

Forestry Update

Jennifer Gibb will be starting a one-year maternity leave at the beginning of November. We had hoped to meet with her one last time before her leave but schedules were too tight. We very much appreciate the dedication and vision that has guided her work on the restoration efforts over the last few years, as well as her support for our committee's contributions. Lisa McLean will be taking over some of Jennifer's responsibilities in the short term but the group expects to be short-handed for some time, so everyone will just have to do their best to keep things moving.

The restoration crew have cleared a lot of invasive woody material from the savannah west of West Road. More tree/shrub removal will be performed over the winter.

Stormwater Ponds

We have followed up with Jennifer about the unsatisfactory state of the Wendigo Pond and Howard/Ridout Pond areas after they were dredged last winter. She is moving forward with planting the current plantable space this fall and can always add infill should the gravel be removed. The Forestry ravine planner is dealing with Toronto Water on the issue of removing the gravel.

Lower Duck Pond

A test project is underway in this pond using an Enhanced Oxygen System to naturally clean the water and sediment, as an alternative to dredging. The project leader, David Martin, is interested in receiving any visual or odour observations. Please send your observations to mail@highparknature.org and we will forward them.

Prescribed Burn Site Tour

Leslie Gooding and Bob and Karen Yukich took part in a site tour organized by Jennifer Gibb to review the results of last year's burn and plan the areas to burn in spring 2016. More details will be provided when we get an update from staff.

High Park Stewards

The Stewards have established a new restoration site on the Tablelands, planted in September. As usual, the Stewards will lop the tops from invasive shrubs in three "Buckthorn Busting" sessions this fall.

See the High Park Nature [website](#) for more details of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

Hillside Gardens

In September our committee submitted recommendations on how the ornamental gardens could be more closely tied to the natural heritage features of High Park. Our submission is posted on our website [here](#). We subsequently met with park supervisor Karintha Battig and several park staff to discuss some points for consideration even before a garden master plan is eventually developed.

ESA amendment to Official Plan

Leslie Gooding spoke at the Planning and Growth Management Committee meeting on this subject, supporting the need to follow the provincial Natural Heritage Reference Manual and site trails outside of the sensitive areas (the amendment being put forward allows trails where appropriate). The final OP amendment will go before Toronto City Council on Nov. 16.

Fishing-related Signs

Compliance with fishing/no fishing zones deteriorated somewhat toward the end of the summer, and signs indicating "no fishing" have been vandalized several times. This matter has been discussed with the park supervisor and bylaw officers, resulting in recommendations for modifying the signs. Park staff promptly repair or replace vandalized signs.

Any problems should be reported promptly to 311, giving time and place. Use separate reports for events that take place at different times rather than lumping them all together (this is true for other 311 complaints as well).

HP Zoo Master Plan

Consultation has begun for possible changes to the zoo, including the roadway configuration. More details and a survey will be posted [here](#).

Nature Centre

We participated in a consultation session about the new OURSpace outdoor classroom south of the Forest School. Some planting has already begun on the site. The current executive director, Natalie Harder, is leaving. Jon Hayes will replace on an interim basis until a replacement is hired.

HPN Website

Check out some new pages in the History section of our website: some fascinating [Quotes from the Past](#) contributed by Joanne Doucette; and an almost complete collection of the [High Park Quarterly](#) magazine, courtesy of Gigi Suhanic.