

Mosquitoes in Highlands Ranch

Have you been bitten lately?

Did you know; it is only the female mosquito that bites? If you have been out and about, you have undoubtedly noticed an increase in mosquito populations. Mosquito's populations are at their highest from late July through September.

Mosquito Types

There are seven types of mosquitoes in Colorado. The Metro Districts' Open Space staff treats the 25 miles of drainages in the natural areas to control the *Culex tarsalis* mosquito which is out during the hours of dawn and dusk, and is known to carrier the West Nile virus.

Another mosquito of concern is the *Adies vexan*, also known as the day biters. These mosquitoes lay their eggs in turf grass, and on other vegetation. Their eggs lay dormant when relatively dry, and hatch when moisture levels and temperatures are right. Rain and supplemental irrigation provide the perfect environment required for these eggs to hatch. Simply walking in your yard will stir these mosquitoes to fly, and you will be bitten.

Mosquito Control Practices

Open Space staff treat stagnant water in the natural areas throughout the Metro District natural areas with a non-toxic larvicide, to prevent mosquito larvae from maturing to adulthood. These larvicide applications target the *Culex tarsalis*, which only lays its eggs in stagnant water. These areas are treated every 30 days or after a significant rainfall.

Additional Mosquito Facts:

- A mosquito's life span is two to four weeks.
- The *Adies* are day bitters. They nest and hide in grass, shrubs and trees. People are prone to being bit by these mosquitoes when they disturb these areas. The only way to eliminate the *Adies* is to fog the area.
- Only female mosquitoes bite.
- Wearing long sleeves and pants is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family against mosquito bites, as is using mosquito repellent that contains DEET.

To Combat Day Biters:

You can use the following products, available at your local hardware store:

- Cutter - Aerosol or hose attachment
- Ortho - Aerosol, very popular due to its increased toxicity over Cutter
- Ace - Aerosol

For more information visit: fightthebitecolorado.com

Or for control measures on Metro District property, call Nick Adamson, open space and park ranger supervisor, at 720-240-5917.