



# RECREATION FACILITIES SUMMARY

**Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project  
(FERC No. 2685)**

*Prepared by:*



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RECREATION FACILITIES SUMMARY

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RECREATION FACILITIES SUMMARY

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## SUMMARY

TRC conducted a recreation facility study in conjunction with an aesthetic resources and land management field analysis of the Blenheim-Gilboa (B-G) Project (Project) from June 1 to June 4, 2012. The purpose of this study was to acquire a general understanding of recreational resources associated with the Project. This information is needed to prepare the recreation section of the Pre-Application Document. During the field visit, TRC staff met with staff from Mine Kill State Park to review the current use and operations of the park. Mine Kill staff then accompanied TRC staff while the inventory was completed. TRC staff also visited each formal recreation facility and traveled available roads surrounding the Project to determine access to the Project lands and shoreline. A data sheet was completed, photos were taken and a GPS point was recorded at each recreation facility. Overall the facilities were in good condition, no major safety issues were noted, and no major changes to the facilities were observed from the last Form 80 filing in 2009. TRC staff did not observe informal access areas outside of established recreation areas at either Reservoir. There were a few informal access trails to the Lower Reservoir within established recreation areas. These informal access trails are noted in the recreation facilities descriptions below. [A map](#) showing the locations of the recreation facilities is included at the end of this document.

### Lansing Manor Complex

Lansing Manor: Lansing Manor Complex is a historic property and includes the Lansing Manor House that is open to the public from May 1 to October 31, free of charge. Built in 1787 the house and its associated out buildings are owned by the Licensee and operated as a house museum by the Licensee in cooperation with the Schoharie County Historical Society. Lansing Manor is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Manor shares parking and restroom facilities with the Visitors Center. A lift provides ADA access to the first floor of the Manor. At the time of the survey, there were two benches and five interpretive displays on the grounds of the complex near the Manor House. The site offers views of the Lower Reservoir. There were no major safety issues or needed improvements noted during the inventory. A quilt show was occurring at the time of the inventory.

The Visitors Center is located within the Lansing Manor Complex barn. There were numerous picnic tables and benches on the grounds of the complex, along with a picnic shelter. At the time of the visit, TRC staff did not observe ADA picnic tables. Along with the exhibits inside the Visitors Center, interpretive displays are positioned along the wetland interpretive trail, located southwest of the Visitors Center within the Lansing Manor Complex. The Long Path, further described below, passes through the Complex parking lot. NYPA also maintains the Bluebird Trail and the interpretive trail around the wetland. The large parking area provides 42 vehicle parking spaces and three ADA parking spaces. The spaces are delineated and lighting is provided. A small weather station, solar panels and a wind mill are also located at the site.

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View of Lansing Manor House

Visitors Center: The Visitors Center is operated and maintained by the Licensee in a restored 19<sup>th</sup>-century dairy barn on the historic Lansing Manor property. The center is open to the public free of charge and has exhibits and interactive displays which describe the Project, how electricity is made and the local natural resources such as wildlife. The Visitors Center has modern exhibits and is ADA accessible. There were no major safety concerns noted while at the site. The Visitors Center has both male and female restroom facilities, which are somewhat dated. There were a few people visiting the Visitors Center while TRC staff was on-site.

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View of the Visitors Center

Mine Kill State Park:

The park is owned by the Licensee and operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP). The park offers a variety of amenities and activities to the public for a fee. The original park was constructed as part of the Project and though well maintained, it is starting to show its age. In particular, the restroom facilities and boat launch are currently functional but may require repairs or replacement in the near future. The pool house, which includes restrooms and changing rooms was recently improved. There is an overlook that offers views of Mine Kill Falls just south on Route 30 from the main park area. There is a series of decks and stairs that lead to the overlook which are not ADA accessible. The park has an Olympic-sized swimming pool, wading pool, diving pool, basketball court, horseshoe pits, three playgrounds, two soccer fields, and eight hiking and mountain biking trails. The Long Path travels through Mine Kill State Park. The park is also open in the winter for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and ice-skating on a man-made rink. There is also a hard-surface boat launch with two launch lanes available at the park. The park provides ADA accessible parking, picnic tables, showers, changing rooms, restroom facilities, and a lift in the pool. There are numerous parking lots available within the park, which provide parking for over 350 regular vehicles, seven ADA spaces, and 49 vehicles with trailers. There are approximately 7 miles of hiking trails located within the Park. This includes an approximately 3.5 mile section of the Long Path, which is further described below. In addition there are 7 other trails ranging in length from .14 miles to 1.29 miles in length. There were a few small informal trails that exited the improved trails and traveled to the Project shoreline. These trails appear to be used for fishing access. The park has an on-site sewage treatment plant near the boat launch. Aside from the pool, it appears that the park facilities are used below their current capacity. The trails do not have extensive wear and there was no evidence of compaction, erosion or unusual wear of the park amenities.

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The park's boat launch provides public access to the Lower Reservoir, which is open to the public from April to September with a NYPA permit. Permitted activities on the Lower Reservoir include fishing, boating, waterskiing, windsurfing, and tubing. The park also provides informal pedestrian access to the Lower Reservoir shoreline, which is also open to shoreline fishing.



Path to Mine Kills Falls Overlook

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Playground at Mine Kill State Park



Boat Launch at Mine Kill State Park

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Wading Pool at Mine Kill State Park

Downstream Fishing Access:

The Licensee owns and operates a fishing access area below the dam for anglers. The site has a gravel parking area that can hold approximately eight vehicles. Individuals can access the downstream shoreline for fishing from the parking area. There are no formal trails; however, some individuals drive further downstream to access the shore. There were no major safety issues noted while on-site. The parking lot is flat and ADA accessible; however, there is no ADA access to the shoreline.

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Parking Lot at Downstream Fishing Access

Upper Reservoir Access Areas:

The Upper Reservoir is open to recreational craft, including rowboats or canoes, with or without electric-trolling motors and fishing. It is open to the public, free of charge, although a NYPA permit is needed to operate a boat on the Reservoir. Swimming, waterskiing, tubing and windsurfing are not permitted on the Upper Reservoir. The Licensee owns and operates three access areas on the Upper Reservoir. The first access is located on the northern edge of the Reservoir where the service road surrounding three sides of the Reservoir begins. The second access is located on the eastern edge of the Reservoir, while the third access is located on the southern side of the Reservoir. The eastern access area is available for carry-in boat launching and shoreline fishing; a gate blocks access to the launch as visitors must coordinate with NYPA security to launch boats. The northern and southern access points allow access to the service road for walking and shoreline fishing. Parking at each of these sites is informally located along the roadside and does not currently offer ADA delineation. There is room for approximately six vehicles at the southern access, three vehicles at the northern access and two vehicles at the eastern access.

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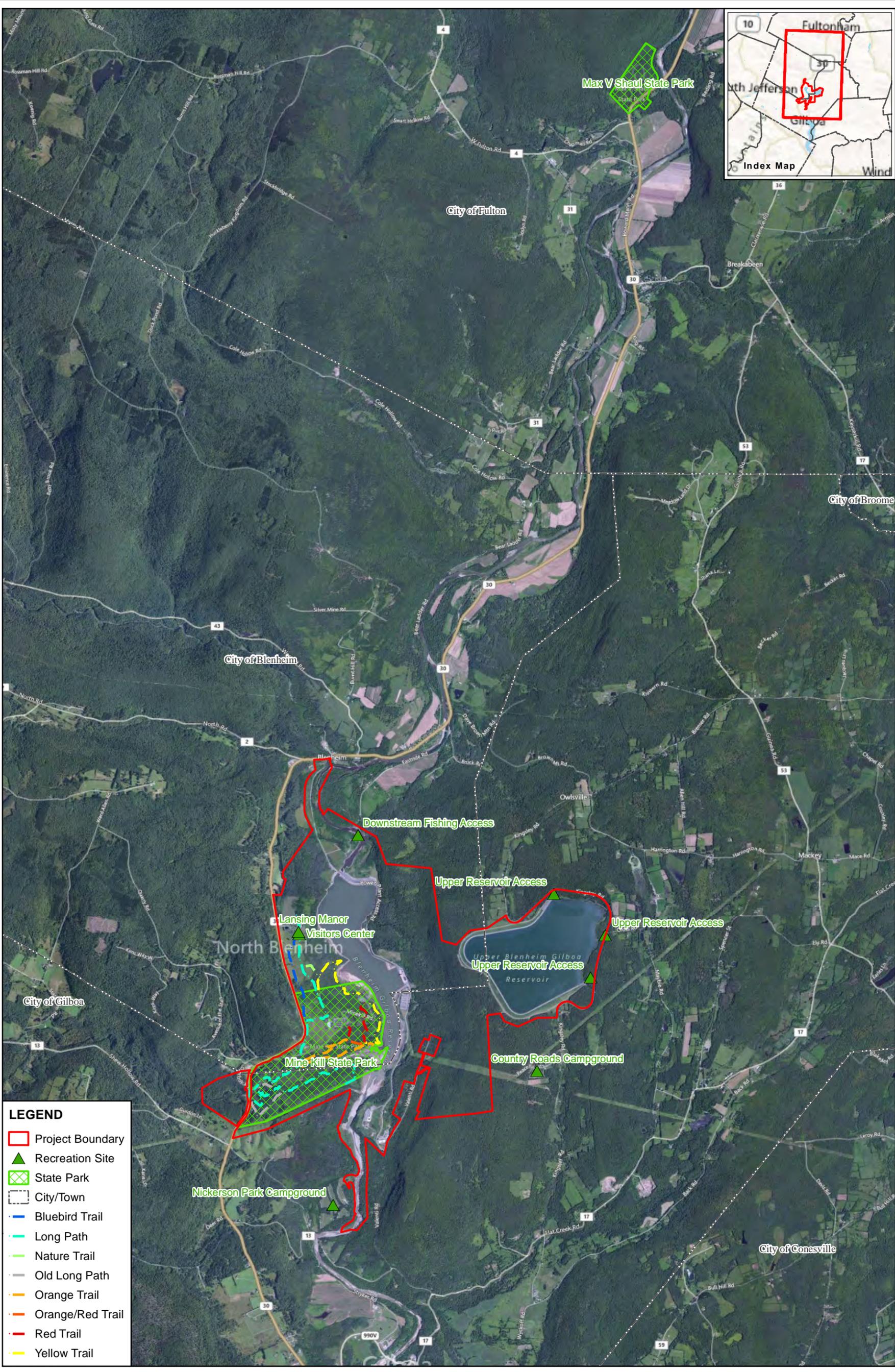
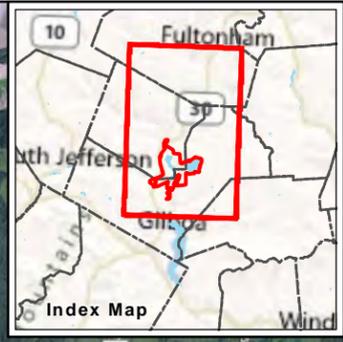
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Photo from Upper Reservoir Boat Launch

Long Path

The Long Path is a hiking trail that travels 343 miles from Fort Lee Historical Park, New Jersey to Altamont, New York, approximately 36 miles north of the Project. The path travels along the western side of the Project through Mine Kill State Park (approximately 3.5 miles of trail) and lands within the Lansing Manor complex. The path appears to receive little use. There was no compaction or erosion noted at the access points visited and some areas of the path were difficult to follow. Nickerson Park Campground is the recommended location for camping when traveling this portion of the trail.



**LEGEND**

- Project Boundary
- ▲ Recreation Site
- State Park
- City/Town
- Bluebird Trail
- Long Path
- Nature Trail
- Old Long Path
- Orange Trail
- Orange/Red Trail
- Red Trail
- Yellow Trail



**New York Power Authority**  
Generating more than electricity

**Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project (FERC No. 2685)**




**RECREATION FACILITIES STUDY**

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