

PRESCRIBED FIRE FACTSHEET

WHAT IS PRESCRIBED FIRE?

Prescribed fire, otherwise known as a controlled burn, is a tested conservation tool involving the application of fire to a natural area during specific, safe weather conditions. They are performed by experts, and are critical to the health of our ecosystems



WHERE DO THEY HAPPEN?

Prescribed fire is implemented routinely on both Indiana Dunes National Park and State Park properties. They are also utilized by other landowners, such as Land Trusts, environmental organizations, and municipalities. Prescribed fire is most commonly used in prairie and savanna habitats where excessive woody species are undesirable for a balanced ecosystem

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Prescribed fires restore natural habitats by clearing out the understory of woody species and allowing native herbaceous plants to flourish. They also remove fuel sources in the event of uncontrolled fires from lightning or human activity. Suppression of fire in natural areas in modern times has led to increased numbers of invasive species, and overgrown habitats that do not support diverse flora and fauna



SAFETY FIRST!

Do not try this at home! Controlled burns should only be carried out by individuals who have attended a formal burn workshop and have obtained all required permits. Experienced professionals design burn plans with specific management objectives, weather parameters, contingency plans, and ignition techniques. If you'd like to learn more, consider attending related workshops hosted by Indiana Department of Natural Resources

