

25-2018

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 10 OF 2018 (AS AMENDED)

WHEREAS, the County Executive has determined to amend the provisions of Executive Order No. 10 of 2018, dated September 27, 2018 as follows:

WHEREAS, Westchester County government has the opportunity to preserve its natural heritage as well as promote sustainable landscapes by choosing native plants, i.e., plants native to the County of Westchester and the Northeast; and

WHEREAS, native plants enhance the beauty of the landscape, maintain and restore biodiversity, support native pollinators, butterflies, and birds, and protect local ecosystems and environmental health; and

WHEREAS, native plants enrich the soil by helping rain percolate into the soil through their root systems, thereby reducing erosion and water irrigation requirements and filtering storm water runoff, which, in turn, improves water quality; and

WHEREAS, native plants minimize maintenance costs and the need for chemical applications; and

WHEREAS, native plants have historical and cultural interest that help promote Westchester County's regional identity; and

WHEREAS, landscape demonstration projects promote public awareness and education and can be a catalyst for the general public to use native plants in private and commercial landscaping;

WHEREAS invasive, non-native plants threaten the natural heritage and identity of Westchester County and New York State, disrupt the ecology of natural ecosystems, displace native plant and animal species, and degrade our unique and diverse biological resources; and

WHEREAS, New York State has passed regulations prohibiting and regulating certain invasive species;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE LATIMER as County Executive of the County of Westchester, do hereby order and direct to each and every department, board, agency, and commission of the County of Westchester, under my jurisdiction, as follows:

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SEP 28 2018

TIMOTHY C. IDONI
COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

1. Plant materials native to Westchester County and the Northeast or their cultivars shall be used exclusively in designing, planting, maintaining, and managing the landscape features of all County roadsides, parks, public areas, and other County properties and facilities.
2. Plans and specifications for any Westchester County contract involving landscaping and/or plantings shall, where practicable and appropriate, require the use of native plants.
3. All plant species listed as Prohibited and Regulated in New York State's NYCRR PART 575 Invasive Species Regulations shall be prohibited in all Westchester County parks and on all other County lands, along County roadsides, and in gardens surrounding County buildings, and where possible, these species shall be eradicated from County parks and other lands, as well as along County roadsides and in gardens surrounding County buildings.
4. Appropriate site and soil analyses shall be performed, matching plant characteristics with site and soil conditions, to ensure success of the planting of native plants.
5. Site design and construction as well as plant selection shall incorporate considerations such as biological needs, low maintenance, low water usage, character of plant communities at project sites, and minimal need for fertilizers and pesticides.
6. The public shall, through various means, be educated about the importance of native plants to the Westchester County landscape.
7. Outdoor demonstration projects exhibiting and promoting the benefits of native species and environmentally sound landscaping practices shall be created and maintained in Westchester County parks and parkway rest areas, at the County office building, and at Westchester Community College.
8. Public/private partnerships with educational institutions, arboreta, commercial nurseries, botanic gardens, and garden clubs shall be encouraged to increase the availability of native plants, and share knowledge about their use, maintenance and propagation.
9. This Executive Order shall apply in all instances unless the Department of Planning or the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation determines that no native plant fits the ecological niche in which case plants that are non-invasive and beneficial to wildlife may be permitted in place of native plants.

10. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until otherwise superseded or revoked.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Latimer", is written over a solid horizontal line.

GEORGE LATIMER
Westchester County Executive

Dated: September 28, 2018
White Plains, New York