



Metro Counties Government Center
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Saint Paul, MN 55104-3431

(651) 645-9149 ~ www.mmcd.org

December 9th, 2024

New Prague City Administrator
Joshua Tetzlaff
118 Central Avenue South
New Prague, MN 56071

Dear Joshua,

Enclosed is a summary of work completed by the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) in the New Prague area during the 2024 mosquito control season.

Throughout the year MMCD provides a variety of services to residents of the District including:

- Comprehensive mosquito surveillance and control, primarily in standing water areas where mosquito larvae develop
- Mosquito-borne disease monitoring and alerts
- Black fly (biting gnat) surveillance and larval control in rivers and streams
- Tick monitoring and tick-borne disease education
- Educational outreach including displays at city events, parades, school presentations, county fairs, the Minnesota State Fair, presentations to various groups, and more!
- Weekly mosquito surveillance updates on the MMCD website
- Alerts about helicopter activity and planned adult mosquito control
- Interactive public maps outlining mosquito habitats and displaying control activity
- Quality checks to ensure mosquito control efforts are effective and procedures and products are safe for people, pets, pollinators, and wildlife

On the back of this page, you will find an overview of the mosquito season for 2024 and some of the important highlights that were accomplished this year by MMCD staff. Enclosed with this letter you will find a summary of activity for your community along with a write-up of some of the big stories of 2024.

We would love the opportunity to discuss the services that MMCD provides to your area. If there are any council meetings, advisory boards, or other groups that would be interested in an update from the world of mosquito control, please let us know!

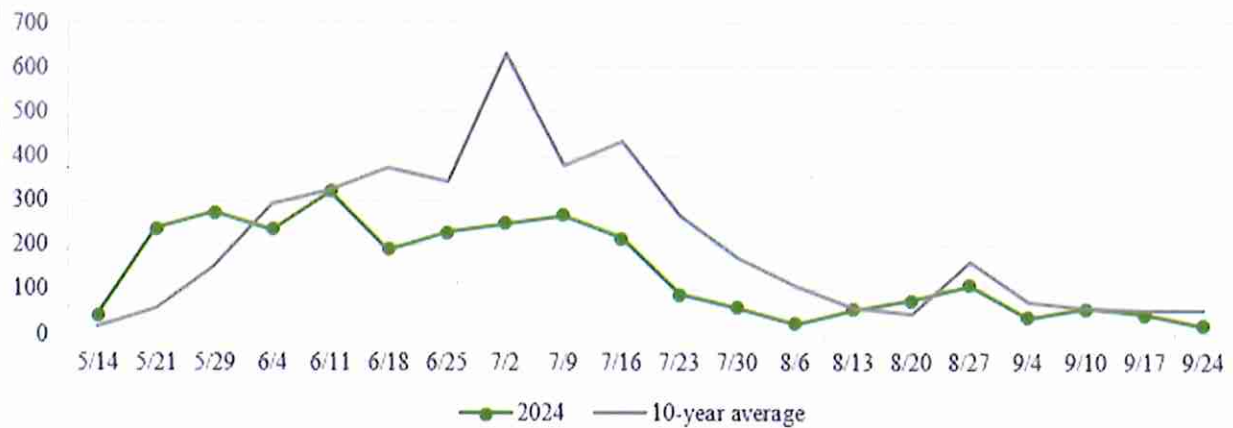
If you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss our agency's activities, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Daniel Huff, Executive Director
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District

Fran Miron, Washington County Commissioner
Chair of MMCD Commission

Weekly Averages of Human Biting Mosquitoes in CO₂ Traps, 2024



Graph created by Dr. Scott Larson, MMCD Assistant Entomologist

District-Wide Numbers from 2024:

82,262 Larval mosquito inspections	258,056 Acres of larval mosquito treatments	10,101 Tires recycled
273,579 Catch basin treatments	2,039 Acres of adult mosquito treatments	2,929 Resident calls

City and Community Presentations Available

MMCD staff are available to provide an update on mosquito activity, give city specific information, or share resources about mosquito, tick, and black fly reduction measures. Presentations or live questions and answers are great for **City Council Meetings, Township Board Meetings, Sustainability Commissions**, or events for residents. If you would like to schedule a presentation, please contact Alex Carlson:

Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Manager

acarlson@mmcd.org

Direct: (651) 643-8342



2024 Activity Summary for New Prague and Helena

LARVAL CONTROL

Most control done by MMCD targets mosquitoes during their larval stage. Mosquito larvae develop in standing water and are most common after rain. Products are specific to mosquito larvae and not harmful to people, pets, or wildlife. Materials are applied via helicopter, backpack, drone, or by hand.



Larval Control in New Prague and Helena in 2024:
Sites Inspected: 175 | Acres Treated: 1401.60



ADULT CONTROL

MMCD supplements our larval control program with limited adult mosquito control, mainly when disease cases are present.

Adult Mosquito Control in New Prague and Helena in 2024:
Sites Inspected: 44 | Acres Treated: 30.04

DISEASE PREVENTION

Controlling the mosquito species that are most likely to spread disease is a top priority for MMCD. Removing containers that could hold stagnant water is critical to reducing the spread.

Disease Prevention Activity in New Prague and Helena:
Tires Removed: 98 | Catch Basins Treated: 234
Disease Prevention Property Inspections: 0



CUSTOMER CALLS

We encourage residents of the district to call MMCD to report mosquito annoyance, employee or helicopter concerns, request waste tire removal, or for anything else.

Customer Calls from New Prague and Helena in 2024: 11

For questions about your city's data,
please contact Alex Carlson –
acarlson@mmcd.org



The Big Stories from 2024

MOSQUITOES

After three consecutive years of drought conditions, 2024 saw above average precipitation during most of the summer months. A warm winter and early spring led to the first deer tick being found by MMCD staff on February 5th and the first mosquito larvae found on February 26th, both much earlier than normal. Spring flooding and early season rains brought mosquitoes above the 10-year average for the first few weeks of May. Despite continued heavy rains in June and July, mosquito numbers dipped below average largely due to the absence of two of our most common nuisance mosquitoes – *Aedes vexans* (the summer floodwater mosquito) and *Coquillettidia perturbans* (the cattail mosquito). Those species were impacted by the drought in prior years and did not begin to bounce back until the end of the season.



MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

Mosquito-borne disease was present in the District and throughout Minnesota in 2024. As of November 19th, 12 West Nile virus illnesses had been confirmed in Minnesota with seven of those cases in residents of the District (2 Carver, 1 Dakota, 1 Hennepin, 2 Ramsey, 1 Scott). This was lower than 2023 when there were 63 reported cases in Minnesota. In 2024, there were four cases of Jamestown Canyon virus in Minnesota and 1 case of La Crosse encephalitis, but neither disease showed up in residents of the District. For more information about vector-borne disease in 2024 look for the MMCD Technical Advisory Board report coming in the spring of 2025.

BLACK FLIES



MMCD employees controlled immature black flies (biting gnats) in small streams and large rivers throughout the metropolitan area. In 2024, 95 black fly larvicide treatments were made to the rivers and streams in the District. Heavy rains in May and June produced high-water levels especially on the Minnesota, Crow, and South Fork Crow rivers, causing sampling and treatments to suspend for nearly a month. High adult black fly levels were experienced in certain areas (especially Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties) in late May and again in July but remained at tolerable levels for the remainder of the season with the number of black fly annoyance calls in 2024 (41), similar to 2023 (46), but higher than 2022 (11).

TICKS

The warm winter of 2023-24 made ticks more prevalent than usual during certain parts of the year. District staff found our first deer tick of 2024 on February 5th, much earlier than normal. The Lone Star Tick is a unique species that can cause alpha gal syndrome which makes the infected host allergic to mammal meat (beef, pork, lamb, etc). Lone Star ticks are rare in Minnesota with only 57 reported to MMCD or the Minnesota Department of Health between 2009 and 2023. However, in 2024 alone there were 31 Lone Star Ticks reported as of August 1st. The mild winter is likely the culprit.



Get more of the year's big stories at [MMCD.org](https://www.mmcd.org) and the TAB report coming in February!