

UPDATE

September 14, 2010

Invasive Species Control

Forestry needed to reapply for a pesticide license this year due to new provincial regulations, so treatment of Dog-Strangling Vine (DSV) was delayed. In the meantime, the restoration crew was able to put more attention to other species, including Himalayan Balsam, Tall Sweet White Clover and Japanese Knotweed, as well Spreading Hedge Parsley (*Torilis arvensis*), a more recent invader.

Once DSV treatment started, the crew was able to get a lot done. They focused mainly on areas that are being considered for a prescribed burn next spring.

DSV is also spreading to home gardens. For information on removal and safe disposal of the plant material see http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/research/swallowwort/index_e.php.

Prescribed Burn

A site meeting will be held later this fall to develop plans for a prescribed burn in spring 2011. The last one in High Park was in 2007.

Forestry staff will be speaking at a Wildland Fire conference in Kitchener in early October.

Parkside Drive Slope

The sunken slope south of the Nature Centre has been renovated and covered with a temporary seed mixture. Some invasive plants are sprouting there. This area will be planted with woody species this fall. The area has been blocked well with logs and there does not seem to be any new intrusive traffic into this sensitive ravine.

Oak Regeneration

A detailed assessment of Black Oak regeneration was done in 2003 as a masters thesis. Forestry does not have the resources to update this at such a detailed level, but is recording general observations. The results look promising, with young seedlings observed in many areas. A consultant may be retained in the future to help interpret the monitoring information and assess regeneration success.

Staff are also monitoring the health of the saplings planted in tubes and are replacing those that die. Forestry has found a new source of oak saplings that is providing trees big enough to plant in manicured areas.

Tree Pruning

Pruning of hazard trees will continue through the winter. Some unsafe trees along the Oak Woodlands footpath (west savannah) are targeted for removal.

Naming Trails and Areas

Several volunteers met over the summer to map out several major routes through the park that could be named as main trails. Possible names for significant natural areas, especially savannahs, have also been considered. Further work is needed to develop recommendations, preferably with broader input.

Signage

Park Operations is updating and installing a number of small identification/directional signs.

A prototype of an interpretive sign for Grenadier Pond is currently under review. It is intended to serve as a model for a number of additional signs around the pond.

Website

The postings at www.highparknature.org continue to grow and the front page information is updated regularly. There are now about 80 pages of information and images, plus a number of pdfs and links.

Anyone who would like to submit photos to add new images to the site or improve on existing ones is welcome to contact mail@highparknature.org. Written submissions are also welcome, including personal reminiscences or reflections as well as factual articles.

Volunteer Stewards

More people are needed for a variety of new projects in the coming year. The next session on Sunday, Sept. 26th will be the 3rd planting in the Sculpture Garden site. See www.highparknature.org for details.

Other Updates

Nothing further has been heard about a proposal from last spring to loosen up **fishing** requirements. Many concerns had been expressed.

The City's proposals for the **off-leash area** were made public in late June. No changes were made after public comments were received.

The City has indicated that a **Master Plan** process will start in 2011. The project leader is to be determined.

One of the sculptures removed from High Park, **Flower Power**, has been restored and installed downtown. See the link on the High Park Nature website front page.

Next High Park Nature Meeting

Thursday, October 28, 6.45 pm, Howard Park Tennis Club. New members welcome.