



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 2, 2026

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

RE: Erie County Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization Program Authorization

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) requesting authorization for the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to execute a five-year contract to accept \$4,000,000.00 in New York State Department of Environmental Conservation grant funding for the Erie County Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization Program, as well as establish grant budgets in the Department of Environment and Planning and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry (Parks), to fund three staff positions, execute a design and construction contract, and execute an invasive species management contract.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Deputy Commissioner Bonnie Lawrence. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/nb

cc: Daniel R. Castle, AICP, Commissioner
Bonnie L. Lawrence, Deputy Commissioner
Troy P. Schinzel, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Erie County Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization Program Authorization
Date: April 2, 2026

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) to authorize the County Executive to execute a five-year contract to accept \$4,000,000 in New York State Department of Environmental Conservation grant funding for the Erie County Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization Program, as well as establish grant budgets in the Department of Environment and Planning and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry (Parks), and fund three staff positions.

The project is broken into several components:

Design work will be completed (60% and 90%) for a Wendt Beach Coastal Dune and Shoreline Stabilization project. This will result in stabilizing 2,000 feet of resilient Lake Erie shoreline habitat.

Riparian habitats will be improved within the 10,000-acre system of Erie County Parks and Forests. In particular, Erie County will implement a shoreline/streambank stabilization program to stabilize eroding streambanks at Wendt Beach, Seneca Bluffs, Red Jacket, Thomas F Higgins, Ellicott Creek, Como Lake, and Scoby Dam plus three other County Parks/Forests to be determined. The project will stabilize 10,000 feet of shoreline and restore 400 acres of riparian buffers in Lake Erie and the Niagara River watersheds.

Invasive species management through a two-pronged approach: 1) in-house staff management (Parks Maintenance Worker II) and 2) contractor-implemented management. This will include the removal of invasive species and post treatment plantings with deep-rooted native species that will stabilize the shorelines/streambanks of the County Parks/Forests in this project.

The County staff funded by the new grant budget consist of:

Junior Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-7, B100 #15764), fully funded, a new position in Environment and Planning.

Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-12, B100 #15766), partially funded, transfer of an existing grant funded position in Parks (starting January 2027 with 50% of Salary and Fringe coming from 164CTCEPP2429 and 50% of Salary and Fringe coming from 164ECSSSP2530).

Parks Maintenance Worker II (JG-5, B100 #15765), fully funded, a new position in Parks

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The requested staff positions and program expenses will be funded by the NYSDEC grant or by existing budgets. The required match will be provided via ongoing federal grants. Over the life of the grant, approximately \$99,972 in local share will be required to cover administrative & indirect costs. This amount will be covered as part of the annual budget adoption process. Details for each position are described in Table 1.

Table 1: Staff Position Details

Item	Junior Environmental Compliance Specialist	Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist	Parks Maintenance Worker II
Department	DEP	Parks	Parks
Job Grade	JG-7	JG-12	JG-5
B-100#	15764	15766	15765
Annualized salary	\$60,055	\$82,068	\$47,661
Salary for balance of year	\$41,378	\$56,545	\$39,996
Partially or fully funded project	Fully	Partially	Fully
Grant source	162ECSSSP2530		
Grant duration	5/19/2025 to 5/18/2030		
Remaining grant funding	\$4,000,000		
Alternate source of funding if grant is not renewed	Non-renewable grant		
New position or transfer of existing position	New	Transfer	New

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The project addresses two key priorities from the Erie County Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and will stabilize 10,000 feet of shoreline and restore 400 acres of riparian buffers in Erie County Parks/Forests. The project will address a severe coastal erosion issue at Wendt Beach Park, resulting in the protection of habitats and the historic Wendt Beach Mansion. This project will improve water quality of the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed by reducing phosphorus loading, sedimentation and increase native plant diversity resulting in the establishment of climate-resilient riparian buffers.

Duties required by the position required by Law or Contract: Yes, Contract

Positions classification: JG-7 RPT; JG-12; and JG-5

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Erie County would forfeit the NYSDEC funding and the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed will not receive the water quality improvements of this project.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

A contract with the NYSDEC will be executed, and budgets and positions will be created in DEP and Parks.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Erie County Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization Program Authorization

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) has played a crucial role in addressing water quality issues throughout Erie County for decades and continues to lead and manage many initiatives that protect and preserve our natural water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry (Parks) has increased their investment and commitment in invasive species management for the past few years and continues to lead and manage ecological restoration effort; and

WHEREAS, in early 2024, the Erie County Legislature adopted the Erie County Community Climate Action Plan that recommends preventive and maintenance efforts for nature-based projects and to identify and prioritize degraded lands, including shorelines, for implementation projects (COMM 2E-19 (2024)); and

WHEREAS, the removal of invasive species and planting of native species will improve shoreline/streambank stabilization in Erie County Parks/Forests, thus mitigating erosion and runoff pollution; and

WHEREAS, Erie County has been awarded a \$4,000,000 grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to stabilize 10,000 feet of shoreline and restore 400 acres of riparian buffers in Erie County Parks/Forests; and

WHEREAS, the project will partially or fully fund three following positions in a new grant budget, with the balance of funding from other existing budgets; and

WHEREAS, to proceed with the project it is necessary to execute a contract with the NYSDEC, establish grant budgets and create positions within DEP and Parks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to execute the necessary agreement to accept a grant of \$4,000,000 from the NYSDEC for the “Erie County Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization Program” to be made available as a multi-year grant between the Department of Environment and Planning (Fund 281, Funds Center 1620020) and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry (Fund 281, Funds Center 1641010) as follows:

Department of Environment and Planning
Erie County Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization Program
162ECSSSP2530
5/19/2025 - 5/18/2030

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
409000	State Aid Revenue	\$ 994,532
479000	Local Share Contribution	\$ 15,208
	TOTAL	<u>\$1,009,740</u>

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
500020	Regular PT - Wages	\$ 308,508
502000	Fringe Benefits	\$ 154,254
510000	Local Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 1,840
510100	Out of Area Travel	\$ 6,320
516020	Professional Service Contracts & Fees	\$ 523,610
980000	ID DISS	\$ 15,208
	TOTAL	<u>\$1,009,740</u>

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry
 Erie County Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization Program
 164ECSSSP2530
 5/19/2025 - 5/18/2030

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
409000	State Aid Revenue	\$3,005,468
479000	Local Share Contribution	\$ 84,764
	TOTAL	<u>\$3,090,232</u>

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
500000	Full Time Salaries	\$ 520,426
502000	Fringe Benefits	\$ 300,678
506200	Maintenance & Repair	\$ 113,120
510000	Local Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 1,840
510100	Out of Area Travel	\$ 9,740
516020	Professional Service Contracts & Fees	\$2,287,244
561430	Buildings & Grounds Equipment	\$ 5,000
916490	ID Parks Grant Services	(\$ 161,054)
980000	ID DISS	\$ 13,238
	TOTAL	<u>\$3,090,232</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to create one (1) regular part-time Junior Environmental Compliance Specialist, Job Group 7, CSEA (B-100 #15764) effective July 1, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to create one (1) full-time Parks Maintenance Worker II, Job Group 5, AFSCME (B-100 #15765) effective June 1, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to transfer one (1) full-time Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist, Job Group 12, CSEA (B-100 # 15766) effective January 1, 2027; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the Division of Budget and Management to adjust grant appropriations and revenues including those required to comply with the grantor funding changes provided there are no changes to authorized personnel levels or county share amounts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to amend contracts as necessary to implement any no-cost extensions that may be permitted by the grantor; and be it further

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