I am writing to ask for your help in ***modifying the current plan to expand campsites and facilities at Pawtuckaway State Park*** so as to answer the needs of the public, the park system, and local stakeholders.

The State Park Planning and Development Department wants to utilize federal ARPA funds for the public benefit as well as to increase revenues for our state park system. I support those goals, but I have serious concerns about the current design for that expansion. We have been told that it is “conceptual” only, and that the design may be modified as needed. Please consider these significant problems and suggestions for alleviating them.

Placement of 35 campsites for RV use along the waterfront of a narrow and very busy channel in a small, already overburdened, milfoil-infested lake is alarming for the following reasons:

* Ease of access to campers wanting to swim and boat off these campsites. Rules currently prohibit this, but enforcement is near impossible, and such activity is extremely dangerous;
* Increased erosion along the shoreline from extra boat and pedestrian traffic with more stormwater runoff into the lake as a result;
* Disturbance of wetlands;
* Danger of introducing aquatic invasive species as boats are launched off waterfront campsites, when the lake is already infested with uncontrollable milfoil near the State Park and Town beach;
* Augmented possibility of bacterial contamination of lake water from illegally emptied water and waste tanks, again, because enforcement is problematic;
* Loss of wildlife habitat through developing and paving over forested land to populate it with human visitors;
* Destruction of the aesthetic value of this wild and unspoiled section of the Park cherished by many visitors.

I believe that a simple “tweak” of the design will remove most if not all of these objections and still meet expansion goals: relocating these enhanced campsites to an area of the Park further away from the shoreline. It is noteworthy that current plans call for placement of a sanitary dumping station far inland where it can be safely utilized. The same consideration can be given to placement of RV campsites.

There is adequate space near that dump station, either next to the existing parking lot or on the other side of the camp road. It makes sense because the dump station will be serving RV traffic to the Park. There may be other offshore locations even better suited to these campsites. The fact that cabins - also away from the shore - are routinely fully rented is proof that location on the waterfront is not necessary for a desirable site. The Park Service has identified an interest from the public in RV campsites and these will be the first such campsites available for visitors at Pawtuckaway. Campers will be eager to fill those sites, because this campground is geographically well-positioned and has many desirable features.

In short, ***relocating this group of improved RV campsites to a location off the waterfront*** is feasible and at the same time will meet the needs of the public, the park system, and local stakeholders.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

(name)

(address)

(contact information)