

MCA



Mosquito Control

We do understand that the mosquito population can be quite bothersome during specific times of the year. Mosquito problems also tend to be greater around active building sites, and undeveloped areas like Sand Creek and south of 26th Ave. To make matters worse, this year's mosquito season seems to have arrived earlier than expected. However, we are using this time to engage our contractors and community partners in an effort to reevaluate our current program and determine if there is more that can be done to effect the mosquito population. Specifically, by expanding our treatment areas, additional treatment periods or treatment types. There are also instances where "MIDGES" are confused for mosquitos. Midges are commonly mistaken for mosquitos, but are short lived, non-biting swarming insects that pose no threat to pets or people.

The MCA does play an active role in mosquito control, but it is not the only entity that has mitigation responsibilities. In addition the City, builders and undeveloped parcel owners have a responsibility to manage property they each control throughout Stapleton. We will continue to work with the community, the board, and our partners to manage the issue to the best of our ability. A developing community the size of Stapleton, with the quantity of parks, open space and native areas will most likely always be confronted with mosquitos throughout the breeding season. We will as a community continue to dedicate the resources and work with the other responsible partners including Denver's Department of Environmental Health(DEH) in our mitigation efforts focusing on strategies that are proven effective.

What we do as the MCA

The Environmental Mosquito Management Program for Stapleton consists of larval mosquito monitoring and treatment, and adult surveillance within the defined program area specifically throughout the developed storm-water systems. What this equates to is that when we find larval mosquitoes in the wetland sites within the Stapleton Community, they are treated using primarily bacterial larvicides. The goal is to eliminate the mosquito population before they become adults. Again, this is for areas within the community that includes the storm water systems throughout East/West Greenway, Westerly Creek and Northfield ponds. Areas along Sand Creek that may breed mosquitoes are not being inspected and/or treated under this program. These mosquitoes can fly in and then infest the areas along the greenbelt, backyards, and parks in years with heavy rainfall.

What we do not do.

- No adult mosquito control is currently conducted anywhere in Stapleton by any entity.
- The MCA does not spray or monitor for mosquitos on Denver Parks and Rec lands.
- The MCA does not control undeveloped parcels of land
- The MCA does not control areas in or around Sand Creek
- The MCA does not control any private property or sub association parcels

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Bluff Lake

Bluff Lake Nature Center has its own ongoing program to control its mosquito population without upsetting the natural balance in the ecosystem. The Bluff Lake Site Manager checks for mosquito larva twice each week, applying a larvicide that is specific to mosquito larva. The larvicide, Bti, is a naturally occurring soil bacteria and decomposes quickly. Bluff Lake has increasing populations of swallows and bats, and has installed bat boxes on the bluff, providing additional habitat. Bluff Lake has not sprayed adulticide in the past due to the potential harm to the ecosystem. Spraying will often kill non-target insects such as bees and dragonflies. Mosquitoes can breed in any number of residential settings as well, including retention ponds, bird baths, grass clippings, and clogged rain gutters. Bluff Lake invites Stapleton residents to visit the Nature Center to walk with the Site Manager and see the process for checking for mosquito larva.

Denver Parks & Rec

Denver Parks and Rec is responsible for mosquito management within the regional park system including Central Park and the park areas within the East West Greenway. Concerns within Denver City parks should be directed to Denver through the 311 system.

As spring and summer come, the MCA will be actively mapping the problem areas (based on emails and calls) to determine additional areas that we potentially could have a greater impact on. Residents that are experiencing abnormally high mosquito issues can contact the MCA so we can map the area and determine a source that can be identified for additional treatment, given that it is part of the Stapleton community and we can effectively treat that area. Residential and sub association properties can also conduct mosquito mitigation measures within their own boundaries consistent with Denver City Code.

Other Helpful Websites: http://www.comosquitocontrol.com/Mosquito_Control_Basics.html

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keven A. Burnett".

Keven A. Burnett
Executive Director
Stapleton MCA

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