

This newsletter is based on the HP Natural Environment Committee meeting of October 17, 2018 and the HP Resource Group meeting of September 26, 2018.

Phragmites Treatment

Phragmites australis has invaded Grenadier Pond. This fall Toronto Region Conservation began a multi-year removal strategy, with support from Urban Forestry. Management will involve the use of herbicide. The project aims to achieve: "...control of Phragmites over the next 3 to 5 years. We do not expect to completely eradicate Phragmites, but we expect to reduce the number and density of the plant so that the shoreline and wetland areas can be successfully restored to native plant communities. Over the long-term, regular Phragmites control will be required, but the extent and duration of this control will be drastically reduced from where we are today." (Source: TRCA) A detailed Q&A factsheet and map are posted on our [website](#).

Restoration by Urban Forestry

Solarizing fabric was installed in the tablelands north of Grenadier Restaurant, in preparation for future community plantings. Dog-strangling Vine was treated over the summer. Treatment is focused on prime restoration areas.

Fall planting is currently underway; it will include some infill planting behind the former Nature Centre (near Parkside Drive) and in the north end of the All-Star Cafe restoration site.

An assessment of the previous burn sites was conducted. Two rare plant species were found that may have reappeared because of the burn. Other areas were reviewed for a possible burn in either 2019 or 2020.

Moth Caterpillar Treatment

Urban Forestry is continuing to monitor the impacts of fall cankerworm moth on mature oaks, in addition to its regular monitoring of gypsy moths. Based on what was noted this year in terms of defoliation, it appears the cankerworm population is declining as it should naturally do. Caterpillar feeding is still likely to be observed next spring but it should be reduced. Traps will be installed this fall for monitoring and not as a defensive strategy.

Note: Fall cankerworm is a native species and part of the oak savannah/woodlands ecosystem. The caterpillars provide a useful source of nourishment for songbirds during spring migration. Adult cankerworm moths are active in late fall. See our [website](#) for more details.

Local Developments and Natural Heritage Protection

The High Park Oak Woodlands Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, which includes Grenadier Pond, covers approximately 70% of the park. Provincial policies dictate that this natural heritage shall be protected for the long term, and this protection is triggered when there is a requirement to be consistent with provincial policies. Both of the two planning studies reported at the last meeting (the [Bloor West village Avenue Study](#) and the [High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Area Character Study](#)) and both of the two development proposals ("Double Density") trigger protection.

Natural Heritage Impact Study: The consultants' [report](#) identified gaps in the data, and degradation from human disturbance. The Parks By-law 608 is consistent with higher level protections but its lack of enforcement is allowing damage.

Updates: City Council approved the High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Area Character Study at its June meeting. The Study and both development proposals are currently under appeal at the LPAT (successor to the OMB).

Timing: The Bloor West Village Avenue Study is due the first quarter of 2019. The natural heritage will be addressed primarily through the Avenue Study. At its June 2018 meeting Council directed staff to consider updating the High Park Woodland and Savannah Management Plan. TRCA has conducted a new inventory to support this update.

High Park Stewards

Fall events were well attended, and included plantings and seed collecting, in addition to the usual invasive species removal. Volunteers planted 954 native plants at the fall planting event near the Bloor St. entrance. The boulevard beds (near Grenadier Restaurant) have been redesigned and replanted. Over 150 volunteers participated so far in 2018.

See the High Park Nature [website](#) for details of past and upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

High Park Nature – Website Upgrade

Work is continuing. Our logos have been updated and finalized. They will be released when the new website is ready.

High Park Moth Study

Field monitoring this year brought the total species up to 851, including several endangered species.