



## High Park Stewardship Review 2021 Getting Ready for Winter and Lots of Links

Due to COVID rules, between 8 and 12 Stewards have been able to participate in on-site activities. Jaclyn Scobie, our amazing Program Officer has prepared a brief report also posted on our website:



The High Park Stewards in-field stewardship events resumed in July 2021 after being put on hold due to COVID-19 resurgences during the first part of the year. The first event for 2021 was held on July 25th. Similarly to last year, these events had COVID-19 health and safety measures in place approved by Toronto Public Health.

To date, there have been six events: Three planting events, one invasive species management event and 2 seed collections from species whose seeds ripen later in fall.



These will later be propagated and once ready will be planted by High Park Stewards at future planting events. The season will finish with two Buckthorn Busting events.



In case you have missed them or want to review them again, the [High Park Stewards Newsletters 2021](#) are available on our blog.

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## [High Park Natural Environment Committee](#)

The **results of the NEC survey** that many of you have completed are now available. It's heartening to see how much support there is for better protection of High Park's natural environment, and in particular the black oak savannah. Respondents noted the abundance of wildlife and the relieving of the oaks, but also the negative impacts of heavy usage and improper behaviours. The results have been forwarded to Councillor Perks, Urban Forestry, High Park management and Park People.

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[Park People](#) and [High Park Nature Centre](#) are conducting a **survey on connection to nature in High Park** and would love to hear from you! The research is part of the [Cornerstone Parks](#) program, Canada's only national network dedicated to maximizing the impact and influence of large urban parks. The survey can be completed by anyone who has recently visited High Park and should take 5 minutes to complete. [Click here to get started!](#)



[High Park Nature Centre](#). There are a number of programs for adults that are currently restricted due to COVID. Please sign up for their newsletter to know what is available in the near future. See their website under Experiences>Adult Programs

[High Park Walking Tours](#) are ongoing. Check for details.

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## Getting Ready for Winter - Visit your Parks



Make sure that you have a chance to visit some of Toronto's parks that have had restoration work done. This is the Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat, with many of the same plants we have in High Park. It also has Egrets, Herons and Cormorants. We are part of a group of nature lovers all working to support wildlife through habitat and garden initiatives. [ProtectNatureTO](#) has maps of the natural heritage sites in each Toronto ward to help you find your way to them.

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## Links to Other Groups and Recordings

There are many groups that are active and have ongoing meetings and recording of past ones. This [compilation](#) will provide you with a wide variety of information on seed collecting, native plant gardening, and other programs.

[The Toronto Public Library](#) has some fabulous programs including [Our Fragile Planet](#) and [Environmentalist in Residence](#) who serves as an industry expert in the area of conservation and sustainability. Upcoming and past Recordings are found on their [Crowdcast](#) platform. There are 2 upcoming live presentations. [Heal Land, Heal People - The Invasive Species Question](#) (Oct. 26) and [A Renewed Governance](#) (Nov. 5). All programs are free of charge and a library card is not required.

[Toronto Environmental Directory](#). Your gateway to Toronto environmental organizations, sustainable business, green jobs, environmental volunteering, courses and events in the Toronto area. Follow us for featured updates. Post your [environmental jobs](#) and [volunteer opportunities](#) to reach Toronto's green, environmental community.

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## Getting Ready for Winter - Gardening Tips





The [Toronto Region Conservation Authority](#) has many workshops and [online resources and recordings](#) including [how to prepare your garden for winter](#). Some of the tips are to leave the leaves for overwintering insects and to enrich your soil, collect seeds for next year's plants, plant new perennials and shrubs before the ground freezes, water thoroughly, mulch, divide plants, prune trees and shrubs after frost (except those that flower in spring).

[The David Suzuki Foundation](#) recently presented [Douglas Tallamy](#) who spoke on [The Homegrown National Park Project](#). The project has maps of nature gardens in the US to show how everyone connects. Maps including Canada are coming. He also discussed his own home garden and attracting wildlife. Fun fact: The most useful thing you can do is to plant native plants that are hosts to butterfly and moth caterpillars so birds will have nourishment for their chicks in spring. Also plant trees and shrubs with berries. This [compilation of links](#) will be very useful in selecting the most appropriate ones. His message is that everyone can do something to help even if it's working on someone else's gardens.



Those who have signed up to receive invites to on-site sessions should be receiving emails from Eventbrite to each session. Only a few people are allowed due to COVID restrictions. There are no drop-ins.

If you are not receiving emails (after checking your spam folder) and are interested in receiving one for future on-site sessions, please add your name and email to [this list](#).

[Links to Other Groups](#)

