



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 17, 2023

POSITIVE WEST NILE VIRUS MOSQUITO TRAP SAMPLES REPORTED IN BRUSHY CREEK SPORTS PARK AND MILBURN PARK IN CEDAR PARK

October 17, 2023 – Two mosquito samples collected in Brushy Creek Sports Park and Milburn Park in the City of Cedar Park have tested positive for West Nile virus. This testing is part of Williamson County and Cities Health District's (WCCHD) Integrated Vector Management program. The positive tests were indicated in lab results received on 10/17/2023 from the Texas Department of State Health Services lab in Austin. A positive sample was collected from a trap site in Brushy Creek Sports Park on 10/13/23. The last positive collected in Brushy Creek Sports Park was in October 2018. A positive sample was collected in Milburn Park 10/13/23. The last positive sample collected in Milburn Park was July 27, 2023. The City of Cedar Park will install signs in the immediate area to inform park visitors. Extended trapping will be established by the Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD).

The goal of the program is to provide an early warning for residents to take precautions when there is a high incidence of West Nile virus in the area to prevent a human infection. [Symptoms of infection](#) may include fever, headache, and body aches, a skin rash on the trunk of the body, and swollen lymph nodes. Those age 50 and older and/or with compromised immune systems are at a higher risk for severe symptoms, which may include stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, vision loss, paralysis, and in rare cases, death.

Mosquitoes breed in standing water, needing as little as one teaspoon. By draining all sources of standing water in and around your property, you reduce the number of places mosquitoes can lay their eggs and breed.

What you can do:

- WCCHD encourages residents in affected areas to be a part of the solution by eliminating insect breeding areas and larvae before they develop into adult, flying mosquitoes. Standing water can be treated with EPA-approved larvicides that are available for retail purchase.

- Larvicides are products used to kill immature mosquitoes before they become adults. Larvicides are applied directly to water sources that hold mosquito eggs, larvae, or pupae. When used consistently, larvicides can help reduce the overall mosquito burden by limiting the number of mosquitoes that are produced, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- **Drain** standing water in flowerpots, pet dishes, or clogged gutters so mosquitoes don't have a place to breed and treat water that can't be drained,
- **Defend** by using an EPA-registered insect repellent, and
- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

For more information, go to the WCCHD website at www.wcchd.org or visit the Texas Department of State Health Services West Nile website at txwestnile.org.

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