



Hastings Park Conservancy

ParkWatch in Hastings Park May 1 & 5, 2008



ParkWatch Observers: Georgina Nicholson & Jacques April Cynthia Flood
 Weather Conditions: Cloudy & cool Clear & cool

Area	Observations / Remarks
<i>Sanctuary</i>	
Structures	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">  </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <p>White fence on periphery of Sanctuary removed in 2007 now allows cars to easily park on grassy areas and invade pedestrian paths. Grass trampled. Fence needs to be replaced.</p> <p>On west plaza entrance lots of weeds and litter.</p> </div> </div>
<p>In spite of many requests to get a pedestrian crosswalk and signage at the west entrance to the Sanctuary and speed enforcement all over the park, there is no crosswalk, no signage and no speed enforcement. Balloons in back ground advertise a circus event for children who were observed wandering around in close proximity to speeding cars.</p>	

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Garbage cans and lids thrown into pond need to be retrieved and relocated evenly around Sanctuary.



Wildlife



Great Blue Heron and Red-winged Blackbird sitting on floating bridge.
Mallards including ducklings observed.

Vegetation

Little pruning done this year compared to extreme pruning done in previous years when bird habitation was compromised. Evergreen trees at south end of Sanctuary that were leaning and falling over, not due to December windstorm as reported by PNE, cut down and removed. The empty space seen in photograph was filled with trees planted in 1997 as park of Hastings Park greening. When is the PNE going to address the problem that caused the trees to fall over and replace cut down trees?



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Morning glory making usual come back. By mid to late summer the invasive weed will choke Sanctuary vegetation.
Broken shrubs and tree branches seen.



Miscellaneous Camping site observed on east pond slope with crumpled sheet and garbage.
Donor plaques deteriorating and commemorative plaque on bridge damaged. When will the plaques be repaired or replaced by PNE?
Other park users observed included one person with two unleashed dogs.
Graffiti in numerous places including concrete pillars.



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Garage and waste next to path, easily accessible by park users including children.



Ponds

South pond at moderate level now but obvious when viewing shoreline, not at maximum. Will soon be depleted with warmer, drier weather.



Tree still lying on side since last year. Will PNE upright or do the usual cut and remove?
Water not circulating.

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North pond has low water level and is stagnant.



Italian Garden

Structures



Poorly maintained bocce court on right. Grass bocce court to left filled in by PNE after 2005. Despite many requests to return grass court to original state, nothing has been done by PNE.

Lettering on Christopher Columbus statue faded and almost not readable now.



Christopher Columbus status appears to have corrosion as reported previously

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Graffiti removal on fountain done very poorly. "B" & "U" still visible. Professional graffiti removal company required to do job properly.



PNE practice of painting over graffiti has destroyed the original look and intent of the Italian Gardens architecture. Looks especially horrible when it rains.



Running water and flushing toilets in close proximity to a playground for children and a skateboard park for teens is a reasonable expectation for any community. If the racetrack can provide temporary bathroom facilities with running water and flushing toilets, so can the PNE.



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The community approached the PNE to dedicate a bench to the late George Engleman, a dedicated community and park supporter. As per the PNE the price is \$4000. Does the PNE have to pay the same for the dismantled and now "not able to locate" bench?

Vegetation

Garden maintenance is dismal. Horsetails cover garden beds most of the year. The established PNE practice of once a year weeding and lack of plant replacement is unacceptable. English Ivy, an invasive weed in other city parks, is rampant on south side of Opera Walk.



Tree removal without replacement occurs not only in the Sanctuary. A number of trees in the Italian Gardens have died and the PNE simply removes them without replacement.



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The granite cow's ears, damaged by vandals and grounded off by PNE staff as a form of maintenance, still must have the ears replaced.

The wooden border around the grassy knoll where the cow sits is coming off and the cow needs repositioning or additional soil around it.



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Momiji Garden

Structure



In typical PNE fashion, graffiti on the gazebo has been painted over.

Graffiti on bench and bush as shown below.



Vegetation

Landscaping in better condition than Italian Gardens and Sanctuary.



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Other



Unlike previous years, PNE administration building gardens in an ugly weedy state just like the Italian Gardens.

After the May 1st and 5th ParkWatch inspections, a PNE maintenance team weeded the Italian Garden. While the team did a good job, this type of maintenance is needed far more frequently than is currently done.

The photographs in this report accurately show the state of the Italian and Momiji Gardens and Sanctuary in Hastings Park most the year.
