

Minnesota Department of Agriculture to fight gypsy moths near Hinckley

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and partner organizations are proposing to tackle a gypsy moth infestation in the Hinckley area this spring. In anticipation of the treatment, the department is inviting people to learn about the effort at an open house to be held Tuesday, March 7 at the Hinckley City Hall in Hinckley.

Gypsy moth is one of America's most destructive tree pests, and has caused millions of dollars in damage to forests as it has spread from New England to Wisconsin in recent decades. Gypsy moth caterpillars can defoliate large sections of forest. The pests are common in Wisconsin and are now establishing themselves in Minnesota.

The MDA has a monitoring program to watch for start-up infestations, and when an infestation is found, the department does aerial treatments to eradicate the infestation before it can spread. In 2016, the MDA found an isolated infestation north of the city of Hinckley.

The department is now developing a treatment plan for an affected area totaling approximately 791 acres. The proposed block is shaped like a parallelogram. The western edge of the treatment block is approximately 1.25 miles long and runs parallel to Interstate-35. The northern edge is approximately 0.8 miles long and is roughly parallel to Taylor Rd. The north eastern corner of the treatment block is located 0.26 miles north of Taylor Rd. and 0.2 miles west of Old Government Rd. The eastern edge of the block is approximately 1.2 miles and is roughly parallel to Old Government Rd. The southern edge is approximately 1.2 miles long; the southwestern corner is located 440 feet south and 0.2 miles west from the terminus of Taylor Birch Rd. The Hinckley treatment block is roughly centered over the area where Taylor Birch Rd. makes a 90° turn to run in an east-west orientation. See the map below. The red outline is the proposed treatment block boundary.

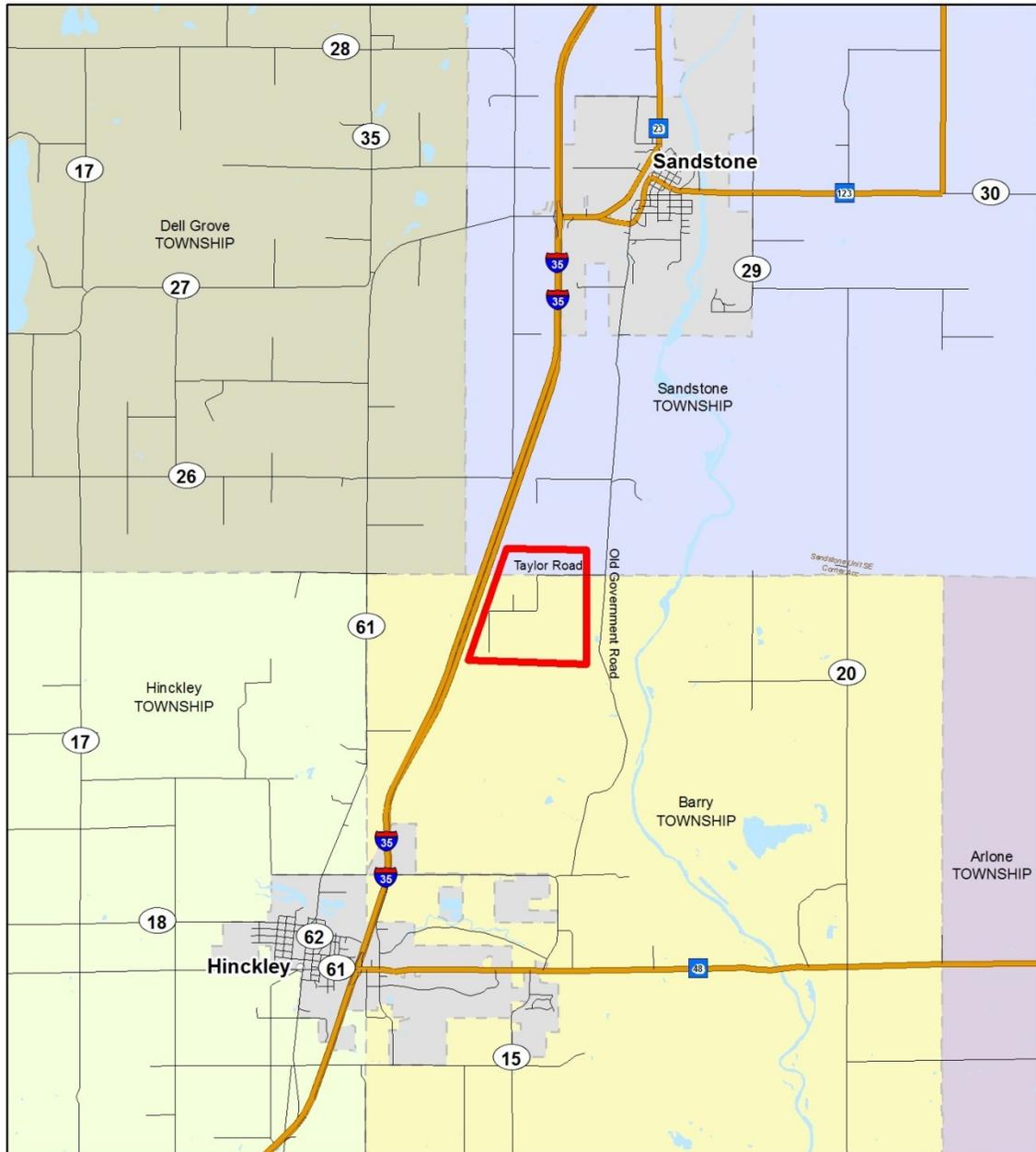
The MDA will host an open house to share information with citizens about the threat gypsy moths pose to the environment, and how officials plan to protect forested areas.

- Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Hinckley City Hall, Community Room
106 1st Street SE
Hinckley, MN 55037

Over the years, the MDA has successfully treated dozens of gypsy moth infestations across eastern Minnesota from Grand Portage to the Twin Cities to Houston County. These successful treatments help postpone the full-scale invasion of gypsy moth, saving local communities and homeowners money and protecting the health of the state's urban and natural forests.

See the next page for a map. More info on gypsy moth and the proposed treatment can be found at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/gmtreatments>

Hinckley Gypsy Moth Proposed Treatment Area



791 acres

 Proposed Treatment



Date: 2/15/2017

