

CONTROLLED BURNS SCHEDULED IN ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS' NATURE SANCTUARY – SPRING 2025

This spring, Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) will be conducting controlled burns at two sites in the Cootes Paradise Nature Sanctuary to improve rare plant habitat.

- 1. Princess Point 335 Longwood Rd N. Hamilton, Ontario**
- 2. North Shore Landing - near RBG's Arboretum, 16 Old Guelph Rd Hamilton, Ontario**

The burns will occur on a single day based on suitable weather conditions in late March – late April. There will be no access to Princess Point, Princess Point Trail, and the east end of the Anishinaabe waadiziwin Trail on the day of the burns. Signage and staff will be positioned at entrance points.

Timing

To minimize smoke impact and effectively control invasive species, controlled burns require specific weather conditions and accurate forecasting before an exact date can be established. A second notice will be posted on our website www.rbg.ca/grassland-restoration and on social media (Facebook, X, and Instagram) once the date is confirmed. Lands & Forests Consulting will be partnering with RBG to conduct the burn.

Grassland Management at RBG

This is intended to be the eighth operational controlled burn for Princess Point and the third for North Shore Landing. The burn is a vital means of controlling invasive species and preserving rare, native plant communities, including tallgrass prairie and oak savannah. Several interpretive signs relating to this theme are displayed at Princess Point.

Fire Safety

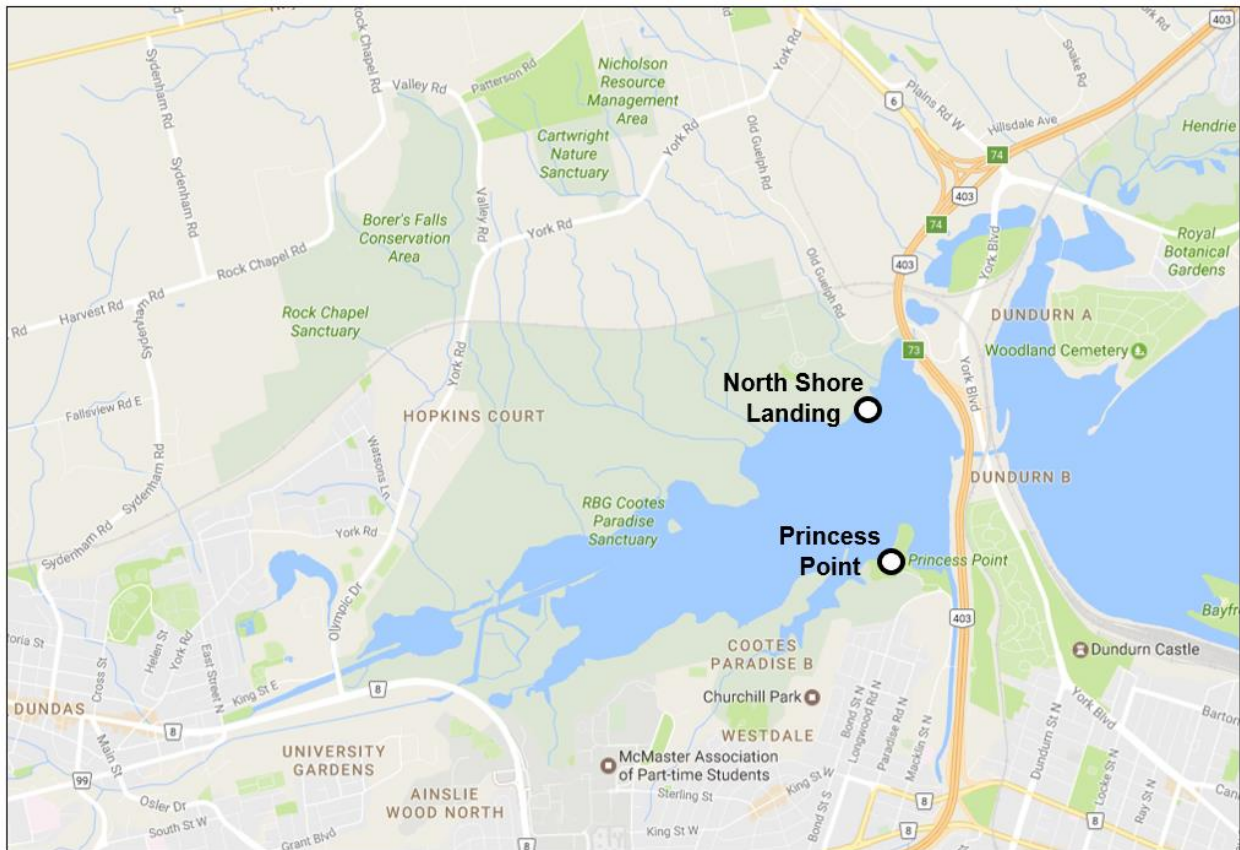
RBG's controlled burns will take place under the supervision of prescribed burn specialists from Lands & Forests Consulting Ltd. This will ensure that controlled conditions exist throughout the course of the event. The local fire department and municipality have acknowledged the burn plan.

Smoke

Smoke is present on site during the burn and may last up to 48 hours after the fire has been extinguished. For health reasons, it is recommended that asthmatics avoid prolonged exposure to smoke. In addition to this, smoke may contain small amounts of Poison Ivy oil and individuals who are sensitive to poison ivy should avoid exposure to the smoke. If respiratory irritation occurs, please move immediately to an area with fresh air and contact a physician. Controlled burns at RBG are performed only when weather conditions help minimize smoke impact to the surrounding communities.



Visit www.rbg.ca/grassland-restoration for further details about the burns and to learn more about grassland restoration at RBG. For media inquiries or more information, please call 905-527-1158.



Map of RBG's controlled burn locations in 2025.

The Cootes Paradise Nature Sanctuary is situated in the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, of which Royal Botanical Gardens is an active partner. RBG and eight other land-owning agencies work together to protect, restore, and connect 4,800 acres of partner lands within the EcoPark System. The controlled burns are some of the many on-going initiatives to improve these significant natural lands connecting Lake Ontario to the Niagara Escarpment, which is home to more than 50 Species-at-Risk. For more information, please visit: www.cootestoescarpmentpark.ca