

## UPDATE

September 2017

*NOTE: No City staff attended the HP Natural Environment Committee meeting of Aug. 16, 2017, but updates provided by Forestry and Park Operations are incorporated below.*

### **Prescribed Burn**

A prescribed burn was held April 17, 2017, covering a total of 4 ha, in two areas of High Park. It is considered to have fulfilled its objectives. Several HPN volunteers assisted with public outreach.

### **Invasive Plant Control**

Over the summer, the City's restoration crew was busy treating DSV and doing plantings in the Spring burn sites. Due to the large amount of rain earlier this year, both desirable and undesirable plants thrived. Herbaceous invasive control was also conducted in areas missed in 2016. Sites near Bloor St. had solarizing fabric laid down, as a precursor to future community plantings.

### **Fall Planting**

In the Fall, a variety of plantings will be carried out, including some shrubs near the north end of Grenadier Pond (Ellis Park entrance) and along the newly-installed staircase by the Children's Garden. Invasive tree and shrub removal will also occur at that time, to allow for understorey replanting.

### **Plant Supply**

A suggestion that the City consider making special arrangements with well-established volunteer growers to propagate certain shrubs was declined. The City does not want people removing plant material to propagate and return it to the park even with special permission because others may want to do this to and it is not controllable.

### **Greenhouse Staff Changes**

With Jocie Bilodeau's retirement after many years, High Park is losing a vast reservoir of accumulated knowledge. We hope her replacement will be familiar with the preparation, storage and propagation of native plant stock (seeds, seedlings), so as to effectively support restoration work at High Park.

### **Fishing at Grenadier Pond – Update**

Fishing pressure at the pond continues to be a concern, both for the impact on the fish population (especially top predators) and for the hazards and negative impacts affecting other wildlife.

Detailed submissions written by the NEC to the City have received cursory and inadequate responses (see [website](#)). We will continue to work on fishing-related issues to better protect Grenadier Pond's wildlife and habitat.

Family Fishing Day returned to Grenadier Pond after being held elsewhere in 2016. The 2017 event was held on July 8. According to the park supervisor's report, it was managed well, in terms of conduct, cleanup and attendance by staff from MLS and MNR. Tighter conditions were applied and NEC reps were given an opportunity to comment on these conditions in advance. It is strongly hoped that future Family Fishing Day events will be held elsewhere.

### **Off-Leash Dogs – Update**

NEC members conducted an audit of existing park signs related to keeping dogs on leash. They provided photographs and a detailed map to the park supervisor. By-law officers have requested that trail entrances and intersections be adequately signed so that offenders cannot claim they didn't see any sign. The park supervisor indicated that installation of additional signs will start this fall.

Councillor Doucette organized a meeting held June 5 attended by representatives from the NEC and various City departments to discuss the need for coordinated action to bring about compliance with dog-walking rules. The focus was HP but the same concerns apply to other parks across the city. The Councillor's staff will follow up on progress.

### **High Park Stewards**

In May the Native Plant Sale raised \$6,500 for the Stewards' activities and Greenhouse operations. Ongoing work continues on the Tablelands and the Boulevard Beds. See the High Park Nature [website](#) for details of past and upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

### **Other News**

A new [website](#) created by Wendy Rothwell features High Park's wildflowers.

ProtectNatureTO has launched a new [website](#) and High Park Nature is listed as an affiliated group.

Leslie has been participating in a Bloor West Village Avenue Study and made a submission on behalf of the NEC that is posted [here](#). A Natural Heritage Study will be prepared as part of the next steps.

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*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, and the High Park Stewards plant, collect seeds and remove invasive species from restoration sites, hold an annual native plant sale, and conduct educational events. This newsletter reports highlights from NEC meetings and other park news.*