
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

Immediate Release

TO: All Media
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WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT TO CONTROL GYPSY MOTH POPULATION

Waukegan, IL (May 7, 2013) . . . Summer is almost here, but those leafy oak trees that for years have provided shady beauty may be the next targets of a small army of predators that have been on the move for the past several years. In 2003, the Waukegan Park District identified an infestation of Gypsy Moth caterpillars in oak trees in Bowen Park. In addition, further investigation has shown evidence of infestation in trees at Hinkston Park. The Gypsy Moth is a caterpillar pest of deciduous trees. If left untreated, Gypsy Moth infestation can lead to significant defoliation of hundreds of trees within a summer season.

The Waukegan Park District has contracted with Hendrickson Flying Service, Inc. to conduct helicopter aerial spraying of BTK (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*) over these sites beginning in May and early June. Many other northern Illinois communities have successfully controlled Gypsy Moth infestation by spraying BTK. It is extremely important to control Gypsy Moth caterpillars in the spring when they begin to feed upon deciduous trees.

There are environmentally effective methods to deal with gypsy moths at all life stages, but since the infestation is usually not noticeable until the caterpillar stage, the most efficient management strategies are geared toward the caterpillar stage. If you have any further questions, please contact the Waukegan Park District Parks Department at (847) 360-4725.

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, which includes 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. The District operates the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages from infants to seniors and special populations are included. Many special events are offered throughout the year, many are complimentary. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. The award-winning District employs 54 full-time staff and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. In 2012, the district was named a Gold Medal Finalist.