

Letter to your City Councillor – Guide

1. A short introduction

Say who you are and your connection to the ward. For example, you could mention that you are a resident, parent, senior, farmer, business owner, student, or community member.

Example phrases:

- “I have lived in [Ward/Neighbourhood] for [X] years.”
- “I am a parent raising children in this community.”
- “I am a retired resident and have seen this area change over time.”
- “I own a small business in [area] and care about the long-term health of our community.”
- “I live near the Greenbelt and value the role it plays in Ottawa.”

2. How you use or appreciate the Greenbelt

Share one sentence about why the Greenbelt matters to you personally.

Example phrases:

- “My family and I use the Greenbelt trails for walking, biking, and spending time in nature.”
- “The Greenbelt gives residents access to nature without having to leave the city.”
- “For my children, the Greenbelt is an outdoor classroom and a place to explore.”
- “I value the farms in the Greenbelt and the connection they create between local food, agriculture, and the city.”
- “The Greenbelt is one of the things that makes Ottawa special.”

3. What concerns you

Include one sentence about why protecting the Greenbelt feels urgent.

Example phrases:

- “I am concerned about increasing heat waves, heavy rainfall, flooding, and the loss of natural spaces.”
- “I worry that if we do not protect the Greenbelt now, future generations will not have the same access to nature around Ottawa.”
- “Recent storms and extreme heat have shown how important large natural areas are for protecting our communities.”
- “I am concerned that development pressure could weaken the Greenbelt over time.”

4. A clear request to your councillor

End with a direct ask.

Example phrases:

- “I ask you to support the resolution to protect the NCC Greenbelt.”
- “As your constituent, I urge you to vote in favour of stronger protections for the Greenbelt.”
- “Please support, co-sponsor, and defend the resolution to protect the Greenbelt at City Council.”
- “I hope you will be one of the councillors who stands up for the Greenbelt, for our climate, health, and quality of life.”

A simple structure could look like this:

Dear Councillor [Name],

My name is [Name], and I live in [Ward/Neighbourhood]. I am writing as your constituent because I care about the future of Ottawa’s Greenbelt.

[Add 1–2 sentences about who you are and your connection to the ward.]

[Add 1 sentence about how you use or appreciate the Greenbelt.]

[Add 1 sentence about what concerns you, such as heat, flooding, loss of nature, or development pressure.]

I ask you to support the resolution to protect the NCC Greenbelt.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Ward/Neighbourhood]