



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Howard S. Lazarus, City Administrator
Craig Hupy, Public Services Area Administrator

DATE: July 18, 2019

SUBJECT: Response to City Council Action R-18-276: Resolution to Direct the City Administrator to Assess and Monitor Extent of Gypsy Moth Infestation and Develop Treatment Plan and Budget

This memorandum provides an update on City Council Resolution [R-18-276](#) – Resolution to Direct the City Administrator to Assess and Monitor Extent of Gypsy Moth Infestation and Develop Treatment Plan and Budget.

The majority of the gypsy moth infested trees reported in 2018 were located in private backyards. This makes it difficult to know the current number and size of the egg masses, which could help, determine the extent of this year's infestation. Staff evaluated street trees last summer and anticipates that there will be an infestation this year, but much less severe. There was evidence of both the Entomophaga fungus and nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV) present on dead caterpillars at that time. The very wet spring we experienced helps to splash the Entomophaga fungus around, infecting more caterpillars. While Entomophaga is weather dependent, NPV is population dependent. The very dense gypsy moth populations experienced last year leads to many of the larvae getting infected with NPV. The females infected with NPV lay smaller egg masses and pass the virus on to the eggs (larvae) - which leads to a population crash.

So far this spring, areas that were hit hard last year are showing minimal signs this year and the oak trees that were denuded last year appear normal. The wet spring has caused the Entomophaga fungus to be much more effective than the previous year. The Entomophaga fungus coupled with NPV have significantly reduced the gypsy moth population in Ann Arbor. Staff will continue to monitor the issue.

cc: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
Marti Praschan, Chief of Staff, Public Services
Molly Maciejewski, Public Works Manager
Paul Matthews, Public Works Assistant Manager
Tiffany Giacobazzi, Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Planning Coordinator

Reference: [Response to City Council Action R-18-276: Resolution to Direct the City Administrator to Assess and Monitor Extent of Gypsy Moth Infestation and Develop Treatment Plan and Budget – July 16, 2018](#)