



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FILED JUL 20 20 PM 1 176

July 17, 2020

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Agreement with the WNY Land Conservancy for trail connections between
Hunters Creek County Park and the Mossy Point Preserve
IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REQUESTED**

Dear Honorable Members:

I am enclosing a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with the WNY Land Conservancy, to grant permission for the WNY Land Conservancy to connect trails between Hunter's Creek County Park and the WNY Land Conservancy's Mossy Point Preserve.

If your Honorable Body requires any further information, please contact Commissioner Troy P. Schinzel at the Department of Parks, Recreation, & Forestry. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/jm
Enclosure

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

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry
Re: Agreement with the WNY Land Conservancy for trail connections between Hunters Creek County Park and the Mossy Point Preserve
Date: July 17, 2020

SUMMARY

The Western New York Land Conservancy (“WNY Land Conservancy”) recently obtained ownership of a parcel of land, known as the “Mossy Point Preserve” situate adjacent to the County’s Sgt. Mark A. Rademacher Memorial Park, commonly referred to as Hunters Creek Park. The WNY Land Conservancy has requested permission to make trail connections between Hunters Creek Park and the Mossy Point Preserve.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Erie County Land Advisory Review Committee (“ARC”) reviewed the request and has recommended that the request be granted so the WNY Land Conservancy can safely provide public access to the Mossy Point Preserve. .

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry is proposing to allow the WNY Land Conservancy to construct and maintain a small trail (approximately 50-75 yards long) on County property. This connecting trail would provide a link between trails at Hunters Creek Park and a new trail network to be constructed at the newly acquired Mossy Point Preserve. The connecting trail would allow users of the Hunters Creek trails to explore over 200 acres of newly acquired preserve via a new trail system to be constructed by the WNY Land Conservancy. The connection would likely spread out the use of trails throughout both properties; thereby reducing the wear and tear that currently only takes place on the Hunters Creek trails.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without approval of this connection plan, the wear and tear of the trail system at Hunters Creek Park will continue to be a concern. This project would likely reduce usage on the existing trails by allowing users to explore the previously inaccessible Mossy point Preserve.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Authorize the County Executive to enter into an agreement with the WNY Land Conservancy to construct new trail connections between Hunters Creek County Park and WNY Land Conservancy Mossy Point Preserve.

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

Re: Agreement with the WNY Land Conservancy for trail connections between
Hunters Creek County Park and the Mossy Point Preserve

WHEREAS, the Western New York Land Conservancy (“WNY Land Conservancy”) recently obtained ownership of a parcel of land, known as the “Mossy Point Preserve”, situate adjacent to the County’s Sgt. Mark A. Rademacher Memorial Park, commonly referred to as Hunters Creek Park; and

WHEREAS, the WNY Land Conservancy has requested permission to construct trail connections between Hunters Creek Park and the Mossy Point Preserve; and

WHEREAS, an expanded connected trail system will not only be beneficial to the public, but also, aid in lessening the wear and tear of the Hunters Creek Park trails; and

WHEREAS, the County Land Advisory Review Committee (“ARC”) has reviewed the proposal and recommends the construction and maintenance by WNY Land Conservancy of a connecting trail between Hunters Creek County Park and the Mossy Point Preserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized and directed to enter into an agreement, as well as any ancillary documents, with the Western New York Land Conservancy to allow for trail connections between Hunters Creek Park and the Mossy Point Preserve; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Forestry and the Erie County Department of Law.