



The Jersey City Environmental Commission (“JCEC”) has heard concerns from many residents about the invasive Spotted Lanternfly (“SLF”) in Jersey City. SLF are native to Asia and was first found in Pennsylvania in 2014. Since then, it has spread to NJ and has been very noticeable in Jersey City. As a non-native invasive species, SLF causes harm to our native plant communities. The National Ocean Service’s definition of invasives species is an organism that causes ecological and/or economic harm in a new environment it is not native to. It is crucial to understand the importance of native species in our environment because they develop symbiotic relationships with other organisms in the area and help provide a stable source of food and shelter to one another. When a non-native species is introduced, it can create an imbalance in the environment which can have long term negative effects.

SLF are linked to Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), which is an incredibly hardy, invasive tree and can often be found inside yards, hillsides, transportation corridors, and abandoned lots. SLF appears to have its life cycle linked to Tree of Heaven because it feeds on the tree and often lays its eggs on its bark. SLF also feeds on many other plants and their sugary excretions can cause mold that damages many trees as well as causes quality of life issues for residents. While we are still figuring out the full effect SLF have on our environment, we will continue to educate the public and try various methods to mediate the issue.

The JCEC has compiled a list of recommendations and resources below:

For Jersey City Residents

- Continue to kill SLF when you encounter them.
- Educate yourself by reading the many resources provided by Rutgers, Penn State, and other institutions and governments for dealing with SLF.
- Search for and remove egg masses in the fall and winter. Look for them on tree bark, sides of buildings, stone, and vehicles. Scrape them into a container and use alcohol to neutralize them.
- Consider building or purchasing circle traps for this fall and next year. These capture nymphs and adults. **Do not use sticky traps or tree bands as these can unintentionally kill local wildlife.**
- If you have Tree of Heaven on your property, have the tree fully removed which requires the roots to be removed or killed as well. Then replace it with a tree that is native and not preferred by SLF.
- If you choose to have your property treated with insecticides, make sure you use a licensed and experienced contractor.

Resources for Hudson County Residents

- Hudson County has been awarded up to \$15,000 from the NJ Department of Agriculture to assist in SLF control. This should help cover the costs of staff time and insecticides for the purpose of SLF control.

- If you encounter large infestations of SLF infestations in Hudson County Parks report them to: 201-915-1388 or [Contact | Hudson County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)
- If you have SLF infestations on your private property report them to the Hudson County Regional Health Commission: 201-223-1133 or [Spotted Lanternfly FAQ - one page-ni \(hcnj.us\)](http://hcnj.us)
- Please be aware that this a new and growing threat so it may take time for staff to respond since these requests are in addition to their other duties.

Our Recommendations for the City, County, State, and Transportation Agencies

- Survey for and remove Tree of Heaven from public properties whenever possible and replace with native and site-appropriate tree species.
- Incentivize residents to remove Tree of Heaven from their properties and replace them with native trees that are not preferred by SLF. Native trees, plants, and shrubs help to create healthy, diverse ecosystems that will help to combat SLF. [Listing of Native Trees By NJ County \(Excel\)](#)
- Compile online resources for residents regarding SLF and how residents should respond.

SLF will be active well into the fall and any steps we take now will reduce their prevalence next year. SLF is just one of a number of threats to our tree canopy such as Emerald Ash Borer, Spangy Moth, and Beech Leaf Disease, making it imperative to stay vigilant of new issues. Trees in Jersey City are so important not only as natural infrastructure but for the myriad of benefits they provide residents and the local environment. We are encouraged by residents’ concern for our trees because of this issue and look forward to helping to continue to fight this invasive pest.

The following local organizations endorse this document:



JERSEY CITY SHADE TREE COMMITTEE



JERSEY CITY PARKS COALITION



THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY



Friends of Liberty State Park
www.folsp.org



A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK
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