



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 2, 2026

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

**RE: WNY PRISM 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 WNY PRISM 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:** WNY PRISM Limited Access Agreement  
**Date:** April 2, 2026

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### **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 WNY PRISM and the County of Erie, currently set to expire April 30, 2026.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

WNY PRISM has been a strong partner in assisting the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry in invasive species control efforts. WNY PRISM has led dozens of educational and volunteer clean up events in County parks--focusing recently on Japanese stiltgrass removal, provided funding for HWA treatment and boot brush stations, inspected watercraft at boat launches to remove visible aquatic plants and animals to help prevent the transport and spread of aquatic invasive species, and more. In 2025, 249 watercraft were inspected at Black Rock Canal Park. The program will continue in 2026 at Black Rock Canal Park as well as Isle View Park.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Parks Department staff will lose critical data and guidance regarding invasive species management within Erie County Parks. Progress made may 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 WNY PRISM.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The County Executive and the Commissioner of Parks will execute the agreement with WNY PRISM.

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

RE: WNY PRISM Limited Access Agreement

WHEREAS, WNY PRISM is committed to preventing and minimizing the harm caused by invasive species to New York's environment, economy, and human health; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry ("Parks") and its partners have identified a number of invasive species within its parks; and

WHEREAS, WNY PRISM has requested limited entry upon property owned by Erie County to gain access for betterment purposes and programs; 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 WNY PRISM; 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.