

UPDATE

March 2018

This newsletter is based on the HP Natural Environment Committee meeting of Jan. 10, 2018. Updates provided by Forestry and Park Operations and more recent developments are also incorporated.

Tree Removals over the Winter

Forestry has carried out some removal of invasive and non-compatible trees in anticipation of a spring prescribed burn, and to make space for native tree and shrub restoration plantings. For more details see [Tree Removal Public Notice](#).

Prescribed Burn in Spring 2018

A site tour was held in the fall to review results of last spring's burn and possible sites for spring 2018. The sites are now posted in the [advance burn notice](#). The actual date will be posted on our website as soon as it is decided (usually on very short notice). Anyone who wants to volunteer to help with public outreach on that day can contact mail@highparknature.org and we will forward your name.

Fall and Spring Plantings

In the Fall, some shrubs were planted near the north end of Grenadier Pond (Ellis Park entrance) and along the newly-installed staircase by the Children's Garden. The pond plantings do not sufficiently address the concerns raised in the past. We have provided Forestry with a map to show the plantings we are recommending to protect the shoreline and the waterfowl.

Spring planting will begin in May, and include burn zones, as well as areas where recent tree removals took place.

Oak Banding re Fall Cankerworm Moths

Joel Harrison-Off of Urban Forestry (Forest Tree Health) has provided an update on the results of the oak banding done in Fall 2017 to monitor and help control Fall Cankerworm moths (posted on our [Moth page](#)). Oak saplings seem to have benefited from the more open canopy (due to defoliation), but invasive shrubs also seem to have benefited. Forestry is planning limited treatment of oak trees along the Howard Park trail south of the TTC loop in spring 2018.

Greenhouse Staff Changes

Donna Costanzo has been appointed as the permanent replacement for the Native Plant position, due to Jocie's recent retirement. Regular Steward events are continuing without interruption.

Fishing at Grenadier Pond – Update

Fishing pressure at the pond continues to be a concern. Studies show that catch-and-release has a much higher mortality rate in water bodies at 26+ degrees C, which is common for Grenadier Pond.

As reported by the park supervisor, no Family Fishing Day is planned for Grenadier Pond in 2018. According to TRCA, no electro-monitoring was conducted at the 2017 event.

Skating Season – Protective Measures

At our request, park staff have erected a barrier along the north edge of the channel leading into Grenadier Pond to help protect the waterfowl that use this area of open water. Also, snow-fencing has been erected on the pond side of the shoreline naturalization area opposite the maple leaf garden. The skating information sign includes a message added at our request last year: "No dogs allowed on ice".

Local Developments and Natural Heritage Protection

Representatives of the Natural Environment Committee have been participating in local planning studies. For more details see [Update on Development Proposals and High Park](#).

Off-Leash Dogs – Update

The park supervisor has met with bylaw officers to determine where more dog-related signs are needed. Major changes/additions are not planned pending the implementation of the Wayfinding study. We also suggested using the existing posts at parking spots along Centre Rd and West Rd. The supervisor reported that dog trail fencing needed to be replaced in the past year, but not as much as in previous years. Damage to habitat and disturbance of wildlife continues to be a concern due to widespread non-compliance with dog on-leash rules.

High Park Stewards

The Stewards held several interesting educational events over the winter. See the High Park Nature [website](#) for details of past and upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. The [Annual Native Plant Sale](#) has been moved to May 20 this year.

High Park Nature website

Our website www.highparknature.org had just over 30,000 visitors in 2017. We are investigating alternatives to bring the website's format up to current multi-device standards.