



MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM

Prepared for: **Naperville City Council**

By: City Manager's office

10/24/2024

A. MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM

Source:

1. Dick Dublinski,
Director of Public Works

Subject:

Controlled Burning

Action:

FYI

**CITY OF NAPERVILLE
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 24, 2024

TO: Doug Krieger, City Manager

FROM: Dick Dublinski, Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Controlled Burning

Purpose:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information regarding controlled burning that is planned in several native planting areas in the City.

Background:

In 2023, the City began working with a consultant on the development of a native vegetation management program. In partnership with our consultant, the program began by evaluating five city-owned stormwater management areas with existing native vegetation. All five sites had degraded native plant communities due to a lack of ecological management. A management program was developed to restore these initial sites to a healthy condition.

Annual maintenance and restoration began in 2024. A total of six program sites have been evaluated and are receiving tree and shrub clearing, weed control, native plant and seed installation and controlled burning. The clearing work and plantings are completed for this year. Weed control is ongoing through the growing season. This fall, work continues with controlled burns and native seed installation. The phased approach ensures that each site receives the attention it needs to thrive.

Discussion:

As part of the native vegetation management program, controlled burning is planned at Old Plank Park, Country Commons Park, Test Track, and the Public Works Service Center. The controlled burning is scheduled to be completed in November or December depending on conditions. Burn management is dependent on weather conditions. Should weather not fall within prescription parameters, the brush pile burn will be rescheduled. The controlled burning will be conducted by trained personnel at V3 Construction, under the approval of the Naperville Fire Department and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

The objective of controlled burning is to eliminate weedy woody species prior to additional management and restoration efforts within the conservation area. Controlled burns improve the native plant communities by reducing invasive plant species that can invade wetland and prairie areas and degrade them. Conversely, prescribed burning promotes the germination and growth of many native plant species that are adapted to and require periodic fire to maintain healthy natural communities. Prescribed burning is a widely used technique for the ecological restoration and management of wetlands, woodlands and prairies throughout the Midwest.

V3 Construction will notify residents adjacent to the controlled burn areas by mail before the burning takes place. V3 Construction will work with residents who have medical issues that would be affected by smoke and will make plans to accommodate those medical needs.

Residents near the impacted areas who have signed up for Naper Notify will receive a notification before burning takes place. While a Naper Notify notification will be sent to areas near the burn sites, the weather conditions may make it difficult to predict which exact areas may smell smoke. Information about the controlled burns will also be available on the City's website.

Recommendation:

I recommend that this information be shared with the City Council through the Manager's Memorandum.