

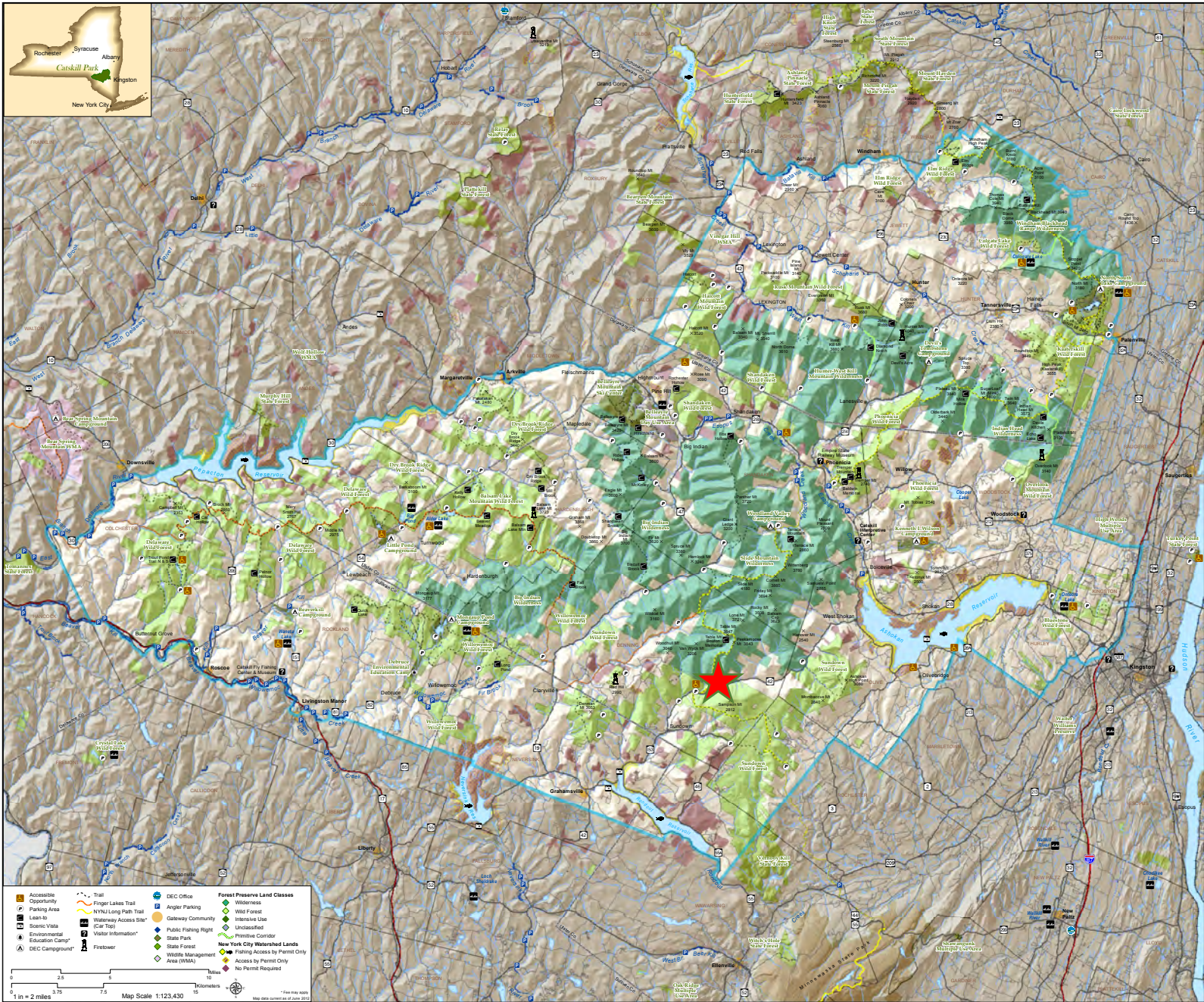


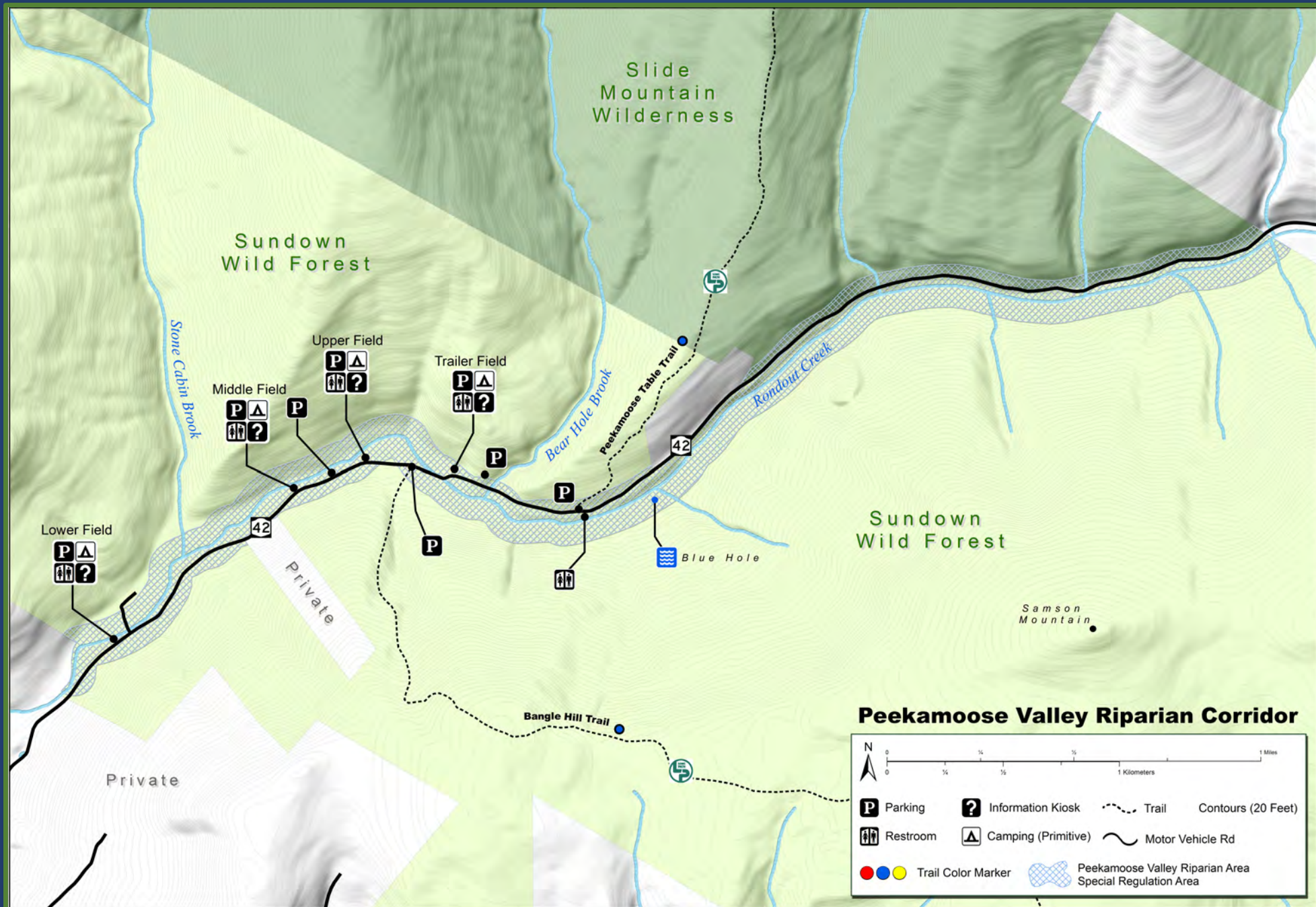
**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**



CATSKILLCENTER
conservation creates opportunity

**Peekamoose Valley Riparian
Corridor:
Public Safety, Water Quality, and
Natural Resource Protection**







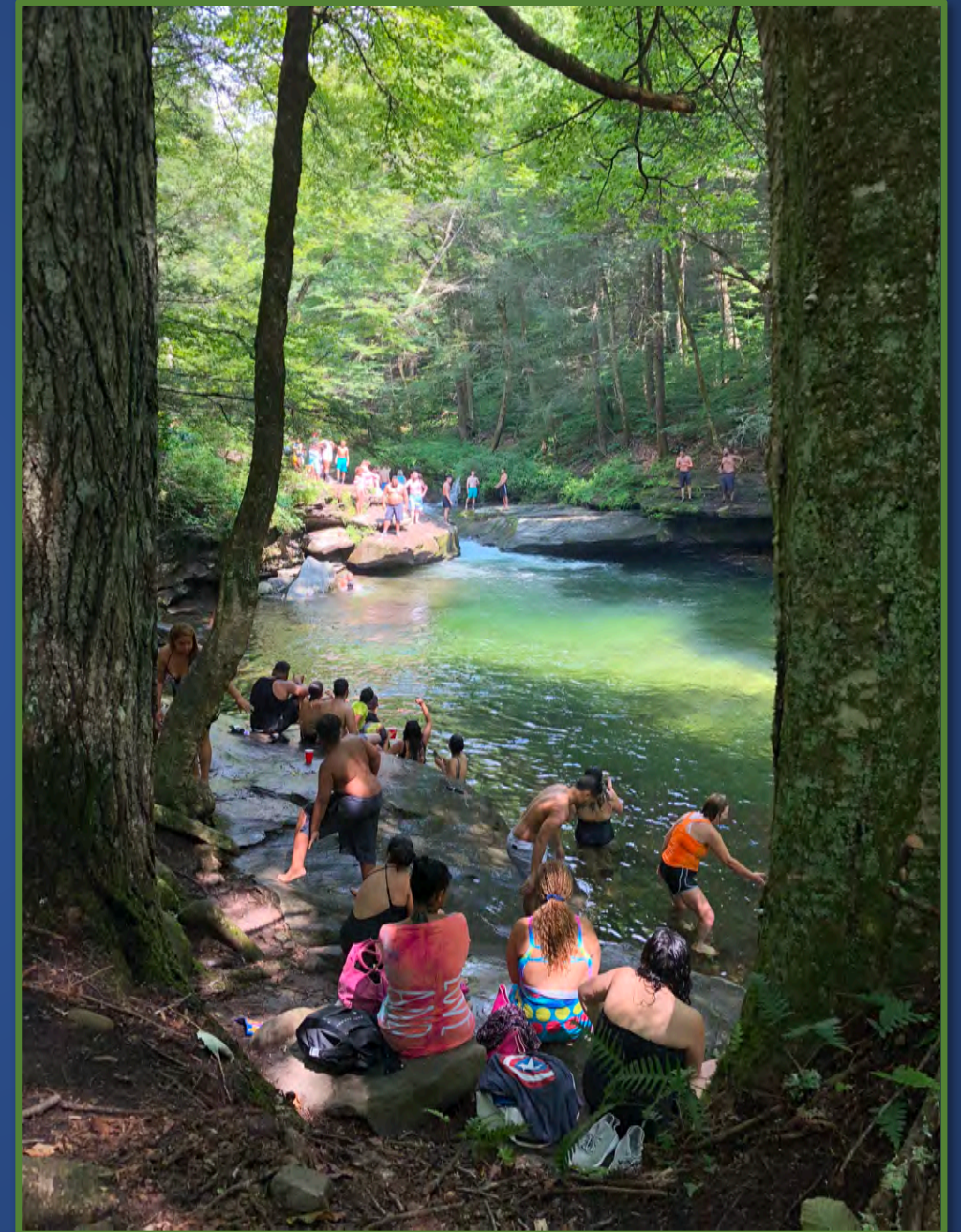
IMPACTS













Management Actions

2015

- Resurfaced/defined 4 closest parking areas ~ 33 spaces
- 2 electronic highway billboards installed
- 20 barrel barricades placed in illegal parking areas
- Assigned back country stewards to work weekends at Blue Hole
- Weekly garbage sweeps by Department staff and volunteers
- Installed port-a-john and refuse container
- Law enforcement assigned to area

2016

- Installed kiosks at Peekamoose/Table trailhead and Blue Hole access trail
- Installed 2 port-a-johns and bear proof refuse container
- Installed additional “No Parking” signs at areas commonly used for illegal parking
- Created/defined Peekamoose Valley Riparian Corridor
- Enacted Emergency Regulations for the Corridor

Blue Hole Access Trail Information Kiosk

WELCOME TO The Peekamoose Valley



This Is Your Drinking Water

Es el agua potable de todos

The Blue Hole is part of the Rondout Creek, which flows through the Peekamoose Valley to the Rondout Reservoir. The reservoir provides almost half of the drinking water for more than 9 million people in the New York City metropolitan area.

El Gran Agujero Azul forma parte del arroyo Rondout Creek, que fluye por Peekamoose Valley hasta la reserva Rondout, la cual provee casi la mitad del agua potable a más de 9 millones de personas en el área metropolitana de la ciudad de Nueva York.



HELP US PROTECT THE AREA – AND YOUR DRINKING WATER – BY OBSERVING THESE REGULATIONS:

- Use the portable toilets for all human waste.
- If you carry it in, carry it out — use the dumpsters.
- Camping, fires and portable generators are allowed only at designated campsites downstream of the Blue Hole.
- No radios and other audio devices.
- No glass containers.
- Except for the designated camping sites, the Peekamoose Corridor is open to the public from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

AYÚDENOS A PROTEGER ESTA ZONA Y SU AGUA POTABLE MEDIANTE EL CUMPLIMIENTO DE LAS SIGUIENTES REGULACIONES:

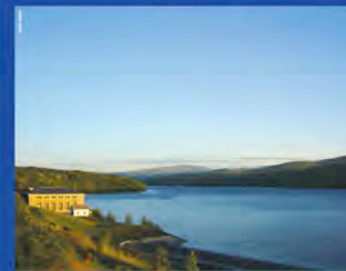
- Utilice los baños portátiles para todos los desechos humanos.
- Si lo puede traer, también lo puede sacar: use los botes de basura.
- Solo están permitidos los campamentos, las fogatas y los generadores portátiles en sitios de campamento designados aguas abajo del Gran Agujero Azul (Blue Hole).
- No se permite el uso de radios y otros dispositivos de audio.
- No se pueden llevar envases de vidrio.
- Salvo en el caso de los sitios de campamento designados, el tramo de Peekamoose está abierto al público desde una hora y media antes del amanecer hasta una hora y media después del anochecer.

Help Us Keep It Clean

Ayúdenos a mantenerla limpia



Rondout Creek



Rondout Reservoir

To protect the outstanding beauty and water quality of this unique area, DEC manages the use of the Blue Hole and a 600-foot-wide corridor centered on the Rondout Creek.

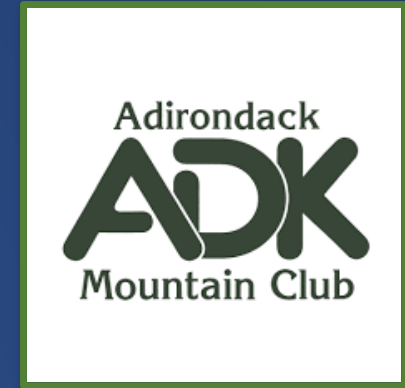
Para proteger la imponente belleza y la calidad del agua de esta zona tan especial, el DEC administra el uso del Gran Agujero Azul y un tramo de 600 pies de ancho del Rondout Creek.



Special Regulations (2017)

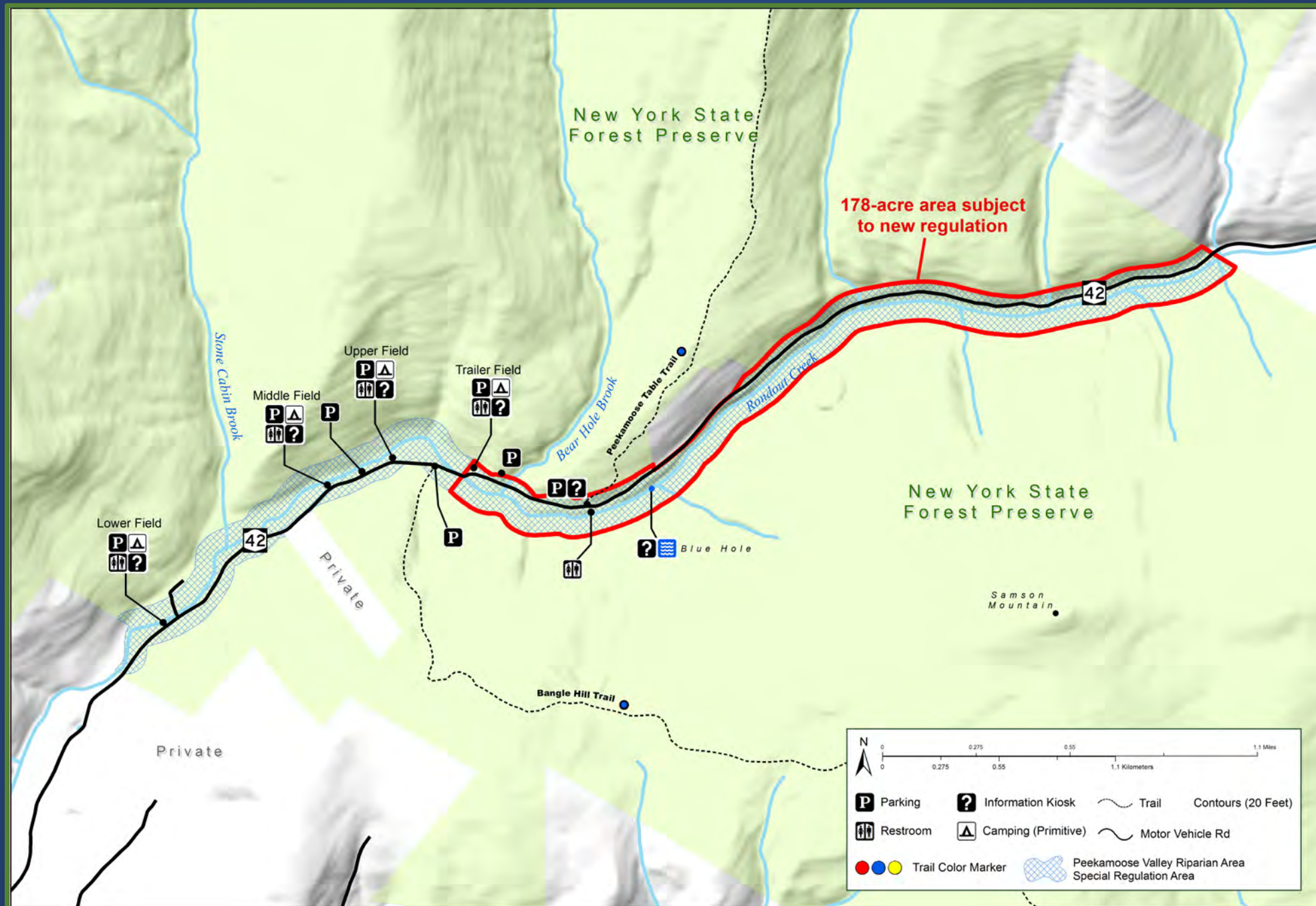
- Public use of the corridor prohibited from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise
- The use of any type of fire prohibited including the use of charcoal, wood, gas/propane stoves or other portable stoves
- Glass containers prohibited
- Portable generators prohibited
- No person shall play a musical instrument or audio device unless the noise is rendered inaudible to the public by personal noise-dampening devices such as headphones or ear buds
- No person shall deposit any type of waste (human/garbage) within the corridor except at receptacles provided by the Department
- No parking within the corridor except at designated areas

2017 Leave No Trace Hot Spot



2018: Blue Hole Permit Requirement

(i) From May 15th thru October 15th of each year on Saturdays, Sundays and state and federal holidays no person shall enter the Peekamoose Valley Riparian Corridor east of the County Route 42 bridge crossing the Rondout Creek, an area that includes that portion of the Rondout Creek known as the Blue Hole, except under permit from the Department.



How to get a Blue Hole Permit

- Permits are free of charge
- Must be acquired at least 24 hours in advance, but no more than a week in advance.
- Only advance registrations will be accepted. No walk-in registrations are available.
- Each permit will be limited to 6 individuals. Visitors must have a permit with them at all times.
- A total of 40 permits will be allotted per day (maximum of 240 individuals).
- Permits can be acquired from Reserve America at:
<https://newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com/>

2018 Peekamoose Blue Hole Stewards

- Funded by the Rondout Neversink Stream Program. Rondout Neversink Stream Program is a project of Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District in partnership with the Towns of Denning and Neversink funded by NYC Department of Environmental Protection.
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Catskill Center



2018 Peekamoose Blue Hole Stewards

- Two stewards working full time through weekends and holidays during the months of May - October
- Goal: educate visitors about Leave No Trace, primary impacts, special regulations, and alternative swimming areas
- The interpretive link between the visitor experience, natural resources, and management goals



Photo: Brian PJ Cronin

<https://highlandscurrent.org/2018/09/05/out-there-saving-blue-hole/>



Enriching a Leave No Trace Culture

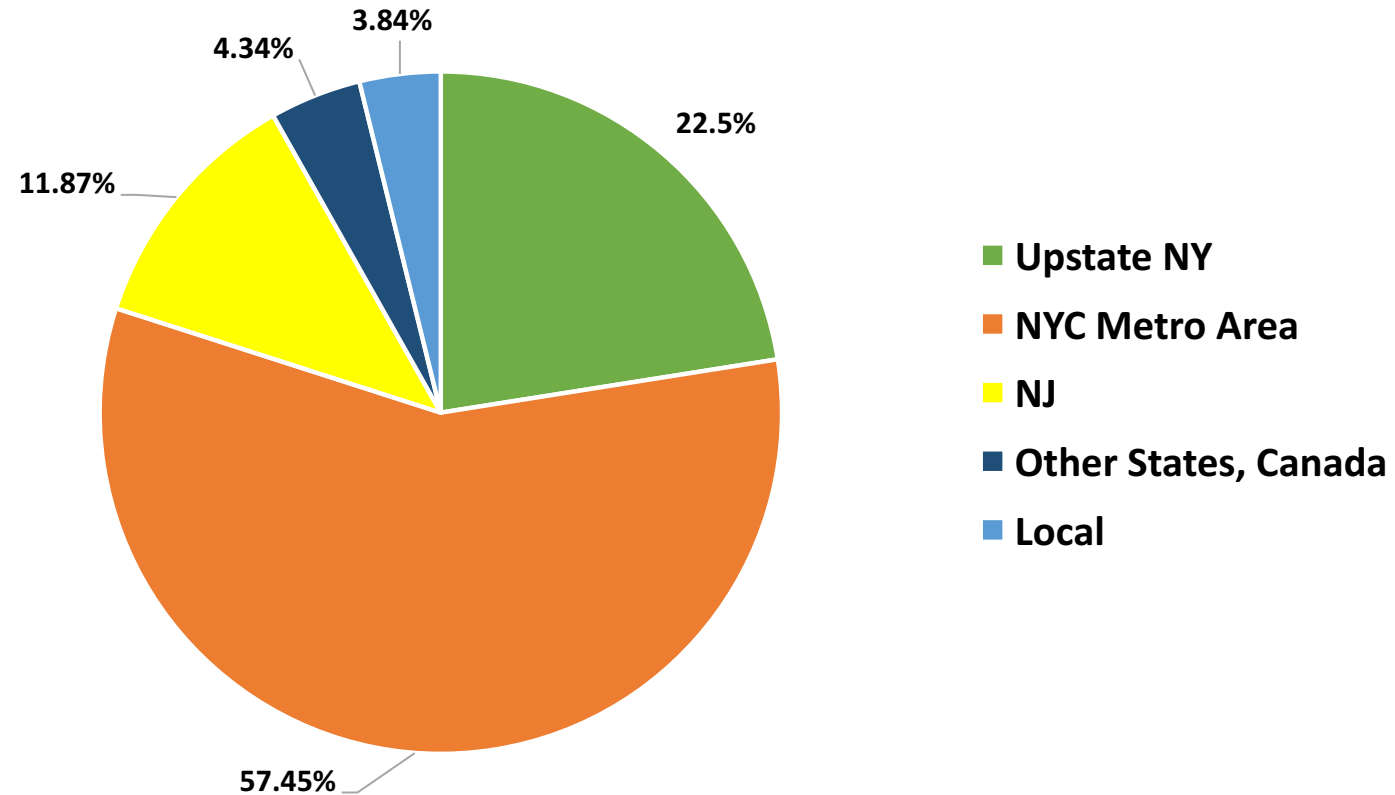


Stewardship Metrics

- Visitor engagement reach of over 15,000 people
- Over 180 bags of litter collected (~ 2,700 lbs.)
- 18 fire rings deconstructed, sites rehabilitated
- 13 rock dams deconstructed
- 92 rock stacks removed
- 106 days of stewardship at the Blue Hole
- 48 questionable weather days

Blue Hole Visitation: Demographics

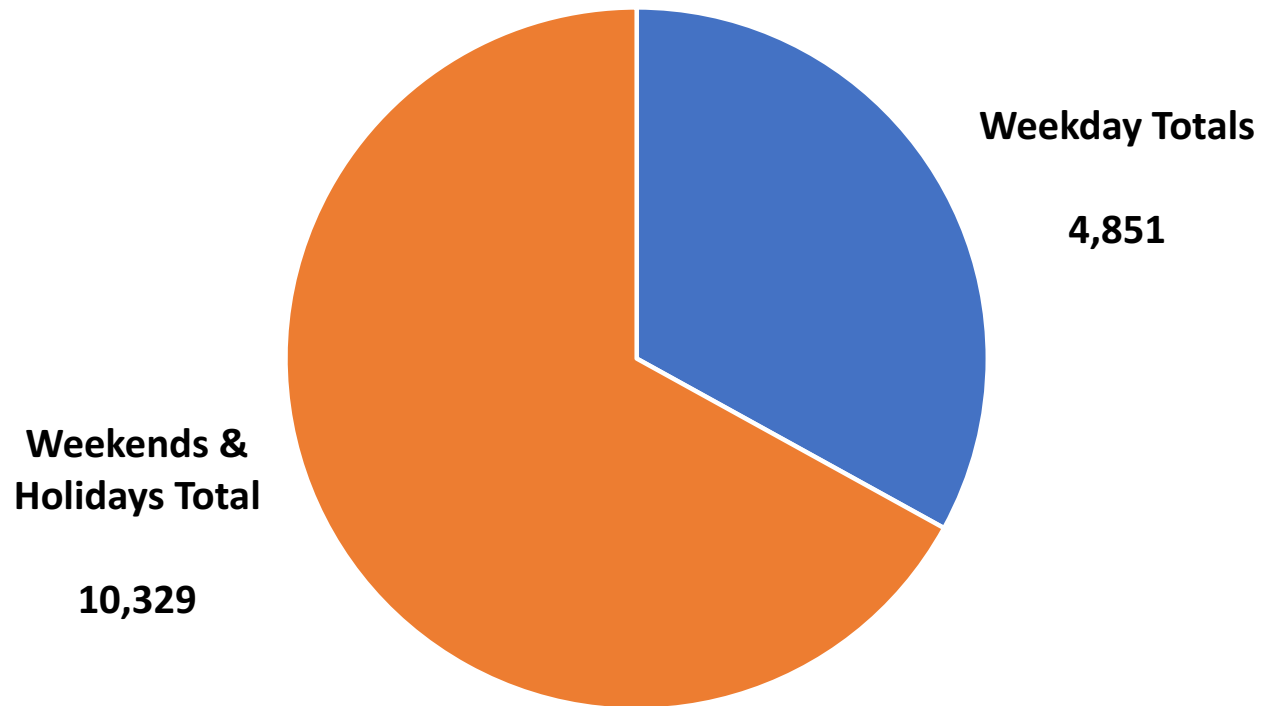
Blue Hole Demographics via Permits



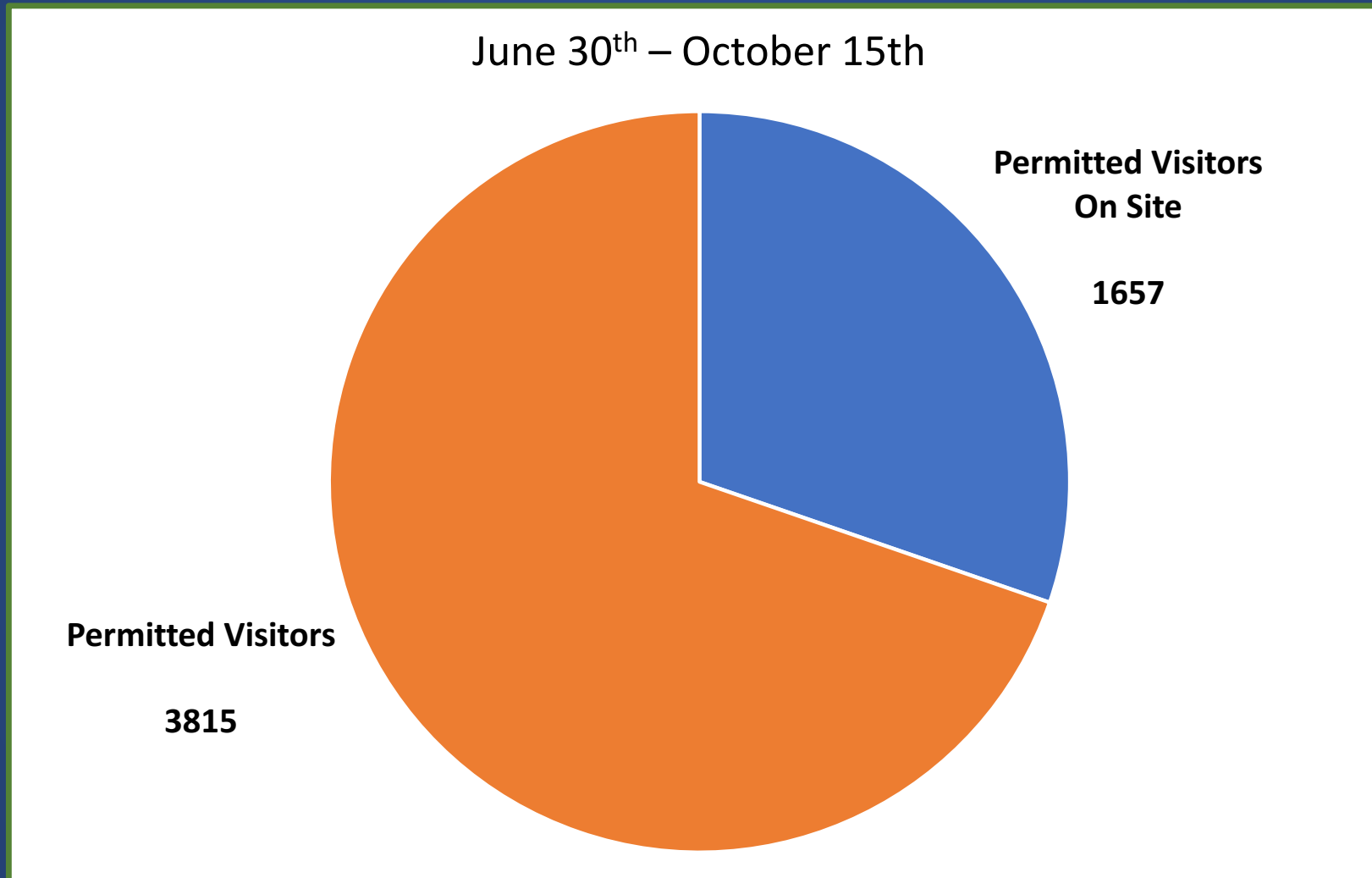
Blue Hole Visitation: Summer Season Total

June 30th - October 15th, 2018

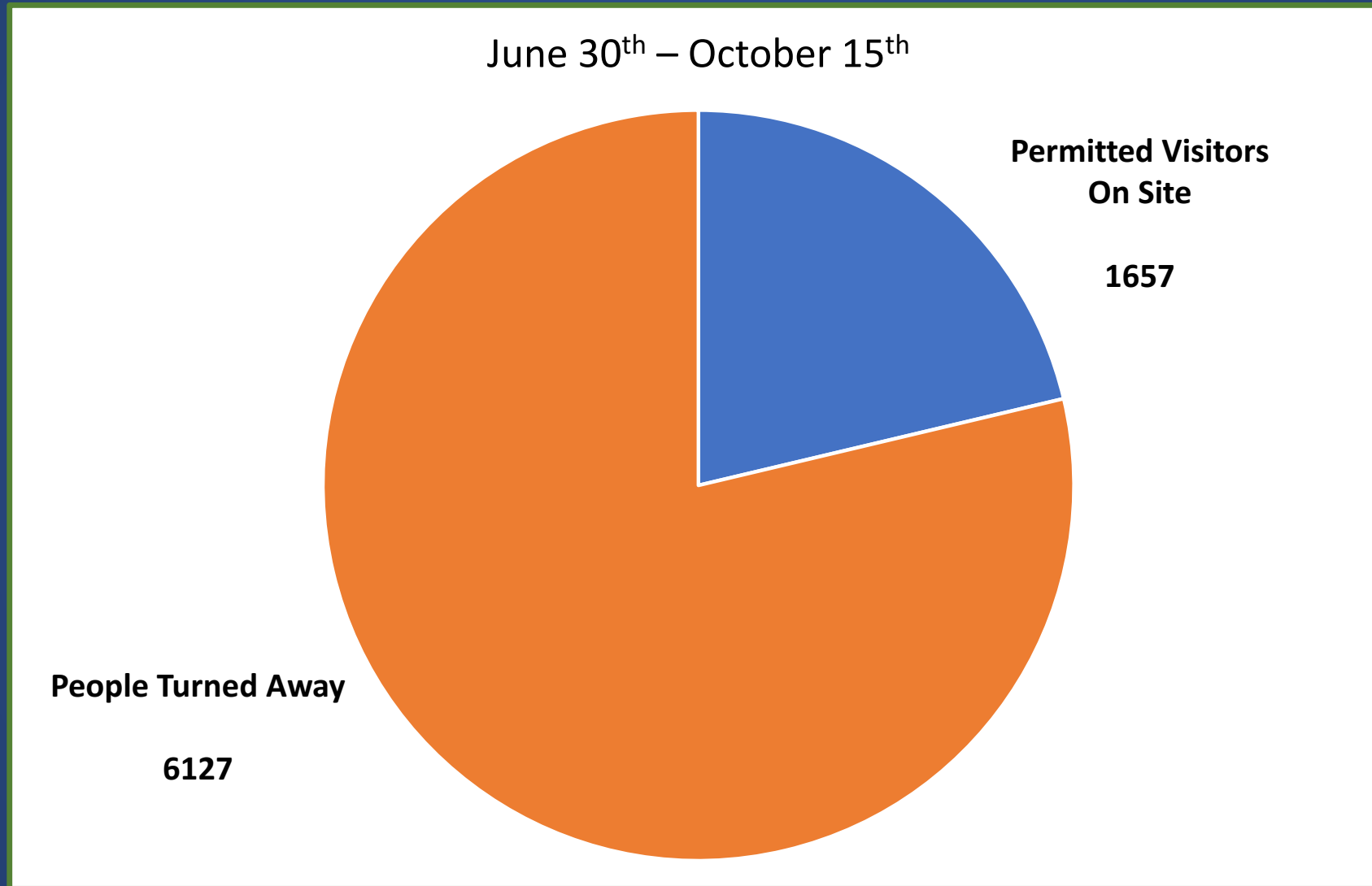
Total Visitation: **15,180**



Blue Hole Visitation: Permitted vs. On Site

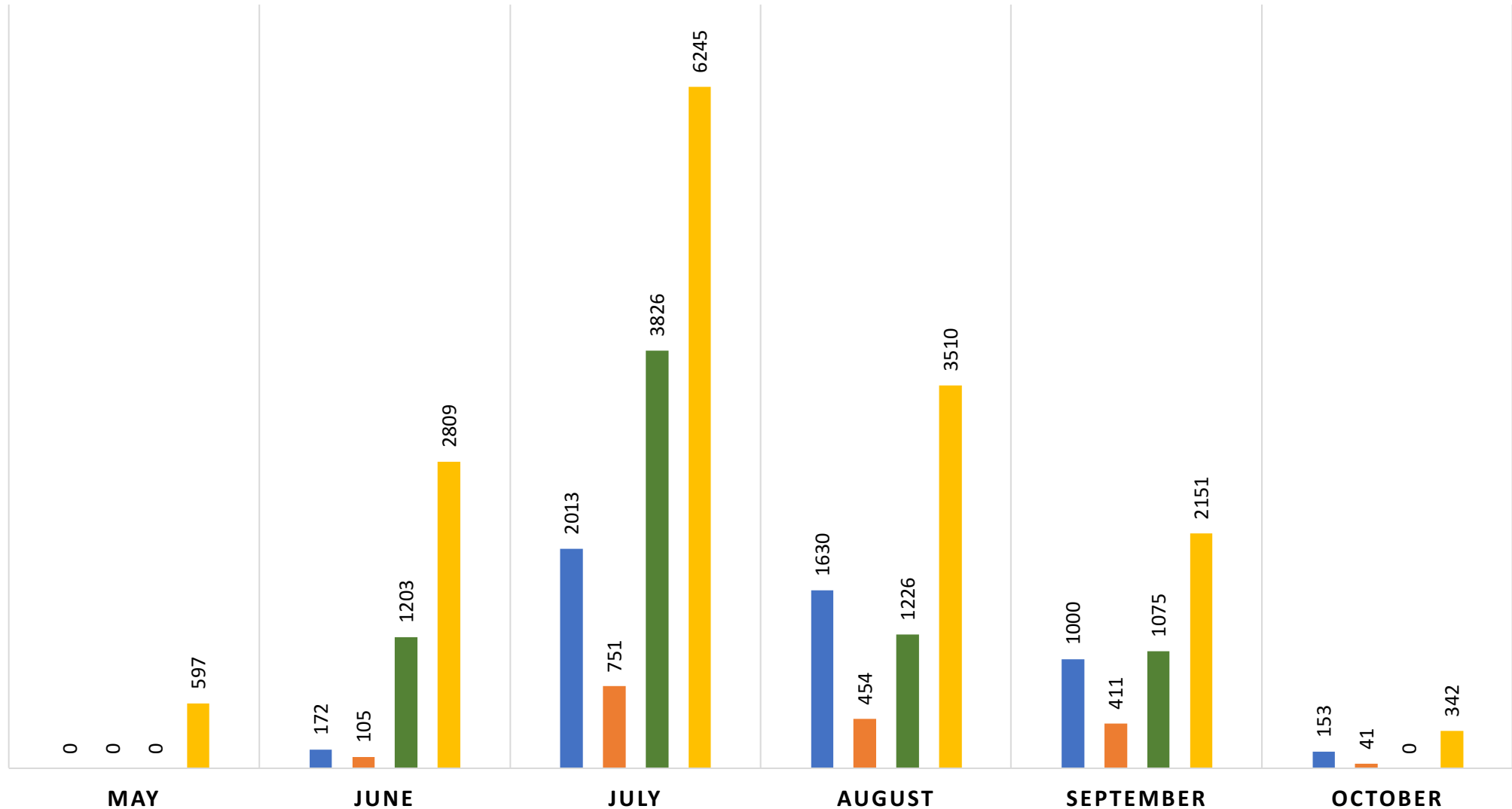


Blue Hole Visitation: Allowed vs. Turned Away



Blue Hole Visitation: Monthly Totals

■ Booked Permitted Visitors ■ Permitted Visitors On Site ■ Turned Away ■ Total Visitation



What Worked?

- Reduction of impacts to the resource
- Visitor experience greatly improved on weekends and holidays
- Trash and litter reduction
- Herd path/social trail reduction
- Reduction in human waste on trail sides
- Less parking infractions
- Less need for forest rangers on site with steward presence

Looking Ahead

- Evolution of the permit system
- Evolution of the stewardship program
- New parking area
- Trail access
- Reducing forest ranger presence
- New educational signage, displays, and culture surrounding the riparian area

Questions?

Presenters



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