

30 May 2019

Rebecca Terry
NYSDEC,
232 Golf Course Road,
Warrensburg, NY 12885
r5.ump@dec.ny.gov

RE: Crown Point State Historic Site, Campground, and Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan

Dear Rebecca,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Crown Point State Historic Site, Campground, and Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan.

ADK (Adirondack Mountain Club)

ADK is dedicated to protecting and advocating for New York State's wild lands and waters while also teaching people how to enjoy natural places responsibly. Since 1922, the organization has offered people opportunities to stay and play in as well as protect, discover, and explore the outdoors. Today, ADK has 30,000 members in 27 chapters statewide and is served by a professional, year-round staff. The organization is recognized as a vital voice in the commitment to environmental stewardship and ethical outdoor recreation in New York State. ADK members hike, camp, snowshoe, cross-country ski, paddle, and cycle the lands and waters of the Adirondack Park and other state lands. Our members are also monitors and maintainers of trails and recreation infrastructure as well as watchdogs of public lands and watersheds to monitor for invasive species or irresponsible and destructive motorized trespass.

We respectfully request that you consider the following comments outlined below regarding the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST). These comments reflect the input of Mary Coffin, an ADK and NCTA volunteer leader.

ADK urges the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to include the siting of the NCNST in the Crown Point UMP. Including the trail will be an excellent fit given that the entire Crown Point Reservation is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated National Historic Landmark. National Scenic Trails capitalize on environmental, scenic and historic venues along the route. The NCNST route is planned to use the Champlain Bridge to connect

Vermont and the Adirondack Park of New York. Crown Point is located on that route, and would be an ideal waypoint and attraction along the NCNST. The DEC campground across the road also would provide camping for hikers. The NCNST is a non-motorized foot trail, lying lightly on the land with minimal disturbance of soil. Its construction is unlikely to disturb archeological sites or artifacts. The trail could also be sited to avoid sensitive areas following input from archaeological surveys. The location of the trail is relatively flat and does not require major earth disturbance. Best practices of trail design are always employed during trail placement.

Wherever possible, existing trails, remains of old roads and old rail beds would be used and are likely to result in the best trail. Near the fort ruins, no new trails would be constructed. Only existing paths presently open to the public will be utilized.

Important habitat areas for birds can be avoided or closed during breeding and migration times, and hikers can be directed to an alternate route during these times. Care will be taken to avoid the import of invasive species during construction and boot brushes can be installed at trail heads.

For the safety of hikers, it is important to avoid busy roads where possible. Bridge Road is a very busy road not suitable for safe pedestrian use. Crown Point State Historic Site provides a safe off-road trail along the Bulwaga Bay (west side) to the southern boundary. NCNST Volunteers are assessing the willingness of private landowners along Bridge Road to provide access to continue south, off road.

Inclusion of the NCNST on Crown Point Property is supported by a variety of trail organizations and state and federal agencies including, the National Park Service, ADK (the Adirondack Mountain Club), the North Country Trail Association, Champlain Area Trails, as well as DEC and OPRHP. Early in 2019 both the US Senate and US House of Representatives approved overwhelmingly a bill to support the extension of the NCNST across Vermont from the Champlain Bridge to the Appalachian Trail.

The NCNST Adirondack Park Trail Plan and Final GEIS Oct 2015¹ provides details of the Adirondack Park route of the NCNST, its characteristics and DEC's support of the trail. Please see the maps at the end of this document.

Thank you for considering the above comments.

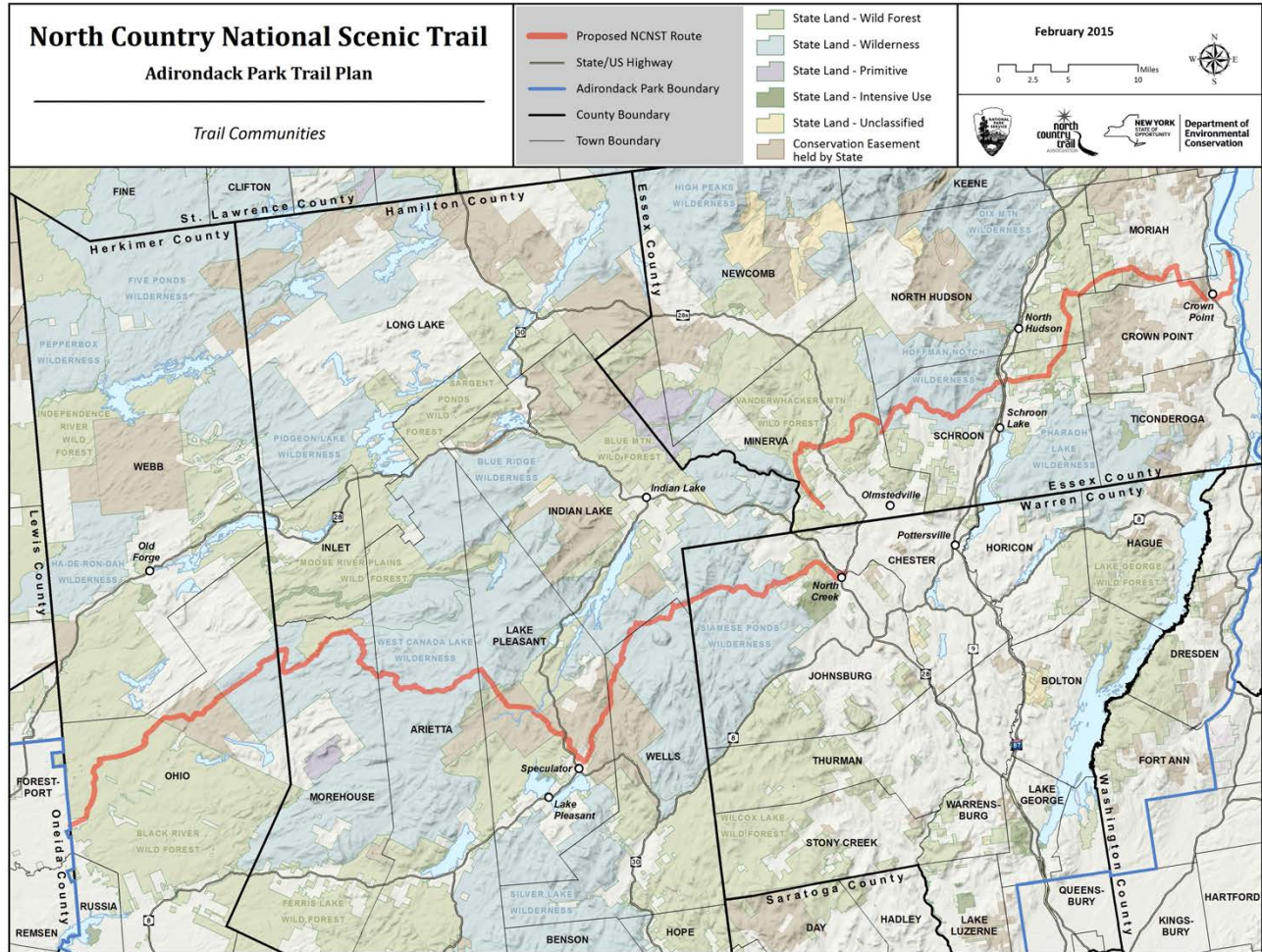
Sincerely,

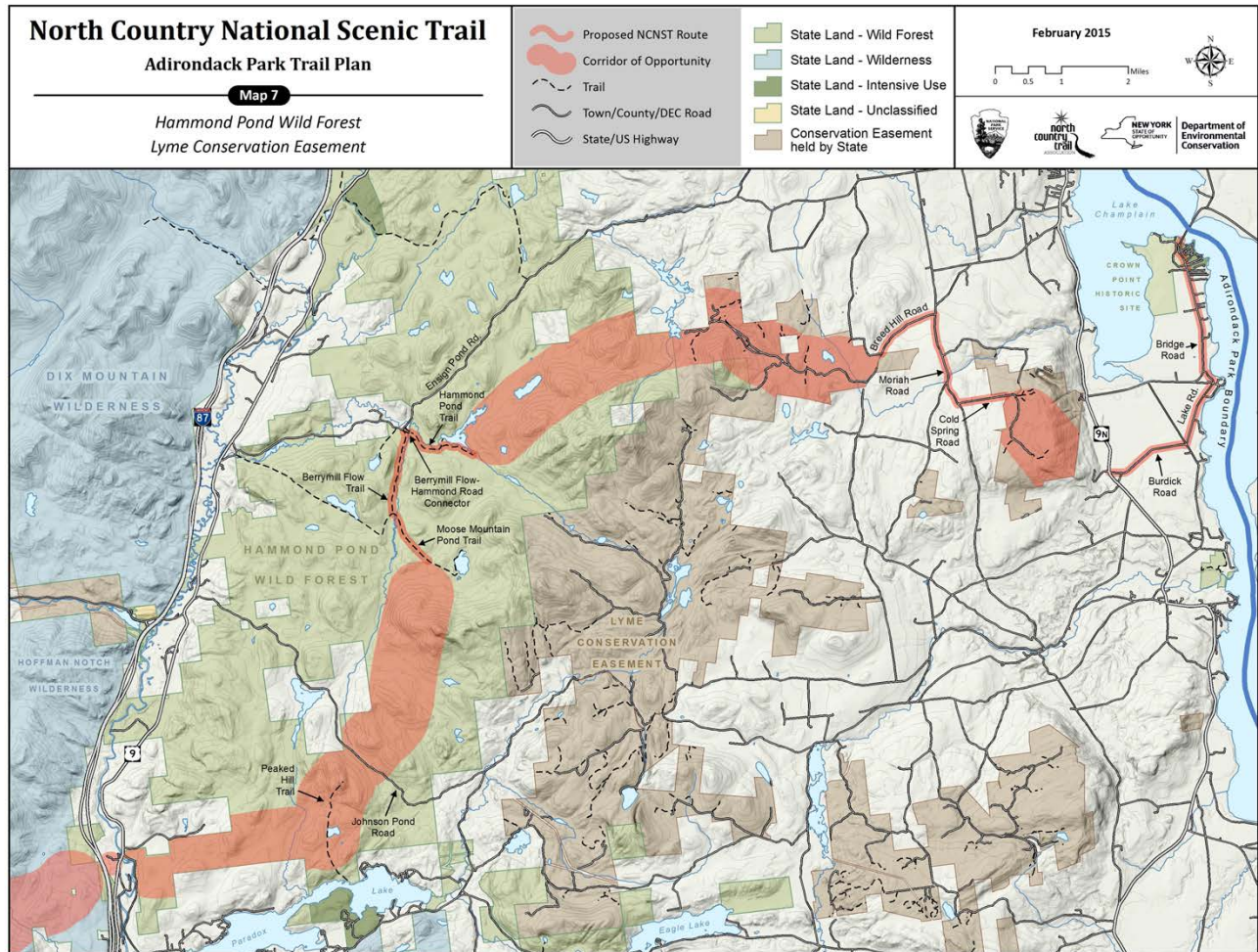


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Adirondack NCNCT Plan Maps





¹ https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/ncnst001.pdf
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/39658.html>