




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 24, 2025
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Urban Forest Invasive Species Management - Spongy Moth Update (ES2505) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY: SIGNATURE:	Cynthia Graham Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department 

The purpose of this Communication Update is to inform Council about Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) projected population levels for 2025, which have informed invasive species management activities related to the pest.

The Forestry and Horticulture Section monitors population levels of Spongy Moth annually to forecast caterpillar outbreaks. In collaboration with a consultant, surveys are completed across the City of Hamilton (City) in areas of known or suspected populations. A report is prepared by the hired consultant to summarize results and assist in preparing a management plan for the following year.

2024 survey data collection forecasted low populations for the 2024 season. As such, no control treatments were conducted in 2024.

The 2025 forecast predicts low population levels across the City, except within Wildwood Park, located in the Mohawk Meadows Neighbourhood of Ward 12. Wildwood Park is connected to Hamilton Conservation Authority lands, which have been notified of the survey results. Data collection within the park has led staff to forecast population levels that warrant treatment under By-law No. 08-070. To reduce the population, the Forestry Section coordinated a volunteer egg mass scraping event for Wildwood Park. Further treatment is not planned at this time; however, the area will be monitored throughout 2025.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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Ongoing monitoring efforts underscore the City's commitment to addressing Spongy Moth populations while balancing biodiversity and the effects of invasive pest populations.

For more information about urban forest pests and pathogens, please visit [Hamilton.ca/TreeHealth](https://hamilton.ca/TreeHealth).

Should you require further information, please contact Robyn Pollard, Manager of Forestry and Horticulture at extension 3919, or Robyn.Pollard@hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A