

Mosquitoes & West Nile Virus



Transmission of West Nile Virus involves certain species of mosquitoes that breed in stagnant water, as seen in this photo of larvae in a pond.

What Your Forest Preserves Are Doing *Monitoring & Control Program*

- Identify sites where the mosquito species capable of transmitting West Nile Virus to people may be breeding
- A target-specific larvicide may be applied where those mosquitoes, primarily *Culex spp.*, are found
- Spray for adult mosquitoes only in the most extreme cases due to potential ecological damage and questions regarding effectiveness
- Control mosquitoes that are a potential health risk, not those that are only a nuisance
- Coordinate with other mosquito control efforts in Lake County and Illinois

Protect yourself from exposure

- Wear light-colored clothing with long sleeves, long pants and socks while outdoors.
- In problem areas, spray clothing with repellents containing DEET or permethrin.
- Avoid spraying repellents directly onto skin.
- Limit your time outdoors between dusk and dawn, which is peak mosquito time.
- Routinely empty water from your flowerpots, pet bowls, clogged rain gutters and other catch basins where mosquitoes will lay eggs.
- Frequently clean and refill birdbaths.
- Drill drainage holes in tires used in boat docks, landscaping or tire swings.



Most backyard mosquito problems are caused by the mosquitoes that are breeding around homes, not those from natural areas like the one above.



Additional Information

- Mosquitoes and environmental issues, call 847-377-8002
- To report dead birds or areas of stagnant water, call the West Nile Virus hotline at 847-377-8300
- Signs, symptoms and questions regarding the West Nile Virus in humans, call 847-377-8130

Lake County Forest Preserves
847-367-6640

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