

Notice to Park Users

City of Toronto Urban Forestry is planning to undertake a prescribed (controlled) burn in High Park in early spring 2015. Weather and onsite ground conditions are currently being monitored by City staff and burn consultants to determine the appropriate time window for a prescribed burn.

Once ideal weather conditions are achieved and an appropriate burn date has been selected, a News Release will be issued to notify the public 24-48 hours before burning is to commence. The highlighted areas on the map show the planned burn areas. During the implementation of the burn, access may be temporarily restricted in areas near burn sites to ensure the safety of park users.

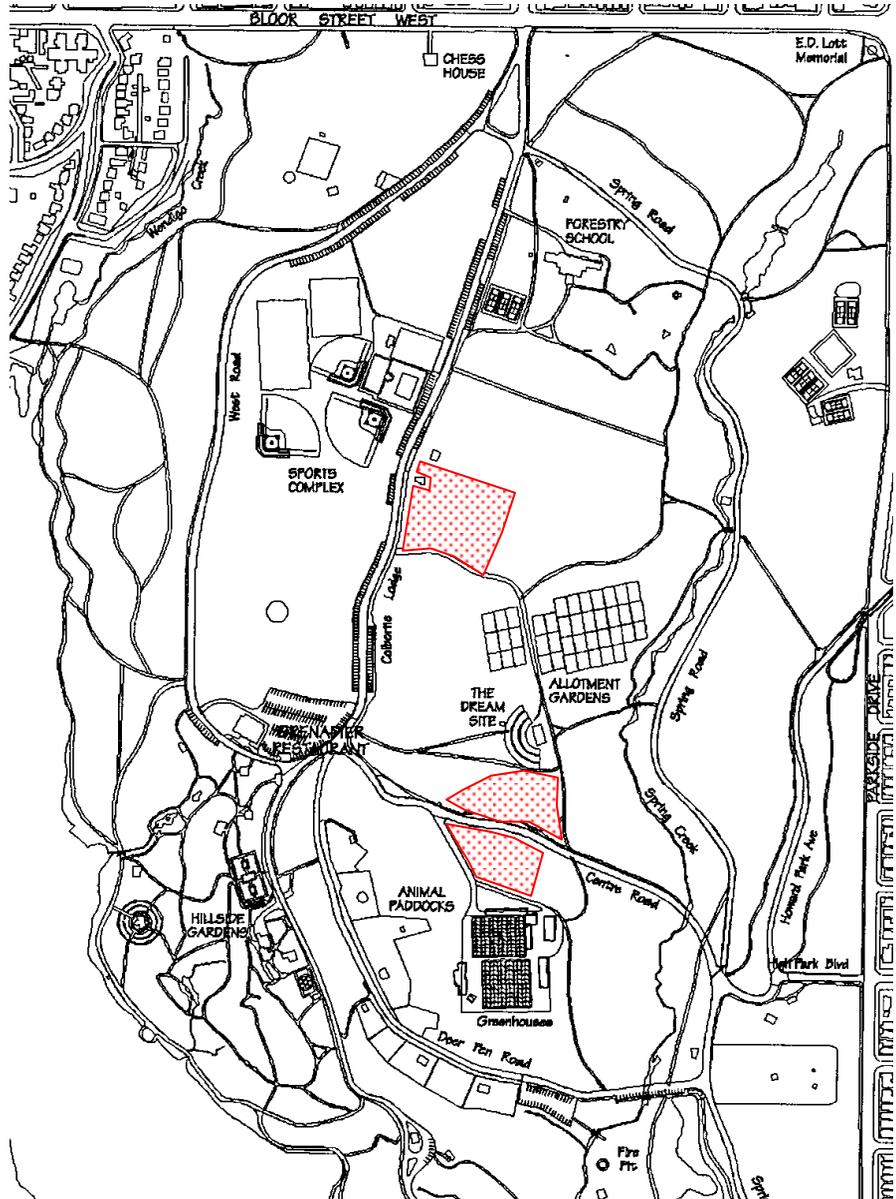
Prescribed burns are part of Urban Forestry's long-term management plan to restore and protect Toronto's rare black oak woodlands and savannahs. A prescribed burn is a deliberately set and carefully controlled fire that burns low and consumes dried leaves, small twigs and grass stems, but does not harm larger trees. Fire-dependant ecosystems, such as High Park's black oak savannah, contain prairie plants that respond positively to prescribed burning, and grow more vigorously than they would in the absence of fire.

Under ideal weather conditions, the smoke from the prescribed burn will rise and will not negatively affect surrounding neighbourhoods. It is possible however that weather conditions could change, and smoke from burning vegetation could impact residential areas near the park. **It is recommended that all residents close windows or leave the area at the time of the burn to avoid any potential sensitivity to the smoke.**

A High Complexity Fire Boss with extensive experience with prescribed burning has completed the burn plan for 2015, and will be implementing the burn. Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff will assist with the burn. Toronto Fire and Police Services will be notified and will assist as required.

The 2015 prescribed burn is the 12th in High Park and follows the tremendous success of the black oak woodlands and savannah restoration program in High Park, initiated in 2000. This restoration program has been greatly supported by local residents and the broader High Park community.

For more information about the High Park prescribed burn program and ongoing forest restoration management, please visit www.toronto.ca/trees.



High Park Prescribed Burn Locations Spring 2015