

## City of Toronto Urban Forestry is planning to undertake a prescribed (controlled) burn in High Park in early spring 2023.

City staff and burn consultants are monitoring the weather and on-site ground conditions to determine the date for the prescribed burn. Once ideal weather conditions are achieved and a burn date has been selected, an updated notice will be posted in the park and the City's website will be updated to notify the public, a minimum of 24 hours before ignition.

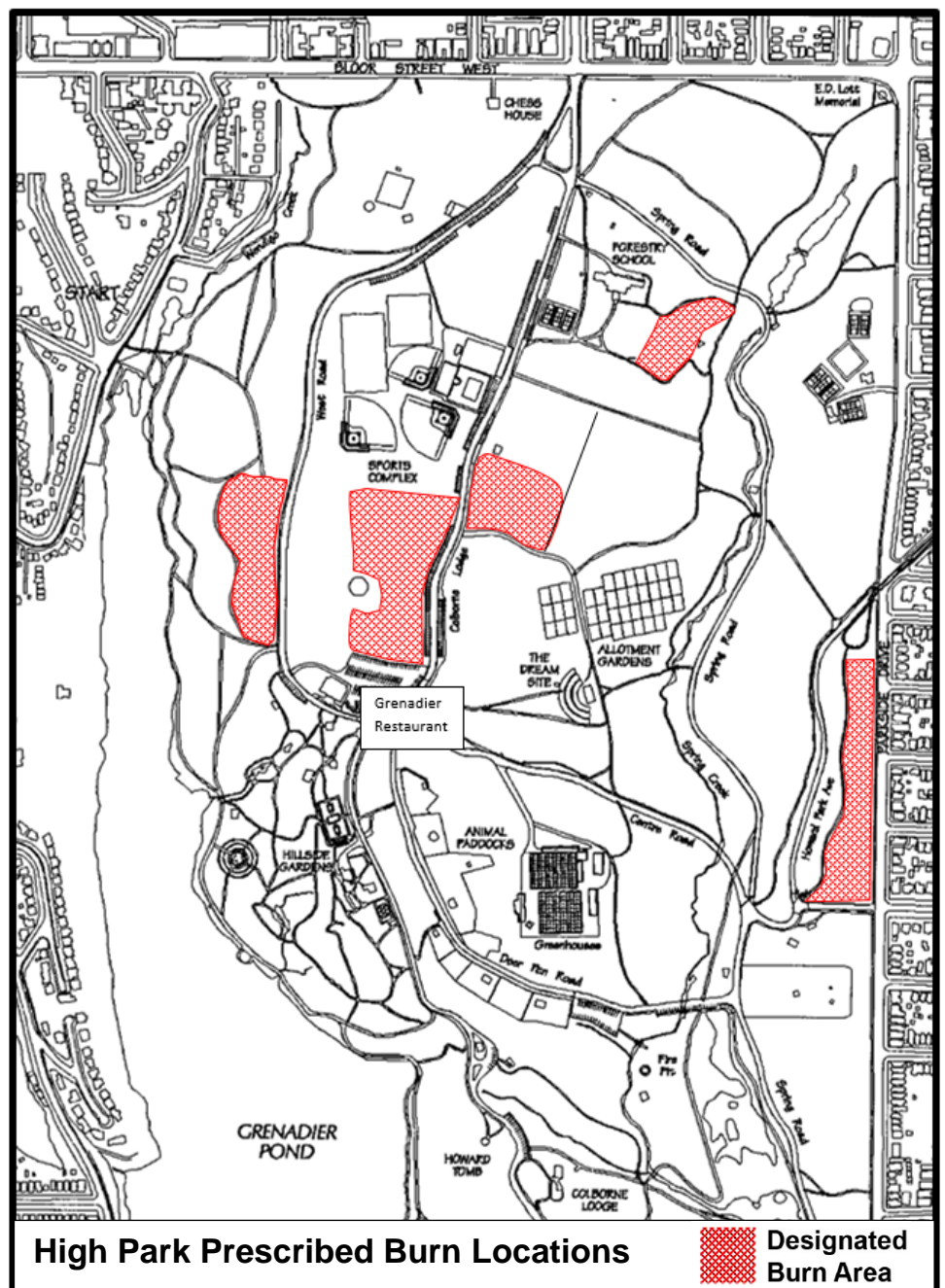
Red shaded areas on the map show the planned burn zones in High Park.

During the implementation of the burn, access will be temporarily restricted in areas near the burn site. **The Park will be closed to vehicular traffic** to ensure the safety of park users.

Prescribed burns are part of The City's long-term management plan to restore and protect Toronto's rare black oak woodlands and savannahs. A prescribed burn is a deliberately set and carefully controlled fire that burns low to the ground and consumes dried leaves, small twigs and grass stems, but does not harm larger trees.

Prior to European settlement, controlled burns were used by Indigenous Peoples to manage and maintain this fire-dependent ecosystem. Fire-dependant ecosystems like black oak savannahs, contain prairie plants that respond positively to prescribed burning and grow more vigorously than they would in the absence of fire.

Under ideal weather conditions, the smoke from the prescribed burn will rise and dissipate with minimal impact to nearby neighbourhoods. It is possible however that weather conditions could change and smoke from burning vegetation may blow into residential areas beside the park.



**Individuals with asthma and high sensitivity to poison ivy should limit their exposure by staying inside and keeping their windows closed. Some individuals may choose to leave the park during the burn if they are concerned about any potential sensitivity to smoke.**

Please visit [www.toronto.ca/trees](http://www.toronto.ca/trees) and follow us on social media @TorontoPFR for burn updates and confirmed date