



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

West River Connector Project Update

Beaver Island State Park to Long Road

As you know, work is underway to build the West River Connector Trail. While we fully appreciate that this is the time of year to enjoy all the recreational opportunities living on Grand Island provides, it is very important that you do not enter the Construction Zone Area which is defined by the entire eight miles of the previous West River Parkway and the adjacent greenspace.

Motorized vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians are prohibited from entering the area. We currently anticipate a Fall completion but are told that if we can keep people from using the new trail, the contractor can complete the work sooner.

Additionally, any mowing of this greenspace is prohibited which is along the parkway and river is part of the construction zone area. The NYS DOT will be out to mow for this summer and once the project is complete, State Parks will assume all maintenance duties along the West River Connector Trail.

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Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the West River Connector Trail Project

Q: Will there be tables, toilets, trash cans, pavilions cottages or commercial buildings built on either side of the multi-use path.

A: As part of this project, there will be no commercial development of any kind. There will be benches and perhaps trash cans and tables phased in on either side of the multi-use path for public enjoyment.

Q: Will there be parking on West River Rd for people using the trail?

A: West River Road is owned by the Town of Grand Island and as of right now the Town allows parking on both sides of the road.

Q: How often and where will grass be cut when Parks takes over the mowing?

A: Once the project is complete, State Parks will maintain this area in accordance with commonly used practices for maintaining trails throughout the system. There is no set timetable developed yet for a scheduled of mowing.

Q: Will residents still be able to get dock and brush clearing permits as per present procedure?

A: State Parks will continue to honor existing dock permits but issuance of new dock and brush permits will be suspended during construction period.

Q: Can we still mow the grass between West River Rd and the trail?

A: Private mowing of grass in public green space will not be permitted. DOT will mow this summer during construction. This task will be performed by State Parks after the project is completed. Considerations may be made as part of the future maintenance plan.

Q: Will areas be left with uncut grass and where, and how will Parks handle mice infestation where grass is uncut?

A: Parks will deal with any issues related to landscape as they occur.

Q. Will Parks be removing all the trees and vegetation along the water's edge?

A. No.

Q: Where exactly will Parks cut brush to create view sheds?

A: The creation of viewsheds is not part of this project at this time. State Parks will initiate a phased program for invasive species removal and selective pruning for viewshed enhancement.

Q: Will car traffic be able to access overlooks this summer, if not where will they park?

A: There is no parking in overlooks or recreational use of the new trail until the project is complete.

Q: How will duck hunter access, with their boats, duck blinds this Fall?

A: State Parks has initiated and will continue to develop a permit system that allows hunters access.

Q: Will Park Police enforce 30 mph speed limit on service road and if yes for how long?

A: As West River Rd. is a town of Grand Island Road, Park Police will assist the Town with enforcement. However, during our planning, State Parks had indicated that once the project is complete, Parks is willing to assist the Town with speed enforcement measures if necessary.

PROJECT RENDERING

