

UPDATE

September 2016

Next Meeting of HPNEC – TBD

We have been advised by our Forestry/Natural Environment contacts that they would have very little to report at this point, so a meeting has not yet been scheduled. In the meantime, here are some updates and upcoming events.

Prescribed Burn

A fall burn site tour will be held in October for City staff and technical advisors. This will include a review of the 2016 burn sites (High Park), and an assessment of proposed 2017 burn sites (High Park and Lambton Park).

Dredging Work at Lower Duck Pond

Preparations are underway to dredge the Lower Duck Pond. For more information see the [Public Notice](#) and [background info](#). Toronto Water is responsible for this project and has consulted with Forestry.

City of Toronto Fishing Meeting & Ongoing Concerns

The City of Toronto will be hosting a fishing meeting at Toronto City Hall committee room #3 on Tuesday, September 27 from 7-9 pm. There will be representation from City of Toronto, TRCA, and MNR staff, with presentations from TRCA on Wildlife Management, Aquatic Management and the GTA Fishing Plan. TRCA/City of Toronto will also provide updates on the existing and future installations of the Fishing nodes.

Several NEC members are planning to attend and to express ongoing concerns regarding the impacts of fishing on wildlife, especially discarded fishing lines at Grenadier Pond. Please let us know if you'd like to attend.

Non-compliance with fishing zone restrictions and discarded fishing line continues to be a serious concern at Grenadier Pond. We are preparing a submission to Parks, Forestry & Recreation regarding these concerns and in particular, to recommend that this site not be used for any future fishing promotion events, and to question the future of fishing in this protected area altogether.

We have also recently written to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to comment on and correct a misguided editorial about fishing at Grenadier Pond (copy available on request).

Reducing the Impacts of Dogs on Wildlife in Natural Areas

Over the last few months members of the HPNEC have been working with representatives from other Toronto-based nature groups, including Toronto Field Naturalists and the Toronto Ornithological Club, to address the serious threat that off-leash dogs pose to wildlife. Under the banner of a new organization, ProtectNatureTO, we have produced an information handout (see attached), a more detailed factsheet and other material, and have met with several City representatives to determine what measures are already underway and what more could be done. Our goal is to work with the City in building a "culture of compliance".

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: If you can help set up a simple website for this new organization, please contact mail@highparknature.org.

Ontario Nature Regional Meeting

The fall regional meeting is set for Saturday, October 29 (morning & afternoon) at the Whitby Library. The Durham Region Field Naturalists are hosting with special assistance from the Thickson's Woods Land Trust. An agenda will be available soon. Please contact mail@highparknature.org if you'd like to represent High Park Nature.

Insect Counts

The annual Toronto Centre Butterfly Count was held on July 9. The cumulative results from the High Park route are posted [here](#) on our website. There have been a few migrating monarchs in the last few weeks.

The annual High Park Moth Night was held on July 28. The total count was 65 (lower than usual) with 5 new species for High Park. The all-time list and other info are posted [here](#).

High Park Hawk Watch

The [High Park Hawk Watch](#) is underway and will run until Nov. 30. Drop by Hawk Hill to see the action (especially on days with puffy clouds and northwest winds). The regulars will be glad to point out hawks and explain the migration.

High Park Stewards

Over the summer, volunteers have been busy planting, weeding and seed-collecting, as well as renovating the Boulevard Beds.

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

High Park Nature promotes awareness and respectful enjoyment of the park's natural heritage. It is a joint initiative of the High Park Natural Environment Committee (NEC) and the High Park Stewards. The NEC advises the City of Toronto on the protection and restoration of the natural features of High Park, and the High Park Stewards plant, collect seeds and remove invasive species from restoration sites, hold an annual native plant sale, and conduct educational events. This newsletter reports highlights from NEC meetings and other park news.