Hinckley Reservoir Day Use Area

Public Scoping Session

November 29th 2018
Hinckley Reservoir Day Use Area
Hinckley Day Use Area Location Overview
Hinckley Reservoir Day Use Area

- Town of Russia, Herkimer County
- 521 Acres
- 20 Developed acres
- Day Use Area Capacity 1,350
- Beach Access on Hinckley Reservoir
- 3 Pavilions
- Volleyball and basketball courts
Hinckley Reservoir Day Use Area
Early History

• 1816 - First settlers arrived in what today is known as the hamlet of Grant just south of the day-use area boundary. Farming and lumbering were the principal occupations and later cheese and butter making.

• In 1903 - The New York State legislature authorized construction of the Barge Canal as an improvement of the Erie Canal.

• 1915 - The dam creating Hinckley Reservoir was completed supplying water to the enlarged canal. Reservoir is 6.5 miles long and 2,800 acres in surface area.

• 1931 - The State legislature approved a major expansion of the blue line increasing the Adirondacks Park size by over 2 million acres. This area included most of Hinckley Reservoir and all of today’s day use area.
Hinckley Reservoir Day Use Area
1906 Map With Future Park Overlay
Hinckley Reservoir Day Use Area
Recent History

- 1964 - Funds from a NYS Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act were used to acquire 475 acres intended to be developed into the Hinckley Public Campground, Day Use Area and Boat Launch Site.

- 1967 - Construction of the facility began. 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. Additional 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.

- 1971 - The NYS 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 Campsite.
Hinckley Reservoir Day Use Area
Recent History

• 1973 – The day use area was opened to the public.

• Today - In addition to providing water based recreation to visitors, the reservoir provides drinking water to 130,000 people in the greater Utica area, provides water for the barge canal and is a source of hydropower.
Hinckley Day Use Area
Exhibit #3 - Orthoimagery Map
Hinckley Reservoir Attendance & Revenue

- Average persons per vehicle - 3.1
- Average vehicles/ day - 21
- 5 busiest days in 2018
  1. July 4 – 183 vehicles
  2. July 1 – 102 vehicles
  3. August 5 – 95 vehicles
  4. June 30 - 83 vehicles
  5. August 4 – 71 vehicles

- # of Vehicles by month in 2018
  May – 48
  June – 291
  July – 806
  August – 420
  September – 51

- Most visitors are from the Utica and local area

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<th>Auto</th>
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<th>Walk In</th>
<th>Picnic Shelter</th>
<th>Empire Passport</th>
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<td>Avg</td>
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<td>$1,013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg</td>
<td>5,327</td>
<td>572</td>
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Survey of Hinckley Day Use Users
Conducted in 1986 (107 responses)

1. How often do you use the Hinckley Day Use Facility?
   1st time 36%, 2-6 times 48%, 7-10 times 7%, over 10 times 10%

2. Where are you visiting from?
   Utica 37%, New Hartford 8%, Other locations included Rome, Verona and local area.

3. What other facilities would you use if available at the facility?
   Hiking trails 74%, Camping 73%, Cross-country skiing 53%
   Rental cabins 53%, Concessions 12%, Boat rentals 12%
Hinckley Reservoir Proposed Mgt. Actions from 2003 Draft Plan

<table>
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<th>Proposed Management Action</th>
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<td>1. Develop boat launching facility.</td>
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<td>2. Construct 150 campsites</td>
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<td>3. Construct amphitheater</td>
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<td>4. Construct nature trail</td>
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</table>
Hinckley Reservoir
Draft Concept Plan
2018
Thank You

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