



# PRESS RELEASE



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atrefry@manitouspringsco.gov  
(719) 306-2884

## Exterior Demolition Work on Hiawatha Gardens Building Begins

MANITOU SPRINGS CO – The partial demolition of the Hiawatha Gardens building continues as crews have completed the interior demolition steps and are now removing the exterior structure of the non-historic portions of the building. The demolition will result in removal of approximately 6,800 sqft. of additions to the original building, leaving the 7,400 sqft. historic dancehall portion.

The City of Manitou Springs has contracted with D2 Demo & Dirt to carry out the partial demolition. This work is funded with Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) funds.

The contractor has extended the work area to the north in order to remove the non-historic building elements, temporarily impacting several parking spots. When completed, the partial demolition will result in the addition of 20 interim parking spaces for public use.

Once the partial demolition is accomplished within the next few weeks, a professional assessment of the remaining historic dancehall portion's structural integrity will be conducted, and potential financial implications will be analyzed. Once both determinations are complete, a decision will be made about whether to retain the 7,400 sqft. historic portion of the building. If it is to be retained, the Hiawatha Gardens Task Force will explore funding sources and, with the community's help, develop a final recommendation to City Council for the building's use.

In October 2020 the Manitou Springs City Council passed a resolution calling for the Task Force to develop a plan for utilizing historically significant portions of the building for transportation/mobility and community uses.

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