



NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 13, 2023

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CITY TO SPRAY FOR “WOOLY WORMS” ON MARCH 20

ROCKPORT, TX – The City will undertake pesticide spraying for the prevention and eradication of “woolly worms” at Rockport Fulton Community Pool, Memorial Park, Mathis Park, and Zachary Taylor Park on Monday, March 20. These parks will be closed to the public, until the spraying is completed. 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. In case of rain, the spraying will be rescheduled for, March 27, 2023.

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.”

(more)

Although the local term is “woolly 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 stressed 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 the Parks Office at (361) 727-2158.