

		<h2>Pest Management and Control</h2>	
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Approved By:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> CAO &/or Dept. Head			
Departments of Primary Responsibility: Parks & Facilities – Parks & Facilities Director Public Works – Director of Operations Lone Wolf Golf Course – Greens Superintendent			
Date Adopted:		Council Resolution Number:	
February 20, 2017		#49/2017	
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MOSQUITO CONTROL

Mosquito control programs administered by the District of Taylor are developed and delivered to address the control of nuisance and annoyance factors associated with mosquito activity.

The purpose of this policy is to;

- a) Limit the establishment of mosquito larvae habitats
- b) Encourage and implement the control or containment of nuisance mosquito habitat and, if possible, limit or eradicate them.
- c) Educate the public on strategies to help eliminate potential mosquito habitat on private property

Mosquito Facts

- Mosquitoes need standing water to develop.
- Mosquito habitats include ponds, sloughs, river flood plains, and marshlands.
- Man-made habitats include ditches, tires, bird baths, unused swimming pools, boats, eaves troughs.
- Only females bite because a blood meal is required for egg production.
- Some female mosquitoes take multiple blood meals and produce several generations during a single season.
- Only one mating is required to fertilize a lifetime of egg production

- Mosquitoes can live from one to two months and others over winter to live up to a year or more.
- Mosquitoes can travel up to 40 miles but often stay within several hundred meters of where they are hatched.
- There are 74 species of mosquito in Canada, 60 of those are known to bite humans and other animals. The most troublesome pest species are the Aedes species.
- Mosquitos spend their first 10 days in water.

Myths about Mosquito Control

Repellents

- Sound and Electric units are marketed with no test results and these devices have no repellent effects
- Citronella (plants and candles) - there is no data to support claims - pleasant odor does not guarantee results
- Skin Moisturizing Oil - field tests do not support claims

Control

- Bug Zappers – mosquitos are not attracted to ultra violet light, there for most zappers will not reduce the amount of nuisance mosquito. Only bug zapper that admit carbon dioxide will attract and kill mosquitos.
- Birds - ornithologists state Purple Martins and other swallow-like birds consume very few mosquitos. It's believed that only 3% of their diet is made up of adult mosquitos.
- Bats - bat diets consist mainly of beetles, wasps, ants, flies, stoneflies, mayflies, moths and grasshoppers. Mosquitoes make up less than 1% of their diet.

Tips to Reduce Mosquito Annoyance

Since mosquitoes need water to complete their life cycle, the source of a mosquito problem can be just about anywhere water can collect. The public can help reduce mosquito populations around the home by eliminating these sites and by:

- removing discarded containers from around your property;
- replacing water in bird baths and livestock troughs regularly;
- cleaning clogged eaves troughs, drain pipes and ditches; and storing boats, canoes and other objects so that they do not collect rain water
- Mosquitoes are attracted to humans because of the heat, the carbon dioxide we exhale and fragrances in items such as soaps, perfumes, lotions, hair treatments and other personal care products. To reduce the annoyance of mosquitoes:

- install and maintain tight fitting window and door screens to help keep mosquitoes out of the home;
- wear light colored, loose-fitting clothing
- heat and moisture from barbeques attracts mosquitoes, after cooking, move away to enjoy your meal.

Break the Cycle

A pro-active control program concentrates efforts on the mechanical and biological control of larvae before they become a nuisance. The most permanent prevention of adult mosquito annoyance is through the physical reduction of the problem, at the source. Where draining and filling of wetlands and other mosquito habitats is impractical and undesirable, overall reduction of adult mosquitoes is best achieved through larval control.

Biological Control

Lone Wolf Golf Course is committed to applying Vectobac, with proper certification, to all areas containing or with the potential to hold water such as ponds and ditches. Biological control using the product VectoBac 200G and Vectobac breaks the cycle by controlling larvae. This material contains a naturally occurring bacterium commonly known as Bti (Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis). It has no harmful effects on beneficial insects, frogs, fish, birds or mammals.

Mechanical Control

Mechanical control consists of methods to eliminate or suppress larvae and mosquito habitats. Clearing standing water, keeping lawns mowed and weed whipping tall weeds all contribute to eradication of habitats, thus keeping the mosquito population in check.

Public Works is committed to double mowing back allies and service corridors when nuisance populations are high. Additional landscaping of areas where standing water collects will be done cooperatively with the Parks & Facilities department, Public Works and the Community Gardener.

When deemed necessary Parks and Facilities staff will spray specific areas with Mosquito Barrier, within the parameters of the products specifications, prior an event or function held on District of Taylor properties such as the ball diamonds or Information Centre. Mosquito Barrier is a very strong liquid garlic made from very potent garlic cloves. The garlic used in Mosquito Barrier is a very powerful variety which is much more potent than the garlic found in grocery stores. Garlic has a natural sulfur which repels mosquitoes. Spraying garlic to keep insects away is not something new, farmers and master gardeners have been doing it for many generations.

Public Education

The control and elimination of nuisance mosquitos is a community effort. Tips and strategies will be published in the Taylor Times, District Website and on the Facebook page.