

This newsletter is based on the HP Natural Environment Committee meeting of May 8, 2018. Updates provided by Forestry and Park Operations and more recent developments are also incorporated.

Prescribed Burn in Spring 2018

A prescribed burn in three areas covering a total of 6.6 ha was conducted on April 23. This was the latest date ever, with old snow still piled at the edge of the burn site. The purpose is to manage the fire-dependent black oak savannah habitat. A number of volunteers helped with public outreach. For more details see our [Prescribed Burns page](#).

Spring Plantings

The City will be planting in a number of sites, including areas of tree removal this past winter. We also held a site meeting on May 15 to discuss the Ellis Park Rd. entrance and the trail along the north-east side of the Grenadier Pond and marshes. It was noted that the soil left by Toronto Water is too compacted and covered in gravel for extensive planting, but some shoreline planting will be done and gradually extended.

Moth Caterpillar Treatment

The City will be treating for Fall Cankerworm this spring in a small section on the eastern edge of High Park. Treatment will consist of hand spraying from the ground, a pesticide called Foray 48-B and will take place (weather dependent) between May 14 and June 8, in 2 rounds approximately 7 days apart. See [map](#). (Red dots are spray sites.)

Water Management

The following items were discussed during an informal site tour with a representative of Toronto Water:

In 2016, a major sewer upgrade was carried out along Ellis Park Rd., at the north end of Grenadier Pond. Around the same time, the nearby weir, which was meant to be closed most of the time, seemed to start leaking. As a result, sediment collection is suboptimal. At the same time, the reduced flow of water has extended a marshy area at the north end of the pond which provides more habitat.

There is a need to determine how effectively the weir at the south end of Grenadier Pond is operating (this falls under the responsibility of Toronto Water).

Local Developments and Natural Heritage Protection

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

Bloor West Village Avenue Study: To assess the land uses, transportation and servicing infrastructure, community services and facilities, built form character and redevelopment potential for Bloor Street West between Keele Street and the Humber River. Since some of the lands are adjacent to the provincially significant natural heritage in the Humber and High Park, a [Natural Heritage Impact Study](#) will inform policies to be developed in order to show there is no negative impact on these areas. A City staff report with recommendations will be presented to Etobicoke York Community Council on June 6, 2018. Later this year, the statutory public meeting will be convened, after which City Council will make its decisions.

High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Area Character Study:

To determine the existing character of the *Apartment Neighbourhood* located north of High Park, i.e. assess the physical character of the area and develop a policy framework to guide future change and compatible infill development. Since these lands are adjacent to the High Park provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, the study must also show there is no negative impact to the natural heritage. A draft Official Plan Amendment (No. 419) and Site and Area Specific Policy (No. 551) was recently presented and discussed. The accompanying staff report will be discussed by the Etobicoke York Community Council on June 6, 2018.

High Park Stewards

Spring was late this year so some outdoor work was delayed. Several sessions focused on clean-up, re-design and fencing of the Boulevard Beds (a demonstration garden to help the public learn what our native prairie flowers, shrubs and grasses look like). Fencing is being added to prevent trampling. The [Annual Native Plant Sale](#) was held later, on May 20, this year and sales were lower than usual.

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

High Park Nature website

We are in the process of upgrading the [highparknature.org](#) website. We will address issues such as making it mobile friendly, easier to update, and easier to navigate.