



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
COMMITTEE DATE:	January 10, 2025
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	New Detections of Plum Pox Virus: Changes to Quarantine Limits (ES2501) (Wards 9 and 10)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Wards 9 and 10
SUBMITTED BY:	Cynthia Graham Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to advise Council of the detection of Plum Pox Virus approximately 1.5 km within the western edge of the current plum pox virus quarantine area in Stoney Creek. Plum pox virus was detected in samples collected by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency during their 2024 perimeter surveying which took place in the City of Hamilton and Niagara Region.

Due to the proximity of the recent detections to the current boundary, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is recommending an expansion of the quarantine area following international guidelines. Upon approval by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the proposed western boundary will shift from Fifty Road/Eleventh Road East to McNeilly Road/Eighth Road East, while the southern boundary will expand to Green Mountain Road East from Smith Road. All other boundaries will remain the same. See map on page 3.

Plum pox virus is a serious threat to the commercial tender fruit industry as the virus impacts many species of the *Prunus* genus including peaches, nectarines, plums, apricots, almonds, and ornamental varieties. The virus is spread by aphids or through propagation methods like grafting or budding but cannot survive on tools such as those used for pruning. Symptoms include ring spots, deformed fruit, early fruit drop, and overall decrease of fruit production. While the virus does not kill trees, it significantly impacts yield and quality of fruit. The virus has no direct effect on human or animal health.

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To date, monitoring and management efforts have been led by the Plum Pox Management and Monitoring Program, which was established by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in 2011. In 2014, the current regulated area was defined in the Plum Pox Virus Infested Place Order. Residents and farmers within the area are prohibited from propagating new plants/trees susceptible to plum pox virus, and from moving plant material that could spread the disease which does not include fresh fruit. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency also has two existing policy directives which regulates the importation plants and plum pox virus-susceptible propagative plant material. These regulatory controls are critical to prevent the spread of the virus and therefore limit the economic impact.

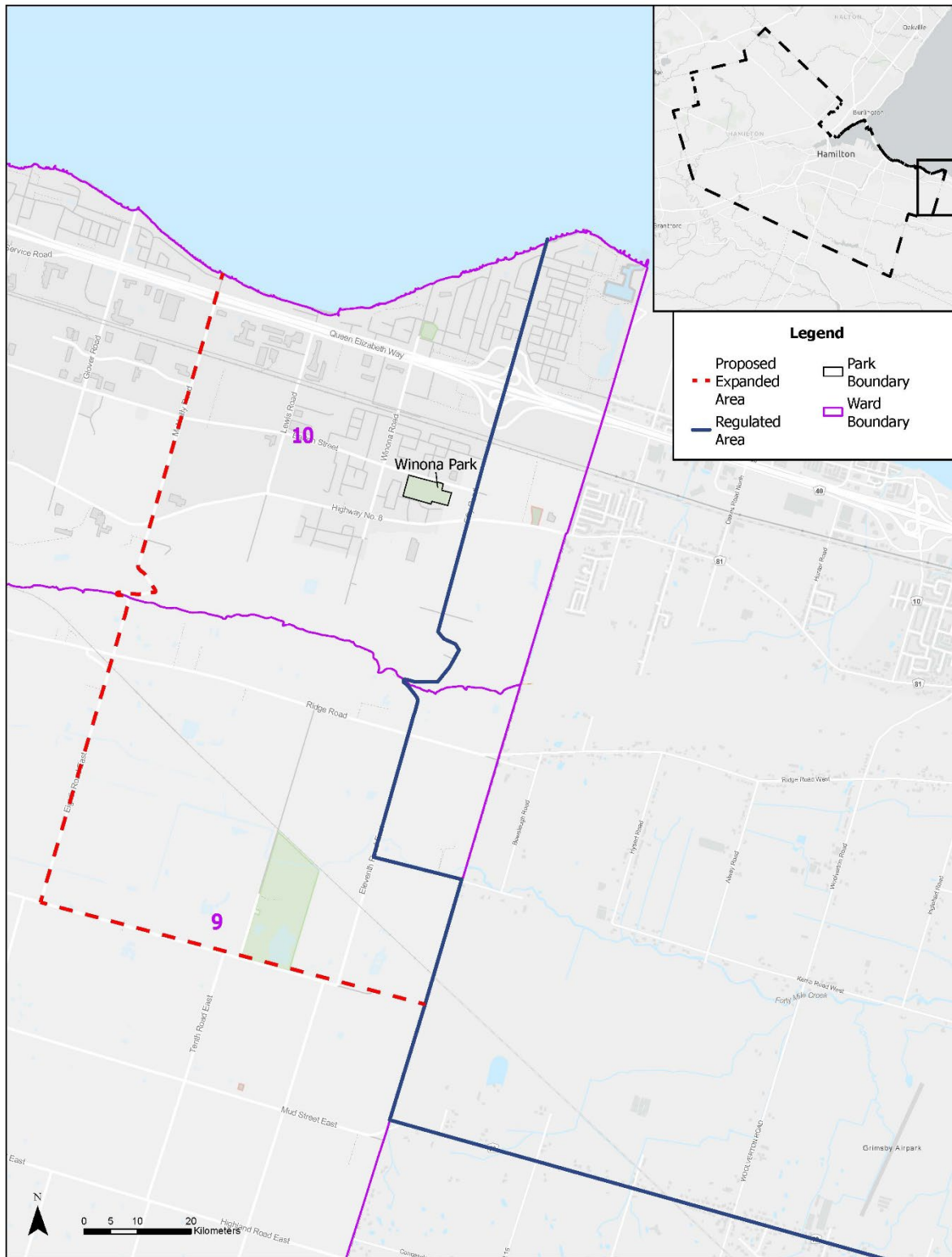
The expansion of the quarantine boundaries includes City-owned properties such as Winona Park which is the event grounds of the Winona Peach festival. While there is no ban on the movement or production of fruit, festival vendors and planners should ensure compliance by prohibiting the movement of living plants on-site. Staff have initiated contact with the event organizers to assist in this regard.

For more information visit:

- <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/plum-pox-virus>

For further information please contact Robyn Pollard, Manager of Forestry and Horticulture by phone at 905-546-2424 Ext. 3919, or by email at Robyn.Pollard@hamilton.ca.

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The current regulated area for plum pox virus and recommended expanded area (dotted red line) within the City of Hamilton. The expanded area will remain within wards 9 and 10 and will include Winona Park which hosts the Winona Peach Festival in late summer. The inlay map identifies the City of Hamilton boundary (dotted line) and extent of map (solid black) shown for this Communication Update.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES

N/A