

Quabbin Park Fire Planning MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION OF NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Why reintroduce fire to the park?

Several fire-dependent natural communities

- Pitch pine oak woodland
- Inland sandplain grassland
- Oak- hickory woodland
- Pockets of scrublands comprised of scrub oak

Why reintroduce fire to the park?

- Existing rare species and potential for restoring more
 - Two state listed endangered plants that benefit from fire and one watch-listed plant.
 - Expansion of some grasslands could provide needed habitat for state listed birds.
 - Suite of Lepidopteran species that depend on these communities





Quabbin Tower Area & Surrounding Woodlands

Within Special Management Consideration Areas

(Quabbin Areas with Special Management Restrictions (ASMR) Forestdenoted by light orange hashmarks)

Acres are identified in the CLMP: 55

Proposed area acreage: 917

- Quabbin Hill
 - Widely recognized rare pitch pine oak woodland, with scrub oak
 - ▶ Last fire was conducted in 2004
- Surrounding Woodlands
 - Oak- hickory with scrub oak pockets, some red oak woodland
- ► Fire Intervals
 - ▶ 8-10 years, or 10-20 years based on response.
 - More degraded areas and pockets of scrub oak likely 3-5 years, but this is adaptive based on response.
- Specialist Lepidopteran species depend on these vegetation communities.



Hank's Meadow

(half is within ASMR- denoted by light orange hash marks)

- ► Approximately 19.2 acres.
- Area includes rare sandplain grassland (S2- globally rare; imperiled) with lowbush blueberry, little bluestem and other fire adapted plants.
- Fire interval estimated 2-4 years





Goodnough Dike Woodland Restoration and Grassland

Out of Special Management Consideration Area

- ► 59 acres
- Pre-fire Management
- Oak woodland already proposed, ready for marking and sale.
- Grassland would need invasives treatments.
- Fire Intervals
- Woodland: 3-5 years introductory; 8-10 maintenance.
- ► Grassland: 2-4 years.

Benefits two state listed endangered plant species and rare inland sandplain grassland.



Goodnough Dike Grassland and Adjacent Woodland Trails and Roads Administrative Road Forest Road/Trail

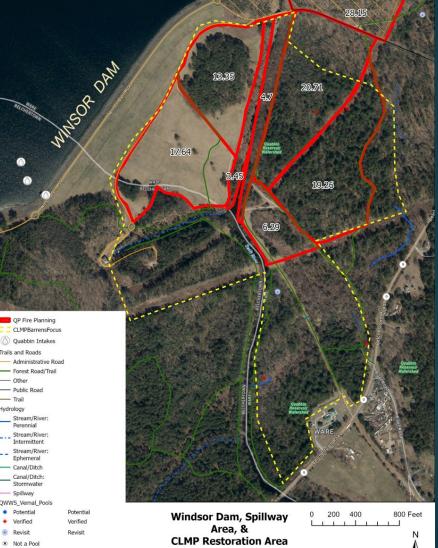
Public Road
Trail
O
175
QP Fire Planning

175 350 700 Feet

Windsor Dam, Spillway and Adjacent Woodland

Areas identified in CLMP (total area in CLMP is 143 acres), proposed areas is 84 acres.

- Pre-fire Management
- Eastern area adjacent to spillway (45.5 acres) thin by removal of white pine and other generalist tree species to restore to an oak woodland.
- Western area adjacent to spillway, below Windsor Dam (31 acres) island of white pines, 6.7 acres, to be removed. Area under white pines is heavily infested with invasives.
- Spillway (5.5 acres) Spillway needs all woody vegetation removed mechanically (in process). Continuation of sandplain grassland.



Windsor Dam, Spillway and Adjacent Woodland

► Fire Intervals

- Eastern woodland: introductory 3-5 years; maintenance 8-10 years
- Western grassland: 2-4 years
- Spillway: 1-4 years

Benefits two state-listed bird species: Grasshopper Sparrow (state-listed threatened) & Eastern Meadowlark (statelisted special concern). Also watch-listed plant species, wild lupine.





Administration Fields

- Prescribed fire only
- Area across from the Forestry building
- Pollinator area near Admin building
- ► Fields lining entrance
- Fire interval: 2-4 years
- Increases acreage of rare inland sandplain grassland and pollinator habitat.
- Public and staff education opportunity.



Thanks!

