

V. The Master Plan

Introduction

The Master Plan is based on an assessment of resources, issues and current uses of the park. This Master Plan has been developed in accordance with the Agency's Mission Statement and the park's vision and goals established in Chapter 3.

Four areas that have distinctly different characters, issues, uses and resource considerations were identified as Management Areas. Each Management Area will be developed to support and provide activities and visitor services appropriate to the area's character.

The park is classified as a Scenic Park, as the Analysis and Alternatives Chapter recommends. The development strategy within this Master Plan is consistent with this classification. While the management areas are unique in the opportunities they offer, they meet the criteria and character of a Scenic Park when viewed together as a whole park.

The primary focus of the Master Plan for Moreau Lake State Park is to establish a balance between recreational use and protection and interpretation of the park's natural and cultural resources. Moreau Lake State Park has the unique distinction of being the last State Park before reaching the Adirondack Park when traveling from southern New York State. The recent expansion of the park to include a segment of the Hudson River and the Palmertown and Luzerne Mountains provides a transition from recreation activities in a developed area to recreation activities in an undeveloped natural environment similar to the Adirondack Park. The expanded park area also offers an opportunity to interpret the historical uses of the Hudson River, from use by indigenous peoples to use as a major transportation corridor to a power generating waterway.

The following section takes the Preferred Master Plan Alternative identified in the Analysis and Alternatives Chapter and develops it into the Master Plan. The whole park takes form as each element within the Management Areas is described and illustrated (See Map 17). Lastly, operations, staffing and development phases for the Plan are described. The park's development ranges from natural areas with minimal development to developed recreation areas to water related recreation areas.

Description of the Master Plan

Hudson River Corridor

Access/Entrance

Access to the Hudson River Corridor is primarily achieved via Spier Falls Road in Saratoga County. Along this road, there are entrances to two boat launching facilities (the Spier Falls Boat Launch Site and the Sherman Island Boat Launch Site) and "pull-off" areas. The parking area at the Spier Falls Launch will be improved and expanded slightly to allow for better parking organization. Parking at the Sherman Island Launch will be improved to allow for expansion of activities. The existing "pull-offs" will be improved and maintained to provide shoreline access for fishing, picnicking and scenic viewing. Access will also be provided via Potter Road where overnight facilities are proposed. Accessing the river from the Warren County side will be accomplished through trails beginning from the Hawk Road Entrance and from an entrance off of Corinth Road (see Warren County Management Area

Access). The Corinth Road entrance crosses National Grid property to reach a proposed boat launch on the Hudson River.

Trail Activities

There are no land based trails within this Management Area. Trail activities focus on the Hudson River in the form of a water trail. A water trail brings a sense of navigability back to this segment of river. The inclusion of portage trails, water-accessed campsites and services in nearby Corinth and Glens Falls, all make up components of a water trail. The water trail concept is not new to the Hudson River, but it has not been extended beyond the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers in the Cohoes/Troy/Waterford area. Promotional materials such as maps and brochures will be developed to provide information regarding the amenities along the water trail. Partnerships with paddling groups and/or the local communities will be developed to assist with promotion of the water trail concept.

There is no pedestrian or vehicular trail/road connection across the Hudson River within the park boundaries. Vehicular connection is possible by using public roads and bridges located both up-river in Corinth and down-river by way of Interstate 87 using Exit 18. Users wishing to access trails within the Warren County Management Area from the Palmertown Mountain or Hudson River Corridor Management Areas will have to cross the river by boat from either the Spier Falls or Sherman Island launches. Appropriate landing areas will be identified on the Warren County shoreline and may include portage trail landings and the Corinth Rd. boat launch and day use area.

Birding/Wildlife Observation

The Hudson River provides an excellent opportunity for bird-watching and observing wildlife. This activity often occurs while users are engaged in other activities such as hiking, biking or boating. To educate and inform users of the types of birds and wildlife that they may encounter while visiting the park, a series of informational panels will be developed that can be displayed on various kiosks located throughout the park. These panels can be changed to provide information about species that may only occur during specific seasons. Printed information such as maps and brochures will be available and distributed from either the Park Office or Nature Center within the Lake Recreation Area.

Map 17 – Master Plan

Large Format Map (See Separate PDF File)

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Scenic Areas and Vistas

Scenic areas and vistas will be identified on park maps and on kiosks when appropriate. Printed materials such as maps and brochures will also identify locations of scenic views. Scenic views within the Hudson River Corridor consist primarily of near views of the Hudson River and the opposite shoreline. The vista locations are the access points for the Hudson River Corridor discussed earlier. While boating on the river, there are more distant views of the surrounding mountains and wooded shorelines.

Interpretive Programs

Interpretive programs are conducted and coordinated from the Nature Center located within the Lake Recreation Area. Staff will continue to conduct guided hike and boat tours of the park. Printed interpretation materials such as maps and brochures will be available from the Nature Center and the Park Office. Additional information will be provided through the use of interpretive panels posted on kiosks located at trailhead parking areas and boat launches. Themes of the interpretive panels and printed materials can address wildlife, natural features, the history of Spier Falls Dam and other appropriate topics.

Camping and Cottages/Cabins

There are four (4) water-accessed primitive campsites located within the Hudson River Corridor. These sites are intended for a one or two night stay by paddlers and boaters passing through while following the water trail. Non-water trail users may use these sites; however, they will be required to obtain an overnight parking permit from the Park Office. The sites consist of a 200-250 sq ft cleared area to pitch a tent and a fire ring. As use of the water trail increases, expansion of this type of camping will be considered. Support facilities such as potable water and sanitary facilities may be needed if the number of sites is increased. Existing sites and surrounding areas will be monitored for use impacts and illegal camping. Potential locations for additional sites include the Murray Foundation area within the Spier Falls Impoundment and the Potter's Point area within the Sherman Island Impoundment.

Water-accessed camping at the Potter's Point area is to be considered a precursor to the development of land-accessed tent/trailer and cabin/cottage camping. This area previously supported cabins and has been used for water-accessed camping. This plan identifies Potter's Point as the best location to expand cabin/cottage camping within the park. A phased approach to the development of this area is proposed, beginning with establishing primitive water-accessed camp sites that require minimal amenities. The following phases would include establishing land access and infrastructure (roads, utilities, water supply, etc.) then progressing to two tent/trailer camping loops of 20 sites each. The proposed sites would be approximately 375 sq ft of living space with a 375-sq ft parking lane. A cabin/cottage colony would be added depending on available resources. The phased development of the two camping loops will allow for the continuation of primitive camping as the tent sites become available. The cabins will be constructed in a manner that permits extended season use and offers the potential to upgrade them for year-round use. A small picnic shelter and play area will be developed for the campers' use. Additional environmental review will be required for each phase as site specific plans are developed. A small boat landing will also be developed to

access the site and for use by campers. Map 18 shows a schematic plan of the final build out of the area.

Hunting

Large and small game hunting is currently allowed within the Hudson River Corridor provided that hunters possess a valid hunting license issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and they obtain a permit from the Park Office. Safety/no-hunting zones have been established by the park and may be modified as park areas are developed.

Fishing

Fishing is allowed in the Hudson River. Appropriate parking, shore and boat access are provided via “pull-offs” and boat launch sites. Anglers must possess a valid fishing license issued by DEC.

Swimming

Swimming in the Hudson River was considered as an activity. Prior to OPRHP ownership/management of the area, swimming had taken place in the river. Currently, swimming in the Hudson River is not permitted. Due to Department of Health requirements for a public bathing beach and space restraints it was determined that public swimming in the river would not be allowed.

Picnicking

Picnicking within the Hudson River Corridor will be directed to the Sherman Island Boat Launch area. The area will be improved to provide picnic sites/tables, grills and comfort facilities for day users. A short nature trail may also be developed. A contact station may be considered in the future if use and impacts dictate.

Picnic tables will be provided at additional access points where appropriate. These areas may include “pull-off” parking areas, the Spier Falls boat launch and the proposed Corinth Road boat launch (see below).

Boating/Boat Launches

Boats with motors are allowed on the Hudson River. There are currently two boat launches on the Hudson River. The Spier Falls boat launch has a one-lane cement ramp with approximately five-six parking spaces for cars/trailers. A couple of picnic tables are also provided. An accessible parking space is provided and an accessible path to the water for fishing is also available. The plan proposes to improve the area by expanding the parking area by one or two more spaces. This is the only public launch for this impoundment. Therefore the size of the parking area controls the level of boating use on this segment of river.

The Sherman Island boat launch has a two-lane gravel surface ramp with a total of 15 spaces for car/trailer parking and 10 additional spaces are available in small picnic areas along

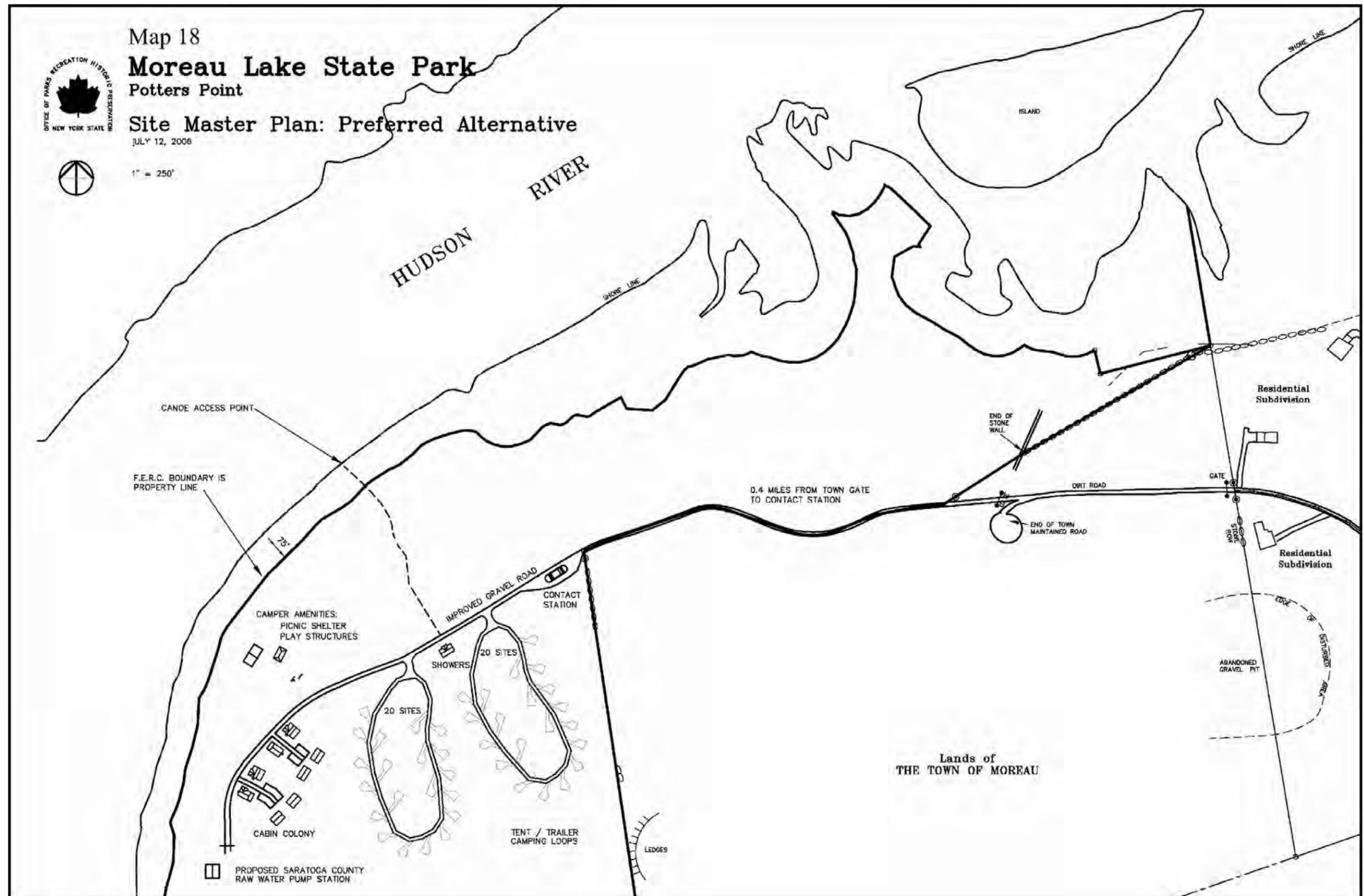
the entrance road. The parking is divided into a number of smaller parking areas for picnicking and trail head parking and includes a larger space for boat launching and parking. The facility is considered to be in fair condition. Picnic tables are placed throughout the area and an accessible fishing pier is also provided. Two portable toilets are available on a seasonal basis. Parking will be increased by providing better organization and configuration of existing parking areas and adding a 26 car gravel parking area for day users/picnickers. Separation of launch parking from day use, hiker and picnic area parking will provide better traffic flow and reduce congestion in front of the ramps. The current gravel surface of the ramp does not encourage the use of two launching lanes. The ramp will be resurfaced with textured concrete to provide definitive lanes and a non-skid surface. A small picnic area will be added along with some short trails to enhance day use. As use increases it may also be necessary to provide more permanent comfort facilities. (See Map 19)

A car-top boat launch site off Corinth Rd. on the Warren County shore within the Town of Queensbury is also proposed. There is currently no access to this site and the former launch is not useable. Before any site plans can be developed, adequate and legal vehicular access needs to be established. The proposed access will be through property retained by National Grid (See also Warren County Management Area Access).

Administration and Maintenance

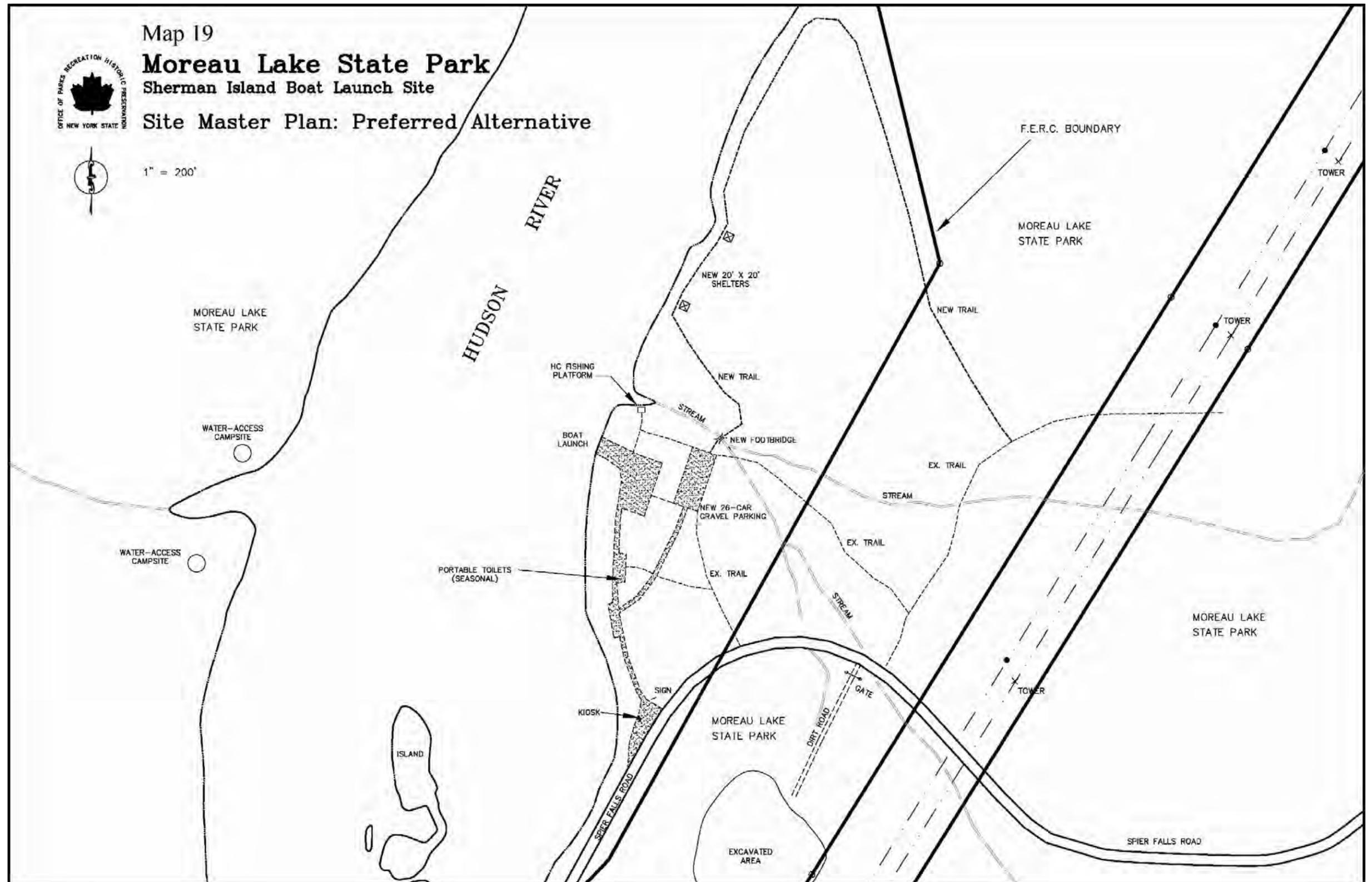
The administration and Maintenance of this area will be coordinated through the Park Office and Maintenance Area located in the Lake Recreation Area. State Park Police will continue periodic security patrols of the park facilities. The park will pursue establishing partnerships with friends groups, local governments and/or not-for-profit organizations to assist with maintenance and security issues.

Map 18 – Potter's Point
Camping Alternative



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Map 19 – Sherman
Island Boat Launch
Preferred Alternative



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Warren County

Access/Entrance

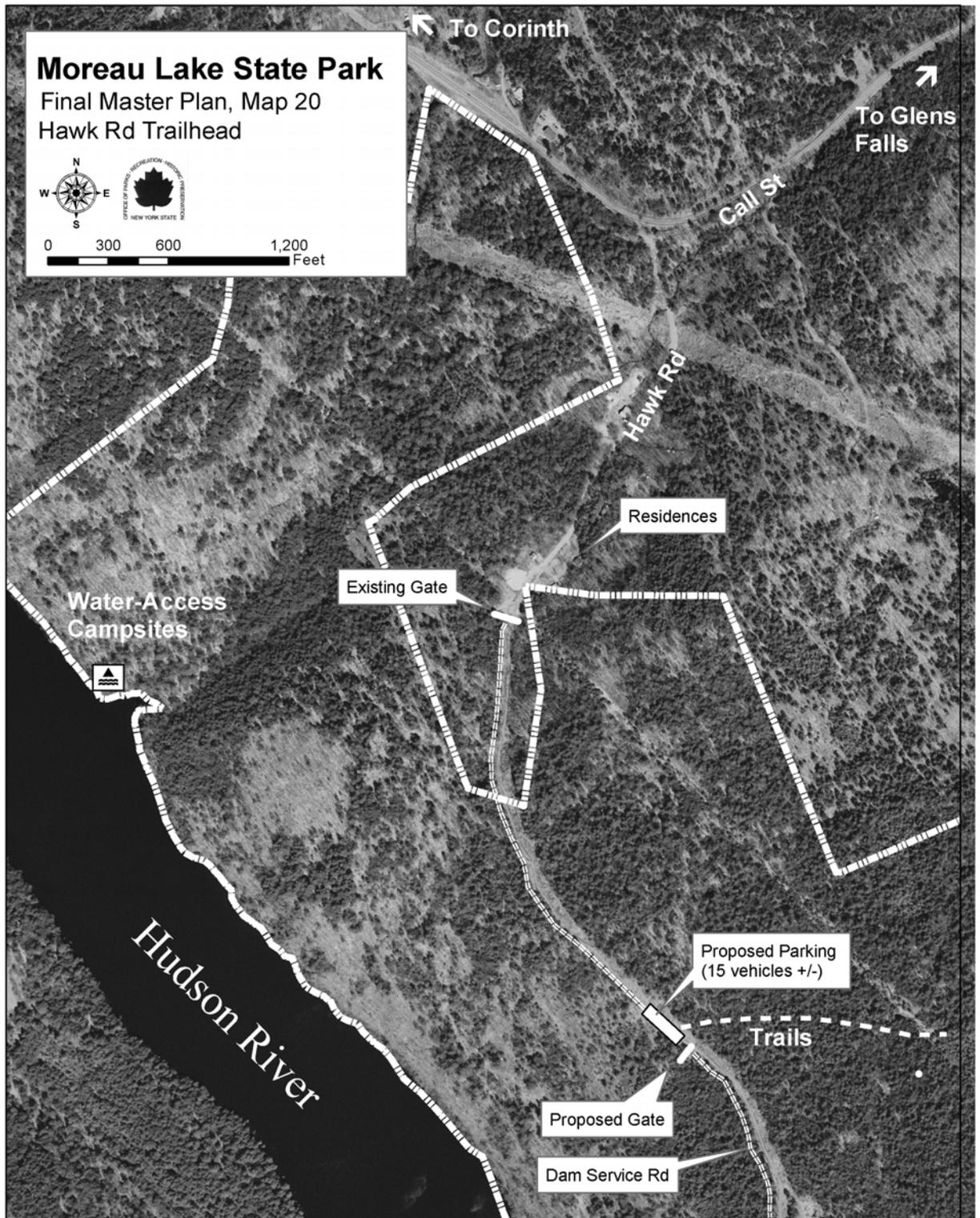
The Warren County Management Area is the furthest from the main operation center of the park. Management strategies for this area are focused on providing adequate public access and measures to indirectly manage use of the area. Two locations are proposed for providing access to the Warren County area. The first is at the end of Hawk Road within the Town of Luzerne. Hawk Road is a local road that “dead-ends” at a gated service road. The service road traverses an easement across private property onto the park. The parking area will be developed to provide more formal parking for existing trail users. It will be created in an existing open space along the existing service road. The service road will be graded and resurfaced to support user traffic. The parking area will be cleared of large rocks, graded and surfaced with crushed stone, stone dust or gravel and will provide 10+ parking spaces or 5 car/trailer parking spaces. A second gate will be placed across the service road just past the parking area to prevent user vehicles from entering the trail system. The service road will be maintained in passable condition up to the facilities managed by the current owners of the hydroelectric power generating stations and National Grid. A trailhead sign and register will be provided within the parking area. An entrance sign will be placed at the end of Hawk Road to inform users they are entering the park and park directional signs may be placed along Call Street (See Map 20).

The second access point would be off of Corinth Road in the Town of Queensbury. Currently no formal access to parkland or the Hudson River is provided. There is an existing entrance road on property retained by National Grid. This entrance road leads to an abandoned boat launch and open space area within parkland that is proposed for use. Access is dependent upon obtaining a public access easement to use this road for park purposes. The Agency will continue to work with National Grid to establish public access and use of this road. Until this road becomes available there will continue to be no formal access to parkland in this location.

Trail Activities

The trail system within this area consists primarily of user created trails, abandoned Town roads and utility company service roads. These existing routes have been inventoried using Global Positioning System (GPS) units. These existing routes and the existing uses of these routes will be included as part of a designated trails system for this area. Trail activities that are considered appropriate for this Management Area include hiking, biking (including mountain biking), interpretation, horse back riding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The general public use of ATVs is illegal on State Park land. The plan also proposes that a detailed trails plan is to be developed for this Management Area. The trails plan will identify appropriate trail routes to create a looped trail system and designate appropriate uses for these new trail segments. Until the completion of this trails plan, existing trails and their existing uses will be maintained. Safe access to the existing trails will be provided by the proposed trail head parking area at Hawk Road (see Access above).

Map 20 – Hawk Road Trailhead



Birding/Wildlife Observation

The Warren County Management Area provides an excellent opportunity for bird-watching and observing wildlife. Bald eagles, in particular, have been wintering over in this stretch of the river. Wildlife observation often occurs while users are engaged in other activities such as hiking, biking or boating. To educate and inform users of the types of birds and wildlife that they may encounter while visiting the park, a series of informational panels will be developed that can be displayed on various kiosks located through out the park. These panels can be changed out to provide information about species that may only occur during specific seasons. Printed information such as maps and brochures will be available and distributed from the Park Office and the Nature Center within the Lake Recreation Area. OPRHP has been coordinating with the Department of Environmental Conservation in the monitoring of the eagle.

Scenic Areas and Vistas

Scenic areas and vistas will be identified on park maps and on kiosks when appropriate. Printed materials such as maps and brochures will also identify locations of scenic views. Scenic views within the Warren County Management Area have not been thoroughly inventoried. As the trails plan is developed vista locations may be identified. In preliminary investigations, a scenic vista was identified at the proposed parking area off of Hawk Road. This view consists primarily of distant views of the Hudson River Valley.

Interpretive Programs

Interpretive programs are conducted and coordinated from the Nature Center located within the Lake Recreation Area. Staff will continue to conduct guided hikes of the area. Printed interpretation materials such as maps and brochures will be available from the Nature Center and the Park Office. Additional information will be provided through the use of interpretive panels on kiosks located at trailhead parking areas. Themes of the interpretive panels and printed materials can address wildlife, natural features, the history of Spier Falls Dam and other appropriate topics.

Camping and Cottages/Cabins

There are currently no camping facilities within this management area. It may be appropriate to offer some backpack/primitive campsites within the area; however, providing more developed camping facilities is not feasible due to a number of factors including distance from main park operations. The development of backpack/primitive campsites will depend upon the extent and use of the trail system. It is recommended that backpack/primitive campsite locations be considered during the development of the Trails Plan for this management area. In the interim, camping will not be available.

Hunting

Large and small game hunting is currently allowed within the Warren County Management Area provided that hunters possess a valid hunting license issued by the

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and they obtain a permit from the Park Office. Safety/no-hunting zones have been established by the park and may be modified as park areas are developed.

Picnicking

Picnic tables will be provided at appropriate locations within the management area. The proposed parking areas at the Hawk Road entrance and the proposed boat launch off of Corinth Road are ideal locations to provide tables for users to stage gear, or have a meal before venturing on.

Administration and Maintenance

Current practices of administration and maintenance of the Warren County Management Area will continue. General administration and maintenance will be coordinated by the main Park Office located within the Lake Recreation Area. State Park Police will continue to provide periodic patrols. Partnerships with friends groups, local governments, and/or not-for-profit organizations will be established to assist with maintenance and security. Park rules, regulations, and emergency service information will be provided through the use of kiosks and signs.

Palmertown Mountains

Access/Entrance

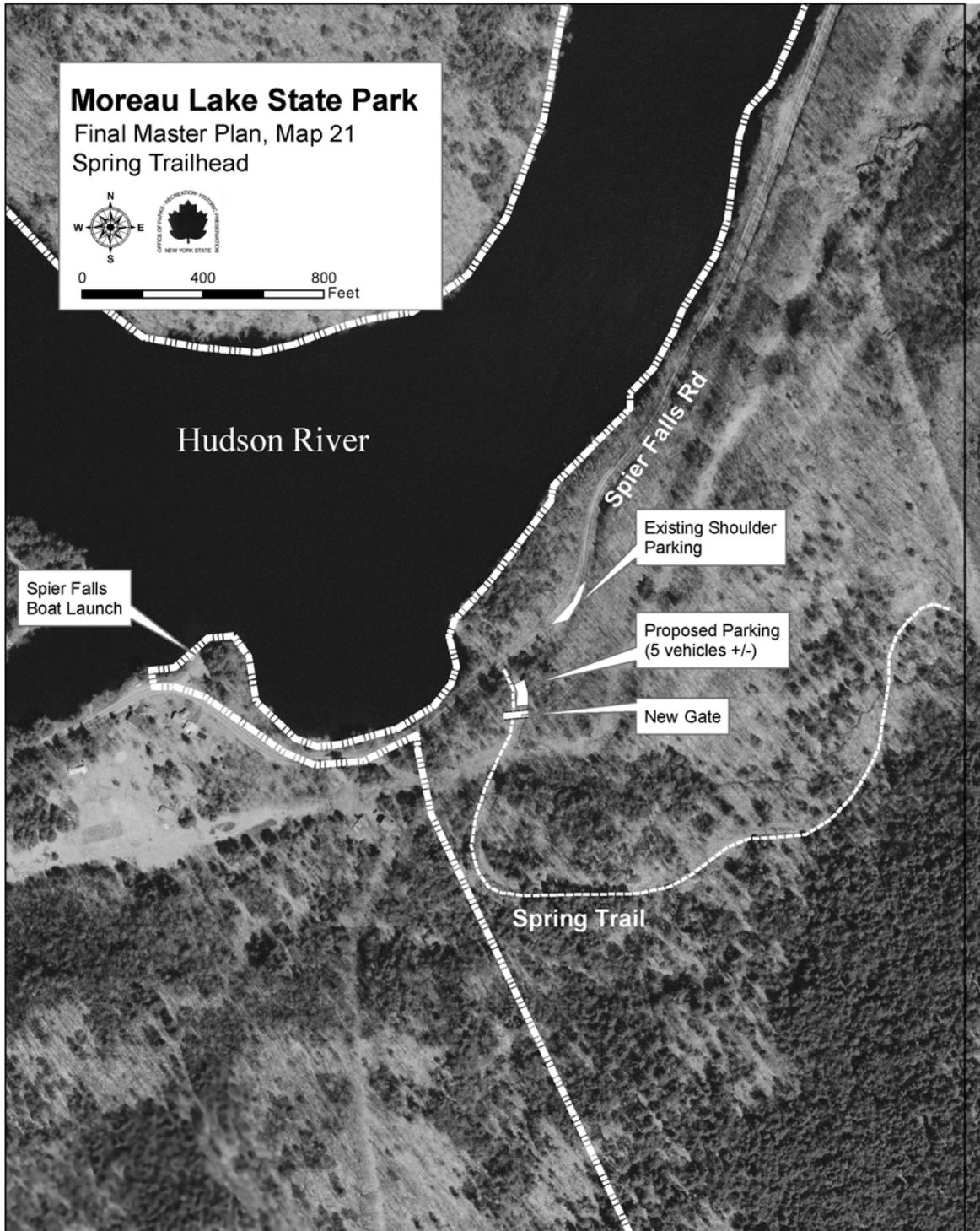
Access and parking to the area will be maintained in its current configuration with minor improvements. Access is obtained through various parking and trailhead areas along Spier Falls Road and from within the Lake Recreation Area. Signs will be placed at park boundaries along roadways that inform visitors that they are entering Moreau Lake State Park.

The Spring Trailhead will be improved to allow for extra parking. An existing gated road will be widened to add 5 parking spaces and turning space. Currently users back their vehicles on to Spier Falls Road when leaving the trailhead. By improving the existing gated road users will no longer back their vehicles on to Spier Falls Road but will enter traffic facing forward (See Map 21).

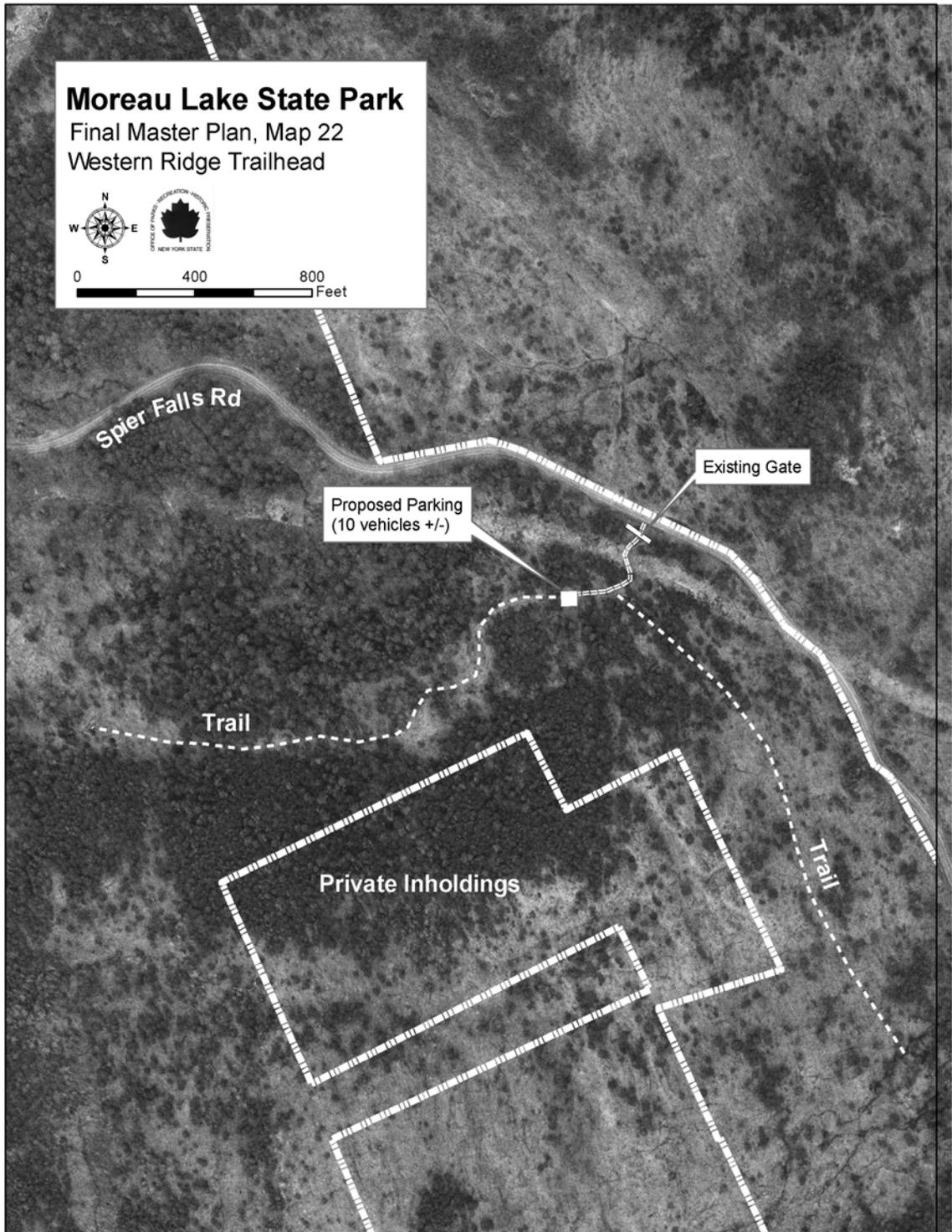
The Western Ridge Trailhead will be constructed as described within the existing trails plan for the area. The entrance will be on the east-west running segment of Spier Falls Road (See Map 22).

Parking for the Cottage Park Trail will be part of and coordinated with the improvement of the Sherman Island Boat Launch parking areas. The Sherman Island Boat Launch improvements are discussed earlier within the Hudson River Corridor section. Parks will request that "Trail Crossing" signs be placed along Spier Falls Road in the location of the boat launch entrance and Cottage Park Trail trailhead.

Map 21 – Spring Trailhead



Map 22 – Western Ridge Trailhead



Trail Activities

There are 15 miles of trail within this management area. The trails are used by hikers, bikers, cross-country skiers and snowshoers. Snowmobiling and horseback riding are not permitted within this area of the park. Trail maintenance and construction will continue in accordance with the trails plan for the area. Trails will be monitored as to their condition and use.

Birding/Wildlife Observation

This activity often occurs while users are engaged in other activities such as hiking or biking. The Palmertown Management Area provides an excellent opportunity for bird-watching and observing wildlife. The numerous overlook and scenic areas provide ideal opportunities for viewing birds. To educate and inform users of the types of birds and wildlife that they may encounter while visiting the park, a series of informational panels will be developed that can be displayed on various kiosks located throughout the park. These panels can be changed out to provide information about species that may only occur during specific seasons. Printed information such as maps and brochures will be available and distributed from the Park Office and the Nature Center within the Lake Recreation Area.

Scenic Areas and Vistas

One of the unique qualities of this management area is its numerous scenic overlooks. These viewing areas provide panoramic views of the Hudson River, Spier Falls Dam, the Luzerne Mountains and the foothills of the Adirondacks, the Green Mountains of Vermont, the Lake Champlain, Hudson and Mohawk River Valleys. These scenic viewing areas will be maintained and identified on park maps and other literature that will be distributed through the Park Office and Nature Center.

Interpretive Programs

Park staff will continue to conduct guided hikes that include interpretive elements. Guides, maps and brochures will be developed that interpret themes such as wildlife, birds, ecology and history. These paper materials will be distributed from the Park Office and the Nature Center located within the Lake Recreation Area. Kiosks with informational panels will be placed at appropriate trailhead locations.

The park will seek to develop new and continue existing partnerships with organizations such as, volunteer groups, schools and not-for-profit organizations to conduct guided hikes and other interpretive programs.

Camping and Cottages/Cabins

Currently there are no camping opportunities of any kind within this management area. Traditional campgrounds, cabins and cottages are not considered appropriate for this area. Access and infrastructure are not available in this area and make development of a campground or cabin/cottage colony infeasible. However, a limited number of

backpack/primitive campsites, which may or may not include a lean-to, will be developed along the trails to serve transient trails users. These sites will consist of approximately 200-250 sq ft of cleared area to pitch a tent and may include a fire ring. Lean-to sites will have a cleared area with a fire ring and a three-walled primitive structure for shelter and a pit privy. They will be available to transient trail users on a first come basis for a one to two night stay.

Hunting

Large and small game hunting is currently allowed within the Palmertown Mountain Area provided that hunters possess a valid hunting license issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and they obtain a permit from the Park Office. Safety/no-hunting zones have been established by the park and may be modified as park areas are developed.

Administration and Maintenance

Administration and maintenance of the area will continue to be coordinated through the Park Office and Maintenance Area within the Lake Recreation Area. The Park will continue existing and explore new partnerships with volunteers, friends, and school groups and not-for-profit organizations regarding maintenance and security within the management area.

Lake Recreation Area

Access/Entrance

This management area serves as the primary recreation area of the park. The entrance to this area of the park is off of Old Saratoga Road. The length of the entrance road from Old Saratoga Road to the contact station is inadequate to handle the volume of users entering the park during peak use times. Often patron vehicles are “stacked” along side of Old Saratoga Road and can interfere with through traffic. The Master Plan addresses this issue and improves the general atmosphere of the park entrance. The speed limit on Old Saratoga Road within the park boundaries will be lowered to 30 mph and signs identifying the park will be placed at the park boundaries along the road. Directional signage on Route 9 will also be improved. The section of Old Saratoga Road north of the Park entrance will be widened by adding a northeast bound traffic lane on the Route 9 property side of the road. The existing southwest bound traffic lane will then become a stacking lane/right turn lane. The maintenance area will be relocated to the Route 9 property in the vicinity of the former gravel pit site. The Park Office and contact station will remain at their current location; however, a 20+ car/trailer parking area will be created for camper registration parking, overflow parking and winter parking. A new RV camping and day use area will be created within the Route 9 property. (See Map 23)

Trail Activities

This management area offers 5.8 miles of multiple-use trails. Activities such as hiking, biking (including mountain biking), natural and cultural interpretation, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing all occur on these trails. These uses are to continue on

a well maintained, designated trail system. Bicycles are used by campers and day users to access different areas of the park. The most popular trail circumnavigates Moreau Lake and Mud Pond. Sections of this trail are often shared with vehicular traffic, especially through the campground area. New sections of trail will be needed to separate bicycle traffic from vehicular traffic. Existing trails will be improved and designated for multiple-uses. Bike parking areas and bike racks will be improved and located in appropriate areas, such as the day use area and Nature Center.

With the exception of the trail segments needed to complete the multiple-use trails, there will be no new hiking trails developed. Existing hiking trails will be maintained. Interpretive materials and signs will be improved along the designated Nature Trail. The trail conditions will be improved to permit access by persons with disabilities.

Equestrian use of the trails within this area will continue. Selected trails from the existing trail inventory will be designated for equestrian use and an alternate trail that runs parallel to the Nature Trail will be designed for equestrian use. Parking for equestrians will be provided at a convenient location that provides access to the trail system. Locations for parking may include the day use area lot or the overflow lot near the Park Office. (See Camping).

Winter use of the trail system will include cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Unplowed roads and existing trails will be shared by cross-country skiers and snowshoers. Cross-country skiers and snowshoers create parallel tracks on the same trail. The trails will not be groomed for these uses. Snowmobiling will not be permitted within this area of the park.

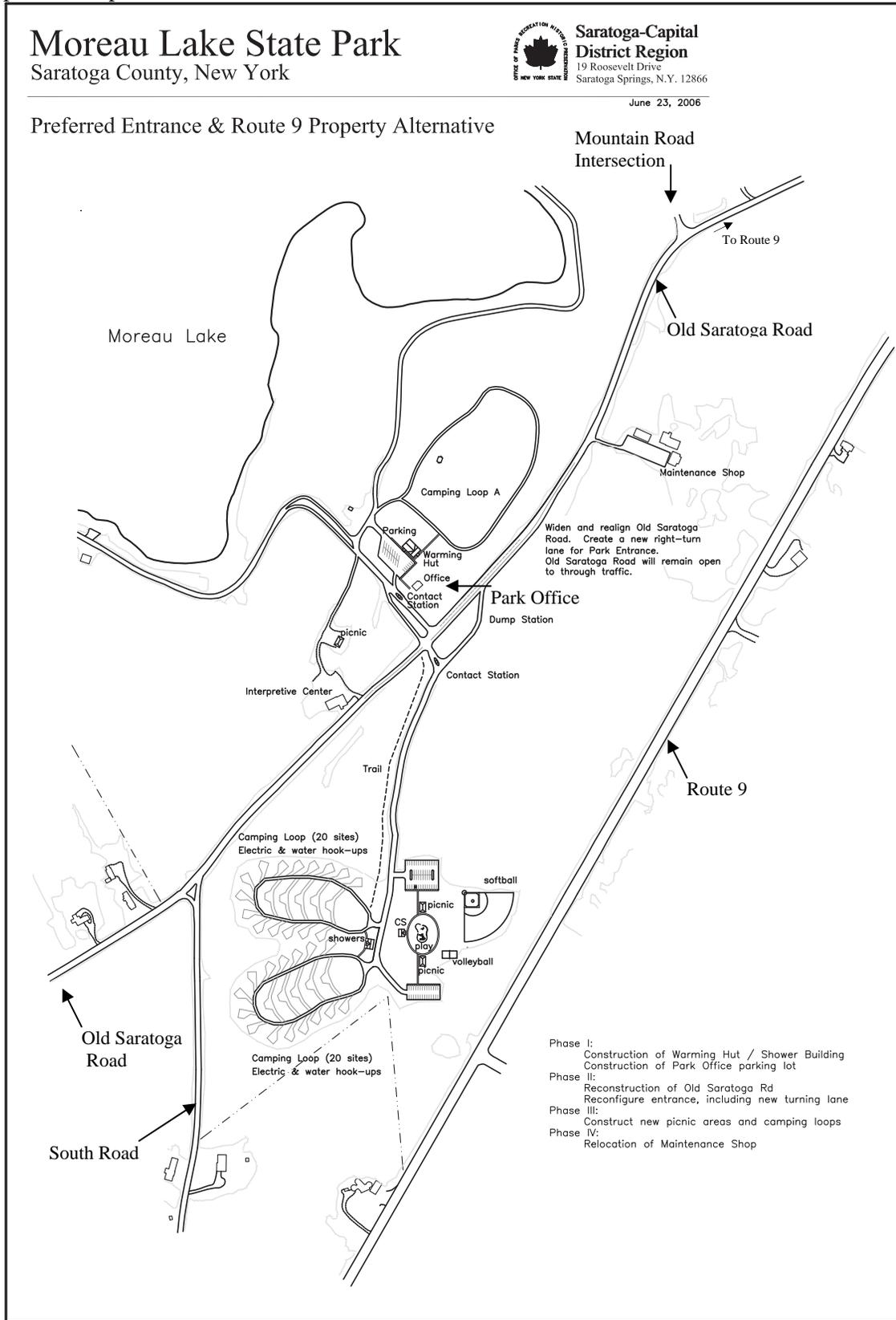
Birding/Wildlife Observation

This activity often occurs while users are engaged in other activities such as hiking or biking. The 5.8 miles of trails and waterside benches within the Lake Recreation Area provides opportunities for bird-watching and observing wildlife. There will be no specific observation sites or areas identified. To educate and inform users of the types of birds and wildlife that they may encounter while visiting the park, a series of informational panels will be developed that can be displayed on various kiosks located throughout the park. These panels can be changed to provide information about species that may only occur during specific seasons. Printed information such as maps and brochures will be available and distributed from the Park Office and the Nature Center.

Scenic Areas and Vistas

The scenic qualities of the Lake Recreation Area will be maintained through properly locating and designing facilities. Development and other management activities will be undertaken in a manner that is compatible with and preserves the scenic character of Moreau Lake and its shoreline. Benches and picnic tables will be placed throughout the day use and campground areas and along the Nature Trail in appropriate locations.

Map 23 – Proposed Main Park Entrance



Interpretive Programs

The Nature Center will continue to be the main programming “headquarters” for the park. Programming will be expanded to offer more and a greater variety of programs including community outreach. Brochures, maps and guides for interpreting such themes as wildlife, birds, ecology scenery, and history, will be developed and distributed from the Nature Center and other appropriate trailhead locations and parking areas. Existing partnerships will be maintained and new partnerships will be developed with volunteer organizations who conduct various guided hikes and interpretive programs within the park. Kiosks with informational panels will be installed at appropriate trailheads and parking areas. The signage along the Nature Trail will be improved to facilitate self guided study and enhance guided tours of the trail. A winter programming space will be developed either at the Nature Center or another location.

Camping and Cottages/Cabins

The existing 148-site campground will be upgraded and improved to meet accessibility standards, decrease overuse impacts and improve shower and comfort facilities. In 1967, the typical campsite was designed to have 420 sq ft of living area with a 928-sq ft parking lane. User impacts have caused an 11 to 48% increase in the average size of the campsites. The electric service to the park will be upgraded which will allow for the expansion of electrical service to comfort facilities and the shower building within the campground. It also provides the opportunity to offer electric service at selected campsites and/or camping loops in the future.

Camper sanitation and solid waste disposal facilities will be upgraded by improving the recycling facilities and relocating the dumping station away from existing campsites. It is proposed that the dumping station be moved toward the park entrance on the Route 9 property (see Map 23). By moving some of these facilities out of the camping area, space is created for other camper amenities which could be added to the campground area such as laundry facilities, a camper store, a recreation building, play areas or a playground and business nodes.

RV and large trailer camping will be accommodated through the addition of two new camping loops within the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road. Each loop will contain 20 campsites with approximately 865 sq ft of living space with an 865-sq ft parking lane. Water and electric hookups will also be provided at each site.

The Lake Shore Cottage will continue to be rented as a full service cottage. No further cabin/cottage development will be considered for this area of the park. New cabin/cottage colonies are proposed for areas along the Hudson River (See Hudson River Corridor Management Area).

The tent sites within the group camping area will be improved as will the comfort facilities. Parking for the group camping area will be moved from Loop C to the service road off the main trunk road and it will be expanded to permit parking for 6 vehicles.

Overflow or 3rd-car parking lots will be created within each camping loop to alleviate parking congestion along the main trunk road of the campground. These lots will be small areas large enough to accommodate three to four cars. A centralized 20+ car parking area will

be constructed between the park office and the recycling area to provide additional 3rd-car parking and camper registration parking (See Map 23). This lot can also be used for winter parking and special use parking (such as horse trailer parking).

Hunting

Large and small game hunting is currently allowed within the park. Hunters must possess a valid hunting license issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and they must obtain a permit from the Park Office. Safety/no-hunting zones have been established by the park and may be modified as park areas are developed. Currently, the Lake Recreation Management Area is identified as a safety/no-hunting zone.

Fishing

Fishing is currently permitted in Moreau Lake from non-motorized water craft and from shore. Gas and electric powered motors are not permitted on Moreau Lake or its associated ponds. Anglers will continue to be provided with appropriate parking, shore and boat access to the lake. The park will continue to work with the County and DEC regarding the stocking program for Moreau Lake. Ice fishing will continue to be allowed when appropriate conditions exist. The use of gas and electric augers is not permitted. Anglers over the age of 16 must possess a valid fishing license issued by the DEC.

Swimming

The Lake Recreation Area offers a 300-foot swimming beach on the western shore of Moreau Lake. This beach serves park day users and campers. Since overall capacity of this area will not be significantly increased, there is no need to increase the capacity of the beach. The current operating hours are sufficient and the physical capacity of the beach will be maintained.

A bath house is available for use by swimmers. The functionality of the bath house will be improved. Extra space within the bath house could be reconfigured for use by concession operations, first aid/lifeguard station and other programming space.

Picnicking

The day use area offers both group and individual picnicking areas. The one pavilion is in high demand and usually booked first. The park uses three rental tents to supplement group picnicking. The tent that is booked first is located near the volleyball court. A small picnic pavilion/shelter, of approximately 30-person capacity, will be constructed near the volley ball court within the day use area to replace the tent. The rental tent used at this location will be reused elsewhere in the park.

Additional picnic facilities will be constructed on the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road. Entrance to these picnic grounds will be to the left of the Main Park Road (see Map 23). The picnic grounds will include a picnic area and two, 75-person capacity picnic pavilions with associated parking and play fields. Play fields may include softball

fields, a play ground, ball courts and/or open areas. Each group picnic facility will have electric service, water and comfort facilities.

Boating/Boat Launch

Boats without gas or electric powered motors are permitted on Moreau Lake. The park issues approximately 25 seasonal boating permits a year that allow patrons to leave their boats at the park. There is one boat launch located along the southern shore of Moreau Lake. This launch is used by day users and campers. The boat launch is in good condition and requires only regular preventative maintenance. Parking is available and is currently sufficient to meet existing levels of use. A boat storage area, such as boat racks, will be created for both campers and permit holders. At least one boat storage area will be located in the vicinity of the boat launch and the other boat storage area will be conveniently located for campers. The boat storage area will aid in reducing theft, vandalism, and damage to shoreline vegetation. Providing boat storage racks will also improve and maintain the scenic qualities of Moreau Lake's shoreline.

Administration/Maintenance

The maintenance area/facility will be relocated and the current site will be reused for other programming needs. The remaining historic structure will be stabilized for future use. The new maintenance area/facility will be located at a former gravel mine on the property south of Old Saratoga Road and east of the park entrance. (see Map 23). This location provides better concealment of maintenance functions from park patrons and better access to satellite areas of the park.

Property between Rt. 9 and Old Saratoga Road

As noted earlier, RV camping loops (2 loops of 20 sites each) with water and electric hook ups and family and group picnicking facilities with parking, pavilions/shelters, comfort stations, and play areas will be developed. Also the former gravel mine in the northern section of the property will house the new maintenance facility/area (see Map 23).

Park Maintenance and Operation

Infrastructure

Accessibility is considered in the design of all the park facilities, and ADA features at the boat launches are specifically addressed in the FERC settlement agreement.

Roads, Bridges and Parking Areas

The seven miles of park road will be maintained in serviceable condition. Park roads will require regular maintenance and repair. Repaving of roads or road segments will occur on an as needed basis.

New roads and parking areas associated with the park entrance redesign and development within the Route 9 lands will be surfaced with asphalt. New roads that will be constructed

within the Warren County Management Area (Corinth Road entrance) and the Hudson River Corridor Management Area (Potter's Point cabin/camping area) will have a gravel or crushed stone surface. The Hawk Road entrance road within the Warren County Management Area will be improved to handle regular vehicular traffic. A total of 10,500 linear feet of new roadway will be constructed within the park.

New and/or renovated parking areas are planned for:

- the Hawk Road entrance and the Corinth Road entrance within the Warren County Management Area,
- the Sherman Island and Spier Falls Boat Launches within the Hudson River Corridor Management Area,
- the Spring and Western Ridge Trailheads within the Palmertown Mountain Management Area,
- the new picnic grounds on the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road, an overflow area at the park office, the group camping area and small third car parking areas in the campground within the Lake Recreation Area Management Area, and
- the Day Use parking area will be resurfaced and striped. Minor modifications will be made to add additional parking spaces and meet current ADA guidelines, but the overall size and character of the parking area will remain the same.

Two (2) acres of parking area (215 total parking spaces, not including the 80 campsites being added) are to be constructed

Parking for park staff currently exists within the Maintenance Area and a small lot exists at the Park Office for official park vehicles. Life guard parking is available at the day use area. Parking for Park Office Staff and "Official" vehicles can be provided in the overflow lot. Other park workers will require parking at the Maintenance Area.

There are no vehicular bridges within the park and none are proposed within this plan. There are, however, three pedestrian bridges along trails within the Lake Recreation Area Management Area that are currently in good condition. Regular maintenance and repair will be required to maintain these bridges in their current conditions.

Buildings and Structures

Of the 28 non-recreational buildings on the park 2 are not in use and are considered uninhabitable. The buildings not in use should be reviewed for historical status, documented and then removed as necessary. A comprehensive building inventory and conditions report should be completed for all existing buildings.

Approximately 21 new buildings or structures will be added to the park. Two new contact stations will be needed, one at the main entrance for the Route 9 camping area and the other station is needed at the Potter's Point camping area.

Buildings associated with the maintenance complex will be removed so that the space can be reused for other park purposes. The remaining structure can be rehabilitated and reused for interpretive and educational programming while other space in the area is reused for parking and picnicking facilities. New maintenance buildings will be constructed in the area of the old gravel mine on the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road.

Three new comfort Stations and shower buildings will be constructed. A comfort station/shower building will be provided at the Potter's Point camping area, the RV camping area in the Route 9 lands and adjacent to the Park Office. The comfort station/shower building adjacent to the Park Office will also function as a warming hut for winter programming.

Eight to twelve new cabins/cottages will be constructed in the area of Potter's Point. These buildings will consist of a sleeping area and possibly a kitchenette. These buildings may also be constructed in a manner that permits extended season use and will have the potential to be upgraded for year-round use. In addition a picnic shelter will be provided along with 2 new tent/trailer camping loops.

Four new picnic pavilions and two new RV camping loops will be constructed within the Lake Recreation Area Management Area. One pavilion will be constructed near the volley ball court in the day use area and will replace a tent currently used there. The tent will be employed elsewhere in the park. Another pavilion may be constructed within the former Maintenance Area and two more pavilions will be constructed on the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road. With the exception of the pavilion at the day use area, the average capacity of the pavilions will be 50 – 75 persons. The new pavilion at the day use area will have a capacity of a maximum of 30 persons. (Note that no additional parking at the day use area will be needed as this pavilion is replacing a tent currently supported by existing day use parking. The other three pavilions will require the establishment of parking areas thus increasing the total parking within the Lake Recreation Area.)

The bathhouse at the beach/day use area was renovated more than 20 years ago. Currently, there is unused space in the bathhouse, which could be redesigned to make better use of the space.

Utilities

Potable Water Supplies

The park is currently serviced by three separate water supplies. The areas currently serviced by these supplies are not being increased in capacity and no expansion of the systems is proposed. However, some minor upgrades to the water supplies may be necessary if laundry facilities are added to the campground area. The water system for the Park Office, Camping Loop A and the new Comfort Station/Warming Hut will require an upgrade or new water source due to the addition of the Comfort Station/Warming Hut and the change in use of the Maintenance area to an interpretive/picnic facility.

New water supplies will be needed in areas of proposed new development. These areas are:

- the picnic facilities and RV camping loops on the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road,
- the new maintenance complex on the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road and,
- the Potter's Point camping/cabin area.

It may be necessary at some point to provide a potable water supply at the Sherman Island Boat Launch Area if it is expanded to incorporate picnicking facilities. When possible the park should explore using existing water supplies from neighboring towns or the county.

Saratoga County has proposed to construct a new countywide water system with the main waterline running along Mountain Road adjacent to the park border and then turning south along Old Saratoga Road through the park. This line could be tapped for any future expansion in the areas of camping Loop A, the Park Office, Maintenance Area and developments within the Route 9 park lands.

Septic Systems, Solid Waste and Refuse Disposal

When possible the park should explore using existing sewage disposal systems operated by the neighboring towns or the county. Currently the park uses 17 septic systems to service the developments within the Lake Recreation Area. Waste systems will be required for the dumping station, picnic area, shelters and camping loops proposed on the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road, the new location for the Maintenance Area, the Potter's Point camping area and potentially at the Sherman Island Boat Launch.

The Park follows a "carry-in/carry-out" policy for refuse disposal. The "carry-in/carry-out" policy should be continued for the water accessed camping sites, day use areas, and boat launch areas. Campers within the Lake Recreation Area use a centrally located dumpster for refuse disposal. A place is also provided for collecting recyclable materials. This system may need expansion with the addition of the RV Loops and picnic facilities within the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road. The park contracts with a waste hauler to empty the dumpster. A similar refuse disposal and recycling system should be established for the camping/cabin area at Potter's Point.

Telephone and Communications

The telephone system and DSL internet access is currently provided by Verizon. A telephone should be provided to the new Maintenance Area for park purposes. In addition to the two public telephones available in the Lake Recreation Area Management Area, a public telephone should be made available at the Potter's Point camping/cabin area. A park phone that connects to the Park Office should also be installed so that problems or emergencies can be reported.

Communication among park staff is essential for security and safety reasons. The staff that frequently works in remote areas of the park should have access to a two way radio system. Geographically, the Palmertown Mountain Range interferes with radio communication especially between the park office and the Hudson River access sites and Warren County park lands. It may be necessary to install a radio relay tower to boost signals within the park.

Heating Systems

The Park Office and Maintenance Area are currently the only heated structures within the park. It is recommended that another structure, such as a recreation building or warming hut be provided within the Lake Recreation Area Management Area to be used for winter programs and activities. The cabins at the Potter's Point Camping Area will also be constructed in a manner that allows for extended season use and provides the potential to upgrade the cabins for year-round use.

Petroleum Storage

The current Maintenance Area has two aboveground fuel storage tanks in addition to the heating fuel oil tank. These tanks will need to be relocated to the new Maintenance Area. The Park Office will continue to use the existing aboveground fuel oil tank.

Electric Service

Electric service entrances and panels will be upgraded to increase capacity for existing and new uses and to meet current code requirements. Electric service will need to be expanded into the new developments in the Route 9 lands (RV camping, picnic facilities, contact station and maintenance area). New electric service will need to be established at the Potter's Point camping area.

Park Rules, Regulations and Fees

Park Regulations

From Memorial Day to Labor Day the day use area at the Lake Recreation Area will be open from 8:00 AM to sunset. The beach will be open daily from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. At the close of public schools in June, the beach will be open until 7:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. All other day use areas will be open from dawn until dusk including; Sherman Island and Spier Falls Boat Launches, Hawk Road parking and the Corinth Road Launch, and the various trailheads, unless an overnight parking permit is issued by the Park Office.

The contact station will continue to be staffed 24 hours a day while camping areas are in operation (this will include the Potter's Point camping/cabin area). All campsite visitors must leave the park by 10:00 PM when "quiet hours" begin.

Walk-ins will continue to sign a registration sheet and drivers of state-owned vehicles or other official vehicles will continue to sign the "Official Vehicle Registry".

From mid-October until mid-May the park hours will continue to be from 7:00 AM to sunset. In winter, only the main entrance gate on Old Saratoga Road will be open. This allows access to the park office, overflow parking and winter programming building (recreation building or warming hut).

Equestrians who wish to bring their horse into the park must show park management documentation regarding Coggins and other necessary vaccinations.

All other park rules and regulations will remain in effect.

Park Fees

In general park fees are established on a statewide basis. Currently, the park uses the statewide fee schedule for day use, camping, and reservation fees.

The Park offers unique use areas such as the Lake Shore Cottage and the Walk-in/ Group Camping Area that have their own fee schedules.

Fee schedules will need to be instituted for the picnic pavilions, RV camping area and the camping/cabin area at Potter's Point. This will be done according to the statewide fee schedule.

Camping Rules

At the Lake Recreation Area tent/trailer campground, campers are allowed six people per site and two vehicles per site. Additional vehicles must park in a designated area and pay an extra car fee. Two tents are allowed per site and must be set up on the sand pad area of the site. The shower building will continue to be available for campers. The dump station will be moved to a convenient location off the main park entrance road and will still be free of charge for park campers. Firewood will be made available for purchase from the Park Office. Pets will continue to be allowed into the camping area with proof of rabies vaccination and provided that they are on a leash and under proper supervision at all times. Rules similar to those mentioned above will be put in place for the camping/cabin area at Potter's Point, the RV camping loops within the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road and the walk-in/group camping area.

At the primitive water-accessed campsites along the Hudson River, campers are allowed six people per site. They are available on a first-come/first-served basis. Campers are permitted to stay one or two nights at these sites before they must move on. If all sites are occupied then canoeists/kayakers must find alternative camping facilities outside of the park. Camping on park land in an undesignated location is not permitted and campers will be asked to leave. Campers, who launch from either the Spier Falls or Sherman Island Launch and wish to leave their vehicle overnight, must obtain an overnight parking permit from the Park Office.

The rules mentioned above are similar to those that will be applied to primitive backpack and lean-to camping sites within the Palmertown Mountain Area. Sites will be available on a first-come/first-served basis. If all sites are occupied then hikers/bikers must find alternative camping facilities outside the park or take an unoccupied designated site in another area of the park. If hikers or bikers plan on leaving their vehicle at a trailhead parking area overnight they must obtain an overnight parking permit from the Park Office.

Wildlife

The Park has had problems in the past with raccoons raiding camper's garbage. Employees and park patrons are encouraged to stay away from animals and report any cases of unusual animal behavior. The Park will continue to educate park patrons regarding wildlife and work with DEC to manage nuisance wildlife.

Park Safety and Security

The Park will be staffed 24 hours a day when all camping areas are open. All areas of the park will be routinely patrolled including structures and facilities on Route 9, Spier Falls Road, Hawk Road, Potter Road and Corinth Road. High use areas such as the day use areas and camping loops will also be patrolled. Buildings will be checked routinely for signs of break-ins or vandalism and reported accordingly. Park Staff will continue to check for alcohol permits, respond to patron complaints and handle most emergency situations and request assistance from the Park Manager, maintenance personnel or the Park Police as necessary.

The contact station will be staffed 24 hours a day from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Day shifts will continue to handle fee collection, check for valid camping and day use permits, and ensure official and walk-in visitors sign in. After midnight, the booth will

continue to be staffed to maintain a measure of security and check camping permits. No one, with the exception of tenants renting the Lakeshore Cottage, will be allowed to enter the Park's day use area after sunset and all campsite visitors will be required to leave the park by 10:00 p.m.

All accidents, crimes and emergency situations will continue to be reported to the NYS Park Police and the appropriate local authorities. In the event of persons falling through the ice on Moreau Lake or the Hudson River, appropriately trained park personnel will respond first and will notify the 911 dispatcher that an ice rescue is needed. The village of South Glens Falls has an ice rescue team and will respond if available. In the event of gasoline, fuel oil or hazardous material spills, the NYS Park Police will be notified immediately. DEC will be notified within two (2) hours of discovery of the spill. DEC will respond with clean up crews if available. If DEC crews are not available the Office of General Services may assist the park if a "Declaration of Emergency" is issued.

Fire Prevention and Protection

Each campsite will be provided with either a fire place or ring. These are the only places that fires will be permitted unless special permission is given by the Park Manager. The camping area will continue to be patrolled for unsafe or unattended fires. Park Staff will continue to use Indian Tanks to extinguish unattended fires.

Building and structure fires will continue to be handled in accordance with the Park's "Information and Emergency Procedures" manual. The buildings' evacuation plans are implemented and the local Fire Department is notified.

Wildfires (grass, brush or forest) will continue to be suppressed to protect the safety of patrons, staff and adjacent residences. Structures are evacuated according to the evacuation plan and local Fire Departments are notified. The local DEC Forest Fire Ranger will also be notified.

Evacuation Plan

The Park's evacuation plan will continue to be in effect. Command and control of the evacuation of buildings and structures is given by the NYS Park Police or Fire Department depending on the nature of the emergency. As park facilities are constructed or updated the evacuation plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Park Equipment and Vehicles

The park fleet of vehicles will need to be replaced and upgraded according to the expansion of facilities and regular equipment replacement schedules.

Additional equipment needed to maintain the park as it is expanded includes:

- ¾ ton truck with a utility body
- A six-yard capacity dump truck with snowplow and sander
- An electric light utility vehicle for the Potter's Point Camping Area.

Park Finances and Attendance

Park Staff

The park staff consists of both permanent and temporary/seasonal staff. Permanent staff include: a Park Manager 2, a Park Supervisor 1, a Park Worker 3, a Park Worker 2, a Park Worker 1, a Park & Recreation Activity Specialist and a General Mechanic. The park may employ as many as 45 temporary staff, which includes Lifeguards, Park Workers and Park Aides, during the main operating season.

Additional staff will be needed for maintenance, security and patron contact, when the new facilities are constructed. This staff would include a permanent General Mechanic and a Park Worker II. Additional temporary and seasonal staff would include a Public Safety Ranger for after-hours security and six additional Park and Recreation Aides for public contact, cashiers and maintenance of new facilities. It may also be necessary to upgrade the Park Supervisor to the level II title.

Designations

Bird Conservation Area (BCA)

Within the analysis chapter of this Plan, communities and habitats important to birds were evaluated. It was determined that areas within Moreau Lake State Park met criteria of the Bird Conservation Area Program Law (ECL Article 11-Title 20-Section 01). This Master Plan proposes that a Bird Conservation Area (BCA) be designated within the Park. The areas to be included in the BCA consist primarily of hemlock-northern hardwood and beech-maple forests and exhibit characteristics most critical to bird conservation. The Hudson River, its shoreline and the intensive recreation use areas are not included in the BCA although they do exhibit some conservation value to birds and bird habitat. Management of these areas will incorporate strategies to enhance bird habitat. (See Map 14 – Proposed Bird Conservation Area).

The vision for the Moreau Lake BCA is to achieve an appropriate balance between conservation of the diverse assemblage of bird species using the area for breeding or during migration, and access to and recreational use of various areas of the BCA. Each BCA has a Management Guidance Summary which identifies the criteria for designation, operation and management recommendations for the protection of the species or ecological communities that are the basis for designation, education, and outreach and research considerations for the BCA. The entire Management Guidance Summary for the Moreau Lake State Park BCA is presented in Appendix H.

Some of the recommendations for the Moreau Lake State Park BCA include:

- The Hudson River portion of Moreau lake State park is a significant wintering site for the state and federally threatened Bald Eagle. Use of the site by winter (December 1 – March 31) Bald Eagles should be monitored. The impacts of activities along the Hudson River should be studied in relation to their impacts on Bald Eagles.

- Any management activities that may lead to an increase in trail use on the north side of the river should be evaluated regarding the potential to disturb the eagles. OPRHP will work with DEC's Endangered Species Unit in this regard.
- Recreation activity along the shore of the Hudson River could possibly affect roosting areas for Bald Eagles. Special care is required to assure the protection of large trees that can serve as important roosting locations.
- Interpretation and viewing etiquette for wintering Bald Eagles will be developed in conjunction with DEC's Endangered Species Unit as appropriate.

Natural Heritage Area (NHA)

The Natural Heritage Area designation has its basis in the Natural Heritage Program Law (ECL Article 11-Title 5-Section 0539). This designation recognizes significant ecological communities within the Park. The Master Plan designates the hemlock-northern hardwood forest and the calcareous talus slope woodland communities as Natural Heritage Areas (see Map 15 – Natural Heritage Area Designation). The hemlock-northern hardwood forest is not contiguous within the park but is part of a larger community unit that extends beyond the park boundaries. It is important to recognize the edges of this community in order to preserve the integrity of the community throughout its range. The calcareous talus slope woodland is a narrow band wholly within the park boundary and it is considered rare statewide and globally. This designation will provide additional recognition for this particular community's occurrence. The following explains the reason for the designation and some management strategies for preserving these communities.

The calcareous talus slope woodland and the hemlock-northern hardwood forest communities were identified as significant ecological communities within Moreau Lake State Park. These communities were determined to be eligible and are recommended for designation as an NHA through the analysis in the previous chapter (Analysis and Alternatives).

The calcareous talus slope woodland is an open- or closed-canopy woodland that occurs on talus slopes of calcareous bedrock such as limestone or dolomite. Characteristic trees include sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), eastern hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), and northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*). In Moreau Lake State Park this community lies on a steep west-facing slope within the Warren County portion of the park. It occurs in a mature beech-maple mesic forest that is contiguous and unfragmented by any utility or recreational corridors. This community type is considered to be rare statewide and globally. The Natural Heritage Program ranks this particular occurrence as having good overall quality.

The hemlock-northern hardwood forest community is a mixed forest that typically occurs on middle to lower slopes of ravines, on cool, mid-elevation slopes, and on moist, well-drained sites. Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is co-dominant with various hardwood species including beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sugar maple, red maple (*Acer rubrum*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), black birch (*B. lenta*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and basswood (*Tilia americana*). Within Moreau Lake State Park the community type lies in two large blocks on each side of the Hudson River – one in the Luzerne Mountains and the other in the Palmertown Range. These community occurrences

extend beyond the park boundaries. In the Luzerne Mountains the community is bisected by one secondary road and narrow hiking trails. It lines the bank of the Hudson River and contains several intermittent streams that run off the east and south-facing slopes into the Hudson River. In the Palmertown Range the community is again bisected by a secondary road and several narrow hiking trails. Most of the community covers mid to high elevations and lines intermittent streams that run off the northwest and southeast-facing slopes. Although this is considered to be a common community it is significant because of its expanse through the park and the high quality of the forest.

At this time, the most probable threats to these two communities within park boundaries are illegal ATV use and recreational overuse. Threats to the communities on private land include logging, developments, recreational overuse and ATV use.

Through the master planning process management strategies and development recommendations have been proposed that attempt to balance natural resource protection and recreational use. OPRHP does not permit the general public use of ATVs on park land. Gates and other barriers are used at utility company access points and trailheads to prevent ATV and vehicular access to trails and remote areas. The plan proposes to provide appropriate trail access for users. The size of the parking areas and the number of access points help to limit use.

Within State Parks the primary approach to resource management is natural area management, which calls for allowing natural processes to occur without significant intervention on the part of facility managers. Natural areas are those areas where the character of the vegetation and wildlife is largely the result of ongoing natural processes and events. Existing management practices within natural areas include but are not limited to:

- inventory, protection and interpretation of rare and endangered species,
- hazardous tree removal,
- nuisance animal control,
- fire suppression in the absence of a prescribed burn plan,
- mowing of roadsides and open fields,
- scenic vista maintenance, and
- environmental research and monitoring.

The existing practices in State Parks basically are aligned toward the recognition that environmental conditions do change over time. As indicated above, however, OPRHP's existing practices do allow for steps to be taken for protection of species and or communities at risk.

These significant ecological communities require no active maintenance of their habitat structure. If a Natural Heritage Area no longer meets the designation criteria, the law provides a process for removing all or a portion of the area from the NHA designation. The communities within the park that are identified for NHA designation have shown that they are not likely to lose their significance over time. This is primarily because these communities are late successional types, which means they will remain virtually the same (from a large scale perspective) if left alone through time.

Park Preservation Area (PPA)

Article 20 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law outlines the process for designation of entire parks or portions of parks as part of a Statewide Park Preserve System. Portions of parks are designated as Park Preservation Areas (PPA). As a whole, Moreau Lake State Park does not fit into Park Preserve category nor does it fit the intent of the Park Preservation System Law. However, certain sections of the park do meet the criteria for a Park Preservation Area. It was determined that the area identified within the plan as the Palmertown Mountain Management Area can be designated as a PPA (See Map 16 – Park Preservation Area).

This area of the park supports recreational uses including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, hiking, hunting, scenic viewing and natural and cultural interpretation. There are 15 miles of multiple use trails, three trail head parking areas and other non-vehicular access points. Primitive camping will be allowed in designated areas and may or may not have a lean-to and pit privy available. The hemlock-northern hardwood forest community type is recognized as a significant community which is being designated as part of the NHA and the area is included in the BCA designated area (see above). The area also offers grand panoramic views of the southern Adirondacks, the Hudson River, the Luzerne Mountains, the Lake Champlain Valley, the Green Mountains of Vermont, the Hudson and Mohawk River valleys and Moreau Lake. Cultural and historic resources include possible encampments of native peoples and remnants of houses possibly used by Spier Falls Dam construction workers. The forest and steep slopes provides scenic surroundings for recreationists on the Hudson River and Moreau Lake. National Grid is allowed vehicular access to their utility corridors for maintenance purposes.

The designation of this area as a Park Preservation Area addresses the Agency's concerns over and requests for mitigation of impacts from significant intrusion into the views. Cultural resources will be stabilized where appropriate and interpreted, scenic vistas and view points will be maintained and use of the area will consist primarily of appropriate trail uses on a network of existing trails. There will be greater emphasis to ensure that the capacity of the trail system is not exceeded with the PPA designation.

Designation primarily impacts the range of options for future recreation activities. Passive recreation such as bird watching and trail activities would be allowed. More intensive activities such as athletic fields and motorized uses would be directed toward more appropriate locations. Designation does not preclude motorized use associated with park operations or enforcement activities. Article 20 allows for the establishment of an admission control system by permit to insure that use is commensurate with maintaining ecological viability. However, the levels of impacts associated with uses at existing Preserves/Preservation Areas have not necessitated the creation of any extensive permit process. The permit requirement does serve as an opportunity to invoke greater protection of sensitive environmental resources should a need arise.

With respect to Moreau Lake State Park, Park Preservation Area designation is consistent with the type and extent of use proposed for the Palmertown Range Area in the Master Plan. Designation would not place any additional administrative burden on park management. Designation would, however, encourage the study and interpretation of environmental resources in the Palmertown Range Area.

Implementation

The upgrading and development of Moreau Lake State Park has been divided into phases. The initiation and completion of each phase will depend upon funding, demand and environmental permit approvals. As described, this phasing plan will be subject to reorganization based on priorities and available funding for specific components of any given phase. The following is a conceptual phasing plan.

Phase	Description/Development Component
Planning: 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Planning/Park Programming • Environmental Surveys • Environmental Assessment • Designations (BCA, NHA, PPA)
Implementation: 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive program expansion/improvement (on going). • Development of partnerships with user groups, local governments, not-for-profit groups, schools, etc. (on going). • Begin improvements to the Park entrance including the construction of the right-turning lane off of Old Saratoga Road. • Inventory Warren County trails and develop trails plan. • Develop water-access campsites at Potter’s Point. • Develop parking area off Hawk Road. • Construct Western Ridge trail head and parking area. • Improve Spier Falls Road “pull-off” areas and provide picnic tables at appropriate locations. • Improve and designate uses for Lake Recreation Area Trails.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Warren Co. Mgmt. Area Trails Plan. • Begin development of cabin/camping area at Potter’s Point. • Improve the Sherman Island and Spier Falls Boat Launches. • Designate primitive camping areas/sites in Palmertown Mountain Area. • Construct Pavilion at volleyball court. • Develop 3rd car parking areas in the Lake Recreation Area campground. • Improve the group camping area and parking within the Lake Recreation Area. • Improve the Lake Recreation Area campground, showers, electric, and camper amenities and install site creep

	mitigation measures.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop access/boat launch off Corinth Road. • Complete development of cabin/camping area at Potter's Point. • Complete Park entrance redesign off Old Saratoga Road. • Relocate maintenance area, construct over flow parking, and develop picnic areas and RV camping loops on parklands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road.

Funding

The development and operation of Moreau Lake State Park is intended to entail a cooperative effort among various State Agencies, non-profit organizations and private sector interests. The proposed Master Plan offers a number of avenues for other interest groups to contribute to the development, interpretation and preservation of the Park's resources. OPRHP has overall responsibility for the development and maintenance of the Park. The principal partners of OPRHP are the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the current owners of the hydroelectric power generating stations. The agency has received \$15,000 per year to maintain and operate facilities within the FERC regulated boundary from the owners of the hydroelectric power generating stations. OPRHP is currently exploring other sources of funding and support, as well as its own capital improvements budget, to secure the resources required to fully implement the Master Plan.

Future Land Acquisitions

There are four (4) inholdings within the Saratoga County portion of the park and two (2) adjacent properties that should be considered for acquisition. If acquired, the four inholdings would improve access to the Palmertown Mountain trail system. These parcels are landlocked by parkland. The first parcel adjacent to the park is to the west of Moreau Lake and the Red Oak Ridge Trail and the second adjacent parcel is to the west of the Spring Trail Head and extends southeast toward Lake Bonita. These parcels would improve trail routes and provide additional protection to the Palmertown Mountains and significant natural and scenic resources. OPRHP will consider other acquisitions from willing sellers as they become available.

Relationship to Other Programs

Moreau Lake State Park works with many other agencies, and local partners in it's day to day operations. These include National Grid, Mount McGregor Correctional Facility, the current owner/operators of the Spier Falls and Sherman Island power generating facilities, the Department of Environmental Conservation, Fernwood Fish Hatchery, and Saratoga County. In addition to these agencies the Park is also involved with State and Federal programs from the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the American Heritage Rivers Program, and the Palmertown Range Trail.

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NiMo) (National Grid)

Although the State acquired significant acreage from Niagara Mohawk (NiMo), the company retained a network of power line transmission corridors which crisscross the property. OPRHP has negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NiMo to manage the transmission corridors as state park land. The MOU permits OPRHP to create 12 non-motorized trail crossings and 1 vehicular crossing of the transmission corridors for public trail use and access. The remainders of the corridors are not to be used for recreational purposes. Park management of these corridors will consist of enforcing park rules and prohibiting the use of the power line corridors as recreational corridors. This Master Plan includes these lands to establish a management program for the entire land area so that the various ownerships are transparent to the park visitor.

Department of Correctional Facilities/Mount McGregor Correctional Facility

The park has a long common boundary with the Mount McGregor Correctional Facility. This boundary is posted “Department of Corrections Property Do Not Enter” and is fenced in some locations. The Lake Ann Trail, which currently terminates at the Correctional Facility boundary, will be relocated to the far side of Lake Ann, thus avoiding Department of Corrections property. The existing trail will be removed.

Negotiations regarding the proposed Palmetown Range Trail route through Corrections Property are on going (See Palmetown Range Trail below).

In the past the Facility has provided the park with work crews to preserve scenic vistas. The park will continue its partnership with the Facility.

Erie Boulevard Power/Reliant Energy and its Successors

The Spier Falls and Sherman Island Dam hydroelectric power generating stations are regulated by a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to the power company that owns the facilities. These licenses are renewed by the owner on a cycle of 30, 40 or 50 years. The current license is for 40 years. When the licensing process is to begin again, OPRHP should be intimately involved with this process as per the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between OPRHP and the power company. Under the current license, the power company is charged with developing and maintaining recreational facilities along a 50-foot corridor of land on both shores of the Hudson River. These facilities include two boat launches, waterfront campsites and portage trails around the Spier Falls and Sherman Island Dams. Under the terms of the MOU between OPRHP and the power company, OPRHP is responsible for operating the boat launch and camping facilities once they are developed so that the change in ownership is transparent to the visitor. Improvements to the Spier Falls Boat Launch and the Sherman Island Boat Launch proposed within the Draft Master Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement are consistent and within the scope of the agreement between OPRHP and the Power Company. The addition of primitive water-accessed campsites along the Warren County shore as proposed in the plan can also be considered if demand and use warrant. The development of camping and cabins/cottages at the Potter’s point area are on OPRHP owned lands and do not fall within the MOU agreement area. Only the canoe launch proposed at Potter’s Point will be within

the MOU agreement area. The Park will work with the Power Company regarding work done with in the MOU agreement area.

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

DEC is the owner of the former Niagara Mohawk lands within Warren County. There is currently a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DEC and OPRHP for the operation and maintenance of park lands north of the Hudson River within Warren County. DEC will continue to be the owner of these lands; however, they will be managed and maintained by OPRHP as part of Moreau Lake State Park. Under the terms of the MOU, OPRHP and DEC are to cooperate in the development of a management plan for these lands. DEC has participated in the development of this Master Plan. Proposals within the Draft Master Plan that affect these lands include the development of a parking area, development of a trails plan, plans for a picnic area/cartop launch off of Corinth Road and designation of a Bird Conservation Area and a Natural Heritage Area.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The developed areas of Moreau Lake State Park (i.e. campground, day use and trails) were constructed before agencies were required to provide facilities for persons with disabilities. As awareness to the needs of persons with disabilities increased, alterations to the park's facilities have been made. The Americans with Disabilities Act –Access Board has developed and proposed new design and development guidelines for providing facilities usable by persons with disabilities. Through recent consultation and evaluation, it has been determined that the Park's facilities do not meet the new design and development guidelines. As the existing facilities and structures require reconstruction, renovation or rehabilitation, the designs applied will conform to the ADA design and development guidelines. Likewise, components that comply with ADA design and development guidelines will be incorporated into plans for new facilities.

Fernwood Fish Hatchery

The Fernwood Fish Hatchery is located southeast of the park. It is in the floodplain of Moreau Lake. OPRHP has an easement and an agreement with the hatchery to maintain drainage structures and culverts through the hatchery property. These drainage structures and culverts help to control runoff from Moreau Lake. There are no projects or proposals within in the Draft MasterPlan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement that would impact or alter these drainage structures.

Saratoga County

Saratoga County supports a county-wide fish stocking program and budgets \$21,000 each year for their program. Moreau Lake is included in the County's stocking program. Stocking of Moreau Lake is coordinated through DEC, Fernwood Fish Hatchery and Moreau Lake State Park. The County pays all of the costs for stocking. DEC issues the permits and recommends the number and species of fish to be stocked. The Park will continue the partnership with the County and its program.

Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF)

Appropriations from the New York State Land and Water Conservation Fund were used to construct the bathhouse at Moreau Lake. Under the regulations of the LWCF, any park that receives such funding is granted “6F” protection. This means that park property can not be converted to uses other than public recreation.

American Heritage River

In 1997, Governor George E. Pataki nominated the Hudson River to be designated, in 1998, as an American Heritage River. The 315 miles of river, from its source in Lake Tear of the Clouds to the Verrazano Narrows, and the 19 counties surrounding its shores are included in the Heritage River Area. Moreau Lake State park is included in the Hudson's American Heritage River Area.

The Palmertown Range Trail

The Saratoga-Capital District Park Region is currently working on developing a multiple use trail that will connect Moreau Lake State Park with Saratoga Spa State Park. This trail is still in planning stages and proposes to include Moreau Lake State Park trails in its route – the Western Ridge Trail and the Ridge Run Trail. As on the Park's trails the Palmertown Range trail will permit non-motorized uses.

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