



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Barbara Rice
Executive Director

FROM: Megan Phillips
Deputy Director of Planning

DATE: June 2, 2022

RE: Staff Review of the Proposed Final 2022 Amendment to the Generic Campgrounds and Day Use Areas UMP for Watercraft Decontamination Stations

State lands staff have reviewed the proposed final draft of the 2022 amendment to the Generic Campgrounds and Day Use Areas Unit Management Plan (UMP) for Watercraft Decontamination Stations. The original generic UMP and GEIS were adopted in August 1990. This updated Plan will allow for permanent placement of watercraft decontamination facilities which typically include storage buildings for equipment, water collection pads, and vehicle trailer access improvements.

Negative impacts resulting from the presence of invasive species on aquatic ecological communities are well documented, and some of these species have become established within or adjacent to campground facilities. Campgrounds and day use areas often function as a base for users of nearby water bodies, and the directive to protect these resources is a critical component of the State Land Master Plan. The permanent installation and utilization of watercraft decontamination stations at these sites improves the Department's capacity to protect the Adirondack Park's robust network of water bodies that are available for the recreating public to enjoy.

Intensive use areas are well developed sites and the State Land Master Plan allows for the type of storage buildings described in the UMP amendment. The Department has articulated criteria for the siting, construction, and maintenance of watercraft decontamination facilities in a manner that is in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park and consistent with the Intensive Use land classification of campgrounds and day use areas. Such criteria include but are not limited to the avoidance of wetland areas, minimizing extensive topographic alterations, limiting vegetative clearing, and ensuring a setback of 150 feet from the mean high watermark and adequate screening from view by those who are using the waterbody.

The Agency is prepared to consult with the Department on any site-specific modifications that may need to be made on a case-by-case basis.

Four public comments were received during the joint public comment, all of which offered support for the proposed amendment. No changes were made to the amendment based on these comments.

In staff's opinion, the proposed final 2022 amendment to the Generic UMP for Campgrounds and Day Use Areas for Watercraft Decontamination Stations, dated April 2022, conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.