



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

MARK V. MISTRETTA
Director

June 13, 2019

Dear Neighbor-

After meeting with Town Board Members Kinney and Madigan, Deputy Supervisor Jim Sharpe and West River Homeowners Association President June Crawford, we have revisited the plan for maintenance along the West River Shoreline Trail.

The original intention--as indicated in renderings-- was to create a varied, organic landscape with meandering areas of lawn and meadow which would create a more contemporary parklike setting. During project design and construction, it was stated that the area would be maintained as a park and given our mandate across the state to reduce mowing and help encourage natural restoration areas. Initially, we planned to incorporate some of that on this trail in the 50/50 plan- 50% lawn and 50% meadow. However, after receiving numerous phone calls as well as input at this meeting, we have revisited that plan and will instead mow much more than initially planned. As such, we will execute an 80/20 plan- 80% lawn and 20% meadow.

The 80/20 plan will leave wet areas, low points, drainage swails and areas in front of undeveloped parcels with taller meadow grasses. Everywhere else that is practical will be mowed. Please understand that to accomplish this, it will take at least a couple of mowings as well as a redeployment of staff from other projects, including invasive removals along the shoreline, to accomplish the goal of a more uniformed landscape. We ask for your continued patience as we work to develop an area we can all be proud of.

We also continue to ask that private mowing of the median stop. Our Counsel's office has provided the following clarification for your edification:

The land [West River Median] is the property of the State of New York and under the jurisdiction of the Office of New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Mowing of the grass on this property by anyone other than State Parks is strictly prohibited. Any person mowing in this area is violating 6 NYCRR 375.1(e) and is subject to penalties pursuant to PRHPL section 27.11(b).

Lastly, to clarify, brush removal permits will not be granted this year while we continue to develop this parkland. Once a successful mowing plan is achieved, we can begin to address the needed shoreline improvements, including removal of invasives and creation of additional viewsheds.

If you have any questions, please call Angela Berti at (716) 278-1764. We thank you and ask for your continued support as we work together to create a special place.

Sincerely,

Mark V. Mistretta, Western District Director