

From: Laurie Whitely <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2026 8:50 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Mayor's Budget Direction Leads Staff Proposed Reduction in Grass Cutting in Three Ward 9 Parks and Parkettes

Dear Mayor Horwath and City Council Members,

Re: Opposition to Proposed Grass Cutting Measures – Ward 9

a) Albion Estates Park

The proposed area for grass reduction between Billy Green Elementary School (HWDSB) and St. Paul Elementary School (HWDCSB) is an active soccer field. It is unrealistic not to cut this area, along with the rest of Albion Estates Park. This field has soccer nets, is used for Track and Field Days, and also serves as a safe pathway between the two schools.

Additionally, if this area is not cut, the rise in ticks will be exponential. This is already a concern for teachers at both schools, as they must check for ticks after every recess—something that has become routine, especially for younger students. Allowing the grass to grow unchecked would increase the health risk to students and the public who use the park.

b) Aylmer Parkette

This area, located between Audubon Street South and Mistywood Drive behind the convenience store in Albion Estates, may not be a designated recreational playground, but it was intended as a local space where families on the east side of Paramount Drive could safely play soccer, baseball, or allow their children to run in a fenced, enclosed area close to home. The parkette exits onto Felker's Creek and serves as a convenient walkway to the bridge to walk to the newest section of Albion Estates. The same concerns about ticks apply here, with the added risk of increased coyote presence due to the proximity to Felker's Creek.

c) Tapleystown Men's Club

I have not yet visited this area but plan to do so this week. It appears to be a place where community members can play baseball, lawn bowl, or hold events such as movie nights or family barbecues. There is no reason this area should not continue to be maintained.

The City has a by-law requiring residents and commercial property owners to keep their properties properly mowed or face fines. City-owned property in our neighbourhoods should be held to the same standard. Reducing maintenance only increases health risks and may contribute to unsafe conditions. If anything, grass cutting and forestry services should be strengthened, not reduced.

Sincerely,

Laurie Whitely, Resident, Albion Estates