

Purpose: to authorize the Town's Grant Consultant, with the authorization of the Town Supervisor, to submit a grant application for State funding assistance under the Recreational Trails Program through the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation for improvements to the trails and to purchase trail maintenance equipment for the Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center.

WHEREAS, the Town of West Seneca's Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center was originally developed in 1999; and,

WHEREAS, The Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center is situated on 29 acres of nature trails and woods, wild and cultivated gardens, alongside the banks of the scenic Buffalo Creek; and,

WHEREAS, People of all ages visit the gallery and grounds to experience art and nature at its best, making this center and park a regional attraction; and,

WHEREAS, the Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center has seen deterioration to the extent that the nature trails require significant improvements to keep pace with the users; and

WHEREAS, grant funds are available under the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Recreational Trails Program (RTP), which will reduce the Town's cost of trail improvements and allow for the purchase of essential trail maintenance equipment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of West Seneca will rehabilitate the trails at the park and purchase a trail rake and UTV for trail maintenance if awarded an RTP Grant; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town's Parks Department will maintain the trails, which are open for year-round, non-motorized use.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Connie D. Miner & Co. Grant Consultants, the Town's grants consultants, be authorized and directed to complete the necessary application, forms, and attachments to be submitted through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application for the purpose of securing this grant; and,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Gary Dickson, Supervisor of the Town of West Seneca, is hereby authorized and directed to sign an application for funds from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in accordance with the provisions of Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993 or the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, with a cash matching fund commitment not to exceed 20% of the grant award, and upon approval of said request to enter into and execute a project agreement with the State for such financial assistance to the Town of West Seneca for rehabilitation of the Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center Trail Rehabilitation Project.

**PLANNING RESOLUTION IN ABSENCE OF PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN:**

WHEREAS, the Town of West Seneca seeks to expand its availability of accessible environmental, cultural, and educational sites with opportunities to recreate, interpret, and educate the public in the flora and fauna that are unique to the town; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of West Seneca's Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center has seen deterioration to its two miles of walking and nature trails due to overuse;

WHEREAS, this deterioration is a result of overuse of the park because use of the park has increased by significantly as a regional attraction;

WHEREAS, there are no similar facilities within ten miles of this park and those facilities are also suffering from over-use particularly due to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the trails and boardwalk areas need to be rehabilitated because of their ability to provide unique interpretive nature opportunities for children and adults;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of West Seneca will endeavor to rehabilitate the trails at the Burchfield Nature & Art Center and purchase maintenance equipment that is essential to on-going trail maintenance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in lieu of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, this resolution serves to affirm that this project is consistent with the Town of West Seneca's Comprehensive Plan.