



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 16, 2014

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

**Re: Dedication of Times Beach Areas for Founders of the Friends of
Times Beach**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning authorizing the County Executive to officially name four commemorative areas of the Times Beach Nature Preserve in honor of individuals who played a critical role in the success and perpetuity of the nature preserve as a natural habitat park and bird sanctuary. The designations are as follows: Dr. Robert F. Andrie Trail; George K. Arthur Blind; Michael Hamilton Overlook, and Paul MacClennan Main Entrance.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact Thomas R. Hersey, Jr., Deputy Commissioner, at the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive

MCP/cw
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Dedication of Times Beach Areas for Founders of the Friends of Times Beach
Date: **June 16, 2014**

SUMMARY

The Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) is seeking authorization for the County Executive to officially name four commemorative areas of the Times Beach Nature Preserve in honor of individuals who played a critical citizen role in the success of the Preserve as a natural habitat park and bird sanctuary. The designations are as follows: Dr. Robert F. Andrie Trail, George K. Arthur Blind, Michael Hamilton Overlook, and Paul MacClennan Overlook.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no fiscal implication to Erie County in naming designated park areas to commemorate the founding members of The Friends of Times Beach. Any signage for these areas will be paid for in-house, or with existing funds that are available for park improvements.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of this resolution will allow Erie County to honor citizens that have dedicated immense time, effort and resources to ensure that the Times Beach Nature Preserve remains an important bird area and sanctuary for local and migrating birds, as well as a natural habitat park for residents to enjoy. Times Beach Nature Preserve is a waterfront treasure and prime birding area within Erie County due, in large part, to the stewardship of the individuals being honored.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It is believed that Times Beach Nature Preserve was once a shantytown and then, in the 1940s, became a dumping ground for dredged materials from the Buffalo River and Harbor, and then abandoned by the mid-1970s. Today, Times Beach is owned by the City of Buffalo and is maintained by both the City and the County of Erie. The location of Times Beach along the Lake Erie shoreline and its close proximity to the Niagara River, both of which are known migratory bird pathways, make Times Beach a site of ecological importance on a regional scale. Times Beach is entirely located within the globally significant, internationally recognized, Niagara River Important Bird Area and the Niagara River Greenway Corridor, and provides habitat for both local and migratory birds.

Continuing a 30-year legacy of citizen interest, stewardship, education, and protection, the Friends of Times Beach community group has invested time, effort and resources to

sustain this downtown Buffalo Nature Preserve as a place of ecological significance, education, recreation and beauty. Since the early 1970s, the four individuals being commemorated have dedicated themselves to protecting and enhancing the Preserve.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without the requested authorization, Erie County would neglect to recognize and honor citizen involvement that is a crucial component to the success and long-term stewardship of our natural habitat parks.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The DEP will design and purchase, in coordination with the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, permanent signage plaques at the Times Beach Nature Preserve to commemorate the valuable contributions of the four founding individuals of The Friends of Times Beach.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Re: Dedication of Times Beach Areas
for Founders of the Friends of
Times Beach

WHEREAS, Erie County maintains the Times Beach Nature Preserve in conjunction with the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Planning wishes to commemorate the dedication of four citizens that have made extraordinary contributions to the success and perpetuity of the Times Beach Nature Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the trail leading from the overlook to the far blind adjacent to the Coast Guard station will be designated, "Robert Andrle Trail"; and

WHEREAS, the bird blind located at the far end of the trail leading to the dike wall adjacent to Wilkeson Pointe Park will be designated, "George K. Arthur Blind"; and

WHEREAS, the first overlook on the trail to the west, adjacent to the Wilkeson Pointe Park border will be designated, "Michael Hamilton Overlook"; and

WHEREAS, the Fuhrmann Boardwalk center entrance will be designated, "Paul MacClennan Main Entrance".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to officially name four commemorative areas of the Times Beach Nature Preserve in honor of the aforementioned four individuals who played a critical role in the success and perpetuity of the nature preserve as a natural habitat park and bird sanctuary; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office; the Comptroller's Office; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the County Attorney; the Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; and the Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Compliance Services.