



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 16, 2025

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

RE: Western New York Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Collaborative Project

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry (Parks) authorizing the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to execute a contract with the Western New York Land Conservancy Inc. to accept \$44,454. in grant funding for the treatment of the invasion by Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

Due to the recent freeze on Federal funds, the passage of this resolution does not guarantee its execution. I have directed the Office of Budget and Management to closely monitor and place holds on certain Federal contracts so that no significant cost is accrued by Erie County while the freeze by the Trump administration is resolved.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/kc
Enclosure

cc: Troy Schinzel, Commissioner - Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Re: Western New York Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Collaborative Project
Date: May 16, 2025

SUMMARY

Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry is requesting authorization by the County Executive and/or Deputy County Executive to enter into a contract with the Western New York Land Conservancy, Inc. to accept \$44,454 in grant funding.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Western New York Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Collaborative Project is for the treatment of infected trees. The funding will be used to go into contract with a Vendor who would be treating the infected trees.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Eastern hemlock trees are the fourth most common tree in New York State, and hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), an invasive aphid-like insect is quickly spreading through Erie County. In other parts of the country that have experienced HWA invasion, tree mortality occurs in as little as 4-10 years. Infestations have been reported in Erie County Parks as early as 2020. This project would fund the treatment of over 2,500 infested hemlock trees in Erie County Parks.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without treatment infested trees will soon begin to experience dieback and the risk of damage to property, and injury to park patrons will be enormous. Additionally, there would be extensive costs in removing standing or down dead trees.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon approval of this resolution, a contract with the Western New York Land Conservancy, Inc. will be executed by the County Executive or Deputy County Executive. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry will work with the Division of Budget and Management to execute a budget.

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

RE: Western New York Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Collaborative Project

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry maintains over 10,000 acres of park and forest land; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks was awarded \$44,454. grant from the Western New York Land Conservancy, Inc; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used to survey and treat Erie County Parks – Chestnut Ridge, Emery and Franklin Gulf from the invasive and highly destructive hemlock woolly pest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to accept \$44,454 from the Western New York Land Conservancy, Inc. and amend the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry's 2025 Operating Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 16410) as follows:

Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Fund 110, Funds Center 16410

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
4141010 Federal Aid - Other	<u>\$44,454</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$44,454</u>

<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
516020 Professional Services, Contracts & Fees	<u>\$44,454</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$44,454</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the Division of Budget and Management to make any technical adjustments necessary to effectuate this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive's Office, Department of Law, Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry and Division of Budget and Management.