



Town of Amherst

Hon. Shawn A. Lavin

Supervisor

NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING TO BE INSTALLED ON MILL STREET AT AMHERST STATE PARK

(Town of Amherst, NY) – The Town of Amherst announces that the Engineering Department will oversee the installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) crosswalk at Amherst State Park, 400 Mill Street, Williamsville. The project will greatly enhance pedestrian safety, especially with Mill Middle School being in close proximity.

“I am very pleased to announce that construction will begin this fall for the new crosswalk at Amherst State Park on Mill Street. Several members of the community were strong advocates for this improvement, and I am excited to be taking this step forward to enhance the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, especially students at Mill Middle School who walk or bike to school,” said Supervisor Shawn Lavin. “Providing safe, alternative transportation options is a priority for my administration as we create a more walkable community.”

The Supervisor noted that the Town will be working with the community and Mill Middle School to raise awareness about the new crossing to alert both motorists and pedestrians to this new traffic pattern. By familiarizing the community with RRFBs, we help ensure proper navigation through these crosswalks. Mill Street is a busy roadway, especially during school hours, with many students walking or biking to and from school. The crossing location was selected in part to serve students and other pedestrians using the Amherst State Park trail system, particularly those traveling between the Reist Street neighborhood. The crossing is strategically positioned near where that pedestrian traffic exits the park and reaches Mill Street.

On August 10, 2026, the Town Board awarded the bid for the Mill Street RRFB crosswalk project which allows for the contractor to proceed with construction. Surveying work began the week of September 14, with electrical work to follow in October. The Town is hopeful to have the crosswalk installed by late fall, depending on construction timeline. Please be mindful of crews in the area for the next several weeks.

The Town of Amherst has installed RRFBs in select locations in the past few years, including Paradise Road and Whisperwood Drive near Williamsville East High School, and Smith Road and Glen Oak Drive.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration reports that RRFBs can drastically reduce pedestrian crashes by enhancing pedestrian conspicuity and increase driver awareness. RRFBs consist of two, rectangular- shaped yellow indications, each with a light-emitting diode (LED)-array-based light source. RRFBs flash with an alternating high frequency when activated to enhance conspicuity of pedestrians at the crossing to drivers. For information on RRFBs, please visit the Federal Highway Administration website at <https://highways.dot.gov> and search “RRFB”. You can also watch an informational video at <https://youtu.be/tT6E3scnXWA>.