



News Release

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Prescribed Burn Planned at Stephens Lake Park

The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is planning a prescribed burn tomorrow (March 16) on the hill at the north side of the lake at Stephens Lake Park. The burn will likely start between 10 and 11 a.m. Signs will be posted on the site. Parks and Recreation is working with joint communications and the fire department to ensure safety.

Prescribed burns are helpful in maintaining natural areas. The department uses prescribed burning to enhance native grasses, forbs, legumes, and wildlife habitat. Prescribed burns also aid in suppressing cool season grasses and weeds which can decrease the diversity of the ecosystem. Left unchecked, these areas would become a stagnant monoculture with the wildlife habitat being virtually eliminated.

Future prescribed burns by the department may include the Grindstone and Forum Nature Areas. Exact dates are not known, as conditions for a prescribed burn depend largely on the weather.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460.