

Hastings Park Conservancy
ParkWatch during the Fair in Hastings Park
August 17 to September 3, 2007

The 2007 Fair in Hastings Park



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ParkWatch Observers: Les Leighton, Georgina Nicholson, Jacques April, Virginia Downes, Susan S., Cynthia Flood, Dean Sinnett, Heather McP.

Weather Conditions: Sunny & clouds, light rain, sunny, sunny & hot, clear, clear & sunny. Generally the weather throughout the 17 day period was good

Area	Observations / Remarks	
<p>Sanctuary Structures</p>		<p>Graffiti on wildlife sign</p>
		<p>Graffiti on concrete pond border</p>
	<p>Hastings Park Restoration plaque, damaged by graffiti removal, must be returned to original state or replaced by PNE.</p>	
<p>Wildlife Vegetation</p>	<p>Few birds observed or heard during Fair. Bird count at end of report.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Morning glory allowed to strangle</p>	

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vegetation everywhere
in Sanctuary

Fireweed, snowberries, dead cedar
on south side of Sanctuary

Lamium, invading from Playland
above circulation pond, requires
removal

Original intent of Sanctuary was a controlled urban wilderness, not a morning glory nightmare. The poor, unacceptable level of maintenance by the PNE in Hastings Park would not be permitted in other city parks. When overgrowth of English ivy threatened to kill natural vegetation in Stanley Park, the City of Vancouver & Park Board promptly and thoroughly dealt with the problem. Community participation through ParkPartners is a solution in Hastings Park.



Few leaning trees with long
standing instability problems
left at south end. Most were
cut down by PNE after
windstorm, which was **NOT**
primary cause of fallen trees.
As per usual PNE practice,
removed trees have not been
replaced.

Pond

Water levels extremely low and
water quality very poor, with no
water circulation. Filthy scum
floating on water reported by PNE
management to be "not a problem".
Garbage at shoreline and in water
everywhere. Maintenance couldn't
be worse. Sweepers and security
observed in area.



It is unacceptable that the City of Vancouver, the Park Board, the PNE
board and management allow this standard of maintenance in a city

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park. Why is Hastings Park treated so differently from other city parks and subjected to such poor care?



Activities

Daniel, PNE tour guide in the Sanctuary, was pleasant but was not well versed in flora or fauna. He had a manual provided by the PNE to which he needed to refer to for the most basic information. Was uninformed about current Hastings Park planning with Marnie McGregor or monthly Nature Walks. Made the unprompted statement:

“there would be no further greening in Hastings Park”

Unimportant if this statement was Daniel's opinion or that of PNE management. He is an employee of the PNE and indirectly the City of Vancouver and is obligated to provide balanced, accurate information ... or perhaps this information is accurate ...

Miscellaneous

Cars parked on service road parallel to Hastings St.

Italian

Garden

Structures

Earless cow not easily visible through signs.

Replacement of cow's ears still required.

If PNE unable to do repairs, the City of Vancouver must arrange repairs by capable city worker or artist.



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Grass bocce court still not returned to original state from several years ago.

Vegetation

Usual lack luster maintenance evident in this formal, structured garden. Some attractive bedding plants present but horsetail and other weeds in abundance.



Park Activities



Italian Gardens largely left as a barrier between neighbourhood and PNE commercial activity. Ugly fence/barrier erected to keep public out.

Playground site of car painting. Expectation that paint is water soluble and easily cleaned from grass and pavers.



Basketball and skateboard bowl left open to public unlike rest of Italian Garden or Sanctuary

Festival Square used for wide variety of entertainment. Newly installed sod on both sides of water feature looks good and is more user-friendly than original

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plantings. Children find it easier to access water.



Momiji Garden



Closed to the public for private event on August 28th

Structure

"VIP" area with tents, gas heaters, A/V equipment and stage in pond. Garden is pretty much hidden behind other Fair activities so that general public is not encouraged to visit



Vegetation



Morning glory present, not as invasive as in Sanctuary. Better level of maintenance than in other greened areas of park.

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Wildlife

Date & Species	Count	Location
• August 19		
Mallard ducks	21	Sanctuary
Black-capped chickadees	5	
Glaucous-winged gull	2	
Song sparrow	1	
Double-crested cormorant (overhead)	1	Momiji Gardens
Northwest crow	1	
Northwest crow	2	I talian Gardens
• August 20		
Crows		Sanctuary
Ducks	few	
• August 23		
Mallard ducks	16	Sanctuary
Song sparrow	1	
Glaucous-winged gull	1	
Double-crested cormorant (overhead)	3	
North-western crow	6	I talian Gardens
Glaucous-winged gull	4	
• August 28		
Mallard ducks	few	Sanctuary
• August 29		
Dragon flies	many	Sanctuary
Gold fish	many	
Mallard duck (male & female)	2	
• September 3		
Mallard ducks	15	Sanctuary
Black-capped chickadee	3	
Great blue heron	1	
Double-crested cormorant	1	
Hooded merganser	2	
Coopers hawk	1	
North-western crow	12	
North-western crow	4	I talian Gardens