



April 17, 2023

Greetings Kentwood Resident:

Your property is located in a designated treatment area for Kentwood's annual spongy (formerly gypsy) moth suppression program. The purpose of this aerial spray program is to provide relief to residents during spongy moth outbreaks. This will not completely eliminate the pests, but it will reduce the number of caterpillars and the defoliation they cause. The estimated time of spraying is mid-May or early June, depending on the weather. The spray should occur in one day, and the exact date will be determined by weather conditions and caterpillar development.

Your property is scheduled to be sprayed with a biological insecticide called *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*) that only affects the caterpillars of moths and butterflies that are actively feeding at the time of treatment. Organic gardeners have been using this pesticide option for years. In 2-3 days after ingestion, the caterpillars become lethargic and stop feeding. In an effective spray application, you may notice a change in the level of activity and responsiveness of the caterpillars, and they will die in 5-7 days.

The applicator for this program is Hamilton Helicopter, Inc., PO Box 264, 4488 134th Avenue, Hamilton, Michigan, 49419, 616.291.5808. The *Bt* brand to be used is Foray 76B (or equivalent). Hamilton Helicopter will apply the spray in a very fine mist for maximum coverage of leaves. The aircraft will apply 1 quart of the *Bt* material over each acre. This will result in an effective spray that will be very difficult to see or feel as it is being applied. After the material has dried on the leaves, rain will have little effect in washing off the material. Spraying will be done when the average wind speed is less than 10 miles per hour, and relative humidity is more than 50%. In most cases, these constraints will limit spraying to a morning activity, but spraying will continue until complete or conditions no longer allow for an effective application.

Information related to the spongy moth treatment is available on the City's website at www.kentwood.us/moths and updates will also be provided on the City's Facebook page. Under the information heading, you will find articles with the answers to many common questions regarding safety and efficacy.

Several areas of the City have been designated for treatment. These areas were determined by our consultant, Aquatic Consulting Services, LLC, based on resident complaints, analysis of tree damage, and egg mass surveys.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Shay P. Gallagher, Deputy City Administrator, at 616.554.0770 or via email at gallaghers@kentwood.us.

Sincerely,

The City of Kentwood



Spongy Moth Aerial Spraying Areas

CITY OF KENTWOOD
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KENTWOOD, MICHIGAN 49518-8848 PHONE (616) 698-9610

Legend

 Spray Areas

