



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 2, 2026

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

RE: Lancaster Unleashed Agreement

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a resolution from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry requesting authorization to extend an agreement with Lancaster Unleashed for the operation of the Como Lake Bark Park.

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

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/jt
Enclosure

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

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry
Re: Lancaster Unleashed Agreement
Date: April 2, 2026

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry to authorize the County Executive to execute the necessary agreements to extend the Revocable License Agreement between Lancaster Unleashed, Inc. and the County of Erie, which commenced on March 1, 2020. Both parties wish to renew the agreement for five years.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Lancaster Unleashed has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to establish and maintain a 1.5-acre area within Como Lake Park as a Bark Park. Investments made to date include, but are not limited to, turf and drainage, agility equipment, shade structures, and adding electricity to the nearby restrooms to make them available year-round. An active volunteer base helps keep the area clean and safe, reporting concerns to and coordinating projects with the Parks Department.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without a responsible partner in place, the operation of and improvements to the Como Lake Bark Park will see a noticeable negative impact.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive and the Commissioner of Parks will execute the agreement with Lancaster Unleashed.

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

RE: Lancaster Unleashed Revocable License Agreement

WHEREAS, Erie County is the owner of parkland commonly known as Como Lake Park, located at 2220 Como Park Boulevard, Lancaster, New York; and

WHEREAS, Lancaster Unleashed developed an off-leash dog exercise area within Como Lake Park in 2020, open to the public and known as the "Como Lake Bark Park"; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry and Lancaster Unleashed wish to renew the agreement for an additional five-year term.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into an agreement, as well as any ancillary documents, with Lancaster Unleashed; 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.