Sampson
STATE PARK

Romulus, New York

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Finger Lakes Region
2021

Facilities

2,083 Acres with 4 miles of Seneca Lake shoreline
245 electric sites,
10 self-contained cottages
Marina with 90+ slips*
Boat launches
Marina Pump out
Gas pumps at Marina
Guarded swim beach
Trailer dumping and fill station
Restrooms with showers
Picnic areas with tables and grills
Recreation building
Bike trails and bike rentals
Indoor miniature golf
Video games, and ping pong
Volleyball, tennis, and basketball courts
Ballfields
Playgrounds
Military Museum

*Military Museum operated in cooperation with the Sampson World War II Navy Veterans and Sampson Air Force Base Veterans Association.
*Military Museum is open Memorial Day to Columbus Day Wednesday – Sunday 9am – 5pm Closed Mondays and Tuesdays ***Denotes handicapped accessible**

Rabies Warning

Please do not feed or harass any wildlife while visiting our parks. If you should notice any wildlife behaving in a strange manner or that appears ill, avoid the animal, and immediately contact park personnel.

Good Park Manners

Day use areas of the park are open from dawn to dusk. Quiet hours in the park are from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. and are **STRICTLY** enforced. Your cooperation is appreciated by both park staff and your fellow patrons. **Pets:** Family pets must be leashed and attended at all times and **please** pick up after your pets. **Only 2 pets are allowed per site.**

Nearby State Parks

Cayuga Lake (Rte. 89, 3 mi. east of Seneca Falls)
Lodi Point (Lodi Pt. Rd. off Rte. 414, 2 mi. west of Lodi)
Seneca Lake (Rtes. 5 & 20, 1 mi. east of Geneva)
Taughannock Falls (Rte. 89, 8 mi. north of Ithaca)
Watkins Glen (main entrance, Village of Watkins Glen)

SAMPSON STATE PARK
6096 Route 96A
Romulus, New York 14541
Park Office: 315-585-6392
Regional Office and Park Police: 607-387-7041
Joe Keeler, Park Manager
Marina Office: 315-651-4949

E M E R G E N C Y

Park Police Emergency.....800-255-3577
Police/Ambulance/Fire.....911

Camping

Campsite and cabin reservations in NYS Parks may be made up to nine months in advance by calling 1-800-456-CAMP(2267), or online at www.ReserveAmerica.com

"Carry In-Carry Out" Park

Our day use facilities and picnic shelters are designated "Carry In-Carry Out". Please take your trash and recyclables home with you for proper disposal.

Accessible parking spaces, and restrooms are available. Please contact the park office for specific information.

Special Passes

Access Passes: Available to NY residents with qualifying disabilities.
Golden Park Program: For NY residents age 62+ with NY driver's license or ID card allows unlimited weekday and non-holiday access.
Empire Pass: Unlimited vehicle access to most NY state parks and recreation areas. It can be purchased at park offices, shop.parks.ny.gov or by calling 518-474-0458. Passes are renewable online and are valid from date of purchase through December 31.

parks.ny.gov

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Park History

Sampson State Park slopes gently above the eastern shore of Seneca Lake. A million years ago, a river flowed where the lake is today. During the Ice Age, great continental glaciers bulldozed their way from Canada. 12,000 years ago, the melting glacier left behind a deep basin in the ancient river valley, creating a lake over 600 feet deep.

After the Ice Age, primitive nomadic hunters arrived. In the 1600's, Europeans encountered Seneca Indians who led a settled agricultural existence. The Senecas are one of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy.

During the Revolutionary War, Iroquois towns were destroyed by the Continental Army. A state historical marker along the highway south of the park entrance notes the burning of the Seneca town of Ken-dai-a. Much of the land between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes was awarded to soldiers as payment for their service. Farmers then moved onto the land that is now the state park.

A century and a half later, with the outbreak of World War II, quiet farm life made way for the second largest naval training station in the country, named for Rear Admiral William T. Sampson from Palmyra, NY. After the war, Sampson State College educated returning servicemen. Sampson was used as an Air Force Base during the Korean War, and in 1960, became a state park. In 1995, the Sampson Naval Veterans Museum opened in the park.

The military buildings and roads have been removed or adapted over the years in the transformation of the state park. Old drill fields and other cleared land are slowly growing up in grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and scattered trees. Eventually a mature forest will emerge. Several wooded ravines cross the park. Willow and poplar trees have taken over the long, wild shoreline. This changing landscape makes excellent habitat for birds, deer, raccoons, foxes, rabbits, opossums and other animals. Ducks and other waterfowl live on the lake, which is famous for its trout fishing.

Look for educational signs throughout the park that tell the story of nature and people at Sampson.

Terrain

Flat and rolling woodlands surrounding ravines.
Elevation range from 450' to 620' (137 m to 188 m)

Camping Area

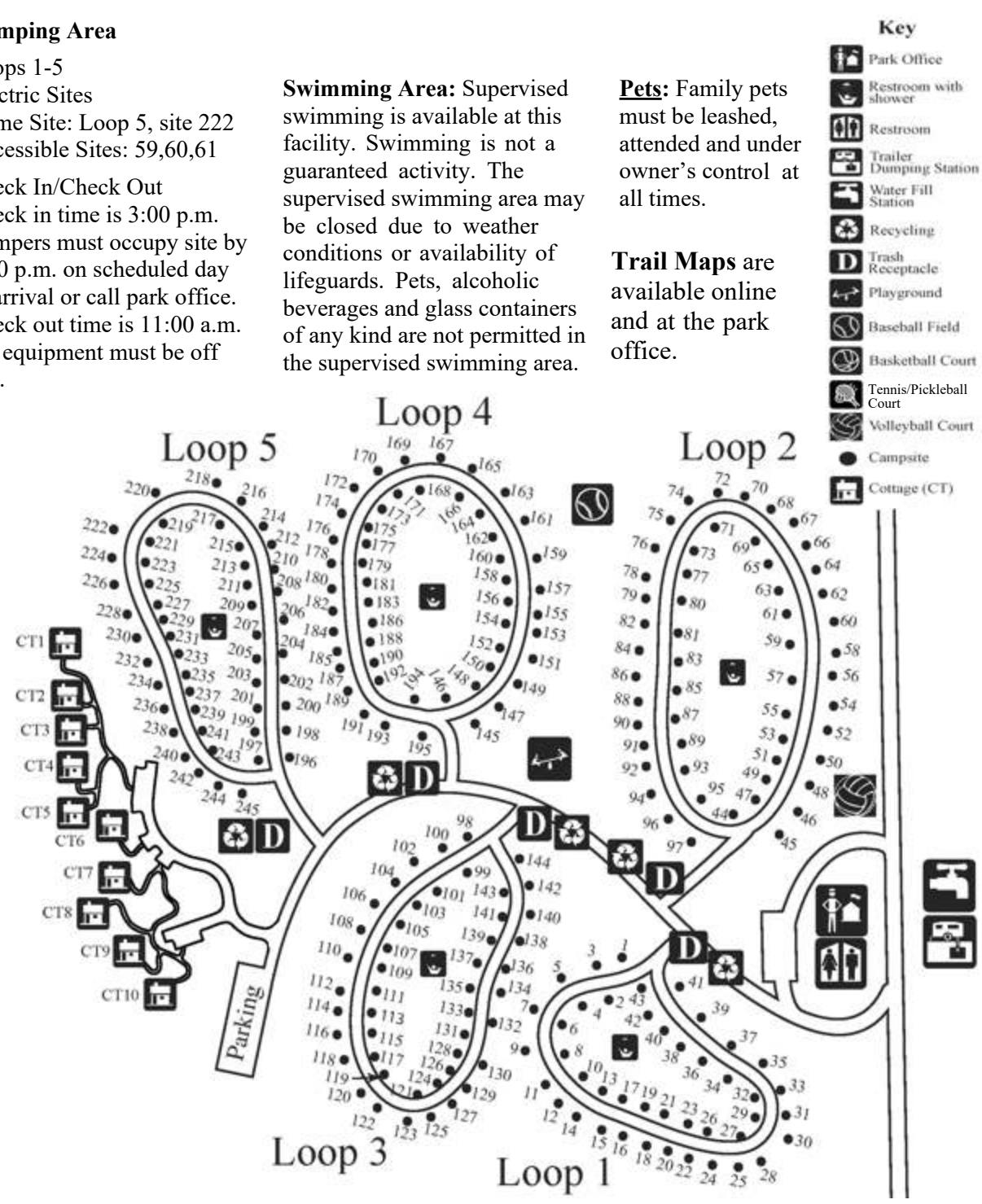
Loops 1-5
Electric Sites
Prime Site: Loop 5, site 222
Accessible Sites: 59,60,61

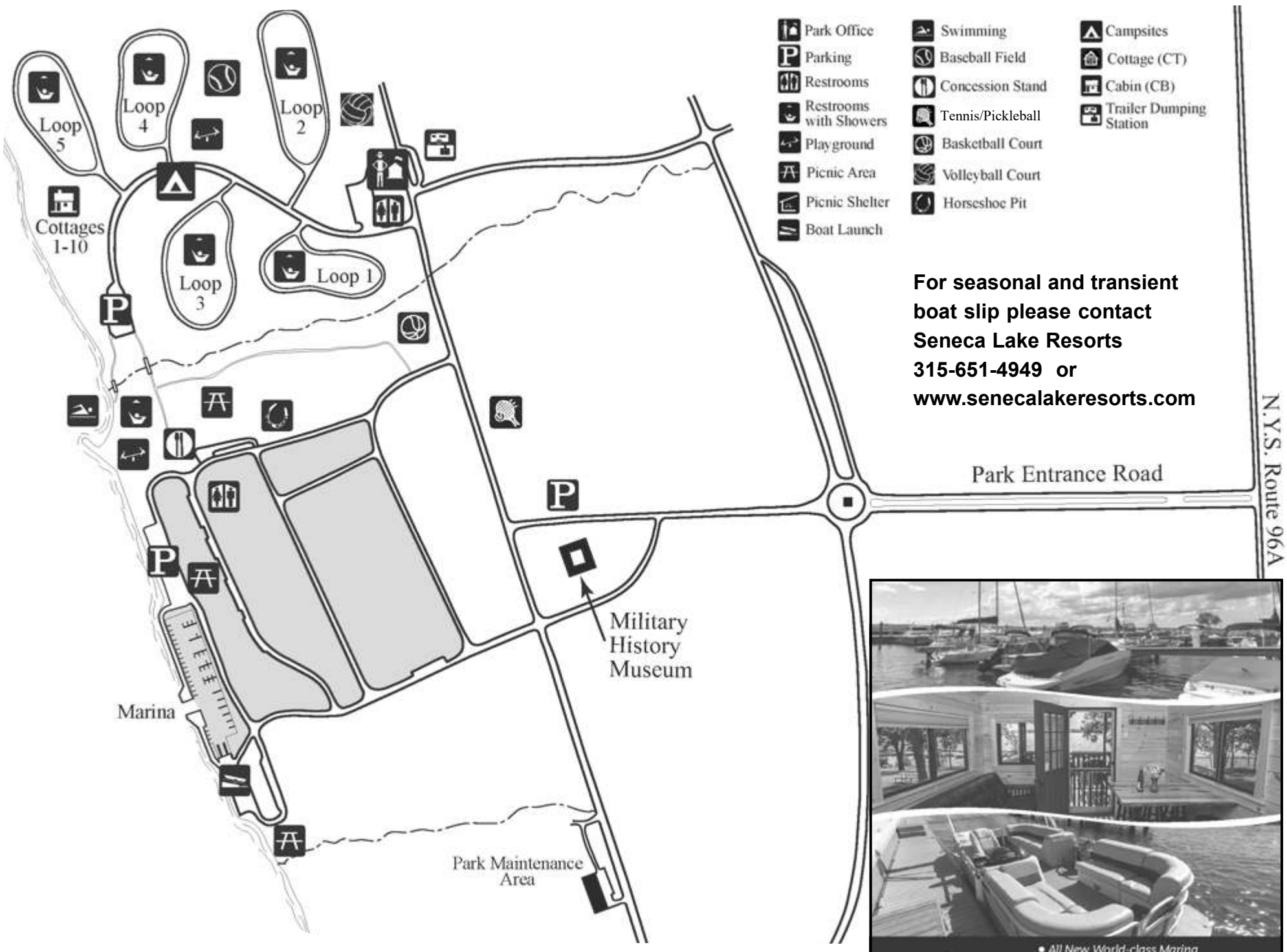
Check In/Check Out
Check in time is 3:00 p.m.
Campers must occupy site by 9:00 p.m. on scheduled day of arrival or call park office.
Check out time is 11:00 a.m.
All equipment must be off site.

Swimming Area: Supervised swimming is available at this facility. Swimming is not a guaranteed activity. The supervised swimming area may be closed due to weather conditions or availability of lifeguards. Pets, alcoholic beverages and glass containers of any kind are not permitted in the supervised swimming area.

Pets: Family pets must be leashed, attended and under owner's control at all times.

Trail Maps are available online and at the park office.





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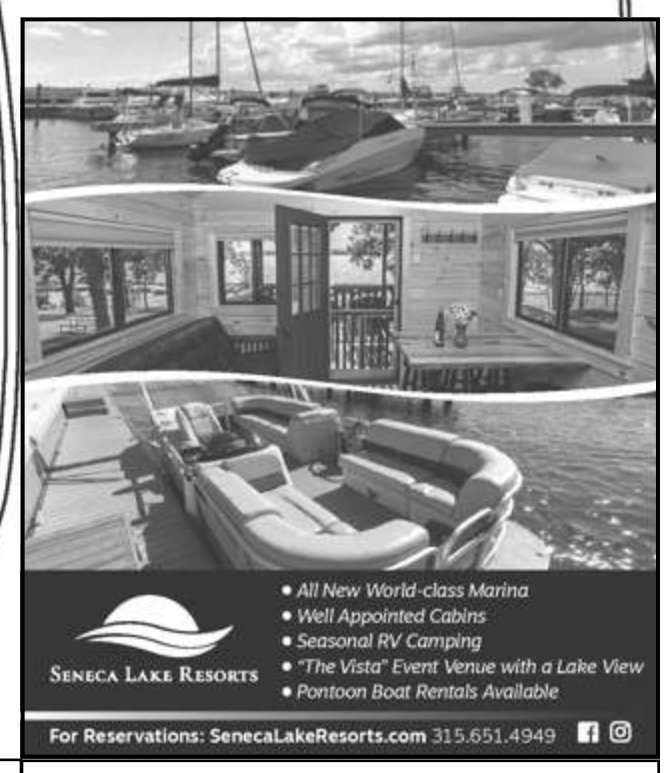

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Friends of Sampson State Park
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Memorial Day Weekend-Columbus Day
Wed.-Sun 9:00 am - 5 pm
For Group Tours, or to join the Friends: Call Navy Museum at 315-585-6203

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