



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 5, 2026

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

**RE: Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park Green Infrastructure Parking Lot Design
Contract Amendment**

Dear Honorable Members:

This resolution is requesting authorization for the County Executive to amend an Agreement with the firm of DiDonato Associates Engineering and Architecture, P.C. for providing Professional Design Services for the Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park Green Infrastructure Parking Lot Design. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry would like to add construction inspection services.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/wp
Enclosure

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

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Re: Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park Green Infrastructure Parking Lot Design Project Contract Amendment
Date: June 5, 2026

SUMMARY

This resolution is requesting authorization for the County Executive to amend an Agreement with the firm of DiDonato Associates Engineering and Architecture, P.C., COMM 8E-10, approved on 5/9/24, to add construction inspection professional services to their scope of work and increase the do not exceed amount. This existing design services contract is for the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry’s Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park Green Infrastructure Parking Lot Design Project.

This project involves professional design services to enhance the front end of the park by creating green infrastructure features that will minimize stormwater runoff and the spread of pollutants into the neighboring Buffalo River. DiDonato Associates Engineering and Architecture, P.C. will continue to provide all services for civil engineering and site disciplines as it pertains to the scope of work at hand as a prime consultant with proposed subconsultants in full compliance with all the latest editions of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds for the project are currently available from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP), COMM 10E-16, approved on 6/9/22, Project A.22024 – Seneca Bluffs GIGP Project, Fund 410, Funds Center 164, for an amount not to exceed increased to \$308,213 inclusive of design contingencies.

A.22024 – 2022 Seneca Bluffs	\$308,213.00
Total not to exceed	\$308,213.00

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park Green Infrastructure Parking Lot Design Project’s goal is to enhance the front end of the park by creating green infrastructure features that will work to minimize stormwater runoff and the spread of pollutants into the neighboring Buffalo River. Funding for the project is provided by the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation Green Innovation Grant Program.

DiDonato has completed 95% of the design work and prepared construction bid documents. They are regional experts in green infrastructure designs, and their current contract includes construction administration but not construction inspection. After discussions with Department of Public Works and their construction inspection team, Parks was advised to seek DiDonato’s

part-time support for construction inspection because of their unique expertise in green infrastructure. Erie County construction inspectors will work in collaboration with DiDonato to keep additional costs low and to gain expertise in green infrastructure projects.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park is approximately 20 acres of natural habitat park land. Over 3,500 linear feet of shoreline has been restored and native vegetation installed to promote fish and wildlife habitat. A significant portion of the habitat park will remain green space with existing trails, gardens, native trees, and other native plants. This project will focus on the front of the park off Seneca Street, most specifically the parking lot area to provide green infrastructure improvements.

DiDonato’s design will comply with today’s codes and standards related to all disciplines (civil and site) along with incorporating site design to include utility work, pathways, parking lot, landscaping, etc. required for ADA compliancy as well as Green Infrastructure improvements.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

If the consulting contract amendment is not approved, a capital project will not be inspected at the Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park by those most qualified to inspect green infrastructure.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon Legislative approval, the County Executive will amend an Agreement with DiDonato Associates Engineering and Architecture, P.C. for the project.

COMPTROLLER’S OFFICE REVIEW

The proposed legislation has been reviewed by the Office of the Comptroller and is related to an authorized capital project for which there are sufficient appropriations for the proposed actions.

Timothy C. Callan 6/3/25

Timothy C. Callan
Deputy Comptroller
Comptroller's Office

Fund 410, Fund Center 164
A.22024 – Seneca Bluffs Green Innovation Grant Program

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

RE: Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park Green Infrastructure Parking Lot Design Project
Contract Amendment

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry (Parks) has identified a capital improvement project at Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park requiring professional design and construction inspection services; and

WHEREAS, Erie County entered into an agreement with DiDonato Associates Engineering and Architecture, P.C. (DiDonato) for providing professional architecture and engineering services for the Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park Green Infrastructure Parking Lot Design Project; and

WHEREAS, DiDonato is a regional expert in green infrastructure parking lot designs and this firm is best suited to inspect construction; and

WHEREAS, Erie County construction inspectors will work in collaboration with DiDonato to decrease the cost of this professional service and gain expertise in green infrastructure project; and

WHEREAS, the scope of work in said DiDonato's contract needs to be adjusted to add construction inspection to the professional design services to enhance the front end of the park by creating green infrastructure features that will work to minimize stormwater runoff and the spread of pollutants into the neighboring Buffalo River; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive is requesting authorization to amend an agreement with DiDonato Associates Engineering and Architecture, P.C. for the Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park Green Infrastructure Parking Lot Design Project to include part-time construction inspection professional services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to amend an agreement with DiDonato Associates Engineering and Architecture, P.C. for this project for a total amount not to exceed \$308,213 including \$98,213 for construction inspection and \$25,965 contingency for design services for the Seneca Bluffs GIGP Parking Lot Project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that sufficient funding exists within the Parks Department's (Fund 410, Funds Center 164) Capital Project A.22024- Seneca Bluffs GIGP Project to cover the cost of this design contract; and be it further

RESOLVED, one certified copy of this resolution is to be sent each to the County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry and

Division of Budget and Management, and that two certified copies each be sent to the Department of Public Works, Commissioner's Office.

TO: TIMOTHY C. CALLAN, COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING RULE 55

CONTRACT APPROVAL CHECKLIST
CONFIRMATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN CAPITAL PROJECTS

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT

COMPLETE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5

1. CONTRACTOR'S NAME DiDonato Associates
2. AMOUNT OF CONTRACT \$308,213.00
3. PROJECT NUMBER A.22024
4. PROJECT TITLE 2022 Seneca Bluffs Green Innovation
Grant Program
5. DEPARTMENT CONTACT Funding questions: Troy P. Schnizel at 8353
Letter pickup: Sean Murphy at 6514

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

COMPLETE ITEMS 6 AND 7

6. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS \$ 1,236,800,00
7. PERFORMED BY *Tolson*
- Date Sent to Comptroller's Office: June 3, 2026