

TOMMY THOMPSON PARK

Master Plan Implementation Project

Community Newsletter

Summer 2010

TOMMY THOMPSON PARK CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Work continues to proceed on Toronto's Tommy Thompson Park (TTP) to regenerate and improve park habitat and features. The summer weather allows park visitors to enjoy the extensive plantings and vegetation enhancements and provides an opportunity to see how the park's wildlife is using the new areas and habitats.

Construction progress 2010:

- Planting:
 - wildflowers in meadow enhancement areas
 - aquatic emergent species in select areas
 - trees and shrubs in specified areas
 - native grasses
- Bioengineering shoreline work
- Select invasive species management
- Shorebird wetland management
- Spring fisheries monitoring

Work Schedule to December, 2010:

- Construction of Cell One and Embayment D Fish and Water Level Control Structure
- Cofferdam refurbishment
- Construction of bank swallow habitat
- Aquatic emergent vegetation planting
- Invasive species management
- Summer fisheries monitoring
- Park infrastructure construction



Silt curtain removal in a Tommy Thompson Park embayment

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

In partnership with Waterfront Toronto and City Councillor Paula Fletcher, TRCA officially unveiled the park infrastructure features at the annual Spring Bird Festival held May 8. There are 3 major features proposed, all of which emphasize an unobtrusive design, blending into the surroundings. All designs comply with the city's bird-friendly development guidelines.

The proposed infrastructure features will include a Staff Booth, an Environmental Shelter and an Ecological Research Station.

Near the entrance to the park, a **Staff Booth** will provide visitors with information about the park and serve as the turn-around area for the current shuttle bus service.

About halfway into the park adjacent to the Cell 1 wetland, a new **Environmental Shelter** and washroom facility will be installed partially below ground level to blend in with the surroundings.

Construction of a new **Ecological Research Station** will provide a much-needed upgrade to a facility that provides valuable information regarding the park's 300-plus bird species. It will allow research activities to expand while also allowing for better interpretive and educational program opportunities.



Infrastructure Unveiling at TTP Spring Bird Festival

NOTABLE WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

On May 3, 2010, staff and volunteers at TTPBRS were rewarded for their hard work by the sighting of a White-eyed Vireo in the study area. It is the first time this species has been spotted since 2007. Later in the month, on May 29, the most exciting bird sighting of the season was recorded on the peninsula – a Prothonotary Warbler. This species is considered endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The Prothonotary Warbler is a small yellow and grey bird that nests only in deciduous swamp forests in southwestern Ontario. Tommy Thompson Park Bird Research Station is one of 25 Canadian Migration Monitoring Network stations, contributing data on migratory birds, like the Prothonotary Warbler, to help inform bird conservation priorities. For more information, please visit www.ttpbrs.ca



Prothonotary Warbler. Photo Credit: TTPBRS Volunteer Seabrooke Leckie

2010 TOMMY THOMPSON PARK BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

The second annual Tommy Thompson Park Butterfly Festival was held on Saturday August 21 and was a great success! We had beautiful weather and there were lots of butterflies fluttering around! Festival goers had a variety of activities to participate in, including butterfly walks, a nature sketching workshop, and interactive displays put on by organizations such as Toronto Entomological Association, Wings of Paradise, Project Chirp!, and Wildlife and Environmental Education Programs. A big thank you to all who participated and we are very much looking forward to the third annual festival next summer!

For further information regarding Tommy Thompson Park, please visit www.trca.on.ca/ttp
If you have specific questions regarding the project or if you would like to be placed on the project mailing list, please contact:

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TOMMY THOMPSON PARK SPRING BIRD FESTIVAL

The 10th annual TTP Spring Bird Festival was Saturday May 8 (International Migratory Bird Day) and marked the 10th anniversary of the park's designation as a globally significant Important Bird Area – Toronto's only IBA. Despite uncooperative weather, several hundred people came out to participate in the guided bird hikes, bird banding demonstrations, educational displays, workshops, and children's activities. The opening ceremony and infrastructure design unveiling also took place with special guests Councillor Paula Fletcher, Steve Hounsell (OPG), Brian Denney (TRCA) and John Campbell (Waterfront Toronto).

At least 76 species were recorded throughout the day including Scarlet Tanager, a flock of 20 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Parula and Blackburnian Warbler. Many organizations participated in the festival including Ontario Nature, Toronto Ornithological Club, Toronto Field Naturalists, Toronto Entomological Association, Project CHIRP! and the City of Toronto Natural Environments and Community Programs. We look forward to seeing you all at the 11th annual Spring Bird Festival on Saturday May 14, 2011. Visit www.springbirdfestival.ca in the spring for more details.



Rose-Breasted Grosbeak