



February 22, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stacy Vaughn
Communication Director
City of Siloam Springs
(479) 238-0905
svaughn@siloamsprings.com

CITY PLANS CONTROLLED BURN

Effort to Help Create Natural Wetlands

The Siloam Springs Fire Department will conduct a controlled burn of nearly 10 acres of vegetation the week of February 28. Located at approximately at 700 North Progress Avenue, the land is south and west of the new Siloam Springs High School.

City Engineer Adam Roark helped plan the project in coordination with the Fire Department.

“The city will burn off underlying vegetation along Mudcat Creek near Tahlequah Street. Destroying the non-native vegetation that is growing there now will allow native vegetation a chance to take hold and grow,” Roark said.

The native vegetation will create a natural wetlands environment that should help filter out nutrient materials before they hit the creek, which eventually flows into Sager Creek. Excess nutrients in the creek can cause excess algae growth. When these excess plants die and decompose, they can cause dissolved oxygen levels in the water to drop. Common sources of excess nutrients are soil erosion and water runoff carrying fertilizers.

The Fire Department will monitor weather and wind conditions throughout the week and identify the best window in which to conduct the burn. The project requires careful planning and constant monitoring of weather conditions. Firefighters and fire-fighting equipment will be staged at the scene.

Residents can expect to see light colored smoke, with some flames on the ground. The majority of the burn will take around 4 hours, however a subsequent burn of some heavier fuel sources on the east side of the project may smolder for another day.

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