

Venables Fire, August – September, 2003
Cornwall Hills Provincial Park



Venables Fire raging through Cornwall Hills Park, August 18, 2003

A wildfire burned over about 500 hectares of park land in the summer of 2003, but did not produce uniform results. Some areas burned very hot, killing all vegetation. Other areas (often right adjacent to hotly burned ones) were only lightly burned or not burned at all. This patchiness is typical of wildfires and results from varying vegetation types, topography, weather and wind conditions at the time of the fire and a number of other factors.



High Intensity Burn Area - Cornwall Hills Park, September 19, 2003



Low Intensity Burn Area - Cornwall Hills Park, October 9, 2003



Wildfire Mosaic - Cornwall Hills Park, September 9, 2003



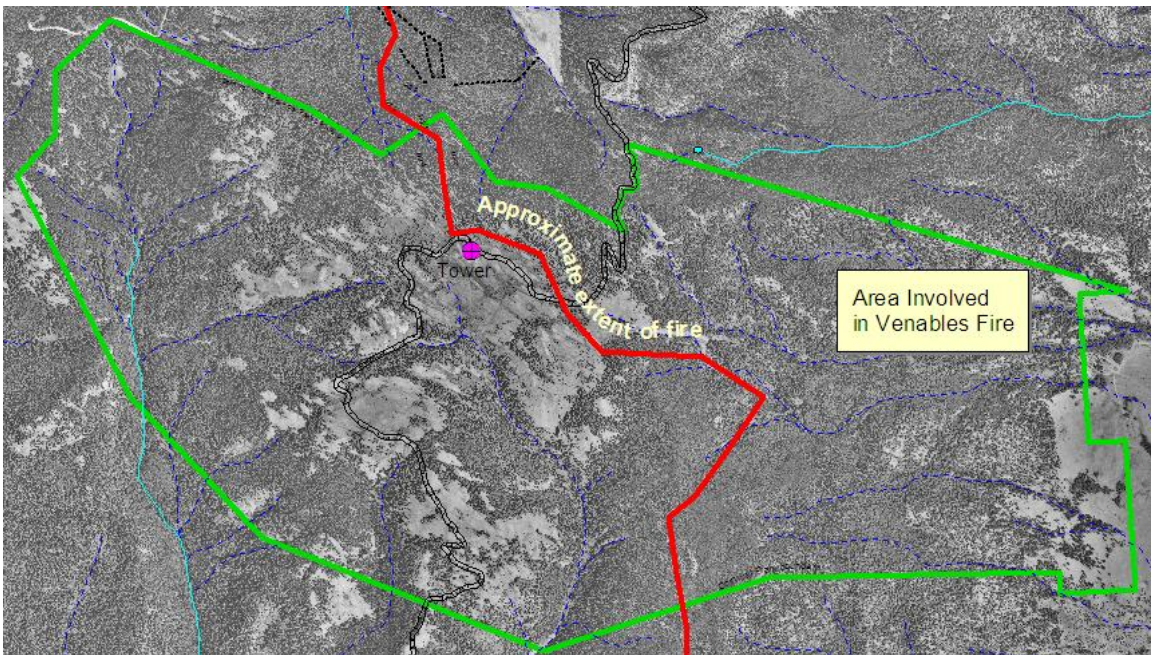
Wildfire Mosaic - Cornwall Hills Park, October 9, 2003

The resulting mosaic of stand types and ages may be very beneficial to the park, producing a variety of wildlife habitats and forests less susceptible to large outbreaks of insects and disease. Both high intensity and low intensity burn sites are regenerating naturally and the forest will regrow over time.



Rehabilitated fire guard, left of the main access road and in the middle of the of the photo, October 9, 2003

Rehabilitation of landscape alterations caused by firefighting activities was largely completed by November of 2003 and will be monitored along with the burned areas over the coming years to record vegetation recovery.



Park boundary (green) and approximate park area involved in Venables Fire