



Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

July 9, 2025

Westchester County Board of Legislators
Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

I respectfully request that your Honorable Board adopt the attached Act, formally “changing the name of Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial to ‘Lasdon Public Gardens and Veterans Memorial.’”

Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial is a 234-acre County property that consists of woodlands, open grass meadows, and gardens that display flower and shrub specimens from all over the world. The park inspires connections to horticulture, plants, and the beauty of nature with designed collections, educational programs, and exhibits in its Glass House Conservatory. The park is also home to a museum honoring Westchester County’s veterans.

Lasdon Park is an institutional member of the American Public Gardens Association, which champions and advances nearly 600 public gardens in North America and internationally by advocating for the innovation, conservation, and appreciation of plants. The park additionally holds memberships to the American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Garden Network, the Philadelphia Horticultural Society, the New York State Turf and Landscape Association, and the Metro Hort Group. It also serves as the headquarters for the 9th District Federated Garden Club of New York State.

Given these affiliations, and to better capture the spirit and purpose of the park and its programs, Westchester County Parks and Recreation Department (“Parks Department”), the Friends of Lasdon Park & Arboretum (“FLP”), and the Lasdon family have jointly proposed that the park’s name be officially changed from “Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial” to “Lasdon Public Gardens and Veterans Memorial.”

The term “arboretum”—currently in the park’s official name—is generally defined as a place where trees, shrubs, and plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes. The Parks Department, FLP, and the Lasdon family all agree that the term “public gardens,” as opposed to arboretum, more closely aligns with park’s identity as a space with numerous gardens open to the public for education and enjoyment, as well as a place that provides resources for scientific research and conservation. The proposed new name more aptly describes the park’s beauty, function, and invitation to the community, and it is consistent with other conservation parklands in the County, such as the Alfred B. DelBello Muscoot Farm, Marshlands Conservancy, and Cranberry Lake Preserve.

This request to rename and rebrand the park comes at a time when significant County capital project funding has recently restored the Main House at the park; an upcoming site work project

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will also enhance and create new pathways at the park, and upgrade park facilities. Visitation continues to grow at the park for exhibitions, plant sales, and public programs.

As partners of the County's public horticultural center, should the name change be approved, FLP and the Lasdon family are committed to collaborating with the Parks Department in what will be a rebranding effort for the park. This effort will include education and planned continued fundraising to support annual programming and capital expenses.

In light of the aforementioned, I respectfully urge that your Honorable Board adopt the attached Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KWJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

KENNETH W. JENKINS
County Executive

KWJ/nn
Enclosure

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee has reviewed the attached “Act changing the name of Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial to ‘Lasdon Public Gardens and Veterans Memorial.’”

Your Committee is aware that Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial is a 234-acre County property that consists of woodlands, open grass meadows, and gardens that display flower and shrub specimens from all over the world. The park inspires connections to horticulture, plants, and the beauty of nature with designed collections, educational programs, and exhibits in its Glass House Conservatory. The park is also home to a museum honoring Westchester County’s veterans.

Your Committee also understands that Lasdon Park is an institutional member of the American Public Gardens Association, which champions and advances nearly 600 public gardens in North America and internationally by advocating for the innovation, conservation, and appreciation of plants. The park additionally holds memberships to the American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Garden Network, the Philadelphia Horticultural Society, the New York State Turf and Landscape Association, and the Metro Hort Group. It also serves as the headquarters for the 9th District Federated Garden Club of New York State.

Your Committee has been informed that, given these affiliations, and to better capture the spirit and purpose of the park and its programs, Westchester County Parks and Recreation Department (“Parks Department”), the Friends of Lasdon Park & Arboretum (“FLP”), and the Lasdon family have jointly proposed that the park’s name be officially changed from “Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial” to “Lasdon Public Gardens and Veterans Memorial.”

Your Committee acknowledges that the term “arboretum”—currently in the park’s official name—is generally defined as a place where trees, shrubs, and plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes. Your Committee notes that the Parks Department, FLP, and the Lasdon family all agree that the term “public gardens,” as opposed to arboretum, more closely aligns with park’s identity as a space with numerous gardens open to the public for education and enjoyment, as well as a place that provides resources for scientific research and conservation. The proposed new name more aptly describes the park’s beauty, function, and invitation to the community, and it is consistent with other conservation parklands in the County, such as the Alfred B. DelBello Muscoot Farm, Marshlands Conservancy, and Cranberry Lake Preserve.

Your Committee recognizes that the request to rename and rebrand the park comes at a time when significant County capital project funding has recently restored the Main House at the park; an upcoming site work project will also enhance and create new pathways at the park, and upgrade park facilities. Visitation continues to grow at the park for exhibitions, plant sales, and public programs.

Your Committee also appreciates that, as partners of the County’s public horticultural center, should the name change be approved, FLP and the Lasdon family are committed to collaborating with the Parks Department in what will be a rebranding effort for the park. This effort will include education and planned continued fundraising to support annual programming and capital expenses.

As you know, this Honorable Board must comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”). The proposed act does not meet the definition

of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators.

Your Committee, after careful consideration, recommends the adoption of this Act, changing the name of Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial to “Lasdon Public Gardens and Veterans Memorial.”

Dated: _____, 2025

White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Name change of Lasdon Park

☒ NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

☒ GENERAL FUND

☐ AIRPORT FUND

☐ SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense \$ -

Total Current Year Revenue \$ -

Source of Funds (check one): ☐ Current Appropriations ☐ Transfer of Existing Appropriations

☐ Additional Appropriations

☐ Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: N/A - No funding required

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses:

Annual Amount N/A

Describe: Changing the name of Lasdon Park, Aboretum and Veterans Memorial to Lasdon Public Gardens and Veterans Memorial.

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues:

Annual Amount N/A

Describe: _____

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: _____

Next Four Years: _____

Prepared by: Li-Li Ng

Title: Budget Analyst

Department: Department of Budget

Date: July 9, 2025

CD 7/9/25
RW 7/9/25
Reviewed By:

Budget Director

Date: 7/9/25

ACT NO.

-2025

An Act changing the name
of Lasdon Park, Arboretum
and Veterans Memorial to
“Lasdon Public Gardens and
Veterans Memorial”

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The “Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial,” a 234-acre park situated off Route 35 in Somers, and bounded on the south and east by New York City watershed property, the Amawalk River and Muscoot Farm, and on the west by the Mildred D. Lasdon Bird and Nature Sanctuary, shall be and hereby is named “Lasdon Public Gardens and Veterans Memorial.”

Section 2. This Act shall take effect immediately.