

Profiling High Park

High Park Stewards

For those of us who care about the environment and the survival of creatures of all kinds, it's very gratifying to find a way to actually do something to help preserve our natural heritage. Volunteer Stewards have been working with the City of Toronto since 1996 to protect and restore the remaining natural areas of High Park including large areas of regionally rare Savannah with Black Oak trees and related flora and fauna.

During the spring, summer and fall the High Park Stewards plant, collect seeds, and remove invasive species from restoration sites, including garlic mustard, hedge parsley, oriental bittersweet, Himalayan balsam, dog-strangling vine and European buckthorn. In the winter we have educational presentations to inform us and increase our skills.

Our conservation work in the park gives these rare native plants and dependent wildlife a fighting chance to prosper. It's amazing the difference a few hours a month can make!

The High Park Stewards meet on the second and fourth Sunday mornings of each month. Volunteers may attend single sessions or get more involved on an ongoing basis. Contact stewards@highparknature.org to be added to our email list and let us know of your interests.

Upcoming Events

The Native Plant Sale will be hosted on Sunday, May 11, from 11am to 2pm. Help expand the range of woodland and black oak savannah native plants found in High Park to your own garden and support the High Park Stewards. The sale will take place in front of the Greenhouse. In order to have plants for everyone to enjoy, large orders will only be available after 1pm from the remaining stock. Please park in the Grenadier Restaurant parking lot. Assistance with carrying plants will be provided. Cash only.

An Invasive Species Removal (Garlic Mustard) will take place on Sunday, May 25. Meet at 10:30am in front of the Grenadier Restaurant.



Garlic Mustard removal in May



The recovery of the Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) that blooms in May and June is one of our most successful restoration projects. Controlled burns and cessation of mowing have allowed the sun-loving Lupines that thrive in the sandy Tablelands of High Park to regenerate and enhance the soil through nitrogen fixation. Lupines are the sole source of food for the now extirpated Karner Blue Butterfly which we hope may someday be reintroduced to Ontario and High Park.



Buckthorn busting in the fall



Plantings in June and September



Annual Native Plant Sale
(this year's will be held on May 11)

Submitted by Sharon Lovett and Karen Yukich

Visit www.highparknature.org for more details about upcoming stewardship events as well as a wealth of information about the natural features of High Park.