



**EVAN N. PRATT, P.E.**

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER  
705 North Zeeb Road  
P.O. Box 8645  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

email: [drains@washtenaw.org](mailto:drains@washtenaw.org)  
<https://www.washtenaw.org/drains>

HARRY SHEEHAN  
Chief Deputy Water Resources Commissioner

SCOTT MILLER, P.E.  
Deputy Water Resources Commissioner

Telephone 734.222.6860  
Fax 734.222.6803

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 24, 2023**

Harry Sheehan, Chief Deputy Water Resources Commissioner

Phone: 734-222-6860

Email: [drains@washtenaw.org](mailto:drains@washtenaw.org)

### **Controlled Burns To Be Conducted**

*In the public Rain Gardens at Belize Park and at Kingsley and First St.*

**ANN ARBOR, MI** - Controlled burns will be conducted on Friday, March 24 in rain gardens and stormwater features at Kingsley and First Street and Belize Park in Ann Arbor. Controlled burns help reduce invasive species and encourage native plants to thrive. Deep rooted native plants make soils more absorbent. Spongier soils reduce runoff which can cause problems downstream.

Ecologically, it is important to burn these natural areas so that the prairie-like ecosystems continue to flourish. Funding for this work is provided by the City of Ann Arbor Systems Planning Unit and coordinated by the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office (WCWRC).

The burns will be conducted by a professional contractor, PlantWise, LLC. Burn plans have been developed for each site and a burn permit has been obtained from the Fire Department.

For more information on WCWRC controlled burns visit,  
<https://www.washtenaw.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2403>.

*Our Mission: We seek to inspire the residents and communities of Washtenaw County to protect surface water and the environment while maintaining necessary drainage. Within the authority granted to our office, we provide resources to reduce flooding, dispose of home toxics, and improve water quality.*

Visit [washtenaw.org/drains](https://www.washtenaw.org/drains) for more information.

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Office Open Week Days From 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.