

Communication Update

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

Committee Date: July 2, 2026

Subject/Report No.: Chedoke Golf Course Review

Ward(s) Affected: Ward 1

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Signature:



Summary

This Communication Update provides Council with an update on the status, plan and timing of the Chedoke Golf Course Review study.

Background

Following a comprehensive 2024 report on the status of Hamilton's three municipal golf courses, City Council directed staff to explore how the Chedoke Golf Course lands could address opportunities related to greenspace access, natural area restoration, stormwater management, community agriculture and biodiversity, including evaluating whether portions of the lands could support complimentary public uses alongside existing golf operations. The review, followed by subsequent updates to Council, also stipulated that the Chedoke Golf Course lands remain publicly owned in perpetuity.

In 2025, Environmental Services staff initiated a comprehensive feasibility review study of the Chedoke Golf Course lands. The study will be a fulsome review assignment that will include public and stakeholder engagement throughout 2026. The purpose of the study is to evaluate viable land use alternatives that could support complimentary public uses alongside existing golf operations. Alternatives will be evaluated in alignment with existing City-wide strategies and master plans, including: the Watershed Action Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan, Recreation Master Plan, Parks Master Plan, Urban Forest Strategy and Climate Action Strategy. The study will inform Council's

decision making on whether and how these lands could change (within the framework noted) to deliver broader community benefit.

Details

The study will include a high-level current state assessment of the site, a shortlist of potential alternative uses, an assessment and critique of potential changes to the site (evaluated through an equity lens), and engagement with internal and external parties, including the general public. A roster consultant will generate a final report, which will help inform future master planning and capital project delivery that will be completed as separate assignments at a later date. The findings will then be presented to General Issues Committee in Q1 2027.

City staff will lead engagement with both internal and external partners and with the general public. The City's approach to community engagement will:

- Be framed around community values explicitly related to Hamilton's major City-wide strategies and master plans.
- Be framed around long-term planning, stewardship of land, community wellbeing, long term resilience, and informed decision-making regarding the future of the site that will help identify shared priorities across diverse viewpoints.

Messaging will be clear on what it means to be in the feasibility stage. Reinforcing this element and stating it at the start of all engagement checkpoints will help manage project expectations while creating a positive, forward-looking tone that encourages participation and informed feedback.

Communications methods for this study will include focus group meetings with internal and external groups; a project web page to share information and reporting, guided site walking tours, story mapping tools, and a short community-wide survey that solicits feedback on experiences and aspirations of the site. These engagement methods and overall approach are intended to help identify community values and priorities that will inform the study.

Next Steps

The following represent the next steps for this study:

- Liaise with roster consultant throughout to commence a background review to be used in the final report. The background review will include a review of the current regulatory framework and existing City master plans / strategies that apply to the site, an inventory and analysis of existing green space, and a review of current site operations and use-pattern information. The review will also include the development of an evaluation framework – applying an equity lens – to guide the assessment of future land use options (Q2-Q3 2026).

- Undertake City-wide engagement through the Engage Hamilton web page and through the methods outlined above, as well as targeted engagement to stakeholders and community groups (Q2-Q3 2026).
- Liaise with the roster consultant to carry forward the findings of the background review and established framework to develop and evaluate land use scenarios. This will include developing a shortlist of alternative or complementary land use options. It will also include developing a comparative analysis and feasibility matrix for shortlisted alternatives, including risks, constraints, as well as financial considerations for each alternative (Q3 2026).
- Develop a comprehensive feasibility report outlining alternative land use scenarios (Q4 2026).
- Present report findings and recommendations to General Issues Committee (Q1 2027).