



CONTROLLED SCIENTIFIC BURN – Bold Park

INFORMATION

Our scientists are working on a long-term research project to assess the best methods of managing bushfire risk and conserving the natural environment on the Swan Coastal Plain.

As part of this research, a controlled fire is planned to take place in Bold Park on one day between late-April and late May 2023. This will be a carefully managed fire, of low intensity and low flame height, applied to a three-hectare site in the park.

Mature trees in the chosen site will be subject to mild scorching only. The fires will be controlled by experienced staff from Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA), the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).

The fire will only be carried out if all required weather and other safety conditions can be met.

WHEN

The timing of the fire will depend on suitable weather conditions; however, it is planned to occur between 26 April and 31 May 2023.

The final decision to proceed will be made at approximately 9am on the proposed day of the experimental fire, with the burn likely to run from 11am to 4pm.

The latest information will be available on our website www.bgpa.wa.gov.au and on the Kings Park and Botanic Garden Facebook page.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Smoke: The location and timing of the fire has been chosen to minimise smoke and other impacts on our neighbours. However, a reasonable amount of smoke is likely.

Park access: Pedestrian path closures will be in place. Access to bushland paths and the bridle trail surrounding the fire area will be restricted.

Road closures: Vehicle access to Wollaston Road will be limited to resident access only. Speed restrictions will apply on Rochdale Road, Mt Claremont. Motorists should use caution if visibility is reduced.

Please follow all instructions on signs or given by the fire controllers and traffic management staff.

Spectators are not permitted access to the fire site.



SAFETY AND PREPARATION

Public and staff safety is the top priority of this project. Significant preparation has gone into ensuring the process is as safe as possible. Ideally winds will disperse smoke away from the area but some may remain locally for a short time. People living close to the burn area in Bold Park are encouraged to observe the following general advice:

- Keep windows and doors closed.
- People with asthma or other respiratory conditions should stay indoors or avoid the area.
- Hang out the washing another day.
- Stay in touch via the BGPA website or the Kings Park and Botanic Garden Facebook page for last-minute updates.

The fire will be carefully observed and controlled by BGPA staff, project scientists, DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service and DFES.

The fire will be ignited by hand and incident response crews will be in place for the entire duration and BGPA staff will monitor the site over several days.

ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The objective of the research is to identify the best way to manage bushfire hazards for Bold Park and our neighbours, and to conserve our natural environment for the future.

While previous research has focused on forest and shrubland vegetation found in other regions of WA, this study examines the impact of prescribed burning on banksia woodland vegetation specific to the Swan Coastal Plain.

The project will also look at the additional challenges that come with bushfire risk in bushland areas close to densely populated areas, such as interactions with weeds. The evidence gathered will be vital for future decision-making.

CONTACTS

If you have a query about safety, park access, road closures, smoke or about the research project itself, please contact BGPA. Enquiries on (08) 9480 3600 or email enquiries@bgpa.wa.gov.au.

More information about the prescribed fires and the scientific research project behind them is available at www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/notices.

FIRE LOCATION

Bold Park scientific burn

One day between 26 April – 31 May

Traffic access to Wollaston Road will be restricted.
Speed restrictions will apply on Rochdale Road.



Legend

- Fire Location
- Road Closure
- Public Exclusion Area