

Toronto Nature Stewards



Newsletter 3
July, 2021

Here is Our Update on Important News

Hello Toronto Nature Stewards supporter,

Raise your shovels, clippers, and trowels to the official launch of the Toronto Nature Stewards 2021 Pilot Program!

TNS - Pilot Program - 2021

After meeting over the last 3 months for 5 fruitful online training sessions, we have a stellar group of 25 Lead Stewards! We received a lot of interest in the Lead Steward program for this year's Pilot Program – exciting prospects for future years as we plan for expansion. Our Lead Stewards have been busy completing homework assignments and getting familiar with their "Adopt-a-Patch" sites by conducting site walks, preparing site assessments, and creating stewardship plans.

2021 Pilot Sites: in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, we have begun stewardship at the following 8 sites (*see map on next page*).

- Ashbridge's Bay Park (Ward 19)
- Glen Stewart Park (Ward 19)
- Sherwood Park (Ward 15)
- Roxborough Parkette N (Ward 11)
- Northline (Ward 19)
- Birkdale Ravine (Ward 21)
- The Middle Mill (Ward 14)
- Cherry Beach (Ward 14)

Activities include litter pickup, removal of garlic mustard, dog-strangling vine, Japanese knotweed, burdock, monitoring and more.

Recruiting volunteer stewards is underway with lots of interest and many new stewards participating already. We welcome all ages, and are all inclusive. If you or someone you know wants to lend a hand in helping nature in Toronto, please email us at toronto.nature.stewards@utoronto.ca

Pilot Program - Status of City Discussions

TNS drafted a Scope Document which was reviewed and agreed to by the City. It outlines the terms and agreements of the 2021 Pilot Program.

- A TNS subcommittee continues to meet regularly with Kim Statham (Acting Director, Urban Forestry) and Karen Sun (Program Standards and Development Officer).
- The role of the City in the Pilot program includes:
 - Reviewing and approving sites and activities
 - Providing input on TNS proposed best management practices
 - Circulating information to relevant internal City divisions
 - Reviewing site assessments
 - Providing one-point person for contact and communication throughout the season

Website, Logo, Social Media

- Progress on the Toronto Nature Stewards website and logo are underway!
- Social media pages are active:



Toronto Nature Stewards
[@torontonaturestewards](https://www.facebook.com/torontonaturestewards)



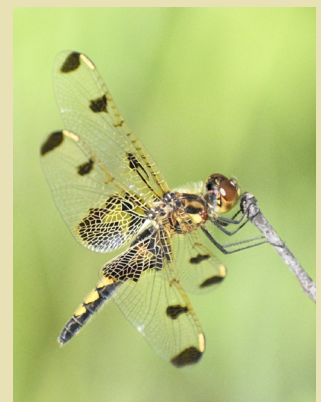
[@torontonaturestewards](https://www.instagram.com/torontonaturestewards)



[@naturestewards](https://twitter.com/naturestewards)

Indigenous Involvement Update

Conversations with various members of the Indigenous community are ongoing and evolving. We firmly believe in integrating an Indigenous perspective into land stewardship. We welcome any dialogue on the subject.



WORKING TO RESTORE TORONTO'S RAVINES AND NATURAL AREAS



Newsletter 3

July 2021

Page 2

Manual Update: public and private

The current draft of the public manual continues to be tested in-field during the pilot program. Feedback and learnings are being recorded in anticipation of an updated document.

Significant progress is being made in developing a manual for private landowners of ravine land. Thank you to so many of you who have contributed thus far with legal, technical and plain old common sense.

Learnings from case studies of private properties on ravine land continue to be integrated into this draft of the manual.

It took many many hands to bring us to this point. We would like to thank our dedicated Steering Committee, our pioneering Lead Stewards, our very knowledgeable well established City stewardship groups, Parks Forestry and Recreation, our many supportive Councillors (including Councillors Pasternak and McKelvie), our donors, and so many talented ordinary extraordinary citizens who have dedicated their time and wisdom to improving the ecology and biodiversity of Toronto's ravines and natural areas.

And we're just getting started!



With our warmest gratitude,
Toronto Nature Stewards

Looking Ahead...

We are already thinking about next year's stewardship program. One thing we have learned is that it takes a long time to select sites and get City agreement, so we will be encouraging potential Lead Stewards to begin thinking about a site soon, for the 2022 season. If you are potentially interested in participating as a Lead Steward in 2022 please let us know – we will put your name on the list and stay in contact (toronto.nature.stewards@utoronto.ca) as planning progresses.

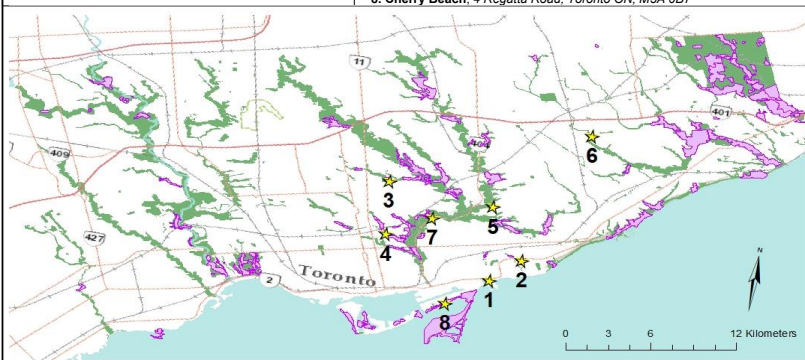
Toronto Nature Stewards 2021 Pilot Project

Our goal is to increase citizen engagement in independent stewardship across the City of Toronto. This season, we have 8 sites and 25 Lead Stewards who are actively leading stewardship activities such as litter pickup, invasive plant removal, monitoring, and more. For more information on how to get involved, e-mail toronto.nature.stewards@utoronto.ca

 Ravines and natural areas
 Environmentally Significant Areas

★ 2021 Stewardship Sites

1. Ashbridge's Bay Park, 1561 Lake Shore Blvd E, Toronto, ON M4L 3W6
2. Glen Stewart Park, 241 Glen Manor Drive West, Toronto, ON M4E 2Y1
3. Sherwood Park, 190 Sherwood Ave, Toronto, ON M4P 2A8
4. Roxborough Parkette N, 30 Roxborough Drive, Toronto, ON M4W 1W2
5. Northline, 29 Bermondsey Rd, East York, ON M4B 1Z7
6. Birkdale Ravine, 1299 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough, ON, M1P 2X9
7. The Middle Mill, 44 Beechwood Drive, East York, ON M4K 3H8
8. Cherry Beach, 4 Regatta Road, Toronto ON, M5A 0B7



July 2021

Data Source: City of Toronto



Toronto Nature Stewards doing site assessment at Birkdale Ravine.

Photos by Ravi Ponnudurai