

## Notice to Local Residents

**City of Toronto Urban Forestry is planning to undertake a prescribed (or “controlled”) burn in High Park in early spring 2012.** 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. This News Release will be issued 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, sections of High Park may be temporarily closed. No access will be allowed to the areas being burned in order to ensure the safety of park users.

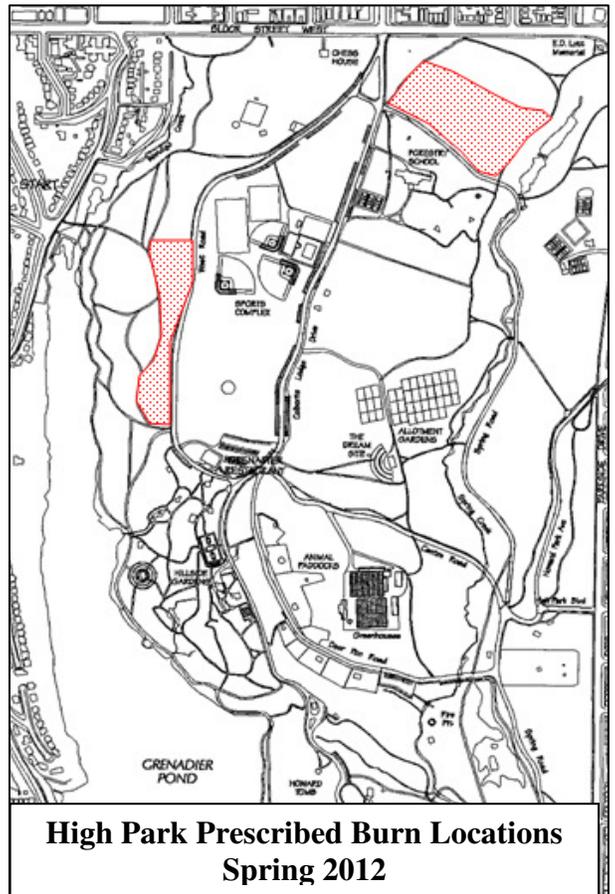
Prescribed burns are part of Urban Forestry’s long-term management plan to restore and protect Toronto’s rare Black Oak woodlands and savannahs. A prescribed burn is a deliberately set and carefully controlled fire that burns low to the ground and consumes dried leaves, small twigs and grass stems, but 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 not affect surrounding neighbourhoods. It is possible however that weather conditions could change and some smoke from burning vegetation could reach some of the residential areas near the park. Individuals with asthma, sensitivity to smoke, or high sensitivity to poison ivy are advised to keep windows closed or leave the area at the time of the burn

A Fire Boss with extensive provincial fire fighting and prescribed burning experience has written the past burn plans for High Park and has completed the burn plan for 2012. 'Fire Boss' is an Ontario designation for a certified individual who has full responsibility for planning and carrying out the burn. City staff from Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division will assist with the burn. Toronto Fire and Police Services have been notified and will assist as required.

This prescribed burn in High Park 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. **More information about the community involvement and programs in High Park can be found at [www.highparknature.org](http://www.highparknature.org) and [www.highpark.org](http://www.highpark.org)**

**For more information about the High Park prescribed burn program and ongoing forest restoration management, please call Urban Forestry at 416-392-0380 or visit [www.toronto.ca/trees](http://www.toronto.ca/trees).**



**Please do not remove this notice.**