

A prescribed burn is taking place in the prairie. The surrounding trails will be closed April 10th from 1 - 5 pm. For your safety, remain on the open trails.



How are we keeping things safe?

The burn boss has the most important job during this event - they plan, develop, and implement the procedures needed for the prescribed burn to occur. They monitor all of the conditions leading up to the burn to make sure that it is perfect. This includes weather and even soil composition.

What are we looking for?

Dryness: The prairie must be dry enough to catch fire, meaning we don't want to see rain for a few days.

Wind: The speed must be consistent and not too high, as well as maintain a steady direction.

Temperature: An ideal temperature falls between the range of 40°F and 60°F.

Humidity: Generally between 30 - 50%.



2018 prairie burn pictured above

How will a prairie burn make the habitat better?

Many native plants from Michigan prairies are evolved for surviving fires and sometimes even require it for germination. Our native grasses have roots that dig deep underground so after the surface is burned away they can shoot right back up using the energy reserves in the roots. Other plants are evolved to quickly move into areas specifically like this, where the ground is bare as can be.



Pictured above is the fire killing Multi Flora Rose, an invasive species

Pictured below are professionals managing the fire



What will it do to the prairie?

- Remove woody shrubs that are starting to cover the prairie, outcompeting our native grasses, forbs, and wildflowers.
- Remove invasive plants that are taking over the prairie as well.
- Burn away the thatch, a thick layer of plant matter and organic material, that builds up over time and impedes the germination and growth of sun-loving native plants.
- Return essential nutrients to the soil.
- Promote greater diversity within the prairie ecosystem.

How can I be involved?

Safety is our top priority and while this is an exciting event, the trails surrounding the prairie will be closed. What you can do is keep an eye out for the before and after documentation, and most importantly witness the changes to the prairie over time yourself! The process of regrowth will take several months. We hope that you'll visit often and witness this change first hand.

Another way that you can be involved is to become a member and support these and future conservation efforts!

Woldumar members are individuals who support our mission:

To educate people about the natural environment.

You can find out more about membership options and join us today at woldumar.org or by scanning this QR code!

