



WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Town of West Seneca • 1250 Union Road • West Seneca, NY 14224

June 4, 2023

Dear NYSDEC,

This letter is being written in support of the grant application being submitted by the Town of West Seneca for Round 16 of the Urban and Community Forestry grant program administered by the NYSDEC, for implementation of West Seneca's first ever town-wide Tree Inventory and Assessment and Community Forestry Management Program.

The West Seneca Environmental Commission cares deeply about the trees in our town. We are concerned about the current state of our community forest, which over time has been degraded by storms, invasive pests such as the emerald ash borer, and by dutch elm disease. We are also disadvantaged by the lack of available data about the trees in our right-of-way along streets and in town parks. Thus, in our role as an advisory committee to the West Seneca Town Board on environmental conservation matters, we had advised the town to apply for this grant.

In support of our role to communicate with the public on environmental conservation matters, we are pleased to offer our commitment as a project partner with the Town to assist with the implementation of the grant, if awarded. Specifically, we will assist with Public Outreach and Education throughout the project implementation, from start to completion. Our support for Public Outreach and Education will include:

- Notification and coordination of public meetings with the Consulting Arborist at specific project milestones, including the project kick-off meeting, completion of tree inventory, and the resulting Community Forestry Management Plan.
- We will invite and coordinate with the West Seneca Bee newspaper to cover the associated events and meetings.
- We will maintain information about the grant project on the town's social media accounts.
- We anticipate organizing community events such as tree plantings on Arbor Day and /or Earth Day, and other tree planting and volunteer opportunities.
- We will have a presence at the West Seneca farmers markets, and at the national night out, to disseminate information about the grant project.

Established in 1971, the Commission is well diversified to take into account the different opinions on the environment throughout West Seneca, with at least one resident between the age of 16-21. The varying backgrounds of our 9-member commission uniquely qualifies us to partner with the Town for this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Cynn timer Gaasch
Chairperson