



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	August 8, 2024
SUBJECT:	Update #2 - Mountain Drive Park Soils Finding (ES2402(a)) (Wards 6 and 7)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Wards 6 and 7
SUBMITTED BY:	Cynthia Graham Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

PURPOSE

To update City Council on the impacted soils identified at Mountain Drive Park in April 2024 and the additional testing that has been completed along with next steps.

INFORMATION

In April, staff updated Council that as part of standard due diligence soil testing for the Mountain Drive Park redevelopment (the next phase includes a new spray pad, sun shelter, walkways, and playground replacement), soil tests have revealed that some of the soils at the park contain exceedances of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks standards for parkland.

Further testing has identified additional areas of impacted soils within the park. As such, additional fencing will be installed to prevent access to members of the public out of an abundance of caution. At this time, the new fencing limits will be within the boundaries of the park property and will include the washroom building. Fencing will span the entire boundary of the park. Additional sampling is being completed at the easterly end of the park and if results indicate soils that meet the standards, fencing limits will be adjusted accordingly. Please note that the perimeter pathways and sidewalks will remain open and unimpeded.

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Recognizing that there are some encampments at the park right now, those residents will need to relocate. In keeping with the City's housing-led approach, Housing-focused Street Outreach staff will be attending the area to advise unhoused residents of the upcoming fencing/remediation.

During those visits, Housing-focused Street Outreach staff will offer individuals at the location supports such as harm reduction, housing applications, assistance with connecting with OW/ODSP, referrals to health care (including Shelter Health Network and Social Navigator Program), needed clothing items, and shelter space, if available. If shelter space is not available or appropriate, Housing-focused Street Outreach staff will support the unhoused residents to find a compliant location for their tent.

We recognize this closure will be an inconvenience to some residents and ask for patience while the testing is completed. Residents will be encouraged to visit alternate nearby parks and playgrounds such as Peace Memorial Park, Eastmount Park, and Highview Park.

These precautionary measures are being implemented based on preliminary data. Additional sampling throughout the site will take place to help delineate the impacted areas. These findings will delay the implementation of the park redevelopment improvements. Staff will report back once the extent of the impacted soils is fully known, including estimates of additional costs required for remediation. Remediation measures will be built into plans for the park's redevelopment in 2025 and will mitigate the risks found.

It is anticipated that the fencing will be installed the week of August 12, 2024, to allow sufficient time for Housing-focused Outreach staff to connect with encampment residents to allow time for those to vacate the area.

If you have any questions regarding this Communication Update, please contact Wes Kindree, Manager of Landscape Architectural Services (LAS), at Wes.Kindree@hamilton.ca.

**SUBJECT: Urban Forest Invasive Species Management (ES2404) (City Wide) -
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Figure 1 – Revised Limits of Temporary Fencing. No Public Access.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A

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