

FY 2022-23 Budget Board of Finance Presentation

Mill River Park Collaborative
Nette Compton, President & CEO

April 6th, 2022



Mill River Park
Connecting People and Nature



Who We Are



Who We Are

*The Collaborative was established as a public/private partnership that would “**provide collaborative leadership in creating and sustaining a successful Mill River Park.**”*

Collaborative Mission

Our 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.



Timeline

Recent Milestones:

- 2017 Opening of Brownstein | Selkowitz Carousel Pavilion
- 2018 Opening of Steven & Alexandra Cohen Skating Center and Fountain
- 2019 Opening of the Pop-Up Park and Dog Park
- 2020 Broke ground on Phase II of the Park, the Whittingham Discovery Center.
- 2020 Broke ground Phase II – Tresser Blvd. to Richmond Hill
- 2021 City broke ground on Greenway North connecting Mill River to Scalzi Park

1929

Herbert Swan writes Stamford's first redevelopment "Master Plan," recommending a park along Mill River.

MID-1990S

Members of the Stamford League of Women Voters and city planners seek to revive the plan for Mill River Park.

1998

Mayor Dannel Malloy issues a white paper calling for the implementation of the Sasaki vision.

2001

The City boards and the Urban Redevelopment Commission approve the Mill River Corridor Plan.

2004

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases findings that show that the best option to reduce flood risk is to remove the dam and restore the riverbanks.

2006

The Mill River Playground is the Park's first major improvement, designed with input from schoolchildren and built by more than 1,000 volunteers in a seven-day community build.

2013

The Mill River Park and Greenway opens with 12 acres of beautiful landscape, including the largest cherry blossom tree grove in New England, containing offshoots of the original cherry blossom trees.

1938, 1955 & 1972

Record flooding inundates downtown Stamford with water.



1997

The city commissions a landscape design firm, Sasaki Associates, to prepare the Mill River Corridor Study.

2000

Stamford's "Master Plan" is updated to include the open space designation.

2002

The city, the Stamford Partnership, and the Trust for Public Land form Mill River Park Collaborative, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, to lead the creation, growth, and operations of the new Park.

2005

Olin Partnership, a top landscaping firm, is selected to design Mill River Park using the latest advances in bioengineering.

2009

The Main Street dam and the concrete retaining walls are removed, restoring the river and reducing the 100-year flood elevations.





MILL RIVER PARK
DAY CAMP
Summer 2022

What We Do

What We Do

- Manage all aspects of 30+ acres of park and river, with 11.9 acres to open this fiscal year
- Family Programming
 - 60 children at our Summer Camp, over half receiving financial assistance
 - 45 weekend programs for children and families
- Fun for all
 - 10,000+ ice skaters at our Cohen Ice Rink
 - 100 outdoor fitness classes
 - 2,400 attendees across our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Cornhole Tournament, and the Halloween Parade
 - Estimated 15,000 attendees over 7 nights at Downtown Special Services District concert series hosted in the Park
- Community support
 - Employment of 31 local high school and college students
 - COVID support, including essential worker childcare
 - Stamford DOH vaccinated 355 people at the Park



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2022-23 Expansion



2022-23 Expansion

2022 Projected milestones:

- Opening Whittingham Discovery Center
- Completion of Phase II – Tresser Blvd. to Richmond Hill in concert with the City
- Completion of Greenway North by City
- Break ground for Playground renovation

Addition of almost 12 acres of active park land management (39% increase) and 11,000 sq ft building

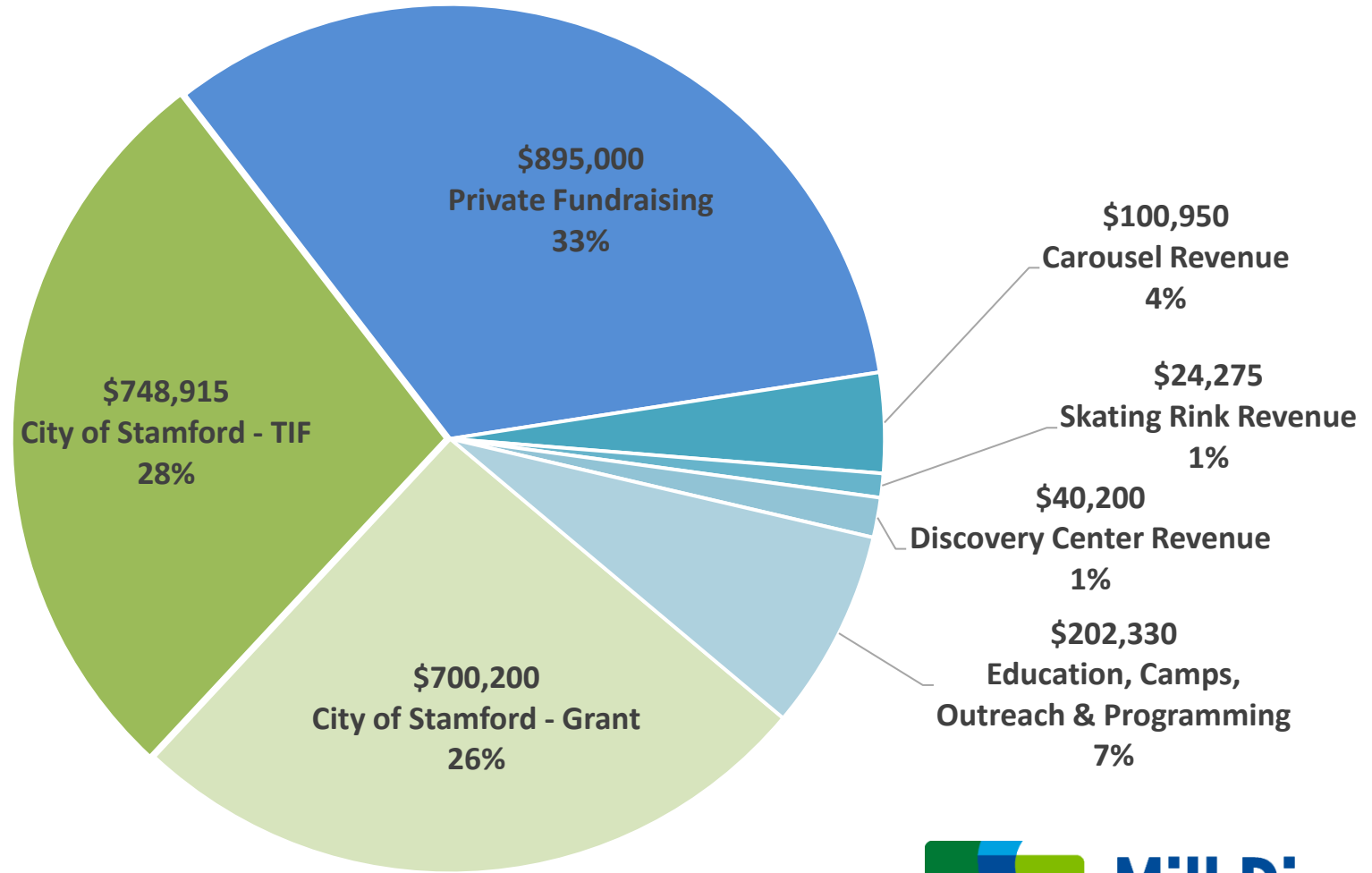


2022-23 Expansion

- Anticipated headcount changes totaling **7 FTE**:
 - Additional Park Ambassador and Landcare staff to support the expanded footprint of the park, adding 11.9 acres
 - Education staff to program summer and school-year STEM based education at the Whittingham Discovery Center
 - Seasonal hires for camp & Landcare
- Significant **increase in educational programming**, focused on:
 - Activating new sections of the park as they open
 - Engaging community in playground redesign
 - Expanding options for special needs community

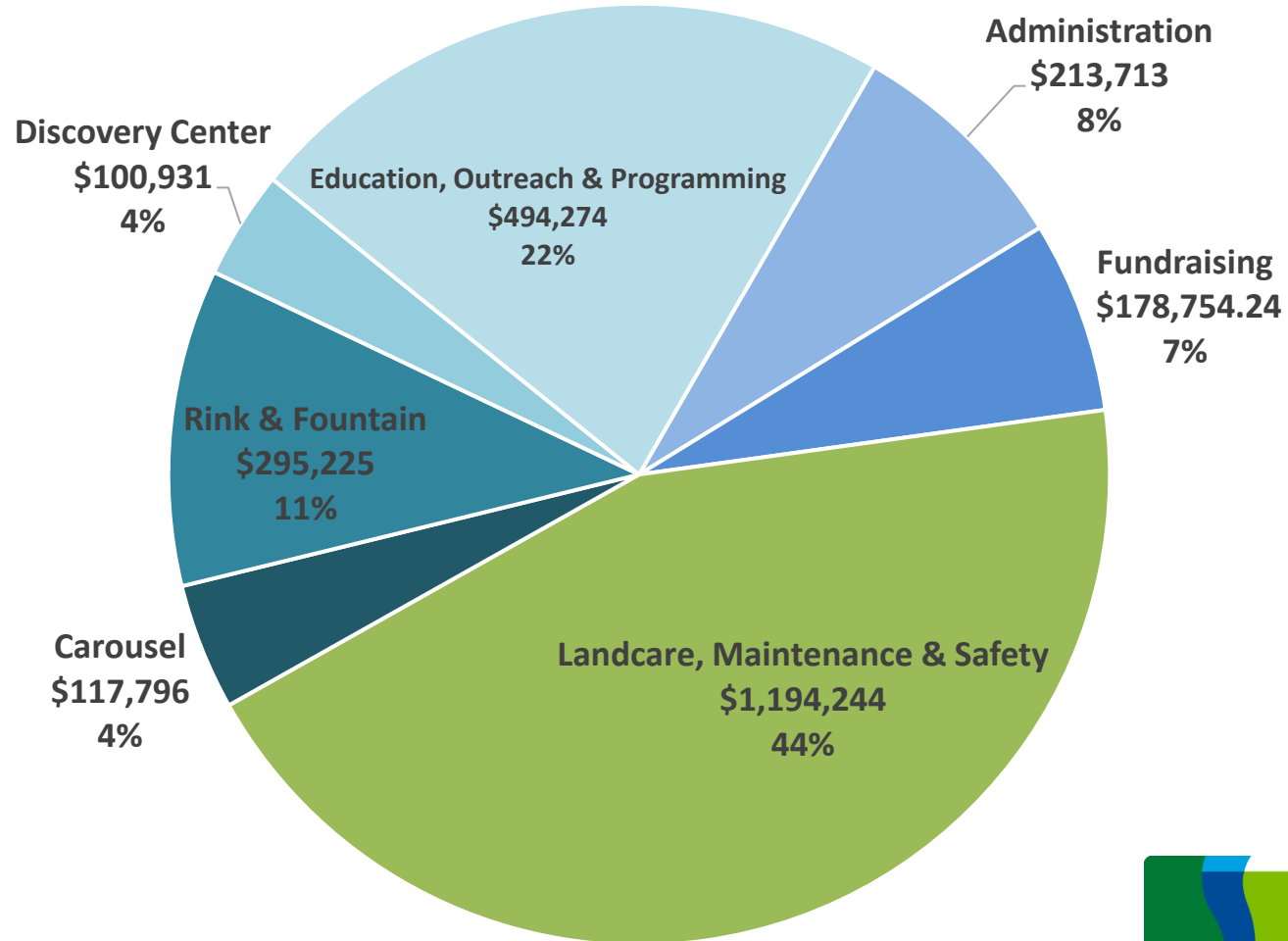


FY 23 Projected Revenue - \$2,711,870



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FY 23 Projected Expenses - \$2,711,870



FY 23 Projected City Operating Grant Allocation

Expense Category	% of Category Covered by City Grant
Administration	0%
Fundraising	0%
Landcare, Maintenance & Safety	36%
Carousel	14%
Rink & Fountain	4%
Discovery Center	60%
Education, Camps, Outreach & Programming	31%

