



2026-01-16 10:00:30

COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 16, 2026

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

**Re: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Wendt Beach Lake Erie
Coastal Erosion Award**

Dear Honorable Members:

I am enclosing a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry requesting authorization to execute a contract with the New York State Department of Conservation to accept \$50,000 in grant funding to address Wendt Beach Lake Erie Coastal Erosion.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/wp
Enclosure

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

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Re: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Wendt Beach Lake Erie Coastal Erosion Award
Date: January 16, 2026

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry (“Department of Parks”) authorizing the County Executive and/or Deputy County Executive to enter into an agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“NYSDEC”) to accept \$50,000 in grant funding, and to establish a project to report to address coastal erosion threats to Wendt Beach Park. The attached resolution also authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into an agreement with GZA to conduct a Design and Engineer Report for Wendt Beach Park. GZA was selected following a competitive bid process engaged via RFP # 2025-035VF.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The NYSDEC requires 10% local match of the total project cost for this award equaling \$5,000.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of this resolution will enable the Department of Parks to accept \$50,000 in grant funding to produce an Engineer Design Report for Wendt Beach Park. The Engineer Design Report aims to manage coastal erosion at Wendt Beach County Park through sustainable solutions. It prioritizes non-structural and nature-based measures to effectively mitigate erosion while preserving the park's coastal environment. Approval will also allow the County to enter into an agreement with GZA to conduct the Design and Engineer Report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Wendt Beach Park is a natural gem on the Great Lakes, home to critical dune ecosystems protecting rare plants and important animals, and the location of historically and culturally significant structures and artifacts. Further, Erie County has made a significant investment into the sustainability of the historic Wendt Mansion at Wendt Beach Park. However, severe weather and erosion events have increased. Tailored solutions are needed for Wendt Beach's present conditions and future challenges. A design report for coastal erosion management will address Lake Erie's unique problems and provide data-based solutions.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without the requested authorization, Erie County will be unable to accept NYSDEC funding or implementing the project of producing an Engineer Design Report for Wendt Beach. This will result in an inability to address ongoing erosion via coastal restoration and erosion prevention measures.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

An agreement with the NYSDEC will be executed by the County Executive or Deputy County Executive, a project budget will be established and subsequent requests for proposals for the engineer design report project will be developed and announced.



It is my opinion in recommending Firm Name, Address, City, NY 10120 The Erie County Department of Public Works has complied with all applicable provisions of Section 108 of the Erie County Administrative Code. Scoring sheets and other materials related to this matter are available for review at the Department of Public Works' office during regular business hours.

BOUNTY HUNT
Troy Schindel 10/31/2005
Troy Schindel
Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
DATE

DOPOW County Free Library
100 Main Street
DOPOW, NY 14837

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

RE: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Wendt Beach Lake Erie Coastal Erosion Control Award

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

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Parks protects coastal habitats at multiple parks and forest land within the system for the benefit of water quality, wildlife habitat, and human use; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks has prioritized conservation of the Historic Wendt Mansion and the unique dune habitat of Wendt Beach Park; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks applied for and was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“NYSDEC”) Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant to support Wendt Beach Parks; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry issued an RFP for the Design and Engineering Report component of the project on July 14, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, five engineering firms submitted proposals and GZA was selected by the review committee to complete the Design and Engineering Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive enter into contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to accept \$50,000 in Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping funding in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry as a grant in Fund 281, Funds Center 16410 as follows:

Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry
Wendt Beach Coastal Dune Erosion Control Grant
164WBCE2526
5/15/25 – 5/14/26

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
409000 State Aid Revenues	\$50,000
479000 County Share Contribution	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$55,000</u>

<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
516020 Professional Service Contracts & Fees	<u>\$55,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$55,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that sufficient funding exists within the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry's 2026 Adopted Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 16410) Account 559000 – County Share Grants to cover the local share requirement of the grant funding; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County of Erie is authorized and directed to agree to the terms and conditions of the State of New York Contract for Grants ("Contract") with NYSDEC for such for the purpose of completing the grant requirements of Wendt Beach Parks; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with GZA in an amount not to exceed \$55,0000 for a Wendt Beach Design and Engineering Report; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive and Deputy County Executive to amend contracts as necessary to implement any no-cost extension that may be permitted by the grantor; 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 authorization is hereby given for the Division of Budget and Management to implement any budget adjustments as required to comply with the grantor funding requirements provided there are no changes to authorized personnel levels or county share amounts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to apply any unused balance from one grant program to the same grant program of a subsequent year, and to transfer existing positions between one grant program to the same grant program of a subsequent year with the approval of the grantor, the Director of Budget and Management, and subject to the provision of notice to the Erie County Legislature; 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 & Forestry, and Division of Budget and Management.