

3-6-2019

Deb,

Some quick notes as you asked for as related to EL and other lakes in the area that have public boat launches, these are related to size and land classification. The few lakes picked are in the HPWF UMP and are under the 1000 acre requirement, of all of them, only EL has a boat launch, not associated with a campground, or serviced by a private marina, and is located in Wild Forest and as such, per the 2016 Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, is not eligible for a float off/on launch. (see below for further details)

In compiling this information it was realized that maybe Eagle Lake is not so different from those lakes that have a land connected, combined, "campground and boat launch" operation and that were/are afforded the land classification of "intensive use". (Two types of "intensive use" areas are defined by this plan: Campground and Day Use areas.) When looked at closely, Eagle Lake does have a campground and day use/picnic area that was well defined in the 1988 HPWF UMP (further details provided below), and it also has a boat launch (also further defined below). However, unlike Paradox Lake, Lincoln Pond or Putnam Pond, where the campsite area and boat launch share the same physical "land" connection, Eagle Lake's historical boat launch and historical campground shared a "water" connection. Would it not be reasonable to publicise and utilize this "water" connection and join these two property uses, so that their "combined area" could be classified as "intensive use"? ( see further details below) Doing so would eliminate the need to install "a barrier" that "limits" lake user access. It would also allow for the continued use of the Day Use/Picnic/ Camping Area (and the associated activities that were historically developed from and by those earlier designations and for which DEC supported "amenities" were historically provided - see further below), all while being contained within a "Wild Forest" designation (where DEC established land usage patterns never supported or met the use patterns as defined under the "Wild Forest" land classification). Under a combined Boat Launch/ Campground/ Day Use designation, a "special" UMP should and would need to be created. In doing this it would allow for future, reasonable, and best management practice maintenance, to be done at both the launch and water access only, but associated, camping area.

In further review of the 2016 APSLMP document, the following statements merit consideration:

"The following lakes are approximately 1,000 acres or more in size and are therefore eligible for further analysis to determine their suitability for initial or additional boat launch ramp construction." see page 117-118 for full list.

"The following lake chains contain lakes less than 1,000 acres in size, but the combined acreage of lakes within these chains exceeds approximately 1,000 acres. These lakes, listed below, are eligible for further consideration to determine their suitability for boat launch ramp construction because they are connected by navigable waterways and the aggregate acreage of each chain exceeds 1,000 acres. **These chains may contain additional lakes less than 1,000**

acres in size which are not listed. Such lakes have been determined to be unsuitable for boat launch ramp construction.”

Eagle Lake is not part of a “chain of lakes” and there is no mention in the 2016 APSLMP that specifically calls out Eagle Lake as one of those “lakes less than 1,000 acres in size which are not listed”. But yet it appears in the 2018 HPWF UMP that Eagle Lake has been determined to be unsuitable for “boat launch ramp construction” or even being allowed to keep the ramp that has been historically there.

From page 80 of the 2018 HPWF UMP, they describe the following:

“The APSLMP describes only two types of public access locations for waterbodies – boat launches or fishing and waterway access sites. Boat launches allow for trailered boats to be launched directly into the water (floated on or off trailers) and are classified as Intensive Use Areas. Boat launches are usually provided on large lakes of generally at least 1,000 acres in size. Fishing and waterway access sites, in Wild Forest Areas, do not “contain a ramp for or otherwise permit the launching of trailered boats.” “However, fishing and waterway access sites may allow trailers to the water’s edge, and boats (motorized, where appropriate) may be transferred to the water.”

And from page 14 of the 2018 HPWF UMP, they describe the following:

“Other large water bodies include: Eagle Lake, Lincoln Pond and Paradox Lake.”

What truly happens with/to a lake such as EL when referenced above as “large”? It looks as if Eagle Lake is just not quite “generally” large enough. But then why do similar sized water bodies such as Lincoln Pond, Paradox Lake, as well as the much smaller Puttnam Pond, have full boat launches? These boat launches were developed some decades back (maybe after the Park was created), and are firmly associated, and “land linked”, with “campgrounds” that were both built next to each other and maintained by the DEC, which qualified them as “intensive use” areas. Eagle Lake’s boat launch, too, was developed many years back by the DEC and was also maintained by them. Eagle Lake also had a “campground” associated with its boat launch, it’s just that the link between Eagle Lake’s boat launch and campground was over water, not land. And while Eagle Lake’s campground (Crown Point Bay) only had, as gleaned from the 1988 HPWF UMP, 1 lean-to, 6 fireplaces/ fire rings, 1 pit privy, a picnic area that was “boat access only” without maintained parking, 6 picnic tables, and 6 non designated primitive campsites, it was a small facility in comparison to those at other lakes, but an operating facility nonetheless, maybe this small, but important point, was also missed at the time of the current HPWF UMP was written. Eagle Lake’s campground site (regardless of its size then or now), still needed/needs boat access, which distinguishes it from the traditional direct, land accessed, side by side activities that are in operation at, and common to, Lincoln Pond, Paradox Lake, and Putnam (Putts) Pond. Regardless of Eagle Lake’s size in acreage, another amenity that once existed and that was found in a state of disrepair in the late 70’s when I first visited Eagle Lake, were 3-4 basic, primitive wooden docks, that serviced 3 or 4 of the 6 “boat access only” campsites. They were apparently removed before the 1988 assessment, as no mention is made of

them in the 1988 UMP. Does this not further demonstrate an even greater historical usage link of support for the need to establish a water linkage between both the boat launch and the campsite areas that would support a special UMP or redesignation of a land classification to “intensive use”/?

Why is it that now, 20 years post the 1988 HPWF UMP, that Eagle Lake’s once proud and well maintained “day use area”, that had so many amenities to offer the lake community, is in a state of disrepair? Very little, if anything, has been done to other existing/remaining amenities as well, other than to let them rot away. Does their lack of maintenance allow them to simply be disregarded, as if the activities supported by such amenities have gone away, or worse yet, never existed? Maybe the DEC did not wish to continue to maintain the Eagle Lake water connected day use area and boat launch, as they set priorities for land use classification, and hence, no “special” UMP for Eagle Lake?

Both of Eagle Lake’s property segments are located in a land classification, that has in recent years, been more strictly called, and enforced as, “Wild Forest”. If these properties had been water linked together many years ago, and classified by their actual joint use (as a boat launch with a water access only primitive campground), the problems we are faced with today might never have existed. But again, when the broad brush stroke approach was used decades ago to classify lands that were not fully examined for their actual use, a linking problem for EL was created. If the 2.5 mile “water link” between the decades old DEC “developed” boat launch and the decades old DEC “developed” limited water access only primitive campground had been formally made decades ago, EL would today have a flourishing small campground/day use area that had its own “special” UMP, much like Paradox Lake , Lincoln Pond and Putnam (Putts) Pond do. And yet, in stark contrast to the State’s efforts both at and on behalf of Eagle Lake, how is it that as recently as 1959, the Putnam Pond campground and boat launch were “newly created”, and yet our historically pre-established water connected boat launch and campground have been ignored? (see “Putnam (Putts) Pond” historical facts, well below) What is truly going on that Eagle Lake hasn’t been, and isn’t currently being, given due consideration for its own unique UMP? Maybe the agencies making the decisions here need to reconsider the terms “generally” and “large” to include a lake as “large” as Eagle Lake, one that generally already has a historical boat launch. Eagle Lake still needs, and its usage still currently warrants, more than just a “fishing and water way access point”.

From page 72 of the 2018 HPWF UMP, they describe the following:

“This UMP addresses locations used for camping that are not described in the 1988 UMP, and land area that has been added to the HPWF land area since that UMP. A few examples of these areas already used for camping, or that may provide desirable camping opportunities include: Deadwater Pond, Split Rock Falls, Crown Point Bay, and the Schroon River corridor.”

“There are two lean-tos in the HPWF. One is located on Moose Mountain Pond, and usually accessed from the trailhead on Ensign Pond Road. The other is located on Eagle Lake, in Crown Point Bay, and is accessible by boat, canoe or kayak.”

As the 2018 HPWF UMP above reference states that the lean-to is accessible by “boat”, to currently use a boat, one would assume you have to be able to continue to launch one, therefore, our full utility launch should be allowed to continue to exist, at a minimum, as is.

And the following image is from a current DEC's web information on the Hammond Pond Wild Forest "Unit Descriptions" page:

#### Camping



General information on backcountry camping includes how-to and safety tips and links to rules & regulations.

There is only one designated primitive tent site at this time. Two lean-tos and numerous undesignated tent sites are available on a first come - first served basis and cannot be reserved. Primitive tent sites are for tents only and usually are accessible only by hiking or paddling.

A primitive tent site is located off State Route 9 on the banks of the **Boquet River** a short distance upstream of Split Rock Falls on the east side of the road.

**Moose Mountain Pond** has a lean-to which may be accessed from the Berry Mill Flow Trailhead via the Berry Mill Flow Trail and the Moose Mountain Pond Trail.

**Eagle Lake** has one lean-to on the shore of Crown Point Bay which may be accessed from the Eagle Lake Boat Launch located on the portion of the lake south of State Route 74 via canoe, kayak, or motorboat.

Once again, the above image shows how Eagle Lake is currently described and "includes" the implied, if not actually stated, ability to use a motorboat from its launch.

A listing of the "other" amenities afforded users of this area is provided at the end of this document. These amenities were cataloged in the 1988 HPWF UMP. Many of them are no longer present or have been allowed to fall into major states of disrepair due to lack of maintenance. In the 1988 UMP the DEC boasted and proudly listed that the Eagle Lake, boat only access site, was used for picnics and camping, and that it had 6 picnic tables, 6 fireplaces or fire rings, a pit privy, 6 primitive campsites and 1 lean-to. Jumping ahead to the 2018 UMP, the only thing the DEC mentions is that there is a lean-to and that they want to reclaim 3 of the remaining original 6 primitive camping site and maybe relocate 1 new one. (See further details at end of document, titled "From page 75 of 2018 HPWF UMP"). So, the DEC is again erasing historical use and provided amenities patterns that they helped develop and have characteristically supported and that the community continues to this day trying to use. Once again, the case can be made for the redesignation of Eagle Lake's sites into an "Intensive Use" classification that is contained within a special, as yet to be made, Eagle Lake UMP, one that includes the continued and necessary use of motor boats and a full out boat launch that supports them.

The following state land classification definition is taken from the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan:

#### **Intensive Use**

"An intensive use area is an area where the state provides facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public. Two types of intensive use areas are defined by this plan: campground and day use areas."

The Crown Point Bay campground, as mentioned on page 72 of the 2018 UMP, while being non-staffed and very small, does fit into the classification above as "intensive use", as this area has been historically advertised for and historically used as, a "campground and day use area".

The following state land classification definition is taken from the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan:

## Wild Forest

“A wild forest area is an area where the resources permit a somewhat higher degree of human use than in wilderness, primitive or canoe areas, while retaining an essentially wild character. A wild forest area is further defined as an area that frequently lacks the sense of remoteness of wilderness, primitive or canoe areas and that **permits a wide variety of outdoor recreation.**”

What is the definition of “somewhat higher degree of human use”? Does the word somewhat, however, also mean that there are significant and unwarranted restrictions applied? such as:

- Preventing access to private lake residents the use of a historic means to launch a 16'-18' boat to access their water access only homes, most if not all built in the early 1900's. Preventing them from having a stable and safe means to transport essentials for daily life, the supplies and equipment needed for maintenance of their homes, and their guests when they come to visit.
- Adding a non moveable barrier so that fire, EMS and other service providers (phone, utility power, tree service, lake/ environmental management firms, residential home repair contractors etc.) can no longer do their job, thus creating a health, welfare and services problem for young and old.
- Preventing access to the sport fishing community for a means to practice “I Love NY... Fishing” on a lake stocked by the State with Trout in anything bigger than a rubber raft.
- Preventing access to those folks, both young and those that are aging, who have or have developed body strength and/or stability issues and who would not otherwise consider themselves “handicapped”, but still have the pride and the ability to float a boat or watercraft off and onto a trailer, where they wouldn't have the strength to drag it off and winch it back on over a barrier.
- Having to risk personal physical injury or damage to their boat/watercraft because someone thinks they can launch their boat, and then finds that it is too heavy, too large, etc..

Is having a boat launch within 150' of the major east west truck and car route, NYS Rt.74, not something or a place that lacks a sense of remoteness?

How does Eagle Lake itself, where one shore of the entirety of the lake has the busy NYS Rt.74 winding its road bed within 5' to 100' of the mean high water mark, retain an essentially wild character? Or is maybe some of the State Land,now classified as Wild Forest, where it and NYS Rt. 74 come together, misclassified?

Does, or can, the highlighted section, of the above Wild Forest definition, not apply to a boat launch of the float off/on type? Does launching a boat by this means not provide service for an area that “permits a wide variety of outdoor recreation” activities? Such as:

- Just sightseeing via motorized boating
- Water skiing/ tubing
- Fishing
- Sailing
- Accessing the other parcel of State land on EL, etc.

How can the agencies dictate that all future boating will have to be done “solo” or maybe “two-up” in a kayak or canoe? Because this is all that the reconfigured launch at EL will provide to the community and residents.

Is there no longer going to be opportunities for a group of people to join together in a stable boat and enjoy a slow motor boat trip around the lake?

Is there no longer going to be a means to take those, that have body mobility, strength and/or stability issues and who can not “paddle” or achieve the balance necessary to ride in a kayak or canoe, out on the lake?

Maybe having a float off/on launch at EL will provide too much, or too wide a variety of outdoor recreation, and the rules of “carrying capacity” will need to be applied, to further limit and control how EL will be accessed and enjoyed in the future? DO NOT let our agencies lead us down such a path as to then take away our historical use patterns, in the name of their as yet to be fully developed and then implemented rules for “Carrying Capacity”!

First: EL

### **Eagle Lake**

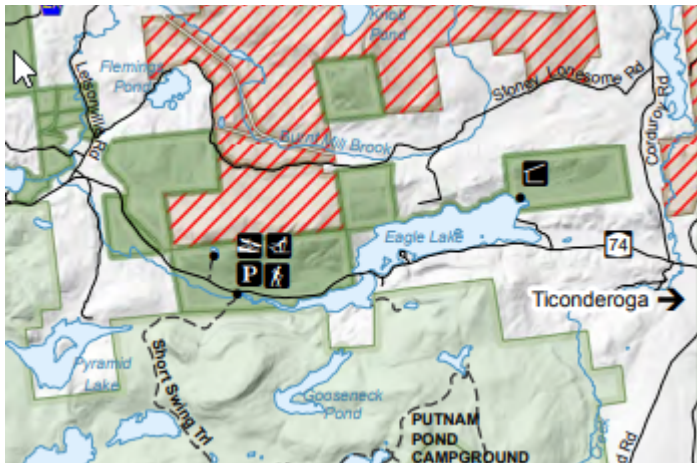
Lake size 410 acres

#### **Access:**

DEC launch off Route 74, one mile west of Hamlet of Eagle Lake. *Beach* launch. Parking for 6 cars and trailers.

Is the word (beach) in italics above a typo from the original map creation? Or if this is as DEC has put on the map, a “beach” launch, then the area in question here should be maintained as a beach, which is not how it is currently maintained?

Historical 25 - 30 year old maps, show a designation as a “boat ramp” launch on them (maybe more if we looked), to a map as recent as the 4/2017 (hammond pond south ump) below:



From the DEC's Hammond Pond Wild Forest "Unit Descriptions" page, Eagle lake is described as having a boat launch located along NYS Route 74

#### Boating



General information on boating includes safety tips with links to rules & regulations and lists of DEC boat launches by county.

**Lincoln Pond** (572 acres) is more than 3.2 miles long and much of its shoreline is privately owned and contains permanent and seasonal residences. The lake may be accessed from the Lincoln Pond Boat Launch inside the Lincoln Pond Campground. Boaters are required to pay a day use fee when the campground is open.

**Courtney Pond** may be accessed by small motorboats from the Courtney Pond Hand Launch.

**Paradox Lake** (896 acres) is the largest individual waterbody. It is nearly 4.0 miles long and much of its shoreline is privately owned and contains permanent and seasonal residences. The lake may be accessed from the Paradox Lake Boat Launch inside the Paradox Lake Campground. Boaters are required to pay a day use fee when the campground is open.

**Eagle Lake** (409 acres) is approximately 2.5 miles long. Much of its shoreline and most of its islands are privately owned and contain permanent and seasonal residences. The lake may be accessed from the Eagle Lake Boat Launch located on the portion of the lake south of State Route 74.

As of this past summer, the boat launch has been maintained in roughly the same state it's in, by the DEC (and perhaps the DOT), for the past 8-10 decades, or more. Based on discussions with residents living on EL for decades prior to my arrival, everyone states that "it's been there my whole life" and "my parents launched their boats there" as well.

DEC's Crown Point Maintenance crew, have for decades pulled, and reset, the floating dock ~ 8' wide X 24' long, every Fall and Spring

Land classification, for the 590 acres of land that the boat launch occupies and the approximately .16 acres of land that is actually the boat launch proper, is APA classified as "Wild Forest".

EL has no commercial development of any type on its shores, or in the immediate area.

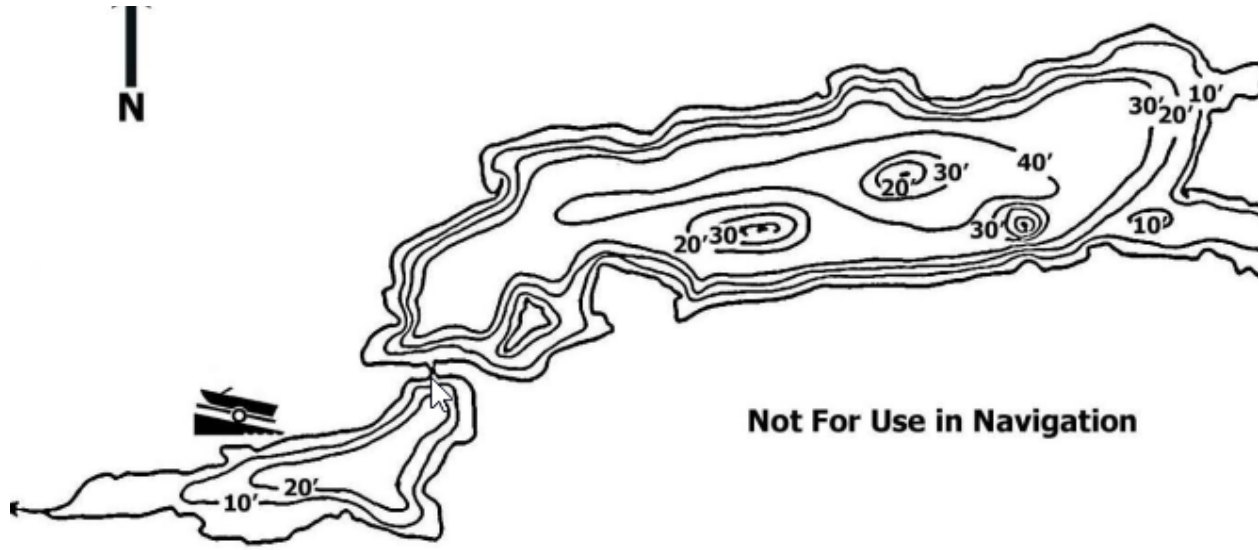
There are no other options for public boat launch of any type, hand carry or float off/on, on either basin of the lake. A few people maintain, for their own private use, a small primitive launch suitable for a rowboat. They too, use the State launch for bigger power boats.

Questions, when was the boat launch developed, the lean-to installed, the beach / day use area developed? They seemingly, by resident reports, have been there prior to the 1973 creation date of the APA. Why are we now experiencing these enormous changes?



Land classifications at EL- light green is “wild forest”, mint green is Wilderness, and property not highlighted is private, with varying classifications and restrictions applied to it.





## Eagle Lake

See image for type of boat launch on current DEC website map - compare to image shown for Lincoln pond well below (They are the same, denoting both are float off/ on types)

Image below from essex county boat launches- note that EL is shown as having an unimproved launch, but is still a float type launch.

### Boat Launch Sites for Essex County

DEC manages over 395 boating and fishing access facilities. We do our best to keep these sites clean and safe, but if you see something that is out of order or have a question or concern about a particular site, send a message to [fwboat@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwboat@dec.ny.gov).

For an explanation of the recreational icons on this page, see [below](#).

**Attention Lake George Boaters and Anglers:** Regulations require the registration of all watercraft via day use or seasonal permit. All trailered boats must also be certified free of aquatic invasive species. Contact the Lake George Park Commission at (518) 668-9347 or visit [Lake George Park Commission's website](#) (link leaves DEC's website.)

#### Essex County, DEC Region 5

Waterbody	Town	Location (some links leave DEC website)	Type	Parking	Invasive Species Present*	Comments	Agency
Cascade Lakes (upper and lower)	Keene	<a href="#">44.225423°N, 73.878537°W (Google Maps)</a>		15 cars		No motors	DEC
Cheney Pond	Minerva	<a href="#">43.935958°N, 73.980838°W (Google Maps)</a>		2 cars		100' carry	DEC
Eagle Lake	Ticonderoga	<a href="#">43.874145°N, 73.805021°W (Google Maps)</a>		6 cars and trailers	Eurasian Watermilfoil	Access to main lake limited by 3'-4' clearance from overpass depending on water level.	DEC

Note: Eagle Lake (Crown Point Bay) also had a once recognized “camping/ day-use” area, but based on its current land classification as Wild Forest there is no longer acknowledgement that the land at Crown Point Bay ever was or can still be used for this day-use enjoyment.

Information from <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/89063.html>  
[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/eglelkmap.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/eglelkmap.pdf)  
[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/maphammondps.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/maphammondps.pdf)  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/109807.html>  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/23897.html>

### Paradox lake

Lake size 896 acres

Boat launch is described by DEC as, “The boat launch has a hard surface ramp with parking for 25 cars and trailers”, the launch is part of the camping area.

**Department of Environmental Conservation**    Recreation    Nature    Prevent & Control Pollution    Regulatory

[Home](#) » [Outdoor Activities](#) » [Camping](#) » [DEC Campgrounds & Day Use Areas](#) » [Paradox Lake Campground & Day Use Area](#)

## Paradox Lake Campground & Day Use Area



Image of amenities available at Paradox Lake, including boat launching, by what is shown as a float off/on launch.



Boat ramp (trailer - improved): Site affords float-off and float-on launching for most trailered boats.

### Historical fact:

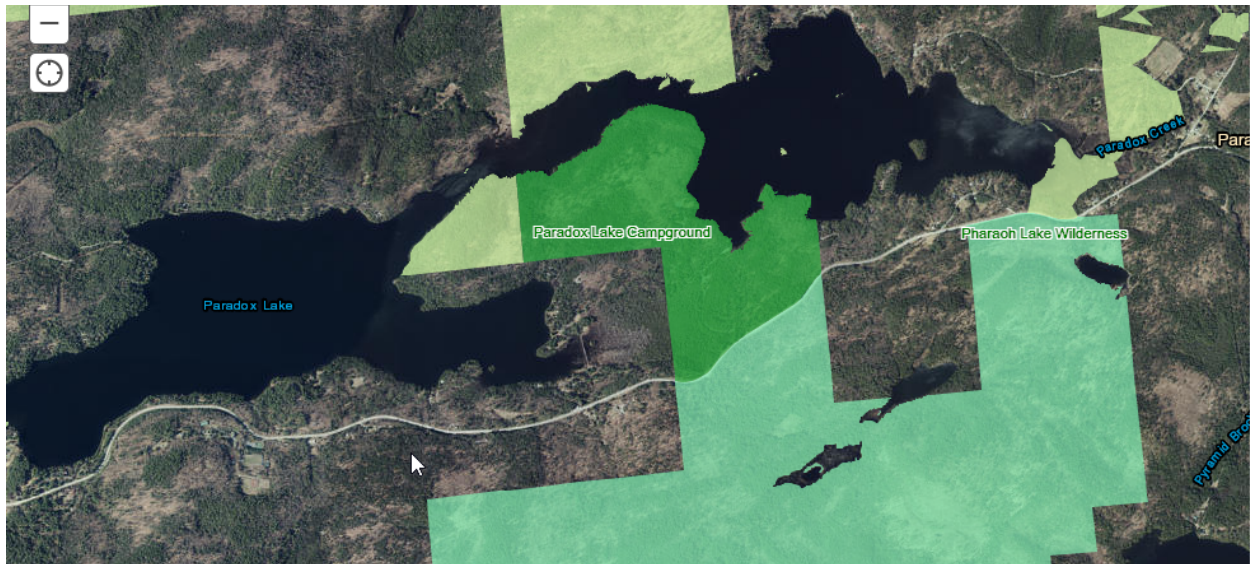
The development of 32 camping units began in 1931, with the first official camping season to the public beginning in 1932. At that time, this facility was developed by the "Conservation Department", using its own employees. In 1951, another 4 sites were added to the inventory, and in 1968 another 22 sites were added, bringing it to the 58 unit inventory it stands at today.

Paradox lake and/or the camping area appears to have its own UMP “The Final Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the campground guides the DEC's land management activities at this facility for a five-year period, although a number of goals and objectives in the plan

focus on a much longer time period. The UMP addresses specific objectives and actions for public use at this facility”

This “special” UMP, is included within the boundaries of the HPWF UMP.

Information from <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24488.html>



Land classification at Paradox campground (deep green) Intensive Use, (mint green) Wilderness

### **Loon Lake**

Lake size 593 acres

The lake has its own marina, where you can launch and dock your own boat for a fee.

The Town of Chester, which maintains the beach.

Information from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loon\\_Lake\\_\(Warren\\_County,\\_New\\_York\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loon_Lake_(Warren_County,_New_York))



Property around Loon Lake appears to be all private, or Town owned

### **Putnam (Putts) Pond**

Lake size 185 acres

Boat access: Putnam Pond is a very scenic and beautiful pond for boating. A launch is located on the pond for easy access for all boats. This launch is very important as it provides the only point of public access to the Pond.

## **Putnam Pond Campground & Day Use Area**



icon key

**Access:**

Within DEC Putnam Pond Campground. Off Route 74, 6 miles west of the Village of Ticonderoga. There is a hard surface ramp and parking for 10 cars and trailers

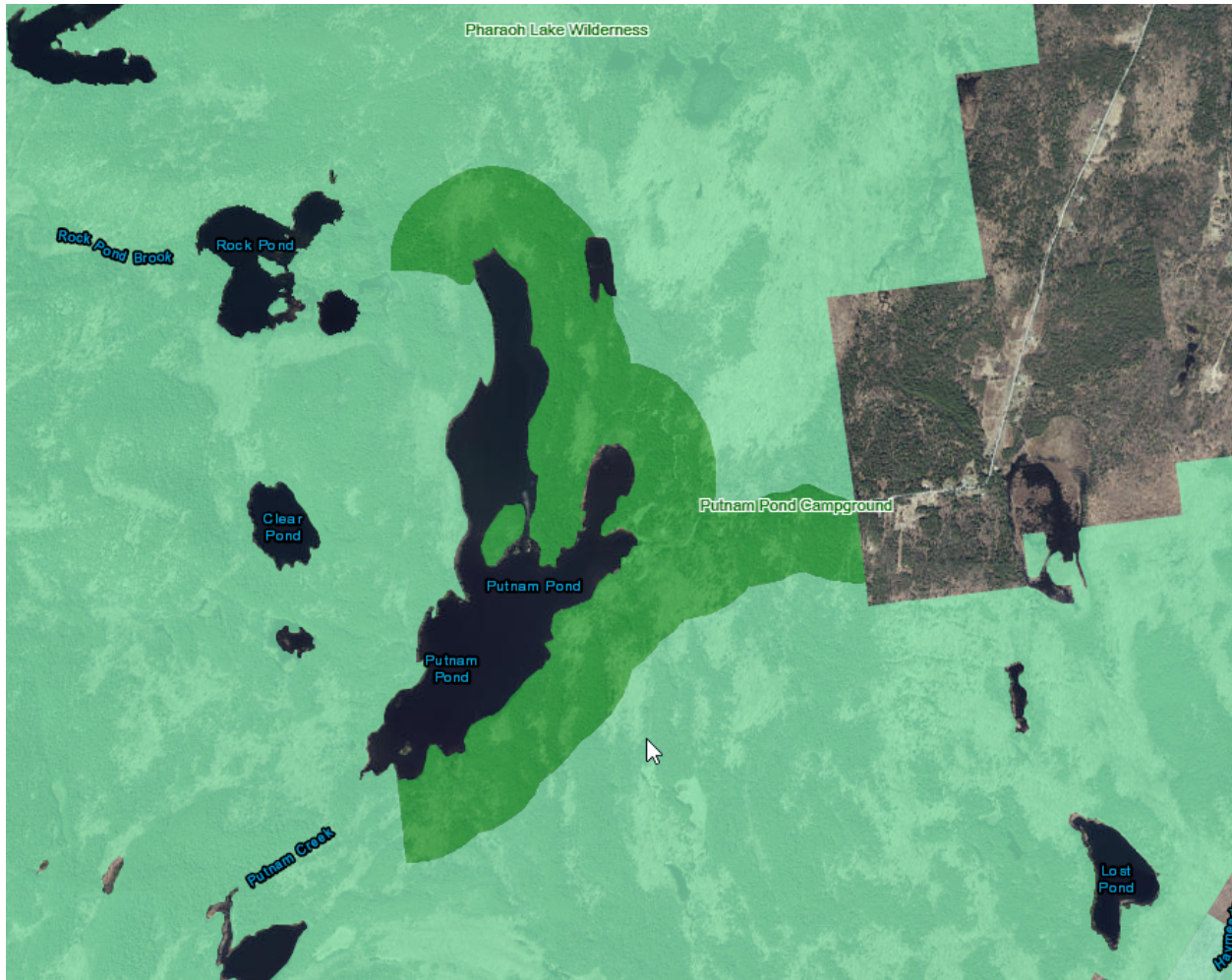
**Amenities**

72 campsites (9 of them remote), mobility impaired accessible site, hot showers, flush toilets, trailer dumping station, recycling center, boat launch site, picnic area, firewood sales, canoe, kayak and rowboat rentals

Historical fact:

The original construction of this campground started in 1959-61. In 1990, 9 remote sites were added to the inventory.

Information from <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24492.html>  
[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/ptnmpdmap.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/ptnmpdmap.pdf)  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/89069.html>



Putnam Pond land classification, camping area is Intensive Use (deep green), surrounding mint green area is Wilderness (most restrictive of all land class uses)

### Planning and Management

The Final Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the campground guides the DEC's land management activities at this facility for a five-year period, although a number of goals and objectives in the plan focus on a much longer time period. The UMP addresses specific objectives and actions for public use at this facility.

For more information regarding the UMP for this facility please contact the Bureau of Recreation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, Telephone 518 457-2500, and [email for campground information](#)

### Lincoln Pond

Lake size 572 acres

Boat access: Lincoln Pond provides the opportunity for primitive, island, or "developed site" camping. Large enough to accommodate motor boats,...

Motor boats, rowboats, and canoes allowed. Rowboat, kayak, canoe and stand up paddleboard rentals available. Car top boat launch available



Boat ramp (trailer - improved): Site affords float-off and float-on launching for most



The screenshot shows the DEC website header with the text "Department of Environmental Conservation" and navigation links for "Recreation", "Nature", and "Prevent & Control". Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: "Home » Outdoor Activities » Camping » DEC Campgrounds & Day Use Areas » Lincoln Pond Campgrou". The main heading is "Lincoln Pond Campground & Day Use Area". Below the heading is a row of icons representing various amenities: a tent, a trailer, an accessibility symbol, a picnic table, a campfire, a boat on a trailer, a person swimming, a person fishing, a person on a kayak, a person on a canoe, and a person on a stand-up paddleboard. To the right of the icons is the text "icon key".

Image of amenities available at Lincoln Pond, including boat launching, by what is shown as a float off/on launch.trailerred boats.

### Access:

Beach launch within DEC Lincoln Pond Campground located 6 miles south of Elizabethtown on County Route 7 in the south basin. A day use fee is charged during peak season. The launch is open year round and has parking for 6 cars and trailers. The north basin can be accessed off of Co. Rte. 7 on the west side of the lake via a small beach launch.

Car top boat access is available in all the areas you can do shoreline fishing, small boats with outboards can be launched from the state campground, day use fee will be required

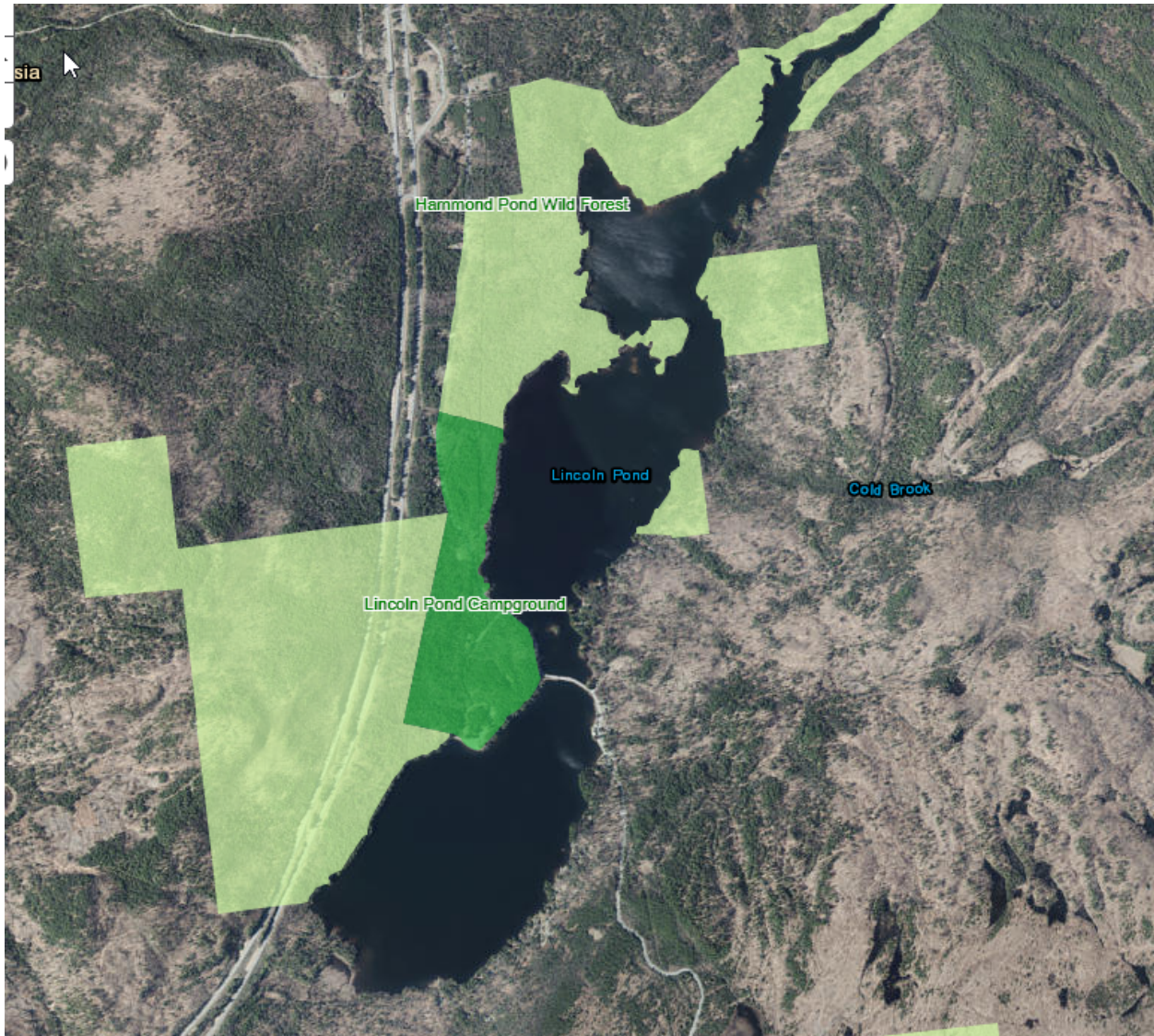
Lincoln pond campground has it own UMP. The Final Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the campground guides the DEC's land management activities at this facility for a five-year period, although a number of goals and objectives in the plan focus on a much longer time period. The UMP addresses specific objectives and actions for public use at this facility.

Information from <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24477.html>

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/99934.html>

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/89058.html>

<https://www.lakechamplainregion.com/fishing/lincoln-pond>



Lincoln Pond camping area (deep green) is Intensive Use classification, with Wild Forest butting up to it.

The following are notes from the 1988 Hammond Pond Wild Forest Unit Management Plan that provide a list of previous DEC actions, along with features and amenities found on /in the Eagle Lake boat launch and campground area.

The first screen capture (page 41), for maintenance done by the DEC on the Eagle Lake Dam, is include to show that in the past the DEC has repaired items on it property (related to and on Eagle Lake) but also to show that the DEC reached out to, and involved the Eagle Lake Association in a decision that directly affected them (this was not done with the 2108 UMP proposed changes).



The second screen capture (page 57) related to Environmental Problems, indicates that even at this time this unit of property use is referred to as a “favored camping area” and the biggest concern was for litter. There is no mention here, as becomes apparent in the 2018 HPWF UMP, that people using this unit were out of compliance.

The third screen capture (page 60) additional boat launching sites are located at ... Eagle Lake. These facilities will be covered in separate management plans but will be.... as there use provides a related use of this unit.

What was really meant by “these facilities will be covered in separate management plans”? What was meant by “there use provides a related use”, and for Eagle Lake what was the related use? Was it the campground/day use area? It looks like the intention of the DEC, in this section, in 1988, was to indicate that the EL boat launch was related to and needed to be recognized as such for it served as a connection to the then acknowledged camping/day use area. Might it have been with this “provides a related service” that they were indicating that a separate UMP was going to be written to address the boat launches use and its connection with the campsite in Crown Point Bay?

Was there supposed to be an additional management plan written for Eagle Lakes boat launch as mentioned above that was never completed and now puts its existence as a float off/on launch in jeopardy? It appears now, that whatever was intended here, may never have happened.

From page 41 of the 1988 HPWF UMP

In the Fall of 1986, the Division of Operations replaced the Eagle Lake Dam spillway. Petitions were circulated among all shoreowners and the Eagle Lake Association and a mean water level was established in consultation with Department Natural Resource staff.

From page 57 of the 1988 HPWF UMP

## 6. Environmental Problems

### a. Land Resources

The most significant environmental problem in this unit is litter at favored camping areas, in particular, the Crown Point Bay Area on Eagle Lake, and Split Rock Falls. Despite Department pick-up and volunteer support from interested organizations, litter control remains a major problem and requires constant attention.

From page 60 of the 1988 HPWF UMP

Bridge, have boat launching facilities. Additional boat launching sites are located at Ticonderoga, Port Henry Village, and Eagle Lake. These facilities will be covered in separate management plans but deserve mention in this plan as their use frequently provides a related use on the resources of this unit.

The following screen captures (pages 133 to 156) are inventory items identify in the 1987 Environmental Impact Statement, they are repeated in and attached to the 1988 HPWF UMP: (pull out facts was only done from one document)

There inclusion here is to document that as of late 1988 there was in, existence a recognized and operating 6 unit, primitive camping area with a lean-to as well as a 6 station, picnic/ day-use area at the Eagle Lake, Crown Point Bay, DEC unit.

On page 139 it even indicates that the DEC had mapped out and had what appears to be a "permit" for road access to the Crown Point Bay site, they do indicate that public access is by boat. Was it by DEC accessing this road, that the original construction of the campsite area took place and also then permitted subsequent maintenance to be carried out?

The 2 maps (pages 155 and 156) differ in that the page 156 one indicates that DEC was planning an improvement of including parking at what is the boat launch site.

From page 133 of 1988 HPWF UMP

## D. Facilities (Refer to Facilities Map 2 in the Draft Plan):



### 1. Picnic Areas

#### a. Crown Point Bay, Eagle Lake; boat access only

From page 133 of 1988 Hpwf UMP

1. Pit Privies
  - a. 2, Crown Point Bay, Eagle Bay

From page 134 of 1988 HPWF UMP

- b. Without Maintained Parking
  7. Crown Point Bay Picnic Area; boat access only from Eagle Lake

6 Bridges

Form page 135 of the 1988 HPWF UMP

7. Fireplaces/Fire Rings
  - a. Crown point Bay, Eagle Lake; 6
8. Camping Sites (Primitive Tent)
  - a. Kingdom Dam; Lincoln Pond; 11 designated sites; permits available at Lincoln Pond Public Campground
  - b. Bass Pond; 4, non-designated
  - c. Bullpoint Pond; 1, non-designated
  - d. Challis Pond; 1, non-designated
  - e. Crowfoot Pond; 4, non-designated
  - f. Eagle Lake; 6, non-designated

From page 138 of the 1988 HPWF UMP

10. Leantos
  - a. Crown Point Bay; Eagle Lake; 1, log construction; condition - fair

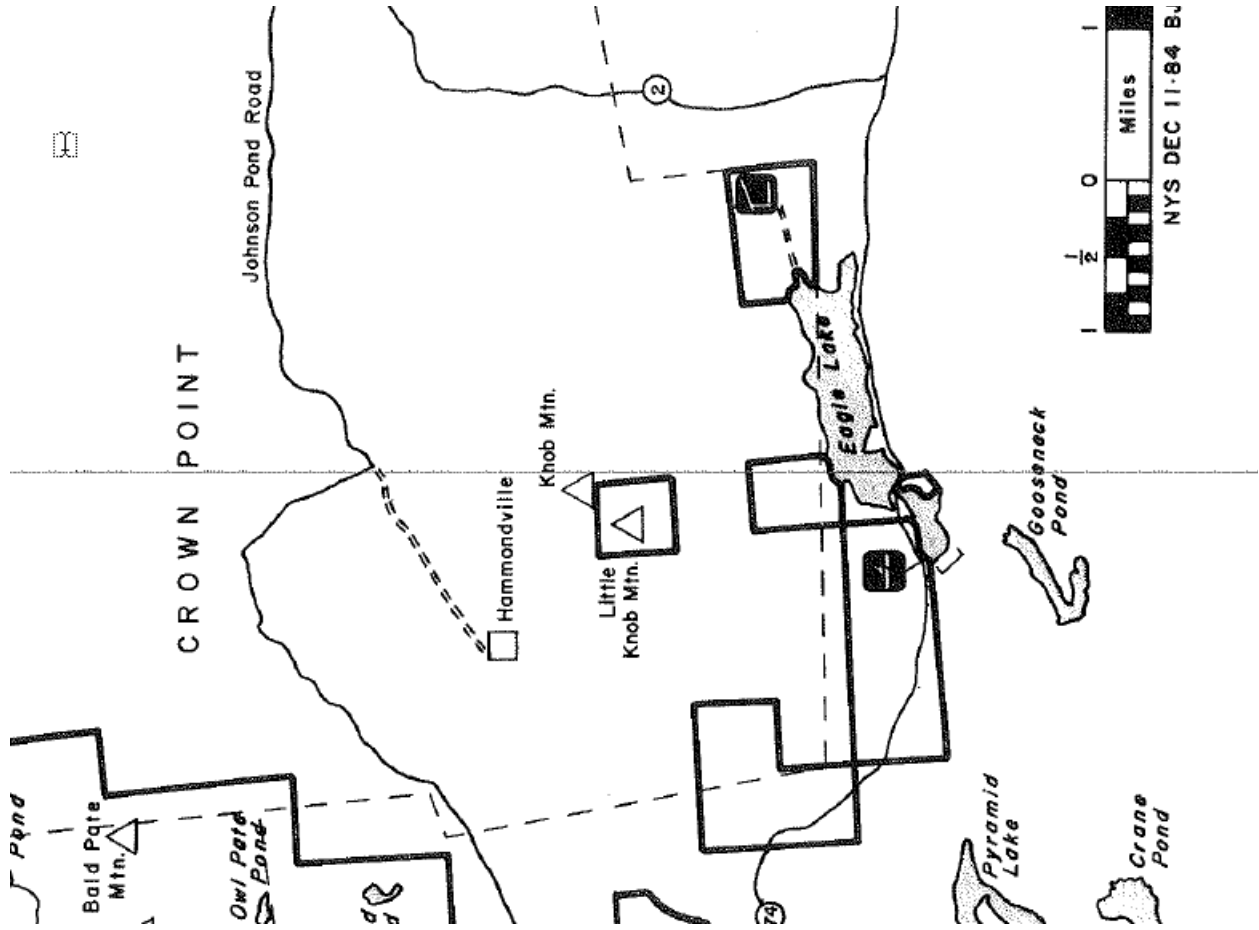
From page 139 of the 1988 HPWF UMP

3. Eagle Lake Picnic Area; intersection with the Corduroy Road; Ticonderoga; Permit; commences on private lands for 0.5 miles, gated, closed to public use; road continues 1.1 miles on State land; public access achieved by boat from Eagle Lake

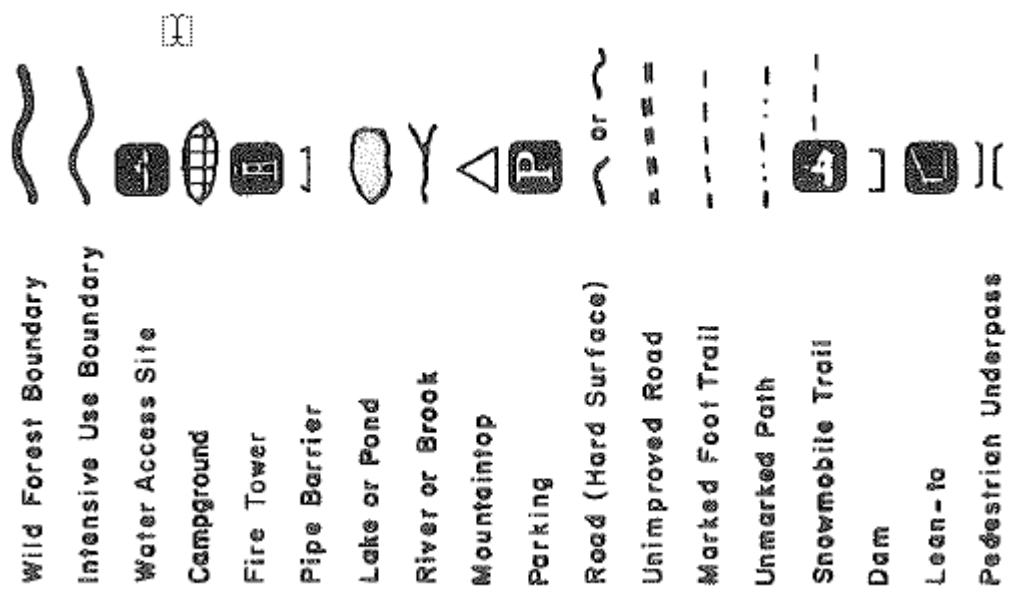
From page 141 of the 1988 HPWF UMP

18. Picnic Tables
  - a. Crown Point Bay; Eagle Lake; 6

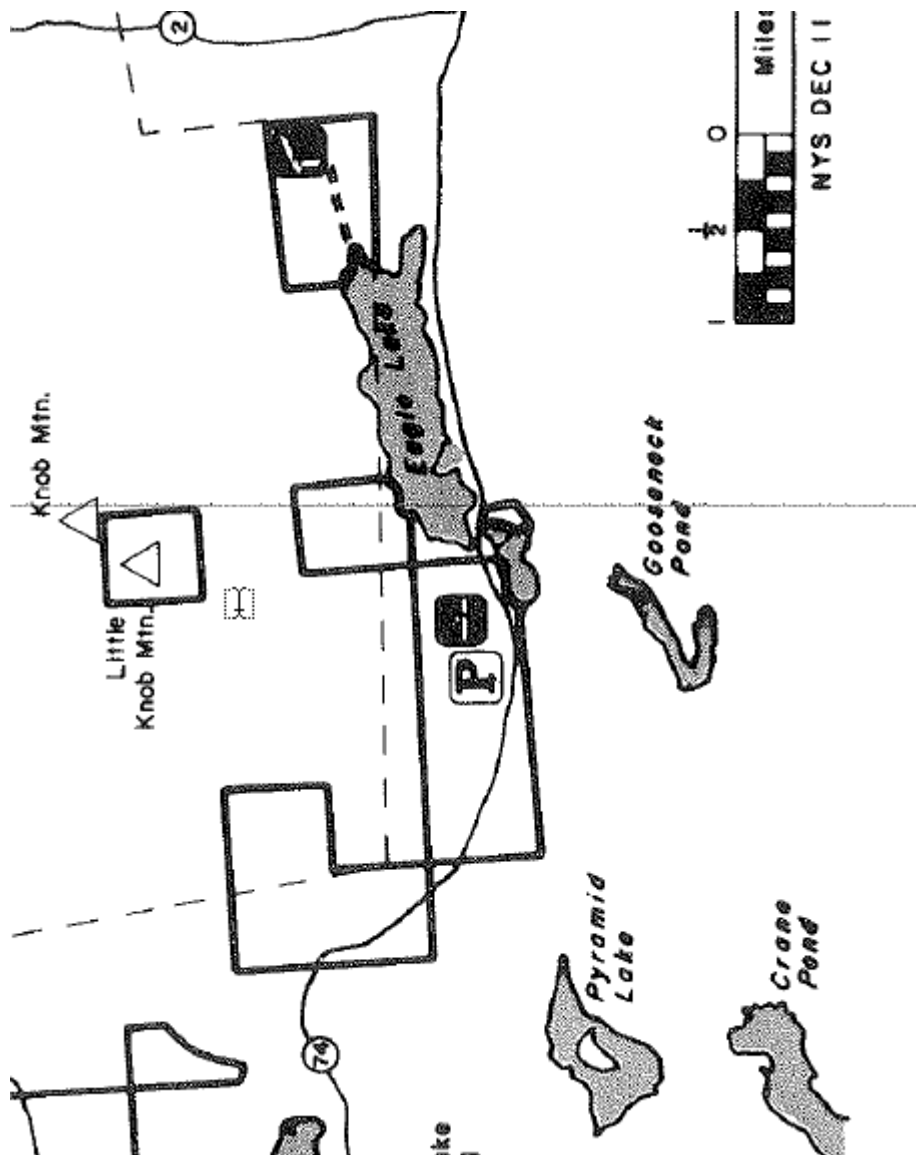
From page 155 of the 1988 HPWF UMP



Map legend



From page 156 of the 1988 HPWF UMP “proposed changes” shows addition of parking at “water access site”



From page 75 of the 2018 HPWF UMP, the following details and comments are made with reference to the use and issues of non-conforming elements associated with the Crown Point Bay area:

#### Crown Point Bay – Eagle Lake

“There are **three existing tent sites** and one lean-to on a **relatively small** HPWF land parcel at Crown Point Bay, on Eagle Lake, along with several long standing **non-conforming elements** and **enforcement issues**. The existing lean-to is appropriately located, more than 100 feet from Eagle Lake, and screened from view. **There is more camping demand on Eagle Lake than the**

one lean-to allows for. Eagle Lake is largely privately owned. Another small HPWF parcel on the lake contains very steep shoreline terrain that precludes the possibility of a tent site. Longstanding enforcement issues associated with Crown Point Bay will be resolved, including prohibiting mowing and motorized trespass from adjacent private land. The closure of two of the three tent sites, and resolution of longstanding enforcement issues is a significant stride towards APSLMP conformance in this area. The existing lean-to will remain and be maintained in place. Two existing tent sites will be closed and reclaimed. One tent site will remain (approx. 500-600 feet from the lean-to), and be located out of sight and sound from the lean-to, and screened from the lake. The Crown Point Bay area may be revisited again in the future, and additional management actions taken if necessary.”

When reading the above paragraph one needs to realize the following:

- that there was identified in the 1988 HPWF assessment 6 campsites, and other DEC provided amenities (see highlighted areas above) not the 3 existing now- what happened to the other three?
- That when the reference is made to a “relatively small HPWF land parcel”, the full parcel of State land at his location is over 310 acres (see image 1 below) and the small approximately .24 acres that have been developed and are actually used from this area (see image 2 below)
- That some of the long standing non conforming elements may be related to where the DEC originally place 3 of the original 6 primitive campsites- they were placed as described in the DEC primitive camping hand book of the day “near the water’s edge” (see image 3 below)
- If the land classification applied to the DEC Crown Point Bay unit changed from 1988 or prior to today from campsite, picnic /day use area to wild forest then many of the before assumed “permitted uses” will be out of compliance and will raise red flags for enforcement. But to assume without signage at the unit or dialog between users and the enforcement agencies that these changes were or had been made and that historic previouses uses were no longer allowed is unfair to both parties the user and the person charged with enforcement.
- To make the statement that there is more “camping demand than... one lean-to allows for”. And then to continue a few sentences later on and say that “closure of two of the three tents sites, and resolution..... towards APSLMP conformance...”. Is a disconnect. Closing two of the three sites may eliminate them for there current location that is non-conforming but it does not correct the issue of need for or interest in more camping demand.
- To state one tent site will remain 500’ to 600’ from the lean-to indicates that it is existing at this location. This is not true as the current three sites are all along the water edge (see image 4). This means that remaining site will need to be created at the distances indicated. Looking at image 6-8 which indicate some mandated setbacks of 150” from the water and 500’ from the lean-to if these measurements are applied to the new location the new site will need to be located in what is at the moment in undeveloped grounds.

Image 1- showing total State Land acres at Crown Point Bay site and the site generally developed or occupied by the camping area

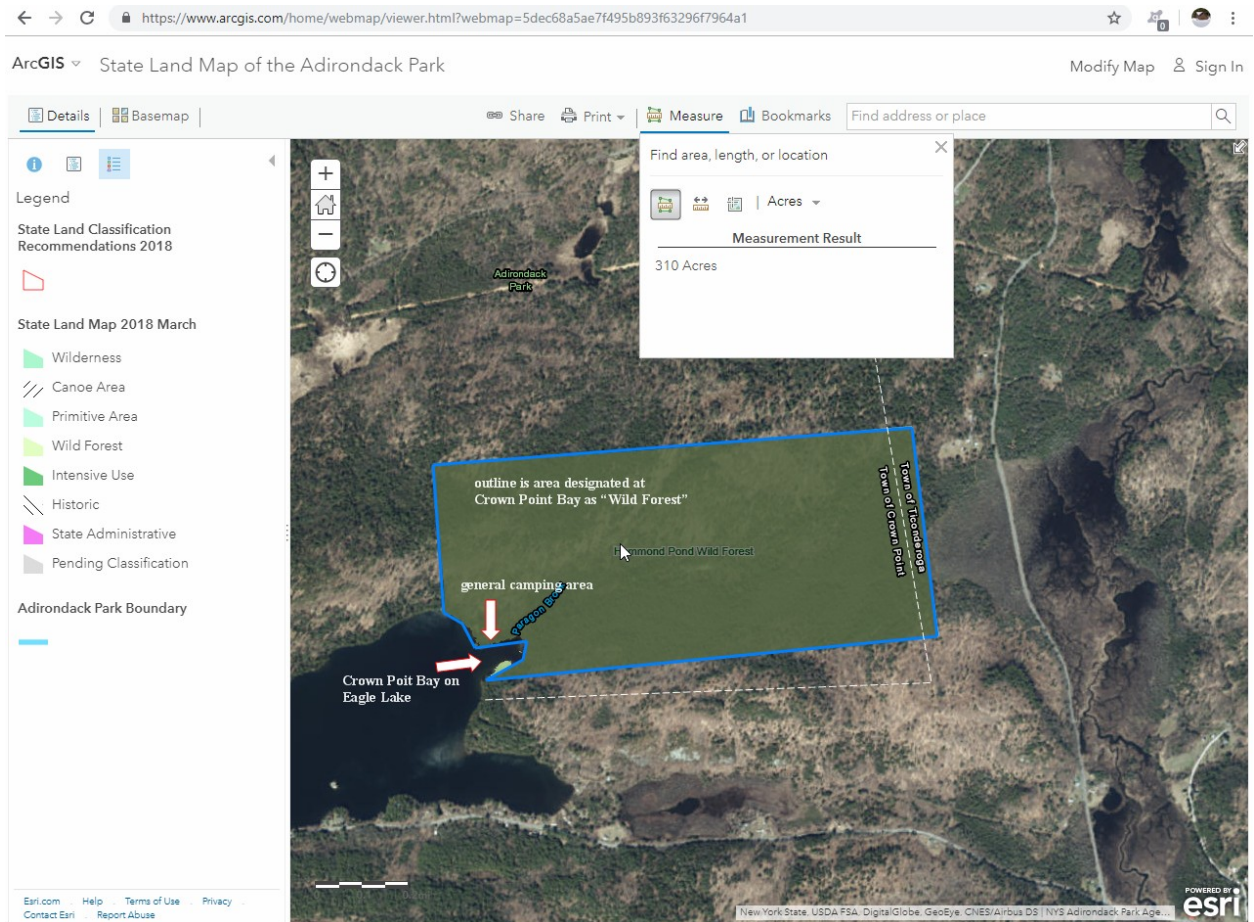




Image 2- showing small segment of the “developed” area associated with the camping and day use at the Crown Point Bay site Location of the Lean-to is shown for reference

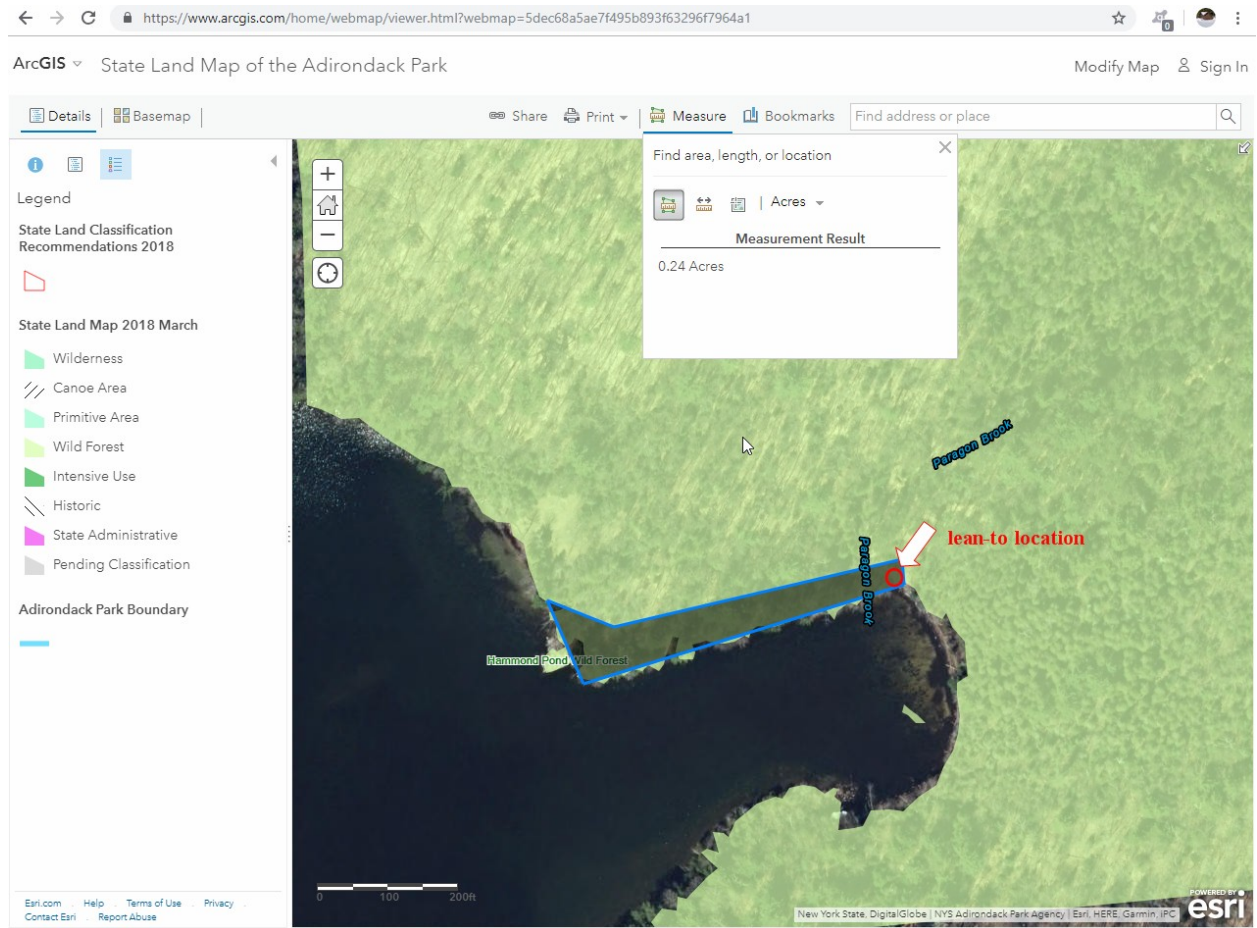


Image 3- siting of lean-to as seen from Essex County 4/2018 fy over images, location distance is about 50'-60' from the lakes water edge , but there is a seasonal stream (Paragon Brook) that runs but a few feet in front of the lean-to making the area around the lean-to muddy and easy to disrupt.



Image 4- location of current three campsites and area open that has historically been used as the picnic/ day use area. It includes the area at the arrow that site users often waded into or swim in



Image 5- shows the 100 foot approximate current site depth of current development line, this depth of use line follows the shore around into the bay getting shorter as it reaches the lean-to.

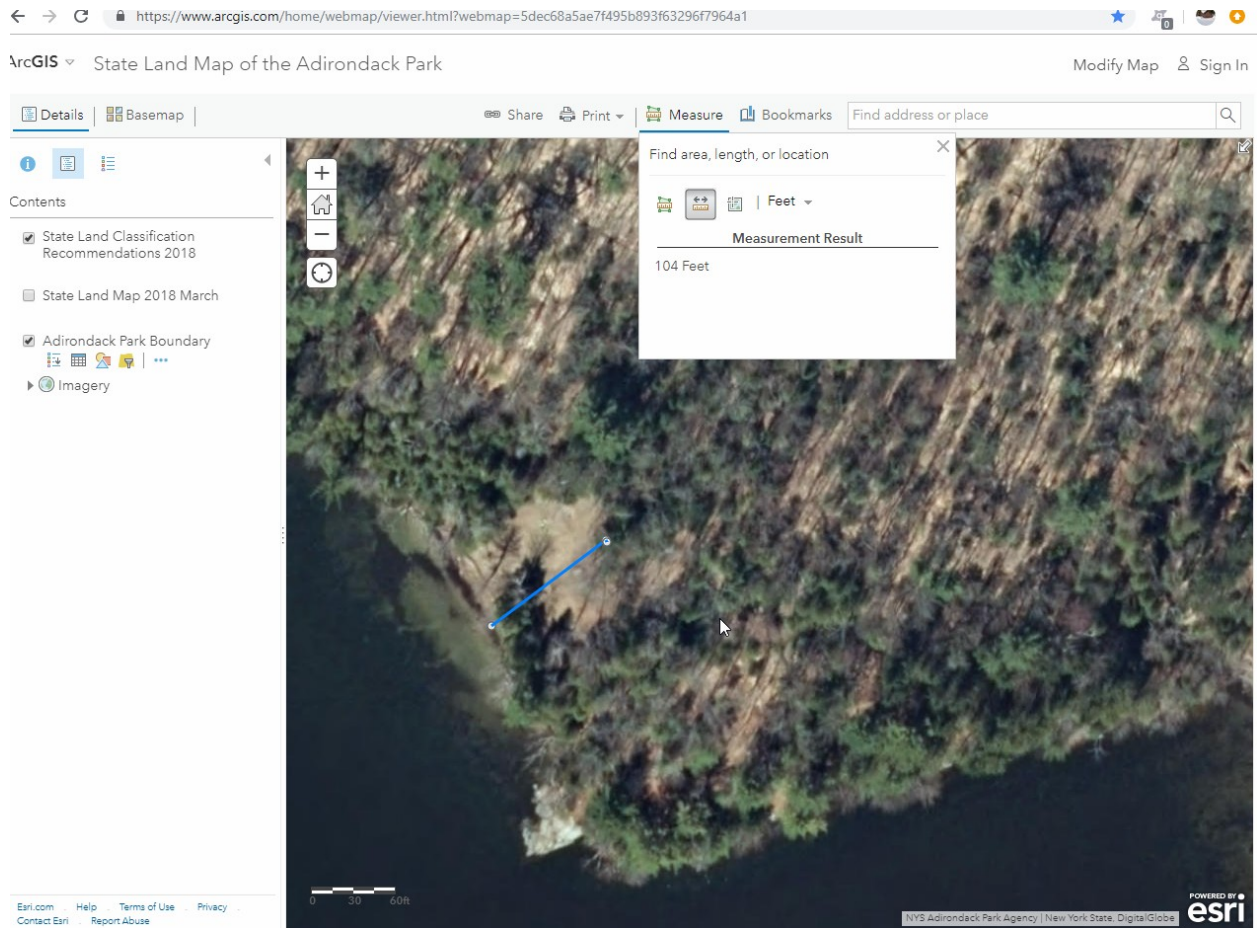


Image 6- shows the new DEC proposed depth of 150' which is the point where they want all future activities to take place behind, the distance beyond this at this site is currently undeveloped, grounds at this depth start to get into the rugged terrain that are not suitable for much use.

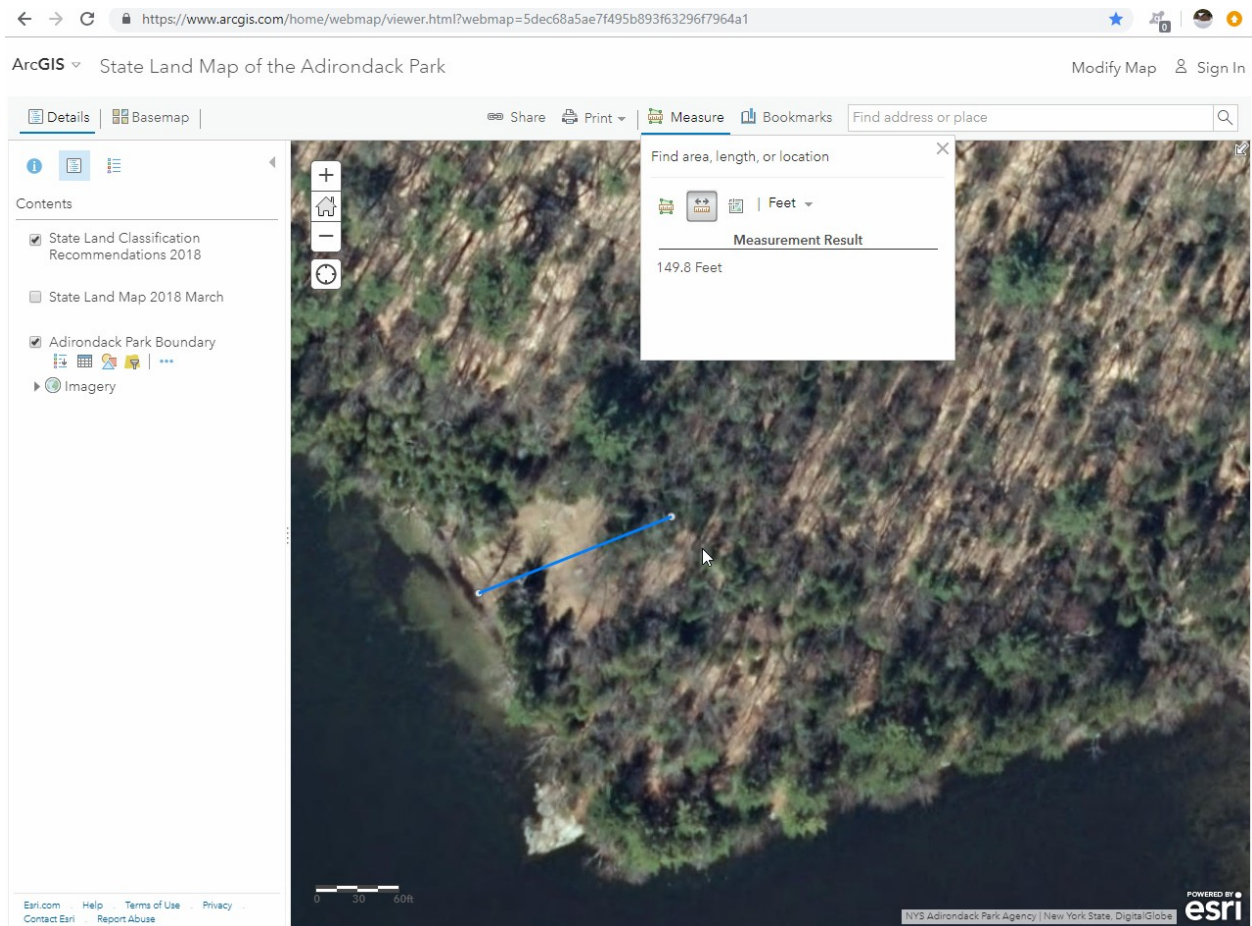


Image 7- shows the new DEC proposed depth of 150' which is the point where they want all future activities to take place behind, the distance beyond this at this site is currently undeveloped, grounds at this depth start to get into the rugged terrain that are not suitable for much use.

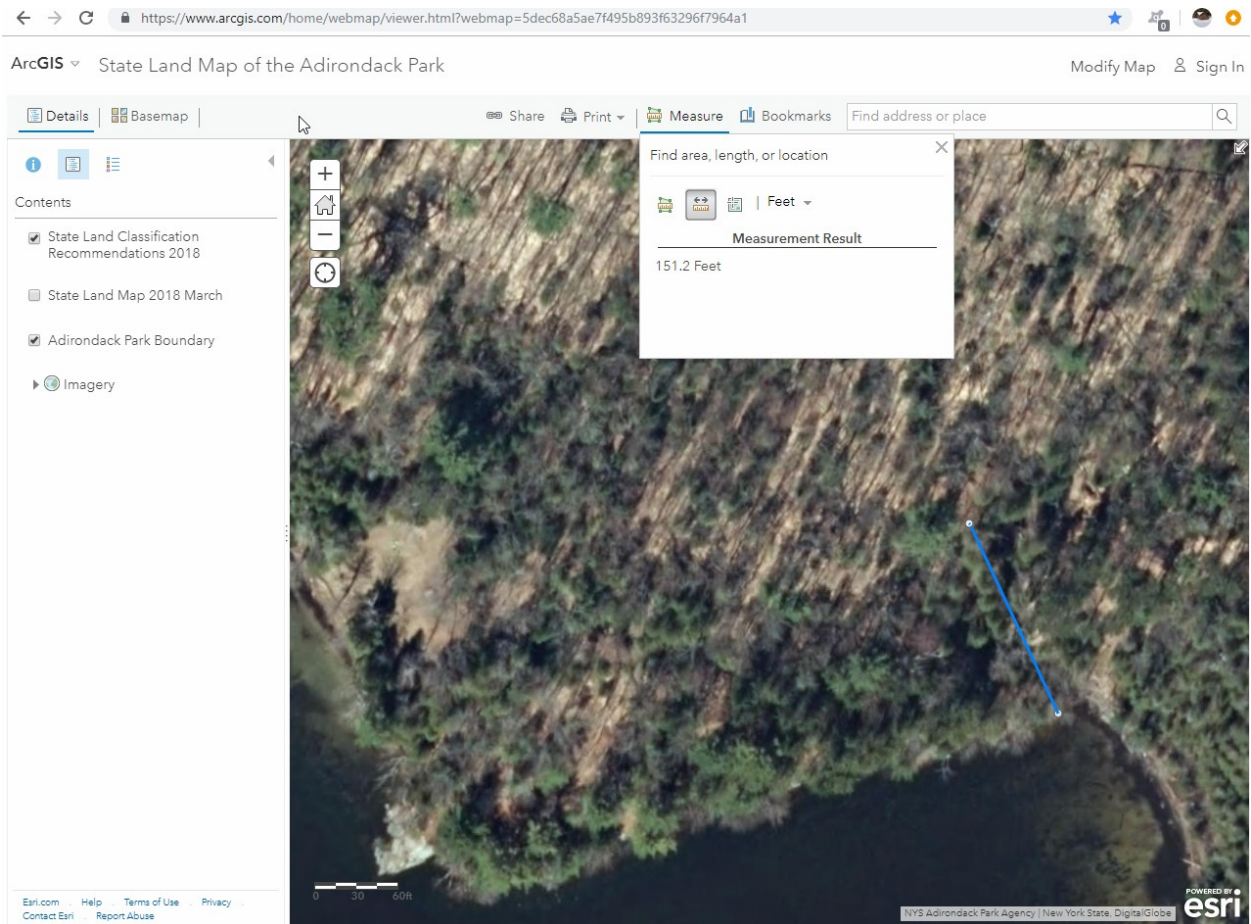
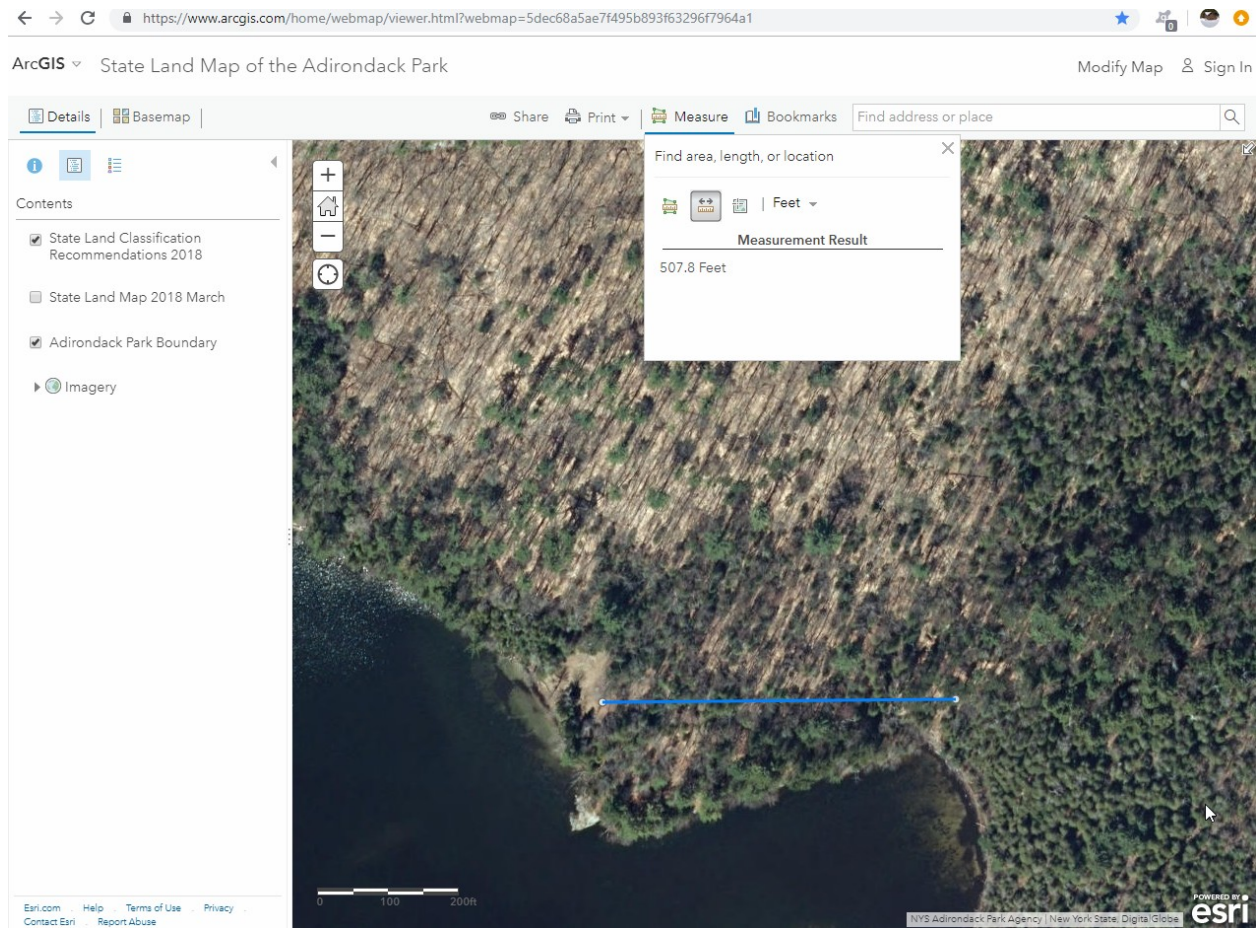


Image 8- lays out and shows a 500' distance suggested in the 2018 UMP for locating the remaining campsite. If there also needs to be a 150' set back from the water this camping site will be forced to be located some distance into the currently undeveloped wooded area. If the suggested 600" distance is used the site will be in the water or even further into the woods.

One of the attractions that brings campers to this site to spend a night or two is the historical close to the water experience. If this is significantly changed there may indeed, as is mentioned in other documents, be a decline in interest for primitive camping.



Maybe reconsideration and subsequent reclassification of the boat launch area specifically, and the associated water access only camping area specifically, need to be made? Perhaps after all this review, the DEC and APA need to write site-specific "special" UMP(s). Maybe these parcels need to be linked as is afforded Paradox Lake, Putnam and Lincoln Pond?. Maybe these parcels need to reflect how they have historically been and are currently trying to be used by the community, as intensive use areas? Maybe under a reclassification, the boat launch and Crown Point Bay camping area can be governed under their own special UMP, like those of Paradox Lake and Lincoln Pond. Maybe they can still be used as they have historically been used? This could provide an acceptable and workable solution for all concerned parties.