

Master Plan Variance

Property Name: Buckhorn State Park
Current Master Plan Approved: February, 2007
Variance Title: Modern Family Campground Relocation

Proposed Variance to the Master Plan

(Page 8 – Revision to Modern Camping section)

Modern Camping

Construct a new 60-site Class A campground north of the day use area and campsites #26-29 as shown in revised Map D and Figure 1. Access will be gained by extending the day use area park drive to the north. The campground will be built in one phase and is designed as a Modern Campground under NR 44.07(7)(e).

Amenities and support facilities will include:

- 20 electrical sites,
- Pressurized water system,
- Drinking fountains,
- One flush toilet/shower building,
- Two pit toilet buildings for off season use,
- An outdoor shelter,
- ADA accessible playground equipment.

The estimated total project cost is \$2.4 million (2013 dollars). Funding of this project is from Nelson-Knowles Stewardship program.

Maps, designs and background materials provided on the following pages.

Master Plan Variance

Property Name: Buckhorn State Park
Current Master Plan Approved: February, 2007
Variance Title: Modern Family Campground Relocation

Approvals

_____ Date: _____
Variance Author

_____ Date: _____
Property Manager

_____ Date: _____
District Park Director

_____ Date: _____
Program Bureau Director

_____ Date: _____
Administrator, Division of Lands

Supporting Information

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Variance:

The location originally proposed for the new family campground has been devastated by oak wilt, and is not conducive for a high quality camping experience. It is also relatively far from the park's day use area, likely resulting in campers driving to the day use facilities. The new family campground site is located within the Buckhorn Recreation Management Area with a healthy mix of hardwood and evergreen canopy cover. The new family campground site is located relatively close to the day use area, making it more likely that campers will walk or bike to these facilities.

The sanitary dump station will be located in the Special Management Area at the park entrance, just north of the maintenance and shop facilities. In addition, the quantity of campsites being developed within the Family Campground was reduced from 80 to 60, with a proportional reduction of developed infrastructure.

How is the proposed change supported by the property's vision, goals, and objectives?

Relocating the family campground to the site north of the day use area will provide more convenient access for campers to the day use area amenities and the flowage. The revised location takes advantage of the former 19th Avenue roadbed for access to the proposed family campground loops

Goal Statement (page 6):

- Provide opportunities for modern and rustic family and group camping.

Camping Objectives (page 7):

- Provide and expand modern, rustic, and special camping opportunities without losing the quiet, natural camping experience currently offered at Buckhorn State Park. Improve the quality of the camping experience provided at Buckhorn State Park.
- Increase campground privacy through increased campsite separation distances and/or vegetative screening.

Anticipated Primary benefits of the proposed plan change:

Relocating the family campground to the site north of the day use area will provide more convenient access for campers to the day use area amenities. The revised location takes advantage of the former 19th Avenue roadbed for access to the proposed family campground loops

The park entrance experience may also be enhanced by reducing the amount of development and congestion near the entrance station, where the Family Campground was originally sited. The original site is two miles away from the main beach/picnic/ boat

launch use areas. This would necessitate a long bike/pedestrian trail be developed to safely connect campers to those heavily used sites.

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts:

Developing the infrastructure and amenities of a new campground requires clearing trees and vegetation within an area previously undeveloped, impacting plant communities and habitat. Stormwater management required with the introduction of impervious surfaces for the campground will impact the hydrology of the developed area. A family campground, a relatively high intensity use, will generate noise and traffic in an area that was previously quiet and lightly used.

Summary of any Alternatives Considered:

There were two alternatives considered for the relocation. The following alternatives were developed and evaluated before settling on the preferred alternative recommended by this variance.

Alternative 1: Status Quo per Master Plan

Keeping the campground at the existing location would have required more utility costs and would have been a longer distance to the day use areas.

Alternative 2: Build within the Natural Area Boundary

This alternative considered relocating the campground within the natural area boundary. This location would provide better traffic flow and have been closer to the day use area. But the loss of the natural area lands would have been detrimental to the restoration efforts.

Compatibility with Statutes, Codes, and Department Policies:

This variance to the 2007 Buckhorn State Park Master Plan meets the requirements of *ch. NR44.04, Wis. Adm. Code*.

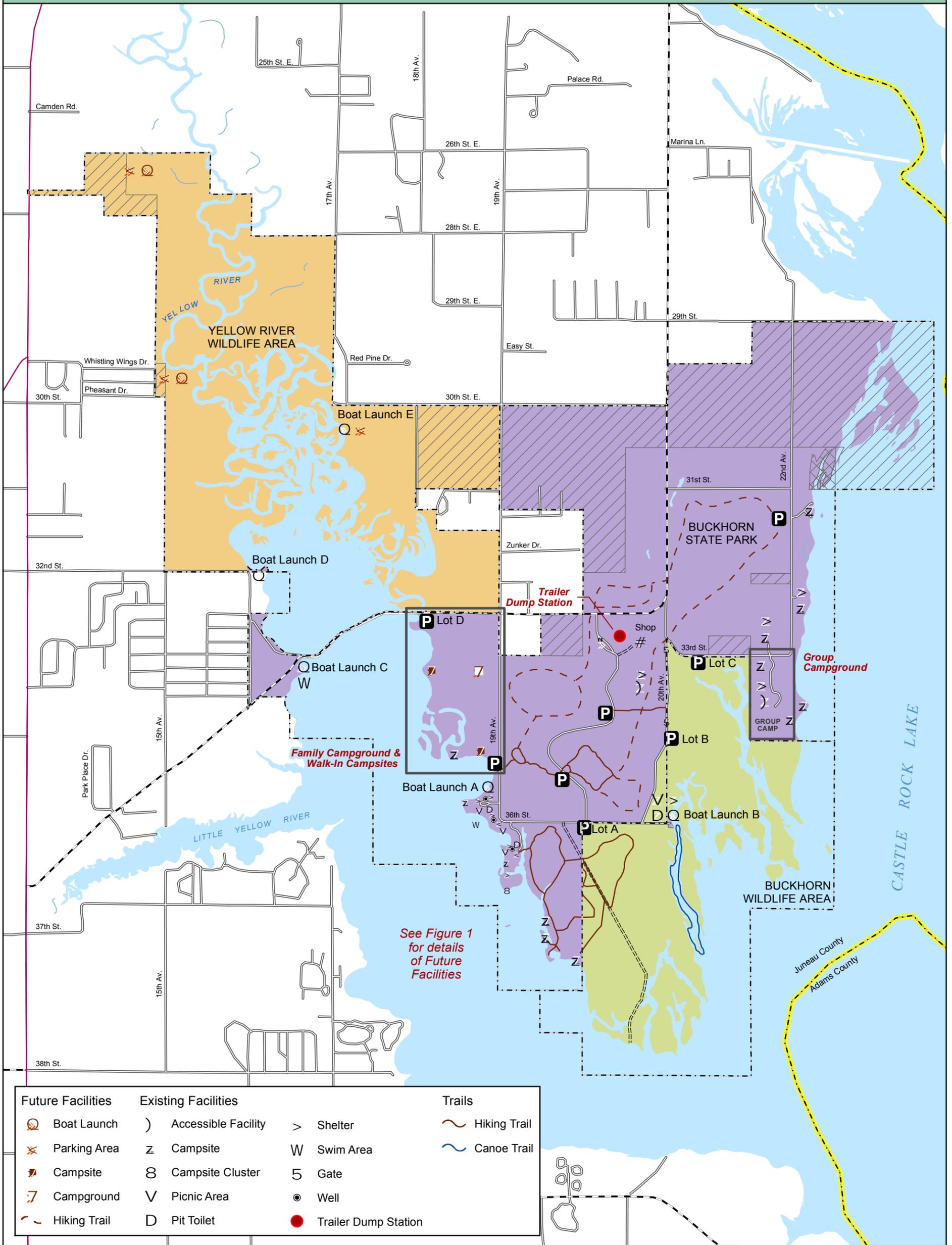
Federal Aid Limitations:

Buckhorn State Park received Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) dollars in the 1960s.

Buckhorn State Park, Buckhorn Wildlife Area & Yellow River Wildlife Area

Existing and Future Development

Map D



See Figure 1 for details of Future Facilities

DNR Managed Lands

- Buckhorn State Park
- Buckhorn Wildlife Area
- Yellow River Wildlife Area
- Project Boundary (Authorized Acquisition Area)
- DNR Easement
- Private Land within Project Boundary
- Major Roads
- County Road

1.0 Mile

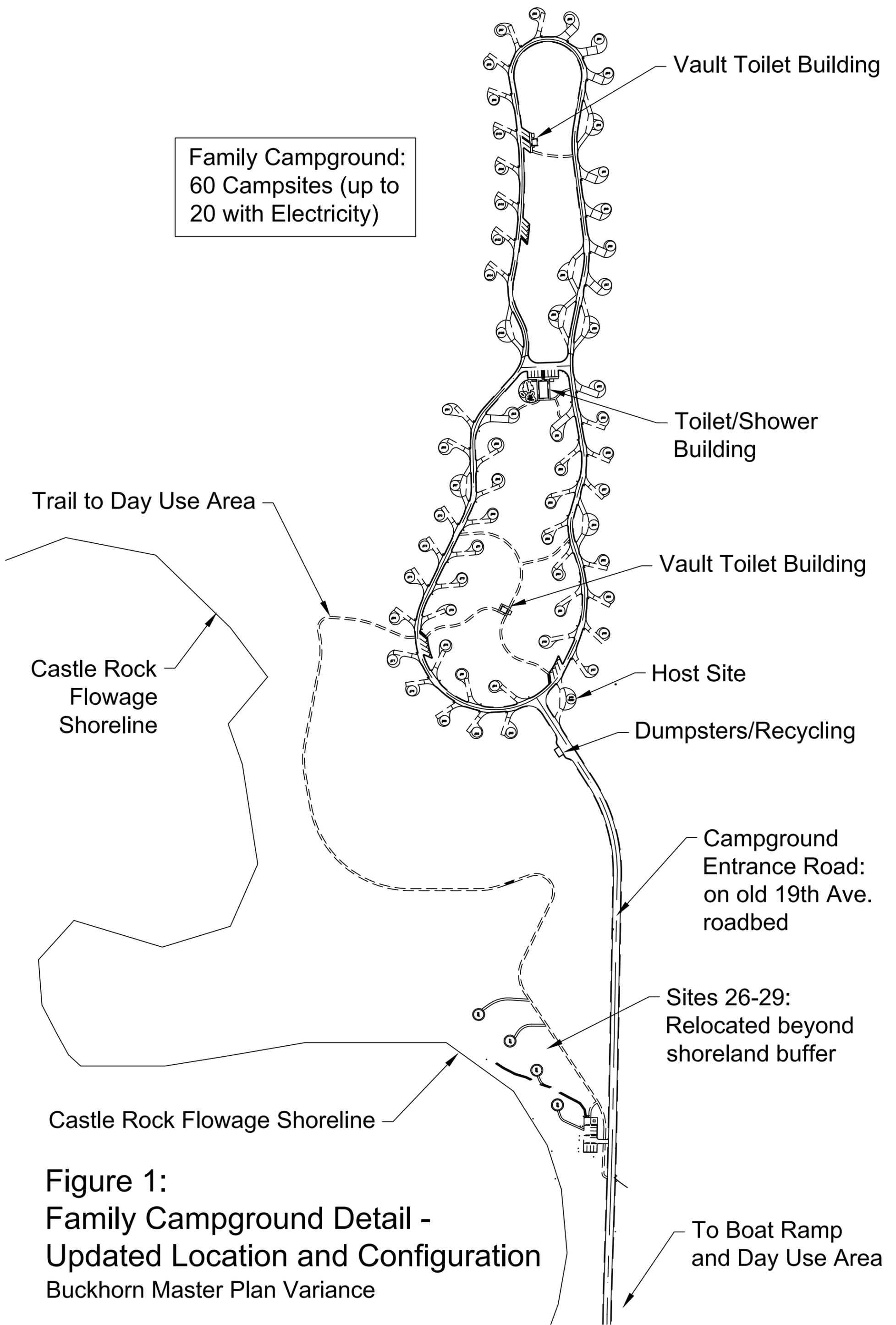
STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Bureau of Facilities and Lands



PR-WA-BUCK-MP-D June 2013 acf



Family Campground:
60 Campsites (up to
20 with Electricity)

Vault Toilet Building

Toilet/Shower
Building

Vault Toilet Building

Host Site

Dumpsters/Recycling

Campground
Entrance Road:
on old 19th Ave.
roadbed

Sites 26-29:
Relocated beyond
shoreland buffer

To Boat Ramp
and Day Use Area

Trail to Day Use Area

Castle Rock
Flowage
Shoreline

Castle Rock Flowage Shoreline

Figure 1:
Family Campground Detail -
Updated Location and Configuration
Buckhorn Master Plan Variance