

Mosquito Control: Budget Proposal

Commission of Richmond County

Lee A. Donohue, MD, FACP; District Health Director / March 11, 2025

Why Does Mosquito Control Matter?

- Mosquitoes spread diseases to humans, birds, and livestock.
- Human cases of encephalitis and other mosquito-born disease relate directly to total mosquito numbers.
- Careful application of all measures of control, including approved insecticides, limit resistance and promote safest EPA approved practice for control.
- Hurricane Helene created a perfect “bloom” for mosquito populations which impacted citizens’ quality of life; these will re-emerge shortly.
- DPH Mosquito Control is free to citizens of Richmond County and has been operating at maximal capacity for several years. There have been unavoidable wait times for spraying residences.

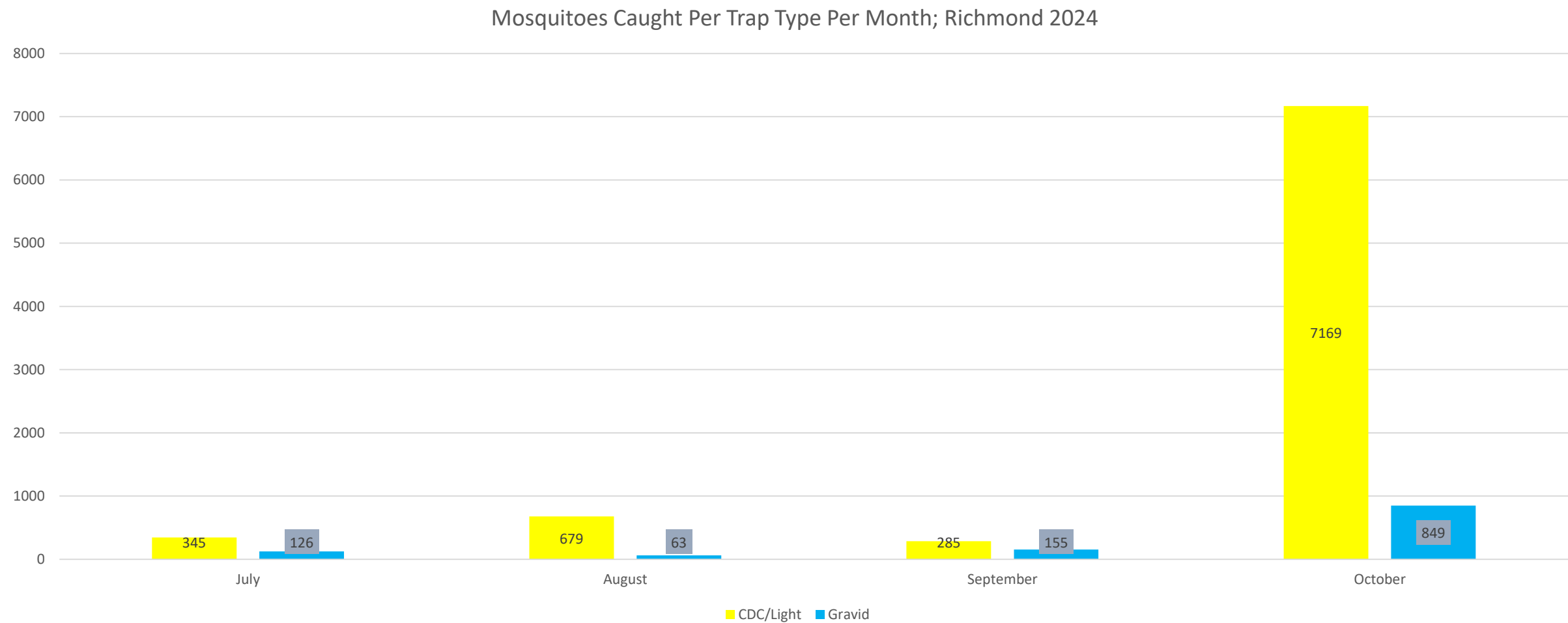
Mosquitoes Post Hurricane Helene



Current State of Mosquito Control

- Funded through the municipality of Richmond County (95%): \$485,000 annually
- Mosquito Control funding: \$225,000 level for past 10 years
- 2016: RCHD contracted with the City of Augusta for additional Disease Prevention/comprehensive management: \$260,000, level since then
- Spraying
 - Five trucks operating at full capacity with Mosquito Spray technicians
 - Spraying is done at dusk, when adult mosquitoes are airborne
- Post Helene: Converted to street spraying immediately, with ongoing efforts to promote debris removal, standing water, etc.
- Over 1200 homes/properties sprayed per year

Richmond County Mosquito Surveillance Data



Proposal

- Richmond County Mosquito Control currently allocates \$485,000 for Mosquito Control and Disease Prevention.
- Compare to Savannah/Chatham County which spends over \$5,399,000/year
 - Savannah/Chatham County:
Population: 303,650; 630 square miles (including salt marsh); aerial spraying
 - Richmond County:
Population 205,410; 305 square miles; spraying done through 3-1-1 residential request
- Request \$290,835 additional budget, \$48,000 of which is a one-time truck purchase

Proposed Budget

Proposed New Staff/Items	Purpose/Justification	Annual Cost
2 Part-Time Seasonal Mosquito Spray Technicians	Improve response time to 3-1-1 calls and staff additional truck	\$24,360
2 Part-Time Seasonal Mosquito Control Inspectors	Improve response time to 3-1-1 calls	\$24,360
Chief Pond Inspector (salary 40K plus 68% fringe rate)	Increase ability to inspect and larvicide ponds; bring ponds into code compliance	\$67,200
Part-Time Surveillance and Education Technician	Trap and identify mosquitos; education	\$21,840
Pay Raises for all Full-Time Employees	Needed for retention and market value	\$60,000
Truck Maintenance	Routine	\$5,250
Sprayer Maintenance	Routine	\$5,800
Fuel	For additional truck	\$9,250
Insurance and Bonding	Annual Equipment Insurance	\$9,250
Total Direct Costs		\$227,310
Indirect Cost (6.83% of Direct Costs)	DPH District 6 approved rate	\$15,525
Total Requested		\$242,835

Proposed Budget

Proposed New Items	Purpose/Justification	One-Time Cost
One Truck	Additional Spray Capacity	\$30,000
One Sprayer	Additional Spray Capacity	\$18,000
Total One-Time Cost		\$48,000

Summary

- Total additional funding requested: \$290,835
- \$48,000 is a one-time sprayer truck cost
- Sustained budget allocation increase of \$242,835 per year
- Total Richmond County Mosquito Control Budget: \$727,835 per year
- This will “right size” the Mosquito Control Program to best support the area being served and continue to protect Richmond County in a safe and meaningful way.

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