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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 31, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

RE: Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Partnership Agreements

Dear Honorable Members:

I am enclosing a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry requesting authorization to enter into agreements with additional community partners.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Troy P. Schinzel, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Forestry. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/kmh
Enclosure

cc: Troy P. Schinzel, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Forestry

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry
Re: Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Partnership Agreements
Date: January 24, 2025

SUMMARY

Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry wishes to enter into agreements with several additional community partners for the purpose of enhancing Parks amenities and offerings through collaborations with like entities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Partners often conduct fundraising efforts or obtain grants for projects which directly benefit Erie County Parks and its patrons.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Erie County Parks requests authorization to enter into formal agreements with community partners which support the Department's mission of providing high-quality recreation and outdoor experiences for the residents of Erie County.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Community partners increase the Department's capacity and ability to offer recreation experiences and amenities to the fullest extent possible and assist the Department in reaching and communicating with recreation user groups.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Lack of partners will result in the dissatisfaction of park patrons and reduction in support for expanded recreation offerings and experiences which Erie County residents demand.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Erie County will draft agreements to be reviewed and signed by all parties which outline the scope of the partnerships.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

RE: Erie County Parks Partnerships

WHEREAS, support can be obtained at both the technical and financial level through agencies and volunteer groups included but not limited to: environmental and cultural heritage restoration, habitat enhancement projects, trails development and management, events coordination, and park programming; and

WHEREAS, the approved Erie County Parks Master Plan specifically calls for the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry to formalize agreements with current and potential partners when practicable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive and/or Deputy County Executive to enter into agreements with the following organizations for the purpose of providing greater levels of maintenance and enhancements to the Erie County Parks System that might not otherwise be able to be provided through the County's efforts alone:

Rotary Club of the Tonawandas
Buffalo Niagara Disc Golf
Friends of the Riverline, Inc.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Erie County Executive's Office, Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, and Department of Law.