



## Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)

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(518) 576-2082 . PO Box 65 . Keene Valley, NY . 12943

[www.adkinvasives.com](http://www.adkinvasives.com)

Megan Phillips  
Adirondack Park Agency  
P.O. Box 99 Ray Brook, NY 12977

April 4, 2022

Re: Amendment to the generic UMP for campgrounds

Dear Ms. Phillips,

On behalf of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), hosted by The Nature Conservancy, I am writing in support of the Draft Watercraft Decontamination Facilities Amendment to the Generic Unit Management Plan for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas. Siting decontamination stations at New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) campgrounds and day-use areas is an important and cost-effective way to protect NYS's aquatic resources.

APIPP is one of eight Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management across NYS. Our mission is to protect the Adirondack region from the negative impacts of invasive species. APIPP has worked in partnership with NYSDEC to steward campgrounds and day-use areas through monitoring and managing invasive species.

These campgrounds and day-use areas are some of our most visible recreation areas drawing over a million visitors a year. Many of these visitors come from across New York and the entire northeast region where aquatic invasive species (AIS) are prevalent. Therefore, it is critically important to have facilities to decontaminate watercraft to reduce the likelihood of AIS spread and protect our waterbodies.

Siting the decontamination stations at campgrounds and day-use areas makes it easy for boaters to follow the legally required clean, drain, dry practices to prevent the spread of AIS. APIPP fully supports the proposed amendment and allowing the building of infrastructure including electricity, water, drainage, and sheds to store equipment. The proposed amendment will enable the increased use of decontamination stations and make them more cost effective to run.

We fully support and applaud the NYSDEC for proposing the amendment to make these needed improvements and streamline the process for construction and placement of decontamination facilities.

Sincerely,

*Brian T. Greene*

Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator | [brian.greene@tnc.org](mailto:brian.greene@tnc.org) | 518-576-2082

**From:** [Marcus Harazin](#)  
**To:** [SLMP\\_UMP\\_Comments@apa.ny.gov](mailto:SLMP_UMP_Comments@apa.ny.gov); [dec.sm.CampInfo](#)  
**Cc:** [Jglennmd@gmail.com](mailto:Jglennmd@gmail.com); [Scott Horton](#); [Linda Gilbert](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on WATERCRAFT DECONTAMINATION FACILITIES AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Saturday, April 2, 2022 7:32:31 AM

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## **Attention:**

Josh Houghton ESP2 (NR)  
Bureau of Recreation  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Megan Phillips, Deputy Director of Planning  
Adirondack Park Agency

April 1, 2022

I am writing comments on behalf of the Town of Caroga regarding the request for public comments for the proposed amendment to the Final Generic UMP for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas which would allow the construction and placement of Invasive Species decontamination facilities and provide guidelines related to the siting criteria and structure specifications.

The Town of Caroga has an invasive species program that is a gateway program for boaters using Routes 10 and 29A. The program includes include two components:

-a Boat Inspection and Decontamination Program which includes boat inspection stations at the DEC Fishing Access launch at DEC's West Lake Fishing Access site at Canada Lake and the East Caroga Campsite. It also includes a regional boat decontamination hot wash station (which uses the pressure washer obtained with the assistance of the Fulton County Soil and Water District). It is located across from our Town Hall on routes 10 and 29A. The Town's program inspects watercraft, determines the waterway of origin, educates boaters about invasive species, and provides a free heated pressure treated wash to decontaminate potentially infected water craft and fishing equipment.

In 2022, our program had 5,047 visitors and logged in boaters from 94 different waterways. Most of these waterways contained invasive species. This underscores the need for the program which serves as an accessible gateway program for boaters using routes 10 and 29A to access lakes in Caroga and nearby Towns, as well as southern Adirondacks.

-the Town's Weed Removal Program which includes a Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) program for East Caroga and West Caroga Lakes. The program is coordinated by a Weed Removal Director and uses teams of divers and tenders which remove, dewater, and dispose of Eurasian milfoil that has invaded these lakes. This program has been run for approximately 20 years by the Town.

These efforts are made possible through a major investment of scarce Town resources and contributions from the Canada Lake Conservation Association. We have also been able to strategically utilize AIS grant funding from DEC. The Town coordinates with the boat inspection station at the State Campsite at East Caroga Lake which is staffed by AWI (note AWI also provides some limited staffing coverage at the West Lake inspection station). Our handles boater traffic flowing east and west through our Town as well as north to lakes in Hamilton County. We have long partnered with DEC in all of these efforts to assure coordination, avoid duplication and make the best use of Town and State resources.

Proposed Amendment : Our Town is pleased to see that DEC is updating the UMP to allow for construction of permanent structures to house and store boat decontamination equipment. We are supportive of this proposed change. This will assure that any state decontamination stations are able to be operated and stored properly. In our area this would include the Northampton station to our west on Sacandaga and the facilities for Piseco and Pleasant Lake to our north. It will also assure that any such facilities are constructed in an environmentally sound manner to prevent any runoff and limit the impact on the surrounding area. It would also include any such structure if one was to be sited at

the East Caroga Campground.

We urge the DEC to continue to coordinate with our Town and partners, including AWI, APIPP, APA, and the lake associations in our area in any activities that involve the prevention, detection, and removal of aquatic invasive species in our Town. It is critical to have centrally located and readily accessible decontamination facilities in our Town to assure that we can control AIS. It is also imperative that the state continue to help support our efforts if we are to continue our success.

We look forward to working closely with you.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Submitted by:

Marcus Harazin  
Caroga Lakes Management Committee  
(518)928-7525  
[marcusharazin@gmail.com](mailto:marcusharazin@gmail.com)

cc: Scott Horton, Town Supervisor  
Jack Glenn, Town Board/Chair of Lakes Management Committee  
Linda Gilbert, Town Clerk

# Upper Saranac Foundation

*It still is, and always will be, about Water Quality.*



P.O. Box 564  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

[www.usfoundation.net](http://www.usfoundation.net)

March 28, 2022

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Josh Houghton, EPS2 (NR)  
NYS DEC Bureau of Recreation  
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-5253  
[campinfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:campinfo@dec.ny.gov)

RE: Generic UMP for Campgrounds

As the President of the Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) I am writing to you to comment on the proposed Watercraft Decontamination Facilities Amendment for Campgrounds.

As background, the USF is a nonprofit, science guided advocacy organization that addresses threats to the natural character, environmental quality, and recreational enjoyment of the Upper Saranac Lake Watershed. The USF is an advocate for water quality and the protection of the Saranac watershed which includes the Fish Creek Public Campground.

The USF appreciates the time and efforts of the Department to streamline the process for construction and placement of decontamination facilities at campgrounds. As stewards of the watershed, the USF understands that any watercraft entering campgrounds can be a vector for the transport and the introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

It is well known that Fish Creek Campground in Region 5 is the largest, most popular, and greatest revenue generating NYSDEC campground in the state. Data shows that return visitation to Campground is exceptionally high. This is undoubtedly because of the Campground's pristine water and recreational access to miles of open water that include the 5,000-acre Upper Saranac Lake (USL). The challenge is that nearly all sites have direct water access and that any boat entering has the potential to bring AIS.

Data collected from Watershed Stewards stationed at the Campground boat launch supports the need for additional AIS spread prevention measures. In 2021, Stewards at Fish Creek Campground inspected 1,746 boats and intercepted eight watercraft carrying AIS. Boats came from 86 different waterways, with the majority from waterways containing AIS.

The USF has a long history of advocating and partnering with the DEC for the protection of the watershed for the benefit of its users. This includes ongoing spread prevention and management of AIS. Since beginning harvesting efforts of AIS from Fish Creek Campground in 2016, over 29 tons of milfoil has been removed by the USF. Another



example of this partnership is USF's purchase of a decontamination unit and storage shed for the NYSDEC Upper Saranac Lake Public Boat Launch. This is the location that recently intercepted Hydrilla from entering the watershed.

The USL, USF decontamination unit is the Landa PHW. With proper infrastructure (electricity, water, and drainage) this unit is much more practical, quieter, requires less maintenance, and is a quarter of the cost of a Landa ECOS 7000 that was featured in the APA presentation. The Landa PHW unit also requires less storage space than proposed 20'x16' storage buildings.

While the USF supports the Amendment to Campgrounds for permanent Watercraft Decontamination Facilities, we would encourage the DEC to consider including infrastructural needs for decontamination units such as the Landa PHW in the Generic UMP amendment.

AIS management methods in the Upper Saranac Watershed have become a model for AIS prevention and education. Building on this success, the USF believes that Fish Creek Campground would be an ideal location for such a decontamination unit.

The USF hopes to continue to collaborate in developing and implementing further AIS spread prevention measures for the Fish Creek Campground for the benefit of the watershed.

Sincerely,



Tom Swayne  
President, Upper Saranac Foundation  
PO Box 564  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

cc.  
Megan Phillips, Deputy Director Planning  
Adirondack Park Agency  
P.O. Box 99  
Ray Brook, NY 12977  
[SLMP\\_UMP\\_Comments@apa.ny.gov](mailto:SLMP_UMP_Comments@apa.ny.gov)



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Josh Houghton  
NYS DEC Bureau of Recreation  
625 Broadway, Albany NY 12233-5253

March 31, 2022

Re: Amendment to the generic UMP for campgrounds

Dear Mr. Houghton,

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Sincerely,

*Brian T. Greene*

Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator | [brian.greene@tnc.org](mailto:brian.greene@tnc.org) | 518-576-2082

**From:** [dec.sm.CampInfo](mailto:dec.sm.CampInfo)  
**To:** [Dan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comment on boat decontamination equipment structures  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 3:44:22 PM

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**Thank you for your interest in DEC campgrounds. Your comments on the Draft Amendment to the Generic Unit Management Plan for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas have been received and will be reviewed once the public comment period ends. After all public comments are reviewed the Generic Unit Management Plan will be finalized and posted on the DEC Campgrounds website.**

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**From:** Dan <[gorkedan1@aol.com](mailto:gorkedan1@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2022 2:49 PM  
**To:** [dec.sm.CampInfo](mailto:dec.sm.CampInfo) <[CampInfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:CampInfo@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Cc:** [coachbobh@verizon.net](mailto:coachbobh@verizon.net)  
**Subject:** Comment on boat decontamination equipment structures

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Dear Josh Houghton,

The PARADOX LAKE ASSOCIATION supports the construction of storage structures for boat decontamination equipment at state campgrounds. Our association currently expends funds for the purchase and maintenance of a tent structure on NYS Route 74 in the Town of Schroon, Essex County. Our limited resources could be better deployed toward the direct control of invasives already present in Paradox Lake. A decontamination facility located at the Paradox Lake State Campground would be a more effective location than the current one provides.

Further, we hope this could be the beginning of NYS DEC taking a more proactive, comprehensive, and hands-on role in containing the spread of aquatic invasives in NYS waterways. The current model of lake associations leading the battle, with limited resources, is yielding questionable results.

Sincerely,  
Dan Gorke, President  
Paradox Lake Association

Dan Gorke  
23 Idlewild Way  
Paradox, NY 12858  
C: 518-703-3574  
[GorkeDan1@aol.com](mailto:GorkeDan1@aol.com)