




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	September 6, 2022
SUBJECT:	Centennial Heights Park – Contaminated soil discovery and City response (ES22009) (Ward 13)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 13
SUBMITTED BY:	Craig Murdoch Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

This update is to inform Council and the community about soil test results at Centennial Heights Park, as well as next steps that will be taken by staff.

Overview of the situation:

On July 20, 2022, soil testing was completed at Centennial Heights Park in Ward 13 as part of a pathway construction project. In order to comply with the Excess Soils legislation, (O.Reg. 406/19 On-site and Excess Soil Management and implemented O.Reg. 407/19, which amended O. Reg. 153/04 Records of Site Condition) these soil tests were required for the handling and disposal of soils. The funding for this project was approved by council in March 2022. The results of the soil tests were reported by the consultant hired by the City on August 9th and tests were repeated on August 17th with results delivered on August 26th to confirm that soils across the park have exceedances to parkland soil standards set by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for mercury, zinc, lead and cadmium.

At this time, on the counsel of the consultant's Qualified Professional, the City's Public Health Services and Hamilton Water staff, the general consensus is that the condition of the park poses very little risk to public health, as contaminants within the soil are not readily available, nor likely to move through the landscape. However, in the interest of transparency and to ensure Council is up to date with details regarding this

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contaminated soil discovery, as well as the evolving response and next steps for the City, this update will outline some details on next steps.

The area of the park and surrounding neighbourhood are serviced by private and on-site wells or by connections to the municipal drinking water system. Staff have considered the monitoring well testing data both upstream and downstream of the park and it does not seem to present elevated levels of the contaminants of concern. The city's monitoring wells are located 300m and 500m respectively away from the site.

The consultants that completed the soil testing have prepared a next steps proposal and staff are completing the paperwork to move forward with that work and are outlined below

City staff met with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks staff to brief them on the soil test findings on Wednesday, August 31st, and will ensure the ministry is kept informed on a go-forward basis.

History of the site:

The park was constructed when the area was part of the Town of Flamborough. Staff have reviewed air photography as far back as 1995 and confirmed that the basic layout of the park has not changed since that time.

The park is maintained by a subcommittee of community volunteers who maintain the open space and the ball diamond. City staff maintain the playground on the site. The subcommittee has been made aware of the results of the tests by way of this update, and staff will continue to share information as it becomes available.

Next steps:

Staff will engage the consultant to complete additional testing as required to understand what the findings of the soil testing means for the park property as well as adjacent neighbours, and use of the property by the public. Further soil testing is recommended, including deeper soil tests across the site, and installation of a monitoring well.

Staff have set up a project website (www.hamilton.ca/CentennialHeights), and have posted the soil testing results for transparency. As additional testing or information is gathered, the website will be updated.

The City will continue to keep the public updated on measures taken to address the contaminated soil at this property and will inform Council and residents if it is determined that any precautions should be taken. At this time, the City is not advising residents to take such action.

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