



## Charter Township of Flushing

6524 N. Seymour Rd

Flushing, MI 48433

[www.flushingtowship.com](http://www.flushingtowship.com)

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**Trustees**  
William Bain  
Linda Minarik  
Andrew Eichorn  
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March 12, 2025

Flushing Township Nature Park is preparing to conduct a prescribed (controlled) burn in order to promote a healthier landscape for the plant and animal life living in the park. We have hired Plant Wise Native Landscapes to plan and conduct the burn within the next few weeks. This contractor is safe, experienced, and fully insured.

You may be wondering "**Why burn?**" Fire used to be a regular and frequent component of our landscape here in southeast Michigan. Lightning strikes or Native Americans were the main causes of fire prior to widespread European settlement. Many of the local ecosystems such as prairies, dry oak-hickory woodlands, and certain wetlands burned frequently. The fire effectively stimulated many of the plant species to grow more vigorously by darkening the soil surface and thereby increasing the soil temperature, by adding nutrients, and by discouraging plants that were not adapted to fire's heat.

The Nature Park has an extensive prairie restoration project, encompassing over 70 acres of the park. This prairie ecosystem is dependent on the continual use of fire, which is an important tool in the Nature Park's management plan. A prescribed burn is planned to occur at least once a year for the lifetime of the Nature Park. Small sections of the prairie are burned each year on a rotation cycle to ensure safe areas for wildlife to occupy during and after the fire.

Don't worry, prescribed burning is safe! The burn is done with the cooperation and approval of the local fire chief. Our contractor has developed a "burn prescription" which outlines the weather conditions, personnel, equipment, and other parameters that are needed for the burn to be conducted safely. Prior to burning, we create "burn breaks" which are fuel-free areas that the fire will not cross. The burn is done in a slow and deliberate manner, with safety equipment on hand to monitor and control its spread. The burn will be conducted in such a manner as to minimize the amount of smoke produced, and the direct any smoke away from smoke-sensitive areas as much as possible. Because the burn is so weather-dependent, it is impossible to predict exactly when it will occur, though we know it will be done in the afternoon. The overall "burn window" is from late March through early May.

If you are concerned or curious about the burn or the reasons for conducting it, feel free to call us. Also, if you would like to be notified on the day of the burn, please call the number below and leave a message with your address and phone number so that we can reach you prior to the burn.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

Frederick Thorsby

Supervisor

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