

FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

**Fiscal Year 2026
Project # CO-WP-415**

<u>Region</u> 6	<u>Project Title</u> 2026 Horseshoe Lake Accessible Campsite Improvements
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<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Town(s)</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Management Unit</u>
Modification of Existing Structure/Improvement	Piercefield	St. Lawrence	Bog River UMP

Description of Existing and Desired Condition(s) for Project

Existing Conditions

Page 50 of the Bog River Unit Management Plan (UMP) 2002 states more than one campsite on Horseshoe Lake [will meet] accessibility requirements. Many features within Campsite 8 no longer meet ADA/ABA standards: The parking space lacks adequate width and the surface is vegetated and covered with organic debris; The surface within the site is covered with organic debris and has several exposed roots that exceed the one inch obstacle height tolerance; There is not a tent pad with a firm and stable surface; The fire pit lacks a hardened, firm and stable surface with adequate width (48 inches) and the fire building surface is less than the required nine inch minimum height above ground; And the path to the privy is unusable if the parking space is occupied.

These conditions created an unpleasant experience for people with mobility disabilities. The site was removed from DEC’s list of accessible features in 2023.

Desired Conditions

The desired condition for Campsite 8 is to provide a positive visitor experience for all users, including people with mobility disabilities. The rehabilitation of Campsite 8 will address the site’s shortcomings to meet ADA/ABA standards by creating hardened, firm and stable surfaces of appropriate widths that are free of obstacles in areas such as the parking space, access routes, fire ring, and tent pad. The campsite will retain its undeveloped character by limiting features to a minimum.

Description of Project Specifications

Campsite 8 will be upgraded to ADA standards (see map for location). The site is located off Otter Brook Road in Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest, and its intended for car or RV camping. See the attached design for more detail.

Campsite 8



Remove topsoil (+/- 11.2 yds³) in areas receiving crushed stone. Grade and level mineral soil to achieve 2% slope. Install geotextile fabric. Spread 16 cubic yards of 3/8-inch minus crushed stone in accessible areas and compact. Shoulder the stone with stripped topsoil where necessary. Using boulders found onsite, create obstructions so vehicles cannot block accessible aisle. Install concrete anchors for both an accessible fire ring and an accessible picnic table. Using +/- 2 cubic yards of 3/8" minus stone, repair the existing parking area. Ensure the existing accessible privy and landing is free of damage.

Description of Measures Taken to Avoid, Mitigate and Minimize Impacts to Natural Resources

Significant Earthwork

The proposed accessible upgrades will displace approximately 11.2 cubic yards of topsoil. Soil will primarily be used to shoulder the accessible surfaces. Any additional soil will be taken to another area of Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest to be used as a motorized vehicle barricade.

It should be noted, the disturbed topsoil at Campsite 8 is being removed from an area within the existing campsite footprint. The area has been impacted by years of typical front country car-camping use and the soil has been compacted as a result. The soil being disturbed will not be a loss of biodiversity or change the appearance of the area in any significant way.

Tree Cutting

No tree cutting is proposed for this project.

Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives

Location

There are eleven (11) campsites along Otter Brook Road in Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest numbered 1 through 11. Law requires at least two of these sites be ADA compliant. Campsite 8 immediately presents a good candidate for additional upgrades because it was designated accessible by the Bog River UMP, it has sufficient space for a larger tent pad and already has an accessible privy over 150' from the nearest waterbody. The remaining ten sites were evaluated for their environmental impact and recreational potential. Ultimately, Campsite 4 was chosen for its location, size, and topography. A separate work plan will be developed to upgrade Campsite 4 as it requires further review by the Adirondack Park Agency.

Design

According to page 50 of the UMP, "fire-rings and picnic tables will be installed [at all campsites on Horseshoe Lake]." The APSLMP states picnic tables are conforming structures in wild forest areas (p.37). Additional picnic table guidance is provided in the DEC APA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Appendix I, which lays out the following steps to determine when picnic tables are justifiable for inclusion in a campsite footprint.

1. Describe the situation that may prompt an action and describe how the action will address a problem or issue.

Campsite 8 is a designated accessible campsite that does not meet accessibility standards. To address the issue, DEC will harden surfaces and add accessible elements like a fire ring and picnic table. Such measures will make the site more inviting to people with disabilities and bring the site into compliance with the UMP.

2. Describe alternative measures that could be undertaken to resolve the issue(s).

- (a) One alternative is only hardening campsite surfaces and not adding any constructed accessible elements. This creates an inconsistency with all the other non-accessible campsites as they all have fire pits. It also opens up the possibility of campers creating their own fire pit where-ever they see fit, potentially degrading the resource.*
- (b) Another alternative would be hardening surfaces and adding only an accessible fire pit. This alternative would be consistent with other sites in the facility and meet accessibility requirements. However, Chapter 10 of the US Access Board's Guide to the ABA Accessibility Standards (the Guide) states "[d]esigners, owners, and operators are encouraged, but are not required, to exceed the minimum requirements where possible to provide increased accessibility and opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy trails and other outdoor developed areas." To not provide a picnic table would reduce the site's accessibility and creates an unnecessary hardship. Without a picnic table, people who depend on a wheelchair for transportation would not have a firm surface for preparing meals or performing other basic functions requiring a table. Plus, without a designated table surface, campers are more likely to disperse themselves throughout the site, increasing the overall campsite footprint.*
- (c) The third, preferred alternative is hardening surfaces and adding an accessible fire-ring and picnic table. Accessibility is maximized in this scenario, and the site would conform with the UMP, APSLMP, and the Guide. Resource protection is also maximized as campers will be less dispersed and more concentrated in one area.*

3. If step 2 identifies the use of a picnic table as the minimum tool needed to address the issue, a picnic table can exist within the Primitive Tent Site.

Hardening surfaces and adding only a fire pit would be considered the minimum tool to address the issue. This does not imply, however, that a picnic table cannot be added as it will reduce impact and increase accessibility.

4. If step 2 identifies a picnic table not contributing to resource protection, it will be removed.

Step 2 identifies picnic tables as contributing to resource protection

5. Describe management requirements for minimizing effects of this action (placements, screening, etc.).

To effectively screen the potential negative visual impacts of the added picnic table, several white pine saplings will be planted between the road and the main area of the campsite.

6. Describe future monitoring schedules to determine if the action has led to a desired outcome.

DEC will annually monitor the site by visually comparing photographs of the site. A gradual decrease in the current overall footprint is expected.

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Description of Use of Motorized Equipment and/or Motor Vehicles (if any)

The project will use several types of motorized equipment. A skidsteer, dumptruck, mini excavator, and roller or compactor will be used for earth moving activities. Various electric tools will be used like an auto-level, screw gun, circular saw, and drill.

All work will take place within Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest adjacent to areas currently open to the public for motorized use.

Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities

Campsite 8 will be built to the ABA and ADA outdoor accessibility standards, codified in 42 U.S. Code § 4151 et. seq. and 36 CFR Part 11911 and delineated in the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines.

Other Relevant Considerations

Project is anticipated to be completed by bid contract during the 2026 field season. Contractors are contractually obligated to use clean crushed stone free of invasive specimens. Failure to comply results in the contractor being responsible for remediating the site.

Prepared by (Name & Title): Timothy J. Otis, Forester 1 Date: 12/9/2025
Phone: (315) 265-3621

Approvals:

Comments:



Regional Program Manager
Date: 12/29/2025



Regional Director
Date: March 6, 2026



On Behalf of the Division Director

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

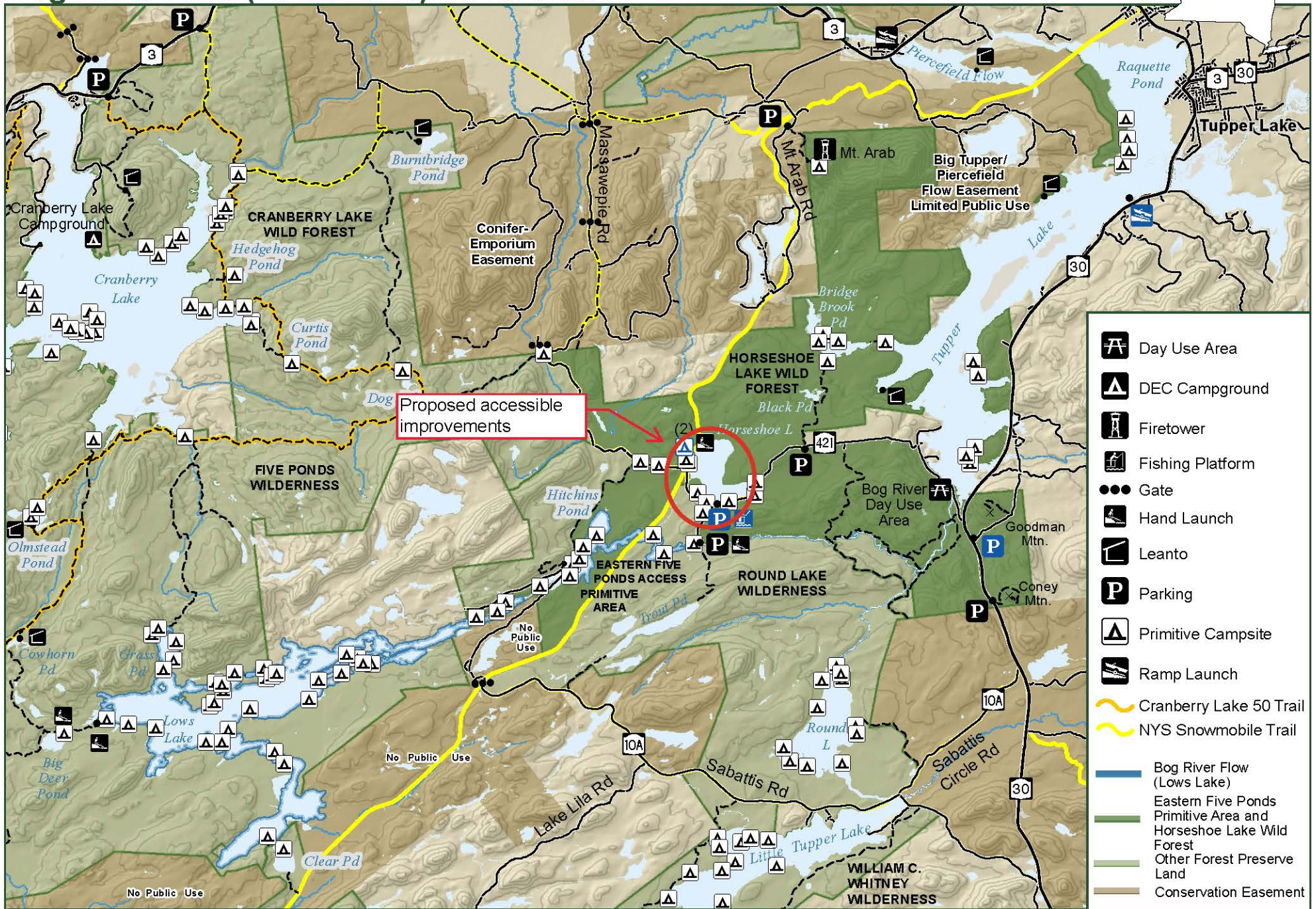
Date: 3/6/2026

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

REGULATORY CLEARANCE CHECKLIST – STATE LANDS and CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECTS					
PROGRAM	PERMIT	REQUIRED		SECURED BY	COMMENTS
		YES	NO	(NAME)	
Air Resources	Restricted Burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
Mineral Resources	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
Materials Management	Solid Waste Mgt. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
Water	Dam Safety Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Const. in Flood Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Public Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	SPDES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
Spills Management	Petro. Bulk Storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
Lands and Forests	Unit Management Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	2002 Bog River UMP
	Tree Cutting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Protected Native Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
Fish and Wildlife	Freshwater Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	APA Jurisdiction
	Wild Scenic & Rec. River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
Compliance Services	Other Protection of Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	EA/AF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Negative Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Env. Impact Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Water Quality Cert.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
DEC (other)	CP-17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	Sites are on Wild Forest, currently open to motorized use
	Commissioner (aircraft, motorized equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Flight Request	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Contract Clearance Sh.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	DOB Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
Other Agencies	APA MOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	APA Wetlands Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	No Wetlands affected
	Corps. of Engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Building Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Local Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Easements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Highway Enter DOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	
	Wastewater Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T. Otis	



Bog River Flow (Lows Lake) - Overview

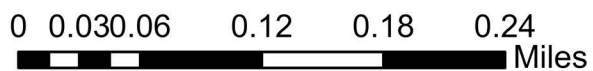


- Day Use Area
- DEC Campground
- Firetower
- Fishing Platform
- Gate
- Hand Launch
- Leanto
- Parking
- Primitive Campsite
- Ramp Launch
- Cranberry Lake 50 Trail
- NYS Snowmobile Trail
- Bog River Flow (Lows Lake)
- Eastern Five Ponds Primitive Area and Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest
- Other Forest Preserve Land
- Conservation Easement

Accessible Improvements 2026 (HLWF)



Department of Environmental Conservation



Campsite 8 Accessible Design

