



CONTROLLED BURNS SCHEDULED IN ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS' NATURE SANCTUARY – SPRING 2023

This spring, Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) will be conducting controlled burns at two sites in the Cootes Paradise Nature Sanctuary to improve rare plant habitat.

- 1. Princess Point 335 Longwood Rd N. Hamilton, Ontario**
- 2. North Shore Landing - near RBG's Arboretum, 16 Old Guelph Rd Hamilton, Ontario**

The burns will occur on a single day based on suitable weather conditions in late March – late April. There will be no access to Princess Point and Princess Point Trail and no access to the east end of the Anishinaabe waadiziwin Trail on the day of the burns. Signage and staff will be positioned at entrance points.

Timing

To minimize smoke impact and effectively control invasive species, controlled burns require specific weather conditions and accurate forecasting before an exact date can be established. A second notice will be posted on our website www.rbg.ca/grassland-restoration and on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) once the date is confirmed. Lands & Forest Consulting will be partnering with Royal Botanical Gardens to conduct the burn.

Grassland Management at RBG

This is intended to be the seventh operational controlled burn for Princess Point and the second for North Shore Landing. The burn is an important means of controlling invasive species and preserving rare native plant communities, including tallgrass prairie and oak savannah. Several interpretive signs on this theme are displayed at Princess Point.

Fire Safety

RBG's controlled burns will take place under the supervision of prescribed burn specialists from Lands & Forests Consulting Ltd. This will ensure that controlled conditions exist throughout the course of the event. The local fire department and the municipality have acknowledged the burn plan.

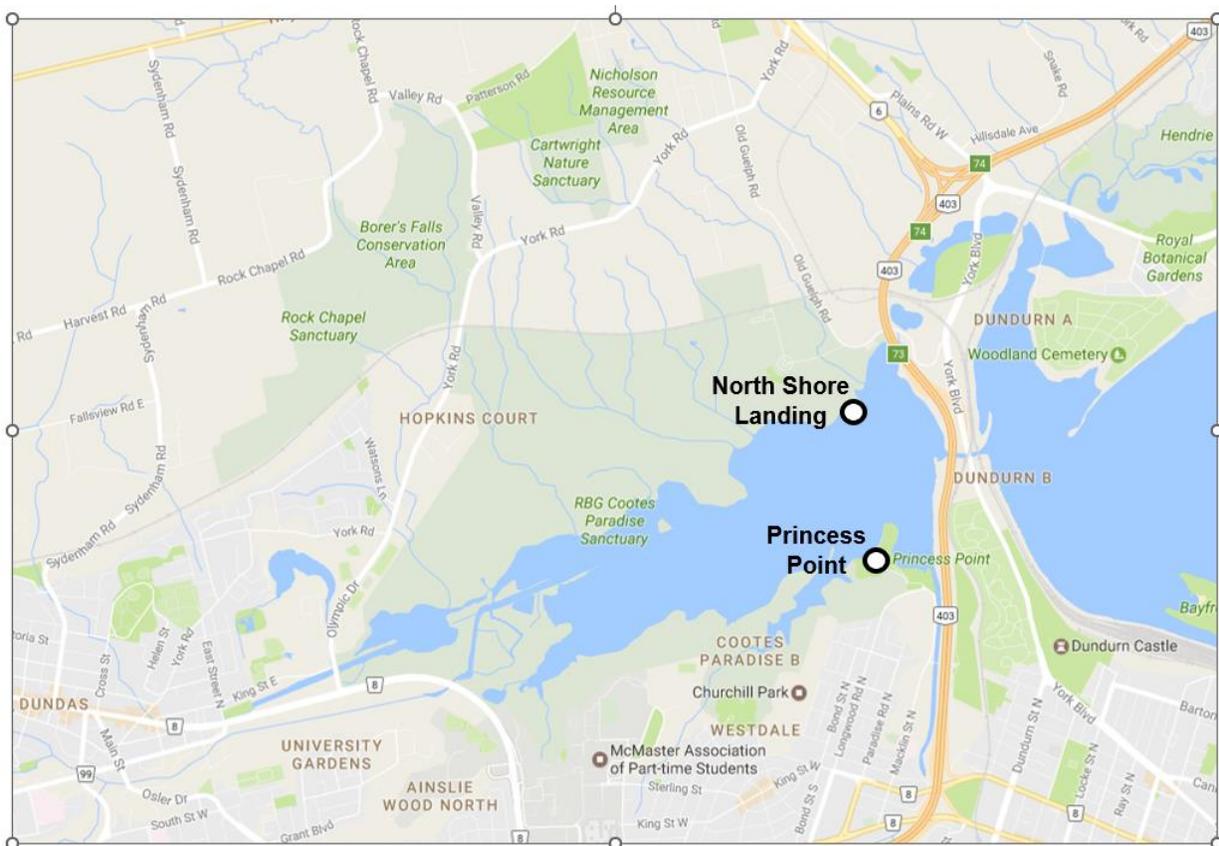
Smoke

Smoke is present on site during the burn and may last for up to 48 hours after the fire has been extinguished. For health reasons, it is recommended that asthmatics avoid prolonged exposure to the smoke. In addition to this, the smoke may contain small amounts of poison ivy oil. Those individuals who are sensitive to poison ivy should avoid exposure to the smoke. If respiratory irritation occurs, please move immediately to an area with fresh air and contact a physician. The controlled burn is performed when weather conditions help to minimize smoke impact to the surrounding communities.



More Information

Visit www.rbg.ca/grassland-restoration for further details about the burns and to learn more about tallgrass prairie restoration at RBG. For media inquiries or more information, please call 905.527.1158.



Map of 2023 RBG controlled burn locations.

The Cootes Paradise Nature Sanctuary is situated in the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, of which Royal Botanical Gardens is an active partner. RBG and eight other land-owning agencies work together to protect, restore, and connect 4,800 acres of partner lands within the EcoPark System. The controlled burns are some of the many on-going initiatives to improve these significant natural lands connecting Lake Ontario to the Niagara Escarpment, which is home to more than 50 Species-at-Risk. For more information, please visit:

www.cootestoescarpmentpark.ca