

December 2, 2024

To members of the City of Toronto Executive Committee,

On behalf of [Park People](#), Canada's only national, bilingual organization solely dedicated to championing city parks, I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the proposal by Councillor Paul Ainslie (Scarborough-Guildwood Ward 24) to diversify funding in support of Guild Park & Gardens, a unique Toronto destination along the Scarborough Bluffs.

We understand that Councillor Ainslie's proposal is to augment Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) Division's capital budget for Guild Park with new revenue now generated on-site through the annual rent paid to the City through its 40-year sublease agreement with the private company that operates Guild Inn Estate (GIE). PFR funding will continue to support the park's ongoing maintenance and improvement.

Park People's research with Canadian municipalities, the most recent data found in the 2024 [Canadian City Parks Report](#), reveals that park budgets have not kept pace with park visitors' increased use and their higher expectations for on-site facilities and services. Park People recommends that municipalities across the country adopt innovative, long-term funding approaches for urban parks. Such approaches, especially when undertaken collaboratively with local communities and park supporters, such as Friends of Guild Park, could help to address the chronic underfunding of popular parks in Canadian cities.

Guild Park is unique in the City's parks system combining nature, art and history. The proposal put forward by Councillor Ainslie is a clear and innovative path to securing sustainable, long-term resources to improve the park's 36 hectares (88 acres) and to inspire and serve the more than 200,000 annual visitors. This is a win-win idea that brings lasting benefits to Guild Park and the City of Toronto.

Park People is pleased to support Councillor Ainslie in this endeavour and believe that with the Executive Committee's support Guild Park will not only be more financially sustainable but also grow as a destination for Torontonians.

Sincerely,



Joy Sammy, Research and Partnerships Manager

Park People