

38. HIGH PARK

Size and Location: 115.9 ha at 1873 Bloor Street West; stretches south from Bloor Street West, west on Parkside Drive and east of Ellis Park Road and Grenadier Pond. The park is separated from Lake Ontario by Lake Shore Boulevard West, the Gardiner Expressway, a CN railway line, and the Queensway.

Valley System: none (Lake Ontario Waterfront)

Previous Designations: Designated as an ESA in City of Toronto Official Plan; designated as an ESA by the former City of Toronto; identified as MTRCA ESA 114 (MTRCA 1982); MNR Life Science ANSI (MNR 1989, 2008).

Description (NSE, 2007 draft, MTRCA 1982, Geomatics 1992; Apfelbaum et al. 1993, MNR 1989): the last sizeable remaining natural area on the Iroquois Sand Plain. The terrain consists of rolling sandy uplands with steeply incised stream channels (modified into man-made lakes) running to Lake Ontario. The park contains a sizeable remnant of black oak savannah, a globally and provincially rare plant community. Savannah and prairie have been maintained and expanded in the upland areas of the park, particularly in the western and central portions, as a result of restoration and management efforts over the past 25 years, including burning and planting. The savannah supports 40 prairie and savannah indicator species, including many that are provincially and regionally rare. The eastern part of the ESA incorporates a ravine that supports plant communities typical of cooler, moister forests and bottomlands including many regionally rare species.

OP ESA Criteria Potentially Fulfilled: **Criterion A:** habitat for ten plant species (most within oak savannah) identified as provincially significant, numerous species ranked regionally and locally rare and/or Species of TRCA Concern which depend on specific habitat, one provincially threatened fauna species that is also a Species of TRCA Concern which depends on specific habitat, two vegetation communities, black oak savannah/woodland and tallgrass prairie, identified as provincially and globally rare, vegetation communities identified as locally significant. **Criterion C:** presence of area-sensitive bird species (Cooper 's hawk); presence of a fauna species which is highly area sensitive (pine warbler). **Criterion D:** area of bird migration.

Recent Surveys

TRCA:

- Flora surveys: January 1996; August 1997; January/July/September 1998; July 2005
- ELC coverage: 0.42%
- Fauna surveys: June/July 2000; June/July 2001; June 2005; July 2007

MNR:

- MNR ANSI surveys 1989-present

NSE:

- Fauna surveys May and June 2006

2006 Air Photo Evaluation: area of deciduous and some coniferous trees with openings.

Comments: Designated as an ESA in the City of Toronto Official Plan.

Summary of rare species noted in recent surveys (TRCA 1996-2007)

Flora Common Name Scientific Name COSEWIC

Provincial Ecodistrict 7-E 4 GTA TRCA City of Toronto

Big Bluestem *Andropogon gerardii* R R
Round-lobed Hepatica *Anemone americana* R R L2 R
False Nettle *Boehmeria cylindrica* R
Bearded Shorthusk *Brachyelytrum erectum* R R L2 R
Low Bindweed *Calystegia spithamea ssp. spithamea* R R L2 R
New Jersey Tea *Ceanothus americanus* R L1 R
Sweet Fern *Comptonia peregrina* R R L1 R
Creeping snowberry *Gaultheria procumbens* L2 R [wintergreen]
Black Huckleberry *Gaylussacia baccata* R R L2 R
Frostweed *Helianthemum canadense* R R L1 R
Canada hawkweed *Hieracium kalmii* R R L2 R
Cylindric Blazing-star *Liatris cylindracea* R R L1 R
Wood Lily *Lilium philadelphicum* R R L1 R
Wild Lupine *Lupinus perennis ssp. perennis* S3 R R L2 R
Sycamore *Platanus occidentalis* R R L1 R
White Oak *Quercus alba* L2
Black Oak *Quercus velutina* R R L2
Dewberry *Rubus flagellaris* R R R
Sassafras *Sassafras albidum* R R R
Little Bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium* R R L2 R
Hardstem Bulrush *Scirpus acutus* R R R
Stout Goldenrod *Solidago squarrosa* R R L2 R
Indian Grass *Sorghastrum nutans* R R L2 R
Lowbush Blueberry *Vaccinium angustifolium* R R L2 R
Dryland Blueberry *Vaccinium pallidum* R R L1 R

Plant Community Provincial TRCA

Fresh-Moist Tallgrass Prairie S1
Fresh-Moist Savannah S1

MNR (1989): Flora Common Name Scientific Name COSEWIC

Provincial Ecodistrict 7-E 4 GTA TRCA City of Toronto

Provincially Significant Flora Species

Woodland Fern-leaf *Aureolaria pedicularia* S3
Ague Weed *Gentianella quinquefolia* S2
Shrubby St. John's Wort *Hypericum prolificum* S2
Cylindric Blazing-star *Liatris cylindracea* S3
Virginia Yellow Flax *Linum virginianum* S2
Wild Lupine *Lupinus perennis* S3
Smooth-stemmed Monkey-Flower *Mimulus glabratus* S1
Bushy Cinquefoil *Potentilla paradoxa* S3 R
Prairie Buttercup *Ranunculus rhomboideus* S3 R
Cup-plant *Silphium perfoliatum* S2
83 additional regionally and locally significant flora species noted

Fauna

Blanding's Turtle THR THR L2

38 A. HIGH PARK EXTENSION

An additional portion in the centre of High Park is noted as part of the ESA in the MTRCA (1982) report and in MNR files (MNR 2008); these areas should be investigated to determine if they support features and functions that warrant their addition to the ESA.

