



Lake Taghkanic State Park
Draft Master Plan

Appendices

October 31, 2024

Figures

Figure 1	Park Location Map
Figure 2	Boundary and Topography
Figure 3	Adjacent Land Use
Figure 4	Geology
Figure 5	Soils
Figure 6	Water Resources
Figure 7	NYNHP Ecological Communities
Figure 8	Recreational Resources
Figure 9	Elevation
Figure 10	Slope
Figure 11	Trails Assessment Map
Figure 12	Trails Actions
Figure 13	Master Plan Map (insert)

Appendices

Appendix A	Development and Analysis of Recommended Actions
Appendix B	Historic/Non-Historic Review Resource Designations Existing Buildings
Appendix C	Existing Site Infrastructure
Appendix Ca	Cottage Inventory Photos
Appendix Cb	Cabin Inventory Photos

Figure 1 – Park Location Map

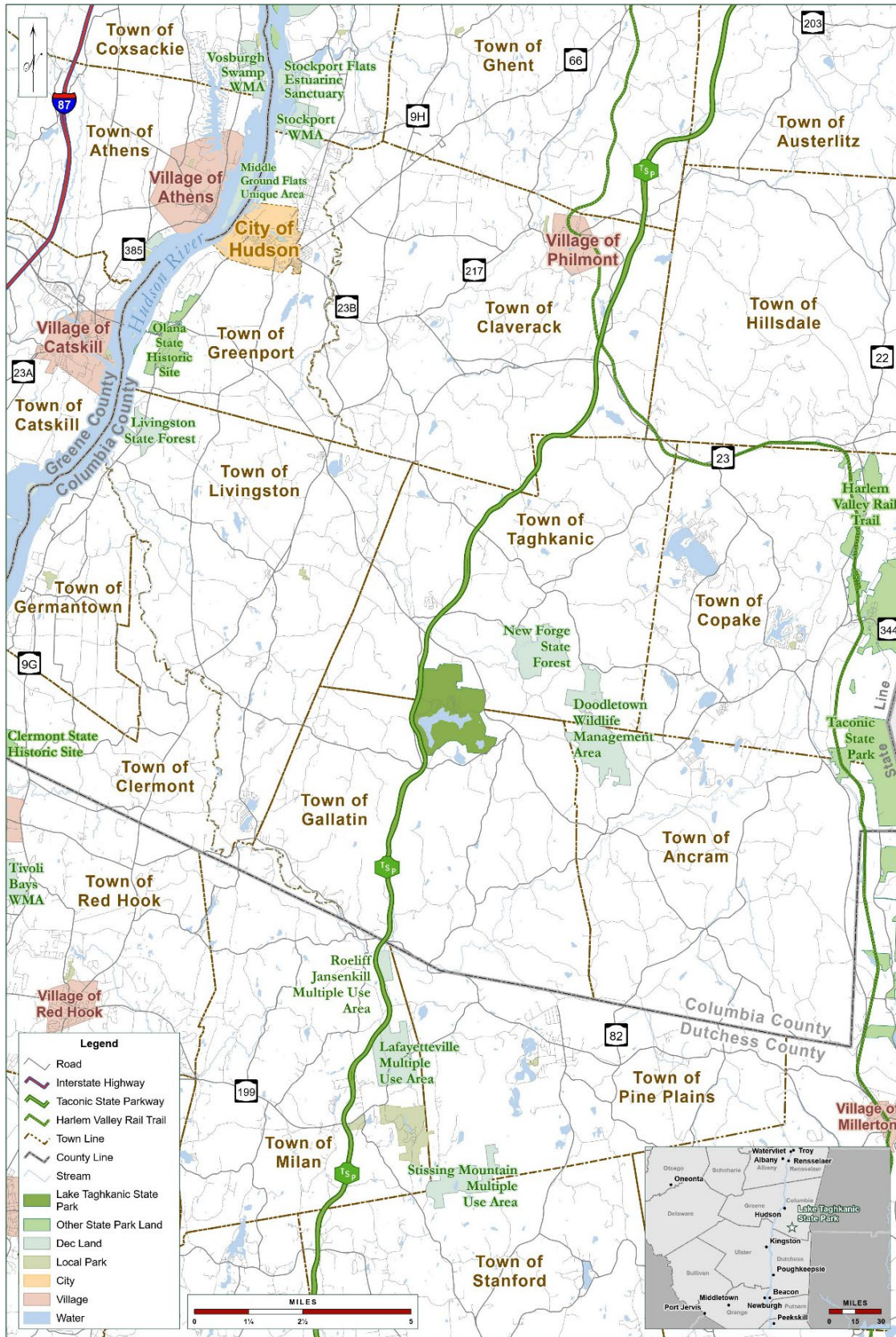


Figure 01 - Site Location-DRAFT

Lake Taghkanic State Park Master Plan

Figure 2 – Boundary and Topography

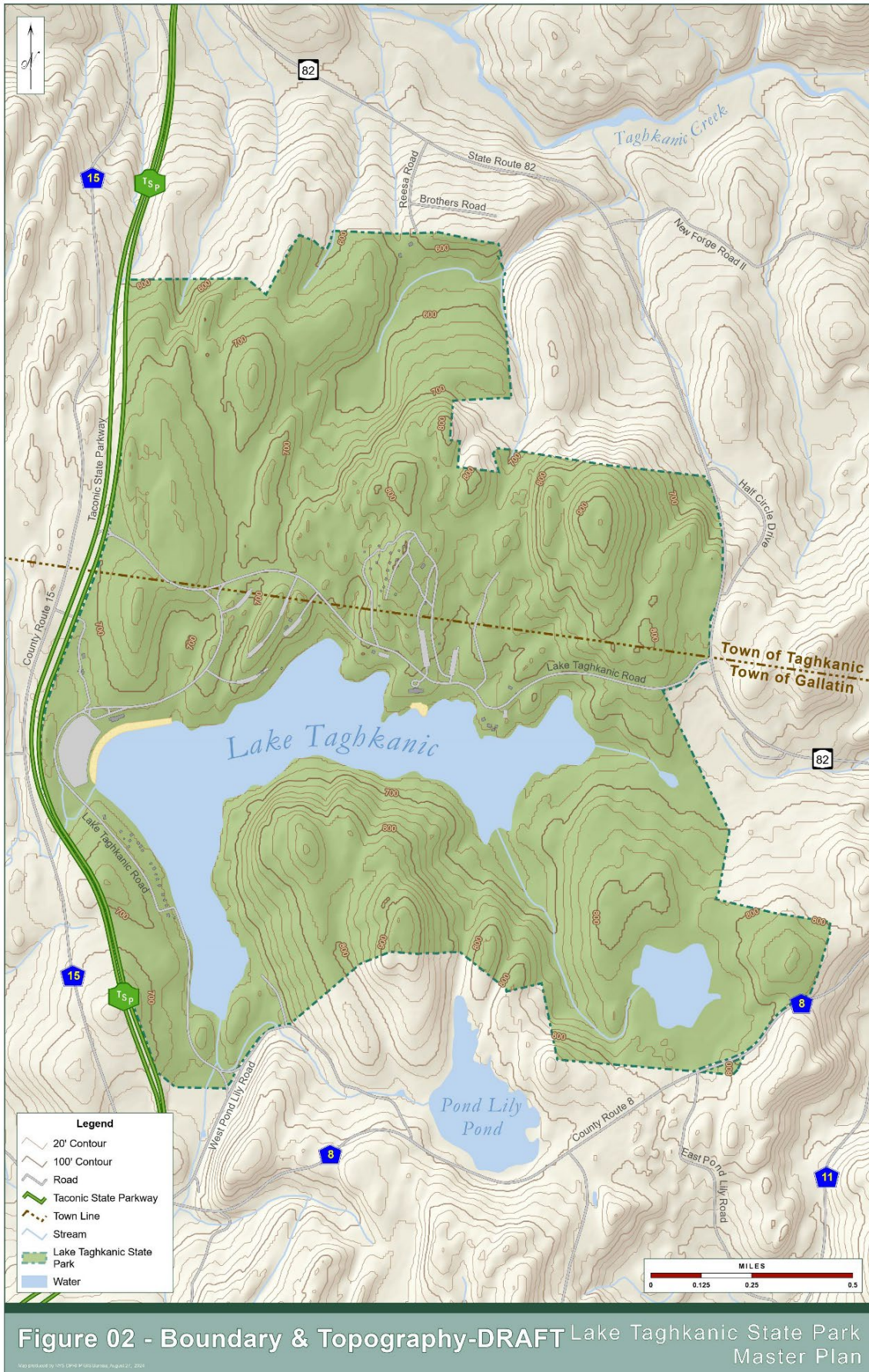


Figure 3 – Adjacent Land Use

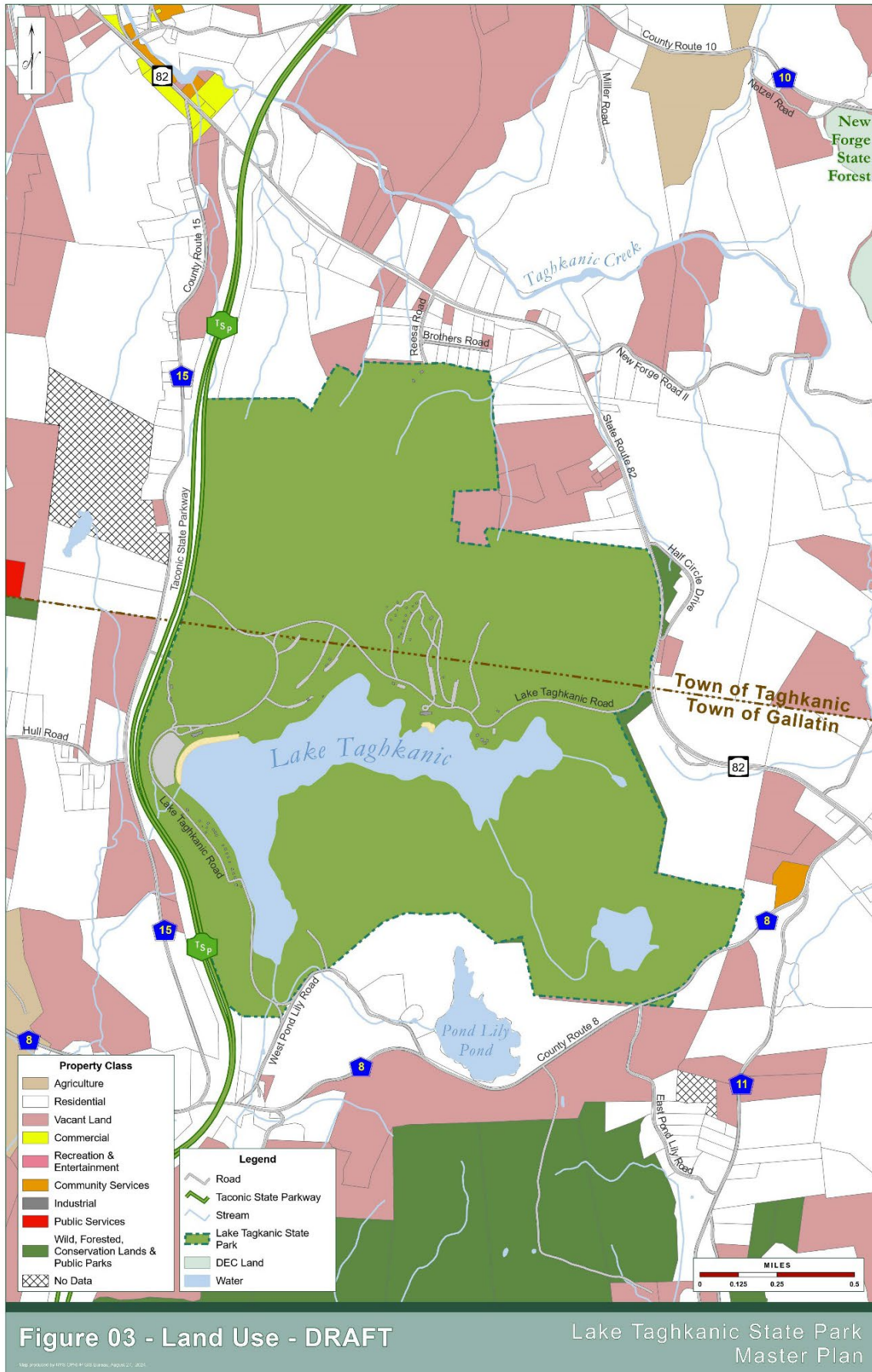


Figure 03 - Land Use - DRAFT

Lake Taghkanic State Park
Master Plan

Figure 4 – Geology

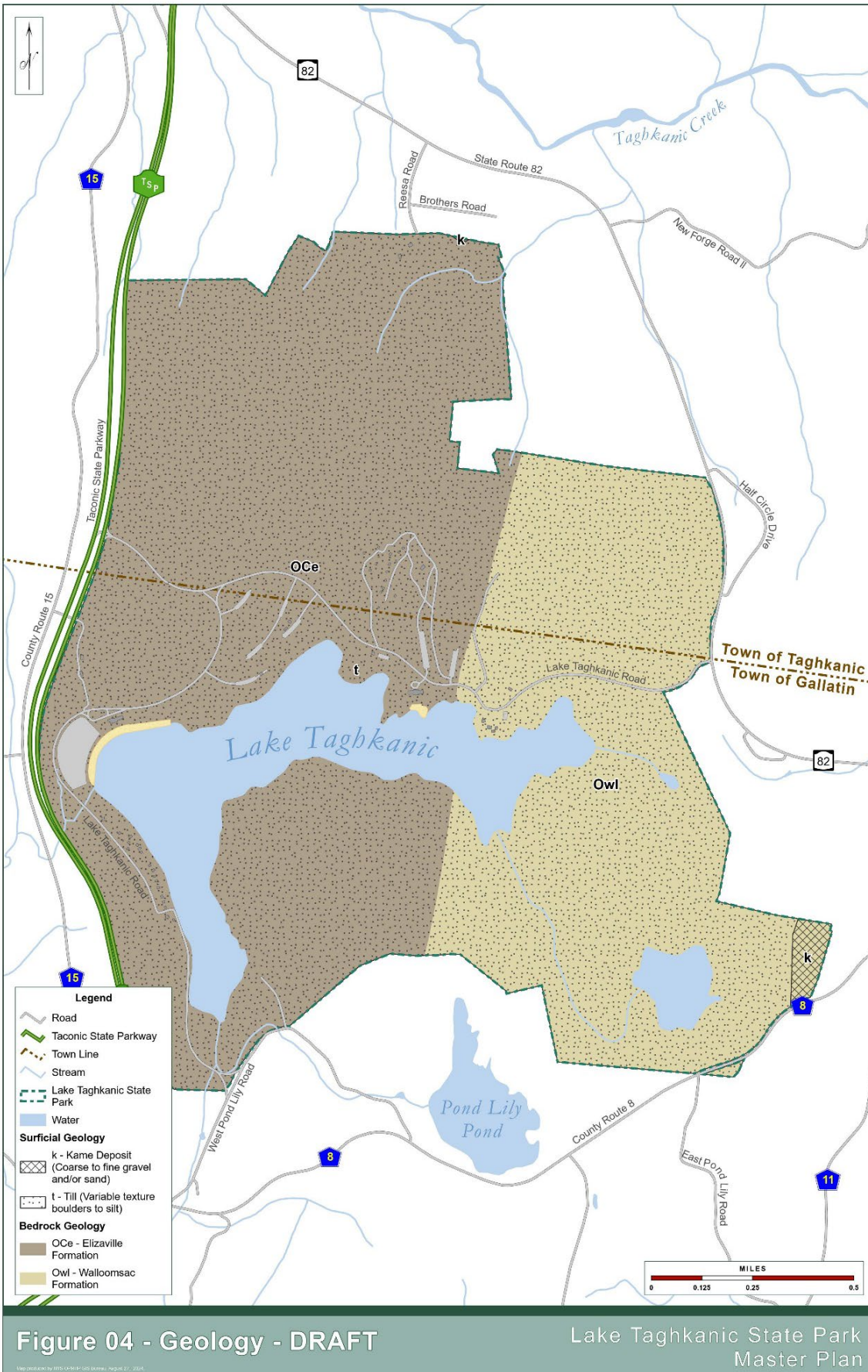


Figure 04 - Geology - DRAFT

Lake Taghkanic State Park Master Plan

Figure 5 – Soils

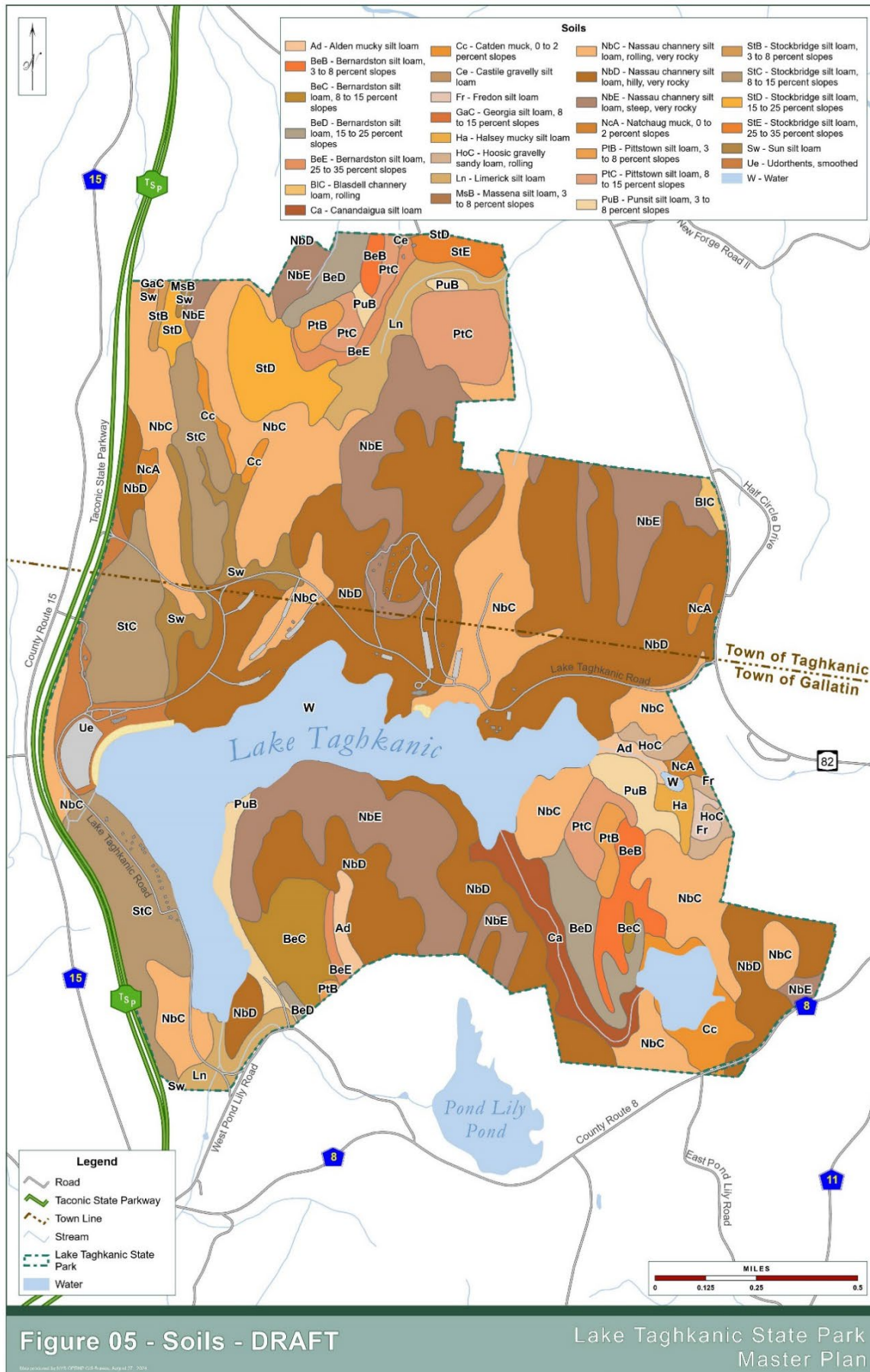


Figure 6 – Water Resources

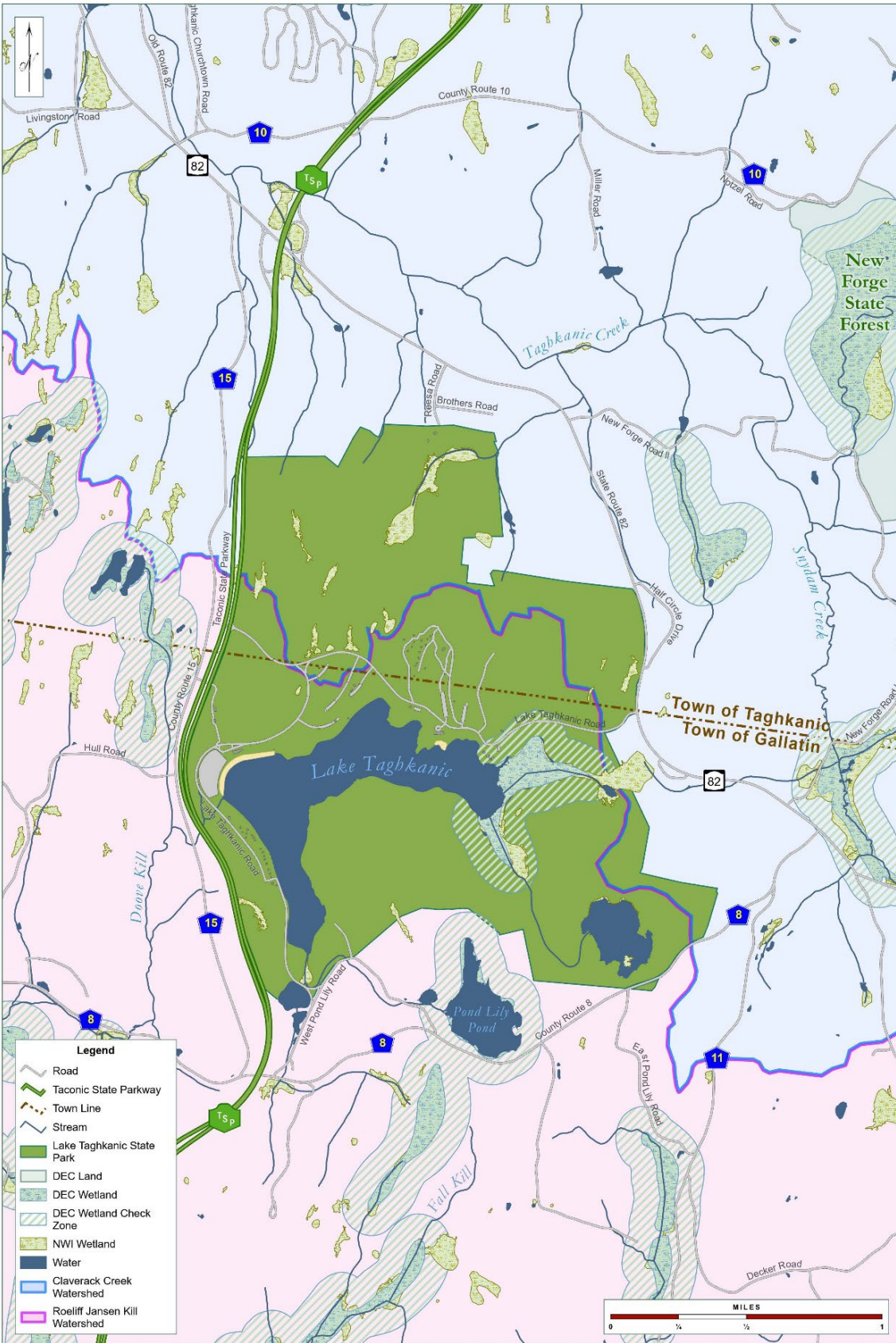


Figure 06 - Water Resources - DRAFT

Lake Taghkanic State Park
Master Plan

Figure 7 – NYNHP Ecological Communities

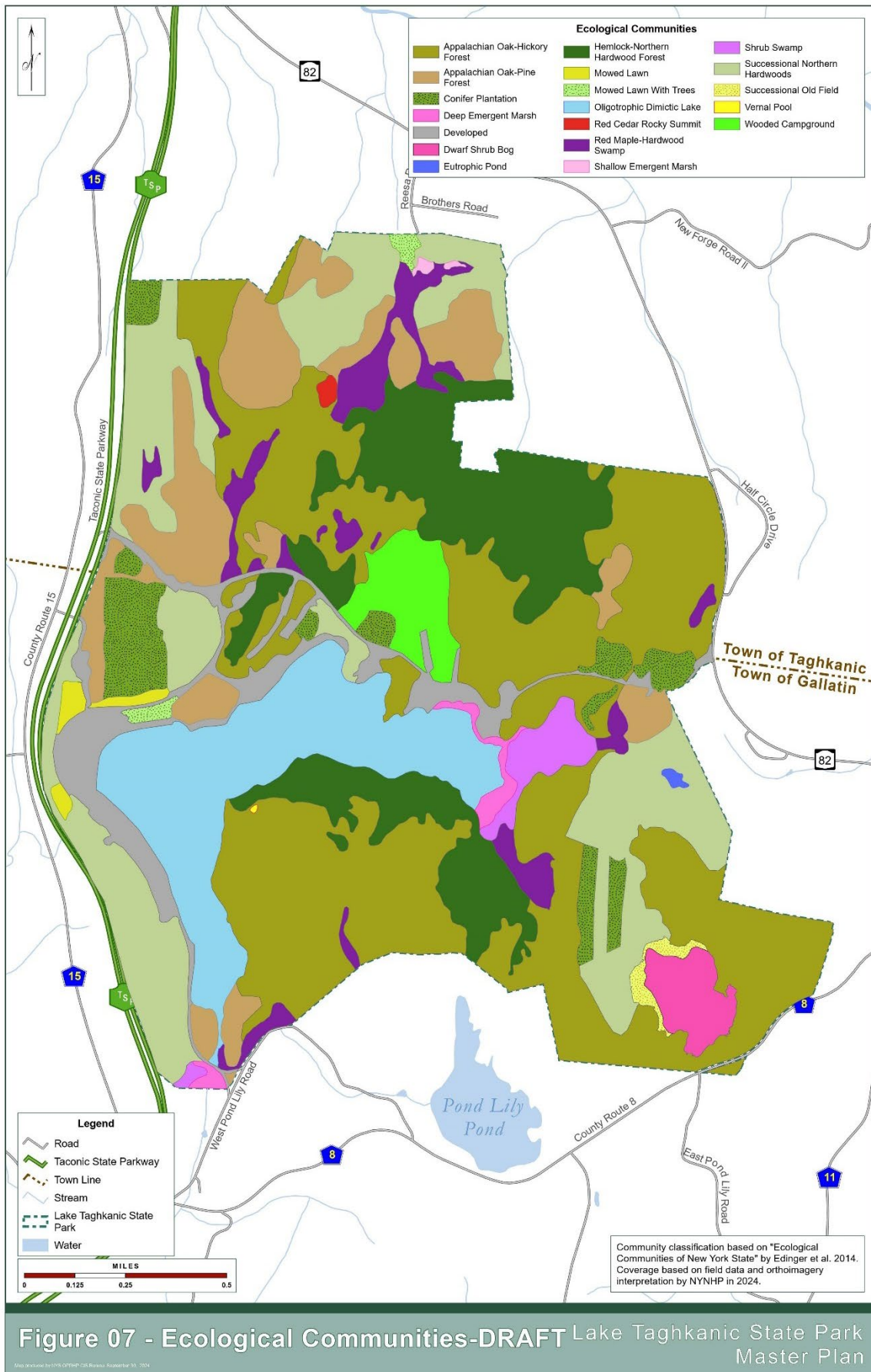


Figure 07 - Ecological Communities-DRAFT Lake Taghkanic State Park Master Plan

Figure 8 – Recreational Resources

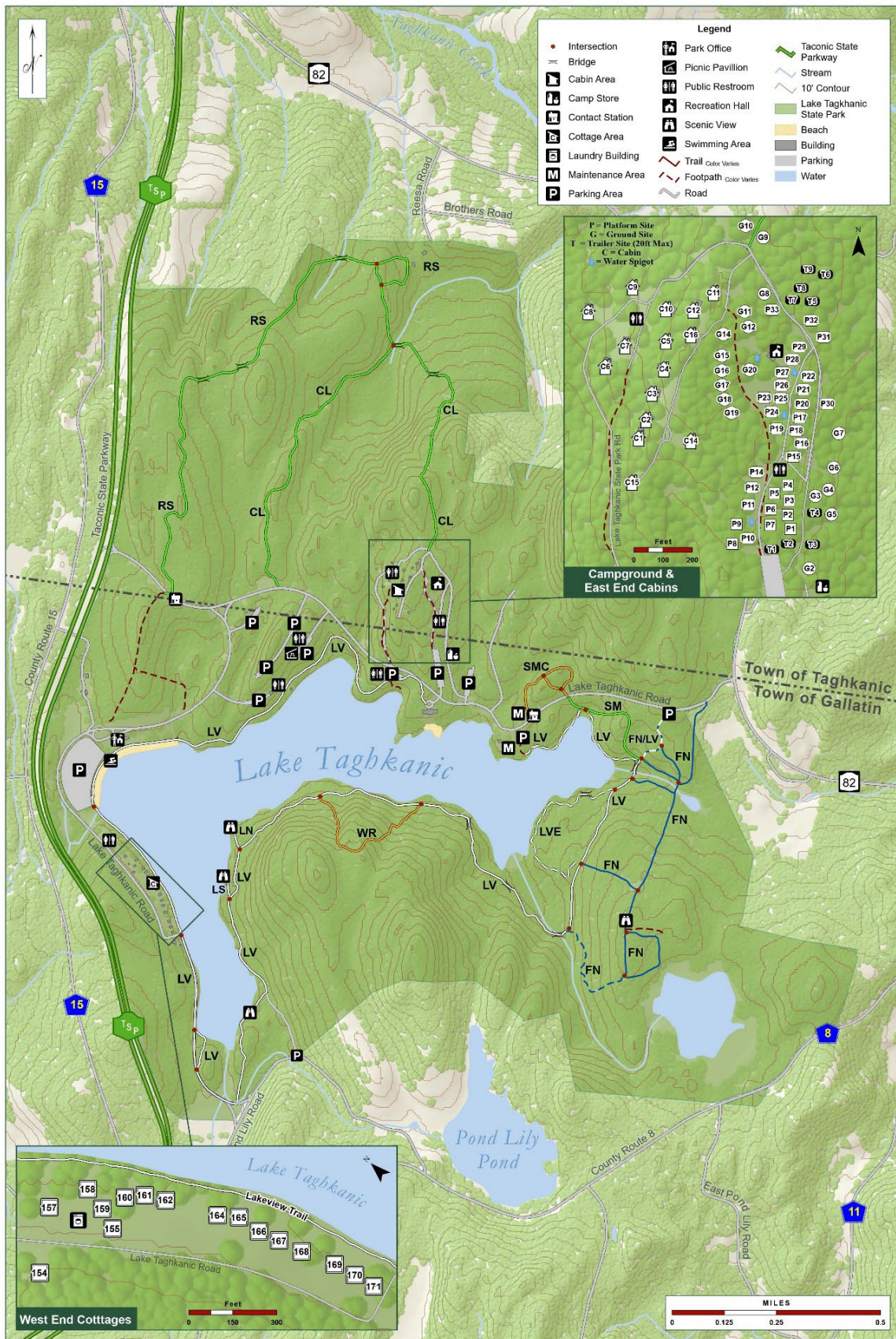


Figure 08 - Recreational Resources-DRAFT Lake Taghkanic State Park Master Plan

Map produced by RPTI (2019) for RPTI & others, August 27, 2019.

Figure 9 – Elevation

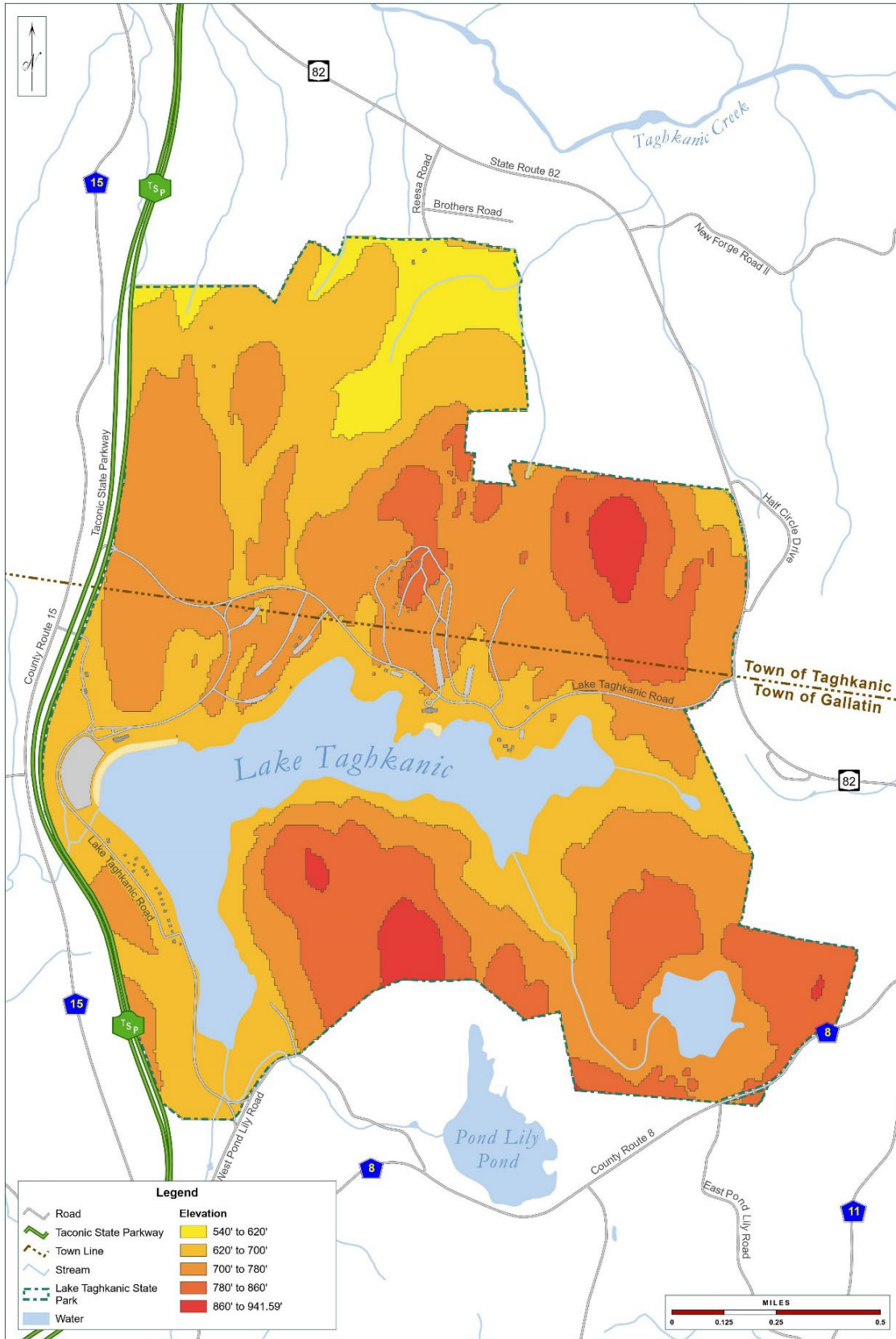


Figure 09 - Elevation - DRAFT

Lake Taghkanic State Park
Master Plan

Map updated by GIS (2007, 2016 Update, Revised 11/2014)

Figure 10 – Slope

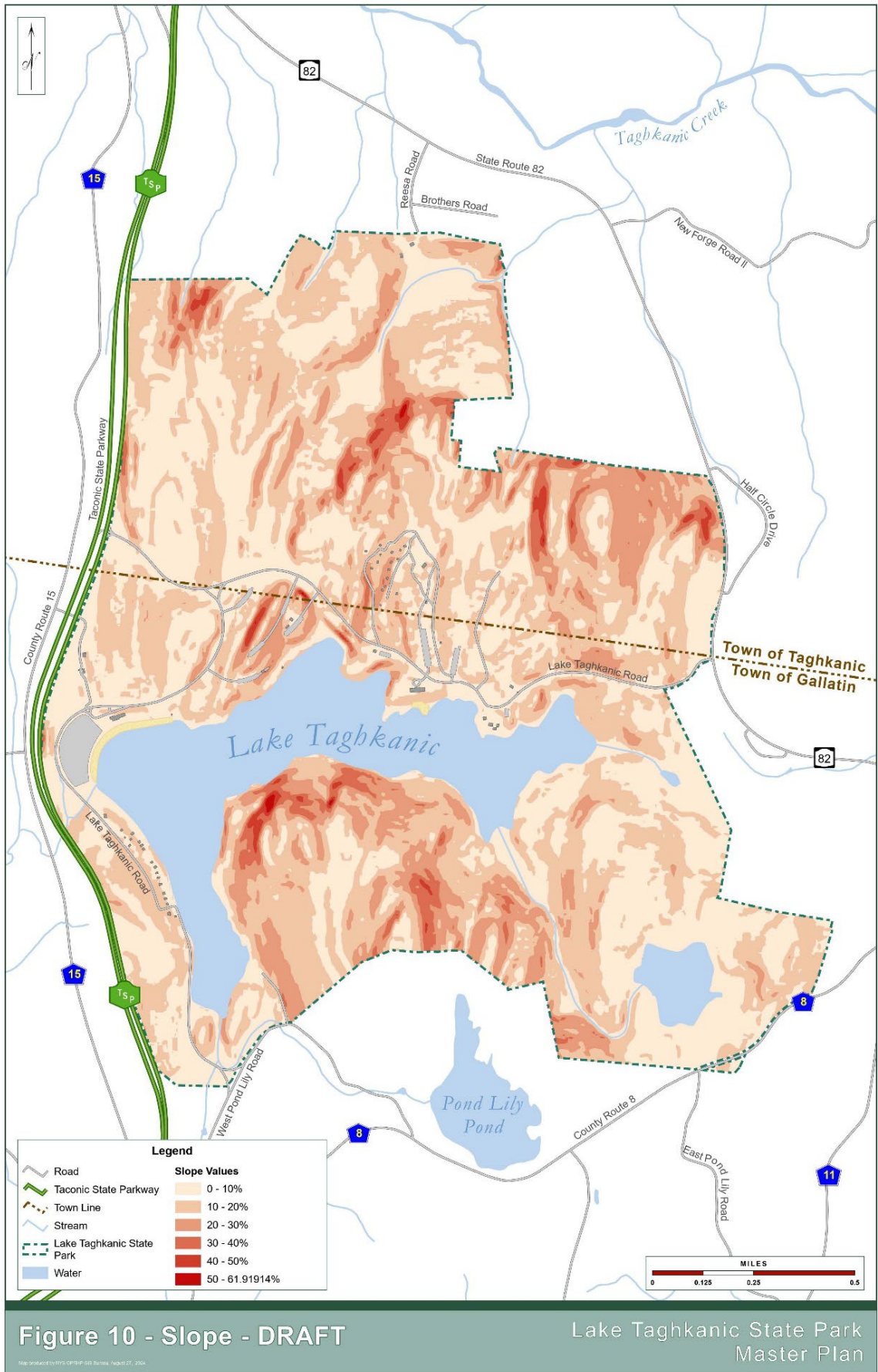


Figure 10 - Slope - DRAFT

Lake Taghkanic State Park Master Plan

Figure 11 – Trails Assessment Map

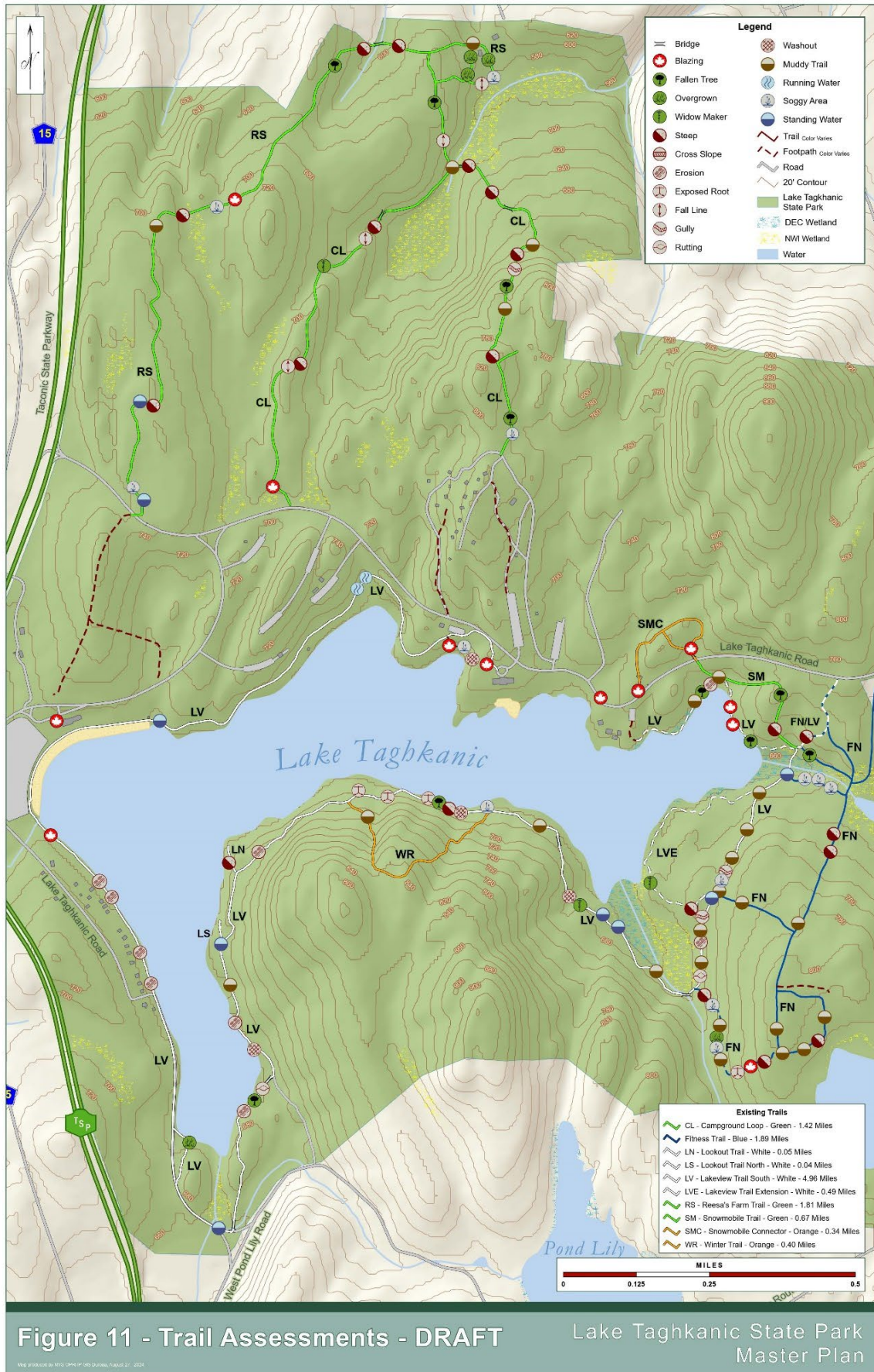
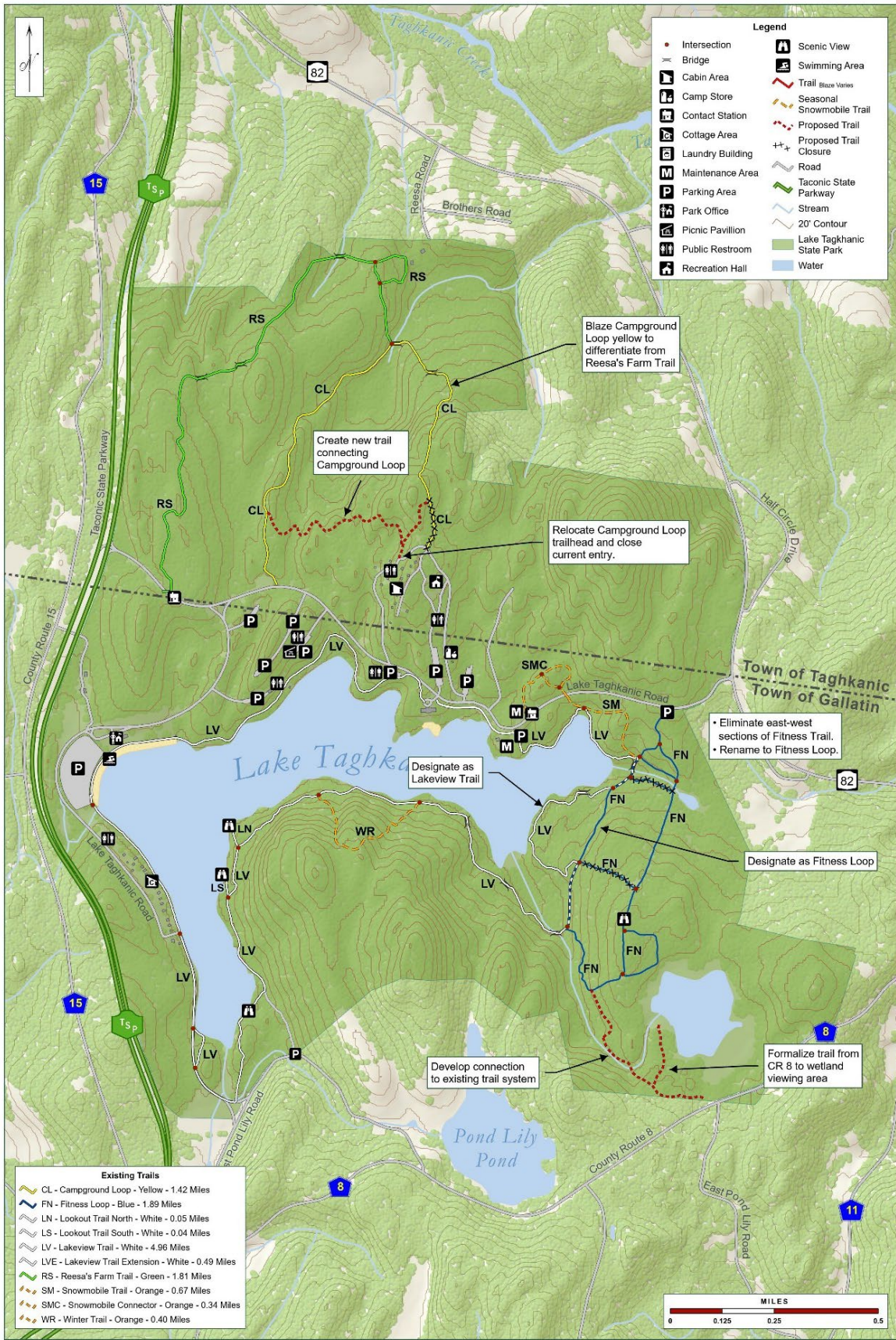


Figure 12 – Trails Actions



Existing Trails

- CL - Campground Loop - Yellow - 1.42 Miles
- FN - Fitness Loop - Blue - 1.89 Miles
- LN - Lookout Trail North - White - 0.05 Miles
- LS - Lookout Trail South - White - 0.04 Miles
- LV - Lakeview Trail - White - 4.96 Miles
- LVE - Lakeview Trail Extension - White - 0.49 Miles
- RS - Reesa's Farm Trail - Green - 1.81 Miles
- SM - Snowmobile Trail - Orange - 0.67 Miles
- SMC - Snowmobile Connector - Orange - 0.34 Miles
- WR - Winter Trail - Orange - 0.40 Miles

Figure 12 - Trail Actions - DRAFT

Appendix A – Development and Analysis of Recommended Actions

Potential actions for improvements at Lake Taghkanic State Park were evaluated as part of Master Plan development. Actions were considered that will best address the facility's needs, realize the Park's vision, and address anticipated shifts in visitor demographics, preferences, and statewide recreation trends. Proposed actions were evaluated for potential positive and negative impacts. Those found to be beneficial, reasonable, and that will best accommodate the facility's short- and long-term goals, were selected for future implementation. Actions are always compared with the option of taking no action or maintaining the "status quo." The Final Master Plan is comprised of the actions selected for implementation.

Natural Resources

A guiding principle for the Agency is to conserve, protect, and enhance its natural resources while providing for public enjoyment of, and access to, these resources in a manner that will protect them for future generations. Stewardship of natural resources is crucial to Lake Taghkanic State Park's continued operation and the health of local wildlife and water resources. Issues at LTSP include problematic invasive species, the need to expand protections for sensitive species, and water resource concerns.

Actions Considered for Stewardship

Action 1 – Status quo: Continue existing partnerships to support the protection of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) species, species of Special Concern (SC), and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in the Park.

Considerations:

- Continue to partner with NYNHP and NYSDEC to conduct research and surveys for RTE flora and fauna in the park
- Continue to define and prioritize stewardship actions to support and enhance habitat for known SGCN, RTE, and SC species
- Management of populations of rare and listed species follows appropriate State and Federal guidelines and includes appropriate state and federal permits, as necessary

Action 2 – Expand on the existing knowledge and protection of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) species, species of Special Concern (SC), and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in the Park.

Considerations: Same as status quo, and

- Create an invasive species watchlist to help inform staff about potential invasive species that may have a detrimental impact on RTE and SC species
- Encourage citizen science reporting of flora and fauna in the park to identify locations of species of SC and SGCN, e.g., using iNaturalist
- The 2020 and 2024 acquisitions are potentially suitable habitats for sensitive species and will be evaluated for shrubland habitat management projects, and implemented if deemed appropriate
- Explore opportunities to expand survey methods to detect RTE and SC species (e.g., using conservation detection dogs)
- Encourage and support the use of native species in plantings and habitat restoration efforts throughout the Park, following OPRHP's Native Plant Policy, in partnership with local conservation organizations
- Compile and periodically update data on newly identified SGCN and species of SC in the Park that are not listed and tracked (e.g., species that are not considered RTE)
- Expanding invasive species management programs will require additional staff time

Action 3 – Develop and implement an Environmental Stewardship Plan for LTSP.

Considerations:

- An Environmental Stewardship Plan identifies priorities, guides stewardship, land management, and operations, and includes implementation strategies for conserving significant natural resources
- Per statute, Park Preserves and Park Preservation Areas are the priority for Stewardship Plans
- LTSP is not currently designated as a Park Preserve and does not contain any Park Preservation Areas

- Regional Staff has limited staff and budget to develop a Stewardship Plan for LTSP

Recommended Actions: 2 and 3

OPRHP’s mission guides the agency to steward natural resources responsibly. Protecting RTE, SC, and SGCN species is an important part of this directive and supports the biodiversity of the Park and region. Expanding protections through increased survey work and habitat improvement in partnership with local conservation organizations will further expand suitable habitats for a diverse array of species. An Environmental Stewardship Plan with help to further define and prioritize environmental stewardship projects within the Park.

Actions Considered for Invasive Species

Action 1 – Status quo: Continue to identify, treat, and remove invasive species in the Park using appropriate methods, as determined by the best available science.

Considerations:

- There is no comprehensive invasive species management plan for the Park
- Without proactive management of invasive species, the Park’s natural setting may be compromised, resulting in a decline in the visitor experience
- Treatments for Water Chestnut, Black Swallowwort, and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid are ongoing at the Park
- Newly identified invasive species infestations in the Park are treated as they are identified, a strategy known as “Early Detection, Rapid Response”
- Treatment methods may include pesticides, where appropriate
- Continue to assess and document the impact of invasive species within the Park
- Continue to partner with organizations that support the mapping (nyimainvasives.org), control, and prevention of invasive species (including the Capital Region PRISM)
- Continue to update and develop Invasive Species Control Plans (ISCP) for known and newly identified invasive species as appropriate

Action 2 – Expand invasive species management efforts; develop and implement programs to promote public engagement and participation in invasive species management.

Considerations: Same as status quo, and

- Coordinate with environmental education and stewardship staff to determine invasive species education priorities
- Education materials will include information about the detrimental impacts of dumping bait and aquarium species
- A component of the educational program will include information on what the public can do to protect the park from invasive species (e.g., properly cleaning their boats before launching, cleaning boots before hikes, and staying on marked trails)
- Add a boat cleaning station, including an invasive capture bin, to make it as convenient as possible for people to clean their boats and dispose of any aquatic vegetation before entering the lake
- A boot brush station may be installed, as appropriate
- Relocate and update the “Clean, Drain, Dry” sign
- Education signs about potential invasives may be installed to help detect and control future invasive species infestations at an early stage
- Education materials may include information about invasive species that are already present at LTSP, their impacts, and the management practices that are being employed to control invasive populations

Action 3 – Develop and implement a comprehensive Invasive Species Management Plan.

Considerations:

- Supports the agency’s mission and Park’s vision to protect natural resources
- An Invasives Species Management Plan will inform how to prioritize treatment areas, work with partners, and mobilize volunteers

- Will develop priorities for management based on assessments of various factors including ease of control, potential environmental impacts, potential infrastructure impacts, and the level of threat to human health
- An Invasive Species Management Plan is most effective when there is an existing comprehensive Stewardship Plan in place
- There are limited staff and budget resources to develop an Invasive Species Management Plan at LTSP

Recommended Action: 2

Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species can cause a nuisance and negatively impact the Park’s biodiversity and recreational offerings. Preventing invasive species from entering the lake is critical to maintaining water-based recreation opportunities, supporting native flora and fauna, and ensuring visitor use and enjoyment of the Park. Terrestrial invasives harm the forest canopy which can adversely impact recreation, including hiking, picnicking, and camping.

Actions Considered for Water Resources

Action 1 – Status quo – No changes to water resource management at the Park.

Considerations:

- The water quality of the Lake is a major draw to the Park for swimming, fishing, and boating
- Without proactive management of water resources, the Park’s natural setting may be comprised, resulting in a decline in the visitor experience

Action 2 – Maintain the water quality of Lake Taghkanic by protecting the watershed’s integrity and headwaters.

Considerations:

- Where feasible, use green infrastructure (GI) to prevent runoff from entering the Lake around the parking lot and any new construction near the lake shore
- GI used in public areas offers educational opportunities and increases knowledge and understanding of the benefits of these practices
- Protective actions such as riparian stabilization and right-sizing culverts will help to protect water quality and reduce erosion

Recommended Action: 2

As one of the main draws of the Park, protecting the clean, clear waters of Lake Taghkanic is critical to the visitor use and enjoyment of the Park. Untreated stormwater runoff can quickly degrade the water quality of the lake. Reducing the amount of surface runoff entering the lake, where feasible, will ensure and enhance the lake’s water quality. The lake drains into the Doove Kill which eventually joins with the Roeliff Jansen Kill to enter the Hudson River. Any changes to Lake Taghkanic will have downstream effects.

Actions Considered for Natural Resource Designations

Action 1 – Status quo: No change to natural resource designations at the Park.

Considerations:

- The Park is classified as a scenic recreation area
- The Park is not currently designated as a Bird Conservation Area (BCA)
- The Park is not currently designated as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA)
- The Park is not currently designated as a Park Preserve and does not contain Park Preservation Areas

Action 2 – Designate LTSP as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA).

Considerations:

- NHA designation was evaluated by NYNHP during the ecological community survey process
- LTSP has a low number of heritage occurrences

- NHA designation does not preclude future or existing land use proposals

Action 3 – Designate the entirety of LTSP as a Park Preserve.

Considerations:

- Passive and low-intensity recreational activities will be supported
- Future proposals for moderate- to high-impact recreational activities may be limited
- Ensures protection of LTSP’s flora and fauna, as well as its scenic and historic resources

Action 4 – Designate part of LTSP as a Park Preservation Area (PPA).

Considerations:

- Passive and low-intensity recreational activities will be supported
- Future proposals for moderate- to high-impact recreational activities may be limited
- A PPA would protect the most notable ecological communities, such as assemblages of plants or wildlife that are unique and/or rare in NYS

Recommended Action: 1

At the time the Master Plan was prepared, LTSP did not meet the threshold for Park Preserve, Park Preservation Area, or Natural Heritage Area designation.

Cultural Resources

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Infrastructure

The CCC-built campground buildings are a significant cultural resource at LTSP. While the cabins are rustic and provide very basic accommodation, they are heavily used, and staff receive very few complaints about them. They hold a deep sense of nostalgia for some families who have rented cabins at the Park over multiple generations.

The cabins are subject to ongoing use in summer and to weather impacts year-round. Their original wood siding and stone masonry require ongoing repair. Visitors are generally unaware of the cabins’ historic significance. Staff regularly see damage either through normal use or through active impacts (e.g., names carved the into wood paneling).

The campground’s Stone Shower House is deteriorated and not ADA-compliant. Accessible family restrooms have been added to the Recreation Hall, which has the original CCC wood section with a stone fireplace.

Actions Considered for CCC Cabins

Action 1 – Status quo: Continue current maintenance and repair regime for the Park’s CCC-built cabins.

Considerations:

- The cabins are fully booked every year and receive a lot of wear and tear
- Deteriorating original materials need ongoing repair, and at current staffing levels, only the most urgent repairs can be addressed
- Cabins offer an example of CCC craftsmanship and use of regional materials
- If larger-scale issues are not addressed, the significant, designated historic cabins will further deteriorate and may eventually be lost
- Continued deterioration may result in an increase in public safety issues
- If larger issues are not addressed, some or all of the cabins may become undesirable or unusable, resulting in a loss of revenue for the Park
- Modifications needed to offer fully accessible cabins will not be completed

Action 2 – Improve the Park’s CCC cabins by addressing needed repairs and upgrade some with outdoor amenities (e.g., stone patios, picnic tables, and/or seating).

Considerations: Same as Action 1, and

- Addressing repairs and adding new amenities may help visitors better appreciate the cabins and their historical value
- Deteriorated siding, masonry, and interiors impact the overall campground aesthetics
- SHPO considerations must be addressed when adding any new elements to CCC elements
- Repairs are done in-house and allocating staff time for work beyond routine maintenance is a challenge
- Some cabin sites have steep grades that make accessibility a challenge
- Adding outdoor amenities may increase operational issues (e.g., people hanging out late outside, noise complaints)
- Improvements to the site can include upgrades such as adding more water hook-ups throughout the campground

Recommended Action: 2

The historic CCC cabins are an active and integral part of the Park’s recreation infrastructure. Now over 80 years old, they are in need of significant work to ensure they may continue to be both functional for visitor use and effective representatives of the CCC’s work for years to come. As part of the CCC story in the state overall, and an important part of the Park’s interpretive program, the cabins must be cared for appropriately so they will continue to be available for future generations of visitors to enjoy.

Actions Considered for the East Bathhouse (CCC)

Action 1 – Status quo: No action; The East Bathhouse remains vacant and unused with no planned renovation.

Considerations:

- The boarded up and unused structure is in a highly visible and prominent location
- Not taking action to stabilize or renovate the Bathhouse will lead to the eventual loss of the Park’s most significant historic structure and example of CCC workmanship
- Public safety and aesthetic concerns from a vacant and deteriorated building will increase
- If left in its current state, it will be a missed opportunity to protect this historic resource and revitalize this part of the Park
- Will not support other planned improvements proposed in this area

Action 2 – Renovate and retrofit the East Bathhouse as a seasonal venue for large events.

Considerations:

- An existing rental pavilion nearby accommodates up to 60 people and addresses current demand for larger group events
- The campground parking area adjacent to the Bathhouse can accommodate large groups
- Water, restrooms, and septic systems must be functional for any type of proposed re-use
- A kitchen would be needed to accommodate weddings, large parties, etc.
- Can include a patio with seating and fire pit overlooking the lake for use by all visitors
- Renovation can include an interpretive area
- Educational element would be secondary to event space function
- Conflicts with campers and other park users may occur (e.g., loud music, noisy groups)
- With the many event venues in the region (local barns for weddings, City of Hudson venues) there may not be sufficient demand for event spaces for larger groups in this location
- Rental cost would need to be kept affordable
- Use would be seasonal, leaving the building vacant part of the year
- Renovating the Bathhouse for any use will address its significant safety and aesthetic issues
- May not be the best public use of the Bathhouse

Action 3 – Renovate and retrofit the East Bathhouse as a community center that includes a central interpretive area, public outdoor space (e.g., patio, seating, fire pit), and flexible interior spaces for programs, meetings, and other public uses.

Considerations:

- The East Bathhouse’s central location offers a scenic setting with lake views and is close to a playground, campground, trails, and the main road
- The East Bathhouse will again be a focal point for active public use at the Park
- The large campground parking lot is available nearby to support larger groups or events
- Waterlines, restrooms, and septic systems will need to be functional and up to code for this use
- A glassed-in interpretive space in the central hallway provides the Park a space to develop more educational offerings
- The building’s wings can be retrofitted to provide spaces appropriate for public events, lectures, local groups, and staff use
- Supports other proposed actions intended to redistribute activity away from high-use areas
- Will include flexible spaces that can accommodate a range of possible uses and provide a viable option to other local community venues (e.g., Firehouse, American Legion)
- Providing restrooms and outdoor seating area with views will improve the experience for campers and day-use visitors using the playground and picnic areas, walking dogs, or resting from a hike
- Will support new camping facilities proposed in the Master Plan
- The building will be open seasonally; climate control (heating and cooling) is not feasible for most of the building
- Rehabilitation of exterior must be true to historic character and comply with SHPO considerations
- Interior will be up to current ADA/building codes
- Costs to renovate and retrofit the building will be high
- This area will offer a more low-key experience than the West Beach area
- Will not include a food concession (offering food at the East Bathhouse would compete with other Park concessions)

Action 4 – Dedicate a portion of the East Bathhouse for education and interpretation.

Considerations:

- The East Bathhouse is a prime example of CCC architecture and is close to the Park’s other CCC elements
- Enclosing the central section with glass may make it possible to provide electric heat and have the space open year-round (creating a “warming hut” for the east side of the Park)
- The Bathhouse is a natural draw, and has the potential to become a focal point for education, interpretation, and programming
- Central space can be used for nature programs and as a meeting spot for group walks and other events
- An interpretive/program space is not in conflict with other proposed uses for the Bathhouse
- Bathrooms would need to be closed in winter
- Ties in with a master plan goal to activate less-used portions of the Park and better disperse visitors

Recommended Actions: 3 and 4

The historic CCC-built East Bathhouse is vacant and boarded up. The large building is centrally located and highly visible to visitors. The interior has been vandalized and the internal courtyards are open to the elements. Formerly the Park’s most significant feature, the Bathhouse is a wonderful example of CCC architecture, exhibiting a skillful use of local materials and workmanship. Addressing its highly deteriorated condition and re-using this important feature as a community amenity is essential to the Park’s integrity.

Actions Considered for the CCC Recreation Hall

Action 1 – Status quo: Continue current use of the CCC Recreation Hall with no changes.

Considerations:

- Alterations have been made to the original structure (e.g., family restrooms added)
- Building is in overall good condition but needs some repairs
- Example of CCC craftsmanship and use of materials
- Functions as a storm shelter for campers during inclement weather

Action 2 – Renovate the CCC Recreation Hall.

Considerations:

- The Rec Hall is an important component of the CCC story at the Park
- Interpretive panels near the building help inform visitors about the CCC work
- Will need to maintain its function as a storm shelter
- Stone chimney and wood section are the only remaining CCC elements
- Has an updated and accessible restroom

Recommended Action: 2

The Recreation Hall has an accessible, family-friendly restroom, and provides dry indoor public space at the campground. The building serves as a safe zone for visitors during hazardous weather. It is a natural gathering space for overnight visitors and a convenient location for meetings. While only a portion of the structure was built by CCC worker remains, it is an example of CCC work and an important historic element at the Park.

Cottages

The Park's lakeside Cottages are generally well-maintained, but many have outdated fixtures and utilities. Most are not universally accessible and do not meet current building codes. Walkways and access paths to most entrances are not accessible, and many have steps. A project to replace some existing cottages with new ADA and code-compliant units was evaluated prior to development of this Plan but never implemented, largely due to the high cost of installing a year-round water system.

Work on the Cottages has been completed in recent years using the dedicated State Parks Infrastructure Fund (SPIF) crew. Taconic Regional Maintenance has also addressed some HVAC issues. In 2024, staff focused on cottage repairs and interior renovations (e.g., refinishing floors, upgrading kitchens, painting). Work included replacing rotted sills, sagging siding, and a failing porch at Cottage 171, which dates back to the 1930s. The Park's rehab crew added energy-efficient heat pumps, new windows and siding, insulation, and new tongue-and-groove pine to the Cottage's interior.

Cottage #159 has been condemned due to structural issues and is used for storage. Cottage #163 was torn down, and Cottage #165 burned in 2023.

Actions Considered for Rental Cottages

Action 1 – Status quo: Continue current maintenance activities at the Park's cottages and landscape.

Considerations:

- With existing levels of use and maintenance, the cottages and landscape may deteriorate, eventually becoming less functional
- May lead to eventual loss of some or all of these historic structures
- Deteriorating buildings and landscape reduce the aesthetic appeal of this scenic part of the park
- Most cottages have outdated kitchens, HVAC, and bathrooms, in addition to building code and accessibility issues

- Aging electrical systems are outdated and will continue to deteriorate
- Site drainage, soil compaction, and erosion issues will worsen
- Vehicular circulation and pedestrian access issues will not be addressed (e.g., cars driving on lawns; people creating informal access points along the lakeshore)
- Cottages are fully booked well in advance and the park receives very few visitor complaints

Action 2 – Upgrade utilities at the Cottages, repair deteriorated materials, and address accessibility and code issues where practicable.

Considerations:

- Many Cottages have multiple code and access issues (e.g., narrow stairs, entrances, electrical/plumbing systems)
- Not all Cottages will be able to meet ADA recommendations for universal accessibility
- Repairs must go beyond routine maintenance to address issues including rotted porches; windows/screens, doors, and replacing deteriorated siding
- Visitors today generally prefer air-conditioned accommodations

Action 3 – Address site drainage issues in the Cottage area; repair eroded and compacted areas and improve access to the lakefront.

Considerations:

- Site drainage in the area is generally poor, with clay soils that are often saturated
- People have created informal access points down to the lakefront which are unsightly, with compacted and eroded soils
- Addressing drainage issues appropriately will require a comprehensive stormwater management design and likely require a consultant
- Formalizing locations for visitors to access the lake (i.e., adding steps/railings/native plantings in eroded areas) will improve accessibility and aesthetics, reducing soil erosion and sediment entering the lake

Action 4 – Replace Cottage #163 (demolished due to safety issues) and Cottage #165 (burned), and remove #159, which is condemned due to structural issues.

Considerations:

- There is always high demand for Cottage rentals
- The Park loses revenue from unused or lost Cottages
- Replacement Cottages can be a model for the future replacement design/process
- Replacement Cottages will be code- and ADA-compliant
- Historic preservation considerations SHPO approval is required for any retrofits to existing cottages or design of new construction
- Will need to demonstrate need for removal (14.09 process)
- Replacement Cottages can incorporate architectural elements reflective of the historic structures
- Demolition process is expensive (i.e., the agency's permission process, design, bidding)
- If Cottages need to be reconfigured with fewer bedrooms to become accessible, new cottages can be added to meet demand
- Any cottage rehabilitation must address their foundations (many sit directly on the ground)
- If costs are higher to rehabilitate than to replace some cottages, it may be preferable to build new
- Each cottage will need to be assessed individually

Recommended Actions: 2, 3, and 4

The Park's Cottages are "legacy" buildings and part of Park's development history. Constructed by private homeowners in the late 19th to early 20th century, each offers a different experience. The Cottages vary in number of bedrooms, views, and layouts, and they are popular in part because of their individual quirks. Although recent work has been completed for some, most interiors are outdated and some need new roofs. A percentage of accessible accommodations of similar type are required at all public facilities, and new cottages will be accessible and have up-to-date utilities.

Reesa Farmstead

A house and barn on the Reesa property date from circa 1870s. No work has been completed on the structures since the property was acquired in 1962 and the house and barn are in an advanced state of deterioration.

Actions Considered for Reesa Farmstead

Action 1 – Status quo: No improvements or action taken for the Reesa farmhouse or barn.

Considerations:

- The house and barn are both highly deteriorated and the barn is unstable
- Other than trail development, no work has been done on the property since its acquisition
- Buildings are National Register-eligible
- Informal assessments were completed by Agency historic preservation staff during Master Plan development
- The house and barn present public safety issues
- Staff have not identified a clear purpose for future use of either the house or barn
- The site's location at the periphery of the Park is not convenient for equipment storage or staff housing
- Cost to restore or retrofit the house or barn will be high, with no clear benefit to the Park

Action 2 – Stabilize the house and/or barn for future renovation.

Considerations: Same as Action 1, and

- Any proposed changes will require 14.09 review (process of the NYS Historic Preservation Act)
- Cost of stabilizing alone does not warrant investment as there is no benefit or purpose for future use

Action 3 – Demolish and remove the barn and house.

Considerations: Same as Actions 1 and 2, and

- 14.09 review will be required to request demolition, along with justification for why these two resources are proposed for removal (actions analysis)
- The cost for demolition and removal of the structures will be high, but presumably less than the cost of complete stabilization and rehabilitation for new uses
- This area could be used as a hunting access point and needs to be safe for public use
- Loss of historic vernacular elements for the region, i.e. Reesa House and Barn represent a Columbia County farm from the post-Civil War period
- Can investigate the possibility of salvaging materials from buildings (e.g., heavy timbers) for potential reuse
- The park may be able to reuse some of the framing elements, but selectively salvaging and storing material will likely add to demolition costs

Recommended Action: 3

Reesa House and Barn are representative of post-Civil War era architecture and agrarian culture in Columbia County. They are both, however, in an advanced state of deterioration with significant structural issues that make their retention and rehabilitation problematic from a financial standpoint. Their location on the northern periphery of the park is problematic from a practical standpoint and not conducive to repurposing for active facility use.

Recreational Resources

Actions Considered for Bicycling

Casual bicycling, or biking, is popular at LTSP but opportunities to participate in this activity are somewhat limited. By expanding the range of support equipment, enhancing signage and mapping, and improving conditions and connections, the Park has the potential to better accommodate the activity and become a more popular destination for biking.

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes to biking opportunities at the Park.

Considerations:

- Biking is permitted on Park roads
- Biking on-road may not feel safe for all user groups
- Variable trail conditions limit opportunities for biking within the Park
- Adding or improving recreational amenities is important to address changing visitor preferences
- Without new recreation infrastructure there will be no additional maintenance requirements
- Limits activities that help promote an active lifestyle

Action 2 – Enhance biking amenities to facilitate non-vehicular transportation within the Park.

Considerations:

- Driving is the most common mode of transportation within the Park
- Add a bike repair station
- Add clear signage indicating where cyclists are permitted, what destinations are accessible by bike, and how many miles to reach the destination will enhance the bikeability of the Park
- Relocate and improve bicycle storage racks
- Improve the trail surface and drainage on the Lakeview trail to increase the feasibility of biking between the Campground and the West Beach

Action 3 – Explore options for providing bike/scooter rentals for use within the Park.

Considerations:

- The West Beach and the Campground are the two most popular destinations in the Park
- Providing bike rentals would help to reduce the total number of vehicle trips within the Park
- If operated by OPRHP, could be located out of the Main Office; maintenance may be an issue
- If operated by a concessionaire, an RFP/RFQ or a 1-year activity permit would be required

Recommended Actions: 2 and 3

Increasing the use of bikes for transportation within the Park was identified as goal by Park staff. While biking is permitted within the Park, a lack of dedicated amenities limits the desirability of biking at the facility. Adding bike racks, signage, and a repair station will be useful for those traveling within, and through, the Park and supports the multi-use path proposed in the Plan.

Providing bike rentals further expands the opportunities for biking at the Park. Enhancing biking amenities will provide additional transportation options and promote healthy activity, while providing an additional recreation opportunity at the Park.

Courts and Ballfields

Some recreational facilities at the Park are aging. The well-used basketball court needs a fresh coat of blacktop, and the softball diamond has all but disappeared. Poor drainage affects some areas, particularly the ballfield, which takes up to a week to dry out after periods of steady rain.

Trends in outdoor sports have shifted since LTSP was first developed. Park staff have seen the use of its sports fields change from softball to soccer and soccer nets were added to the Park's ball field in 2023. Softball remains in demand, and the backstop was replaced in 2024. A disc golf course was officially opened to the public in September 2024, in and around the C, D, and E lots. Parking, public restrooms, and picnic areas are available near the course. Due to its increasing popularity, pickleball has been identified as a potential addition to the Park's recreational offerings.

Actions Considered for Courts and Ballfields

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes to the Park's existing ballfield or court.

Considerations:

- The basketball court is aging and will continue to deteriorate if not addressed
- Drainage of the ballfield is an issue during wet/rainy times of the year
- Softball is less popular than it once was, and soccer has increased in popularity
- Adding or improving recreational amenities is important to address changing visitor preference
- Without new recreation infrastructure there will be no additional maintenance requirements

Action 2 – Install a multi-use pickleball/basketball court.

Considerations:

- Will result in no or minimal increase to the developed area of the park
- Will include court markings, pickleball net, and basketball hoops
- Will likely be used by the local population during the summer and into the shoulder seasons, as well as patrons staying at the campground/cottages/cabins
- The current basketball court is deteriorating and in need of repairs
- May result in user conflicts

Action 3 – Install a standalone pickleball court to the ballfield area.

Considerations:

- Will increase the developed area of the park
- The ball field is space-limited and adding a pickleball court may crowd out other activities
- Will likely be used by the local population during the summer and into the shoulder seasons, as well as patrons staying at the campground/cottages/cabins

Action 4 – Install a pickleball court at Parking Lot B.

Considerations:

- Will reactivate a previously disturbed area that is currently underutilized
- Will create a dedicated area for pickleball
- Better disperses activities throughout the Park
- Will result in no (or small) increase to the developed area of the park
- Restrooms are located nearby at the A parking lot – a pathway that allows for easy access to restrooms/water fountains should be considered as part of the court design
- Will likely be used by the local population during the summer and into the shoulder seasons, as well as patrons staying at the campground/cottages/cabins
- Potential to include multiple courts

Action 5 – Update the Basketball Court to meet current safety standards.

Considerations:

- Current infrastructure is aging
- Replace the existing asphalt court with more appropriate surfacing
- Keep the court in the Ball Field area as an alternative activity close to the West Beach
- Repaint lines

Action 6 – Improve the drainage, raise, and resurface the ballfield.

Considerations:

- Drainage has been a long-term issue
- Mowing can be a challenge after rain
- Improved drainage channels will keep the field drier
- Add gravel and resurface the ballfield

Recommended Actions: 4-6

Over the last several years, pickleball has become increasingly popular with New Yorkers of all ages. Adding a pickleball court to Parking Lot B will reactivate an underutilized section of the Park, adding an additional activity for campers and beachgoers, and will likely draw in new visitors to the Park.

Improvements and enhancements of the ballfield area and basketball court will ensure there is a wide range of activities available at the Park to meet the needs of a diverse visitorship to LTSP.

Actions Considered for Lake Activities

Lake Taghkanic's calm waters are ideal for boating, and boat rentals and permits for private boat and storage are popular and contribute important revenue to the Park. Wear and tear on the Park's boat fleet is an ongoing concern, with repairs and replacement boats needed each year. The Park would like to add an accessible dock for launching boats and an accessible fishing pier for anglers.

Action 1 – Status quo: No improvements or changes to lake activities at the Park.

Considerations:

- The road to access the boat launch is in poor condition
- Boat storage appears haphazard
- Aquatic vegetation makes entering and exiting the water difficult
- Rental boats incur wear and tear due to launching from the shore
- There are no accessible boat launches
- Patrons fish along the shoreline, off rock cliffs, etc.
- The shoreline can be accessed on foot, by rental rowboats, or by personal boats for fishing
- No accessible routes to the water except by West Beach (where fishing is not permitted)

Action 2 – Install a boat storage structure by the East Boat Launch.

Considerations:

- Boat storage is permitted from May through December 1st
- Include sufficient storage spaces to match the number of boat permits that are issued
- Short-term: Add metal racks for boat storage
- Long-term: Consider potential relocation of the maintenance shop and use of the existing maintenance garage as boat storage

Action 3 – Relocate the East Boat Launch for more direct access to the lake.

Considerations:

- Shift the location of the boat launch slightly from its current location to a new location straight down to the lake from the Boat Launch parking lot
- Redesign the road and pathway for ADA accessibility
- Add ADA parking spaces
- Will make it easier to back trailers down to the lake
- Will require coordination with the fire department regarding the dry hydrant (may need to be relocated)
- Continue to remove aquatic vegetation to create a channel for boats to travel through

Action 4 – Install an ADA-compliant kayak launch at the East Boat Launch.

Considerations:

- An ADA-compliant kayak launch will improve the accessibility of the lake
- Will need to be removed seasonally and put into appropriate storage
- Installation may require dredging and/or excavation
- May increase the popularity of LTSP as a kayaking destination
- More traffic may increase the risk of invasive species being introduced to the lake

Action 5 – Improve the Park’s boat rental facilities by adding an ADA-compliant dock and upgrading connectivity for credit card use at the rental shed.

Considerations:

- Will improve the visitor experience by saving on the time required to pull boats on and off the shore
- Will allow for the opportunity to tether to the dock
- Need to consider how pedal boats will be tied up
- Add a storage rack for kayaks and canoes
- Will add accessible facilities
- Accessible parking, sidewalks, and restrooms are already in place nearby
- Will require additional staff time to position boats in the morning and store in the evening
- Boats may fill with water if left tied up to the dock during heavy rain
- Installation may require dredging and/or excavation
- Adding electricity and internet to the boat rental shed will expand the range of payment options (currently cash only), but deposits will still be an issue (current POS system cannot accept deposits)

Action 6 – Install an ADA-compliant fishing pier at the West Beach.

Considerations:

- Will improve the accessibility of the lake
- Will require some level of disturbance to the lake
- Installation may require dredging and/or excavation
- Will cause a visual impact
- Possible locations: Between the West Beach swimming area and the boat rental area, just past the boat rental area, or on the other side of the beach by the Quonset hut

Recommended Actions: 2-6

Improving the supporting infrastructure for boating will enhance visitor use and experience of this popular activity. The kayak launch and accessible rental dock will improve access to the lake for all boaters. Formalizing boat storage and access road to the East Boat Launch will improve the aesthetics and functionality of the area. Formalizing the boat storage and access road to the East Boat Launch will improve the aesthetics and functionality of the area.

Local and out-of-town visitors alike enjoy fishing in Lake Taghkanic for its variety of fish and clean, calm waters. Ensuring everyone has equal access to recreation within NYS Parks is a priority for the agency. By adding an ADA-compliant fishing pier, anglers of all ages and abilities will be provided with safe opportunities to fish at the Park.

Trails

A broad goal for the Master Plan is to create a vibrant trail system. Creating a trail network that supports a variety of “landscape experiences” – shared-use trails, areas to experience nature and forest bathing, and wildlife viewing areas – is also a goal of the Master Plan.

The OPRHP Statewide Trails Planner, Regional Trails Coordinator, and other OPRHP staff walked LTSP's existing trail network to assess the overall condition and identify steep grades, wet areas, and other maintenance issues, as well as to update the Park's trail map. Staff considered how trails are used and made recommendations for optimizing the network. Sections in need of repair, re-routing, or closure were identified and documented (see Figure 11).

Overall, the Park's trail system needs well-marked trailheads to indicate where to access trails. In recent years, heavy rainfall has led to an increase in standing water and erosion, with the potential for the Lakeview Trail to increase sedimentation into the lake. Invasive species have the potential to impact the trails if left unmanaged.

The Campground Trail needs the most work, with some deteriorating footbridges, overgrown areas, and drainage issues. There is potential for re-routing a portion of the trail to improve drainage.

The well-used Lakeview Trail has some of the best views and while some sections need improvement, the trail is in good shape overall. Tree roots, grade changes, and rock outcroppings are just some of the complications affecting this trail. Wet and poorly drained areas of this trail are the most problematic.

The Fitness Trail is in fact a network of trails rather than a single trail. The map at the Fitness Trail kiosk is faded. When looking at the map, all segments have the same name and are marked the same way, which introduces confusion and may cause visitors to get lost. During a large portion of the year, the soils here are poorly drained and do not provide an enjoyable experience. In some areas, maintenance activities have deteriorated the conditions and visitors frequently have to avoid muddy areas. Trail planners noted potential redundancies in the Fitness Trail and the Reesa Farm Trail.

The Winter Trail is somewhat undeveloped and is mostly used as a snowmobile trail connection around a narrow part of the Lakeview Trail. This is required less frequently due to decreased snowfall in the region. The trail is in generally poor condition.

Improving the trail network and increasing trail connections was identified as a Master Plan goal. Beyond the trail actions proposed here, other trail connections or new trail routes may be investigated and implemented, if deemed appropriate.

Actions Considered for Trails (General Improvements)

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes or improvements to the Park's trail system.

Considerations:

- Hiking and walking are popular activities at the Park and in the region
- Some trails are deteriorated and eroded, with wet areas that may result in safety or user experience issues
- Most existing trail segments are not accessible to visitors with mobility issues or strollers
- Wet and muddy conditions can limit biking opportunities on the Park's trails

Action 2 – Repair or re-route low, wet, unsustainable, and eroded sections of the Park's existing trail system – repair culverts and bridges.

Considerations:

- Provides a safer, more enjoyable user experience
- Allows better access for maintenance and emergencies
- Reduces the need for frequent, recurring trail maintenance and larger-scale repairs
- Reduces environmental impacts and protects natural resources
- May increase park attendance

Action 3 – Develop and implement a park-wide Trail Wayfinding Signage and Marking Plan.

Considerations:

- Considers wayfinding elements holistically, including maps, blazing, intersection signs, trailhead kiosks, and other signage

- Indicates what activities are suitable on which trails
- May recommend changes to trail marker colors for easier wayfinding
- Identifies the different trail types, ranging from single-track to multi-use
- Informs Park users of the variety of hiking trails that are available in the Park, which may help to redistribute trail users more evenly

Action 4 – Improve the Snowmobiling experience by clearly indicating, both on the map and through signage on the trails, where snowmobiles are permitted.

Considerations:

- Trail map currently includes snowmobile trails that are not maintained for year-round use, which can cause confusion
- Distinguish between snowmobile trails and hiking/multi-use trails by adding a dashed line to indicate winter use only on the trail map
- Add/replace signage to indicate that SMC, WR, and SM are open for winter use only
- Repair and replace bridges to bring them up to a standard that allows for snowmobiling

Action 5 – Expand the existing parking lot at the trail kiosk by the East Entrance (NY 82).

Considerations:

- Provides a designated parking lot for hikers and improves access to trailheads
- Will separate uses and give hikers a quieter experience away from the beach and the campground
- The existing parking lot is well-established as a hiking trailhead and the kiosk is already in place
- Other parking areas are available at the boat launch and by the south end of the West Beach

Action 6 – Designate the C and D lots as parking for trailhead access.

Considerations:

- Provides a designated parking lot for hikers
- Will improve the visibility and access to trailheads
- May include a crosswalk to reach the north side of Lake Taghkanic Road
- Enhances signage and trailheads to better direct people from the parking area to the trails
- Will separate uses and give hikers a quieter experience away from the beach and the campground
- Parking for hikers is available elsewhere in the Park, in the gravel lot by the East Entrance, at the boat launch, and on the south end of the West Beach parking lot
- The C and D lots were designated as the Disc Golf Area in the Fall of 2024

Recommended Actions: 2-5

The existing trail network, a major draw to the Park, has elements that are deteriorated due to age, location, and site hydrology. Creating more sustainable trails will improve their usability and reduce the overall need for trail maintenance. Trail conditions and visitor experience will be enhanced by re-routing sections that are suffering from erosion or susceptible to washouts, repairing broken/deteriorated bridges, and improving signage for easier wayfinding.

Actions Considered for Existing Trails (Lakeview and Fitness Trails)

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes to the Park’s Lakeview and Fitness Trails.

Considerations:

- The Lakeview and Fitness Trails are two of the most popular and well-used trails at the Park
- Visitor experience is compromised by the current condition of the trails
- Issues with drainage and erosion will not be addressed
- Maintenance challenges caused by exposed roots and rocks will persist

- The Fitness trail is generally wet and boggy due to the underlying soil type
- Multiple segments of the Fitness Trail are named and blazed the same way, which can be disorienting and cause confusion

Action 2 – Rehabilitate and improve the Lakeview Trail (LV) on the south side of the lake and designate the Lakeview Extension Trail (LVE) as the new Lakeview Trail for hiking.

Considerations:

- The Lakeview Trail is typically wet/muddy on the east and south sides of the lake
- The trail has multiple areas with drainage issues
- NYNHP identified a vernal pool to avoid adjacent to the trail
- Trail width allows for light machinery to perform grading, surfacing, and drainage work
- Improved surface and drainage will improve the user experience and allow for easier maintenance access
- Install puncheon bridges on sections of the trail where re-routing is not viable/possible

Action 3 – Eliminate wet trail segments of the Fitness Trail (FN), designate the section of the Lakeview Trail between the two intersections with the LVE as part of the FN, rename the trail as the Fitness Loop, and improve signage.

Considerations:

- There are few opportunities for re-routes due to soil types
- Establish a main loop and blaze appropriately
- Eliminate the East-West cross-trails to simplify the trail network
- Rename the Fitness Trail as the Fitness Loop

Recommended Actions: 2 and 3

As two of the most well-trafficked trails at LTSP, addressing the sustainability of the Lakeview and Fitness Trails is critical to addressing the overall quality of the Park’s trail network. Rerouting and improving drainage will help stabilize the trail surface, mitigate waterlogged sections, and reduce the width of trails that have been widened due to hikers walking off-trail to avoid muddy areas and/or pooled water. Reroutes will also lessen negative impacts on natural resources in the Park. Simplifying and renaming the trail as the “Fitness Loop” will help users navigate this section of the Park.

Actions Considered for Existing Trails (Reesa Farm and Campground Trails)

Action 1 – No changes or improvements to the Reesa Farm or Campground Loop Trails.

Considerations:

- There are multiple missing or failing footbridges, overgrown areas, and drainage issues on the Campground Loop Trail
- The Campground Loop and Reesa Farm Trails are not true loop trails and hikers must complete the loop by walking on the road or turning around and walking back on the same trail

Action 2 – Develop a true Campground Loop Trail by adding an east-west cross trail connection from the left branch of the Campground Loop back to the Campground Loop trailhead; adjust the location of the Campground Loop trailhead for better access and less intrusion into campsites.

Considerations:

- The existing trail entrance is located at the rear of a campsite
- Will provide more privacy to campsites near the trail
- An alternative trailhead location already exists slightly west of the existing trailhead
- Will require new signage
- Will provide a true loop trail to/from the campground

- Will add approximately .5 miles to the trail system
- Will result in a small increase to the total amount of trail maintenance required at the Park

Action 3 – Assess potential route options for creating an east-west trail connection between the Reesa’s Farm Trail and the Campground Loop and implement if a viable route is determined.

Considerations:

- Would create a desirable “stacked loop” trail network in combination with the new Campground Loop segment
- Would eliminate the need for some users to walk along the roadway
- Will likely need to be a narrow hiking trail (single-use trail)
- Will add approximately .33 miles to the trail system
- Will increase the total amount of trail maintenance required at the Park
- Ground conditions may not be ideal for a sustainable trail tread; puncheon bridging or other treatments may be necessary

Recommended Actions: 2 and 3

The Campground Loop/Reesa Farm Trails were identified by the planning group as potentially underutilized. Improving the overall quality of these trails and reducing intrusion into campsites will augment the visitor experience, for both hikers and those camping in sites adjacent to the Campground Loop trailhead. A broad goal of the Master Plan is to improve the visitor experience by providing alternatives to walking on the road, which will be addressed by assessing the feasibility of creating additional loop trails in the northern section of the park.

Actions Considered for New Trails and Connections

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes or additions to the Park’s Trail Network.

Considerations:

- Maintenance requirements will not be increased
- No new routes will be added

Action 2 – Evaluate route options for a trail connecting from the Campground Loop east to the gravel parking lot by the East Entrance (NY 82) and implement if a viable route option is determined.

Considerations:

- Will increase the total amount of trail maintenance required at the Park
- Will add hiking route options
- Will add a recreational use in an “underutilized” area of the Park
- Will result in disturbance to a previously undisturbed area of the Park
- Will provide additional hunting access routes to the northern section of the Park

Action 3 – Develop a linear trail in the southeast portion of the Park from County Route 8 to the Wildlife Viewing Area.

Considerations:

- The Wildlife Viewing Area provides an enjoyable destination and an opportunity to view aquatic species and migratory birds
- Will provide access to a new area of the Park
- Will not connect directly to the Park’s trail system
- Will add approximately .33 miles to the trail system

Action 4 – Develop a linear trail in the southeast portion of the Park from County Route 8 to the Fitness Trail, with a spur leading to the Wildlife Viewing Area.

Considerations:

- The Wildlife Viewing Area provides an enjoyable destination and an opportunity to view aquatic species and migratory birds
- Provides access to and recreation in a new area of the park.
- A small “exploratory” trail to connect the Fitness Loop will help determine route viability over time
- Challenging soils and wetness closer to the Fitness Trails may present an obstacle
- Will require a stream crossing (the permitted use types will dictate the size of crossing that is required)
- Will add approximately .5 miles to the trail system

Action 5 – Evaluate the viability of a loop trail in the southeast portion of the Park, beginning at County Route 8, to the Wildlife Viewing Area, and around the wetland, and implement if appropriate.

Considerations:

- Requires significant boardwalks or raised structures to avoid wetlands (150+ feet of boardwalk), due to the proximity of the wetland to County Route 8
- Will bring recreational use into an undisturbed area of the park
- Clay soils in this area of the Park are not ideal for trail use
- Will add approximately 1.1 miles to the trail system

Action 6 – Investigate options for connecting existing trails to the newly acquired property on old NY 82 and implement if appropriate.

Considerations:

- The recent addition to LTSP provides an additional opportunity for hiking trails at the Park
- There is a large NWI wetland on the property
- The southern portion of the property is included in the boundary for the historic record of New England Cottontail and could potentially be suitable habitat
- Potential routing may be adjacent to future staff housing
- Trails crew will need to develop/design routes and establish whether existing trails are appropriate to make connections
- New trails would need to be designed to support habitat protection/management and wetland considerations for routing
- Will need to be surveyed for rare species (seasonal constraints for assessments)
- Trails at the new property may help the Park make a connection with the nearby New Forge State Forest

Action 7 – Investigate the possibility of connecting the LTSP trail network to New Forge State Forest and implement, as appropriate.

Considerations:

- New Forge Forest provides good fishing opportunities and a scenic waterfall
- Connection to New Forge Forest for a more “undeveloped” experience
- Opportunity to make the connection to New Forge by providing information at Lake Taghkanic
- Continue to assess the possibility of creating a fully off-road pathway or a path with some on-road sections
- The route between properties isn't apparent due to topography, etc.

Recommended Actions: 2, 4, 6, 7

Providing a wide range of trail experiences was highlighted as an overall goal for trail planning at the Park. Increasing the overall mileage of trails adds to the variety, distance, and experience of the Park's trails, particularly the Wildlife Viewing area on the southeastern pond of the 2020 acquisition. Forming connections to the Campground Loop, New Forge Forest, and property acquired in 2024 will provide more variety for hikers using the Park's trail system.

Education, Interpretation, Programming, and Outreach

Lake Taghkanic State Park is set within a rural area and not associated with a specific community. Activities and programs designed to engage area residents have had mixed success. A farmers' market at the Park drew too few customers, likely due to competition from the many established farm stands and markets in Columbia and Dutchess Counties. Similarly, a Fall Festival with hayrides, face painting, and kids' activities did not have a significant turnout, and the event required a lot of staff time to plan and implement. A similar low attendance rate was noted at the Park's "Community Day" event and "I Love My Park Day" did not draw large groups. A lack of public transportation to the Park may be a limitation for some.

There is high demand at the Park for nature content and programs. While LTSP does not necessarily require a purpose-built facility, educating visitors about wildlife at the Park (e.g., bald eagles and osprey that use this area as a flyway) is a priority, as well as helping visitors to understand environmental issues such as climate change.

Actions Considered for Education, Interpretation, Programming

Action 1 – Status quo: Continue the current approach to programming, educational content development, and interpretation.

Considerations:

- The Park is not currently meeting the high demand for activities and educational content
- A former nature center at the Park has been inactive for years due to lack of staffing
- Overnight visitors at the campground and cottages are a diverse group, primarily families and often multi-generational, and the Park would like to offer fun nature programs and activities
- The Park lacks dedicated staffing to develop and implement more varied programs and educational content
- Although staff have the ability to develop and implement new programs in-house, it is very labor-intensive
- Information on the CCC is scattered in various locations and is not comprehensive
- The Park's setting and region offer a wide range of potential content for new educational material, including Park and regional history, the natural environment, as well as contemporary issues and recreational trends

Action 2 – Develop new activities, educational content, and programs that will engage existing and new visitors and attract area residents to the Park year-round.

Considerations:

- There is high demand for programs and activities, especially in summer/peak seasons and for campers
- The Park is rural and not centered in a community, and it can be a challenge to engage residents
- Large draws such as fireworks that formerly brought crowds to the Park are no longer offered
- Park would like to have a more cohesive, engaging approach to programs, interpretation, and education
- Staff would like to offer more programs in "shoulder" (off-peak) seasons

Action 3 – Expand the Park's interpretative content, incorporating multi-modal methodologies (e.g., audio, visual, programming, tactile/interactive elements).

Considerations:

- The Park would like to develop a more inclusive approach to interpretation
- Expanded accessibility is a goal for the Park and agency

- Would like to preserve the oral histories of the people who formerly lived along the lake (e.g., how they were impacted by creation of the park)
- More broadly developed interpretation content will help place the Park in its broader context; how it has been shaped by its setting and location and that it does not exist in a vacuum

Action 4 – Develop educational programs and content that help to expand access to all, including multilingual content.

Considerations:

- Physical accessibility can be a challenge for some who wish to participate in some programs or activities
- Content will reach more people, expanding the audience for educational materials and Park programs
- The Park’s visitors are very diverse and there is a need for programs and material in other languages (e.g., Spanish, Mandarin, Braille)
- Will make content available for different learning modalities (i.e., visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile)
- Park can provide outdoor mobility mechanisms (e.g., a track chair)
- Recreation Hall is currently accessible and with some upgrades can be used as a focal point for new program offerings and provide a meeting point for activities

Action 5 – Create an interpretive “timeline” route that illustrates the Park’s background from prehistory up to the present.

Considerations:

- Route would be developed on the proposed multiuse trail
- Lakeside Trail has the most foot traffic and potential for improved access
- Will encourage people to walk/bike from the Campground to the West Beach
- Will consider impacts along the lakefront (e.g., visual, natural resource, use conflicts)
- Will incorporate content appropriate to the agency’s “Our Whole History” directive (e.g., natural history, indigenous peoples’ history, regional lore, stories of early residents, experience of enslaved people in the region, Taconic basketmakers community)
- A timeline has the potential to incorporate a wide range of content, including science (formation of the land, early flora and fauna), history (Park beginnings, CCC, local lore), contemporary issues (climate change, urbanization of rural/agricultural areas), and the future (technology, AI)
- Can be developed as multi-modal (e.g., audio/tactile elements) to broaden access
- A consultant will be needed to develop the content

Action 6 – Develop a nature-interpretive walk along a segment of the Lakeside Trail with interactive/tactile content appropriate for a greater range of abilities.

Considerations:

- Would help get kids out into the woods and moving
- An audience exists for this type of experience, and it can function as a self-guided route
- Can offer kids a small incentive if they complete the route (e.g., a sticker or decal)
- Signage will be designed to integrate into the Park’s larger signage program
- Can use the route for more elaborate seasonal programs as special events
- Can be developed as a low cost, small-scale capital project
- Could be integrated into the proposed “timeline” route along the Lakeview Trail

Action 7 – Create seasonal “floating” staff positions to develop and implement education/ interpretation content at multiple parks across the Taconic Region.

Considerations:

- Park staff can develop and implement some programming but there is high demand for activities at the Park
- It is difficult to recruit educational staff, especially for seasonal/part-time positions; the pay rate is not competitive, and the Park is not able to provide housing
- Ideally would like a dedicated, full-time person year-round to recruit/train/direct part-time/seasonal staff

- Summer visitors are a very diverse group and there is the opportunity to provide bilingual programs
- If the Recreation Hall is repurposed as an education center, seasonal staff could be based there
- Creating a shared education staff position in the region could be a model for other regions
- As staff moves to different parks, cross-pollination will be facilitated across the region

Action 8 – Develop and implement nature programming for visitors of all ages.

Considerations:

- Environmental/outdoor programs are in high demand at the Park (e.g., tree identification, forest bathing, nighttime woodland hikes, winter appreciation walks, etc.)
- There is no public environmental education center available in the area
- Proposed rehabilitation of the East Bathhouse in the Master Plan will incorporate a central location for educational material and function as a central meeting place for outdoor programs
- The Park has large natural areas with many elements appropriate for outdoor classroom programs
- Would like to educate visitors about the wildlife in the park and the impacts of climate change on these populations and nature in general

Action 9 – Educate visitors/campers about the historic value of the cabins and other CCC buildings to raise awareness of their significance.

Considerations:

- Ongoing visitor use is hard on cabins and their aging materials are vulnerable to damage
- Could develop a short educational film (one developed for Copake was very effective)
- Park has some possible locations for education/outreach (e.g., show a video at the park office about CCC history and cabin interiors--people are curious)
- There is in-house capability to produce video content (e.g., Peebles created a video for the water tower)

Action 10 – Develop a Comprehensive Signage Plan for the overall park, including a needs assessment and recommendations for all signage types.

Considerations:

- An important support for other improvements proposed in this Master Plan
- Will include a plan for signage needs in proposed new use areas (RV campground, lakeside camping)
- Will improve circulation and wayfinding at the park
- A complete update of interpretive signage in Park is needed
- Information on the CCC is scattered in various locations in the Park and is not comprehensive
- The main parking lot could incorporate informational panels on e.g., managing litter, bird interpretation, wayfaring, etc.

Recommended Actions: 2-10

Proposed educational material and recreational programs will be supported by new and retrofitted infrastructure, with the goal expanding accessibility for all aspects of the park’s offerings.

Implementing these actions will result in the Park becoming a more integral resource within its community.

Actions Considered for Outreach

Action 1 – Status quo: Continue the current approach to publicizing the Park’s programs, events, and recreational offerings.

Considerations:

- The Park may not reach as wide a range of visitors

- The region and Park would like to foster a greater connection with its community
- Visitor attendance may remain focused on the summer season
- Accessibility of programs will not be expanded
- Staff indicate that kids programs on weekends are in high demand

Action 2 – Create entertaining, 15-second informational videos to inform and educate visitors about the Park’s amenities and expectations for behavior (e.g., “How to be a good camping neighbor;” “10 ‘must-do’ things at Lake T” “Refuse Reduction/ Recycling Education).

Considerations:

- Outreach is most effective when it is catchy, engaging, and provided in “quick bites”
- Staff have capacity to create some video content in-house, but time constraints and workloads may not permit full development and some technical support is needed to implement
- Camping etiquette videos will include information about protecting CCC infrastructure (e.g., do’s and don’ts)
- Posting on social media reaches many visitors and the videos can also be running on a monitor in the Park Office
- This type of content can be more effective than static social media posts
- There is a need to educate visitors about all the Park’s offerings, especially as the Master Plan is implemented
- The regional office has a graphic designer who may be available to provide assistance

Recommended Action: 2

Park staff expressed a need for more targeted approaches for reaching potential visitors. Creating entertaining and brief informative videos will expand outreach and inform visitors about all amenities at the Park.

Actions Considered for Partnerships

Action 1 – Status quo: Continue current levels and approaches to developing partnerships.

Considerations:

- The Park will continue to develop partnerships and collaborations with organizations, including community schools, nonprofits, trails or conservation groups, and municipalities
- Cultivating a variety of partnerships has the potential to bring in a wider range of visitors and better engage the community
- Developing partnerships and/or a volunteer force requires staff time for outreach, training, and supervising and Park would need more staff to fully engage new partnerships

Action 2 – Explore possibilities for partnerships to help develop new programs and activities.

Considerations:

- The Park offers an ideal setting for getting kids out of school rooms and urban areas into green space
- Staff would like to offer fun, outdoor programs (e.g., snowshoeing, themed hikes, “Outdoor Immersion” programs)
- Expanded programming can be supported by local volunteers or special interest organizations
- Offers an opportunity to bring people into the Park outside of the peak summer season
- Student Conservation Assoc. could provide a rotating/seasonal interpretive staff to assist
- A strong Audubon presence exists in the Hudson Valley region and birding groups are a possibility for partnerships
- Can partner with specialized groups to develop programs geared toward visitors with different abilities or needs

- Developing new partnerships requires staff time for outreach, training, supervising will make additional demands on current workloads

Recommended Action: 2

Partnerships can be a valuable asset at a public park. Initiating and maintaining successful partnerships also requires staff time and effort, and it is important to select groups able to make the most valuable contribution to the Park while not requiring a significant amount of staff time to manage.

Camping

The campground includes wood-frame cabins, a shower building, a recreation hall, tent platforms, a paved road, and a camp store. Water and electric are available. Despite almost constant use throughout the open season, the campground is generally functional and well-kept. Some operational issues cannot be addressed with routine maintenance. Poor drainage in the campground leads to erosion, standing water, compacted soils, and deteriorated walkways, which can present safety issues. Rock outcroppings and variable, steep terrain also contribute to challenges in site maintenance, and slopes and tight turns limit the size of trailers able to maneuver within the campground.

When the campground was constructed in the 1930s and 1940s, camping was a social activity for larger groups and extended families. Some tent sites reflect this trend, with platforms grouped closely together, clustered around a common social area. Recent public surveys and visitor comments indicate that today's campers sometimes find them too small and close together.

Actions Considered for Camping Infrastructure

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes or additions to the Park's camping facilities.

Considerations:

- Cabins and tent sites will continue to be at risk from further deterioration
- Drainage issues, compaction, and erosion will not be addressed
- May result in a decrease in visitor experience
- People love the campground cabins, and the park receives very few complaints
- Platform density is an issue
- Would not achieve the goal of enhancing/adding RV camping

Action 2 – Redevelop a portion of existing campground parking lot for tent campsites and relocate some existing platforms to decrease density.

Considerations:

- The tent site layout reflects an older pattern of visitor camping preference for clustered family groupings
- Parking lot is oversized for the level of demand in this part of the park, with capacity for around 100 cars
- Retrofit can include installing water/electricity for sites
- Will include accessible tent camping site(s)
- Will be integrated with improvements to vehicular circulation at the campground and the camping trail loop
- Will include adding planted buffers between existing and new tent sites to improve privacy, aesthetics, and comfort
- Reducing impervious surfaces and adding plantings has environmental benefits

Action 3 – Improve the campground's vehicular circulation, creating a defined entrance and providing a "gateway" experience for campers.

Considerations:

- Visitors enter the Campground through a large parking lot and no maps or camping information are available
- Current condition does not provide a sense of arrival

- Creating a dedicated entrance for all camping access with an information kiosk, site maps, wayfinding, rules, and information about all Park amenities will help provide a defined gateway into the campground
- An existing road [possibly the original CCC campground entrance] can be redeveloped as a single access point for both the existing campground and the proposed RV camping area
- Updates can include a loop road so cars can drive completely around the campground
- Improvements will include a small contact station for campground check-in (the original camping office was in East Bathhouse), so campers won't have to drive to the Park Office to check-in

Action 4 – Redevelop Parking Lot 1 for RV camping.

Considerations:

- There is strong demand for RV camping in the region with few options
- RV camping is currently available only at private sites nearby (TSP allows limited RV camping)
- Will open the camping experience to more people
- Good location near the lake, boat launch, camp store, East Beach and Bathhouse, and playground
- Offers the opportunity to create a new, combined “gateway” into the CCC Campground and RV area
- Area is previously disturbed and level
- RVs/sites will be visually unobtrusive from other parts of the park
- Keeps RVs from driving into campgrounds where it is hard for them to maneuver
- A seasonal stream crosses under the area via culverts
- Water and electricity are already located nearby for service extension to this area
- Will need to install a dump station
- Septic design will be a consideration
- Can consider creating fewer/larger sites with planted buffers to offer a more natural experience
- Stockpiled materials at the site will need to be relocated to appropriate alternative storage area
- An existing trailer lot near Recreation Hall can be repurposed for either pop-up campers or naturalized

Action 5 – Develop new tent campsites near the lake west of the East Bathhouse.

Considerations:

- Demand for camping at LTSP is high and waterfront camping is very popular
- The area is already partially developed with a service road, picnic tables, and grills, and has some mowed areas
- This is a wooded area and adding campsites would further develop the area
- Woodlands here have no understory and likely offer minimal wildlife habitat
- Visitors currently use this area for boating access
- Provides an opportunity to install ADA/accessible campsites
- Would be integrated into the redevelopment of the overall East Beach/Bathhouse area
- Provides rationale for funding the bathhouse restoration (e.g., need for restrooms)
- Water is available nearby
- The Lake Trail does not go through this area
- Soil compaction is an issue for tent sites, but they can be stabilized and contained with stone dust and native plants to mitigate compaction and visually delineate campsites
- Can include some platforms
- Will need to include a road, utilities
- Appropriate stormwater management will be installed
- Conflicts may occur between visitors and campers

Action 6 – Improve the accessibility of selected CCC cabins.

Considerations:

- Will make the Park more welcoming and inclusive
- Entrance ramps and/or grade changes, and minimum doorway widths are needed to meet ADA requirements, which may not be possible for some cabins
- Some sites have steep grades that make accessibility improvements untenable

- Cabins sited next to the road may be easier to retrofit for ADA
- Turning radii in some cabin interiors may make it difficult to meet ADA (e.g., furniture can prevent sufficient room for maneuvering wheelchairs)
- May require full renovation and/or floor plan alterations (e.g., a 4-bedroom cabin may be reconfigured as a 3-bedroom)
- Any retrofits to cabins are subject to SHPO review/approval
- Need to address repairs and long-term maintenance issues prior to implementing any alterations or additions to cabins or sites
- Changes to the cabins could impact revenue

Recommended Actions: 2-6

Changes to increase the privacy of campsites will address visitor comments and concerns. Reviews from today's visitors indicate that the sites are too close together and do not offer enough privacy from other campers. Noise complaints are also common.

There is demand for RV camping. The Park's current RV size limit is 30'-35'. Creating a new RV campground will expand the Park's clientele.

Operations, Maintenance, and Management

Maintenance

The primary maintenance shop for the Park is the East Maintenance Area, located close to the lake's east shorefront. Most components in the complex are aging and the area needs full rehabilitation. Visitors entering from State Route 82 pass by the area, and it is visible from the main Park Road. Adjacent to the maintenance area is also a historic cottage, formerly used as a Park Manager's residence.

Actions Considered for Park Maintenance Facilities

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes or improvements to the Park's maintenance areas.

Considerations:

- Buildings are in poor condition and lack comfortable staff areas
- Visitors pass this maintenance area and the equipment and buildings are unsightly
- The area septic system is too close to the lake
- No separation between maintenance buildings/activities and the historic cottage
- The existing location is convenient for Park operations
- Lakeshore land use and viewshed should be available for recreation use and undeveloped, natural areas
- Need a more comfortable staff break room with year-round facilities

Action 2 – Relocate the East Maintenance Area to the fuel station/pole barn location with updated facilities.

Considerations: Same as Action 1, and

- Highest value land along the lakefront is currently used for maintenance
- Current location impacts the viewshed
- The area for relocation is close to the existing maintenance facility and will continue to be convenient for Park operations
- Will be less visible to visitors and have an improved overall appearance
- Staff working conditions will improve, with code-compliant, comfortable, year-round facilities, including a new staff break room
- New buildings can be sited/designed to be more out of public view
- Opportunity to restore/naturalize the existing maintenance site and use it for recreation
- Will improve environmental conditions and protect water quality in the lake
- Will result in a more appropriate setting for the historic residence

- The cost to demolish and restore the existing site may be significant
- Some maintenance buildings/activity will still be visible from the visitor route, but screening can be added
- The new location at the fueling station will need to be investigated for capacity for well installation
- Will require cameras/alarm systems to protect equipment, if kept in a more isolated area
- Buildings in the existing area can be repurposed
- Area west of fueling station is habitat to a known rare species
- Disturbed areas west of fueling station provide opportunities to improve habitat for known rare species
- Area to the east of the fueling station would require more clearing but would be less impactful than additional disturbance to the west

Action 3 – Improve and upgrade the East Maintenance area in its current location.

Considerations:

- Located in a scenic, waterfront area which should be used for recreation
- Potential water quality impacts (septic systems, mechanical equipment leakage, etc.)
- Buildings are deteriorated and reaching the end of their useful life
- Layout of the maintenance area was developed piecemeal over many years and is not optimal for workflow/use
- Current location is convenient for staff/Park operations
- Existing buildings are deteriorated and will need assessment and structural evaluation; some will need to be rebuilt or replaced
- Staff working conditions need improvement (e.g., need to provide a separate break room, there is no AC/HVAC)
- Structures are not insulated and improving energy efficiency will be a challenge
- Proximity of maintenance area to historic cottage is undesirable

Action 4 – Consolidate the East and West Maintenance areas at the Fueling/Pole Barn location to provide a single, updated maintenance facility for the Park.

Considerations:

- East location works well for most activities (e.g., trucks not allowed on TSP so deliveries arrive through NY 82 Entrance)
- If relocated, both existing areas could be restored to more natural conditions, improving Park ecology and aesthetics
- The Park is large, and having one maintenance location may be less convenient for staff
- The woodshop at Parkway Area and needs to be kept separate from other workspaces
- Most carpentry work is for the cottages, and the Parkway location is more convenient for access to the carpentry shop
- The existing fueling station/pole barn at the east area will need to be expanded to accommodate all Park maintenance requirements
- Beach equipment stored outdoors at the Parkway Maintenance Area (lifeguard stands/swim lines/buoys) would need to be transported a greater distance during the high season and require staff to drive farther
- An expanded maintenance complex can be designed and screened to be less visible to visitor areas
- The existing East Maintenance Area has a working well and relocating operations to the fueling station/pole barn will be dependent on the feasibility of building a well in that location
- The Parkway Area was originally a DOT yard and not designed for maintenance
- Parkway area could still be used for vehicles and large equipment storage
- Consolidating into one location has some efficiencies/economies (e.g., may decrease need for duplicated equipment and materials)

Action 5 – Improve and update the West (Parkway) Maintenance Area in its current location.

Considerations:

- Maintenance shares this location with the Park Police
- This area is used to store beach equipment outdoors and the Park needs better storage options

- Woodshop in this location needs to be kept separate from other activities
- Visitors do not enter this area, so visibility is not an issue
- Carpentry shop needs significant asbestos abatement
- If carpentry were relocated to the East Maintenance Area, it could be possible to use building for beach storage
- Could add a storage building for beach equipment and keep carpentry operation here

Recommended Actions: 2, 5

Park staff determined that relocating the Parkway Maintenance Area functions would decrease efficiency, and therefore that this facility should remain in the existing location. The buildings and site at the East Maintenance Area are in generally poor condition, some with cracked foundations and overall inadequate HVAC. Pavements are deteriorated and the aging wastewater system is a concern due to its proximity to the lake. Relocating and upgrading these facilities was selected as the recommended action. Existing buildings in the area will be repurposed, if possible, with the option of demolition and removal in the future if any structures or elements present safety issues or become unusable for other reasons.

Park Police Building

A 2018 internal report assessing the existing Park Police building found that the facility presents operational challenges for police functions. Deficiencies include a lack of soundproofing in areas used as interview rooms and a need for a separate waiting area for the public.¹ The building also is not energy efficient. Members of the Park Police joined planning discussions to assess the current conditions of the LTSP facility, and to develop the following actions.

Actions Considered for the Park Police Building

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes or upgrades to the existing Park Police Building.

Considerations:

- The structure is a prefabricated residential building and the layout is not fully effective for Park police operations (e.g., changing rooms/restrooms; no secure location for holding area)
- Existing building is not energy-efficient and does not meet ADA or current building codes
- Police need a facility appropriate for their needs to fully operate according to their mission
- The Staatsburg Park Police facility cannot accommodate many more staff and as staff numbers increase a substation will continue to be needed at LTSP
- The Park Police facility at the Park is used for equipment testing
- Building is currently in acceptable condition
- Park and regional maintenance staff are responsible for maintaining the building
- The building location separate from public areas and Park activities is not optimal

Action 2 – Remodel and update the existing Park Police Building.

Considerations:

- Will address ADA and building code issues and have a more functional layout
- Building can be updated to be more energy efficient
- A full gut renovation is needed to fully address existing issues
- The building is not historically significant and there are no historic preservation considerations
- Park Police staff numbers are increasing, and spatial needs may surpass the existing building size
- Re-using an existing structure is more cost-efficient and environmentally friendly than building new
- Will likely require an architectural term consultant

¹ OPRHP, prepared by the Statewide Design Squad, November 21, 2018. Existing Conditions Report, New York State Park Police, North Zone Station - Taconic Region.

Action 3 – Replace the Park Police Building with a new building in its current location.

Considerations:

- Will provide an ADA and code-compliant facility with a more efficient layout
- A new building will be energy-efficient
- The building at LTSP is not a primary Park Police station and investment in a new building will be high
- A new building would be preferred for police purposes
- If Park Police receive dedicated capital funding they will make decisions regarding how it is allocated and there may be higher priorities statewide
- Park operations could benefit more from a police presence near high-activity areas such as the campground (e.g., at the East Maintenance Center) and the West Beach office

Action 4 – Replace the Park Police Building with a new facility in a different location.

Considerations: Same as Action 3, and

- LTSP building is not a primary Park Police station and investment in a new building will be high
- New construction would be preferable for police purposes
- If a new facility is constructed it should be located closer to areas of high activity
- Would have a higher visibility and Park Police presence
- Proximity to the Parkway is not as important as having a Police facility located in a more active part of the park
- The Park office at the West Beach Bathhouse is the most active part of the park
- If relocated, Police will continue to need secure, easily accessible storage (for 2-3 Snowmobiles, UTVs, other equipment), which can be located separately from the new facility (e.g., add a joint-use pole barn in west maintenance area)

Recommended Actions: 2, 4

While it is important to maintain a Park Police presence at LTSP, the current location is outside of the Park's active public areas and a more central and visible location is preferred. The existing building is in moderately good condition and can be adapted to be more energy efficient and to improve its internal layout until a new facility can be built. A location for a new Park Police building has not yet been determined.

Vehicular Infrastructure

Actions proposed to improve the Park's roads and parking systems, entrances, and accessibility are included in this section.

Traffic volumes and vehicle size and types have changed significantly since the Park was opened, and the park's circulation infrastructure needs to be updated to accommodate contemporary use patterns. Issues include the location of check-in booths at both east and west entrances, which impacts circulation. The Parkway Entrance booths have no electric and phone service; NY 82 has power and a radio booster. The main parking lot is in poor condition, and pedestrian infrastructure needs improvements to increase accessibility and encourage less car use. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities need to be more comprehensively planned and accessible.

Actions Considered for Park Circulation

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes to the Park's circulation infrastructure (including roads, parking, walks, and entrances).

Considerations:

- Improving the West Beach Parking area is a priority for the Park
- The West Beach Parking area is the highest-use lot, is highly visible, and its deteriorated pavement is unsightly

- The lot's undefined layout, with no pavement markings, pedestrian paths, or tree islands, results in poor circulation and potentially unsafe conditions
- The pavement will continue to deteriorate
- Accessibility considerations will not be addressed (parking lots are required to provide a smooth and level surface and appropriate percentage of designated handicapped spaces to meet ADA)
- Many people walk barefoot in the parking area, and may be injured by crumbling pavement
- Use conflicts will continue (cars, pedestrians)
- Stormwater drainage infrastructure consists primarily of culverts that send runoff toward the lake, causing beach erosion and potentially impacting the lake's water quality
- State Route 82 entrance booth is located on the wrong side of the road which results in unsafe conditions and poor circulation
- Traffic backups on peak days can be hazardous
- Park entrance booths don't have electricity or phones (NY 82 has power/radio booster; Parkway entrance has no power - need to use battery-operated payment system)
- Wayfinding and informational signage at (or near) entrances needs improvement

Action 2 – Rehabilitate the West Beach Parking Lot with green infrastructure, including permeable pavement, tree islands, pedestrian walks, EV chargers, bicycle racks, and signage.

Considerations: Same as status quo, and

- Providing an accessible, green parking area will create a safer, more comfortable visitor experience in this high-use area
- Tree islands, pervious surfaces, bioretention areas, and plantings will help to cool the area
- Will improve circulation and aesthetics at the Park
- Will improve stormwater management and help protect the lake's water quality
- Adding EV chargers/dark-sky lighting complies with agency directives
- Can plow a "winter" area for seasonal parking and the full lot will be available in peak season

Action 3 – Improve pedestrian and vehicular circulation at the Cottage area by adding a paved loop road for access to some cottage entrances.

Considerations:

- Patrons drive their vehicles on lawns and on the lakefront path to access the cottages, damaging and compacting lawns and creating informal paths
- The natural surface path along the lake in front of the cottages is deteriorated partially due to vehicle use
- Paths leading to the cottage entrances are in generally poor condition
- With a road, more cottages would be able to be ADA (only one is currently accessible)
- Adding a loop road for access to cottage entrances will increase accessibility and keep vehicles from driving on the lawn
- Potential archaeological impacts from construction
- A permeable surface is preferred reduced impervious surfaces will improve drainage
- Eroded areas where people have created access routes to the lakefront need to be stabilized and "legitimized" (e.g., by adding steps/railings with natural restoration of eroded sides)
- Could consider eliminating the existing road and using the new loop as the primary access
- Asphalt is easy to maintain
- Less impact and expense from improving pedestrian infrastructure, installing paved paths or boardwalk ramps to cottage entrances
- Only a portion of the cottages need to be accessible
- Consider adding an accessible parking space and a driveway at accessible cottages
- Park is proposing to build new cottages that will meet ADA/building codes

Action 4 – Relocate the west entrance (Parkway) contact booths deeper into Park and add electric/phone service, and a battery-operated payment system.

Considerations:

- The overall entrance experience at the park needs to be improved
- Will improve circulation on high-use days and help prevent back-ups onto the Parkway, which can create hazardous conditions
- Parkway entrance booths have no power and neither the east nor west entrance booths have phone service (NY 82 has power/radio booster)
- State Route 82 booth is located on the passenger side, which results in poor circulation and unsafe conditions (staff needs to walk around to the drivers' side and stand in an active roadway)
- Both entrances need improved wayfinding and informational signage
- Some signage has recently been updated at the entrances
- A new location will need to accommodate large vehicles (buses, RVs) and an existing cleared area has been identified as appropriate
- DHP has determined that Parkway booths are functionally obsolete
- Replacing with new booths will address aesthetic and functional issues (utilities, fiber, security issues)
- Offers the opportunity to add security elements (add cameras, secure doors/windows, etc.) to increase staff security (e.g., fee collection)
- Can assess the possibility of installing solar panels to power relocated entrance booths)
- Will need appropriate DHP review (archaeological, etc.)
- Contact booths have no AC and updated booths will improve staff comfort
- Some signage has been updated at the entrances, but both need improved wayfinding and informational signage at the entrances

Action 5 – Relocate the Park's East Entrance (NY 82) booth and upgrade with electric/phone service.

Considerations:

- The visitor experience when entering from the east (NY 82) needs to be improved
- Entrance booth has power/radio booster but no phone service
- The booth is located on the passenger side of entering cars, which results in poor circulation and unsafe conditions (i.e., staff needs to walk around to the driver's side and stand in an active roadway)
- Will improve circulation and help prevent slow-downs on high-use days
- Adding a battery-operated payment system will improve circulation, moving cars through more efficiently
- Booth has no AC, and an updated booth will improve staff comfort
- Several possible locations for relocated booths are possible and will be considered
- Would incorporate a turn-around area at the new booth location for improved circulation

Recommended Actions: 2, 4, 5

Most people arrive at LTSP by car, and during the peak summer season there is a large demand for parking at the West Beach Parking Lot. Upgrading this lot with green infrastructure offers the greatest opportunity for upgrading the Park and increasing resilience. It is key to improving visitor safety and comfort as well as protecting the lake water from pollutants and sediment in stormwater runoff.

Non-Vehicular Infrastructure

The Park's design encourages car use. Its roadway system dominates circulation, and there are few dedicated and accessible pedestrian routes to different areas in the Park. The distance from the Campground to the West Beach is about a mile, and most campers will drive. Staff would like to encourage less use of cars within the Park and to improve the accessibility of its various recreation areas. The Lakeside Trail, which can be used to get to the West Beach, currently is not clearly marked or universally accessible.

Actions Considered for Non-vehicular Infrastructure (Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities)

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes to the Park’s non-vehicular (pedestrian/bicycle) facilities.

Considerations:

- Pedestrian routes to many of the Park’s elements have deteriorated pavements, loose gravel, erosion, lawn, and/or steep sections that present safety and accessibility challenges
- Walkways in poor condition limit the ability of visitors to safely experience and enjoy the full range of the Park’s amenities and activities
- Will not address accessibility limitations at the facility, including universal access to some programs and events
- People will continue to walk and bike on the road, with potential use conflicts and safety issues
- Cars will continue to dominate the Park’s circulation system
- Public facilities are required to be accessible and equitable to the extent practicable

Action 2 – Add “Share the Road”/ “Sharrows” pavement markings to the Park’s roads.

Considerations:

- Sharrows are low-cost and offer directional and wayfinding guidance
- Provide the least amount of protection from vehicles
- Markings reinforce the legitimacy of bicycle traffic on the road and indicate where bicyclists should ride
- Drivers are not always clear what sharrows mean (i.e., who has the right-of-way)
- Sharing the road is generally less desirable than providing cyclists with separate off-road facilities
- Drivers do not always comply or do not see cyclists in active traffic lanes
- When used effectively, sharrows can make people on bicycles safer, but only if they’re understood by both drivers and cyclists
- Separate bicycle facilities are safer, and keep cyclists off the road

Action 3 – Create an on-road bike lane on Lake Taghkanic Road.

Considerations:

- Park roads are narrow and may not accommodate protected bike lanes
- People do not always drive the speed limit at the Park
- Well-defined cycling routes can encourage more people to ride instead of drive around the Park
- With a clearly delineated bike lane, cyclists may feel safer on roads
- Lower-cost alternative to constructing a separate shared-use path
- Separate facilities reduce the risk of accidents with motor vehicles
- On-road bike lanes serve as a visual indication to motorists that cyclists will be on the road
- Bike paths that are separated from motorized vehicles are preferred overall for safety and the highest-quality cycling experience
- A painted bike lane allows vehicles to move into the bike lane if necessary
- Some user groups may not feel comfortable biking on-road (e.g., families with small children)

Action 4 – Create a shared-use trail on the section of the Lakeview Trail between the West Beach and the Campground.

Considerations:

- The trail distance from West Beach to the Campground is approximately one mile
- Improves user experience and reduces safety and use conflicts from patrons walking or biking along the road
- Signage will indicate the distance, trail surface, and grade so trail users can make an informed decision about using the trail to access the beach or campground
- Will include information about benches, educational signs, and scenic views so patrons know what to expect
- Will be designed with appropriate width and meanders so that it does not negatively impact Park aesthetics
- The Trail needs to be designed to prevent erosion and washouts
- Final surface will be firm and stable

- The existing Lakeside Trail route will be evaluated as an option for an accessible trail

Action 5: Improve pedestrian facilities in paved areas by painting lined routes and crosswalks.

Considerations: as status quo, and

- Currently no lined roadways/parking areas indicating pedestrian use routes (e.g., crosswalks)
- Pedestrian routes should be clearly marked and, wherever possible, accessible to all.
- Will require a design consultant for a comprehensive park plan

Recommended Actions: 4 and 5

Separating uses helps foot traffic, strollers, and cyclists to be more inclined to leave their cars behind when accessing different parts of the park.

Utilities and Water Infrastructure

The Park’s utility infrastructure is aging with some deteriorated components. Wastewater treatment is a park-wide concern; most septic systems in the park are older and some are sited close to the lake. A large absorption field for the Parkway maintenance area septic system needs upgrades to improve functionality. The Park’s potable water distribution and treatment system is aging.

Drainage and Stormwater Management Systems

As stormwater infrastructure ages, some components are not able to readily manage runoff, especially after periods of heavy rainfall. Deteriorated or undersized culverts and bridges can no longer accommodate the increasing volumes of stormwater runoff. Recurring erosion requires ongoing attention and, soil compaction can cause chronically wet or muddy spots and standing water. Incorporating green infrastructure elements — bioswales, permeable pavements, and tree islands — when redeveloping roads and parking areas, helps to address these issues.

Actions Considered for Fiber

Action 1 – Status quo: No new action related to fiber installation.

Considerations:

- The maintenance area (east)/campground/ contact stations don’t currently have fiber
- As park is further developed fiber will become more important
- Makes communications difficult – point of sales
- Employee trainings/LATS need to go to one building – limited space/computers
- No landline phones in maintenance buildings – safety issues could arise

Action 2 – Install fiber at key points in the Park.

Considerations:

- The maintenance area (east) is a high-priority need
- Connectivity at entry stations is important
- As park is further developed fiber will become more important
- Public Wi-Fi in visitor areas in high demand
- Cost is high – needs to be underground

Recommended Action: 2

Visitor preferences indicate that there is high demand for internet connectivity at parks. Staff needs also are better supported by ensuring they are able to use internet while working. Going forward, demand for coverage will grow, and it is important to plan to meet future needs.

Actions Considered for Electric Infrastructure

Action 1 – Status quo: No actions for the Park’s electric utilities.

Considerations:

- Utilities by the ballfield interfere with activities and need to be buried
- Much of the Park’s electric infrastructure is above ground and vulnerable to damage from storms and trees
- Electric poles are sited along the lakeshore and at the cottages, detracting from views of the lake

Action 2 – Move electric lines that are currently on poles underground in recreation areas.

Considerations:

- Bury underground electric by the cottages and ballfields
- Will improve safety and reduce outages (i.e., trees falling)
- Will reduce visual impacts on the viewshed
- Will better withstand severe weather

Recommended Action: 2

With projected increases in severe and intense storms, moving electric utilities underground has multiple benefits. In addition to visual impacts, electric poles and lines can present operational and safety challenges in recreation areas.

Actions Considered for the Potable Water System

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes or upgrades to the Park’s potable water infrastructure.

Considerations:

- The potable water treatment system is aging and as its components deteriorate there will be increased failures and at some point it may become irreparable
- The system has an operational lifespan and eventually maintenance demand will increase to the point where it will need to be replaced
- Potable water system uses surface (lake) water and there is no intention to change the water source
- Most Park infrastructure that requires potable water functions seasonally
- Providing potable water to some facilities in winter could expand recreational opportunities (e.g., Park could offer winter camping)
- Due to the amount of rock near the surface, most waterlines are shallow and not frost-protected so reinstalling waterlines below the frost line would be prohibitively expensive

Action 2 – Increase the Park’s quantity production for potable water in the Park.

Considerations: Same as status quo, and

- If the Park were to decide to offer year-round cabins, the system would need to add waterlines
- Volume of water production has improved since a new tank was installed at the campground
- If there were a failure in the water main, the Park would not be able to produce enough for demand and would need to truck in water or shut down
- Improved treatment technology is needed for additional water production using surface water
- A planned capital project will address backwash; settling tanks to clean water and re-feed into treatment system

Recommended Action: 2

The Park's water treatment system is capable of producing potable water of excellent quality. However, staff would like to be able to produce more potable water to enable the Park to make changes in recreation offerings, upgrade and retrofit existing buildings, and ensure that future needs are met. As improvements in the Master Plan are implemented, demand for potable water will likely increase, and the Park needs to be prepared with a sufficient supply of potable water.

Wastewater Treatment

A large septic system that services the West Bathhouse and Cottages is in poor condition; collection and pumping system components need upgrading. An absorption field for the Parkway Maintenance Area septic system is functional, but associated collection/pumping components need upgrades and should be connected to an outfall across from the main parking lot. The Police Building and carpenter shop are serviced by several holding tanks which, according to a 2019 engineer report, are not in compliance with DEC standards.²

A pump station at the East Beach Playground functions year-round. A septic tank in this area was partially removed and abandoned in place during playground construction. The East Bathhouse's sanitary system and outfall are not currently in use. Planned future use of the Bathhouse will require NYSDEC review to determine any necessary permit modifications.

Actions Considered for Wastewater Infrastructure

Action 1 – Status quo: No changes or upgrades to the Park's wastewater infrastructure.*Considerations:*

- Much of the Park uses septic systems and many are at the end of operational life
- Water quality issues – need to protect the lake
- Aging infrastructure will eventually begin to fail
- Some septic systems need to be relocated farther away from the lake

Action 2 – Modernize the Park's east wastewater system (campground, east maintenance).*Considerations: Same as Action 1, and*

- Entire system needs comprehensive upgrades and replacements
- East Maintenance Area has a septic system that needs to be relocated away from the lake and redesigned
- Campground septic systems are undersized, need to be much larger (must be pumped every year)
- East Bathhouse rehabilitation will require a new septic system

Action 3 – Upgrade wastewater treatment systems in the West portion of the Park.*Considerations: Same as Action 1, and*

- Lift stations at the cottages need to be upgraded
- The Parkway Maintenance and Park Police septic systems need to be connected to Outfall Area 1
- The main lift station (at the West Playground) needs to be replaced (a revamped system is planned for underground)

² Lake Taghkanic State Park Wastewater Disposal Systems Existing Condition Investigation NYSDEC Permit No. NY 003 1186. February 18, 2019. Prepared for OPRHP by Chazen Engineering, Land Surveying & Landscape Architecture Co., D.P.C.

Recommended Actions: 2 and 3

Most of the Park's septic systems and waste treatment infrastructure are older and some have begun to require replacement. As the Lake is the Park's primary recreational resource, as well as its drinking water supply, any potential water quality impacts from septic fields and/or aging infrastructure must be anticipated and addressed before any issues arise that may affect recreational activity.

Actions Considered for the Landfill Site

Located on a service road approximately a half-mile north of the East Maintenance Area, the landfill was established when LTSP opened in the 1930s, primarily used for the disposal of Park-generated wastes such as glass, plastic, cans, food, and paper. The landfill is covered by dense vegetation. Park staff do not add material, mow, or otherwise maintain the area.

Action 1 – Status quo: No new action undertaken for the Park's landfill site.

Considerations:

- The site has never been formally closed (DEC procedure)
- Does not support agency stewardship goals
- Large quantities of invasive plants grow in this area and may spread into adjacent woodlands
- The cost to complete the closure process is high and the Park has limited resources

Action 2 – Complete the formal process for closing the landfill site.

Considerations:

- Technical specifications for closure and a Post-Closure O & M Manual were developed in 2017 (revised 2018)
- Cost to complete the closure process is high (cost estimates were completed in 2018 and will be considerably higher now)
- Will be in keeping with the agency's mission to be good stewards of the land

Recommended Action: 2

A plan to formally close the Park's landfill has been developed. Cost has been the primary factor in finalizing the landfill closure process.

Solar Development

The OPRHP has a system-wide directive to reduce fossil fuel use at its facilities, and the State has goals to reduce its carbon footprint by increasing renewable energy production. The agency has committed to transitioning to 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030.

The only solar installation in the Park is on the West Beach Bathhouse which has panels on its roof.

Actions Considered for Solar Energy Development

Action 1 – Status quo: Do not develop additional solar infrastructure at the Park.

Considerations:

- Does not support agency goals to reduce its fossil fuel use
- The Park has an existing solar installation on the West Bathhouse roof
- State and Agency goals include reducing fossil fuel use
- The potential for educational material about environmental issues
- There will be no new visual impacts from solar arrays at the Park

Action 2 – Evaluate opportunities for installing a free-standing solar project at the Park and implement if an appropriate location is identified.

Considerations:

- Supports agency goals to reduce the use of fossil fuel at its facilities
- Large arrays have been successful at other NYS parks
- Several locations at LTSP have been considered as potential sites but require further analysis
- Will need to consider/mitigate any adverse visual and environmental impacts to the Park
- Maintaining areas with ground-mounted panels can be a challenge (e.g., difficult to mow)
- Will be subject to Town of Gallatin regulations
- May add significantly to staff maintenance workloads

Action 3 – Install small-scale solar installations on existing rooftops (cottages, bathrooms, maintenance buildings).

Considerations:

- Supports agency goals to generate more renewable energy at its facilities
- Will need to consider/mitigate any adverse visual impacts to the Park’s buildings
- Historic Preservation considerations for impacts to historically significant or visual features (e.g., cottages, views)
- Roof panel maintenance is minimal
- Would result in a relatively small addition to the facility’s energy production overall
- Buildings must be oriented appropriately which may limit the number of installations

Action 4 – Incorporate solar elements such as carports as part of the redevelopment of the West Beach Parking Lot.

Considerations:

- Supports agency goals to generate more renewable energy at its facilities
- The lot is large, and a solar installation could potentially offset the Park’s energy needs
- Can be integrated into the proposed parking lot redevelopment project
- A new parking lot that incorporates both solar elements and green infrastructure could be a model for green redevelopment at other state parks
- Climate change impacts are projected to include greater temperature extremes and more frequent periods of intense rainfall and incorporating solar carports would provide a more comfortable visitor experience (e.g., shade/shelter)
- Offers a potential educational component
- Any form of solar will result in visual impacts to this scenic area
- A small or pilot installation can be sited to minimize visual prominence
- Will add to staff maintenance loads
- Project cost is high

Recommended Actions: 2- 4

The solar installation on the West Beach Bathhouse has been a success story for the Park and generates a good quantity of electric power. It requires little maintenance, has no visual impacts to views and, since it is on a newer building, does not affect any historic elements.

Appendix B – Historic/Non-Historic Review Resource Designations for Existing Buildings

Lake Taghkanic State Park/Building, Structure and Landscape Feature List

Lake Taghkanic State Park was determined eligible for listing on the National Registers of Historic Places (NRHP) by the State Historic Preservation Office in 2019. The park, developed by the Taconic State Park Commission for public recreational beginning in the 1930s, satisfies NRHP Criterion A in the areas of park planning, conservation, and recreation, and NRHP Criterion C in the area of architecture, for its recreational architecture including rustic-style buildings and landscape features erected in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The period of significance begins in 1929 with the first land acquisition and extends with the growth of the park to 1970. Resources that date to within the 1929-1970 timeframe are generally considered historic (“contributing”), unless materially altered; a number of resources predate the creation of the park but nevertheless contribute to the park’s significance.

The following list consists of buildings and structures that are recorded in the state’s Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS). Resources include both the State Financial System (SFS) asset number, where applicable, and the Unique Site Number (USN), which is the number assigned to resources within CRIS. Dates of construction, or date ranges, are provided where known. Some smaller resources, such as playgrounds, sports fields and small landscape/infrastructure features, were omitted from this list.

Abbreviations: N/A (non-applicable); NC (non-contributing); NC/A (non-contributing/altered); R (ruinous); R/F (ruinous; foundation only).

Resource Name	SFS Asset #	Unique Site Number	Date	Historic Status
Reesa House	04BR08507500	02118.000060	ca. 1870	Historic/Contributing
Reesa Barn	04BR08507900	02118.000061	ca. 1870	Historic/Contributing
Jaffe House	N/A	02108.000105	ca. 1840s	Historic/Contributing
Jaffe Barn Group	N/A	02108.000111	ca. 1840s	Historic/Contributing
Superintendent's Cottage (Livingston Cottage)	04BR08506500	02108.000007	ca. 1920	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 1	04BR08505000	02118.000042	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 2	04BR08505100	02118.000043	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 3	04BR08505200	02118.000044	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 4	04BR08505300	02118.000045	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 5	04BR08505400	02118.000052	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 6	04BR08505800	02118.000046	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 7	04BR08505900	02118.000047	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 8	04BR08506100	02118.000049	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 9	04BR08506200	02118.000050	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 10	04BR08506300	02118.000051	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 11	04BR08505700	02118.000055	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 12	04BR08505600	02118.000054	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 14	04BR08504900	02118.000041	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 15	04BR08504800	02118.000040	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Cabin 16	04BR08505500	02118.000053	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Restroom/Shower Building (Cabin Area)	04BR08508700	02118.000048	mid-1930s	Historic/Contributing
Stone Water tower/ Observation Building	N/A	02118.000007	ca. 1936	Historic/Contributing
Stone Restroom Building	04BR08504600	02118.000005	1930s	Historic/Contributing
Recreation Building	04BR08504700	02118.000057	ca. 1934	Historic/Contributing
East Bathhouse	04BR08508000	02108.000009	1937-38	Historic/Contributing

CCC Camp Building ((Non-extant) N/A 02108.000011 ca. 1933 NC; R/F

Resource Name	SFS Asset #	Unique Site Number	Date	Historic Status
Pumphouse (Stone)	N/A	02108.000028	1930s	Historic/Contributing
Pumphouse (Concrete)	N/A	02108.000027		need date/confirm
Water Treatment/ Filter Building	04BR085A8300	02108.000038	ca. 1930s	Historic/Contributing
Garage/Apartment	04BR08500400	02108.000042		Historic/Contributing
Lot A Restroom Building	04BR08509000	02108.000055		NC
Lot B Restroom Building	04BR08503800	02108.000043		need date/confirm
Lot E Restroom Building	04BR08508900	02108.000044	post-2000	NC
Lot E Picnic Shelter	04AR08500100	02108.000045		need date/confirm
Lot F Restroom Building	04BR08509100	02108.000087	post-2000	NC
Cottage 154	04BR08502700	02108.000067		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 155	04BR08502600	02108.000061		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 157	04BR08502400	02108.000068		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 158	04BR08502300	02108.000070		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 159	04BR08502100	02108.000071		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 160	04BR08502000	02108.000062		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 161	04BR08501800	02108.000063		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 162	04BR08501700	02108.000064		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 164	04BR08501500	02108.000065		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 165	04BR08501300	02108.000066	ca. 1940	Historic/Contributing
Cottage 166	04BR08501200	02108.000058		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 167	04BR08501100	02108.000060		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 168	04BR08501000	02108.000039		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 169	04BR08500900	02108.000046		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 170	04BR08500700	02108.000041		Historic/Contributing
Cottage 171	04BR08500600	02108.000047		Historic/Contributing
Laundry Building (Cottage Area)	04BR08502200	02108.000069		need date/confirm
Pumphouse (Cottage Area)	04BR08500700	02108.000110		need date/confirm
Restroom Building (West Picnic Area)	04BR08508800	02108.000075	post-2000	NC
Quonset Hut/Workshop	04BR08502800	02108.000073		Historic/Contributing
TSP Contact Station/North	04BR08500100	02118.000038		need date/confirm
TSP Contact Station/South	04BR08500200	02108.000108		need date/confirm
West Bathhouse/Park Office	04BR08503100	02108.000077	ca. 1962	NC/A
Park House	04BR08500300	02108.000048		NC
Boat Storage Garage	04BR08506800	02108.000051		need date/confirm
NYS Park Police Station (North/Taconic Zone)	04BR08507200	02108.000052		need date/confirm
Boat Rental Building (West)	04BR08509200	02108.000053		NC
Storage Shed	04BR08509300	02108.000109		NC
Open Shed (Maintenance Area)	04BR08507800	02108.000096		need date/confirm
Garage (Maintenance Area)	04BR08506900	02108.000091		need date/confirm
Garage (Maintenance Area)	04BR08507600	02108.000090		need date/confirm
Maintenance Garage	04BR08506700	02108.000089		need date/confirm

Harder Pump House (Maintenance Area)	04BR08506600	02108.000092	N/C
Tool Shed (Maintenance Area)	N/A	02108.000093	Historic/Contributing
Contact Station (East)	04BR08507100	02108.000095	need date/confirm
Camp Store (Former Nature Center)	04BR08504500	02108.000080	need date/confirm