

SUSPENSION



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Legislator Joseph C. Lorigo
92 Franklin Street
Fourth Floor
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Re: Comm. 7E-14 Receipt of US Fish and Wildlife Grant funding for Seneca Bluffs

Dear Legislator Lorigo

The Department of Environment and Planning has secured \$325,000 in grant funding from the U.S., Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase the remaining 10 acres of undeveloped natural property adjacent to our existing Seneca Bluffs Natural Park. Once this parcel is purchased the department intends to submit an additional grant request to the New York State Parks Department through this summer's NYS Consolidated Funding application for reimbursement of 75% of the \$325,000 purchase price (\$240,000) to develop trail ways and other natural park features.

The Department of Environment and Planning has assisted the Parks Department in the development of our pocket parks with 100% grant funding and plans to continue this practice with respect to this new parcel we propose to acquire. It is our intention to leave this parcel undeveloped and natural until grant funding is secured to invest in any trail ways or natural plantings. Therefore there is no planned maintenance or upkeep from the Parks Department necessary until we secure grant funds to develop and improve the new parcel.

In addition, The US Army Corps of Engineers through funding they have received from the USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office is committed to a 5- year post construction monitoring and maintenance agreement to protect and maintain the improvements they are making and controlling invasive species throughout the entire site. For the next five years the only activity that will take place on the newly acquired parcel will be invasive plant control cuttings and sprayings done by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff and their contractors.

I hope this information addresses your concerns associated with our proposed authorizing resolution. If you have any further questions please let me know so that I can answer them prior to Thursday's legislative caucus.

Sincerely

THOMAS R. HERSEY, JR.
Deputy Commissioner