

Dear (Elected Official)

I hope this letter finds you both well.

As a resident of Grand Island who frequently utilizes the West Niagara River Greenway (formally known as the West River Parkway), I am compelled to express my deep concern regarding the "High Mow" policy currently implemented by NY State Parks along this cherished stretch of NYS waterway.

While such a policy may be suitable for larger park settings like Beaver Island State Park, the Greenway holds a unique position as a narrow strip adjacent to residential areas, heavily frequented by the public for walks, bicycle rides, and various outdoor activities.

It is worth noting that entrances to the path are limited, forcing many residents to traverse through the high mow areas, which are unfortunately infested with dangerous ticks and other vermin. This High Mow situation not only detracts from the aesthetics of our community but also poses significant health risks due to the increased prevalence of tick-borne diseases.

In alignment with guidance provided by the New York State Department of Health, maintaining shorter grass is essential in mitigating such risks. Regrettably, this vital recommendation appears to be disregarded in the current management of the Greenway. Despite efforts to address these concerns through various channels, including direct engagement with relevant authorities, our community's apprehensions remain unaddressed.

As a constituent, I implore you, as my advocate and elected representative, to actively pursue a revision of this policy, advocating for a uniform, low-height mowing approach that prioritizes public health while preserving the scenic beauty of our community. Your support in amplifying our voices and effecting change in this matter is crucial to ensuring that our community remains a safe, enjoyable, and visually appealing destination for its residents and visitors alike.

Thank you in advance for your unwavering attention to this pressing issue.

Warm regards,

(Your Name)