

POST LLANDUDNO FIRE PLANS

Following the fires along our northern boundary in January, the SRA committee has discussed with SANParks possible measures to further reduce the fire threat in this area. Plans that are now being developed include:

- 1) to clear alien vegetation in the section that did not burn between the firebreak and the burnt area;
- 2) to remove dead and burnt blue gums over a section north of the firebreak;
and
- 3) to undertake a controlled burn of the area between the firebreak and burnt area.

The outcome of this will be to reduce the fire load, improved aesthetics with the removal of the blue gum trunks and the regeneration of fynbos.

Please find below information regarding a planned control burn via a SANParks notice. The application process for a controlled burn normally takes in the order up to eight weeks. The notice is one of the required steps of the application process. Please note that the actual burn day will be carefully selected – a day of no wind and low temperatures.

Jonathan Crowther 8 March 2023

Press Release

For Immediate Release

01 March 2023

Prescribed burning in Table Mountain National Park due to take place

Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) is in the process of obtaining a burning permit to conduct a biodiversity burn in the Northern Section of the Park.

This prescribed burn will take place between March and April under favorable weather conditions, i.e. temperatures under 25°C, moderate winds of less than 20km/hr and 2-3 days after light rain have fallen.

Although we appreciate that such burning is a source of concern to many Cape Town residents, it must be stated that wild fires will occur and an uncontrolled fire or wildfire could pose a huge risk to life and property on the urban edge. The removal of dry flammable material by means of a prescribed burn will reduce the likelihood of future uncontrolled wildfires.

Fynbos vegetation is both fire-prone and fire-adapted and the use of fire forms an integral part of the ecological management of the park. TMNP Fire Management Department together with the SANParks Cape Research Centre has developed a scientific Prescribed Burning Plan for the entire park – this plan determines and prioritizes areas for prescribed burning, taking into consideration veld age, rare and endangered species, alien clearing etc.(biodiversity as well as protection of properties).

The reasons for conducting prescribed burns in fynbos vegetation are:

- a) To reduce fire hazards by reducing the unnecessary "fuel" accumulated in field as a result of Alien Plant Clearing operations
- b) To rejuvenate the fire-adapted and fire-dependent fynbos vegetation
- c) To form an essential part of control operations aimed at eliminating invasive alien plants

Weather-permitting, TMNP is planning to undertake prescribed burning at:

- Llandudno/ Victoria Drive

Residents in the adjoining areas of the park should be assured that Park management will do their best to minimize any possible inconvenience to adjacent households during the preparatory work and burning operations. Where adjacent properties to the park may be affected by a prescribed burn, Park management will make an effort to inform such landowners and residents in good time of the intent to carry out a burn.

When the burn takes place, surrounding residents are advised to please keep their windows shut while burning takes place. Flammable items such as gas canisters should be removed from outside areas and laundry should be taken off washing lines to prevent odour contamination from the smoke (pets, asthma).

All owners and occupiers of adjacent properties have a right to lodge written queries/objections to the proposed open burning with the City by seven days after publication. Kindly direct all queries or objections to the City's Air Quality Management department on **Tel: 021 444 2914** or via email to Bronwyn.Davidson@capetown.gov.za

For further enquiries, please contact Philip Prins, Fire Manager: TMNP at 021 6897438/9. For more information on TMNP, please visit www.sanparks.org.

How to tell the difference between a prescribed burn and a wild fire:

It is important to note that a prescribed burn will only ever take place under the conditions as described above. Prescribed burning will never take place on days with strong/gale-force winds, and will not take place over weekends or public holidays.

Should you see a fire that does not describe the above conditions, please contact the TMNP Fire Management Department at 021 689 7438/9.

Media Queries:

Philip Prins
TMNP Fire Manager
021 689 7438/9