

UPDATE

March 2, 2011

Prescribed Burn

A prescribed burn is planned for this spring, whenever the conditions are suitable. This is the first prescribed burn since 2007. Four sites are targeted: a) the north savannah, where invasive brome grass is impeding restoration, b) north of allotment gardens, to encourage Indian Grass and the recently restored All-Star planting site, c) north of High Park Blvd. and d) east of Grenadier Pond in the oak savannah, to encourage the growth of oak seedlings. For more details and a map of the areas to be burned, please see the [burn notice](#) and [factsheet](#).

Once the burn date has been set, 48 hours notice will be given, including a mail drop to residents directly bordering the park. A kit for media, and a brochure for the public have been prepared. More information will be posted at our [website](#) as it becomes available.

Grenadier Pond Interpretive Signs Project

Over the past year, we have been working with the City to develop and design a sign that would be the prototype for a series of interpretive signs dealing with Grenadier Pond. These signs would be placed near the trails or viewing areas around the Pond. A more expanded version of the content will be posted on our website.

The prototype sign was developed by Natural Environment Committee volunteers, working with the assistance of Cara Webster and Jennifer Gibb of the Forestry unit, and the designers in the City's communications department. The photos on the sign were contributed by two local photographers.

Volunteers are needed to write and edit the sign content for a series of new signs, and also to provide photos where possible. Several topics have already been spoken for and an application for a grant to produce them has been made. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact Ken Sharratt, the project leader, at signs@highparknature.org.

Suggested Reading

Two publications related to High Park were mentioned during our discussion of the signs project. Both are available through the Toronto Public Library:

- Special places: the changing ecosystems of the Toronto region
- HTO: Toronto's water from Lake Iroquois to lost rivers to low-flow toilets

Tree Removals

Some tree removals were carried out over the winter. This included hazard trees and invasive species that cause the spread of seedlings in natural areas.

Tree and Shrub Planting

Forestry is planning to do some planting at the northwest entrance to the park on Bloor Street, where a ramp and fence was recently installed. The site previously suffered from erosion due to people taking shortcuts.

A new restoration plot is planned for a section of the north savannah, after it has been burned. The area will be fenced until the new plantings are well established.

Website & Art in the Park

New material continues to be added, including an expanded Art & Photography page. People who use the natural features of High Park as a creative inspiration are invited to submit a sample of their artistic work to post on this website. If you have a website displaying your work, please include a link to post as well.

Art in the park is also the subject of two upcoming events, the Stewardship session, "Artists Inspired by High Park" on Sunday, March 13 and a walking tour, "Art in the Park", on Sunday, March 20. Check the website for details.

Walking Tours

Free walking tours are held on the first and third Sunday of each month, starting at 10.30 am at the benches across the road from the south side of Grenadier Restaurant. The schedule is posted at our [website](#) and the brochure is available there for download. Please note that the subjects for the May dates have been switched. These walks are organized by the High Park Walking Tour committee with the support of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

Supporting Biodiversity

Many of our volunteers recently signed the Biodiversity Charter for Ontario prepared by Ontario Nature. If you are interested in learning more about this charter or adding your name to this campaign, visit the [Ontario Nature website](#).

On International Biodiversity Day, May 22, the High Park Stewards are once again participating in an Ontario-wide Garlic Mustard Pull that is being promoted by [BEAN](#), the Biodiversity and Education Network.