



RAMSEY COUNTY – 2023



MMCD field technicians dipping for mosquito larvae. MMCD photo.

WORK SUMMARY: MOSQUITOES, BLACK FLIES, TICKS

MOSQUITOES

For the third consecutive year the Twin Cities area experienced drought conditions throughout most of the summer which contributed to lower levels of annoyance mosquitoes. Near record snowfall during the winter of 2022-23 brought standing water in the spring, which ushered in a surge of mosquitoes exceeding the 10-year average in late May and early June. Lack of rainfall in the subsequent months led to a decrease in the mosquito population and it remained low through the rest of the summer.

West Nile virus was active in the District and elsewhere in Minnesota in 2023. Testing of mosquitoes for WNV returned the highest rate of infection in the history of the District's WNV surveillance. One hundred twenty-nine of 818 mosquito samples tested were positive for WNV. While most human illnesses have been reported, some are still being evaluated. As of January, 27 WNV illnesses had been confirmed in Minnesota with thirteen of those cases in residents of the District. As of January, illnesses caused by two other mosquito-borne viruses had been reported in Minnesota. Two Jamestown Canyon illnesses were confirmed in residents of Anoka County and Ramsey County. One case of La Crosse encephalitis was confirmed in a resident of Scott County. For more information about vector-borne disease in 2023 look for the MMCD Technical Advisory Board report coming in the spring of 2023.

The following summarizes MMCD larval and adult mosquito control activities in Ramsey County during 2023:

Larval mosquito surveillance:	6,436 sites inspected
Larval mosquito control:	16,820.53 acres treated
Adult mosquito control:	312.46 acres treated
Disease Prevention:	134,481 catch basin treatments
	970 tires collected and recycled
Customer inquiries:	223 calls for service or information

BLACK FLIES

MMCD employees controlled immature black flies (biting gnats) in small streams and large rivers throughout the metropolitan area. In 2023, 121 black fly larvicide treatments were made to the rivers and streams in the District. Spring flooding caused a slight delay in sampling efforts. After the extremely high-water levels in May, the continuing drought in the area caused rivers to go well below average through September resulting in few treatments after June. Adult black flies remained at tolerable levels for most of season with the number of black fly annoyance calls in 2023 (46), higher than 2022 (11) but less than 2021 (151).

LYME TICK SURVEILLANCE:

Staff continued sampling established sites distributed throughout Ramsey County and elsewhere to monitor changes to the deer tick population. A comprehensive 2023 Lyme tick surveillance report will be available later in 2024. Numbers of deer ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) have risen over time.

Lyme disease cases statewide: Human tick-borne disease cases tabulated by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) have also been on the rise since 2000 with Lyme case totals typically >1,000 yearly.

Signage at dog parks and expansion into new areas. Since 2010 we have posted signs of general deer tick information at approximately 21 dog parks across the metro. Please call if you have a location that you would like us to consider for sign posting.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

MMCD continued to expand our educational offerings in 2023 in the form of in-person presentations delivered to schools and community groups. Throughout 2023 we delivered classroom presentations to 22 schools across the District serving elementary, middle, and high school students.

MMCD's attendance at community events continued to increase in 2023 including a few new occasions. The biggest event of the year was the Minnesota State Fair where District staff had conversations with over 9,600 people during the 12-day event. MMCD also attended county fairs in Anoka, Dakota, Carver, Scott, and Washington counties and added new events like Grand Old Day in St. Paul the Great Minnsect Show at the University of Minnesota. We participated in 21 parades throughout the District in 2023 where we featured our mosquito mascot "Vectoria."

Follow us on social media for the latest mosquito, tick, and black fly information:

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