

# Thanks for your interest in hosting a jumping worm bioblitz in your area. This year the blitz will take place September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

## Background:

All the terrestrial earthworms in Minnesota are non-native, invasive species.

For the last 11,000 years since the glaciers receded, Minnesota ecosystems developed without earthworms.

Jumping worms are the latest invasive worm to arrive in Minnesota. They live in the top few inches of soil and alter soil structure and chemistry through their feeding and burrowing behaviors. Found in garden beds, mulch and compost piles they represent a threat to the health of our managed and wild landscapes.

## Worm Rangers:

Investigate jumping worm distribution and dispersal mechanisms throughout Minnesota.

The overall goal of this project is to characterize the status of the jumping worm invasion in Minnesota.

You will be trained to look locate and identify jumping worms. Exploring your yard and gardens is key! Take the self-guided training or contact project staff to learn more about them and how to collect data.

[View current jumping worm distributions here](#)

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**Why do we wait until the end of the season to survey?** Jumping worms have an annual life cycle and all the adult worms die in the fall and only the cocoons (eggs) make it through the winter. Through this life cycle you have the greatest proportion of adult jumping worms (easy to see and identify) towards the end of the growing season.

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## What are we asking you to do?

### Learn to ID jumping worms - Not as complicated as it sounds

- Jumping worm website <https://jwp.cfans.umn.edu/meet-jumping-worm>
- Online training <https://jwp.cfans.umn.edu/participate/training>
- Zoom training with Worm Ranger Staff - Send email to [boulder@d.umn.edu](mailto:boulder@d.umn.edu)

### Coordinate a bioblitz in your area

- Reach out through your networks to spread awareness
- Outreach materials provided: Flyers, ppt, handbook

### Survey and report findings

- Have your participants survey September-October
- Where? Their yards, any public spaces
- Priorities are areas that use mulch and compost or bring in potted plants
- Report finding to the Jumping Worm project  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7NQQOVHyktPbjqBoIQXJeT4kiYUdEYYRjArGjF\\_Gii\\_Sicg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7NQQOVHyktPbjqBoIQXJeT4kiYUdEYYRjArGjF_Gii_Sicg/viewform)

# Identifying Sampling locations

## Locations

### Public Spaces

- Community Gardens
- Flowerbeds
- Mulched areas
- Parks
- Community compost sites
- Personal residence

### Private land

- Get permission ahead of time to enter private lands
- Farmland
- Posted, neighbors' yard, etc...
- Private Business
  - ❖ Landscaping
  - ❖ Horticulture
  - ❖ Garden centers

## Protocol

### Surveying the area

- Investigate suspected areas
  - ❖ Visually inspect for “coffee ground” soil/castings
  - ❖ Physically inspect 3 random spots, flip n strip
  - ❖ Take pictures
  - ❖ Short video (5 seconds max)
  - ❖ Assess size of affected area

### Data

- Report findings (or lack of jumping worms) to the [Jumping Worm project](#)
- Report findings to the [EDDMapS system](#)

**Additional Research for Review:** Great review paper on Jumping worms can be found here:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10530-021-02598-1>

Review frequently asked questions.

<https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/jumping-worms#frequently-asked-questions-about-jumping-worms-1883163>

## Participation Guidelines

### Safety

- Emphasize safety as a core value in all actions
- Wear proper clothing for being outdoors
- Don't go anywhere or do anything if you don't feel comfortable
- **Covid Protocols**
  - ❖ Follow local guidance

### General Guidelines

- Keep in mind you are representing the jumping worm project.
- Collaborate and coordinate with external partners and the public.
- You can reach out to the Jumping Worm project for assistance.

### Minimize invasive species transportation

- Wipe off boots before and after
- Clean sampling equipment
- Don't move Soil, compost, mulch, plants, etc...

[Learn more about from PlayCleanGo](#)

