

We connect people with the Connecticut River.

Riverfront Recapture is a nonprofit organization founded in 1981. We manage, maintain, and operate four riverfront parks and their connected riverwalks and trails. Our mission is to connect people with the Connecticut River. Here's a snapshot of how we connected people in 2023.

PARK VISITORS 803,866

SPORTS LEAGUE PARTICIPANTS

2,300

HARTFORD TRAIL USAGE, AUGUST 28,427

BOATS LAUNCHED 2,127 FITNESS CLASS ATTENDEES 1,338

EAST HARTFORD TRAIL USAGE, MAY 14,693

1,153

FREE PUBLIC EVENTS

149

IRISH ROAD BOWLERS 200

ROWING ATTENDANCE 28,625

NEW PARK TOUR ATTENDEES 240 HEAD OF THE RIVERFRONT ATHLETES

5,100





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In 2023, we encountered both significant milestones and formidable challenges, and your unwavering support proved instrumental in our achievements and triumphs. Thanks to you, we welcomed an impressive 803,866 visitors to our parks, from the region and beyond.

Your gifts allowed us to host an exciting slate of free public events and programs and provide free rowing programs to Hartford and East Hartford youth. Your contributions helped us to overcome serious challenges posed by a tumultuous year of weather, allowing us to maintain and operate clean, safe, and welcoming parks. Thank you so much for making all of this possible. We are so grateful to each of you for your invaluable role in making our parks accessible havens for visitors from the region and beyond.

This organization was founded in 1981 to develop a comprehensive plan to reunite Hartford with its riverfront. In 2024, our 44th year, that work continues with even more profound meaning and significance. Over 20 projects are underway in our parks, from accessible fishing piers in Great River Park to expanded docks in Riverside Park.

While each of these projects is essential to our mission to connect people with the Connecticut River, our biggest project will transform over 60 acres of previously inaccessible riverfront land into a park for the community connected to Riverside Park by the Joe Marfuggi Riverwalk. The photo on pages four and five show the land as it is, which will be transformed into a park for you, for the neighborhood, for teenagers, for families, for everyone. A master plan for the future park is in the works, guided by your input and feedback, which we genuinely appreciate and value. We can't wait to share it with you and hope you'll share your thoughts with us if you haven't already.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your steadfast commitment to our work. None of this would be possible without your generosity, the investment of our sponsors, and the work of our staff, board, and volunteers. We invite you to join us by the river and see what your involvement means to us. Your support has created a community in our parks, and connected so many people with the Connecticut River.

Thank you!

Harold M. Blinderman Board Chair Michael Zaleski President & CEO



Corporate, foundation, and government funding is essential to Riverfront Recapture. Their investment in our day-to-day operations to ensure our parks are open and accessible year-round, as well as arts and culture, youth enrichment, health and fitness is much appreciated. Government support in particular also provides valuable resources for park development as we strive to improve and expand our parks.

\$250,000+

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Contributed goods and services provide essential support for many Riverfront activities. We thank the following donors:

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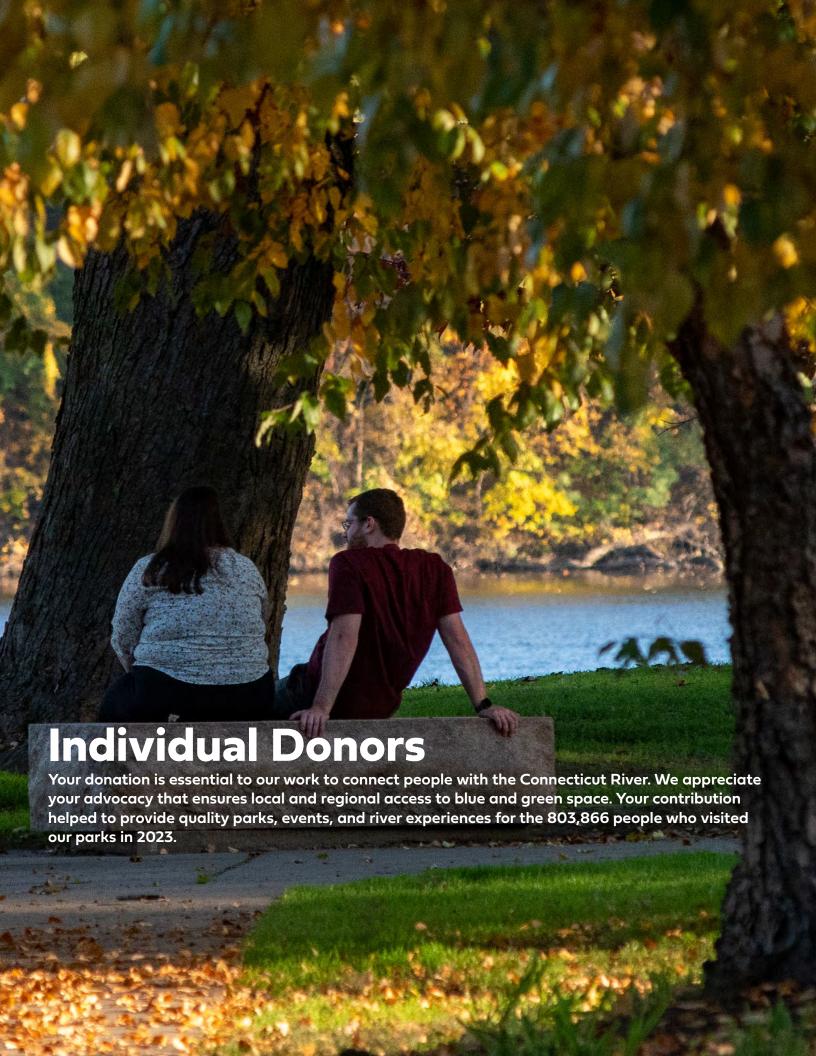
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Cover: Sunset view of Mortensen Riverfront Plaza; p. 3: Riverfront Dragon Boat & Asian Festival; p. 4-5: Aerial view of future park

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Founders' Society

Our Founders' Society members – 199 in 2023 – show their faith in Riverfront, through their 10 or more years of consecutive donations. Their dedicated annual donations demonstrate their commitment to ensuring access to the Connecticut River through Riverfront's parks. We thank all of these donors, who are identified in bold in this Annual Report, for your dedication to the community, and for encouraging others to follow your example.

We welcome and thank the following who became new Founders' Society members in 2023:

Johanna & Timothy Dunlavey Susan & Joel Freedman Lewis Ben Lau The Montross Family Bill & Mary Talbot

Mainstay

Mainstay donors engage in convenient monthly giving as a means to increase their impact with larger contributions than a one-time annual gift. Their contributions add up throughout the year, helping Riverfront in its role as a guardian of the river and parks. This enthusiastic group of people stays involved, further bolstering their commitment.

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Dr. Lawrence Zemel & Eliane Sandler[†]

Contact Debbie Baker, director of development, if you'd like to learn more about Mainstay, at dbaker@riverfront.org or 860-713-3131 x326.

























p. 6, from top left: East Hartford Mayor Connor Martin, Riverfront Recapture President & CEO Michael Zaleski at The Big Mo'; opening ceremony, Riverfront Dragon Boat & Asian Festival; Head of the Riverfront regatta; Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream; Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization President Helen Nixon at a community workshop; musician in Charter Oak Landing; p. 8: dragon boats at dock; p. 10, from top: Head of the Riverfront Regatta; Channel 3 Eyewitness News' Great Day CT with Scot Haney, Chef Erica Blaire Roby, Riverfront President & CEO Michael Zaleski, Kara Sundlun promoting Riverfront Food Truck Festival; Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival

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Legacy Society

Ensuring the present and future value of Riverfront's parks and access to the Connecticut River inspires people to include Riverfront in their estate plans. Your consideration of the future now provides essential funding that sustains opportunities for people to explore, learn, and enjoy the river and the parks for years ahead.

We thank the following individuals who have left or intend to leave a legacy to Riverfront to continue our mission into the future, as together we connect people to the Connecticut River:

Deborah Baker

David Barrett

Mr.[†] and Mrs. Maurice Belanger

Harold Blinderman & Wanda Schulman

G. Peter Bloom

Chris & Kim Byrd

Kathleen Cassidy

Susan & Brian Clemow

Alison Coolbrith[†] & Barry Lastra

Marie P. Coburn[†]

Lynn H. Ferrari & Virginia Seeley

Patricia Foley[†]

Margaret Olmsted Ford Twombly[†]

Susan & Joel Freedman

Astrid Hanzalek[†]

Albert Ilg

David Klein

Mimi† & Brendan Lynch

Harriett S. MacGuiness†

Joe Marfuggi[†]

Marion[†] & Ellsworth[†] Grant

Carle & Larry Mowell

Edith[†] & John[†] Davis Murphy

Mike Puckly

John H. Riege[†]

Sali Riege[†]

Chrissie & Ezra Ripple

David R. Robb

Stephen G. Schoen

Lynn Traiger[†]

Donald K. Wilson[†] Robert Yohe, Jr.

Michael Zaleski

If you would like to learn more about legacy giving, please contact Deborah Baker, director of development, at 860-713-3131 x326 or dbaker@riverfront.org.













p. 11: Riverfront Community Rowing at sunrise; p. 12: couple relaxing, Riverside Park; p. 16, from top left: Crowd at festival; cyclist; Tai Chi instruction at Riverfront Dragon Boat & Asian Festival; City of Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin and Riverfront Recapture President & CEO Mike Zaleski planting a tree in Riverside Park; Riverfront Community Rowing; community walk at future park; p. 17, from top left: Cancer remembrance, Riverfront Dragon Boat & Asian Festival; Gospel Fest; sunset view from Great River Park; flooded lower Mortensen Riverfront Plaza; Hargreaves Jones consultants Mary Lydecker and Mary Margaret Jones, Riverfront Recapture President & CEO Michael Zaleski and Windsor Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke at a future park community workshop; Riverfront Food Truck Festival



MDC

The Metropolitan District Commission is an essential partner to Riverfront Recapture. We are truly grateful to them for all that they provide, which goes far beyond their ongoing, generous financial support. Their work, particularly the Clean Water Project, is pivotal to our work to connect people with the Connecticut River, and provide clean, safe parks to all visitors.

The Clean Water Project reduces pollution in the Connecticut River, which is integral to environmental restoration. It tackles issues such as sewage overflow and contamination, revitalizes the natural environment, and enhances the usability and appeal of our parks for recreational activities like boating, fishing, and rowing. Improvements in water quality directly benefit both residents and visitors who frequent our parks.

Additionally, the Clean Water Project brings significant economic and community health benefits. Cleaner and well-maintained parks are likely to attract more visitors, which we can attest to, and they can also boost local businesses and increase tourism, contributing to economic growth. Additionally, the reduction in waterborne pollutants decreases health risks associated with contaminated water sources, fostering a healthier community environment.

The Clean Water Project also supports wildlife and biodiversity, maintaining the ecological health and natural beauty of our riverfront parks, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in the city. All of this aligns with the work we do to maintain, manage, and operate four - soon to be five - riverfront parks, and we are so grateful to the MDC for their work and continued partnership.







Sydney Breard
Joseph Byrne & Clare Rossini
Melissa Byron
Michael & Katherine Capone
Coreen Carley
Victoria Carpenter
Rachel Casey
Bonnie Chalmers
Virginia Champion
Catherine Crocket
Laura Curran

Mr. & Mrs. Harry H. Davidson

Emily Dawkins Madeline Dawson Heather Debby Pilar del Cacho Lauren Dickson

Ted Diesenhaus & Deanne Shapiro

Cindy & Mark Dodd Marita Doumaux

Rebecca Doumaux

Constance Duffy Yoram Ebrahimi

Laura Edwards

Julie Emery

Faye Ewen

Carla Ferony

Carol Gabrielson Fine

Paul Fitzgerald

Matthew Fitzsimmons

Lynda Flavin

Nicole Fluckiger

Charmion Forte

Ashley Fote

Nicholas Rodriquez Gallo

Meg Gaughan

Mark B. Gerity

Sara Germain

May-Wo F. & Walter Giger, Jr.

Gianni Guiliani Ari Goldstein

Caleb Gottesman

Terri Granger

Elizabeth Harlow

Jill Hendricks

Linda Henriques

Debra Holcomb

Marisa Howard

Herbert G. Isaacson

Karen Jason

Julie Jeski

Craig R. Johnson

Ralph & Lele Kadden

Ethan Kane

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Kapushinski

Lida A. Kearney

David A. Kelman

Doreen Kindelan Chris Kriesen Liisa Kuhn

Wendy Kwalwasser

Lewis Ben Lau

Donna Leach Logan Lee

Rebecca Jayne Lee

Victoria Lee

Blake Lillicraf

Nancy Loiselle

Douglas Lubin

Diane & Mark Lucas

Shurff Lure

Alex Lydall Leigha M. Magro

Ruth H. Mantak

Julie Markus

Victoria McBrien

Dennis McCool

Robert McNally

Yaritza Melendez

T. Mendez

S. Mierzwa

Carissa Miller

Daniel T. Miller

Robbin Miller **Ann Milner**

Rohan Mitchell

Madeleine Motherway

Robert A. Murphy

Mike Nguyen

S. P. Nolan

Jori Nunes

James Olcott

Courtney Oliva

Caryn Olivieri

Cara Passaro

Mary Pekala

Kasey & Lauren Phelps

Lauren Pizzoferrato

Jennifer Redmond

Jack & Debbie Reid

Karin & Gregory Reinhardt

Gabrielle Renaud

D. Peter Rex

Susan Ring

Cassandra Rodriguez

Marcos Rodriquez, Jr.

Kathryn Roman

Tricia Rose

Robert & Gail Rosenberg

Patricia Ryan

Cassandra Sanchez

Kenneth Sek

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Brian T. & H. Jean Smith

Jason Smith

Robert H. & Sharon W. Smith

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Jessica Standish

Brianna Stimson

Michelle Szynkowicz

Pamela M. Taylor

Shawn Tays

Catherine Thomas

Stacy Thomas

Jennifer Trent

Lee Allan Tryon

John F.K. Tyner

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald W. Vernier

Elaine & Calvin Vinick

Sheryl Viola

Joseph Vogel

Shauna Walker

Noreen S. Watson

Cynthia Watts Elder

James & Rachel Whelen

Andrew White

Dolly White

Jacqueline Wilson

Kacy Zaborowski

Serenity Zaebst

Jillian Zanotti

p. 20, from top left: Picnickers in Great River Park with a flooded river below; Colt building in snow; fishing from the dock at Charter Oak Landing; capturing the flood at Mortensen Riverfront Plaza; removing the docks before July flooding, Riverside Park; dogwalking at Mortensen Riverfront

p. 21: Canada goose & goslings

p. 22: City of Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam with board chair Harold Blinderman at The Big Mo'; Run for the Riverfront 5K; city view from the top of the dike in Charter Oak Landing

p. 25: Rendering of Joe Marfuggi Riverwalk amenities, courtesy of Doug Suisman, Suisman Urban Design

p. 26: Dragonfly; Riverfront Ranger on patrol; egret

p. 27: July flooding

Back cover: Jogger at Columbus Boulevard Bridge

Riverfront Recapture Endow Hartford 21 Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

We are thankful for the donors who participated in the Endow Hartford 21 Fund challenge from 2021-2023, with gifts of \$250 or more matched by the Zachs Family Foundation and are taking the opportunity to recognize them. Overall contributions to the fund, including matching donations, total \$59,311.25 with some donors contributing more than once.

Anonymous (2)
Deborah Baker
Patricia Beckett
Budd Family Fund
Gary Carter
Kathleen Cassidy

Samantha Castillo-Davis

Louise Coates

Marianne Downie

Paul H. Eddy and Elizabeth J. Normen Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Rona Gollob

Russell Jarem

Donald W. and Dorothy D. Johnson Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Marcia A. Lattimore

Cynthia K. Mackay

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Morse

Carle & Larry Mowell

Leigh Newman & Gary Starr

Patty Pittman

William & Sally Richter

Thomas G. Ronalter

Beth Shluger

Sharon & Mike Spinelli

Mary & Bill Talbot

Douglas & Mildred Unfried

Michael Wilder[†]

Al & Helen Wilke

Zachs Family Foundation Inc.

While our participation in the match program has concluded, donations to the fund, directly to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, are always welcome.

ROWING STEWARDS FUND

Anonymous (2)

Arline Adamovich-Witek

Victoria Asfala Deborah Baker

Dr. & Mrs. David Barnett Harold Blinderman & Wanda

Schulman

Marguerite Boslaugh & David

Guadliana Sydney Breard The Buhler Family **Evan Buhler** Elizabeth Burt

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Patti Bushey Kim & Chris Byrd Sarah Calatayud Coreen Carley Victoria Carpenter Calista Carrignan Kathleen Cassidy

Bob Clark Jim Clary

Catherine Crocket **David Crockett Kevin Crosby** Harry Culver Nancy Dart Aidan W. Davies

Holly DeYoung & Thomas Donahue Dr. Bob & Debbie Dodenhoff

Matthew & Elizabeth Dreier

Giulia Giovanelli

Christine & Darren Gottesmann

Libby & Noel Graham

Terri Granger

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John Hanson Ajilli Hardy

Michael & Dianne Harnad

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Matthew Reinhardt

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Miguel Velazquez

Bill Veronesi & Barbara Walden

Joseph Vogel Loretta Waldman Beth E. Weber

Jaime Welsh **Brian Wendry** Gail & Robert West Joe & Susan Wilson Serenity Zaebst Michael & Kerry Zaleski

RECOGNITION GIFTS

We appreciate the many people who chose to honor or remember their loved ones with a contribution. While both tributees and donors have been recognized in our Riverfront Recap newsletters, we share those for whom tribute was given:

IN HONOR OF:

Susan Clemow **Louise Coates Bridget Cooke** Gretchen Gregg David Guadliana Andy Hart

Christopher R. Haves

Joan Karpuk Sabrina Lavieri Carle & Larry Mowell Jonathan Near Mike Puckly Kim McVey

The Riverfront Team

Martha Roaers Michael Zaleski

IN MEMORY OF:

Richard Broad **Brian Caldwell** Marie Coburn Alison Coolbrith John Craford Melody Currey

Dock **Patty Foley** Betty Gulliksen Nanette Houghton

Joe Marfuggi & Sherry Brown-

Marfuggi

Margie MacDonnell

Nick Mathis

Bernice Van Overstraeten Miller

Paul Pearson

Helen & Robert Roth



Marfuggi Parks Fund

This special fund, created in 2011 to recognize then President & CEO Joe Marfuggi, provides a source of long-term support that can be used to make essential repairs and improvements in Riverfront parks. We are thankful for the donors who contribute to this fund annually or occasionally. As we work toward enhancing and expanding access to and within our parks, community members signed a petition, approved by Hartford's City Council in 2021, to name the planned 2.5-mile riverwalk the Joe Marfuggi Riverwalk. A fundraising campaign is underway to support amenities along the coming riverwalk with those donations placed in the Marfuggi Parks Fund until expended for the intended purpose and is very close to its \$1,150,000 goal. The fund continues to grow through contributions and earnings, with periodic special expenditures approved by our Board of Directors.

We especially thank the following contributors for their support in 2023, with most earmarked for the Joe Marfuggi Riverwalk. Plans and permits have been submitted, and we are completing additional required studies for plant and wildlife diversity.

Greg Adams Diana & Bob Annon Deborah Baker Len & Deb Bieringer Harold Blinderman & Wanda Schulman Avery & Eileen Buell **Burns & McDonnell Foundation** Matching Gifts Fund/Greater Horizons Tara Cantor **Gary Capreol** Kathleen Cassidy Peter & Jeanette Christian Chinenye Claytor Mary Ellen & Tom Cody Erin & Julio Concepción Rick & Beth Costello Mary Lou & Jim Dahmer

Philip & Mary-Alice Dennehy Ted Diesenhaus & Deanne Shapiro Jeffrey Doolittle Paul Eddy & Elizabeth Normen Kristin Beth Ferris Sara J. Frey & Alan Blasenstein Jim & Susan Gleason Gretchen Gregg The Hartford Financial Services Group Burton & Phyllis Hoffman Foundation The Hoffman Family Susan Hoffnagle Dave P. Jenkins Gail & Chris Johnson Janice & David Klein **Barry Lastra** The John G. Martin Foundation Eileen Moore

Marjorie Morrissey

Carle & Larry Mowell Jennifer & Marc Nicol Patty Pittman Ken & Mary Pouch Mike Puckly & Chris Cadiz Ashley R. Sauvé Pat & Jane Sheehan Sharon & Mike Spinelli Jennie Stern-Hagen Mary & Bill Talbot Hua Tan Josye Utick & Andrew Diaz-Matos The Vandeventer Foundation Herbert Virgo Matt & Lois Weady Michael & Kerry Zaleski Brendan Zielinski

Summary of Finances

Assets

Cash and Investments-Unrestricted \$821,778
Cash and Investments-Restricted \$2,175,614
Endowment Investments \$2,961,456
Receivables \$440,269
Land and Equipment \$1,891,552
Prepaid Expenses \$43,141
TOTAL ASSETS \$8,333,810

Liabilities & Net Assets

Payables and Accrued Liabilities \$242,542
Refundable Advances \$32,656
Net Assets Without Restrictions \$3,200,333
Net Assets With Restrictions \$4,858,279
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$8,333,810

Revenue

Grants and Contributions \$2,885,268
Program Fees & other Earned Income \$646,659
TOTAL REVENUE \$3,531,927

Expenses

Program Services \$3,203,360
General Administration \$136,217
Fundraising \$296,107
TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,635,684

Investment Return \$640,593

Total Net Assets

Beginning of Year \$7,521,325 End of Year \$8,058,161

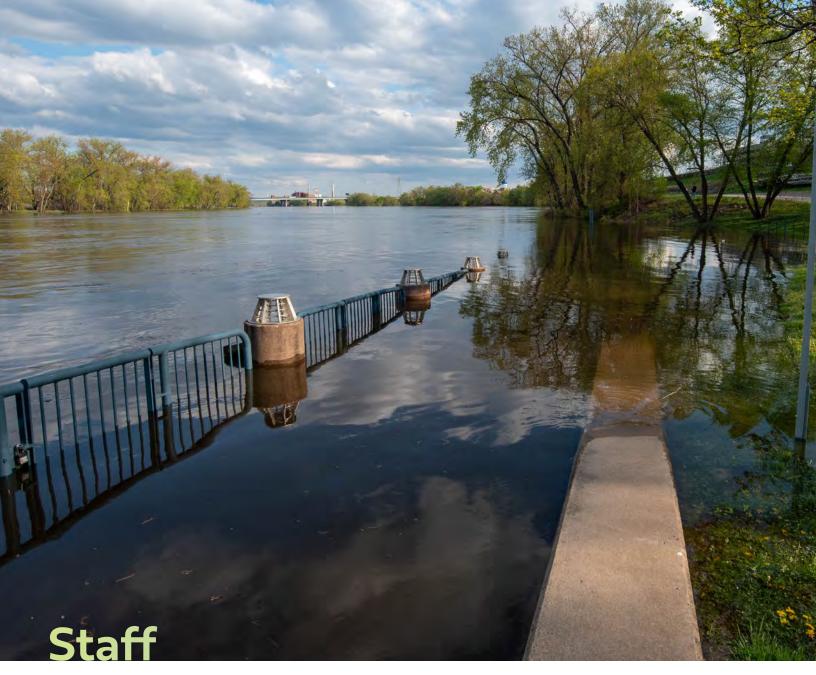
This summary is derived from the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023. A copy of the complete statement is available at riverfront.org/financials.

Our auditor is CliftonLarsonAllen LLP.









Michael Zaleski

President & CEO

Robert C. Allan

Director of Public Safety & Park Operations

Deborah Baker

Director of Development

Evan Buhler

Assistant Director of Rowing Programs

Rodney Bynoe

Assistant Director of Ranger Services

Tara Cantor

Director of Communications & Marketing

Bridget Cooke

Director of Events

Martha Conneely

Park Development Manager

Venus Dickson

Finance Manager

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Park Operations Supervisor

Peter Morse

Director of Finance

Jonathan Near

Director of Rowing Programs

Marc A. Nicol

Director of Park Planning & Development

Marilyn Rodriguez

Dragon Boat Programs Manager

Dixon Vega

Ranger Program Supervisor

Management Partners









Riverfront Recapture 50 Columbus Boulevard, 1st Floor Hartford, CT 06106