

Lake Bluff Mosquito Abatement District

Mission Statement and Program

What is the Lake Bluff Mosquito Abatement District?

The Lake Bluff Mosquito Abatement District (LBMAD) was constituted in the 1950s as a response to public health issues with mosquitos in the Chicagoland area. It is an independent government body with taxing authority administered by 5 trustees from the Lake Bluff and Knollwood communities. Trustees are appointed by the Lake County Board. The District covers Lake Bluff, Knollwood and some areas adjacent to these communities. LBMAD has no employees, no pension costs, no facilities and no equipment. Trustees are volunteers not compensated for their time. All seasonally required services are outsourced to our contractor, Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management, a leading provider of mosquito management products and services. The annual budget is a little more than \$100,000 per year. The tax appropriation for a home valued in 2017 at \$600,000 was \$27.75 - roughly the equivalent of three cans of yard guard.

What is LBMAD's Mission?

The mission of the Lake Bluff Mosquito Abatement District is to protect residents from potential disease and, to a lesser extent, reduce the annoyance caused by mosquitoes using a safe and environmentally responsible approach. Operating within its budget, the district uses a cost effective, integrated approach to accomplish this task. However, even the safest approach to mosquito abatement can have an impact on the environment.

What Methods Does LBMAD Use to Control Mosquitoes?

Our district has contracted with Clarke to provide its EarthRight® Integrated Mosquito Control Program. Clarke utilizes eco-friendly products made from naturally derived ingredients to kill both mosquito larvae and adults. These products are recognized by the EPA as safe to use in and around organic crops and gardens. Application is accomplished using bikes, electric club cars and electric backpack sprayers.

The EarthRight® mosquito control program has four phases: surveillance and testing, larval and adult control and community education. It follows the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines, and uses products registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Surveillance and testing maps prominent mosquito breeding habitats in our district and places traps to monitor mosquito populations. These traps yield qualitative and quantitative information about mosquito species, populations and monitor for carriers of West Nile Virus.

Larval control introduces a bacterial product into standing water (such as retention ponds), storm drains and other mosquito breeding areas to hinder the mosquito larvae development into adult mosquitoes. The larvicide is Natular®, an Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) listed product. Natular® won the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award in 2010, and is "registered" by the EPA as a "Reduced Risk" Larvicide. It works by affecting the nervous system of mosquito larvae which become paralyzed and die within two days.

Adult control - Distributes a small amount of Merus® in a dispersible cloud after sunset, when adult mosquitoes are most active. The product is disseminated via trucks mounted with electric sprayers and meets the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) standards for use in and around organic farms and gardens. This product excites the nervous system of mosquitoes and insects that are of similar size, leading to paralysis and death.

What Is West Nile Virus?

West Nile virus is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected *Culex pipiens* mosquito. Most people show no symptoms (8 of 10 people), but others may develop a slight fever or headache (1 of 5 people). In very rare and extreme cases (1 of 150 people), symptoms include high fever, tremors, body aches, paralysis and death. People over 50 years of age are at the highest risk of serious illness. The district follows the CDC guidelines for West Nile virus prevention.

How Can You Help?

Residents can play a critical role in keeping mosquito populations across the district in check. We recommend residents "Tip and Toss" any standing water in bird baths, kiddie pools, outdoor toys, and downspout drains every two to three days to prevent mosquito larvae from developing. Gutters should also be checked and drained routinely to ensure they are not retaining water. Residents also are advised to wear long shirts, long pants and mosquito repellent when going outdoor at dusk.

Mosquito Hotline

A "Mosquito Hotline" citizen response system has also been established for residents to report standing water that remains more than 3 days. The "Mosquito Hotline" can be reached toll-free at 800.942.2555; or by email to George Balis at gbalis@clarke.com

References

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<http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/spinosadgen.html#wildlife>
<https://www.clarke.com/story-of-natular>
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