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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 11, 2016

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

Re: Agreement with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed is a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper for habitat and shoreline restoration and enhancements at Ellicott Creek Park.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact Gregory B. Olma, Deputy Commissioner, at the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

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

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/med
Enclosure

cc: Daniel J. Rizzo, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Forestry

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Re: Proposed Agreement with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
Date: March 11, 2016

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the County Executive be authorized to enter into an agreement with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper for habitat and shoreline restoration and enhancements at Ellicott Creek Park. This may include the removal of undesired trees and other vegetation at the shoreline, invasive species management and will help reduce shoreline erosion.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper was provided grant funding by the Greenway Ecological Standing Committee (GESC) to administer the professional design and construction of approximately 550 linear feet of shoreline and in-water habitat restoration and enhancements along the north bank of Ellicott Creek, located within Ellicott Creek Park. This work will be performed at no cost to the County of Erie.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Shoreline and in-water habitat restoration enhancements are anticipated to include the importation of substrate (if necessary), shaping of the river's bottom lands outside of the United States Army Corps of Engineers designed navigation channel, potential grading and shaping of the shoreline, installation of submerged aquatic vegetation and emergent vegetation, installation of native and/or naturalized riparian vegetation (if possible), invasive plant species removal (if necessary, but not anticipated), and, if possible, underwater fish habitat and attraction devices.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without the necessary agreement in place, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper will be unable to perform any of the habitat and shoreline restorations and enhancements needed at Ellicott Creek Park.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Agreements will be signed between Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and the County of Erie.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

RE: Agreement with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper was provided grant funding by Greenway Ecological Standing Committee (GESCC) to administer the professional design and construction of approximately 550 linear feet of shoreline and in-water habitat restoration and enhancements along the north bank of Ellicott Creek, located within Ellicott Creek Park; and

WHEREAS, work may include the removal of undesired trees and other vegetation at the shoreline, invasive species management and will help reduce shoreline erosion; and

WHEREAS, the habitat and shoreline restorations and enhancements will be performed at no cost to the County of Erie; and

WHEREAS, without the necessary agreement in place between Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and the County of Erie, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper will be unable to perform any habitat and shoreline restorations and enhancements needed at Ellicott Creek Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper for habitat and shoreline restorations and enhancements at Ellicott Creek Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Erie County Executive, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, the Division of Budget, Management and Finance, and the Assistant County Attorney, Kristen Walder, of the Law Department.