

Controlled Burn Planned for Pollinator Site on U.S. 301

"From Wildfire... to Wildflowers"

The Delaware Forest Service plans to conduct a controlled burn of a 43-acre field along U.S. 301 near the Spring Mill Community of Middletown in March/April 2026 - Exact date is TBD.



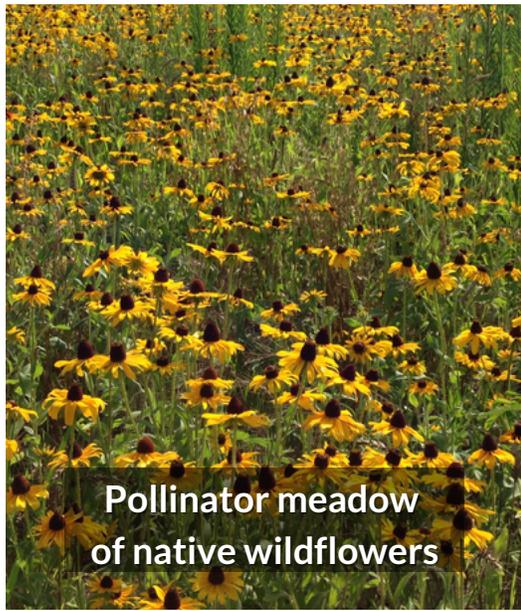
Delaware's Dept. of Transportation (DelDOT) created Dove Nest as its very first "pollinator mitigation site." The goal of the project was to establish an "early successional habitat" for native birds, bees, and butterflies to address the ongoing loss of farmland to development in the Middletown area. The site was previously burned in March of 2022.

Land that is left unmanaged will eventually revert to forestland, and burning is considered the most effective and natural method to prevent trees and invasive species from overtaking the site. DelDOT's project plan calls for burning the site in late winter or early spring every two to three years.

DOVE NEST



MITIGATION SITE



Pollinator meadow of native wildflowers



U.S. 301 CONTROLLED BURN FOR POLLINATOR SITE

In 2019, Delaware Forest Service staff helped DelDOT and other partners create "Dove Nest," Delaware's first pollinator mitigation site. Plans call for the site to be burned again sometime in the next month.



de.gov/wildfire

GETTING THE FACTS ABOUT "PRESCRIBED FIRE"

- Prescribed fire, also known as "Rx burning," is an important land management tool to control unwanted vegetation, release native plants, and reduce future fires by removing hazardous fuels.
- Rx burns are only "prescribed" when **actual** site conditions meet **pre-identified** parameters to **maximize safety** and **reduce smoke**. Factors include temperature, fuel moisture, wind speed and direction, humidity, and proximity to structures and populations.

What do I need to know about the burn?

- It is possible that nearby residents and visitors to the area will see or smell smoke. Do not be alarmed. State and local officials have been notified of the burning and will be aware of it.
- Individuals who are sensitive to smoke should remain indoors for the duration of the burning. The burn should begin in the morning and conclude by mid-afternoon.
- Drivers traveling on U.S. 301 North between Bunker Hill Road and Armstrong Corner Road should expect to slow down and exercise caution. Road signs and lane restrictions will be in place for the safety of drivers and fire staff. Please obey posted notifications.

When is the burn likely to take place?

- The prescribed fire occurs when site conditions are deemed **most favorable** to a safe and successful burning operation. The goal is to complete the burn by March/April 2026.
- Because weather conditions, availability of staff and equipment, and other factors are difficult to predict, controlled burn are often scheduled on **as little as a few days notice**.

To get email notifications on **the date and time of the burn**, send an email with the subject "301 Burn" to Stephanie.Alexander@delaware.gov. For questions and general information, please call **302-698-4552**.



SAFETY AND CONTROL: EXPERIENCED AND EQUIPPED

Delaware Forest Service staff are certified in wildfire suppression and prescribed fire, with the experience to burn both **safely and effectively**. In 2025, the DFS and partners burned 746 acres of public and private land, and sent its wildfire crew and engine to fight fires in the western United States.

CHECK OUT THE VIDEO:

Drone videos of the previous 2022 Rx Burn:

de.gov/301burn



The Dove Nest site was successfully burned in March 2022 by the Delaware Forest Service.

