

Wed, Feb 4, 2015

Thank you for your email regarding spraying for fall cankerworm in Fairfax County. At yesterday's meeting of the Board's Environment Committee, which I chair, the committee had a robust discussion about fall cankerworm in Fairfax County. The proposal we reviewed covers about 66 acres in Fairfax County overall, with ground spraying only. This is a significant reduction in land area from previous years, as you requested.

I hope this information is helpful.

Penelope A. Gross  
Mason District Supervisor  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

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2/4/15

**TO:** Chairman Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor, Braddock District  
Supervisor, Lee District  
Supervisor, Mason District  
Supervisor, Providence District  
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District  
Supervisor, Springfield District  
Supervisor, Hunter Mill District

Subject: Request for Reconsideration of Fall Cankerworm Spraying Program

The [Friends of Accotink Creek](#) question the need for the Fairfax County Fall Cankerworm Alsophila pometaria insecticide spraying program using bacterial insecticide Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki (Btk).

A native insect that has evolved together with our forests, the Fall Cankerworm is an important food source for wildlife including migrating and breeding birds. Further, this spraying program is lethal to all species of butterflies and moths and thus could be a contributing factor to the declines in local butterfly and moth populations, along with the birds and other wildlife that depend on caterpillars as a food source.

The Friends of Accotink Creek recommend the reduction or elimination of Fall Cankerworm spraying and reallocation of the funds to citizen education and community outreach, including alternatives to spraying, and to otherwise improve forest health in Fairfax County.

Sincerely yours,

Kris Unger, Primary Conservator, [Friends of Accotink Creek](#)