TO: Chair and Members
Public Works Committee

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Ward 2

COMMITTEE DATE: September 16, 2013

SUBJECT/REPORT NO:
Central Park Subsurface Soil Investigation - (PW13069) - (Ward 2)
Outstanding Business List

SUBMITTED BY:
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Council Direction:
At its June 13, 2012, meeting, Council directed staff to report back to Public Works Committee in regard to the initiation of a Phase 1 assessment on the condition of Central Park.

Information:
At the June 13, 2012, Council meeting, the Central Neighbourhood Association (CNA) expressed concerns about possible subsurface soil contamination at Central Park and how this possible contamination may be impacting public health. Council directed Public Works staff to investigate Central Park and to report on any health related issues.

Following Council’s direction, Public Works began working with staff from the local district office of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Public Health Services and the Ward Councillor regarding the investigation.

In the summer and fall of 2012, staff reviewed the available documentation to establish the history of the Central Park site. Following this initial review Public Health Services advised that in its present, undisturbed state, Central Park poses a minimum risk (if any) to the general public.

In the fall of 2012, Environmental Services staff retained a consulting firm and in consultation with the local district office of the MOE, developed a soil investigation work plan for Central Park.
The soil investigation was completed in the spring of 2013 and indicates that even though the upper two metres of overburden are environmentally impacted compared to the current Provincial standards, it concludes that the found contaminants are neither mobile nor volatile. Public Health Services reviewed the soil investigation report and has confirmed that the condition of Central Park likely poses very little risk to public health since the contaminants are not easily accessible or readily absorbed into the human body.

While the initial soil investigation confirmed that the materials identified in the soil do not pose any immediate health concern, due to the industrial history of the site a supplemental investigation will be undertaken in order to determine if any remedial action is required.

A consultant has been retained to undertake the supplemental investigation work which is expected to begin in mid-September 2013 with the associated report scheduled for later this year.

Over the past year Public Works staff have been consulting and updating Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr on the progress of the park investigation. Additionally, the CNA has been kept informed of the status of the consultants work and Public Health Services assessments. Public Works and Public Health Services staff will continue to update both Councillor Farr and the CNA as the supplementary investigation is undertaken and will report back to Committee in the first quarter of 2014.