



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pleasant Grove Park Wildlife Meadows Restoration Controlled Burn

Fluvanna County will soon begin the next phase of meadow management and restoration at Pleasant Grove Park by conducting a series of prescribed controlled burns. The burns will take place in two wildlife meadows, as indicated by the yellow encircled areas in the image below.



As part of the County's long-term meadow maintenance plan, controlled burns will allow us to retain these areas as valuable, and rare, wildlife habitat, as well as arrest the natural progression of these meadows into forest. The first two controlled burns are planned for February 2021 when wind, humidity, and other weather conditions are more likely to be favorable. Native grasses and wildflowers are dormant at this time of year and wildlife nesting has not begun.

Five years ago, the Fluvanna County embarked on a plan to create native wildlife meadows at Pleasant Grove. The first step, no longer mowing certain areas, created nearly 70 acres of wildlife meadows, some of the largest areas of native meadow on public property in Virginia, outside of national parks. While the actual burn will be conducted by trained and experienced Virginia Department of Forestry personnel, the County is coordinating with many other agencies to prepare, conduct, and follow-up after the burn. The agencies involved in the planned burns include the: Fluvanna County Fire Departments, Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office, Fluvanna County Public Schools, Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Rivanna Master Naturalists, and Fluvanna Master Gardeners. After the burn, donated native grass and wildflower seeds will be planted, particularly in the areas disturbed by creating a fire line around the perimeter of the burned area.

If you have questions about the planned controlled burns, please visit the County website at www.fluvannacounty.org, or contact Aaron Spitzer, Director of Parks and Recreation, by email at aspitzer@fluvannacounty.org or by phone at 434-589-2016.