

**MASTER PLAN VARIANCE FOR MIRROR LAKE STATE PARK AND THE DELL CREEK STATE
WILDLIFE AREA**

Date the Current Master Plan Approved: June 2003

Proposed Change to the Master Plan:

The following changes are proposed to the Mirror Lake State Park section of the master plan, no changes to the Dell Creek State Wildlife Area portion of the plan are proposed.

The tables in this variance do not distinguish between electric and non-electric campsites as those in the master plan did. The tables have also been altered from the master plan to consolidate the current, future, and overflow campsites of an area into one number; shown as the potential number of sites.

Chapter 1, page 4. Change first bullet point to read:

- Electrifying ~~50 (from 31) of 203 sites~~ of 203 sites additional campsites, particularly in Cliffwood and Sandstone campgrounds, to accommodate RV visitors to this area. The total number of campsites with electric receptacles in Mirror Lake State Park will comply with Wis. Stat. § 27.01(15)(b) and thus, will not exceed 50% of the total campsites in the park.

Chapter 1, page 5. Change Table 1-1 to read:

Table 1-1: Summary of Camping Opportunities

Camping Facility	Development Level (NR 44)	Potential Number of Sites
<i>Bluewater Bay</i>		
Family	Modern	59
Drive-through	Modern	2
Group/Adult	Modern	7
Touring	Modern	2
Group/Yurt*	Modern	15
Host	Modern	1
<i>Cliffwood</i>		
Family	Modern	34
ADA Cabin	Modern	1
ADA Cabin*	Rustic	2
<i>Sandstone</i>		
Family	Modern	49
Walk-in	Semi-primitive	4
Host	Modern	1
<i>Pine Barrens*</i>		
Family*	Rustic	35
Walk-in*	Semi-primitive	5
<i>Group/Youth*</i>	Rustic	6
TOTAL	--	223

*Future construction

Chapter 2, Page 13. Change language and table to read:

Paragraph 3 - 4:

Bluewater Bay Campground: The Bluewater Bay Campground currently consists of ~~57~~ 59 family campsites, 2 drive-through sites, 2 touring sites (for bikers and hikers only when all other sites are full), ~~and~~ 7 group campsites (accommodating up to 20 people each) and 1 campground host site. The campground is equipped with a flush toilets and shower buildings. None of these campsites currently have electricity. ~~To increase privacy between sites, the number of sites on the western two loops will be reduced from 27 to 21 sites. The total number of family campsites will then be 51.~~

The 7 group campsites will be eliminated, and up to 15 yurts will be built in the former group camp location. Each yurt will have a capacity of 4-6 persons. Current regulations may not permit electricity at this time for yurts.

Table 2-1: Bluewater Bay Camping Facilities

Camping Facility	Development Level (NR 44)	Potential Number of Sites
<i>Bluewater Bay</i>		
Family	Modern	59
Drive-through	Modern	2
Group/Adult	Modern	7
Touring	Modern	2
Group/Yurt*	Modern	15
Host	Modern	1
Total	--	86

*Future construction

Chapter 2, page 13 - 14. Change language and tables to read:

Paragraph 7 (Page 13):

In accordance with this plan, family camping in Cliffwood shall be composed of a maximum of 34 family sites ~~will now be composed of 26 modern, electric family camping sites, 6 non-electric sites adjacent to the trailhead and up to 2 additional rustic ADA cabins. This will be achieved by adding electricity to 17 campsites and eliminating 2 family sites in favor of the additional cabin.~~ Up to 100% of the family campsites and ADA cabins will have electricity.

Table 2-2: Cliffwood Camping Facilities

Camping Facility	Development Level (NR 44)	Potential Number of Sites
<i>Cliffwood</i>		
Family	Modern	34
ADA Cabin	Modern	1
ADA Cabin*	Rustic	2
Total	--	37

*Future construction

Sandstone Ridge Campground: Sandstone Ridge Campground currently consists of 48-49 family campsites, 4 walk-in sites, 1 host site, a flush toilet/shower building, and pit toilets. ~~No more than 85%~~ Up to 100% of the family campsites will have electricity. ~~Twenty-one of the campsites have electricity. In the future, the electric sites will be grouped separately from non-electricified sites.~~

Table 2-3: Sandstone Camping Facilities

Camping Facility	Development Level (NR 44)	Potential Number of Sites
<i>Sandstone</i>		
Family	Modern	49
Walk-in	Primitive	4
Host	Modern	1
Total	--	54

Chapter 2, Page 15. Change language to read:


In summary, ~~while 15 sites were removed,~~ these improvements create a net 48, or 31% increase in the total campsites at MLSP. The additional sites are 15 yurts, 2 rustic ADA cabins, 35 rustic campsites, 6 youth group sites, and 5 semi-primitive, walk-in camping sites. Additional electric service to sites will serve increased demand for both RV campers and those tent campers interested in the option of access to electricity. Overall, the plan will see no more than 50% of the total sites with electricity.

All changes are consistent with the Recreation Management Area, Type 4 use setting.


Attached Maps:


- Mirror Lake State Park Campground Map (Current Conditions)
- Mirror Lake State Park Master Plan Map C: Recreation Management and Administrative Facilities

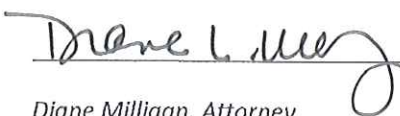
Approved:  Date: 9-4-18
Doug Haag, Administrator, Division of Internal Services

Approved:  Date: 8/28/18
Sanjay Olson, Administrator, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Supporting Approvals

 Date: 8/10/18
Diane Brusoe, Property Planning Section Chief

 Date: 8/10/18
Ryder Will, Property Manager

 Date: 8/31/18
Diane Milligan, Attorney

 Date: 8-24-18
Benjamin Bergey, Parks and Recreation Management Bureau Director

 Date: 8/27/18
Terry Bay, Facilities and Lands Bureau Director

Variance Author: Phil Rynish, Property Planner

Supporting Information

Purpose and need for the plan change:

Mirror Lake State Park (MLSP) staff have noted a growing desire from visitors for a more modern camping experience. This variance seeks to accommodate that desire by adding additional sites with electrical receptacles to two of the three campgrounds in the park. This is intended to draw new visitors to MLSP as well as provide a viable overflow option for campers who would like an electric campsite but are unable to be accommodated at other campgrounds such as Devil's Lake State Park.

The current MLSP Master Plan prescribes the number of campsites and their associated level of development at each campground within MLSP. If approved, this variance will give flexibility to property managers in deciding when and where electric campsites may be appropriate and maintain consistency with the master plan's recreation and resource management goals.

How the proposed plan change is supported by or is inconsistent with the property vision, goals and objectives or other plan provisions:

The proposed variance makes no changes to current recreation or resource classification. It is compliant with the master plan vision, goals, and objectives.

Anticipated primary benefits of the proposed plan change:

The variance will provide capability to property managers to add electric campsites to the Cliffwood and Sandstone campgrounds within MLSP. As a result, the park will be able to accommodate more customers who desire modern camping facilities with electric receptacles when visiting the area. Furthermore, demand for electric sites should be fully accommodated by Cliffwood and Sandstone campgrounds; thereby allowing Bluewater Bay and the future Pine Barrens campground to remain non-electric for visitors desiring that experience.

Additional anticipated benefits:

The proposed changes will allow MLSP to more adequately serve as an overflow camping area for other parks, including Devil's Lake State Park.

Unavoidable adverse impacts:

The developed footprint of the campgrounds will remain the same as projected under the master plan. As part of adding electrical capabilities to campsites, there will be several minor environmental impacts. Soil compaction from equipment and vegetation clearing will occur during the construction process. The areas cleared will be revegetated. Impacts will be localized to the areas where new electrical lines are being installed. Areas surrounding the campsites may become more disturbed with increased visitor use. Increased use also raises the risk of invasive species being introduced unintentionally by visitors.

Summary of any alternatives considered:

Alternatives for allowing an increased number of electrical campsites at MLSP are:

Alternative 1 (Preferred): Adopt the proposed variance to allow an increase in electric sites within Sandstone and Cliffwood campgrounds at MLSP.

Alternative 2: Take no action, leaving in place the number of electric sites specified within the MLSP master plan.

Alternative 2 was not selected. It would limit the number of electric sites available and limit the ability of MLSP to meet the needs of visitors who desire a more modern camping experience.

Compatibility with statutes, codes, and department policies:

This variance has been developed in compliance with ch. NR 44, Wis. Adm. Code. It does not propose any change in land management classification or any use incompatible with current classification for the area impacted by the variance.

The department's Bureau of Parks and Recreation Management supports this variance. Electric campsites at MLSP are of a similar nature as those at other state parks and no new design standards will be set as a consequence of this variance.

Federal aid limitations:

Mirror Lake State Park is encumbered by grants from the federal Land and Water Conservation program (LAWCON). These encumbrances do not carry additional review requirements for this master plan variance.

Public review process used:

A press release in the *DNR Weekly News* and forwarded to the Friends of Mirror Lake State Park and Mirror Lake State Park campground hosts announced the beginning of the public input process. The proposed variance was posted to the department's website for a 14-day public review period, which ran from July 3 – July 17, 2018. The public was welcome to review and submit comments on the variance by contacting department staff via email, phone, or mail. Relevant staff contact information was posted on the website.

Description of the support and/or opposition to the proposal:

The department received a total of 13 emails through the input process. One member of the public spoke with the park superintendent regarding the variance. The input received strongly supported the proposed variance. Many of the commenters noted the need to add electricity to sites in a thoughtful manner: one that ensures that quiet camping areas remain and that the sites that do gain electricity can be accessed by RVs and large pull-behind campers.

Mirror Lake State Park

Campground Map



- Park Boundary
- P Parking
- Trail
- Accessible Trail
- Non-reservable Campsite
- e Electrified Campsite
- 501, 502 Bike Touring Sites
- Campground Host
- ♿ Accessible for People With Disabilities
- ⛶ Picnic Area
- 🚿 Showers/Flush Toilets
- 🚽 Vault Toilet
- Water
- 🎪 Amphitheater
- ♻️ Garbage/Recycling
- 🛒 Rental Concession
- 🎡 Playground
- 🌉 Footbridge
- 🏠 Shelter



Park Office & Visitor Center

