



## COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Hamilton

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	January 26, 2026
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Re-opening of the York Boulevard Stairs to the Waterfront Trail (Ward 1)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Cynthia Graham Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C. Graham'.

This communication update is to inform council about the reopening of the stairs located at York Boulevard, at the McQuesten High Level Bridge, that leads pedestrians from the York Boulevard multi-use path to the waterfront trail at the Desjardins Canal.

In May 2025, the stairs were closed after staff identified a retaining wall adjacent to the stairs had loose stones and were a concern for users of the stairs.

Since that time, staff hired a structural engineering consultant to review the wall and the structures and have advised that the risk level is lower than staff had accounted for after the initial inspections. Through the more in-depth review by the consultant, it has been determined that the stairs can be reopened, with a regular schedule of monitoring to track any additional stone movement or failure.

Staff are working to reopen the stairs immediately, and will begin a program of monitoring, by staff at first, until a consultant can be hired to take on the inspections.

In order to permanently address the wall, several studies need to be undertaken before more intensive work occurs, including a natural heritage study and a cultural heritage study. These will be undertaken in 2026 and will inform what permanent solution can be constructed.

The work in 2026 does not need additional capital funding as there are existing funds for the monitoring and the studies.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

**SUBJECT: Re-opening of the York Boulevard Stairs to the Waterfront Trail (Ward 1) - Page 2 of 2**

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The patience of all residents has been appreciated while staff completed the due diligence studies to ensure that stairs are safe for use.

Should you require further information, please contact Cynthia Graham, Director, Environmental Services at 905-546-2424 extension 2337, or [cynthia.graham@hamilton.ca](mailto:cynthia.graham@hamilton.ca).

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A

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