



NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY TO SPRAY PARKS FOR “WOOLY WORMS” ON MARCH 27

ROCKPORT, TX – The City will undertake its annual pesticide spraying for the prevention and eradication of “wooly worms” at various parks on Monday, March 27. While the spray is not toxic to humans, their pets, birds and other insects, park patrons may wish to make other arrangements during the spraying to avoid inhalation or skin contamination.

According to Parks and Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez, the pesticide, which contains Bifenthrin, is government approved and is being administered by certified professionals. “We’ve been very fortunate to not have had any major damage from these insects over the last two decades. What really makes them ‘pests’ are their sheer numbers and how they cover the benches, sidewalks, playground equipment and other park facilities,” he noted. “They’re ugly, icky and no one likes them.”

The tentative schedule for spraying is listed below. In case rain, the spraying will be postponed until the next dry day.

Aquatic Park	7 am – 9 am
Memorial Park	9 am – 2 pm
Zachary Taylor Park	2 pm – 5 pm
Mathis Park	2 pm – 5 pm
Spencer Park	2 pm – 5 pm

(more)

Although the local term is “wooly worms,” these pesky insects are actually caterpillars, which are also known as “oak leaf rollers” and Tussock Moths. They spin strands of silk which wrap around trees and can cause severe and irreparable damage to weakened or stresses trees.

Park users should stay out of a sprayed area for approximately two hours after the application. If an individual comes into contact with the insecticide, either while at a park or other parts of the city where spraying is taking place, the following precautions should be followed:

- If inhaled, move to fresh air. Should respiratory distress occur, call a doctor or poison control (800-222-1222) for treatment advice.
- If swallowed, drink a glass of fresh water. Call a doctor or poison control for treatment advice.
- If in eye(s). Hold each eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes.
- If on skin or clothing. Remove contaminated clothing. Rinse skin thoroughly for 15-20 minutes.

Persons with questions are encouraged to contact Martinez at (361) 790-1160.