

Protecting Wildlife at Grenadier Pond

In June of this year, Parks installed a number of "Fishing Line Can Kill" signs along Grenadier Pond in response to complaints received from our committee and other park users with regard to fishing line not being disposed of properly and the danger it poses to our wildlife, sometimes resulting in injury or death.

The Park Supervisor reports that discarded fishing line, hooks, etc. continue to be a concern and some park users have suggested that the City prohibit fishing in all or part of Grenadier Pond. The Natural Environment Committee is recommending at least a provisional ban until a proper assessment is made to determine if, where, and under what conditions fishing should be permitted.

Parks has requested feedback from a number of stakeholder agencies and welcomes feedback from any and all park users and stakeholders. If you have any questions or concerns and/or would like to share your opinion, please send your comments as soon as possible to Park Supervisor Jorge Ture at jtture@toronto.ca and also copy Councillor Doucette at councillor_doucette@toronto.ca. (You don't have to live in her ward to write her, but you may also wish to copy your own councillor if you live outside the ward.)

NOTE: We are continuing to follow up on reinstating regular adjustment of the weir at the southwest corner of Grenadier Pond to mimic seasonal fluctuations in pond levels.

Dredging of Wendigo Pond

The proposed dredging has been postponed while the City develops a long-term maintenance plan for all city-wide stormwater ponds. Wendigo will be a priority once the plan is established. We have made it clear that Wendigo is actually functioning as a *natural* pond and impacts on wildlife such as ducks and turtles need to be taken into consideration.

Plans for Prescribed Burn in 2013

During a recent site tour, restoration techniques and results were reviewed with a group of technical advisors and community representatives. Forestry staff are proposing to burn two areas in spring 2013, Sculpture Hill and the western portion of the Tablelands. Site preparation will include some removal of invasive woody species.

Planting is continuing this fall on sites burned in 2011.

Grenadier Pond Interpretive Signs Project

Nine signs (eight funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation plus one prototype) were erected along the east shore of Grenadier Pond. To celebrate and showcase the set, a public walk was held on September 30th. Several volunteers who helped create the signs were on hand to share their particular interest and passion. The media release, Villager article and photos from the event are posted [here](#).

Another grant application to fund additional signs (Phase 2) has been approved by TD FEF. As before, we will need people to create content for the website, draft and edit material for the signs, provide photos, etc. If you are interested, please contact signs@highparknature.org.

Tree Tour

Baye Hunter, who was involved in creating a GPS-based tree tour on Toronto Island (available [here](#)), has been working with our committee to develop a similar tour in High Park.

Proposed Labyrinth Restoration

We have been advised that any improvements to the labyrinth will take place only within the existing footprint. After a City landscape designer prepares plans to document what is being requested, Forestry and Natural Environment staff will have an opportunity to review the plans and ensure the natural restoration area is protected.

Since this facility is located in a restoration area, any work done on the site needs to be carried out with minimal impact on the surrounding area. Also, we hope it will continue to be a low-key park feature that will not draw undue traffic into the site or create additional pressures for mowing or additional formalized trails.

Stewardship Activities

Over the summer, planting was carried out in the savannah near Bloor St. and in an area adjacent to the Jamie Bell Adventure Playground. Weeding sessions focused on Himalayan Balsam, Tall Sweet White Clover and Hedge Parsley. Work was also carried out in the Nursery, and in the Boulevard Beds (e.g. seed collecting; transplanting).

Buckthorn removal is scheduled for late October and November. A set of educational sessions around a Habitat Restoration theme is planned for the winter months at the Howard Park Tennis Club.