



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 2, 2026

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

RE: WNY Land Conservancy 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 the WNY Land Conservancy for trail connections and access between Hunter's Creek County Park and the WNY Land Conservancy's Mossy Point Preserve.

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 Land Conservancy 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 the Western New York Land Conservancy (“WNY Land Conservancy”) and the County of Erie, due for review May 4, 2026. The WNY Land Conservancy owns Mossy Point Preserve, situated adjacent to the County’s Sargeant Mark A. Rademacher Memorial Park, commonly referred to as Hunters Creek Park. The WNY Land Conservancy wishes to continue to the current agreement, allowing them to make and maintain trail connections between Hunters Creek Park and Mossy Point Preserve.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

In 2020, the Erie County Land Advisory Review Committee (“ARC”) reviewed the request and recommended it be granted so the WNY Land Conservancy can safely provide public access to the Mossy Point Preserve.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

This project has reduced usage on long existing trails by allowing users to explore the previously inaccessible Mossy Point Preserve. Without the continuation of this access agreement, the wear and tear of the trail system at Hunters Creek Park will again be a concern.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

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

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

RE: WNY Land Conservancy Limited Access Agreement

WHEREAS, the Western New York Land Conservancy (“WNY Land Conservancy”) owns Mossy Point Preserve, situated adjacent to the County’s Sargeant Mark A. Rademacher Memorial Park, commonly referred to as Hunters Creek Park; and

WHEREAS, the WNY Land Conservancy has requested permission to construct and maintain trail connections between Hunters Creek Park and the Mossy Point Preserve; and

WHEREAS, an expanded connected trail system will not only be beneficial to the public, but also, aid in lessening the wear and tear of the Hunters Creek Park trails; and

WHEREAS, the County Land Advisory Review Committee (“ARC”) reviewed the proposal in 2020 and recommended the construction and maintenance by WNY Land Conservancy of a connecting trail between Hunters Creek County Park and the Mossy Point Preserve.

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 Land Conservancy; 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.