



June 22, 2020

Attention: Hamilton City Council

Re: Wastewater Treatment Plant Bypass and Combined Sewer Overflow Reporting
(PW19091(a))

Royal Botanical Gardens fully supports and appreciates the ongoing Combined Sewer System public communication improvements the City of Hamilton is undertaking through the website. We also thank the City of Hamilton staff for their consultation with Royal Botanical Gardens staff as well as other stakeholders as these ongoing improvements are made.

Capturing and treating sewage is critical to the ecological sustainability and conservation function of Cootes Paradise Marsh, which itself is critical to the ecology of western Lake Ontario. In addition, Cootes Paradise is a much beloved space for visitors both locally and internationally. This is also critical for the trust and confidence that the water is safe for the recreational users.

We look forward to the next steps of adding further monitoring to the unmonitored/remediated CSO sites, as well as the assessing of the CSO overflow performance vs the policy objectives for the waters flowing to Cootes Paradise Marsh. We fully anticipate Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan partner support for the remediation of the remaining unmanaged and unmonitored CSOs to Cootes Paradise as delisting the Hamilton Harbour Area of Concern requires the recovery of the aquatic ecosystem of Cootes Paradise Marsh.

We look forward to working with City of Hamilton to remediate these long-standing issues.

Sincerely,

Tys Theijsmeijer
Head of Natural Lands

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Chief Executive Officer

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