

**Hasting Park Conservancy
Fair ParkWatch in Hastings Park
August - September 2009**

Dates & Times Saturday, August 22nd to Monday, September 7th, 11:00 am to 11:00 pm
Although inspections we not done daily, they were done evenly throughout the 17 day period and during all times of operation.

Observers Les Leighton, Christina Struik, Virginia Downes, Patricia Miller, Cynthia Flood, Dean Sinnett, Bruce Wright, Barry Sharbo, Jacques April and Georgina Nicholson

Weather Conditions Sunny and warm to cloudy to breezy to overcast and drizzling

Decorative Grasses in the Italian Gardens



Area
Observation / Remarks

Sanctuary

North end has temporary tables and benches for picnicking.

PNE staff observed picking up garbage. Sanctuary generally clean although snow-cone cups, beer tops, cans, bottles, paper, food and condoms among items observed under trees, along paths and in water.



Wildlife sparse with some Mallards, Barn Swallows, Glaucous-winged Gull, North-western Crows, Black-capped Chickadees, Pigeons, Cabbage Butterflies, Dragon flies and one Great Blue Heron on wood in middle of south pond.

Thistle going to seed ~ good gold fish food but no birds in sight!

Dead roses south of north bridge have been removed. Wild roses blooming near boat launch.

All prickly bushes trimmed back from trail and underbrush left natural; good for bird habitat.

Mountain Ash covered in orange berries.



Area
Observation / Remarks



Oak tree which was planted in last couple of years, on east side, south of east bridge, is stressed/dying.

A spray of delicate Jewelweed.



Along south and east pathways are tall forests of thistle plus extensive blackberry and the every present bindweed or morning glory.

Bindweed, bindweed and more bindweed

Area
Observation / Remarks

One cedar fallen over and dying south of south trail.



Bullrushes going to seed.

Attractive Snowberries add colour and texture to the landscape.



Area
Observation / Remarks



Water very brown and silty in south pond and water level, although fair to low, is higher than in previous years.

Slick observed under east bridge.

Water looks scummy at times.

Unidentified foam coming out of pipe in Sanctuary pond.



Lots of vegetation and weeds growing in north pond as it has been all but empty most of the summer.

Rock in foreground in photo to the right almost covered when north pond is full.

No circulation of water at all.



Area
Observation / Remarks



Sanctuary frequently observed to have a total absence of people.

Access to area hidden by fair installations along playland and Miller Drive.

Is this to keep awareness and interest in this park of park low? In any case a loss for everyone.

Two diligent workers cleaning up.

Six or seven whiffs of marijuana noted.



Area
Observation / Remarks



Rainbow after the rain.

Scratched graffiti on north bridge rail.

Graffiti also observed on railing of south bridge.

Rot observed in north bridge that spans what should be a water fall.



Unemptied garbage can. At least the can has not been dumped in the pond as frequently happens.

Recycling containers not as obvious as in previous years.

No vehicles parked on grass around western entrance to Sanctuary as in previous years.
Noise from Playland louder than Dal Richards' band.

Area
Observation / Remarks

Italian Gardens

Temporary Festival Stage provided entertainment for fair patrons.

Car painting, an event that has been at the fair for several years, not that popular.

Minimal litter throughout.



Some beds have been completely re-planted; gardeners must have figured that removing horsetails and other weeds would be impossible. Other beds clogged with weeds, still others very dry.

Christopher Columbus's garden has been cleaned up, although CC still has white eyes.

Display bed of flowers at the Triumph Street entrance looks good. All garden beds in the Italian Garden should look equally as good.

Fountain spout, second from north, doesn't work and hasn't for a long time.

Brass plaque with "Hastings Park" on it on top of concrete column furthest to the right has been missing for years. When is it going to be replaced?



Area
Observation / Remarks



Bocce courts covered with squares of plywood. Why???

Next year install fence along edge of the alley so that residents can have access not only to the skateboard bowl but also grassy boulevard, bocce courts, Columbus garden and Memorial to Italian Immigrants garden since so few fair patrons use area.

Momiji Garden

Public excluded from garden.

Lots of temporary structures for VIPs with garden well-kept and clean.
Cordoned -off garden often seen totally empty.

Stream very pretty and water circulating well, unlike Sanctuary.



Empire Bowl

Generally clean but some litter in the southeast quadrant and in Leaside tunnel where there is no garbage can nearby.

All slopes around Empire bowl are thick with weeds and invasive species.

About a dozen people in the Bowl jogging, walking or sunbathing.
