



Bay County Forest Sustainability Program

Landowner Authorization to Access Property for Spongy Moth Monitoring

The Bay County Forest Sustainability Program (formerly Gypsy Moth Suppression Program) was established to control outbreak levels of the invasive Spongy Moth (formerly known as Gypsy Moth) occurring in Bay County. Heavy infestations of Spongy Moth cause area wide damage to trees and forested areas. The caterpillars eat leaves and defoliate trees targeting oak, poplar, birch, apple, and even spruce and pine, many of the dominant trees in our landscape and woodlots. Damaged trees are susceptible to disease and even death. The Forest Sustainability Program works to protect trees in Bay County from defoliation and damage from Spongy Moth caterpillars by providing education on prevention and control methods and conducting monitoring in wooded areas to evaluate the prevalence and density of Spongy Moth at its various life stages. When monitoring shows populations are at significant outbreak levels, treatment is provided to reduce the population and control the infestation.

Monitoring for Spongy Moth populations occurs throughout the year. In the fall, Bay County Forest Sustainability Program staff visit inhabited or recreational wooded areas in Bay County once to determine if Spongy Moth egg masses are present. If enough egg masses are found, the wooded area is monitored again to establish the size and extent of the Spongy Moth infestation. When the number of egg masses passes the threshold of 300 egg masses per acre, treatment is scheduled, and a few sites are picked for spring monitoring to observe when the caterpillars hatch so treatment can be properly timed.

We request your authorization to conduct this Spongy Moth monitoring on your property. For your assurance, security measures related to monitoring on your property include:

- 1.) *Only an official Bay County vehicle clearly marked with the Bay County seal will be used to access your property/driveway during the regular work week, no earlier than 9:00am up to 5:00pm.*
- 2.) *One or two program staff wearing Bay County employee identification badges will knock on the door to provide notice that we are on site to conduct the monitoring. We will leave a door hanger if no one answers.*
- 3.) *Monitoring is conducted on foot to view areas where Spongy Moths might be found such as on the understory branches of trees, around the outside of structures, and the perimeter of woodlots. Individual site monitoring may take up to 45 minutes depending on conditions. Only invasive species and Spongy Moth related information will be noted or recorded.*

Please provide your contact information and signature to authorize Forest Sustainability Program monitoring described above. If you do not wish to have monitoring conducted on your property, please check the "NO" box below and provide the property address information:

NO, I do not want Spongy Moth Monitoring on my property located at: _____

YES, I authorize Spongy Moth Monitoring on my property, and I understand that this Authorization Agreement will be in effect until our program is told otherwise by property owner(s) or change of address occurs.

NAME (please print): _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Providing your contact information will allow the Forest Sustainability Program to send you a field data report and yearly update about the condition of the Spongy Moth population in our area. None of your information will be shared or used for any other purpose.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

Bay County Forest Sustainability Program
515 Center Avenue, Suite 503, Bay City, Michigan 48708
or via email to Jeremy Lowell lowellj@baycounty.net

This agreement only authorizes Spongy Moth monitoring. If the monitoring near your property indicates that treatment to control Spongy Moths is advised, you will be notified directly and given the option to Opt-Out of treatment operations. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Jeremy Lowell at 989-895-4195 or visit the Bay County webpage: www.baycounty-mi.gov/GypsyMoth