



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 30, 2026

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Akron Falls Park – State Street Bridge Replacement Project Easement**

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning authorizing the execution of easement agreements with the Village of Akron for the reconstruction of a Village-owned bridge that crosses Murder Creek in Akron Falls Park.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact 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".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/nb  
Enclosure

cc: Troy Schinzel, Commissioner  
Mark P. Rountree, Chief Planner

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Environment and Planning and Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry  
**Re:** Akron Falls Park – State Street Bridge Replacement Project Easement  
**Date:** January 30, 2026

---

### **SUMMARY**

The Village of Akron is seeking temporary construction easement and permanent maintenance easement for the replacement of the State Street bridge crossing Murder Creek in Akron Falls Park.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The existing bridge has been closed to vehicular traffic since 2008 due to unsafe conditions. The proposed replacement bridge will be in the same location as the previous bridge and include a pedestrian sidewalk. The project will restore the connection between the northern and southern parts of the village for residents and visitors to the Park. The County-owned Akron Falls Park parcel is on either side of the bridge. The Village's engineer determined that construction of the project will require temporary access and use of 255.8 square feet of the County's parcel. All temporarily impacted areas will be restored to previous conditions with the exception of 44.8 square feet that will replace existing asphalt with grass. The proposed bridge replacement project is consistent with the Erie County Parks Master Plan, which identifies as a current issue that "more connections to the Village are needed." Once the project is completed, the project will restore a north-south connection in the Village that has been missing for 17 years.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The proposed easement was evaluated and approved by the Lands Advisory Review Committee (A.R.C.).

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

If a resolution to enter into an easement agreement is not approved, the bridge replacement project will not proceed, denying the reestablishment of a north-south connection in the Village and detracting from the aesthetics of Akron Falls Park with the continued presence of a dilapidated bridge.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Upon approval of the resolution, the easement will be executed with the Village of Akron.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING AND PARKS,  
RECREATION AND FORESTRY

RE: Akron Falls Park – State Street Bridge Replacement Project Easement

WHEREAS, the Village of Akron owns the State Street bridge over Murder Creek in Erie County's Akron Falls Park; and

WHEREAS, the said bridge has been closed to vehicle traffic since 2008 due to safety concerns and needs to be replaced; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Akron is requesting a temporary and permanent easement that will enable construction of a replacement bridge and allow maintenance of the bridge; and

WHEREAS, the proposed easement will require restoration of disturbed areas to minimize impact on Akron Falls Park; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Lands Advisory Review Committee the action under NYS SEQRA and determined the action to be a Type II action, denoting the minimal environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Lands Advisory Review Committee reviewed and approved the temporary and permanent easement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Legislature has reviewed the proposed action under SEQRA and hereby concurs with the Erie County Lands Advisory Review Committee's assessment of the action under SEQRA, determining the action to be a Type II action; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into a temporary and permanent easement with the Village of Akron at the location of the State Street Bridge, and in areas adjacent to Murder Creek; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to send certified copies of this resolution to the Erie County Executive's Office, Department of Law, Department of Real Property, Department of Environment and Planning, and Department Parks, Recreation and Forestry.