

STOP FOREST PEST HITCHHIKERS- LEAVE YOUR FIREWOOD HOME

Movement of firewood is one of the leading causes of spreading forest pests and diseases. Insects generally spread at a rate less than 2 miles per year in natural circumstances, however when insects hitchhike on firewood they can travel several hundred miles in a matter of hours. The movement of firewood has been associated with spreading insect pests such as emerald ash borers, Sirex wood wasps, gypsy moths, Asian long-horned beetles, and a number of other wood-boring insects, plus decay and wood-stain fungi as well as the pathogens that cause Dutch elm disease, oak wilt, and sudden oak death.

In cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department is coordinating efforts to reduce the spread of these pests. Anoka County requests that campers and other park users leave their firewood at home and use the firewood available for purchase at the Bunker Hills Regional Park and Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve campground facilities. Firewood at these locations is harvested within the Anoka County Park System and has been dried and aged to eliminate the spread of forest pests.

Simply leaving firewood at home and using a local source of firewood is the key to maintaining long term viability of forest habitats. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in helping to conserve the forest resources in Anoka County.

If you have any questions regarding forest pests and firewood, please contact Anoka County's Natural Resources Specialist at 763-767-2896 or timothy.sevcik@co.anoka.mn.us .