



Connecting
People and Nature

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Nette Compton,
President & CEO

Memo

To: Board of Finance Committee

From: Nette Compton, President & CEO, Mill River Park Collaborative

Date: April 6, 2022

Re: FY 2022-23 Budgets

The Mill River Park Collaborative's mission is to run a world-class urban park in the heart of Stamford that serves as both an oasis in city life and a vibrant, diverse, green-space that inspires sound environmental practices and learning.

We have proposed a City of Stamford budget allocation of \$700,200 for FY 23.

Significant changes in the department and rationale

- New President & CEO started on January 3, 2022, after the loss of former CEO Dudley Williams in 2021

New or expanded services or programs

- Opening of 11,000sqft LEED Silver (or higher) building, complete with STEM-focused camp & school field trip services, pursuit of after-school care, additional programming from toddler through adult
- Addition of 11.9 acres of parkland and river area to actively manage and maintain coming online via Middle Corridor West (between Tresser and Richmond Hill) and Greenway North connecting Park to Scalzi Park

Headcount changes: 7 FTE

- Additional Park Ambassador and Landcare staff to support the expanded footprint of the park (11.9 acres, 39% increase)
- Education staff to program summer and school-year STEM based education at the Whittingham Discovery Center
- Seasonal hires for camp & Landcare

Key challenges or changes expected in 2022-23

- Continuing to grow usership increases seen during COVID
- Activating new sections of the park as they open
- Engaging community in playground redesign
- Expanding options for special needs community

Highlights, efficiencies, and service improvements over past year 2021-22

- Supporting the community through COVID, including:
 - Essential worker childcare
 - Hosting city events that needed to shift to outdoors, expanding our partnership with City and DSSD through events including Multicultural Day and Alive@Five
- Growing numbers of park usership
 - 10,000+ ice skaters at our Cohen Ice Rink
 - 60 children at our Summer Camp
 - 45 unique weekend programs for children and families



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