



AMHERST TOWN BOARD APPROVES PSA FOR FORMER WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Town, County Partner to Create 171-acre Park

The Town of Amherst held a special meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025 to approve the purchase sale and agreement (PSA) of 772 North Forest Road and 385 and 391 Maple Road, formerly known as Westwood Country Club. The resolution transfers ownership of the land from the Town of Amherst to Erie County, allowing for its transformation into Willowdale Park. This will be the first county park in the Town of Amherst.

“Today’s vote ensures that the Town of Amherst will have an expansive park for generations. When I came into office, I supported the ‘Keep Westwood Green,’ movement, and the Town invested in the preservation of the land. With the County’s partnership, we can transform the former country club into an inclusive park. Throughout Western New York you’ll find parks and recreational spaces that exist because of partnerships just like this one and they benefit the entire community. The impact from this partnership will be extremely positive for Amherst residents,” said Amherst Supervisor Brian Kulpa. “We need to move this project forward.”

First announced in April 2025, the Town of Amherst and Erie County agreement provides for shared investment in the park. The Town invested \$7.75 million to purchase the land and the County is investing \$9.1 million in capital allocation to redevelop the park. The County’s plans include restoring nine holes of the original historic golf course, reviving trails and walking paths, creating bird watching, waterfowl and wildlife viewing areas, remediation, and preserving passive recreational space. The 8-acre section of the park located at Sheridan Drive and North Forest Road corner will be developed by the Town with State and County grant funding to create the accessible playground and year-round outdoor event space, and a restroom facility through a community benefit agreement.

The resolution was approved by a majority of the Town Board with Supervisor Brian Kulpa, Councilmember Jacqueline Berger and Councilmember Angela Marinucci voting in support of the PSA.

Under the advice of the Amherst Town Attorney, Deputy Supervisor Shawn Lavin and Councilmember Michael Szukala recused themselves from voting out of an abundance of caution. To achieve quorum, the vote was held in advance of the September 30, 2025 regular board meeting due to the previously notified absence of Councilmember Marinucci caused by an unavoidable conflict.

The development of Willowdale will come at no additional cost to the Amherst Town budget. The Erie County Parks Department oversees 10,000 acres on 35 properties. There are 92 full-time staff members who operate the parks and amenities. In 2025, the county invested more than \$11 million into the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.