

Fire in Parks

What is a Prescribed Burn?

Prescribed burning is the deliberate use of fire under specified and controlled conditions to achieve a resource management goal.



What Precautions are Taken to Ensure Public Safety?

Safety is the number one priority for every prescribed burn. Safety considerations include: Detailed burn plans, fire break construction, smoke management, certified fire fighters and post burn monitoring.



Why Do We Use Fire?

Benefits include, site preparation for prairie restoration, wildfire hazard reduction, improved wildlife habitat and increases diversity of grasses, wildflowers, birds and butterflies.



A series of planned grassland fires are set for April-May at five state parks. These prescribed burns are aimed at improving grassland biodiversity and native grassland restoration efforts. A prescribed burn keeps in check the never ending aggression of noxious weeds, invasive trees, shrubs, non-native grasses and forbs that plague our state park landscapes.

What can you expect to see after a prescribed grassland burn? The grassland area will briefly turn black and barren. With sunlight, the blackened nutrient rich plant material allows the soil surface to warm quickly stimulating earlier growth and in turn aids in the suppression of invasive plants. Prairie plants will soon grow and will be stronger with reduced competition from non-native species. Once prairie plants are established a variety of prairie birds and butterflies will return and inhabit the area.

***2011 FIRE
FAST FACTS***

of Burn Plans: 38

of Proposed Acres: 350 acres

of Trained Park Staff: 20

State Parks Planning To Burn:

Beaver Lake State

Fort Ransom State Park

Fort Stevenson State Park

Icelandic State Park

Lake Sakakawea State Park

Turtle River State Park

*It's not what you look at that
matters, it's what you see."*

-Henry David Thoreau