NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

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The Ganondagan State Historic Site is planning a prescribed burn in the Grassland Management Area within the timeframe of February 1st – June 11th, 2018. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), in collaboration with the Environmental Stewardship and Planning Bureau (ESP) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) have approved the necessary plans to perform a prescribed burn on NY State Parks land. All considerations have been made to prioritize public safety, as public safety is always of the utmost importance for OPRHP.

A maximum of 37 acres of the Grassland Management Area will be managed by prescribed burning in 2018. This acreage may be reduced depending on highly specific weather conditions required to complete the burn within a single day. Prescribed burn plans have been completed by experienced, certified specialists in wildland burns and have been approved by OPRHP and the DEC.

Prescribed burns are a common strategy for grassland maintenance and ideal management for grassland areas at Ganondagan to demonstrate a tool that may have been utilized by the Seneca who lived there. The objectives of the prescribed burn are to: a) enhance the interpretive value of the site by restoring the biodiversity of plant and wildlife species to what was present during the Seneca's historic period of occupation, b) restore grassland communities within the Grassland Management Area in both composition (native grasses, wildflowers and woody-stemmed plant species) and structure of typical grassland and oak savannah communities (oak openings) and c) remove thatch layer to improve habitat for fire-adapted plant species and grassland birds.

Starting in 2009, the Ganondagan State Historic Site designated the Grassland Management Area at the corners of Boughton Hill/Murray Roads and Boughton Hill/School Roads in Victor, NY. Enhancing and preserving these natural habitats and historic places is an integral part of OPRHP's mission. Additionally, interpreting both the culture and history of the Seneca people remains a cornerstone operation of Ganondagan State Historic Site. Native warm-season grass species; Indian grass, big bluestem and little bluestem were planted along with other native wildflower species, such as New England aster.

Additionally, The Grassland Management Area is being managed in a way that depicts a landscape reminiscent of the late 1700s when the Seneca were settled at Ganondagan. The landscape was designed using descriptions of Ganondagan taken down in journal entries from Europeans visiting the area during that time.

A public meeting will be held to discuss the project in further depth. All local residents, or other interested parties, are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15th at 5:30 PM at the Seneca Art and Culture Center located at 7000 Boughton Hill Road in Victor, NY.

The prescribed burn will start and end within a single day so that disruption from traffic detours is as minimal as possible. You are welcome to contact the acting Public Information Officer with any questions via (585) 742-1732 or Whitney.Carleton@parks.ny.gov.

The Ganondagan Prescribed Burn is an annual event, which will include an annual public information meeting advertised on the Town of Victor website and in local publications, when possible. If you would like to be informed personally of future public meetings or be contacted via notification emails prior to annual prescribed burns, please email Whitney.Carleton@parks.ny.gov with the subject 'PRESCRIBED BURN NOTIFICATION'. In addition, if you would like to receive future phone calls on the day that the Ganondagan Prescribed Burn is taking place, please email your phone number to the address above. PLEASE TITLE ALL EMAILS 'PRESCRIBED BURN NOTIFICATION' so that we may sort your requests properly.