

**Department of Parks, Recreation
& Conservation****ID 11164**

Date: May 16, 2025

To: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kathleen M. O'Connor
Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Re: Authority to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. for the provision of cultural, educational, leisure time and other programs and activities on behalf of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and for a license to use and operate the Ropes Course at the County's Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, in North Salem, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$375,000, for the period of May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2030, with the County having the sole option to renew the agreement for an additional five (5) year term.

Authority of your Honorable Board is requested for the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with the Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") for the Foundation's provision of cultural, educational, leisure time and other programs and activities on behalf of the County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (the "Department") and for a license for the Foundation to use and operate the Ropes Course at the County's Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, in North Salem, New York (the "Park"), in an amount not to exceed \$375,000, for the period of May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2030, with the County having the sole option to renew the agreement for an additional five (5) year term.

Pursuant to the Agreement, the Foundation shall provide various cultural, educational, leisure time and other programs and activities, including but not limited to fundraising activities, on behalf of the Department. The County shall further grant the Foundation a license to use and operate the Ropes Course at the Park. In addition, pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, the Foundation may recommend to the Commissioner of the Department individual(s) to use and occupy the Lake House at the Park (the "Lake House") as a full time residence. The Commissioner shall review the recommendation and in her sole discretion

either approve or disapprove of the individual(s) recommended to use and occupy the Lake House, and if approved, and subject to further approval by your Honorable Board, the County may enter into a separate license agreement with said individual(s) with terms acceptable to the County.

There shall be no cost to the County for this Agreement, however, the County, in its sole discretion, may reimburse the Foundation up to an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 annually, for costs the Foundation incurs in providing cultural, educational, leisure time and other programs and activities on behalf of the Department.

The Foundation may continue to provide other services to the County pursuant to separate agreements, subject to further approvals by your Honorable Board, such as Foundation's operation and management of the County's summer camps known as "Camps Morty and Merriwood".

The Foundation was formed in 1977 exclusively for charitable purposes and solely for the benefit of the Department. It has become an integral partner in the cooperative effort of the Department and the private sector in the support and development of the unique and beautiful County Parks.

The goal and objective of this agreement is for the Foundation to assist in promoting the mission of the Department by developing and financially supporting workshops, professional development initiatives, program sponsorships, facility enhancements and other special projects and events that provide recreational, educational and cultural opportunities for the public. Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation personnel will track and monitor the organization of the various events, programs and donations.

A separate resolution seeking the exemption of the procurement of this proposed agreement in accordance with Section 3 (a) xxi of the County's Procurement Policy has been submitted to your Honorable Board for approval.

Accordingly, your favorable action on the annexed Resolution is most respectfully urged and recommended.

KOC/JP1

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation be it hereby:

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the “County”) is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. (the “Foundation”) for the Foundation’s provision of cultural, educational, leisure time and other programs and activities on behalf of the County’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and for a license for the Foundation to use and operate the Ropes Course at the County’s Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, in North Salem, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$375,000, for the period of May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2030, with the County having the sole option to renew the agreement for an additional five (5) year term; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the agreement shall contain provisions requiring that the Ropes Course shall be open to and benefit all County residents; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this contract is subject to County Appropriation; and be it further

RESOLVED that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the “State Budget”) proposed and adopted during the term of this Agreement. The County shall retain the right, upon the occurrence of any release by the Governor of a proposed State Budget and/or the adoption of a State Budget or any amendments thereto, and for a reasonable period of time after such release(s) or adoption(s), to conduct an analysis of the impacts of any such State Budget on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right to either terminate this Agreement or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the Foundation, then the Foundation shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is authorized and empowered to execute and deliver all instruments and take all actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Agreement # PRC-1475

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars	
165	42	1100	4380		\$40,000	2025
165	42	1100	4380		\$75,000	2026
165	42	1100	4380		\$75,000	2027
165	42	1100	4380		\$75,000	2028
165	42	1100	4380		\$75,000	2029
165	42	1100	4380		\$35,000	2030

Budget Funding Year(s) 2025-2029 Start Date 5-1-25 End Date 4-30-30
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars _____ x _____

State Aid _____

\$375,000
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid _____

Other _____