



CITY OF ITHACA
108 East Green Street Ithaca, New York 14850-5690

MAYOR'S OFFICE

SVANTE L. MYRICK, MAYOR

Telephone: 607-274-6501

Email: mayor@cityofithaca.org

Fax: 607-274-6526

MEMORANDUM

To: Expanded Budget Committee, Tompkins County Legislature
From: Kevin L. Sutherland, Chief of Staff, City of Ithaca
CC: Svante L. Myrick, Mayor, Liz Vance, Director, Ithaca Youth Bureau
Date: September 17, 2015
Re: Request for funding in the 2016 budget for Cass and Stewart Park

The City of Ithaca is writing to request funding from Tompkins County for the management and maintenance of our waterfront parks (Stewart and Cass Park) and recreation facilities.

The City has substantial infrastructure, public use and programming at our waterfront parks and facilities that require significant funds for staffing, maintenance, equipment, utilities and supplies, which benefits all county residents. Trails, pavilions, playgrounds, tennis courts and sport fields are utilized by local youth and adult sport leagues, residents from throughout the county and visitors to our community. The \$30,000 contribution is a new beginning to a cost sharing solution for our local water front parks and recreation facilities. The County's support will help keep our parks strong and viable for all residents.

The City of Ithaca's Youth Bureau is currently the program provider for the Recreation Partnership (RP) programs. The RP is a very successful example of shared services in our county. RP programs along with a wide range of activities like swimming, skating, biking, hiking, picnicking, tennis, and field usage are enjoyed by residents throughout the County. The activities and facilities provided by the city are enjoyed by city, town, and county residents. 70% of waterfront park and recreation facilities users are Tompkins County residents not living in the City of Ithaca. The attached spreadsheet is an example of usage for Cass Park Rink and Pool facilities in 2014 that shows how this facility is used by Tompkins County residents.

The City and Town have maintained a strong relationship to support waterfront parks and facilities over the years. In order to maintain this partnership and financial support, additional partners within Tompkins County are needed. The Town of Ithaca, which historically had contributed \$111K annually, reduced their contribution to \$82K in the 2015 budget. The Town's

contribution is at risk of being further reduced in 2016 if additional support from the other government entities is not found. The City of Ithaca requests that Tompkins County contribute to the cost of maintaining the City of Ithaca's waterfront parks and recreation facilities in the amount of \$30,000 annually. This support will help keep our parks strong and viable for all residents.

We have seen the interest in the water front parks and recreation facilities grow over the years. There are many stakeholders interested in revitalizing our parks and recreation facilities. A water Recreation committee has recently been formed to explore increased water access at our parks, Tompkins County is proposing the Blueways Trail which will add infrastructure to both water front parks and there are two Friends groups who have proposed several ideas for the parks.

With this interest in and growing usage of the parks, the City hopes to bring a consultant in during 2016 to conduct a study that will look at things such as shared costs, oversight and management of our communities parks and facilities, cost recovery, and planning for the future. This study will result in a Master Plan which will create a roadmap for ensuring an appropriate balance of facilities and amenities throughout the community now and into the future.

Amenity Admission in Cass Park (2014)

Municipalities	Pool Admission		Rink Admission		Total	
Caroline	63	1.6%	410	3.4%	473	2.9%
City of Ithaca	1,435	36.0%	2,921	24.2%	4,356	27.1%
Danby	260	6.5%	674	5.6%	934	5.8%
Dryden	188	4.7%	922	7.6%	1,110	6.9%
Enfield	136	3.4%	303	2.5%	439	2.7%
Groton	15	0.4%	114	0.9%	129	0.8%
Newfield	120	3.0%	472	3.9%	592	3.7%
Town of Ithaca	999	25.0%	3,093	25.6%	4,092	25.5%
Town of Lansing	136	3.4%	345	2.9%	481	3.0%
Ulysses	272	6.8%	930	7.7%	1,202	7.5%
Village of Lansing	72	1.8%	351	2.9%	423	2.6%
Other	294	7.4%	1,551	12.8%	1,845	11.5%
Total	3,990		12,086		16,076	
Non City or Town of Ithaca Municipalities (not including Other)	1,262	31.6%	4,521	37.4%	5,783	36.0%