



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 2, 2026

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

RE: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper Limited Access Agreement

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a resolution from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry requesting authorization to extend an agreement with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper to grant limited entry on Erie County parks property for betterment purposes.

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: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper Limited Access 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 Limited Access Agreement between Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and the County of Erie, currently set to expire April 30, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper has made a number of improvements in Erie County parks. One example is the Living Shoreline Project at Ellicott Creek Park, which improved 450-feet of shoreline by reestablishing native plants to create a more natural and seamless transition between land and water, support numerous wildlife species, and improve public access and recreation opportunities for park visitors. Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's mission is protecting Western New York's fresh water and they have the resources to do so. Continuing this partnership will allow for the progress already made within Erie County parks to be maintained, and new projects to be conducted, further protecting the waterways and ecosystems within our parks.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Progress made will be lost due to inability to maintain. Additional tax revenue will be required to secure the capital funds necessary for desired projects that may otherwise be conducted by Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive and the Commissioner of Parks will execute the agreement with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper.

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

RE: Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper Limited Access Agreement

WHEREAS, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper is committed to protecting the water, restoring the waterways and the surrounding ecosystems, connecting people to their waterways, and inspiring economic activity along waterways and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry (“Parks”) and its partners have spent significant resources enhancing the parks by adding amenities, implementing habitat restoration projects, and improving the shoreline to benefit Erie County residents and the local community; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper has requested to be permitted limited entry upon property owned by Erie County to gain access for betterment purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry is agreeable to granting the continuation of this requested limited entry.

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 Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper; 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.