
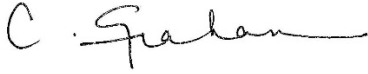




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	October 13, 2023
SUBJECT:	Update #5 – Gage Park Tropical Greenhouse Reopening and Results of Roof Panel Investigation (CFEM2310) (ES23015) (Ward 3)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 3
SUBMITTED BY:	Indra Maharjan Director, Corporate Facilities & Energy Management Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	 Cynthia Graham Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department 

UPDATE:

The Gage Park Tropical Greenhouse will reopen to the public on Monday, October 16, 2023, and will resume normal operating hours for public access.

The Fall Garden and Mum Show, held in the Gage Park Production Greenhouse, takes place from October 20 to 29, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. In preparation for the show, the Gage Park Tropical Greenhouse will need to be closed to the public on October 19, 2023 but will reopen on October 20, 2023 and remain open throughout the event. This one-day closure is a normal part of Mum Show preparation. With the Tropical Greenhouse open, the route for the public to attend the Mum Show will be the same as in recent years, with the entrance at the Tropical Greenhouse doors.

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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.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

As communicated on July 19, 2023, a structural consultant was retained to complete an assessment of the Gage Park Tropical Greenhouse, as there have been issues related to the roofing panels being dislodged from their frames during inclement weather.

The investigative work, which required the greenhouse to be closed to the public, commenced July 24, 2023, and continued through to July 31, 2023. The investigation resulted in the need to complete emergency repairs to the Tropical Greenhouse roof to ensure the health and safety of the public and staff. The West side of the Tropical Greenhouse was fenced off to protect the public, and the Tropical Greenhouse remained closed while emergency repairs were completed. As the work progressed, areas of the Tropical Greenhouse were reopened to staff to facilitate maintenance and care of the plants and the fencing was removed, but the facility as a whole remained closed to the public.

The emergency repairs are complete and all immediate safety concerns have been addressed, and so the Tropical Greenhouse will reopen to the public on October 16, 2023 following several days of work to get the facility ready for the visitors.

Staff will report back to the Mayor and Members of Council with the extent of the permanent repairs and the time frame to complete the permanent repairs, pending receipt of a 3rd party Engineering report, scope of work and associated costing.

Staff worked throughout the closure to minimize impacts to those that had rented the space for events including photos, wedding ceremonies and showers by offering reduced fees and alternative locations including the Gage Park Rose Gardens as a wedding venue. Staff want to acknowledge the effort of all who were involved in pursuing alternatives and ensuring events occurred with minimal disruptions and thank those that had booked events for their understanding of the closure and working with staff to find alternatives.

Staff also worked closely with the organizers of the Festival of Friends, August 4-6, 2023, located at Gage Park, to achieve a new booth layout required to keep the public safe. Thanks to the successful collaboration, the festival was able to proceed, while also accounting for safety considerations. Staff want to acknowledge the efforts of organizers of the Festival of Friends who went above and beyond to pivot their layout with very short notice and thank you to the vendor for their understanding. The festival proceeded successfully with a different layout and some additional equipment and support, including support provided by the City of Hamilton Staff.

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Looking back on previous Communication Updates to Council:

- June 30: Communication Update #1
- July 7: Communication Update #2
- July 19: Communication Update #3
- July 27: Communication Update #4

Staff efforts to respond to both protect public safety and minimize impacts to the public are appreciated.

If you require further information on the above matter, please contact Robyn Pollard, Manager of Forestry & Horticulture at Robyn.Pollard@hamilton.ca or Extension 3919 or Janet Warner, Senior Project Manager of Capital Projects at Janet.Warner@hamilton.ca or Extension 7041.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A