



April 9, 2024

Dear Ada Resident:

This letter is to inform you that in late April/early May, Hamilton Helicopters Inc will be spraying for spongy (gypsy) moths in targeted areas throughout the Township. Your property is one that will be sprayed (see attached map). The Township will have 289 acres of property sprayed this year to help reduce defoliation of trees and shrubs by this invasive insect – a reduction from the 654 acres sprayed last year. The area identified for spraying was based on an egg mass survey completed in the fall/winter of 2023-24 by Aquatic Consulting Services.

Why is the Township Involved?

Theoretically, a property owner could hire a company to spray their individual parcel. However, sprayers typically require a minimum of 100 acres before they accept a job. Therefore, the Township has agreed to act as the “general contractor”. This enables property owners who have less than 100 acres to participate, and it also drops the overall cost of the spray program.

How much will this cost me?

The Township is planning on using general fund dollars to fund the program this year due to the reduced acreage from last year and the overall community benefit. The Township has discussed implementing a special assessment for future years, but that will be evaluated on an annual basis. The cost for this year’s program is \$79.65 per acre. A listing of all parcels impacted can be found at the Township website.

When will the spray be applied and is it safe?

Spraying will most likely occur between April 29-May 10, but is subject to change based on the weather. Updates will be posted on the Township website. The product that is sprayed is called Btk. Btk, short for *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, is a bacterium found naturally on leaves and in the soil. These bacteria act as tiny factories that produce protein crystals that kill specific groups of insects. Btk is effective only on butterfly or moth caterpillars that consume a toxic dose of the btk during its 10-14 day active phase. Additional information can be found on the website.

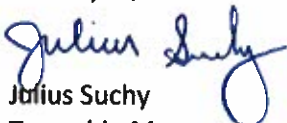
Will we need to spray in subsequent years?

It is entirely possible that annual treatments may be required. Aquatic Consulting Services has indicated it normally takes up to three (3) years to see significant results when it comes to a suppression program. This will be year three of spraying for the Township. After our spraying the Township will complete an egg mass survey next fall to determine the needs for spraying the following year.

Please visit the Ada Township website (www.adatownshipmi.com) to find out more information on the spraying program. This information can be found under the “Services – Spongy (Gypsy) Moth” drop down. We will also post the spray date on the website when it is finalized, as well as the Township Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AdaVillage).

If you have any questions, please contact me at 616-676-9191 or via email at jsuchy@adatownshipmi.com.

Thank you,


Julius Suchy
Township Manager