

HASTINGS PARK

Park Watch Report

Date Feb 18th, 2011
Time 1230 pm
Weather Sunny and Cold
Conditions
Completed by Bruce & Virginia

**A PHOTO IS WORTH 1000 WORDS!!!
 BRING YOUR CAMERA ALONG & ATTACH YOUR PHOTOS TO THE REPORT!**

Area	Observations/Remarks
1. Sanctuary	
<i>Structures (e.g., condition of bridges, stone terraces, benches, walls; presence of graffiti)</i>	<p>Graffiti (some photos censored)</p> <p>Signs are peeling and need replacing.</p> <p>Some fence posts are rotting and need replacing as others have been.</p> <p>Some have interesting fungus growing on them</p>



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<p><i>Wildlife (e.g., presence of birds, fish, turtles, raccoons, squirrels, skunks, coyote)</i></p>	<p>Mallards and robins common, 16 wigeon, 1 coot, juncos, sparrow 3-4 gold crowned kinglet, 1 woodpecker (downy?) 1 grey squirrel</p>
<p><i>Vegetation (e.g., condition of trees & shrubs; flowers in bloom; recent additions/deletions)</i></p>	<p>Cedars limbed, why so high? Aluminum Plant (Lamium) is extremely invasive on east side up by Playland and needs controlling; Vegetation trimming has left a visual corridor out to Hastings Street, evident from the West Steps and other sanctuary locations. A strategically planted, largish tree would nicely block this. Most of the vegetation trimming that has been done in the Sanctuary appears to nicely balance concerns relating to views, visitor security and maintenance of natural ground cover for wildlife but this is a big concern for the Conservancy.</p>



Limbed cedars

Aluminum plant

Pretty moss



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<p><i>Terrain (e.g., slope erosion; surface water build-up; new paving or on-site materials stockpiling; new paths; main trail conditions)</i></p>	<p>Hydrology compromised (ie seeps and runnels all over the paths gardens and lawns)- need to fix and direct flow to Sanctuary pond. This provides a good opportunity to avoid ongoing cost of maintenance. Wet area South of pond and seep at east end of floating bridge would make nice small scale, possibly community implemented wetland projects.</p>
	<p>Unnecessary muddy tire tracks evident on the circuit path; Stone terraces could do with a bit of backfill;</p>
	<p>A mini nature walk could be established on the point on the east side of the main pond. There are a very cool nursery stump, other nurse logs, pre restoration vegetation and interesting educational fungus etc to be seen.</p>



Rotted stump provides nutrients and support to younger tree



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Fungus on east side of main pond:



Enhanced view of pond

<p><i>Pond</i> (e.g., water quality; water levels and flow; algal blooms; floating debris)</p>	<p>Garbage can in the lower pond; Large Woody Debris on slope could be repositioned to look like natural partially submerged in water LWD. Water level is full normal and circulating; Viewscapes to pond have been opened up.</p>
<p><i>Park Activities</i> (e.g., joggers; walkers; bird-watchers; picnics; kids playing; dogs on leash/dogs on the loose)</p>	<p>Two semi-official tour groups (Colin Priddle and associate Jeff plus Bruce and Virginia) met on the floating bridge. Four walkers no dogs;</p>
<p><i>Miscellaneous</i></p>	

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2. Italian Gardens	
<p><i>Structures</i></p> 	<p>Very poor sidewalk repair, should be done properly;</p> <p>Christopher Columbus statue needs maintenance (Christopher's eyes and face need a wash and Dreamer legend is becoming illegible);</p> <p>Trip hazards - Cobblestones loose in S edge of raingarden channel (one missing);</p> <p>Loss of smooth pebbles below Italian Gardens grape trellis (due to them having been thrown about and of concern per Colin Priddle). This was a fine and intentional Rain Garden feature in the original plan and should be reinstated.</p> <p>The replacement bed is insignificant.</p> <p>Blue graffiti on limestone tiles near skate park;</p>



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Vegetation



Bare patch needs re-seeding
Soon to be daffodils blooming!

General garden maintenance is improved
Yew added to south wall of parterres to discourage graffiti looks good except 2 are dead;
Grass south of skateboard park repaired

Ah! Lovely Witchhazel!



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Park Activities



Dude doing Parkour on Italian Garden structures

Sleeper on park bench

1 skateboarder

8 playground users (good for a winters day)

18 kids playing soccer on tarmac court east of skate park



Miscellaneous

Unightly toilets . When will we get decent facilities for the Italian Garden?



Water not draining. Query: Is it seeping to the Sanctuary ponds as it should?



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3. Momiji Gardens	
<p>Structures</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Trip hazard</p> 	<p>Water not circulating (some evidence of damage from ice)</p>  <p>Runoff and seeps fairly messy, could feed pond</p>
<p>Vegetation</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overall lovely view</p> 	<p>Curious pruning?</p>  <p>Traffic has wrecked the lawn S of the Garden Auditorium</p> <p>Momiji looks better kept. Nice to see Japanese style of plant trimming emphasized</p>

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<i>Park Activities</i>	
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	Graffiti on trash can
4. Empire Bowl	Not visited on this park watch
<i>Structures</i>	Completely cover Empire Bowl for commercial not park use.
<i>Vegetation</i>	
<i>Park Activities</i>	
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	

Place Names for Reference

Entrances	West; Southwest; Southeast; East; North
Platforms	West Steps - on west side of large, upper pond with view east; North Steps - on south side of small, lower pond with view north toward livestock (red) barns; Stone Terraces - on north side of large, upper pond with view south toward Hastings Street
Island	
Bridges	Floating Bridge, East or Art Deco Bridge, North or Arched Bridge
Meadows	Grassy area on south side of large, upper pond; Side slope on east side of large, upper pond