



City of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Natural Resources

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PRESCRIBED BURNS PLANNED FOR BURNSVILLE NATURAL AREAS THIS SPRING

The City of Burnsville has contracted with multiple habitat management companies to conduct prescribed burns in several different parks this spring.

Prescribed burns are controlled fires used to help maintain natural habitat. The burn plans will be approved and permitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Burnsville Fire Department before being conducted.

Prescribed burns are planned for portions of the following parks:

- Alimagnet Park (1200 Alimagnet Park Drive)
- Kelleher Park (14951 Burnsville Parkway)
- Sunset Pond Park (3350 W. Burnsville Parkway)
- Rudy Kraemer Nature Preserve (Chowen Avenue South)

Prescribed burns are an important management tool for maintaining native prairies, oak savannas and oak woodlands. Only a portion of the habitat in these parks will be burned. Other sections of the park will be left unburned as refuge areas for wildlife.

Periodic fires help return nutrients to the soil, promote the growth of native grasses and wildflowers, control invasive plant species and keep weedy tree and shrub species from invading open areas. Many plant and animal species in these habitats are adapted to periodic fires, and depend on them for the conditions they need to thrive.

Burnsville's prescribed burn program helps maintain a diversity of forested and open areas in the park system. Each of these areas provides a different experience for park users and a variety of habitat for plants and animals. Periodic prescribed burns can also help reduce the fuel load in natural areas and reduce the risk of an accidental wildfire in the future.

Weather conditions will determine the date and time of each burn, so exact dates cannot be given ahead of time. If weather conditions do not allow the burns to be conducted in the spring, they may be rescheduled to the fall.

For more information on Burnsville's prescribed burn program contact Caleb Ashling at caleb.ashling@burnsvillemn.gov or 952-895-4543.

(more)



(High-Resolution Photo Available Upon Request)

Cutline: *Prescribed burn underway at Rudy Kraemer Nature Preserve in spring 2012.*

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