

**RESOLUTION NO. 789-2021, CONDUCTING A STUDY INTO
THE USE OF ORPHANED COUNTY PARKS PROPERTIES FOR
USE AS COMMUNITY OR POLLINATOR GARDENS**

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk owns thousands of acres of parkland for the use and enjoyment of its residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, some County parkland is on isolated and small parcels that are under an acre in size; and

WHEREAS, these parcels are often considered “orphaned”, as there is no specific purpose which has been established to make them more appealing for community use and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, many communities throughout Suffolk County are interested in developing community garden spaces where members of the public can tend and grow flowers, fruits and vegetables for personal consumption or donation to local food pantries or compost and bring home food scraps for composting; and

WHEREAS, utilizing appropriate orphaned parkland properties to provide the surrounding area with community garden spaces and educational programming associated with horticulture and the use of productive native plants to support pollinators would be of great benefit to individual residents, the surrounding community and the County; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation should work collaboratively with the Division of Planning in the Department of Economic Development and Planning to research and develop a program for the use of orphaned parkland in the County of Suffolk as community gardens; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to work collaboratively with the Division of Planning in the Department of Economic Development and Planning to identify all parcels in the parks inventory that are less than one acre in size and non-adjointing to other parks property; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, the Department will provide maps and a list by legislative district with the identification of parkland lots which have been deemed orphaned and which are suitable for use as community or pollinator gardens; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the full list of parcels and maps shall be completed and the findings, recommendations and details shall be submitted to the members of the Environment, Parks and Agriculture Committee of the County Legislature within 180 days for further consideration and action, if necessary, and made available to the public on the County website; and be it further

4th 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) and (33) 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 insofar as these actions constitute 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: October 5, 2021

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Lisa Black
Chief Deputy County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: October 20, 2021