

UPDATE

April 2022

Forestry Report

Prescribed Burn – Forestry is currently preparing for a prescribed (or "controlled") burn in High Park this spring. See the [burn notice](#) for a map and more details. Volunteers who want to help provide information to the public on burn day should contact [Jaclyn Scobie](#) to receive 24-hour notice and instructions. The park will be closed to vehicles on burn day so be prepared to walk into the park.

Natural Resource Crews – The Natural Resource Worker field crews have been busy throughout the winter months carrying out invasive tree and shrub management in various sections of High Park. In early April crews will transition into spring planting preparations. A variety of native trees and shrubs are to be planted throughout the park this spring.

Forestry Supported Stewardship – High Park Stewards successfully completed the 2021 field event season with 82 participants over 8 events. They helped manage invasive species over 5800m² and planted 1730 native plants. We are hopeful that High Park Stewards field events will be able to proceed as scheduled with the first event in May.

Meeting with Councillor Perks

Several NEC members met with Councillor Perks' staff on March 16 (the councillor was unable to attend). We raised a number of issues related to Grenadier Pond including fishing (see below), signage, road salt, phragmites, and ongoing monitoring and management of this important park feature which has been declared a Provincially Significant Wetland. For the time being Helen Sousa is covering the role of park supervisor (she is already Community Park Supervisor for High Park and other parkland).

Parkside Drive Safety Measures and Sidewalk

Councillor's office update: Transportation Staff advised that the temporary sidewalk would only be going in on the south portion [from Spring Rd to the underpass], to take place this seasonal construction period. Transportation Staff still need to complete their review and measurements of the portion between Bloor and High Park Blvd, with consideration of retaining walls, trees, and other factors. No decision has been taken on installing concrete sidewalks yet. *(HPN note: The section between High Park Blvd and Spring Rd is not being considered for a sidewalk at this time.)*

LDD Moth ("spongy moth") Control

The new, more targeted spray product, BoVir, has been approved for use in High Park this spring. Spraying will take place somewhere between May 15 and June 15.

High Park Dogs On Leash Committee

This new group has met twice now and is developing ideas for how to increase compliance with on-leash rules in High Park. The participants include some from the Natural Environment Committee and K9, as well as a number of other concerned park users.

Fishing at Grenadier Pond

Both the NEC co-chairs and Lenka Holubec have [written](#) the City about the unsuitability of fishing at Grenadier Pond (the only activity permitted at High Park that deliberately harms and removes wildlife). Earlier this year, Helen Sousa, Park Supervisor, acknowledged that "the city's overall support of fishing does not recognize the special designation the park has and enforcement of the compromise we reached with the stakeholders is insufficient." She said she would look into consulting Policy and Planning staff. We are requesting an update and also that a Family Fishing Day not be held in High Park this summer, since it would only exacerbate the problems identified in our letters.

Environmental Protection

The High Park Movement Strategy survey received 6,000 responses and the highest desired priority, 77%, was to enhance and conserve the Park's ecological integrity. In December High Park Nature attended the external stakeholder orientation session and provided comments.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks recently designated Grenadier Pond as a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW).

The City is updating environmental policies as part of its 5-year Official Plan Review. High Park Nature attended the second Stakeholder Meeting on Environment and Climate Change on April 5. The Planning and Housing Committee considered Our Plan Toronto: Draft Environment and Climate Change Official Plan Policy Updates on March 25 (see [item history](#) and a [submission](#) by Lenka Holubec, member of ProtectNatureTO and High Park Nature).

Sunday Walking Tours

These popular tours are scheduled to resume on April 17. For details see our website calendar. If you are interested in leading a tour on some aspect of High Park or know someone who could do this, please contact [Mark Ellwood](#).

High Park Stewards

There will be no Native Plant Sale this year. We suggest going to [Project Swallowtail](#) and [NANPS](#) for your plants (see [our website](#) for more resources).

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. The High Park Stewards plant, collect seeds and remove invasive species from restoration sites, and promote the use of native plants. This newsletter reports highlights from our activities and other park news.