

**RESOLUTION NO. 587 -2019, CREATING A PARK
STEWARDSHIP PILOT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Suffolk County owns a vast array of parkland, so much so that not all parks are regularly staffed by County personnel who oversee maintenance and preservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the parks that are staffed with County personnel are well maintained, while the unstaffed parks amass litter and walking trails become increasingly overgrown; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to create a program that allows for the voluntary maintenance and care of these unstaffed parklands to increase public enjoyment while properly stewarding our environment; and

WHEREAS, creating a Park Stewardship Pilot Program where unstaffed parks are maintained by volunteer groups throughout the County would benefit both the environment and the patrons of Suffolk County who wish to utilize these unstaffed parks; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation (“the Department”) is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to develop a “Park Stewardship Pilot Program” through which ten (10) of the unstaffed County parks will be maintained through volunteer work; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, this pilot program should provide for an application process through which the applicants come before the Commissioner of the Department for approval on an annual basis seeking to maintain a specific County park property. Ten (10) volunteer groups or individuals throughout Suffolk County will be chosen by the Commissioner for the pilot program, with each maintaining a different park. This program will allow the volunteer group or individual chosen to provide routine maintenance to their assigned parkland, including: trash pickup, trail maintenance, and monitoring; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that in order to prevent any potential for misconduct or unauthorized and/or illegal behavior by these volunteer groups that will be granted access to Suffolk County park property, all work must be coordinated through and overseen by Suffolk County Parks employee(s) working in the title of either Park Supervisor or Labor Crew Leader; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that the chosen Park Stewards will submit monthly reports from April through September, and one (1) report for the off-season of October through March. These reports will include: the number of times the Stewards have walked the park trails, the amount of litter collected from the park grounds, and any issues that arose on park grounds such as vandalism or illegal activity that the Parks Department needs to address. The reports will be provided to the Commissioner of the Department and the Legislator who represents the district in which the park is located; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that the Park Stewardship Pilot Program will last one (1) year-long cycle, and the Department will determine if the program should be permanently implemented at the end of the authorized pilot cycle; and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, that should this program be permanently implemented Park Supervisor(s) or Labor Crew Leader(s) will be assigned to oversee this work on a full-time basis; and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: June 4, 2019

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: June 10, 2019