



In the News

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Buffalo & Erie County Industrial Land Development Corp. purchases former Eden-Angola Airport site for development of 240-acre WNY Agribusiness Park

Key community leaders support project spearheaded by Erie County Executive

Buffalo, NY—The Buffalo & Erie County Industrial Land Development Corp. (“ILDC”) announces the purchase of the former site of the Eden-Angola Airport and an adjacent parcel in the town of Evans. The total of 240-acres will be transformed into an agribusiness park to promote Erie County agricultural production and provide farmers with a regional hub that is nestled in the county’s rich agricultural area while still being located close to highway transportation.

“The Western New York Agribusiness Park is one step closer to being a reality. Erie County’s agricultural sector is a large part of our economic portfolio, yet it is often overlooked. This new Agribusiness Park will connect producers with businesses that rely on agricultural products, identifying new markets for our produce and strengthening our agricultural sector. This Park will spotlight Erie County’s exceptional agricultural products, promote our brands across NYS and the country, and be a regional hub for our farming community,” **said Erie County Executive and ILDC Chair Mark C. Poloncarz.**

The nonprofit ILDC, which is the land development affiliate of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (“ECIDA”), paid approximately \$980,000 for the two privately-owned parcels. ECIDA/ILDC staff are also providing development management.

“The ECIDA/ILDC is pleased to provide development support for the County Executive’s initiative on this effort,” **said ECIDA/ILDC Interim President and CEO John Cappellino.** “We are working with the Town of Evans and input from regional plans and studies to ensure this project reflects the needs of the community,” said Cappellino.

Plans for the site include developing a site master plan, utility network and other amenities to support the Park, upgrades to the old airport strip and related infrastructure to accommodate truck traffic, and the possible addition of rail access to the site.

Town of Evans Supervisor Mary Hosler said, “The Town of Evans is excited to continue working with our partners at Erie County and the ECIDA/ILDC to develop the necessary infrastructure to support the Agribusiness Park. As a rural community, it is our hope that the Park will attract new agricultural industries and more high-quality job opportunities to our Town.”

The ILDC was awarded a \$354,000 grant from National Grid in 2019, which will be used to complete the utility master plan, generic environmental impact statement, infrastructure plan, road design for the parcel, entranceway signage and eventual marketing.

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“National Grid is proud to work with Erie County on the creation of the agribusiness park,” said **National Grid regional director Ken Kujawa**. “Western New York needs a robust portfolio of developable sites and buildings to attract new business and help existing businesses grow. National Grid is tied to the fortunes of the western New York economy and we are excited that our \$354,000 grant can help play a role in moving this initiative forward,” said Kujawa.

The former Eden-Angola Airport location is attractive to light industrial/agribusinesses for several reasons, including:

- Easy access to the New York State Thruway I-90 (approximately one mile from NYS Thruway Exit 57A)
- Located in the heart of Erie County’s rich agriculture belt
- Potential rail access to the site proposed by Norfolk Southern Railroad
- Significant capacity for expansion on currently-inactive 240-acre parcel
- Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) rating of Moderate, with minimal pedestrian traffic

“Our region boasts significant strengths in the agribusiness sector, including an abundance of fresh water, talented workforce, and a robust ecosystem of existing companies. It’s a compelling proposition to any food processing company considering expansion or relocation, and the Western New York Agribusiness Park equips us with an ideal tool to attract significant job creation opportunities for our region,” said **Tom Kucharski, President & CEO, Invest Buffalo Niagara**.

Listen to the livestream of the ECIDA/ILDC/RDC April Board meeting (held by conference call) at noon, Wednesday, April 22 at www.ecidany.com under the Events menu.

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency is a public benefit corporation sanctioned by the State of New York to offer tax incentives to qualified businesses, and is dedicated to furthering economic development, adaptive reuse of qualified properties, job creation and ensuring a thriving business environment in Erie County. ECIDA staff are not employees of the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie, or the State of New York. The ECIDA does not receive operating funds from taxpayer revenues.

The ECIDA receives its operating funds by collecting fees from businesses that enter into contracts with the Agency, from investments, and from loan fees.

The Industrial Land Development Corporation, or ILDC, is the land development services and bond issuance arm of the ECIDA. The ILDC is overseen by a separate Board of Directors, Chaired by Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz.

For more information, visit www.ecidany.com

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