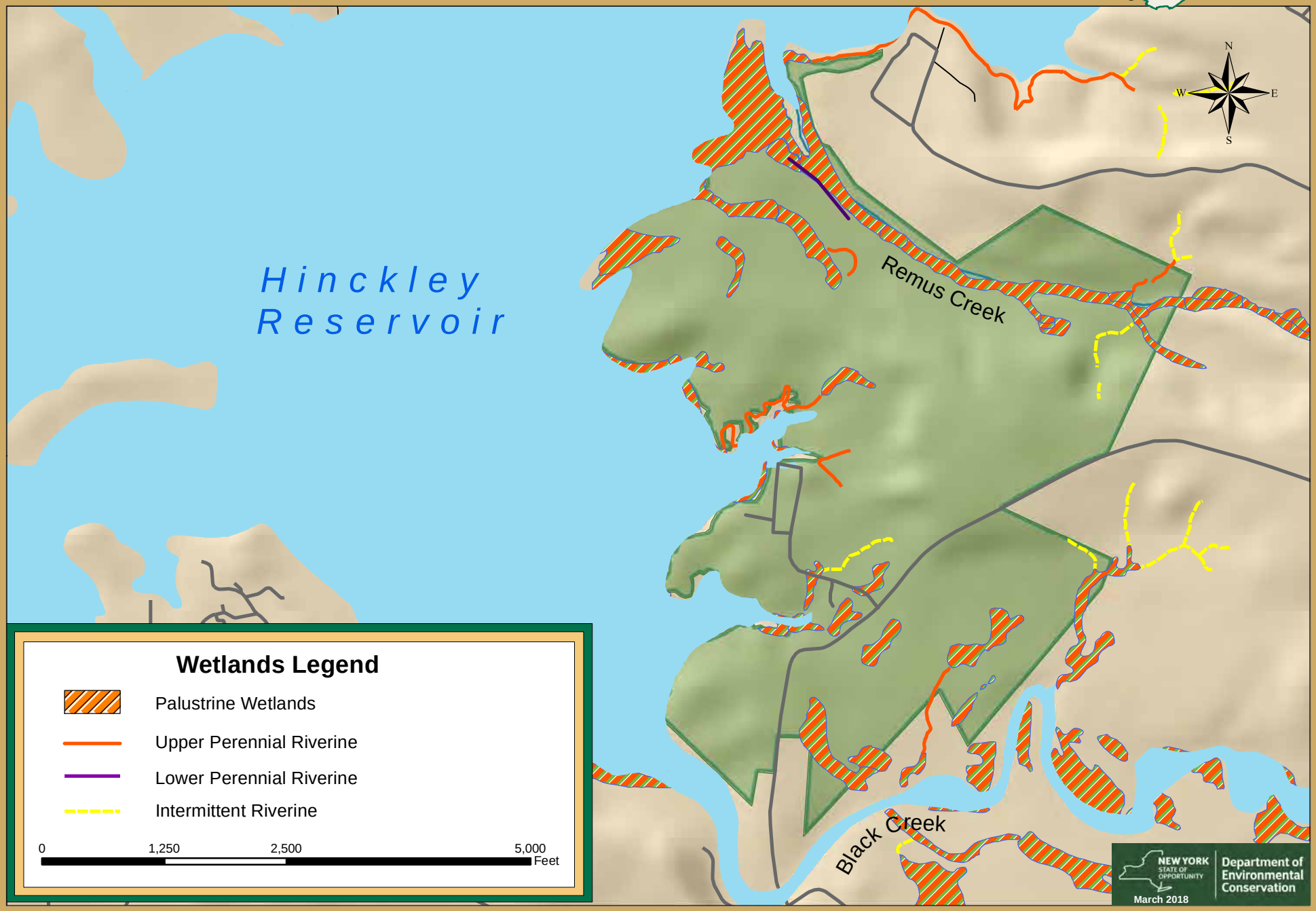
Average Attendance 76 Per Day

Average Weekend Attendance 107 Per Day

Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit # 12 - Wetlands Map

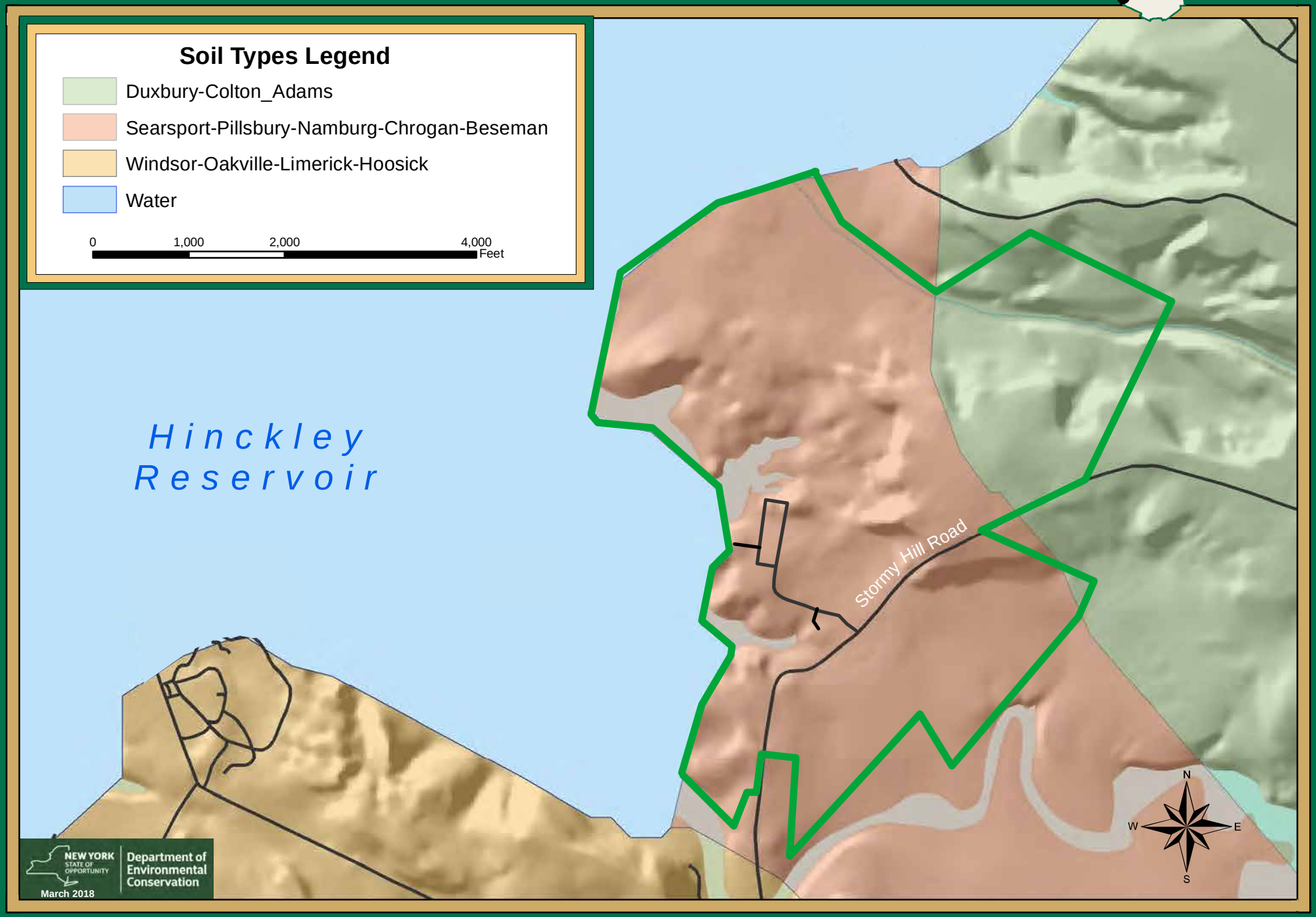
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #13 - Soils Map

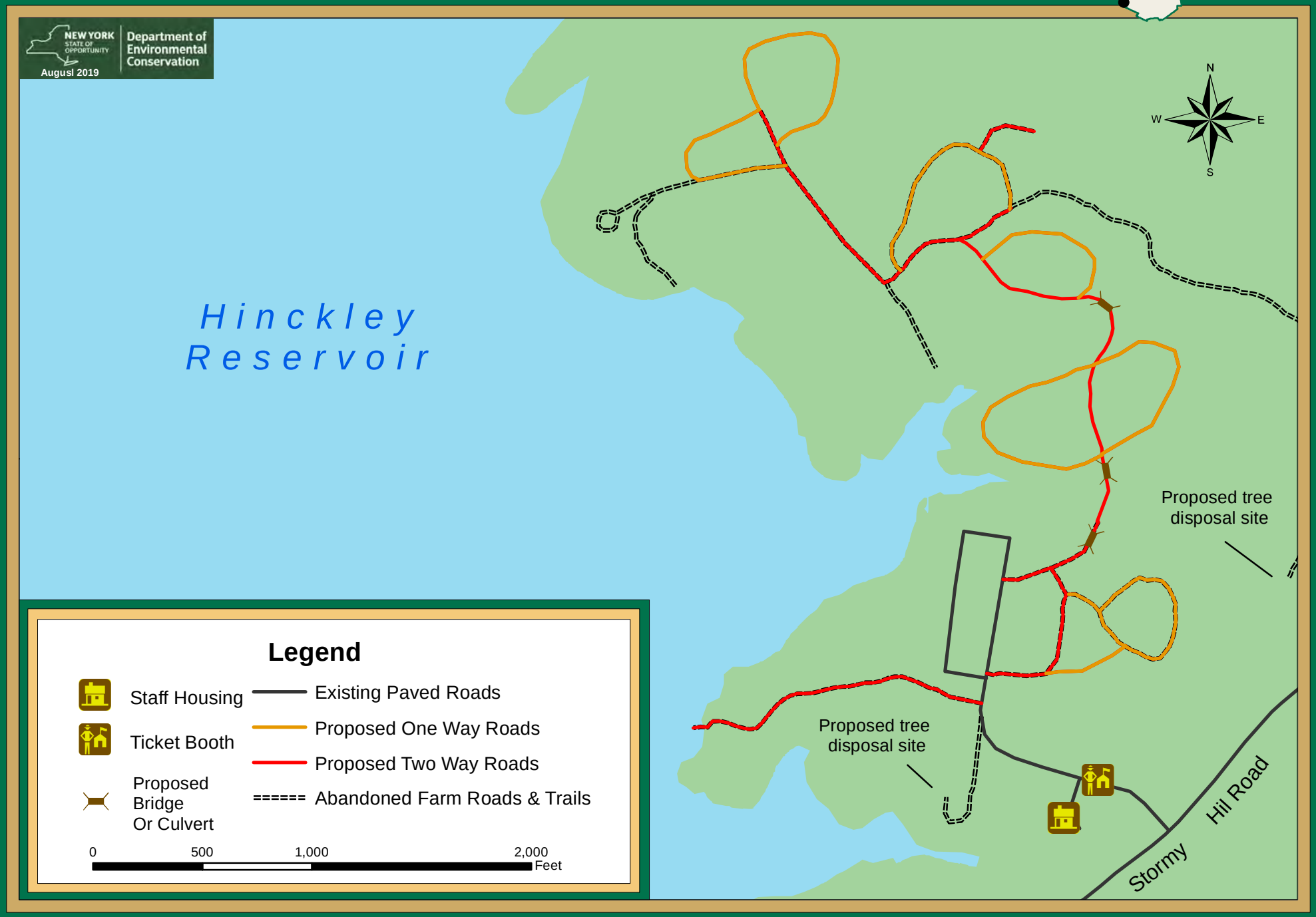
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #14 - Existing and Proposed Roads

Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

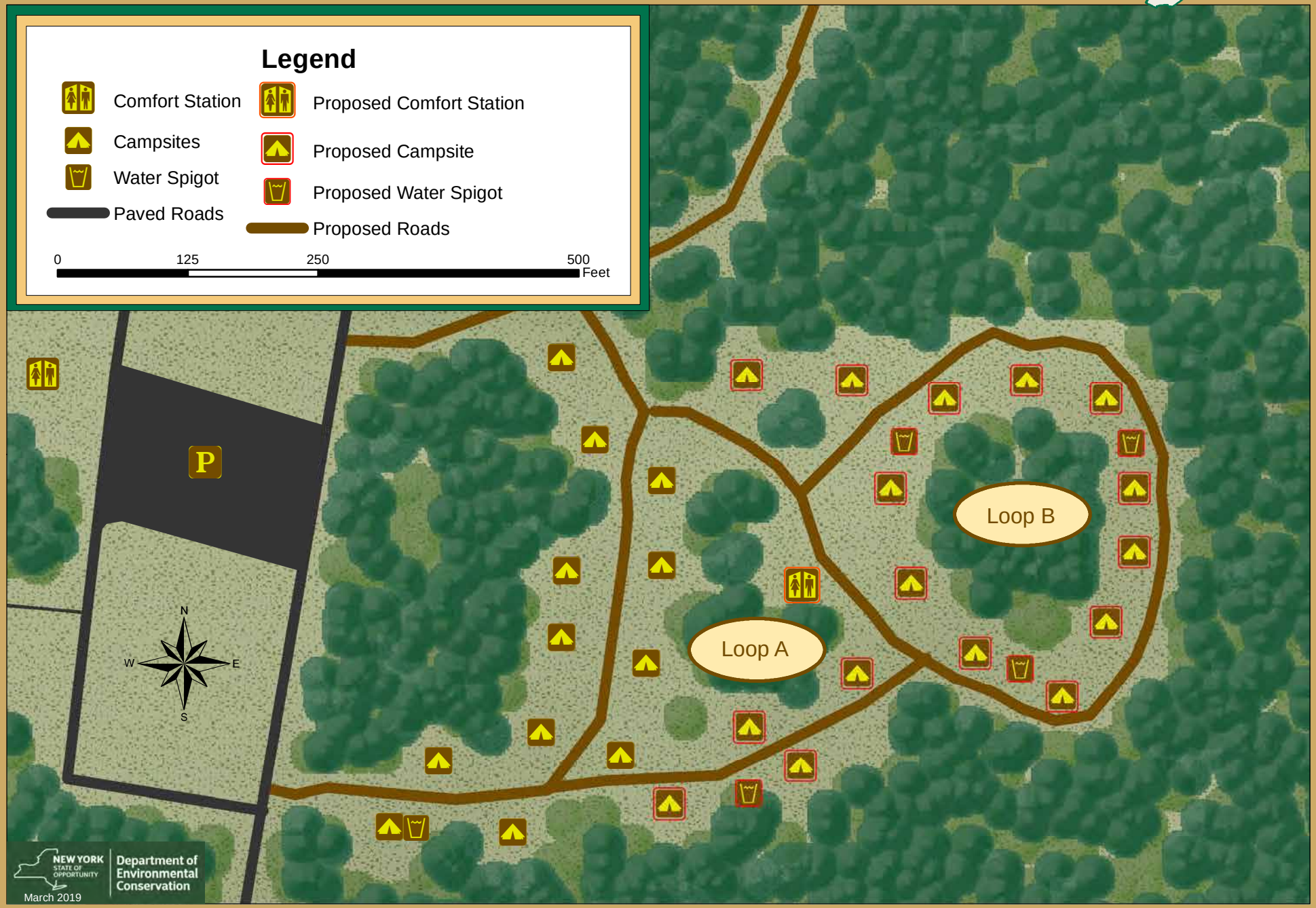
Exhibit #15 - Proposed Facilities Map

Adirondack Park

Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #15a - Proposed Loops A & B Facilities Map

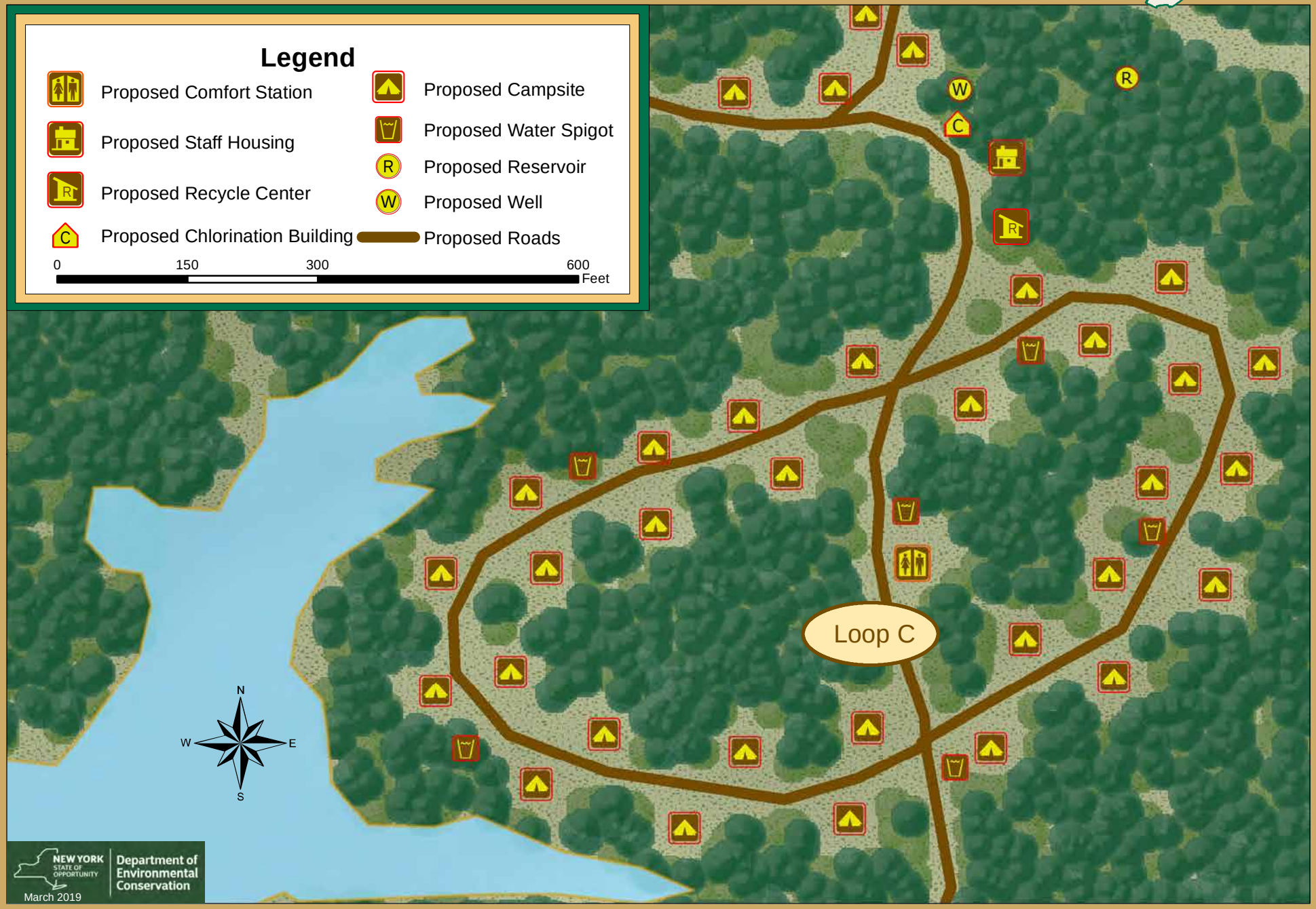
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #15b - Proposed Loop C Facilities Map

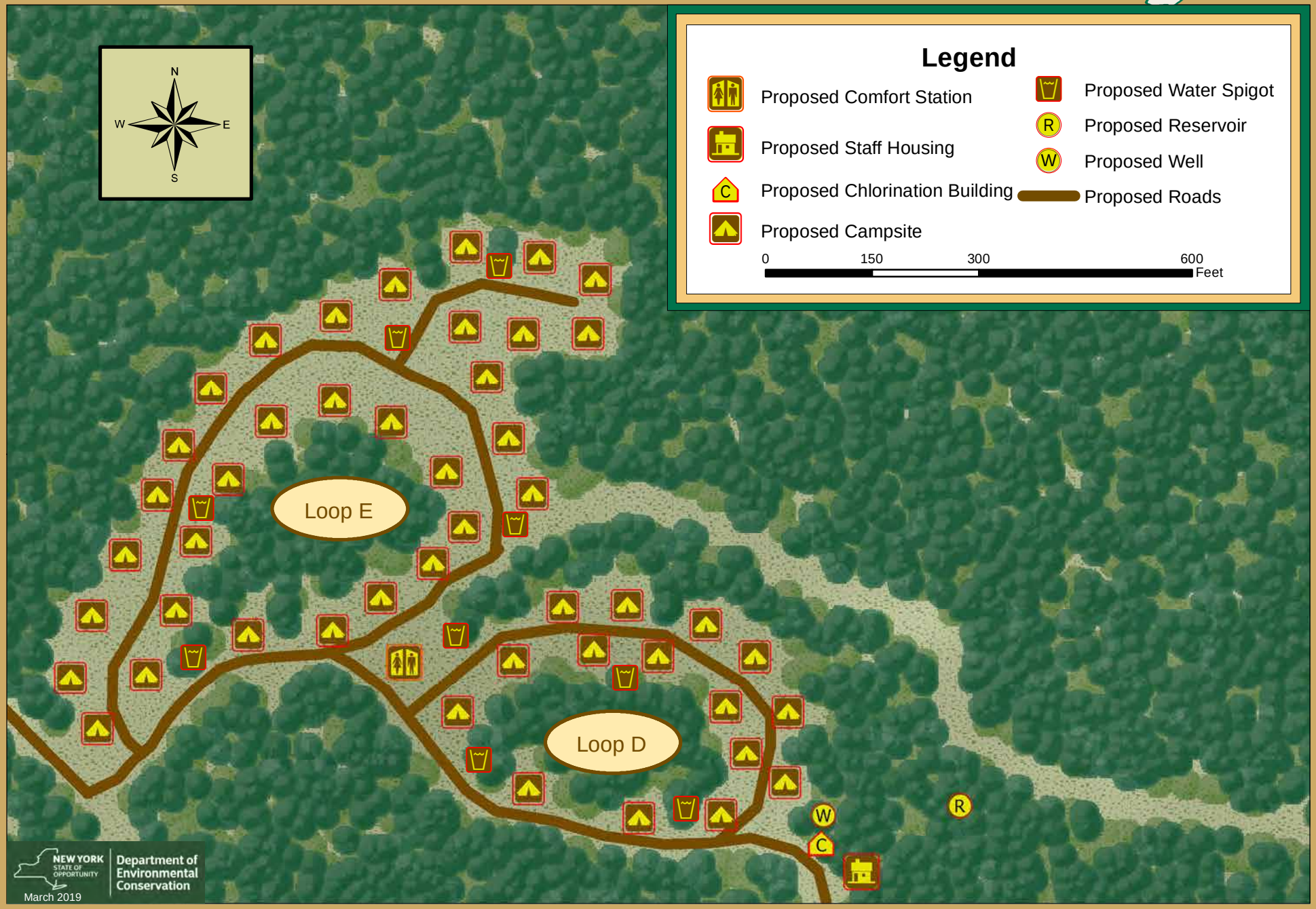
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #15c - Proposed Loops D & E Facilities Map

Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #15d - Proposed Loops F & G Facilities Map

Adirondack Park

Legend

- Proposed Comfort Station
- Proposed Picnic Shelter
- Proposed Water Spigot
- Proposed Campsite
- Proposed Parking
- Proposed Roads
- Proposed Trail

0 150 300 600 Feet

Loop F

Loop G

N W E S

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

March 2019

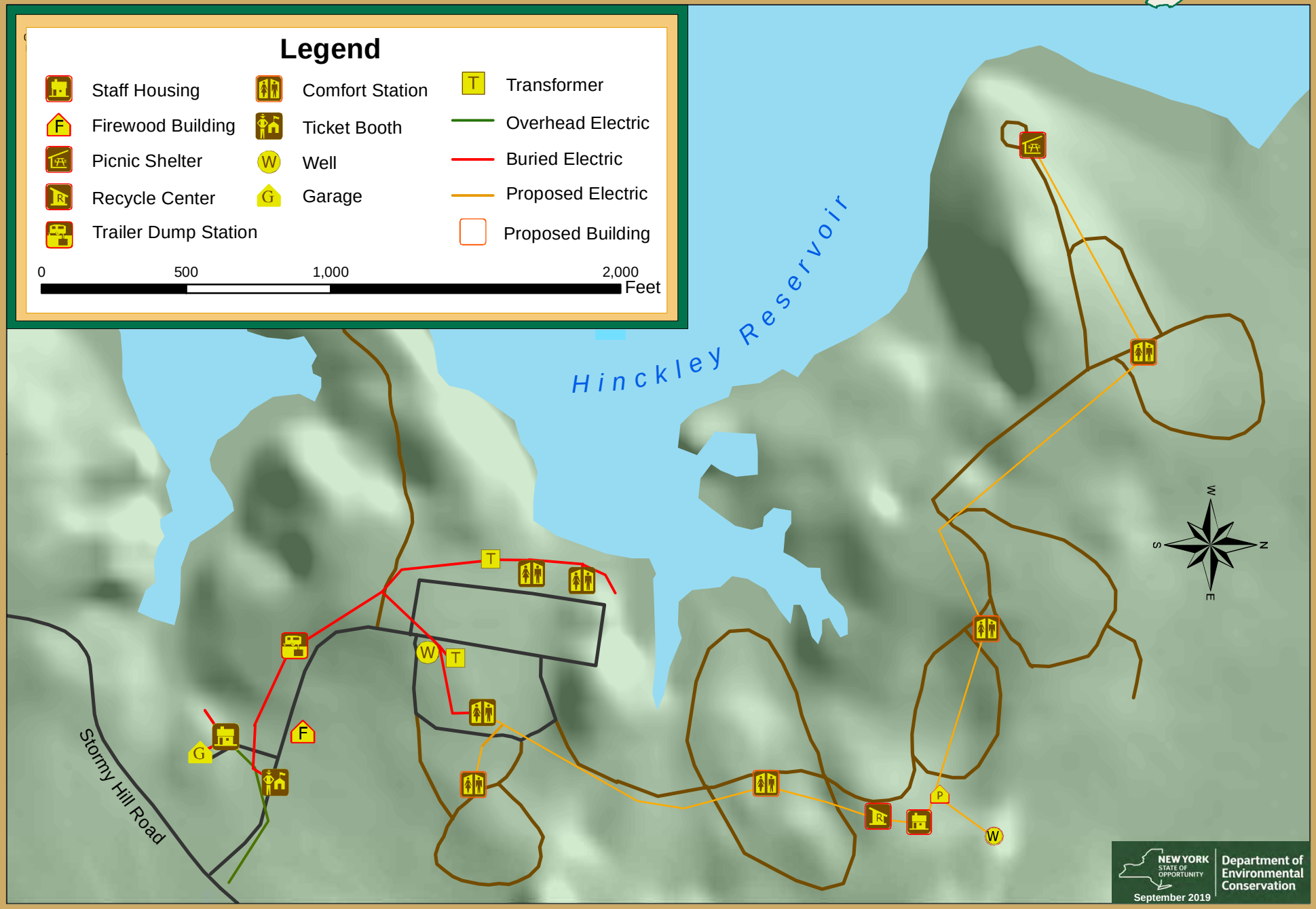
Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #15e - Proposed Boat Launch Facilities Map

Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #15f Proposed Electric System Map

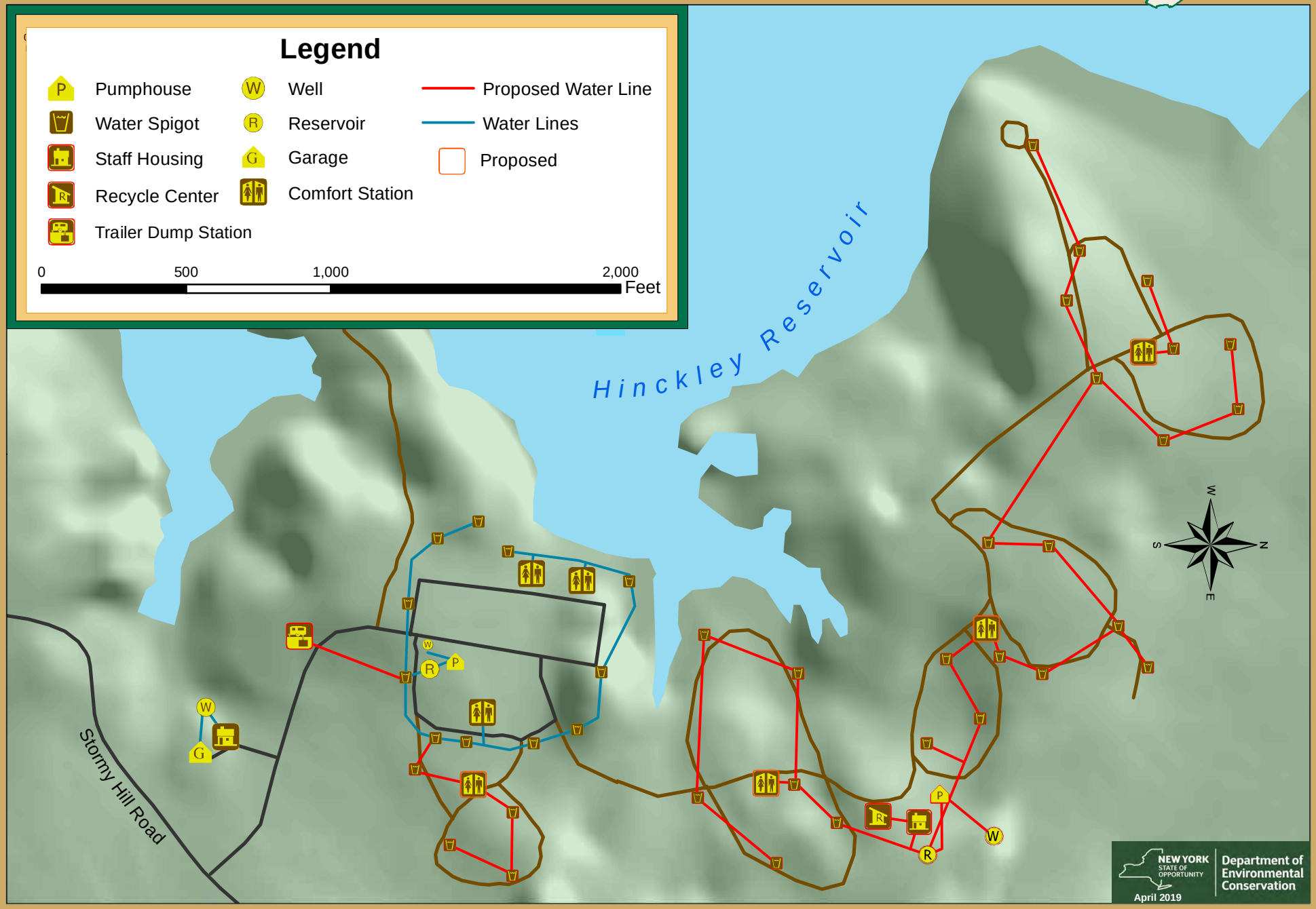
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit #15g Proposed Water System Map

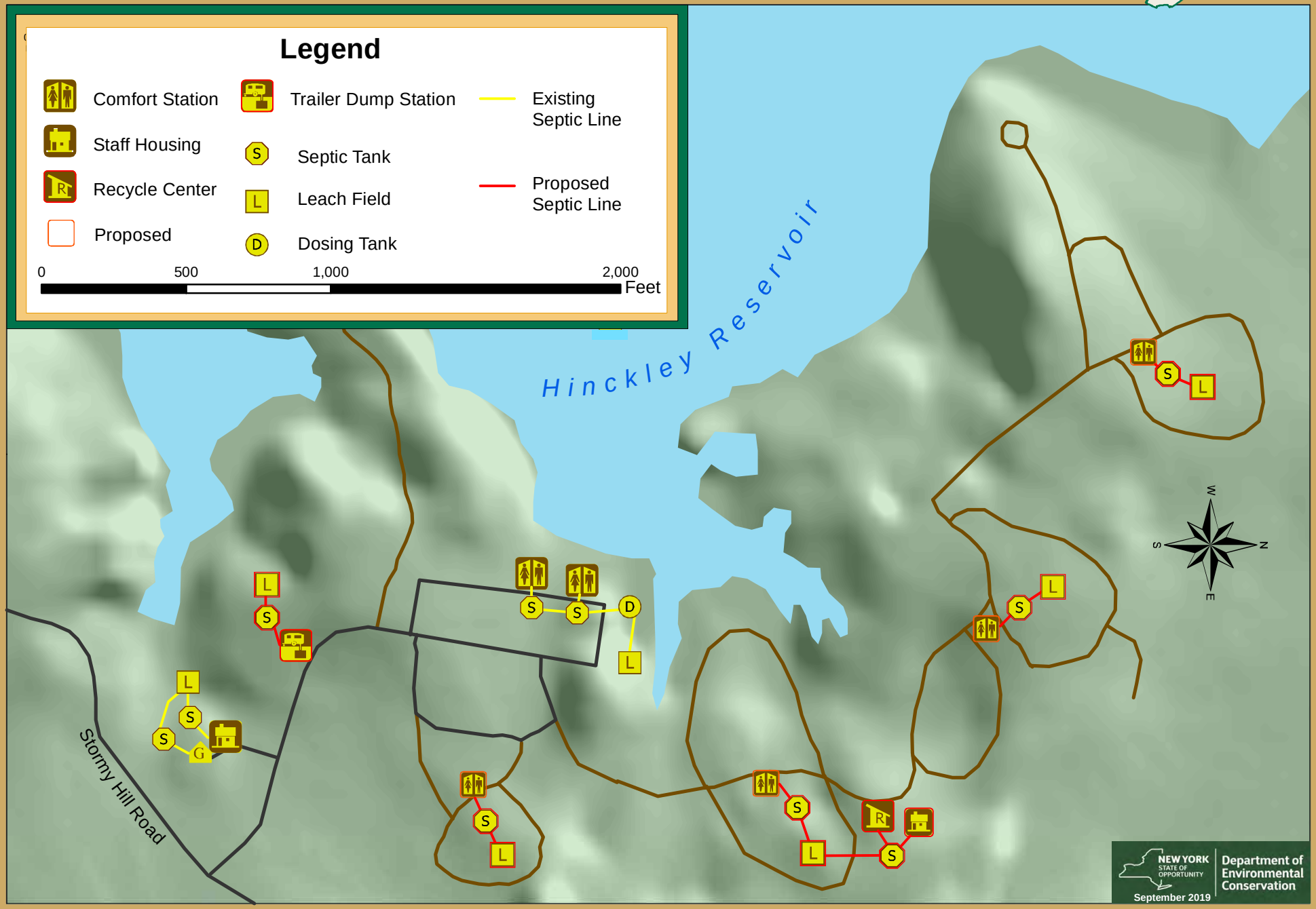
Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

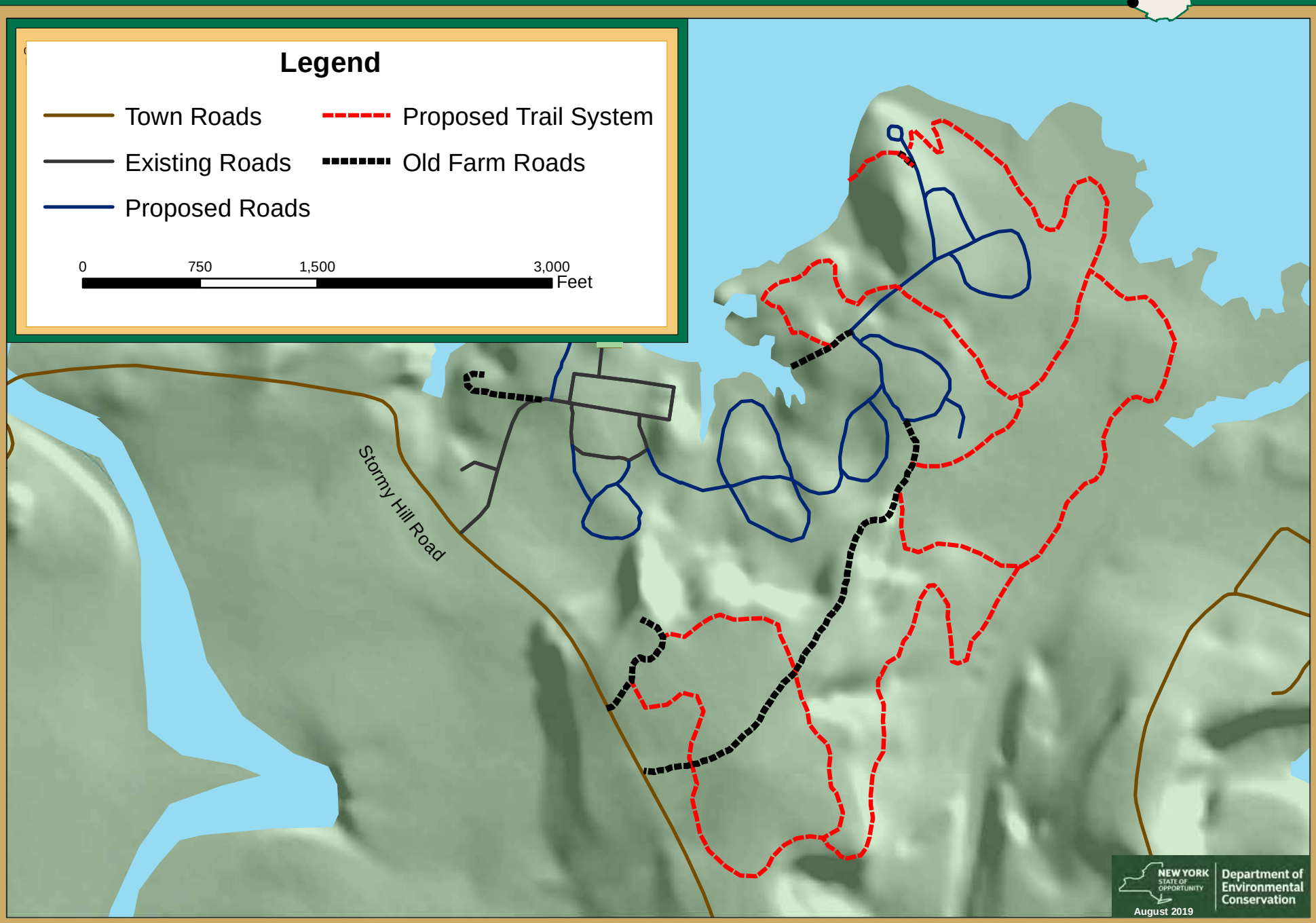
Exhibit #15h Proposed Sewage System Map

Adirondack Park



Hinckley Day Use Area

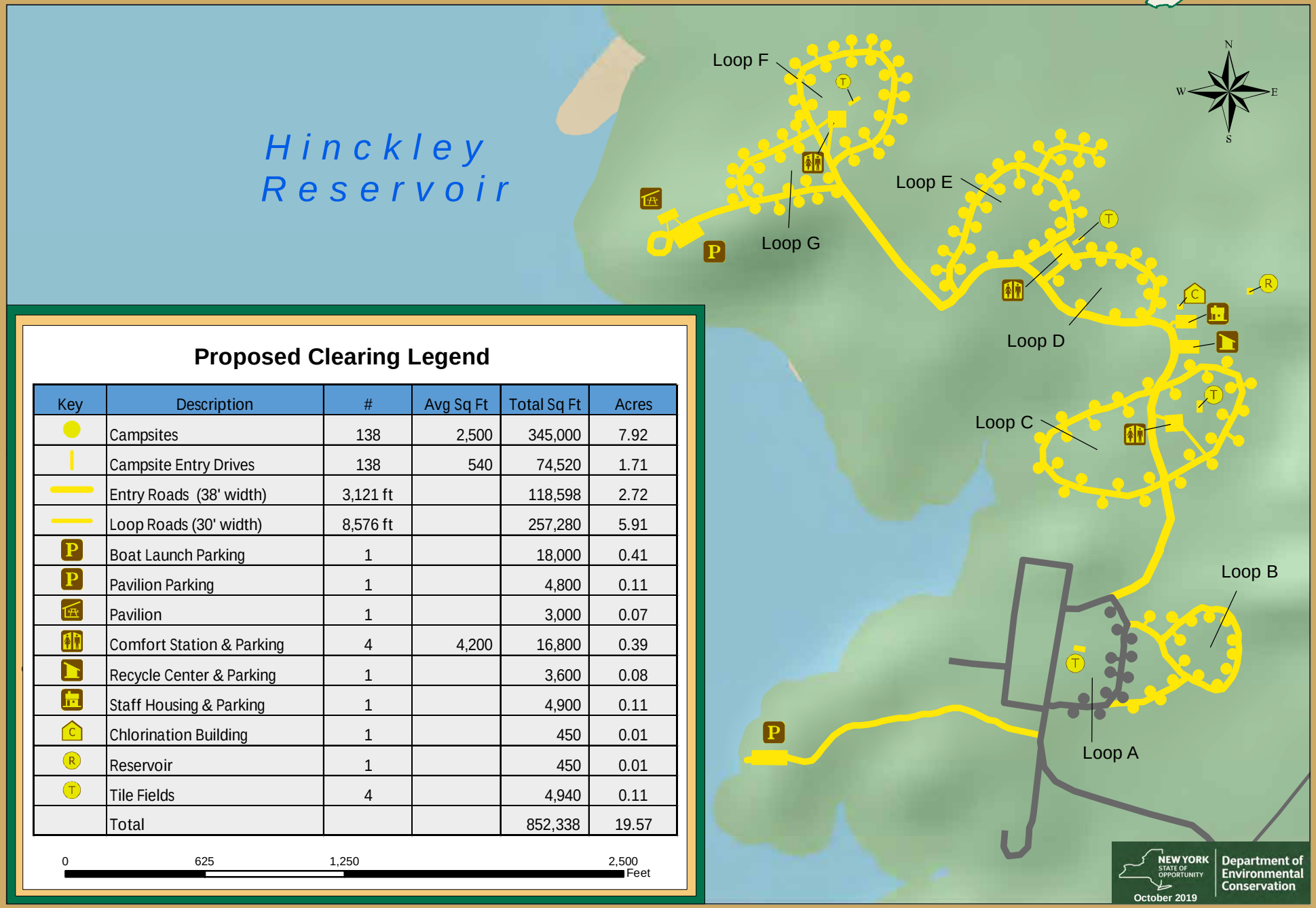
Exhibit #15i Proposed Trail System Map



Hinckley Day Use Area

Exhibit # 15j - Proposed Tree Clearing Map

Adirondack Park



Proposed Clearing Legend

Key	Description	#	Avg Sq Ft	Total Sq Ft	Acres
	Campsites	138	2,500	345,000	7.92
	Campsite Entry Drives	138	540	74,520	1.71
	Entry Roads (38' width)	3,121 ft		118,598	2.72
	Loop Roads (30' width)	8,576 ft		257,280	5.91
P	Boat Launch Parking	1		18,000	0.41
P	Pavilion Parking	1		4,800	0.11
	Pavilion	1		3,000	0.07
	Comfort Station & Parking	4	4,200	16,800	0.39
	Recycle Center & Parking	1		3,600	0.08
	Staff Housing & Parking	1		4,900	0.11
C	Chlorination Building	1		450	0.01
R	Reservoir	1		450	0.01
T	Tile Fields	4		4,940	0.11
	Total			852,338	19.57

0 625 1,250 2,500 Feet

Exhibit # 16

Photos of Hinckley Day Use Area

Day Use Area

Entrance Sign

Garage

Entrance Booth

Caretaker Cabin

Day Use Area

Comfort Station (South of Bathhouse)

Comfort Station (North of Bathhouse)

Comfort Station (In Camping Loop)

Bathhouse

Day Use Area

Pavilion #1

Pavilion #2

Pavilion #3

Volleyball Net and Parking Lots

Day Use Area

Chlorination Building

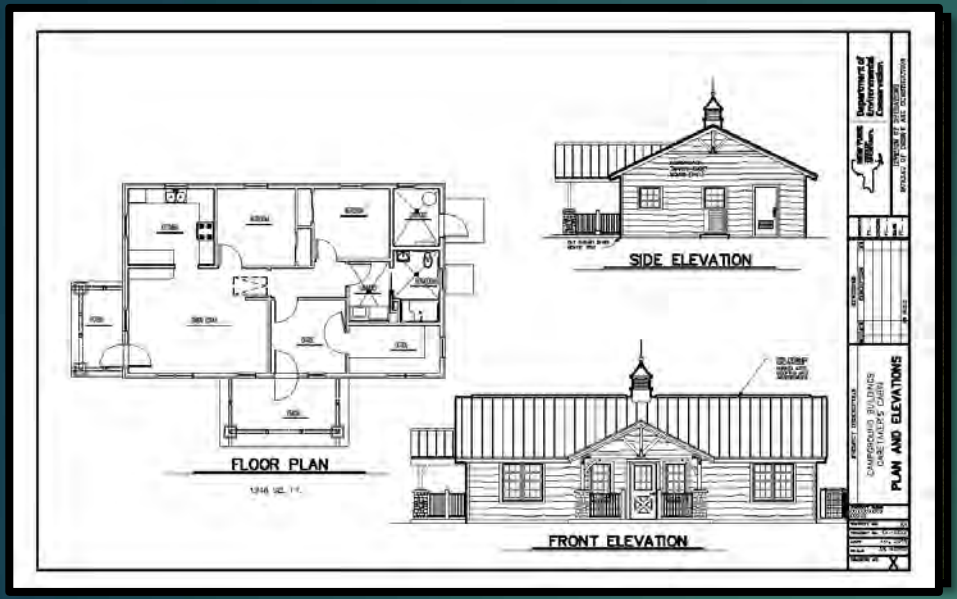
Water Storage Tank

Entrance Road and Gate

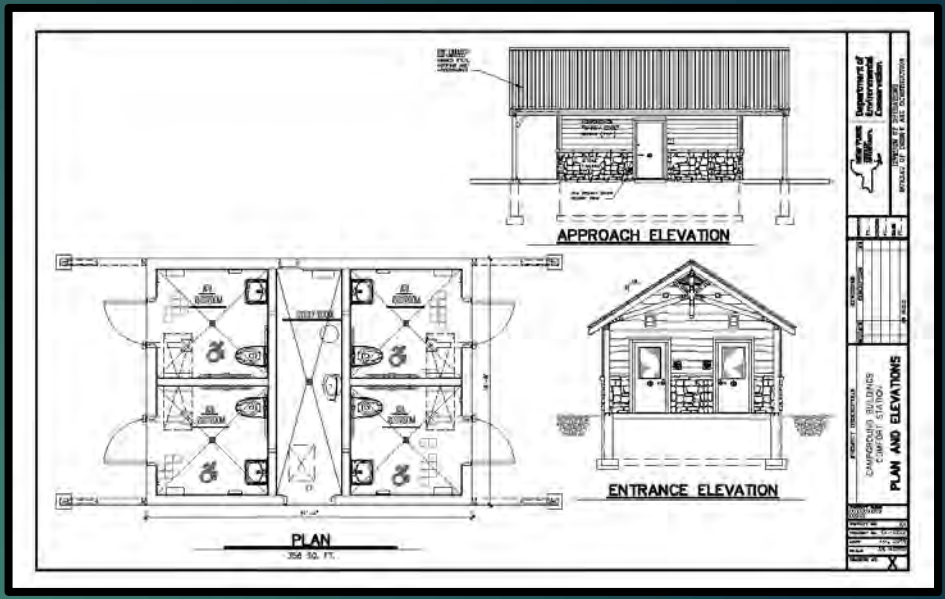
Horseshoe Pits

Exhibit 17

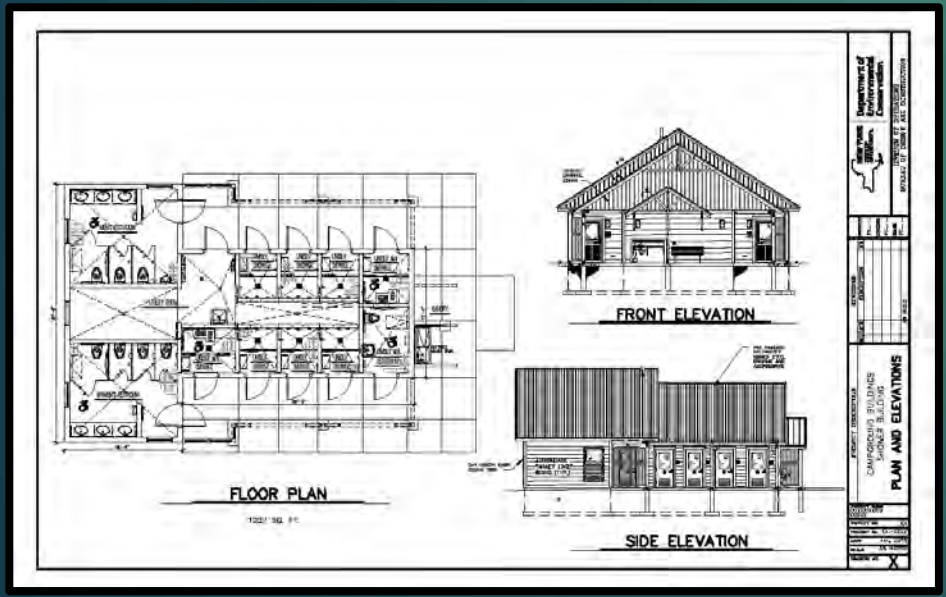
Typical Drawings



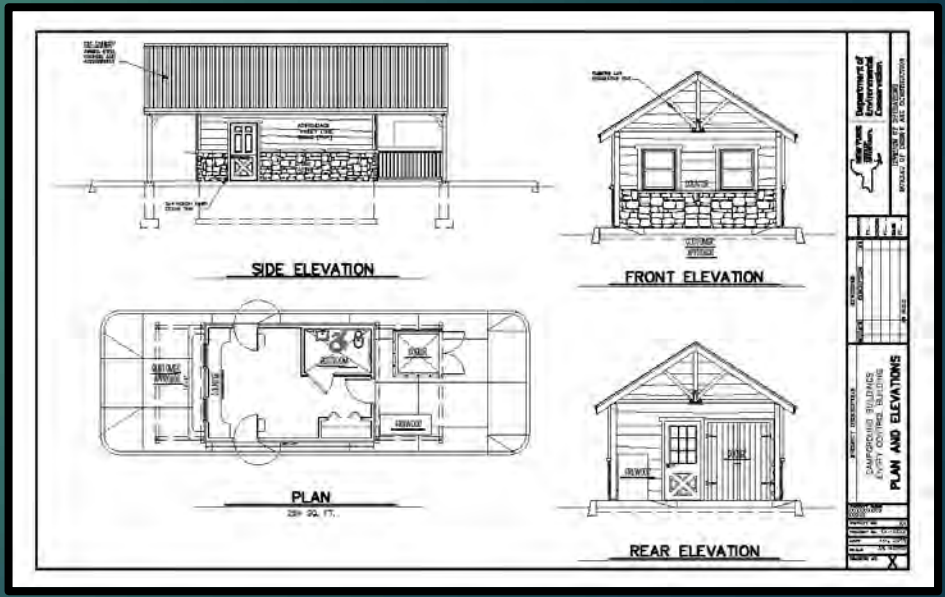
Caretaker Cabin



Comfort Station (no showers)

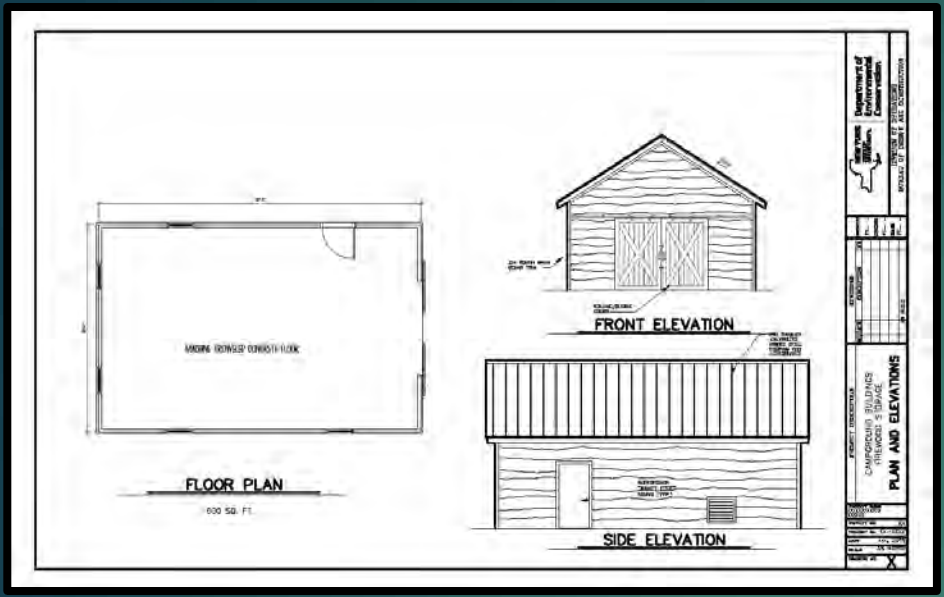


Comfort Station (8 showers)

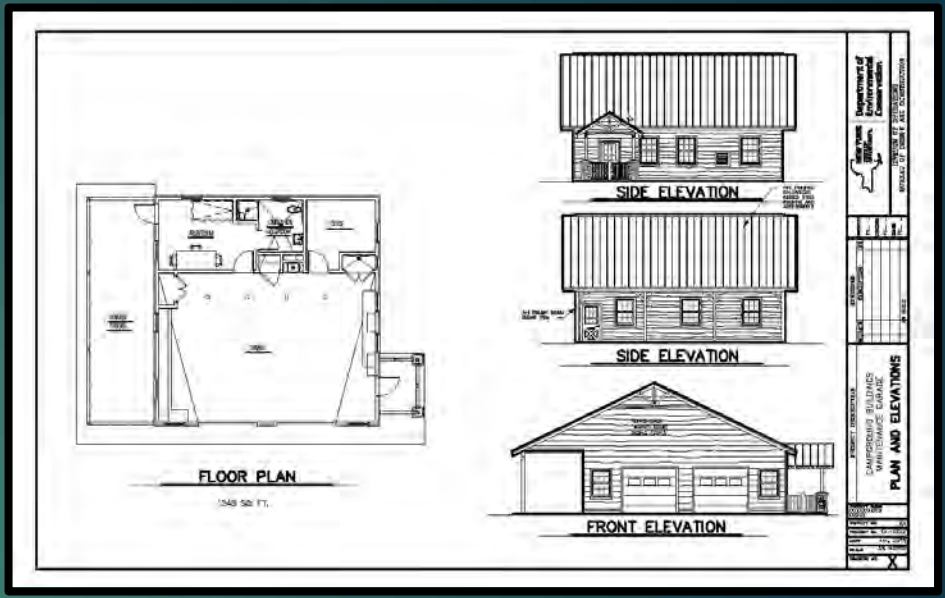


Entrance Booth

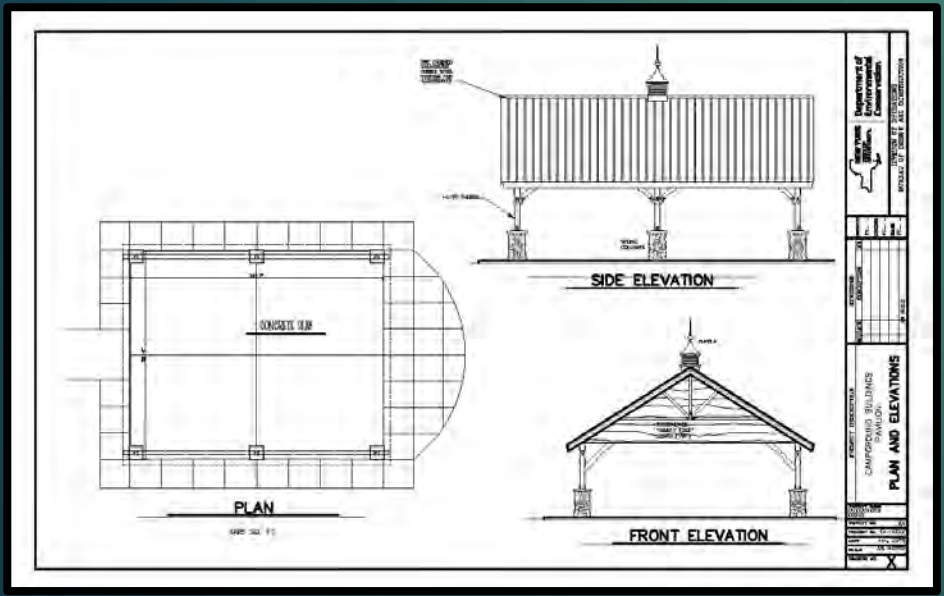
Typical Drawings



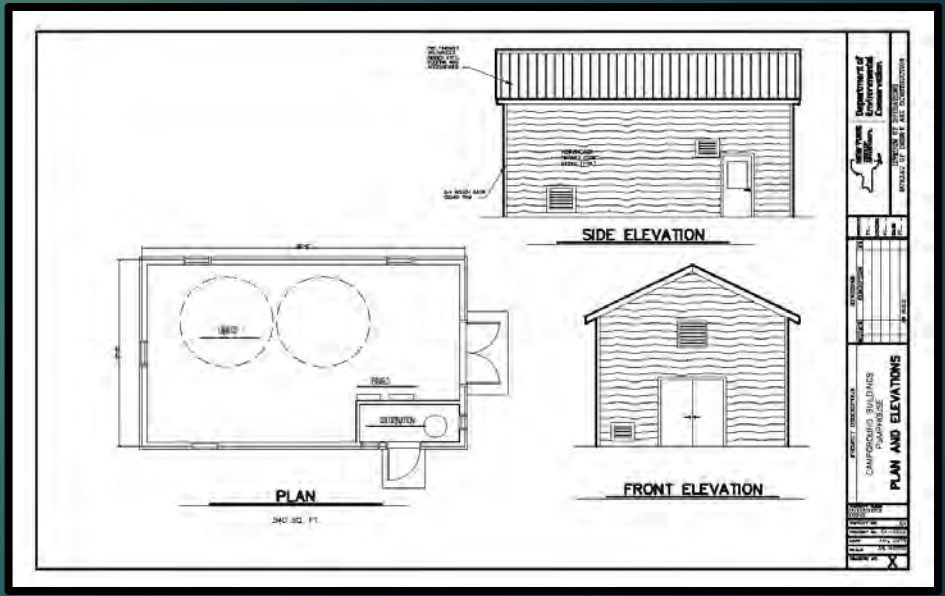
Firewood Storage Building



Garage

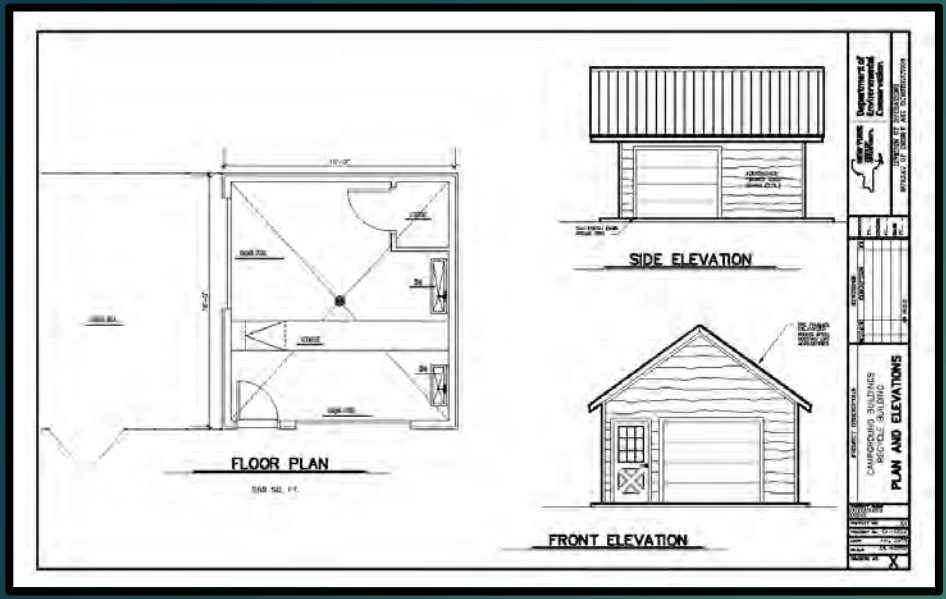


Pavilion

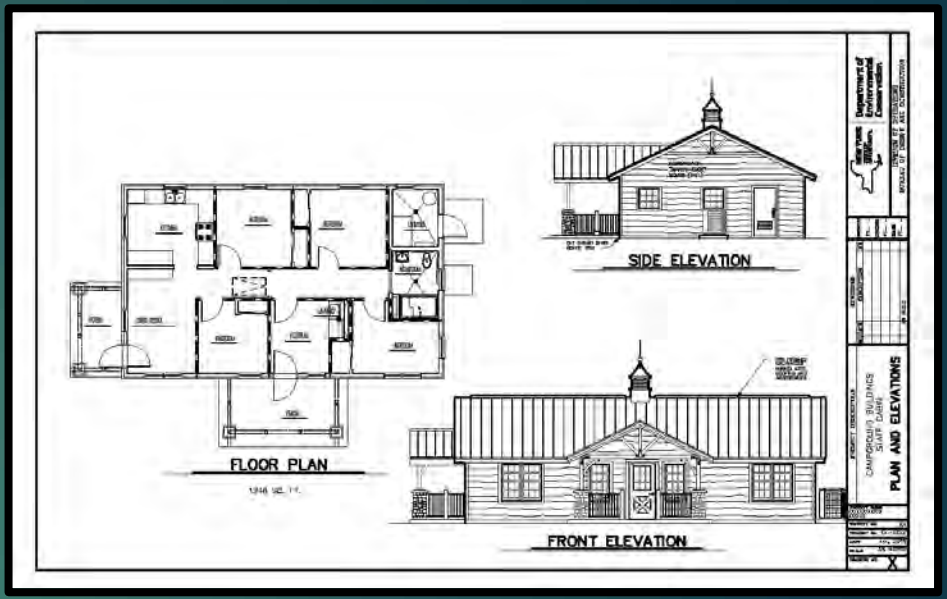


Pumphouse

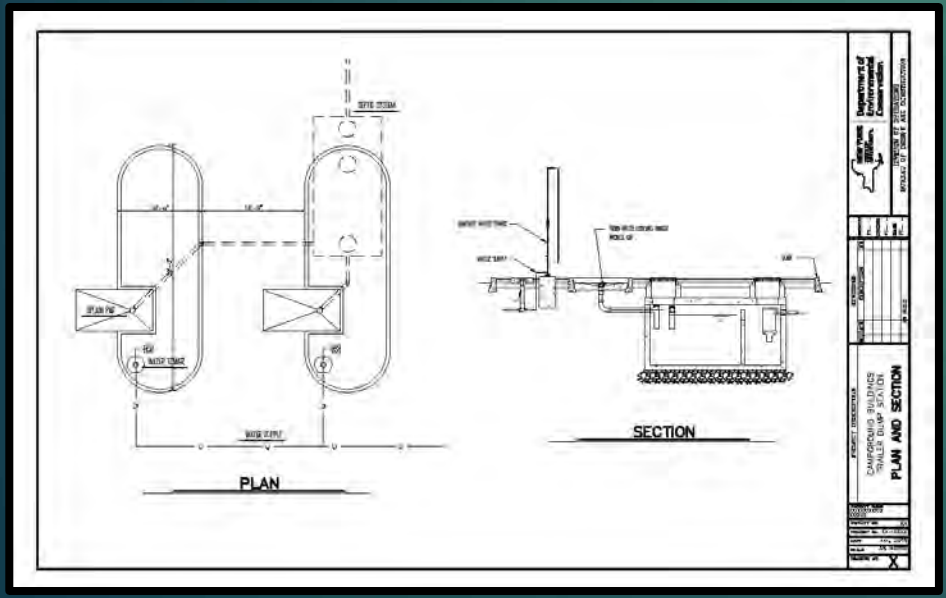
Typical Drawings



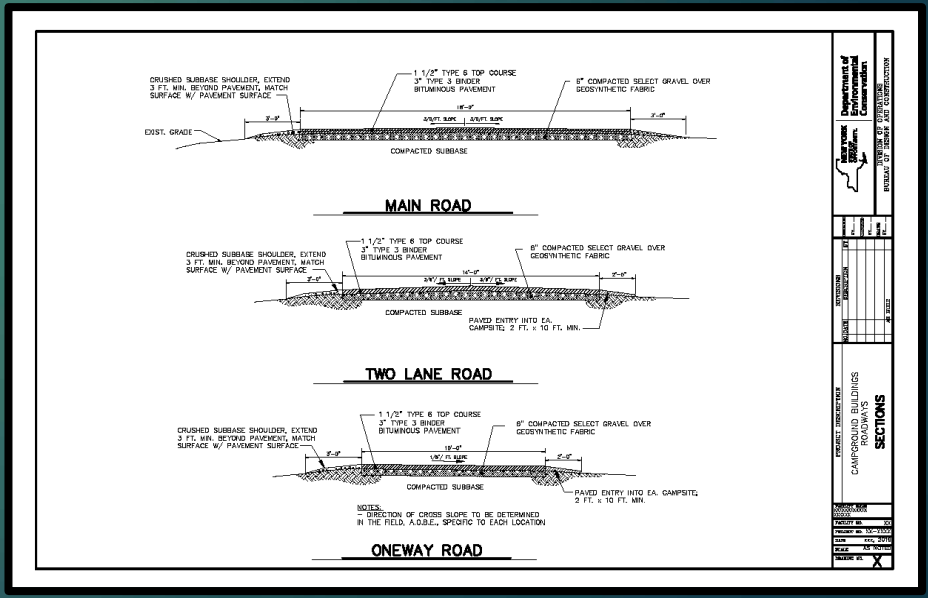
Recycle Building



Staff Housing



Trailer Dump Station



Road Cross Section

Typical Designs

Entrance Booth

Playground

Pavilion

Bathhouse-Comfort Station

Typical Designs

Shower and Toilet Building (Small)

Staff Housing

Shower and Toilet Building (Large)

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

May 21, 2020

Charles Vandrei
Agency Historic Preservation Officer
NYS Environmental Conservation
Division of Lands and Forests
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4255

Re: DEC
Redevelopment of Hinckley Reservoir Day Use Area as a Public Campground Project
South shoreline of the Hinckley Reservoir at Stormy Hill Road, Russia, Herkimer County, NY
20PR03123

Dear Charles Vandrei:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Division for Historic Preservation of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). We have reviewed the submitted materials in accordance with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 (section 14.09 of the New York Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law). These comments are those of the Division for Historic Preservation and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include potential environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8) and its implementing regulations (6NYCRR Part 617).

OPRHP concurs with your opinion that a Phase I Archaeological Survey is warranted for this project, in all areas that will involve ground disturbing impacts, including but not limited to: grubbing and grading, new roadways, paths, campgrounds, utility installment, structure construction, etc. Please use the Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) survey token accompanying this correspondence to submit the resulting report to our office for review.

If you have any questions, I can be reached via e-mail at Josalyn.Ferguson@parks.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Josalyn Ferguson, Ph.D.
Scientist Archaeology

via e-mail only

APPENDIX I to UMP

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT

Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(DGSEIS)

Name of Action: Adoption of Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan

Location: Town of Russia, Herkimer County, New York

SEQR Status: Type 1

Lead Agency: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Involved Agency: Adirondack Park Agency

Date of acceptance: _____ _____, 2020

Comments accepted until: October 1st , 2020 and may be submitted by mail or email to:

NYS DEC Bureau of Recreation
625 Broadway
Albany NY 12233

Prepared by Josh Houghton, Project Assistant, Division of Operations, DEC

For more information, contact: Joshua Houghton at (518) 457-2500 or campinfo@dec.ny.gov

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I. Introduction

A. Purpose

This is a combined draft supplemental generic environmental impact statement (DSGEIS) and draft Unit Management Plan to supplement the 1990 Generic Environmental Impact Statement for DEC Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas (1990 GEIS). The 1990 GEIS is a generic plan and contains an overview, discussion of the environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria that pertain universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill public campgrounds and special day--use classified Intensive Use Areas.

The purpose of the supplement is to address potentially significant impacts not adequately addressed in the 1990 GEIS for the proposed development of a campground, associated infrastructure, and related appurtenances at Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area (Hinckley DUA).

DEC prepared this DSGEIS pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR; ECL § 8-0101 et seq.) and its implementing regulations found in Part 617 of Title 6 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617). This DSGEIS analyzes the relevant areas of environmental concern resulting from the adoption of the amendment to the Hinckley DUA Unit Management Plan. A supplement to the final generic EIS must be prepared if the subsequent proposed action was not addressed or was not adequately addressed in the generic EIS and the subsequent action may have one or more significant adverse environmental impacts (6 NYCRR § 617.10). DEC has drafted this document to ensure a site-specific and thorough review of any potentially significant environmental impacts.

II. Description of Proposed Action, Public Need, and Benefits

A. Project Background

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) classified this unit as an Intensive Use Area pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Executive Law Article 27). Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act also requires the development of Unit Management

Plans by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) within the guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan approved by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in August 2019.

In accordance with its administrative management responsibility, DEC is charged with the duty to prepare the Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the Hinckley DUA.

Hinckley DUA is located on the south shore of Hinckley Reservoir. Existing amenities include picnic areas with tables, fireplaces, and charcoal grills, reservable pavilions; a swimming beach with bathhouse; and fishing and hiking opportunities. Some facilities are designed to accommodate campers with physical disabilities. Hinckley Reservoir covers approximately 4.46 square miles and is 6.6 miles in length. The Village of Barneveld, located 10 miles to the west, has many shops and services day-use visitors may require.

In 1964, monies from a New York State Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act were used to acquire lands that were intended to be developed into the Hinckley Public Campground, Day-Use Area, and Boat Launch Site. Portions of lots 14–17 of the Jerseyfield Patent in the Town of Russia totaling 475 acres were purchased by New York State. In December 1971, the New York State Department of Transportation issued a permit to DEC for the use of an additional 46 acres of property lying within the shoreline and the reservoir right-of-way line for the purpose of developing and maintaining Hinckley Reservoir Campground. The site is depicted in Exhibits 1–16 of the Unit Management Plan.

Construction of the Hinckley DUA began in mid-1967 with the clearing of roads for comfort stations, 150 campsites, a day-use area, and a boat launch site. Some portions of the camping area were completed, including one loop of 12 sites with one 8-unit comfort station and associated electric and water systems. A second adjacent loop of 13 sites was roughed out, but the remaining 125 sites, as originally planned, were not developed. At that time, funding for the campground and boat launch were delayed and completion was never realized. The remaining funds were used to complete the day-use area, which was opened to the public in 1973. Existing and proposed facility components are depicted in Exhibits 1–16 of the Unit Management Plan.

B. Project Summary

DEC proposes to complete development of and operate the Hinckley Public Campground. When completed, the facility will consist of up to 150 campsites and associated support facilities and infrastructure, in addition to the existing day-use area. It will be developed

consistent with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan Intensive Use Campground classification.

The proposed project will utilize existing facilities to the fullest extent possible and expand or formalize existing uses presently occurring at the site. The proposed project components are described in detail in Chapter IV of the Unit Management Plan and will involve rehabilitation of the existing site facilities and construction of new site improvements as explained below.

A campground facility will be completed at Hinckley DUA in the Town of Russia, County of Herkimer, providing a supervised bathing beach, 150 camping sites, family picnic sites, hand launch for access to water, vehicle access road and parking areas, a bathhouse convenient to the beach and waterfront picnic areas, four comfort stations convenient to the camping sites and a multiuse trail system for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

C. Existing Environmental Setting

The Hinckley DUA is located on the south shore of Hinckley Reservoir in the Town of Russia, Herkimer County. The entrance is on Stormy Hill Road, 0.7 mile north of the Hamlet of Grant, 3 miles east of the Village of Hinckley, and 22 miles north of the City of Utica. The facility is on portions of Lots 14–17 of the Jerseyfield Patent. The facility comprises 573 acres. A location map is provided in Exhibit 1 of the Unit Management Plan. The 127,000-acre Black River Wild Forest is located just north of Hinckley DUA and the 1,590-acre Hinckley State Forest is located just south of the Day-Use Area. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan classifies the Hinckley DUA site as intensive use/day-use area (see Exhibit #3 of the Unit Management Plan).

III. Potential Impacts and Mitigation

A. Geology

a. Subsurface Geology

Construction associated with this project is not expected to encounter bedrock, and no blasting or removal of bedrock is expected. There will be subsurface structures constructed such as building foundations, water lines, utility lines, septic systems, and drainage structures. These

facilities will be constructed in the soil overburden and are not expected to impact the subsurface geologic conditions.

b. Surface Geology

Soil associations consist primarily of Searsport-Pillsbury-Namburg-Chrogan-Beseman series over most of the unit. This series consists of very deep, poorly and somewhat poorly drained soils that formed in sandy deltaic or glaciofluvial deposits. These soils are on low sand plains and terraces. The use and vegetation of this series is predominantly wooded or idle. Much of the proposed construction occurs in the gravel and sandy soils, which are ideally suited for construction of buildings, pavements, and site improvements. The proposed project maximizes the use of the existing road system and existing facilities, which helps to reduce construction activity and soil disturbance. Site-specific plans will be developed to include erosion and sediment control components and will address stormwater runoff. The goal is to minimize erosion and protect watercourses and wetlands from sediment and other pollutants. Construction activities disturbing more than one acre will require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). These plans will be prepared in accordance with the DEC's SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges, to inform construction personnel of measures to be implemented for controlling runoff and pollutants from the site during and after construction activities.

Erosion control will include:

- Sediment control fencing will be installed along the downhill side of disturbed areas. The sediment control fencing will be inspected and maintained daily until the potential of soil loss has been eliminated;
- Straw bale filter dams will be installed in grass swales to reduce velocity of channel flow and to trap sediment; and
- Straw bale filter dams and filter fabric will be installed at all drainage inlets and maintained daily until the potential of soil loss has been eliminated.

Disturbed soil areas will be seeded with grass or planted and mulched as soon as practical. Steep slopes prone to "wash outs" will be stabilized with biodegradable erosion control netting.

Erosion control during operation can be essentially eliminated by proper design and construction of facilities.

- Areas prone to heavy foot traffic or vehicle traffic will be paved with asphalt or compacted gravel and crushed stone.
- Steep slopes will be planted with grass or ground cover that will establish dense root systems to stabilize the soils on these slopes.
- Site grading during construction will establish proper grades and drainage patterns to reduce potential for erosion.

Storm water runoff from parking areas and pavements will be collected in grass swales, dry wells, or infiltration trenches with controlled discharge/overflow to reduce velocity of surface runoff to reduce the threat of erosion.

c. Topography

Proposed facilities are in areas intended to minimize site grading. Some grading will be required to construct new trails and parking areas providing slopes that are easily accessible and maintainable.

B. Water Resources

a. Groundwater

Currently, there are two wells supplying potable water to the facility. A third well will be drilled to provide water supply to the C–G loops of the Hinckley Campground (see Exhibits 6 and 15g of the Unit Management Plan). The new well will be located to provide adequate separation from sewage disposal systems as required by the regulations of DEC and the New York State Department of Health (DOH).

On-site sewage disposal systems will be installed for each of the comfort stations, trailer dumping station, recycling center, and housing. The systems will be a conventional septic system consisting of a precast concrete septic tank and subsurface absorption system. On-site sewage disposal will require construction of septic systems with leach fields. The leach fields will be in existing sand soils, which are ideally suited for sewage disposal. The sewage disposal systems will be located to provide adequate separation from water wells, wetlands, groundwater, and surface water. All on-site sewage systems will be designed to comply with applicable DEC and DOH standards and guidelines.

b. Surface Water

The principal impact on water resources is the increase of stormwater runoff resulting from the construction of impervious surfaces, roofs, and parking areas. The total increase in impervious surfaces is 4.3 acres. The potential impact from increased runoff is minimized by the relatively small size and distribution of the impervious surface areas.

Stormwater drainage and runoff from parking areas will be collected in infiltration trenches. Capacity will be provided in the infiltration structures to collect a minimum of the first 0.5 inch of runoff, the "first flush," from parking surfaces. Collection of runoffs from parking areas will reduce the risk of vehicle pollutants carried by surface runoff into the nearby lake and wetlands.

Increased runoff may result in soil erosion and result and sedimentation in the lake and wetlands. This impact will be minimized by the following measures:

- Appropriate erosion control and sediment control measures will be implemented during construction as previously described. All land disturbed during construction outside of paved areas and buildings will be graded and seeded as soon as practical to establish vegetation to stabilize soils;
- To reduce risk of surface erosion, stormwater will be directed into collection systems for infiltration at each building and parking area. Drainage swales and ditches will be used minimally. Overflow from the drainage system will be directed into open meadow, grass areas, and natural depressions to reduce direct runoff to wetlands and the lake.

Stream crossings by new bridges or large culverts will be required in three locations. All crossings will be designed and constructed in conformance with applicable DEC standards and regulations. Bridges will comply with HL-93 live load standards as defined by the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Culverts will be designed for the 100-year storm based on Cornell's Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) rainfall data. Required permits and approvals will be obtained as part of the Joint Application through DEC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the APA prior to start of construction.

C. Air Resources

a. Air Quality

Smoke from campfires and picnic areas is not expected to impact adjoining private properties. The campsites are located to provide adequate separation from the residential area.

Temporary air emissions may result from road clearing, land-clearing equipment, delivery vehicles, and the tub grinder for processing cleared trees and brush. Some fugitive emissions of methane from septic tanks and tile fields at very low levels is unavoidable.

D. Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology

a. Vegetation

Tree removal will be necessary to provide adequate clearance for construction of campsites, trails, parking areas, and other facilities. Removal of trees will be minimized by utilizing existing roads, trails, and clearings to the fullest extent possible.

All tree cutting will be done in accordance with DEC's policy on Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Lands (LF-91-2), which requires a work plan including a tree count by species and size class of all trees that are 3″ dbh or more to be cut, removed, or destroyed. This work plan also describes measures to be taken to mitigate the impact on vegetative cover. Unutilized waste materials will be deposited at two locations noted on exhibit 14 of the draft UMP.

New planting of native trees will be implemented with the construction of new facilities to blend with the existing site character and to provide future tree cover. Planting of native trees will be implemented to provide privacy and screening between new campsites.

b. Wetlands

In the planning and layout of the facilities, DEC's major priority was avoiding disturbance to existing wetlands. DEC and the APA inventory, map, and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Within Hinckley DUA, there are four types of identified wetlands. There are 88 acres of palustrine wetlands, wetlands characterized by the presence of trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation (vegetation that is rooted below water but grows above the surface). There are 0.7 mile of upper perennial riverine linear wetlands, 0.15 mile of lower perennial riverine linear wetlands, and 0.8 mile of intermittent riverine wetlands. Both wetland types are found along the edges of streams and creeks and lakes.

Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet of them will require a permit from the APA. The APA will be consulted to determine whether a permit is needed prior to site disturbance in or adjacent to these designated wetland areas.

The varying topography and drainage patterns of the site create a patchwork of wetlands which are most heavily concentrated on the northern and southwestern portions of the intensive use area. As a result, proposed infrastructure has been located to avoid these areas and will require only minimal impacts.

A wetland permit will be required from the Adirondack Park Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for work within the wetlands. Final infrastructure location and design will be selected based on the minimum impact to the wetlands when more intensive site surveys are conducted.

c. Wildlife

The diverse wildlife habitat occurring at Hinckley DUA will be maintained. No rare, threatened, or endangered species or unique natural communities have been documented to exist within Hinckley Day-Use Area. Increased use of the facility may discourage some species; however, no significant impact is anticipated since the site is currently subject to formal and informal public use. In disturbed areas, it is expected that wildlife will disperse to the immediate peripheral and surrounding areas, including the 127,000-acre Black River Wild Forest, located just north of Hinckley Day-Use Area and 1,590-acre Hinckley State Forest, located to the south. Once the campground is operational, DEC staff will monitor patron-wildlife interactions. If specific issues arise, a targeted plan of action can be developed to address concerns.

d. Fisheries

No impact on the existing fishery of Hinckley Reservoir is anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

E. Noise

Noise will be generated during construction operations. This impact will be restricted to short periods to accomplish various phases of construction. All construction activities will be restricted to normal working hours during the day. No blasting will be required during construction.

Noise will also be generated during operation. Buffer areas will be provided along adjoining residential areas. Hinckley DUA facilities will only operate during normal day time schedules. Noise generated by the Campground will be consistent with normal lake activities such as boating and swimming and will not produce noise levels above normal ambient noise levels of waterfront residential use. Noise levels will be monitored and enforced by Park Rangers.

F. Land Use and Zoning

DEC does not expect that demand for support services or supplies generated by the proposed campground will significantly impact the surrounding land uses or change local community character. Some increase to or expansion of existing retail business could be expected. Current use and attendance reports project that many of anticipated visitors to the campground will be residents of Herkimer and Oneida Counties. The impact on land use, therefore, will be minimal. Some visitors to Hinckley Reservoir, especially visitors utilizing the campground, will make purchases from private merchants and restaurateurs in the local communities. Given the rural location of Hinckley Reservoir and the Town of Russia, it is expected that most visitors will bring necessary supplies for their visit out of convenience. As is evident at other DEC campgrounds, if local retail or supporting services options increase patrons will utilize them. Hinckley DUA is classified as an Intensive Use Area (IUA) under the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Campgrounds and their appurtenances are generally acceptable uses within and IUA classification. No changes to existing zoning will occur as a result of the project.

G. Community Services

a. Fire

Fire protection is provided by the Prospect Fire District, located approximately seven miles west and the Remsen Fire District, located approximately nine miles west. Existing service is adequate to service the campground.

b. Police

New York State Police and the Herkimer County Sheriff service the area. Existing service is adequate to service the campground.

Emergency services (paramedic and ambulance) are provided by Prospect Fire Department. Additionally, Kuyahoora Valley Ambulance, located in the Village of Poland, is equipped to handle emergencies. The nearest hospital is the Faxton-St. Luke's Hospital located 14 miles to the southwest by Route 365. Existing service is adequate to service the campground.

The Town of Russia has confirmed that they are equipped to handle emergency situations at the proposed campground.

c. Solid Waste and Recycling

Solid waste and recyclable materials will be collected from the campsites on a daily basis by DEC personnel. The "carry-in, carry-out" policy will be enforced at all day-use facilities. The 1990 GEIS Exhibit 4A identifies volumes of refuse generated at existing DEC campgrounds. Using the U.S. EPA Solid Waste Management Office's publication entitled *Solid Waste Management in Recreational Forest Area*, it indicates that 0.92 lb/visitor of waste is generated in campgrounds per day. Using program averages for occupancy and expected season length, when fully constructed, the facility is expected to generate 36 tons of garbage annually. This does not adjust for recycling or composting rates so the actual volume of garbage will be significantly less.

d. Electric and Telephone Utilities

Hinckley DUA is currently equipped with telephone utilities that will be extended to additional administrative buildings within the proposed plan. The main phone number for the facility is (315) 826-3800, and calls are only answered when the facility is open. The current electric system is described in section II.A.9 of the draft unit management plan. The project will extend National Grid Power Corporation electric service and incorporate on-site solar electric generation. Solar panels will be incorporated into site designs to minimize tree clearing or the need for additional structures. Solar power generation will be scaled to meet on-site power needs only and industrial-scale ground mount systems will not be considered for this site.

e. Water Supply

No municipal water supply is available. On-site wells and water supply are provided to visitors and will be extended as described in the plan. Currently there are two wells supplying potable water to the facility. A third well will be drilled to provide water supply to the C–G loops of the proposed campground. The new well will be located to provide adequate separation from sewage disposal systems as required by DEC and DOH regulations. Since the water supply is used by the general public, it is subject to DOH Standards of Public Water Supply. The proposed third well and treatment system must conform to DOH Standards for quantity and quality. DOH will also review the design and systems for the comfort stations and will issue general operating permits for these facilities.

f. Sewage Disposal

No municipal sewage disposal system is available. A DEC SPDES permit # NY-020-7098 covers the current systems described in section II.A.4 of the draft UMP. On-site sewage disposal will be installed for each of the comfort stations, trailer dumping station, recycling center and housing. The systems will be a conventional septic system consisting of a precast concrete septic tank and subsurface absorption system. The sewage disposal systems will be designed and reviewed for conformance with current DEC design standards for wastewater treatment works. Since both systems for the bathhouse and the comfort station are larger than 1,000 gallons per day (gpd) design flow, they are not subject to the Adirondack Park Agency's "Guidelines for On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems." The system will in no case be less than that required for the private sector and the leach fields will be located a minimum of 100 feet from the lake and wetlands. The systems will require a SPDES Permit from DEC for systems larger than 1,000 gpd but smaller than 10,000 gpd.

H. Transportation

Transportation to the site will be by private vehicles. No public transportation is available. Hinckley Day-Use Area is located on the south shore of Hinckley Reservoir in the Town of Russia, Herkimer County. The entrance is on Stormy Hill Road, 0.7 mile north of the Hamlet of Grant, 3 miles east of the Village of Hinckley, and 22 miles north of the City of Utica. Access from both the east and west is via Interstate 90, a major six-lane divided highway, and Route 12 from points north and south.

The day-use area has a parking capacity of 400 cars. When the facility was opened in 1973, the parking lot was often filled on the weekends. For the past 3 years, the daily average of vehicles on weekends has dropped to less than 40 cars per day without a single day of over 200 vehicles. This drop was partially the result of fluctuating water levels which resulted in beach closures, but also may partly be due to a general trend seen at most facilities of a decrease in interest in picnicking and swimming. With the construction of 150 campsites, up to 150 additional cars could arrive and depart on peak weekends but an increase in day-use is not anticipated. Even with the addition of camping, traffic levels on the busiest days should not exceed levels seen in the past.

Stormy Hill Road is a local, two-lane road that is partially closed during the winter months. The New York State Department of Transportation has recorded an Annual Average Daily

Traffic count of 153 vehicles with the adequate capacity to handle increased volume. Both Route 12 and Interstate 90 have much more than adequate capacity to handle the peak traffic generated by the proposed campground facility. Even at peak hours, the proposed facility will have little if any impact on the adjacent highway system.

I. Cultural Resources

a. Visual

The views of the site from Hinckley Reservoir and adjoining private property will be substantially unchanged. The proposed bathhouse and some of the camping sites will be partially visible. Replacement and modernization of the current day-use area buildings will result in minor visual change, albeit of a similar nature to what currently exists. Overall day-use area building count will be reduced and the new structures will have an Adirondack character, utilizing natural materials and earth-tone colors, consistent with the natural setting and other DEC campgrounds. New plantings of indigenous material will be installed around all structures, campsites in open areas, and parking lots. Other facility structures and camping sites will be set back from the shoreline to minimize visibility. Existing trees providing screening of the structures will be maintained, and additional trees will be planted to provide visual screening as necessary. Parking areas will be set back sufficiently from the lake to screen cars by intervening landforms and vegetation. Lighting will be used only as necessary for security and safety.

b. State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA)

Preliminary DEC staff investigation showed no historic or archeological resources at this site. However, the Agency Historic Preservation Officer and New York State Historic Preservation Office have requested a Phase 1 Cultural Resource Survey be conducted for any areas where ground disturbance will take place (see Exhibit#18). The project has been submitted to the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

J. Socioeconomic Factors

a. Population and Trends

The campground will provide local and regional recreational opportunities to the public. The operation of the campground will not impact the population trends of the surrounding communities.

b. Employment

The campground will provide 1 full-time management position and 10 full-time summer positions.

Visitors to the campground may purchase goods and services in the adjacent communities. DEC does not expect that jobs will be created as a result of this commerce; however, this additional revenue will support local businesses and existing employment.

c. Community Services

During operation, the increased activity and number of visitors to the campground may potentially result in an increased occurrence of emergency calls to local police, fire, and emergency units. Adequate community services exist to meet these needs. This increased demand on community services will be partially offset by the presence of DEC personnel who will be trained to respond to emergency situations. Alarms and emergency telephone connections to local emergency services will be installed at key locations throughout the facility.

K. Community Character

The campground will provide local and regional recreational opportunities to the public. Campground operations will not impact the character of the surrounding communities; in fact, it will support the character of the area by providing an increased number of recreational opportunities.

L. Related Short-term and Long-term Impacts

There are no reasonably related short-term and long-term impacts or cumulative impacts.

M. Adverse Environmental Impacts

There are no adverse environmental impacts that cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated if the proposed action is implemented. Temporary noise impacts associated with construction are discussed in section III.D. above.

N. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Environmental Resources

The only such impact of irreversible and irretrievable commitments of environmental resources that would be associated with the proposed action, should it be implemented, are the removal of approximately 20–30 acres of existing trees to accommodate grading and construction of proposed facilities, which is discussed below.

O. Growth-inducing Aspects

While the surrounding community and local merchants may see a slight economic boost by overnight patrons, the development of a campground will not have direct growth-inducing impacts of the proposed action. The potential for the increase in solid waste is discussed in section III.G.c above.

P. Impacts Related to the Use of Energy or on Climate Change

There are no potentially significant impacts related to the use and conservation of energy or on measures to avoid or reduce impacts on climate change. As discussed in the UMP, DEC intends to explore the use of solar panels and install electric-vehicle charging stations. Campsite location and facility design will incorporate best management practices to minimize environmental impact and energy consumption. Building plans and materials are intended to meet or exceed all applicable energy efficient standards. In addition, DEC strives to incorporate green infrastructure and technology wherever possible as evident in other recent department projects.

IV. Potential Benefits of the Proposed Action

The campground compliments the recreational base of the Utica area and the Adirondack Park and will add to the enjoyment of the local residents and visitors.

V. Potential Impacts Not Considered Significant

Removal of approximately 20–30 acres of existing trees will be necessary to accommodate grading and construction of proposed facilities. Estimated tree removal for campsites will total 9.6 acres for 150 campsites, affording adequate space for camping equipment, providing clearance from fireplaces to assure fire safety, and allowing for parking at sites. Estimated tree removal for new road construction will total 8.6 acres, allowing adequate width for roadway, drainage ditches, and a buffer from brush and limbs. Estimated tree removal for new buildings and associated parking, including a boat launch, will total 1.2 acres, providing adequate clearing around footprints of buildings and parking areas. Estimated tree removal for new septic tanks and tile fields totals 1 acre. Modern wastewater treatment design and techniques will be utilized, but actual sizing will be determined when percolation tests are completed. Trees removed to accommodate improvements will be used for firewood or for landscaping and vegetation protection structures. Stumps will be removed or ground flush with grade if they

present a safety hazard or interfere with construction. All limbs and brush will be chipped and composted, dispersed, or utilized wherever appropriate. An actual count of trees that will be removed will take place prior to cutting and clearing. All tree cutting will be done in accordance with DEC's policy on Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Lands (LF-91-2), which requires a work plan including a tree count by species and size class of all trees 3" DBH or more to be cut, removed, or destroyed. This work plan also describes measures to be taken to mitigate the impact on vegetative cover. Unutilized waste materials will be deposited at two locations noted on exhibit 14 of the Hinckley DUA Draft Unit Management Plan.

VI. Alternatives

Campground Development: Alternatives to the proposed action consider by DEC include:

A. The No Action alternative of maintaining the facility as it exists;
B. The action proposed by the Conservation Department (now DEC) in 1967 in the original plan for Hinckley Reservoir involving a more intensive use;
C. A half-scale plan involving a less intensive use; and
D. A larger-scale alternative.

A. No Action alternative

The current use of the site allows limited access to the site by the public. Outside of the day-use area, the site is relatively unknown, and the use is limited. No action will eliminate the environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action; however, the unsupervised use of both the developed and undeveloped portions of the intensive use area has created problems such as:

- Sanitation issues, including litter, human waste, and garbage, resulting from lack of facilities and vandalism of facilities;
- Aging infrastructure in need of modernization to current needs, design standards, accessibility, and health code regulations;
- Overuse of waterfront areas. Unauthorized camping and use are concentrated around the beach area and Price's Point bluffs, resulting in loss of shoreline screening and vegetation, soil compaction, and soil erosion;
- Tree cutting for firewood;
- Use of trails and open areas by ATVs and motor bikes; and

- Vandalism of the vacant buildings and trees.

Continuing the current use will allow the problems to continue and possibly worsen.

B. The original design for Hinckley Reservoir Campground

The 1967 plan included a beach area, group and family picnic facilities with shelters and comfort stations, camping, boat launch, trails, and a bathhouse. Construction of the facility began in mid-1967 with the clearing of roads. Some portions of the camping area were completed, including one loop of 12 sites with one 8-unit comfort station and associated electric and water systems. A second adjacent loop of 13 sites was roughed out, but the remaining 125 sites, as originally planned, were never developed. At that time, funding for the campground and boat launch were delayed and completion was never realized. The remaining funds were used to complete the day-use area, which was opened to the public in 1973.

The 1967 plan would not be appropriate based on modern design requirements, regulations, and natural resource protection standards. For example, the 1967 plan did not consider the weight of wetlands impacts as is done today.

- The 1967 plan would result in the loss of an increased area of wetland and emergent marsh.
- The original layout of the campground loops required a higher number of comfort stations, leach fields, and associated site clearing for camper use, whereas the current proposed plan seeks to minimize user and environmental impact.
- Larger topographic alterations and site grading would result if road and campsites were located as described in the original plan.

C. Half-scale alternative.

A half-scale alternative to the proposed preferred alternative in the Hinckley DUA UMP would be to reduce the campsite count to 75 sites. This alternative would not be practical from a natural resource disturbance, economic feasibility, or capital investment perspective, although it would decrease overall spatial impact over the preferred alternative. Due to the spatial separation of the proposed camping area from the day-use area under both alternatives, simply scaling down the campsite count by half would not result in a proportionate decrease in site disturbance, infrastructure development, or capital investment. DEC design standards and DOH regulations would still require the expansion of potable water, wastewater treatment, and utility systems in

addition to staff housing, a dumping station, and a recycling center regardless of the number of sites. This alternative also poses an economic viability concern. Programmatically, on average, campgrounds that are less than 150 campsites are not financially self-supporting. Costs associated with staffing, maintenance, and required infrastructure cannot be covered by facility revenue under current operating conditions.

D. A larger scale alternative

The acreage available at Hinckley DUA could allow for a much larger scale campground. The most profitable campgrounds operated by DEC average 300 campsites. These facilities maximize economies of scale and have revenues that support their operating costs. While revenue generated would support the Division of Operations, Bureau of Recreation program goals, a campground this size and its associated increase in environmental impacts and user density would not be preferred.

E. Proposed Action.

The proposed action represents a plan to meet the public demands to use the site and to resolve the current concerns with the existing facility. At 150 campsites, the economy of scale would be most beneficial to the program's goals and ensure that resources expended would fit expected use and revenue generated. Sanitation problems will be eliminated with the construction of the comfort stations. Facilities will be designed and constructed to meet the demands and projected use. Supervision and public use of the facility will reduce vandalism and use by unauthorized vehicles. The project is consistent with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, complements private enterprises and provides a facility to allow the public use and enjoyment of the unit while preserving the natural character of the unit and its surrounding environmental setting.