

# **New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)**

## **FINAL SCOPING DOCUMENT**

for the Draft Unit Management Plan and  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for  
Crown Point Reservation

**April 23, 2025**

### **Project Location**

784 Bridge Road, Crown Point, New York 12928

### **SEQRA Classification**

TYPE I

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## **Introduction**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) are jointly developing a Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the Crown Point Reservation unit. An UMP synthesizes unit management procedures into a single reference document, integrating into the procedures related legislation, rules, regulations, and policies.

The Crown Point Reservation (CPR) is comprised of the Crown Point Campground and Day Use Area and the Crown Point State Historic Site. The land is owned by the People of the State of New York, with land management authority given to DEC. The DEC Division of Operations manages the Campground and Day Use Area; the State Historic Site is administered by OPRHP under a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with DEC. The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) classifies the Campground and Day Use Area as an Intensive Use Area. The State Historic Site is classified as an Historic Area. Each classification has different management guidelines as set forth by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) and the classifications for each area are determined according to the area's particular characteristics and capacity to withstand use.

The UMP document provides a comprehensive inventory of the unit's historic, cultural, natural, recreational, and administrative resources, identifying the special features of the unit that justify its protection and stewardship in perpetuity. The UMP will also identify future opportunities and actions related to historic and cultural resources; natural resources; recreation resources; interpretation and education; facilities and infrastructure; general management; and community engagement and communication that are consistent with management standards and consider the ability of the resources and ecosystems to accommodate such use.

## **The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)**

The DEC and OPRHP are jointly responsible for the SEQRA review of the Proposed Action to Adopt and Implement the Unit Management Plan for the Crown Point Reservation and are acting as co-lead agencies. SEQRA requires all local, regional, and state government agencies to review and examine potential environmental impacts for Proposed Actions they have the power to approve, fund, or directly undertake. Potential environmental impacts of a Proposed Action are closely examined within an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The issues to be analyzed in the EIS are identified through the scoping process and the development of a written document called the Scoping Document.

### ***What is SEQRA Scoping?***

The scoping process has six objectives:

- focus the Draft EIS on the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed action;
- eliminate non-significant and non-relevant issues;
- identify the extent and quality of information needed;
- identify the range of reasonable alternatives to be discussed;
- provide an initial identification of mitigation measures; and
- provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the identification of impacts.

This scoping document describes the types of actions that will be addressed in the DEIS related to both the Crown Point Campground and Day Use Area and the State Historic Site as regards:

- cultural and historic resources (buildings, structures, archaeology)
- natural environment (landscape, water, plants, and animals)
- circulation (pedestrian, cycling, and vehicular)
- accessibility (facilities and circulation, recreation, interpretation/education)
- infrastructure (utilities, sewer, stormwater, water, built elements)
- maintenance, management, and operations; and
- education, programming, and outreach.

This Final Scoping Document is written in preparation for the development of the DEIS that will assess potential impacts of the Proposed Action upon the CPR. The Final Scoping Document has been prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL § 8-0101 et seq.) and its implementing regulations found in Part 617 of Title 6 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (6 NYCRR Part 617).

Public involvement and comment was solicited for the Draft Scoping Document, released on January 15, 2025. Written comments on the Draft were accepted through February 16, 2025.

An additional opportunity for public involvement and comment in the CPR planning process will occur after development and release of the Draft Unit Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. At that time, DEC and OPRHP, as co-lead agencies, will hold a public meeting and solicit public comments. DEC and OPRHP will consider and respond to substantive comments received on the draft documents in the Final Unit Management Plan and Final EIS.

### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action is the adoption and implementation of the Crown Point Reservation Unit Management Plan. DEC and OPRHP are jointly preparing a UMP for the CPR. The CPR consists of the Crown Point Campground and Day-Use Area (managed by DEC) and the Crown Point State Historic Site (administered by OPRHP under an MOU with DEC). Both sites are in the Adirondack Forest Preserve. A joint UMP will allow for the highest protection of historic, cultural, and natural resources. The UMP will be designed to provide better visitor experience by clearly defining both sites, their relationship with each other, and improving site interpretation.

### **Project Description**

Located in Crown Point, Essex County, New York, the CPR is a unique management unit with important cultural and natural resources. As designated in Article 9, Title 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law, the CPR includes the Crown Point Campground and Day-Use Area and the Crown Point State Historic Site. The entire site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated National Historic Landmark. The nearby Crown Point Bridge—which connects New York and Vermont—offers scenic views of Lake Champlain and the surrounding landscape. The Draft UMP for the CPR is being jointly developed by the DEC and the OPRHP to establish a mutually agreeable division of administrative responsibility over the unit's operation, maintenance, and improvement, as well as to allow for the highest level of protection of historic, cultural, and natural resources. The UMP will consider the future direction and viable alternatives for revitalizing and enhancing these resources, as well as improving the site's operational infrastructure. The UMP will also propose actions that will ensure public enjoyment and accessibility to the facility while protecting its invaluable resources.

### ***What is the Project's Purpose?***

The purpose of the UMP is to provide a comprehensive document to guide the management, design, and interpretation of the CPR in order to preserve, to the greatest extent feasible, the quality and character of its environmental resources in a setting and on a scale in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park. The UMP sets forth a statement of the management objectives for the protection and rehabilitation of the area's scenic, natural and open space resources, and addresses administrative actions and the facilities necessary to attain management objectives.

UMP management goals, objectives, and recommended actions are developed through the collaborative planning process. When developing proposed changes and improvements, the planning team considers improved technologies for preservation, environmental issues that may impact the CPR, such as climate change impacts, invasive species management, outreach and education initiatives, physical accessibility, current and anticipated recreation trends, and shifts in visitor demographics.

The UMP will work to achieve the following overall management goals of the CPR:

- To maintain historic structures and recreation improvements associated with Crown Point for public enjoyment and understanding in a manner that will not disturb the Forest Preserve, either the existing degree of wild forest character of land on which the historic structures and recreation improvements are situated, or the wild forest character of adjacent land, consistent with ECL §9-0109(4)(b);
- To provide interpretation of the historic and natural resources of Crown Point Reservation in a manner that blends with the site's wild forest setting and character;
- To provide for a variety of recreational opportunities that promote the recreational potential of the site in a manner that is consistent with preservation of the historic structures, recreation improvements, and the wild forest character of the unit;
- To sustain and protect the natural wild forest setting and to perpetuate and support the native flora and fauna at population levels compatible with the environment; and
- To support and facilitate appropriate research of the site's historic, natural, and recreational resources.

The DEIS will examine how these goals are being addressed and met by the preferred alternatives.

### **The Environmental Setting**

Located on a peninsula jutting into the southern portion of Lake Champlain, the CPR is a 442-acre unit in the Town of Crown Point, New York, in southeastern Essex County. The CPR includes the Crown Point Campground and Day-Use Area (62 acres) and the Crown Point State Historic Site (380 acres). The primary access road to the unit is New York State Route 185 (NY 185). NY 185—part of the Lakes to Locks Passage Scenic Byway—passes through the unit and runs the entire length of the peninsula. After passing through the unit, NY 185 crosses the Lake Champlain Bridge, upon which the highway enters Vermont and becomes Vermont Route 17 (VT 17).

The UMP will describe the CPR's existing conditions, or environmental setting, with sufficient detail about current conditions and existing elements to guide planning, analysis, and design for proposed new and/or updated facilities. Information will be presented in a user-friendly format with maps, photographs, tables, and plain language. Existing environmental conditions at the CPR and the regional context will be described, including natural and cultural landscape features and elements of the built environment. Information provided in the UMP will include:

- location, access, and boundaries
- regional land use and socioeconomic profile
- historic and cultural resources
- geology, soils, topography
- water resources
- ecological communities, flora, and fauna,
- recreational resources and activities
- interpretation and education opportunities
- facilities and infrastructure, access and circulation
- general management and operations
- community engagement and communication

### **Preliminary Components of the Crown Point Reservation UMP**

Based on Planning Team discussions, public input from the March 2019 Public Information Meeting, and existing resource inventories, the following strategies have been identified as preliminary actions being considered for inclusion in the UMP. Each strategy is expected to facilitate the desired future conditions of the Crown Point Reservation:

#### ***Strategies for Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement***

- **Archaeology:** Conduct focused geophysical, non-invasive archeological surveys to inform proper use and preservation of sensitive areas and ruins. Support archaeological investigations, research, and education projects that include a research design appropriate to current professional standards and project scope.
- **Historic Structures** (*Fort St. Frederic, His Majesty's Fort, British Barracks, Smith & Bullis Lime Kiln, Champlain Memorial Lighthouse*): Manage vegetation on redoubts, foundations, other historic features, and landscapes. Monitor the condition of historic masonry and frame structures. Conduct ongoing historic preservation restoration work.
- **Viewshed Preservation:** Maintain and restore historic viewsheds significant to the preservation of the quality and character of the 18th century military fortifications and their interpretation through the removal of select individual trees/groups of trees, removing regenerating woody vegetation as part of periodic maintenance regime.
- **Collections & Documentation:** Accept and accession new collections. Update and/or prepare comprehensive set of historic resource reports (e.g. Crown Point Cultural Landscape Report, Historic Structures Report, Archaeology Studies Report). Enhance public access to Site records and historic collections.

#### ***Strategies for Environmental Stewardship***

- **Habitat and Wildlife Preservation:** Support native and historic habitat that includes grasses, forbs, juniper, and other species consistent with viewshed and historic bird banding station protection plans. Actively support avian populations.
- **Shoreline Protection:** Protect shoreline to prevent excessive erosion and compaction where needed.
- **Data Collection:** Coordinate with partners to survey and monitor ecological communities to update data so it is available for environmental review and other purposes (e.g., research and management).
- **Education:** Provide programming and educational materials about natural resources.

- **Invasive Species Management:** Coordinate with regional and state partners to inventory/survey, map, manage and reduce invasive species. Develop invasive species control plans to reduce, remove, and stop the spread of target terrestrial invasive plant species and target aquatic invasive species. Implement appropriate restoration as part of any invasive species BMPs. Continue to support an Invasive Species Campground Steward. Ensure staff and volunteers are trained on proper preventative measures to limit unwanted introductions and prevent the spread of invasive species. Deploy boat launch stewards to provide education, outreach, and voluntary inspections for boaters. Install a boat washing station at the Campground and Day Use Area if future use warrants.
- **Vegetation Management:** Continue Reduced Mowing Plan implementation. Deploy livestock to help control site vegetation.

### ***Strategies for Recreation***

- **Boating:** Conduct a new inspection of the boat launch facility to determine appropriate upgrades. Dredge lake bottom to allow for proper use of the boat launch facility. Establish maintenance and inspection regime to maintain facility. Install a boat washing station and provide information on appropriate cleaning procedures. Promote responsible watercraft recreation and AIS spread prevention through programming and educational materials.
- **Camping:** Continue to evaluate annual camper surveys to ensure the facility is maintained in a condition ideal for the visitor experience without compromising the facility's resources or values. Assess locations for additional lean-to sites along the shoreline and provide 1 or 2 sites in a sustainable location with appropriate access to meet patron demand. Coordinate Campground opening and closing dates to accommodate activities such as the bird banding station, pending funding and staff availability.
- **Fishing:** Continue participation in free fishing days and Learn to Fish clinics. Maintain access to Bulwagga Bay for seasonal fishing, and explore opportunities to create new, accessible routes to fishing access points. Coordinate with regional/state partners to inventory/survey fish populations for recreation and other purposes (e.g., research and management).
- **Trails:** Provide well-maintained universally accessible pathways and trails across the site; expand accessible trail opportunities where possible. Establish regular maintenance schedule for roadways used as part of the site's overall pedestrian "loop" trail system. Improve trail from the Historic Site, under the Lake Champlain Bridge, to the boat launch. Promote public stewardship in trail use through programming and educational materials. Maintain and interpret the North Country National Scenic Trail segment on site; explore parcel acquisition(s) to expand extent of the trail on-site.
- **Passive Recreation:** Continue maintenance and replacement of picnic tables, grills, fireplaces, benches, etc. Maintain mowed lawns for enjoyment and relaxation. Update playground structures to ADA accessibility standards. Continue participation in Geocache Challenge program.

### ***Strategies for Interpretation and Education***

- **Interpretation:** Interpret primary historic narratives through walking guide, interpretative panels, museum exhibition, cell phone tours, docent-led tours and living history events. Provide more accessible interpretation and visitation models. Enhance interpretation of themes absent from or inadequately discussed in interpretation and programming.

Continue and expand cultural and environmental interpretive opportunities and programming at the Campground. Continue educational programming opportunities with schools and organized groups. Develop artist or scholar in residence program and integrate work into public programming. Develop survey(s) to evaluate patron satisfaction with programming/events. Encourage online engagement via active social media presence of curated posts and real time interaction.

### ***Strategies for Accessibility***

- **Campground and Day Use Area:** Update playground structures. Replace bathrooms using current design and accessibility standards. Explore adaptive infrastructure for waterfront recreation and access.
- **State Historic Site:** Introduce multimedia platforms and other digital media services. Provide accessible water fountains and bottle fillers.
- **Circulation:** Provide well-maintained universally accessible pathways and access to recreation infrastructure; expand accessible trail opportunities, inclusive of seating, where possible.
- **Public Information:** Work with respective Agency communications units to ensure online presence provides current information on accessibility of facilities.

### ***Strategies for Facilities and Infrastructure***

- **Campground and Day Use Area:** Install a pavilion. Replace both bathrooms using current design and accessibility standards. Construct a new Maintenance Center Facility to include offices, storage space, and bays to maintain vehicles and equipment. Replace drainage system throughout Campground and Day Use Area.
- **State Historic Site:** Expand, or construct new, Museum/Visitor Center facility to include offices, exhibits, and public restrooms. Construct new building to house motorized equipment. Replace restroom near the picnic pavilion. Provide staff housing.
- **Utilities:** Maintain water and electric systems throughout site, as needed. Replace the sewage collection and treatment facility. Provide permanent backup power systems to critical facilities. Provide accessible water fountains and bottle fillers. Install high-speed Internet access, including secure Wi-Fi routers. Upgrade existing facilities to meet Agency and State goals for addressing climate change, including renewable energy solutions.
- **Maintenance and Equipment:** Transition maintenance equipment to non-fossil fuel energy sources. Prioritize equipment and materials purchases to meet facility and historic structures needs.

### ***Strategies for Access, Parking, and Circulation***

- **Vehicular Access, Parking, and Circulation:** Increase visibility and safety around existing parking areas and along main roadway (Grandview Drive).
- **Pedestrian Access and Circulation:** Coordinate with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to provide safe pedestrian/cyclist passage across Route 185/Bridge Road. Improve trail from Historic Site, under the Lake Champlain Bridge, to the boat launch to meet accessibility standards.
- **Wayfinding:** Continue evaluation of existing wayfinding signage and access to printed information to improve the visitor experience.



### ***Strategies for Community Engagement and Communication***

- **Partnerships:** Enhance partnership with the Friends of Crown Point. Continue partnership with area Chambers of Commerce and other tourism agencies. Further develop partnerships with local colleges and universities and offer opportunities to earn credit at the CPR. Heighten collaboration and thematic connections with other Regional State Historic Sites.
- **Input:** Continue to offer opportunities for stakeholder and public input regarding site programming and development. Work with respective Agency Communications units to ensure online presence provides current information on facilities, events, accessibility, etc.

### **Analysis of Alternatives and Environmental Impacts**

The Alternatives Analysis section of the DEIS will identify selected actions proposed for implementation at the CPR that will protect and/or enhance cultural, historic, natural, and recreational resources, operations and management, and infrastructure. The DEIS will investigate reasonable options or alternatives to help realize the management goals of the CPR and offer considerations regarding the potential outcome of each proposed action. The description and evaluation of each alternative will be at a level of detail sufficient to allow for a comparative assessment of the alternatives discussed.

The range of alternatives for each individual selected action will also include a no-action alternative (“Status Quo”), which will evaluate reasonably foreseeable adverse or beneficial site changes that are likely to occur in the absence of the proposed action and serve as a baseline for assessing impacts of the proposed action. The DEIS will identify the preferred alternative for each selected action and potential environmental impacts, any strategies to avoid and minimize those impacts and any mitigation needed to offset those impacts. The UMP will include a map showing all actions selected for implementation (preferred alternatives) at the CPR.

Ultimately, there are two Unit Management Plan alternatives that will be considered. The first is the Status Quo Alternative, which is a compilation of all the Status Quo element alternatives discussed in the DEIS. Under this alternative, the CPR would continue to operate as it does now. The Status Quo alternative proposes no changes to cultural or historic resource protection strategies, natural resources protection strategies, recreation resource development, operations and management, and infrastructure improvements. The second alternative is the Preferred Alternative: to adopt and implement the Unit Management Plan. This alternative is a compilation of the preferred alternatives identified for each element discussed in the DEIS.

Potential environmental impacts will be described for each proposed action, as well as the degree to which each alternative successfully achieves stated project goals. In this way, the document will provide a road map for future development and enable the facility to appropriately meet anticipated needs and demand for these resources and activities over the next ten to fifteen years.

### **Resource Topics with Potential for Impact from the Proposed Action**

The section below discusses potential impacts that may occur because of actions proposed in the Draft UMP. Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures for potential adverse impacts will be considered. The following are to be discussed in the DEIS:

#### ***Impact on Land***

Impacts on land will be considered in the DEIS including that of topography, geology, and soil.

This section will provide a discussion of the physical impacts that implementation of the Proposed Action would have on the site. The Proposed Action includes construction projects that will require ground disturbance, including refurbishing, retrofitting, or replacing existing structures, constructing new structures, formalizing trails and accessible pathways, protecting eroded shorelines, and improving site drainage. Portions of the CPR have average depth to groundwater at less than three feet. The CPR includes land where bedrock is exposed, or generally within five feet of the existing ground surface. There may be some vegetation removal during construction. Some projects may take significant time to complete and may result in increased erosional potential. Adequate erosion and sediment controls will be used, as needed, during all construction projects. Construction activities disturbing more than one acre will require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). These plans will be prepared in accordance with the DEC's SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges, to inform construction personnel of measures to be implemented for controlling runoff and pollutants from the site during and after construction activities.

Construction projects will generally be in areas of least potential impact to natural and cultural resources to the extent practicable. Projects will consider the reuse of existing structures, such as the retrofitting of structures and reuse of previously disturbed areas. By repurposing existing structures and using disturbed land, DEC and OPRHP attempt to avoid and minimize impacts and disturbance to Crown Point's historically and archaeologically sensitive land resources.

#### ***Impacts on Geological Features***

Impacts on geological features will be considered in the DEIS. According to the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part 1 generated by DEC's Environmental Assessment Form Mapper, Crown Point Reservation State Park (Crown Point Reservation) is considered a unique geological feature on the landscape. The Proposed Action will include some development at the CPR but is not expected to significantly modify or destroy the unique geological features of the area.

#### ***Impact on Surface Waters***

Impacts on surface water will be considered in the DEIS. The CPR is surrounded by Lake Champlain and contains federally-regulated wetlands as well as wetlands regulated by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) on the western side of the site. Lake Champlain is considered an impaired waterbody for algal/weed growth, priority organics, problem species, metals, and nutrients. Most projects will be located away from surface waters. However, the UMP includes some projects in the vicinity of and along the shoreline, and trail projects in proximity to designated wetlands. All construction projects may potentially impact surface waters if they involve the presence of loose soils due to excavation, grading, or other actions. Mitigation measures, including sediment and erosion control measures during construction and long-term stormwater management practices, will be used as required. Best management practices that may be used include the use of silt fencing, preservation of vegetated buffers, and seeding and mulching of disturbed areas as soon as possible after disturbance. Invasive species management projects may require the use of pesticides. Only certified applicators will apply pesticides if required.

#### ***Impact on Ground Water***

Impacts on ground water will be considered in the DEIS. Siting of projects is important to minimizing potential adverse environmental impacts. The Proposed Action may include new construction and new subsurface systems. Discharges from those systems may eventually reach ground water, potentially carrying contaminants.

### ***Impact to Flooding***

Impacts related to flooding will be considered in the DEIS. The entire shoreline and the wetlands on the western side of the CPR are located within the 100-year flood plain. Standing water is common immediately northwest of the Museum, demonstrating certain deficiencies of the current stormwater management system. Amendments to existing drainage channels and proper siting and design of any new structures, roadways, trails or other supporting facilities will be key to minimizing potential future impacts related to flooding and stormwater management and will be considered during all planning and design activities.

### ***Impacts on Air***

Impacts on air quality will be considered in the DEIS. The Proposed Action is not expected to result in long-term adverse impacts on air quality; however, minor, temporary increases in emissions from construction equipment and vehicles on site may occur.

### ***Impact on Plants and Animals***

Impacts on plants and animals will be considered in the DEIS. The vast majority of the CPR is vegetated with minimal amounts of structures periodically throughout the landscape. The CPR is surrounded by Lake Champlain and contains wetlands. The Site contains both terrestrial and aquatic significant natural communities, as designated by the New York Natural Heritage Program, including Calcareous Shoreline Outcrop, Calcareous Pavement Woodland, Successional Red Cedar Woodland, Floodplain Forest, and Deep Emergent Marsh. Multiple state protected plant species are known to occur at the site along with one state protected bird species. A federally and state endangered bat species is known to occur near the CPR. The portion of Lake Champlain north and east of the site has known occurrences of a protected game species of fish, and the portion of Lake Champlain north of the site is known to contain imperiled freshwater mussels.

The UMP proposes minimal new construction and avoids significant natural communities and sensitive habitats to the degree possible. Most facility projects will upgrade or replace existing facilities to minimize new construction on the landscape. The UMP proposes vegetation removal to promote viewshed preservation, specifically to maintain and restore historic viewsheds significant to the preservation of the quality and character of the 18th century military fortifications and their interpretation. Vegetation management may include the removal of select individual trees or groups of trees and removing regenerating woody vegetation as part of a periodic maintenance regime. To minimize potential impacts to plants and animals, additional surveys may be required, construction and tree removal timing restrictions may be required, a regional biologist would be consulted, and any other protection measures warranted through consultation with regulatory agencies and through permitting would be implemented. Management of invasive species will utilize best management practices to minimize impacts to all non-target species. Only certified applicators will apply pesticides, when pesticide use is deemed appropriate.

In recognition of the area's importance for bird habitat, particularly for migratory birds, breeding grassland birds, and wintering raptors, the UMP would propose an expansion of the Bird Conservation Area (BCA) boundary to include the entire Crown Point State Historic Site. The expanded BCA includes additional areas of Successional Old Field, as well as Successional Red Cedar Woodland, Calcareous Shoreline Outcrop, and Calcareous Pavement Woodland, three significant natural communities. An updated BCA Management Guidance Summary will provide recommendations relating to habitat protection, access, operation and education and outreach programs focusing on the protection of birds and bird habitats at the CPR.

### ***Impact on Agricultural Resources***

The CPR is located within the ESSE001 Agricultural District with approximately 212 acres (about 47% of the CPR) considered farmland of statewide importance. These areas cover the majority of the Campground and Day Use Area and the majority of the southern half of the State Historic Site. Currently, no portion of the CPR is used for agriculture. The UMP proposes minimal new development and is not expected to irreversibly convert any future potential agricultural land, not currently surrounded by roads and campsites, to non-agricultural uses.

### ***Impact on Aesthetic Resources***

The primary access road to CPR is New York State Route 185 (NY 185). NY 185—part of the Lakes to Locks Passage Scenic Byway which is designated as an All-American Road—passes through the unit and runs the entire length of the Crown Point peninsula. After passing through CPR, NY 185 crosses the Lake Champlain Bridge, upon which the highway enters Vermont and becomes Vermont Route 17 (VT 17). DEC and OPRHP would coordinate with NYSDOT for any improvements to NY 185 for pedestrian and cyclist safety.

As noted above, the UMP proposes vegetation removal to promote viewshed preservation in specific areas. This vegetation management would take place to help preserve sightlines between the forts and redoubts; areas were selected due to their ability to respect and enhance viewsheds throughout the historic area and their potential to enhance the cultural landscape and patron experience within it.

The UMP is not expected to adversely impact any officially designated aesthetic or scenic resources. It intends to maintain the character of the CPR and the surrounding area and, where feasible, improve the aesthetics.

### ***Impact on Historic and Archaeological Resources***

Impacts on historic and archaeological resources will be considered in the DEIS. Crown Point Reservation is a National Historic Landmark (NHL) consisting of two designations. The first, Fort Saint-Frederic, was given NHL status in 1960; the second, Fort Crown Point, was designated in 1968. Both of these sites, now contained within the larger Fort Crown Point NHL boundary, were deemed nationally significant for their association with eighteenth-century military events and the struggle for North American control between England and France. Only those features associated with the site's eighteenth-century military history are deemed significant/contributing to the landmark's significance.

The former Crown Point Bridge, erected in 1929, was nominated to the State/National Registers of Historic Places (S/NRHP) in 2007/2009 respectively. Deemed unsafe, it was demolished and replaced by the current iteration, which was completed and placed in service in 2011. Although not formally delisted, the nominated bridge is no longer extant.

Within the Fort Crown Point NHL boundary are numerous built features that chronicle the site's establishment and use as a historic site accommodating public visitation. These resources, while within the NHL boundary, do not contribute to its significance. The earliest of these resources, a stone pavilion and a stone restroom building, the latter retrofitted to function as a visitor center, date to ca. 1910. There is additionally a campground that was established in the mid-twentieth century (currently the DEC campground). In the future, these resources will be assessed for S/NRHP eligibility for their association with the establishment of Crown Point as a cultural tourism and scenic destination and thus will be considered within that context. While they are technically designated as part of the Fort Crown Point NHL, being within the boundary, they are nevertheless classified as non-contributing features. All historic resources will be

considered for impacts as part of the Proposed Action.

There have been many archaeological surveys conducted at the CPR over the years indicating the presence of cultural remains dating back to 11,300-9,000 BP (9,300 BC) of indigenous occupation up through the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries showing likely French and British occupation of Crown Point. The buildings, grounds, and many accompanying landscape elements are important cultural and historic resources in the State. Consultation with OPRHP's Division for Historic Preservation (DHP) has been ongoing through the planning process and will continue.

Projects undertaken on identified historic buildings and structures will be for refurbishment and reuse purposes to meet current needs and codes while maintaining their historic character and context. All changes to historic elements will follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties<sup>1</sup>. Any project or activity proposed in the UMP that may impact historic resources or landscapes at the CPR will undergo Section 14.09 review by OPRHP's Division for Historic Preservation, in accordance with the State Historic Preservation Act (1980). The Adirondack Forest Preserve is also a National Historic Landmark. No impacts are expected to this resource.

#### ***Impact on Open Space and Recreation***

The CPR's recreational and open space resources are not expected to be adversely impacted by the Proposed Action. Recreational resources would be maintained and enhanced in some cases by the proposed projects in the UMP and open space would be protected.

#### ***Impact on Transportation***

Existing transportation and site circulation patterns are not proposed to be modified significantly. The UMP proposes to increase visibility and safety around existing parking areas and along the main roadway (Grandview Drive). DEC and OPRHP would coordinate with NYSDOT for any proposed improvements (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks) to NY 185 for pedestrian and cyclist safety.

#### ***Impact on Energy***

Construction of any new facilities and improvements to existing facilities are likely to require increases in energy use. Those increases are anticipated to be minor and represent an insignificant increase in energy use. Proposed sustainable practices will be implemented to include upgraded utilities to improve energy efficiency, green stormwater infrastructure and LED lights. DEC and OPRHP will consider the selective use of solar panels during the design and planning for facilities.

#### ***Impact on Noise, Odor, and Light***

New construction or maintenance activities resulting from the Proposed Action may temporarily increase noise at the CPR. During construction, there may be an increase in vehicular traffic levels and related emissions. Construction and maintenance activities may also be associated with related odors such as fuel and exhaust odors.

The Proposed Action may impact the use of lighting at the CPR, including outdoor lighting associated with site programming, safety, and pathway lighting. The DEIS will propose strategies for mitigating impacts of noise, odor, and light during and after construction

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<sup>1</sup> Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service Technical Preservation Services. Online: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/treatment-guidelines-2017-part1-preservation-rehabilitation.pdf>

associated with the Proposed Action. One example is using night-sky compliant lighting where practicable.

#### ***Consistency with Community Plans***

The CPR is located on land under the jurisdiction of the DEC. Local zoning regulations do not apply to real property owned by the People of the State of New York under DEC or OPRHP jurisdiction. However, the CPR is located within the Adirondack Park boundary. Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act requires the development of UMPs by DEC within the guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) classifies the Campground and Day Use Area as an Intensive Use Area and the State Historic Site as an Historic Area. The UMP will be consistent with the APSLMP guidelines for management and use of these areas.

#### **Resource Topics Unlikely to be Impacted by the Proposed Action**

This section addresses areas that are not likely to be impacted by actions proposed in the Draft UMP and will not be discussed further in the DEIS.

#### ***Impact on Critical Environmental Areas***

The CPR is not located in nor adjacent to any state listed Critical Environmental Area.

#### ***Impacts on Human Health***

There are no known hazardous materials or remediation sites within or in proximity to the CPR. The Proposed Action will not result in the creation of a hazard to human health.

#### ***Consistency with Community Character***

The UMP intends to maintain the character of the CPR and the surrounding area.

#### **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts**

The UMP may result in some unavoidable adverse impacts. There may be some minimal permanent loss of pervious soil surface and vegetative cover as a result of rehabilitation of facilities or the construction of new ones (e.g., buildings). Construction will be monitored by staff, and actions will be taken, if necessary, to prevent any significant impacts from occurring.

In addition, there may also be temporary air and noise impacts (e.g., fugitive dust, noise from construction equipment and vehicles) associated with construction of proposed improvements. Construction is generally scheduled for periods of low park use to minimize impacts to park visitors.

#### **Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources**

The planning, development, and implementation of the UMP—including rehabilitation of facilities, improvements to infrastructure, construction of new pathways, buildings or landscaping—will involve the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of public resources in the form of time, labor and materials. It will also require a commitment to the long-term operation and maintenance costs for the CPR.

#### **Supplemental Environmental Review**

The DEIS will describe the types of future actions that may require supplemental environmental review.

#### **References**

The DEIS will include a list of references and sources utilized throughout the DEIS development process.

**Appendix**

State Environmental Quality Review - Positive Declaration/Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Full Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1-3/Determination of Significance.