



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 6, 2015

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

Re: New York Department of Environmental Conservation Grants: Urban and Community Forestry Grants

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry seeking authorization for the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into the necessary agreements to accept grant funding for the "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory" and the "Erie County Parks Tree Management" projects.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has granted Erie County \$24,000 to implement the tree inventory and \$18,240 to implement the tree management project.

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

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/med
Enclosure

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

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Re: New York Department of Environmental Conservation Grant: Urban and Community Forestry Grants
Date: April 6, 2015

SUMMARY

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry (Parks Department) is seeking authorization for the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into the necessary agreements to accept a total of \$42,240 in grant funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to commence an "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory" project (\$24,000) at Ellicott Creek Park and Elma Meadows Golf Course/Park and an "Erie County Parks Tree Management" project (\$18,240) at Akron Falls and Como Lake Parks. This work will assist the Parks Department in identifying ash trees in order to address concerns related to the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive species which has been identified in parts of Erie County. Additionally, both of these projects will provide valuable information that will assist the Parks Department in making sound decisions moving forward.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of this resolution will enable Erie County to access the \$24,000 in funding to complete the tree inventory project and \$18,240 in funding to complete the tree management project.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory" and "Erie County Parks Tree Management" projects complement the Parks Department's Master Plan and will provide long-term support as it will enable the Parks Department to prioritize its work. Akron Falls, Como Lake, Ellicott Creek and Elma Meadows Parks have been prioritized for these projects as they are in an area of Erie County where infestations of Emerald Ash Borer have been identified.

The tree inventories will be completed by a contractor as this will be the most cost effective and efficient way to complete the survey due to a shortage of staff and GPS equipment. The contractor will be selected through a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The inventories will identify all trees located on maintained areas (mowed) on the properties, as well as risk trees located on the margins of the maintained areas. If the budget allows, risk trees located along maintained paths/public trails in natural areas in the park will also be inventoried. In addition to the trees in the maintained areas of the parks, the contractor will also complete a sample tree inventory of the natural or forested areas. Random sample plots of the forested areas will be inventoried in order to have a better understanding of their composition and management needs.

The contractor will also work with the GIS office in the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning prior to the inventory to manage data to best suit the County's GIS system. The Erie County GIS office will develop an editable online mapping web site for the County's Parks Department to use to access and update the tree inventory data. Once the inventories have been completed by the contractors, the County will work with volunteers, both students and community groups, to supplement the tree inventories with additional useful information. Due to the nature of student schedules, the project schedule is planned for two years in order to maximize volunteer involvement and community education.

The tree management plans will be completed with the assistance of a contractor as this will be the most cost effective and efficient way to complete the plan due to a shortage of staff in the Parks Department. The contractor will be selected through a formal RFP process. Once the contractor is hired, a kick-off meeting will be held with the project committee which will include Parks Department personnel, the contractor's staff, technical staff from the Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District (ECSWD), a representative of the Erie County Environmental Management Council (EMC), and members of the WNY Emerald Ash Borer Task Force (WNYEABTF). The scope of work will be reviewed and refined at this meeting.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without approval of the attached resolution, Erie County will be unable to access the \$42,240 in grant funding earmarked for the tree inventory and tree management projects.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive or Deputy County Executive will enter into the necessary agreements to receive \$42,240 in grant funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Department of Park, Recreation and Forestry will seek competitive bids in order to contract with a firm(s) to conduct the tree inventory and tree management projects.

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

Re: New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation Grant:
Urban and Community Forestry Grants

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation awarded Erie County two (2) Urban & Community Forestry grants; and

WHEREAS, the first grant is for \$24,000 to complete the "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory" needed at Ellicott Creek Park and Elma Meadows Park; and

WHEREAS, the second grant is for \$18,240 to complete the "Erie County Parks Tree Management" needed at Akron Falls Park and Como Lake Park; and

WHEREAS, professional and volunteer services, will be provided by the following higher education partners: Daemen College and Medaille Collage, as well as by the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation Service, the Erie County Department of Parks Recreation and Forestry and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or Deputy County Executive is authorized to enter into an agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for assistance with the "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory" project in an amount not to exceed \$24,000 in grant resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or Deputy County Executive is authorized to enter into an agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for assistance with the "Erie County Parks Tree Management" project in an amount not to exceed \$18,240 in grant resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the revenue from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory" and "Erie County Tree Management" projects is hereby appropriated in grant accounts in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry (Business Area 164, Fund 281) as follows:

Erie County Tree Inventory
(Grant Period: 4/1/2015-4/1/2017)
SAP Grant Account #164EPT11517

REVENUE:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget</u>
409000	State Aid Revenue	\$24,000

TOTAL REVENUE \$24,000

APPROPRIATIONS:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget</u>
516020	Professional Service Contract	\$24,000

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS \$24,000

Erie County Tree Management
(Grant Period: 4/1/2015-4/1/2017)
SAP Grant Account #164EPTM1517

REVENUE:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget</u>
409000	State Aid Revenue	\$18,240

TOTAL REVENUE \$18,240

APPROPRIATIONS:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget</u>
516020	Professional Service Contract	\$18,240

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS \$18,240

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to implement any budget adjustments as required to comply with State and local funding requirements; 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, and the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning, Rath Building, 10th Floor.