

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR · JERRY COSTELLO II, DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SPONGY MOTH MATING DISRUPTION AERIAL TREATMENT TO BE BEGIN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21**

**SPRINGFIELD, IL** – The Illinois Department of Agriculture would like to remind northern Illinois residents that the state’s scheduled Spongy Moth treatment will begin the morning of Wednesday, June 21 weather permitting. **\*update: Thursday USFS will spray areas in Chicagoland suburbs. Friday USFS will spray Lena and rural Ogle counties.**

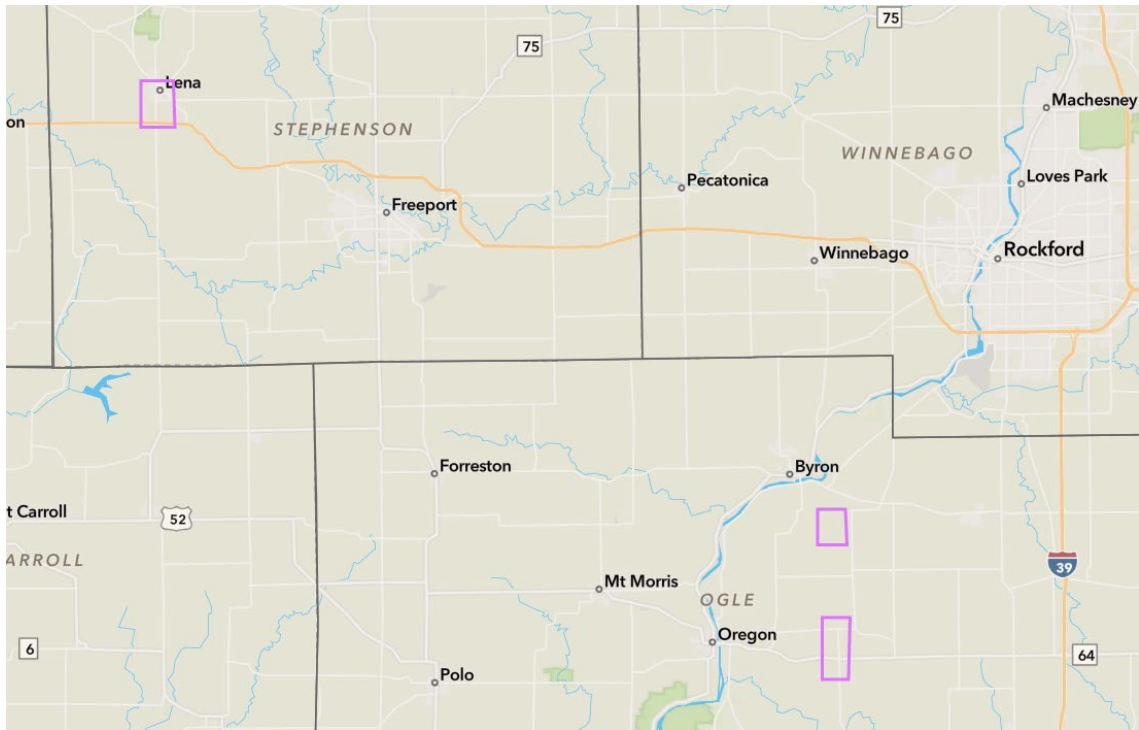
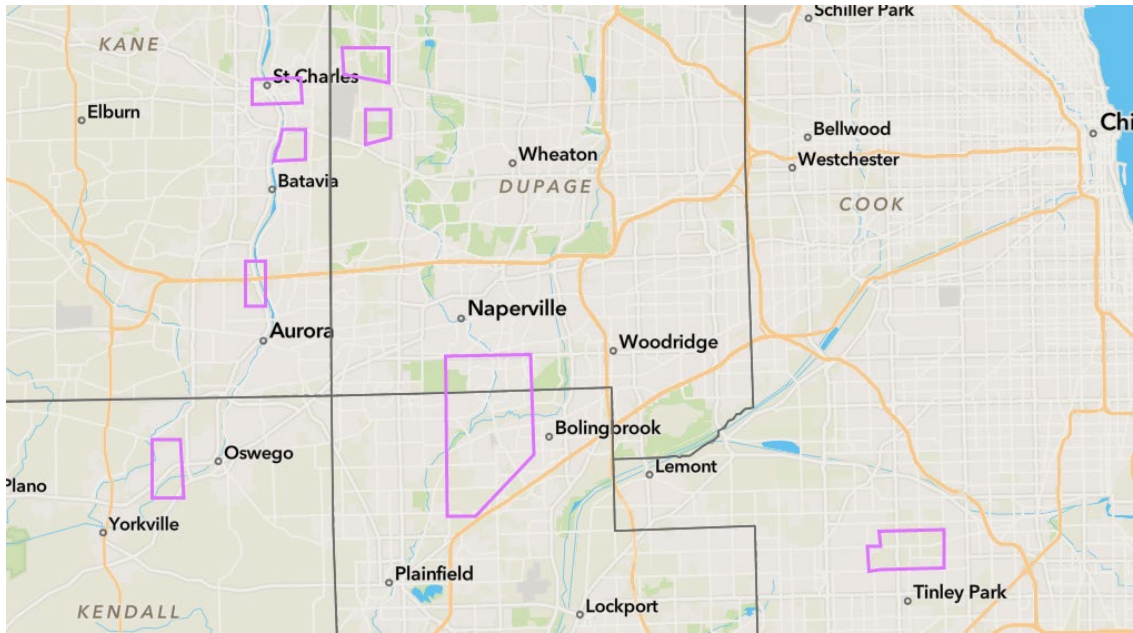
Spongy Moth is a non-native pest. Large populations of the pest are capable of stripping plants bare, leaving them susceptible to disease and environmental stressors. Severe defoliation can cause tree death. Unlike the emerald ash borer, another non-native pest which feeds exclusively on ash trees, the Spongy Moth is not a picky eater. It will devour almost anything leafy and green as it feeds on over 250 species of plants, but especially prefers oak and willow trees.

The Department, in conjunction with the United States Forest Service and The Slow the Spread Foundation, plans to treat more than 32,000 acres this year, including locations in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Stephenson, Ogle, and Will Counties.

If weather permits on Wednesday, locations identified in the overview maps shown below will receive a pheromone application of Splat - GM Organic. The pheromone application serves as a sexual attractant that confuses male Spongy Moths and prevents them from breeding. This is an aerial application using yellow fixed wing airplanes. The product used is an organic, biodegradable material made entirely of food grade materials. It does not impact other insects, mammals, or the environment.

Our DeKalb Office can be contacted at 815.787.5476. Spongy Moth specialists will be in the field for the spray program as it occurs. Maps of the treatment sites, product labels, and frequently asked questions on Splat are posted on the program’s website at <https://www.slowthespread.org/pages/illinois-outreach>

Live updates will be available on our [Facebook](#) page:



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# 2023 Proposed Spray Treatments for Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar* or gypsy moth)

Name of area: IL\_STCHARLES\_MD

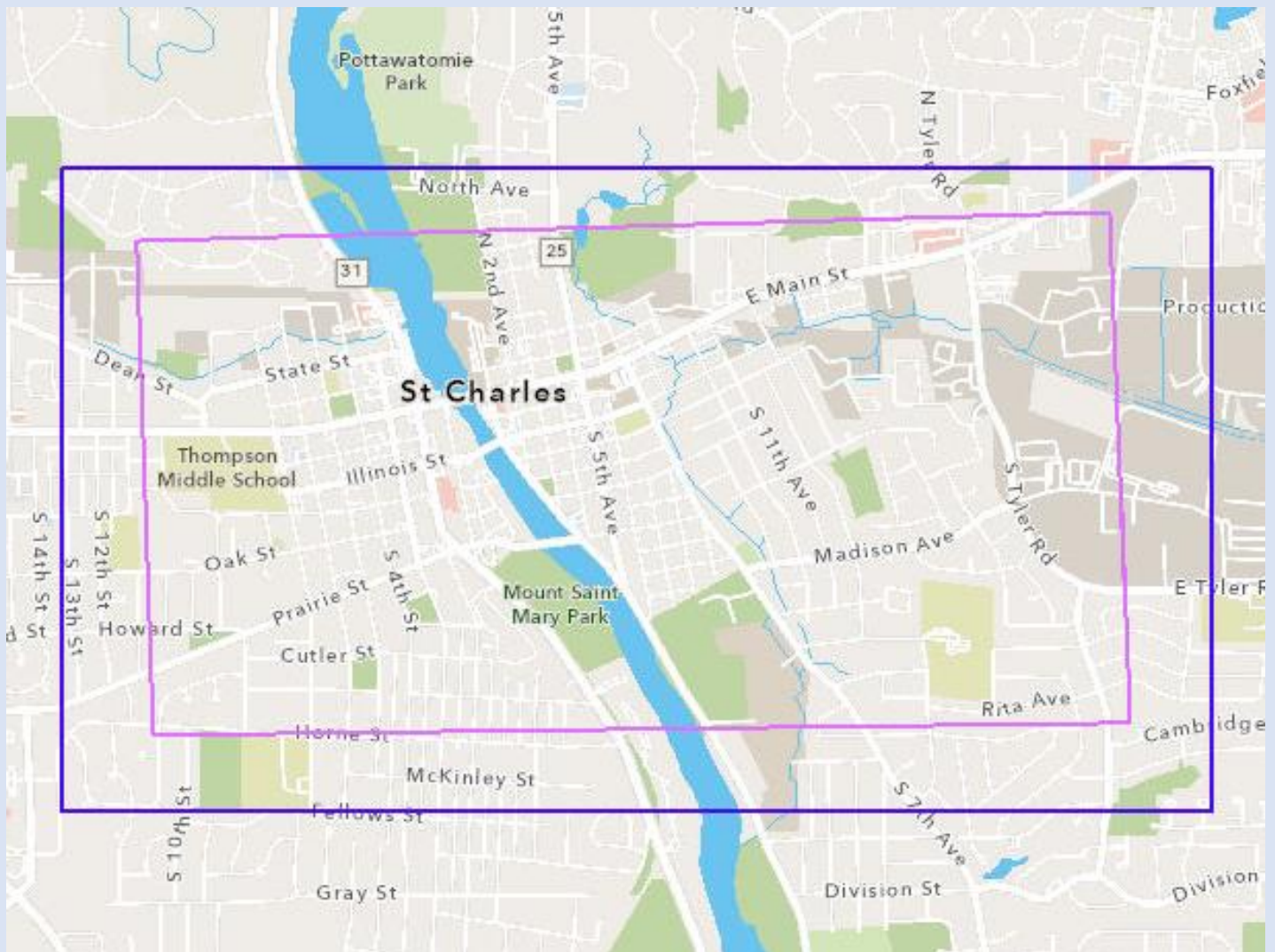
Acres to be sprayed: 1,441 15g active ingredient

For more information: [www.SlowTheSpread.org](http://www.SlowTheSpread.org) or contact Illinois Dept of Agriculture: Nancy Johnson, program manager [Nancy.Johnson@Illinois.gov](mailto:Nancy.Johnson@Illinois.gov) phone # 815.347.0401

Illinois Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the US Forest Service's Slow the Spread Program have proposed treatment areas for spraying to control the Spongy Moth. Depending on weather, Splat GM-Organic Mating Disruptor, will be sprayed from yellow air tractors late June



SPLAT GM-O is an organic, biodegradable formulation for the control of *L. dispar* using mating disruption. It is made entirely of food grade materials and has the consistency of hand cream. SPLAT GM-O uses pheromone, an effective and safe method to control *L. dispar* moth without impacting other insects, mammals or the surrounding environment.



Purple outline is area to be sprayed. Blue outline is flight area. Yellow airplanes will be flying low in this area