

News Release

Grant applications being accepted from municipalities interested in 2023 Oakland County Invasive Spongy Moth Suppression Grant Program

October 7, 2022, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – To help mitigate the spread of the spongy moth (previously known as [gypsy moth](#)) and its negative impacts on the environment within the county, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners is inviting municipalities to apply for the 2023 Oakland County Invasive Spongy Moth Suppression Grant Program. The program is being administered in partnership with Michigan State University Extension (MSUE), and will provide grants to cities, villages and townships to support their efforts in mitigating the impacts of this invasive species. This is a continuation of the Board's 2022 invasive moth suppression program.

"These moths can cause great environmental harm, so we're offering this program to ensure our cities, villages and townships have support to combat this invasive species in their communities," Board Vice Chairwoman **Marcia Gershenson** (D-Bloomfield Township) said. "By continuing this program, we hope to help reduce the *Lymantria dispar* populations in our region."

The Board of Commissioners approved \$120,000 for Oakland County Invasive Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) Grant Program. Municipalities that apply for the program will be required to match costs, and funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. A link to an online application will be provided to communities via email in early October (anticipated).

"I'm happy that the county is continuing to offer this program, now in its second year, to our Oakland County communities," Minority Caucus Chair **Michael Spisz** (R-Oxford) said. "We encourage municipalities to apply for these grants and take part in the 2023 program so we can tackle this issue together."

Municipalities may use staff, volunteers or a professional forester/arborist vendor to conduct egg mass surveys to determine areas for treatment. Those choosing to use staff and/or volunteers will be asked to attend a required training by MSUE on egg mass surveying using Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development protocols and procedures.

Surveys for egg masses are traditionally completed in late fall. Homeowners who would like more information about the spongy moth can contact the Oakland MSU Extension office at 248-858-0900 or visit <https://bit.ly/OCMothProg23>.

Municipalities interested in additional details on the program or information about applying for a grant can reference the program's application guide available at <https://bit.ly/OCMothProg23>.

For more information about the Board of Commissioners, please visit www.oakgov.com/boc or call 248-858-0100.

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