



NPS – Catoctin Mountain Park

Replace Parkwide Utility Infrastructure



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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, Maryland



The purpose of this public scoping is to provide the public with an overview of the proposal to replace park owned and operated infrastructure systems within Catoctin Mountain Park.

How to Comment:

- Submit comments electronically on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at https://parkplanning.nps.gov/cato_utility
- Submit written comments by mail or hand-deliver to:

Superintendent
Catoctin Mountain Park
6602 Foxville Road
Thurmont, MD 21788
ATTEN: Utility Infrastructure EA

Please submit your comments by **March 16, 2021**.

We thank you for your participation in this process!



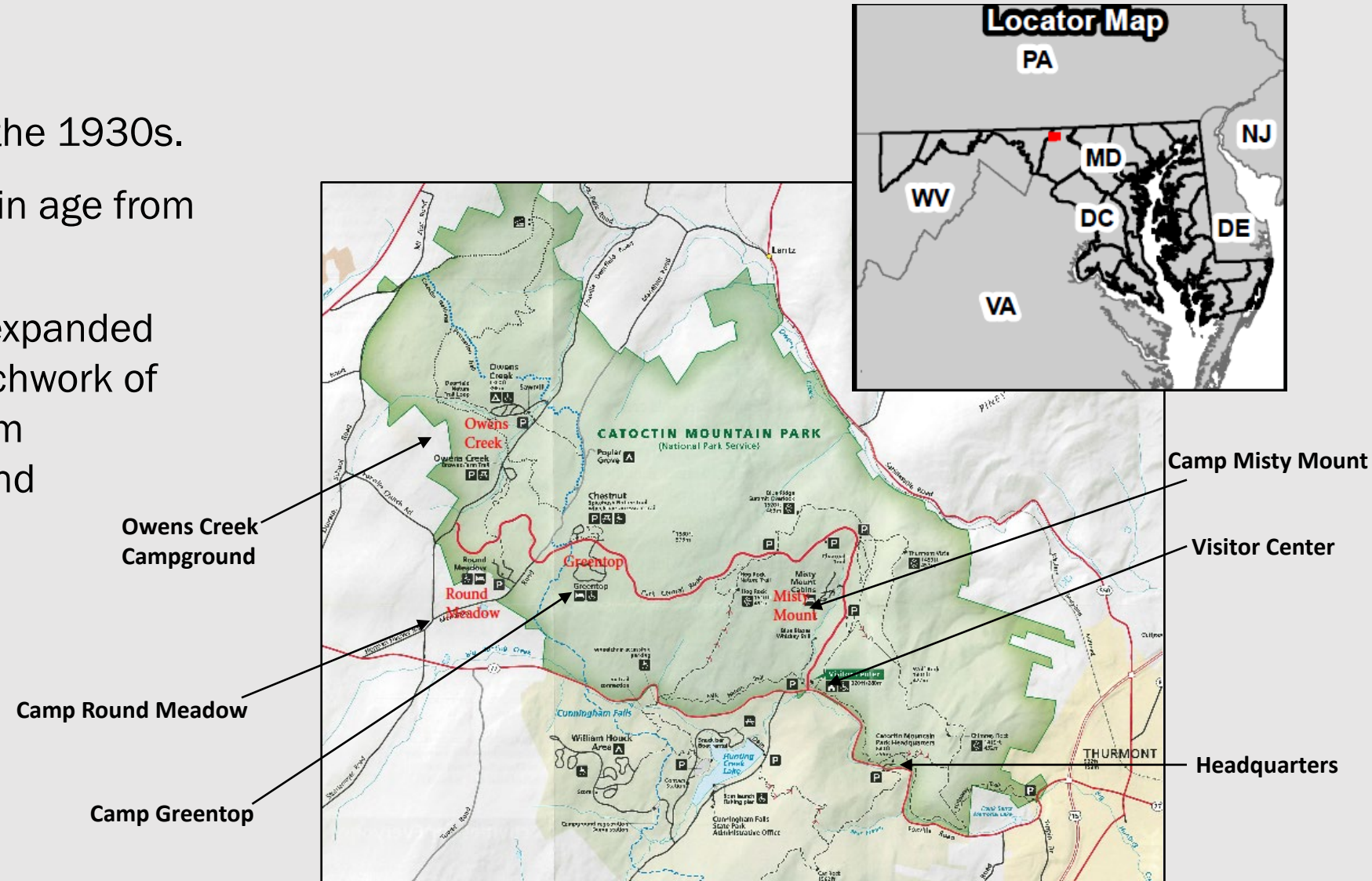
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Background

- The Park was established in the 1930s.
- Existing infrastructure range in age from 25 to 80 years old.
- Through the years, the Park expanded incrementally, creating a patchwork of utility connections with system inefficiencies for operation and maintenance.



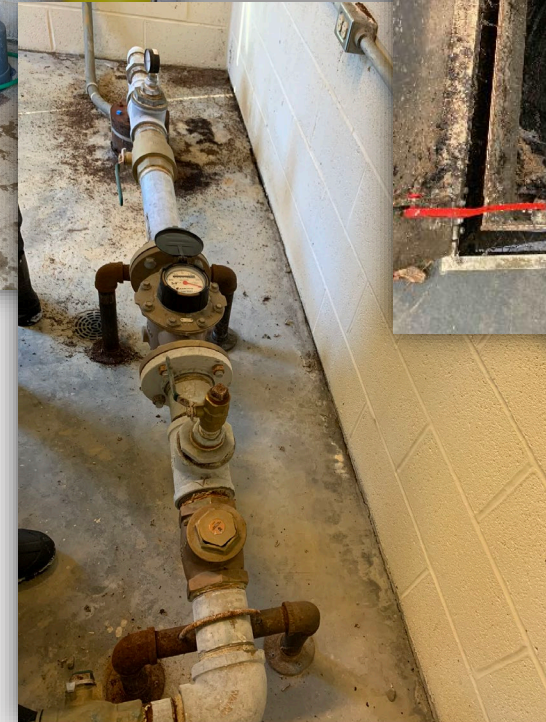
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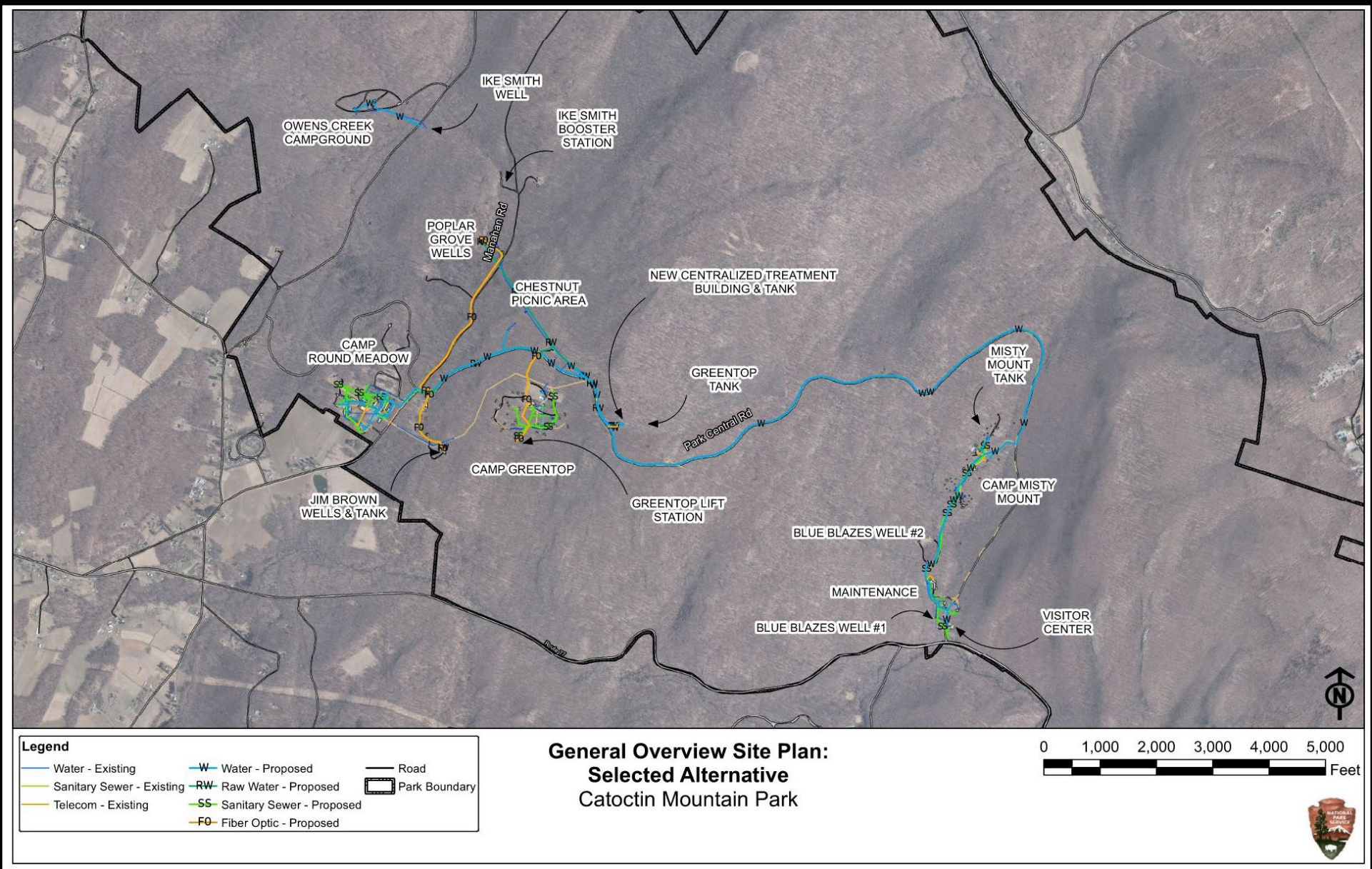
Purpose and Need

- Aging infrastructure has caused
 - Drinking water compliance issues
 - Measurable amounts of chromium, copper, lead, nickel, and nitrite
 - Maximum Contaminant Level exceedances for copper
 - System inefficiencies
 - New connections patched in system built 80 years ago
 - Water tanks inaccessible for maintenance
- Leaking water tanks
- Infiltration and inflow in sewer system
- Existing polychlorinated biphenyl containing transformers
- Unreliable telecommunication system



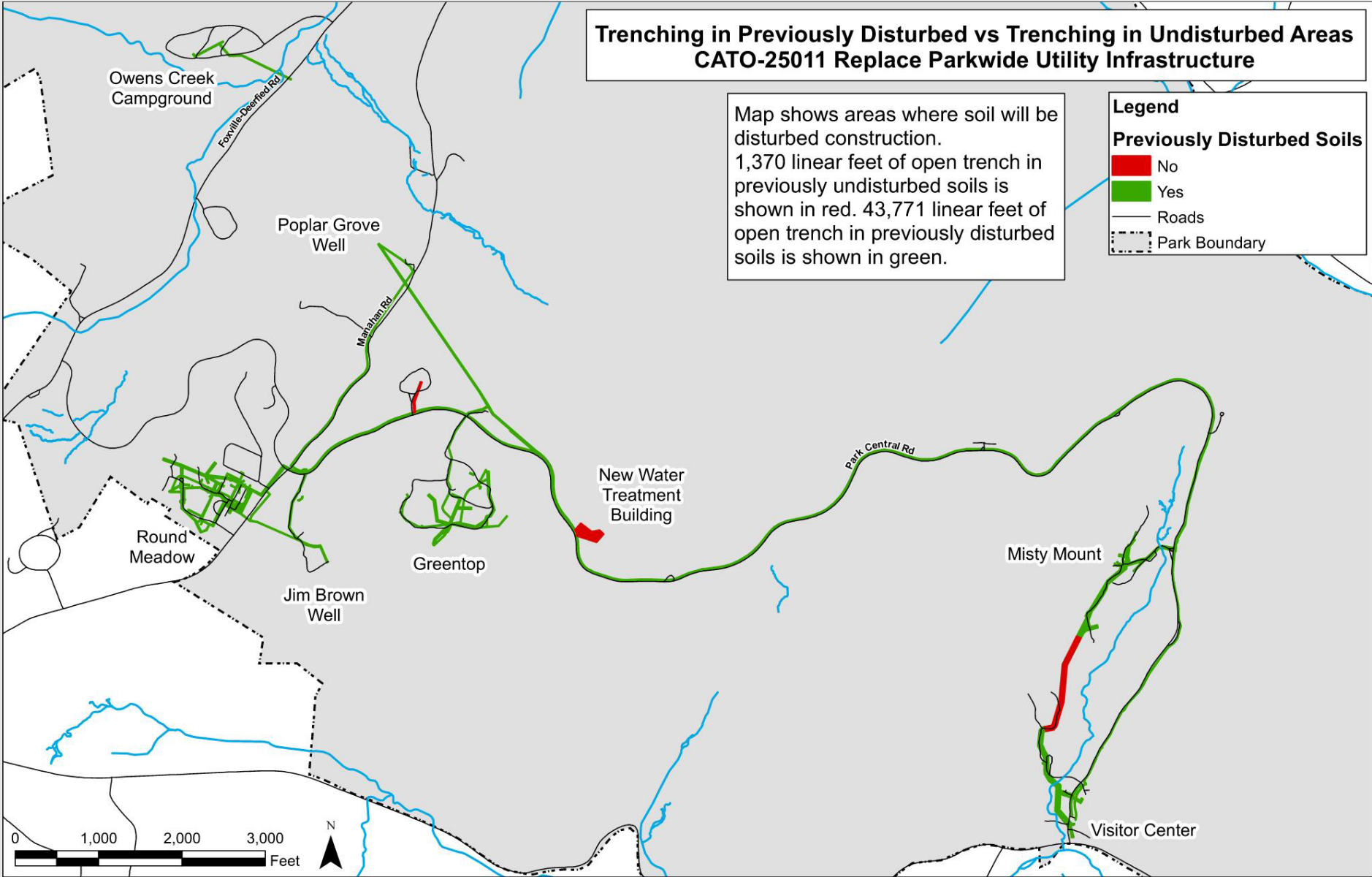
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Proposed Action

Owens Creek Campground

- Water utility infrastructure will be maintained as a stand-alone system supplied by the rehabilitation of the existing Ike Smith Well House.
- Primary water main replacement from Ike Smith Well House to Owens Creek Campground.
- Water service laterals replacement from Owens Creek Campground water main to the two comfort stations.



Camp Greentop

- Primary sewer mains replacement.
- Rehabilitation of sanitary sewer lift station.
- Rehabilitation of the primary site electrical.
- Communication upgrade between Post 5A and Camp Greentop Office Building.
- New Centralized Chemical Treatment Building.
- New water tank supplying Camp Round Meadow, Camp Greentop, and Camp Misty Mount.
- Convert existing test well to raw water supply well (TBD).



Jim Brown and Poplar Grove Wells

- Rehabilitation of up to four wells to supply raw water to a common chemical treatment location.
- Rehabilitation of two well houses.



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Proposed Action

Camp Round Meadow

- Water mains and service laterals replacement.
- Sanitary sewer mains and laterals replacement.
- Primary site electrical and transformers replacement.
- Decommission and partial demolition of the existing water tank.
- Fiber-optic cables from Camp Round Meadow Gym to the new Centralized Treatment Building, and from the Centralized Treatment Building to Park East side through Park Central Road connecting facilities to a centralized location.

Camp Misty Mount

- Primary water mains and service laterals replacement.
- Primary sanitary sewer mains and laterals replacement.
- Primary site electrical and transformers replacement.
- Decommission and partial demolition of the existing water tanks.



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Resources

Special-Status Species

- Total 24 Special-Status Species identified by NPS. Surveys will be conducted in spring 2021 to identify any special-status species within the area of disturbance in order to identify mitigations.
- State:
 - 5 State Threatened Species
 - 1 State Endangered Extirpated
 - 2 State Endangered
- Federal:
 - Indiana Bat (Federally Endangered)
 - Northern long-eared bat (Federally Threatened)

Tree Removal

- Anticipated tree removal areas:
 - Park Central Road shoulder
 - New utility corridor between Camp Misty Mount and Visitors Center
 - New Centralized Chemical Treatment and Water Tank location
 - Clearing/vegetation maintenance within existing utility/road right-of-way.
- Tree removal will be limited to the minimum number necessary to accomplish the project.
- Tree removal will not be conducted during the northern long-eared bat pup season (June 1 to July 31) or within a ¼ mile of a hibernation site.

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Resources

Jurisdictional Wetlands/Waters

- Wetland surveys are currently being incorporated into the design for mitigation purposes.
 - 6 PFO Wetlands
 - 5 Jurisdictional
 - 1 Non-Jurisdictional
- Stream crossings will be limited to pipe bursting under the stream when possible, resulting in no stream disturbance.
 - 10 Waterbodies
 - 3 Ephemeral
 - 2 Intermittent
 - 5 Perennial

Cultural Resources

- CATO contains three National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed Historic Districts. All three historic districts overlap the project area.
- Phase I archaeological survey identified historic and prehistoric resources in the project area. Resources are not anticipated to be eligible for NRHP listing.
- Consultation for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is ongoing.



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Project Benefits

Drinking Water

- Safe drinking water.
- Replaces aging tanks with new, code-compliant tanks.
- Reduces sources of metals leaching from water pipes.
- Removes existing asbestos piping at Camp Greentop.
- Reduces water loss.
- Improves operational efficiency by reducing the number of facilities and providing better accessibility for maintenance.

Sanitary Sewer

- Reduces infiltration and inflow.
- Reduces the utility billing costs for sewer.
- Eliminates stream quality issues by replacing sanitary sewer systems at three camps.

Telecommunications

- Improve data communications between facilities.
- Allows for remote monitoring.

Electrical

- Removes PCB-containing transformers.

Resources

- Maximizes existing utility corridors, pre-disturbed areas, and replacing in-kind where permissible.
- Most corridors will run along Park Central Road in pre-disturbed areas next to existing road.
- Reduces the number of utility stream crossings.

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Visitors and Community

Construction Means and Methods

- Construction sequencing based on park off season to the most extent practicable to minimize impact to visitors and use of campgrounds.
- Water to the Park will continue to be supplied by existing groundwater wells and chemical treatment and will not result in water outage during construction.
- Traffic control plan would be implemented when installing pipe across Park Central Road, Manahan Road, and shoulder work along roads.
- Remainder of work will occur in areas of minimal traffic or restricted to NPS only.
- Utility trenching methods—open trench and trenchless methods (pipe splitting or bursting)

Disruptions

- Contractor staging is anticipated to be at paved parking areas near segments of the project.
- Temporary trail closures at certain areas.
- Temporary campground closures during construction.

Project Schedule

- Construction Contract Award—September 2021
- Anticipated Construction Completed—2 years from Notice to Proceed

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Next Steps:

Compliance Milestones:

- Environmental Assessment Release to public – March 26, 2021
- 30-day Public Review Period – March 26, 2021 – April 26, 2021

Give Us Your Feedback!

NPS invites you to share your comments on the proposal.

You can provide input in several ways:

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