



PRESCRIBED PRAIRIE BURN NEAR PARK ENTRANCE

The weather was perfect November 4 & 6, 2020 for St. Croix County employees to do prescribed burns on several of the smaller prairie parcels at Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake. They started with the down wind section of each parcel, as wind blowing against the fire line would slow the fire's advance—making it easier to control. Once that back edge had advanced enough to leave a few feet of blackened area, crews went along each side igniting pie shaped wedges just ahead of the burn line. Upon reaching the upwind area of the section, the burn boss called the tank vehicle up before closing the circle. He explained that with the wind pushing the fire, it would burn hotter, higher, and faster. Flames easily reached over 6 feet as the line raced towards the much lower (1-2 feet) and slower moving down wind line. Once the lines converged, the fire went out for lack of fuel. Despite the high flames, the Burr Oak at the center where the conflagration met was barely scorched. This area was once all Oak Savannah, which is now one of the rarer prairie types surviving in our state. Regular burning both keeps brush from crowding the oaks and renews prairie grasses and flowers. Anticipate a great bloom in these areas next Summer.





FISH STICK BUNDLES ALONG WEST SHORE

Wednesday, Feb 24 Fish Sticks were installed along the West shore of Perch Lake by St. Croix County Parks staff and the WI DNR. Their purpose is to mimic the habitat that shoreline trees create upon falling into the water.

Unlike fish cribs which only require anchoring, a fish stick permit requires also tethering the bundles to the shore to prevent them from shifting to deeper water.

Once the bundles have silted in place, the biodegradable ropes will be removed. The ropes were laid flat against the ice. Please step, ski, boat, or swim over or around the ropes and bundles without disturbing them.

General Park News

- A staff office building is going up opposite the maintenance shed. It is hoped to be ready by the opening. The septic system installed will handle both that building and the future Friends of Perch Lakes' learning/reception center.
- St. Croix County park revenues were up by over \$100,000 last year.
- The loons lost their chick to predation. Please keep your distance as you wish them success.
- Site manager Ryan Brathal has taken a management position at Glen Hills which is closer to his home. A search for a new manager is underway.

FOPL Annual Meeting

The Friends of Perch Lake's annual meeting will take place May 15, 2021 at 10 am via zoom. Follow link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84868166309?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84868166309?pwd=Z0x1aDdMd1duL3RRU2NwMnNMzM0Zz09)

[pwd=Z0x1aDdMd1duL3RRU2NwMnNMzM0Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84868166309?pwd=Z0x1aDdMd1duL3RRU2NwMnNMzM0Zz09)

Meeting ID: 848 6816 6309
Passcode: 139555