Urban Mosquito Safety and Awareness

Does the city help control mosquitoes? Aurora is responsible for mosquito control in all city-managed parks, natural areas, stream corridors, trail corridors and public properties. The city uses larvicides that specifically targets the larval life of the mosquito, preventing maturation. Larvicides is a cost-effective method of treatment that does not harm humans, wildlife or waterfowl. Aurora does not employ space sprays or airborne methods for controlling mosquitoes. Application of larvicides is done by hand to stagnant bodies of water and is effective 10 – 14 days. Application typically occurs May through September, dependent on moisture levels and temperature. Most parks with large bodies of water, such as Expo and Utah Park, are designed to allow water to flow through and also have aerators to move the water. Since mosquitoes will not lay eggs in moving water, these ponds do not need treatment.

What can I do to help control mosquitoes? Many homeowners living near a park or greenbelt assume that the mosquitoes they see must come from these areas. In fact, homeowners must carefully inspect their own property for standing or stagnant water. Mosquitoes lay up to 250 eggs in still water, which hatch in 7 to 10 days. If overwatering and pooled or standing water is eliminated from the areas around your home weekly, many mosquitoes will be kept from breeding in the first place.

What is West Nile Virus (WNV)? West Nile virus is a disease that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. Common in Africa, west Asia and the Middle East for decades, it first appeared in the U.S. in 1999. Less than one percent of mosquitoes carry this virus and less than one percent of people infected with the virus will develop severe illness. West Nile Virus symptoms include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, stupor and disorientation. If you experience these symptoms, contact your health care provider immediately.

How is the virus spread? The virus is carried long distances by infected birds and then spread locally by mosquitoes that bite infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then pass the virus to birds, humans and animals, particularly horses. Household pets do not spread the illness.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING EXPOSURE TO MOSQUITOES:

Personal Protection
- Be aware that mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk. If you are going to be out at these times, be sure to take measures to protect yourself from moisture levels and temperature.
- Wear loose, long-sleeved shirts and long pants if you will be outside and exposed to mosquitoes.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed areas. Be sure to follow directions for all insect repellents.
- Install or repair window and door screens and keep screen doors closed at dawn and dusk to keep mosquitoes out of your home.

Community Protection
Watch for and DRAIN standing water around the house weekly, including tires, cans, flowerpots, bird baths, clogged rain gutters, pool and hot tub covers, rain barrels, toys and tarps.

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**NATURE AT NIGHT**
Explore nature after the sun goes down.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coyotes</td>
<td>255462</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Fri., 8:15-9:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyotes</td>
<td>255461</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>Fri., 8:15-9:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raccoons</td>
<td>255460</td>
<td>Aug. 17</td>
<td>Fri., 7:45-8:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bats</td>
<td>255459</td>
<td>Aug. 24-25</td>
<td>Fri., 7-9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUNSET STROLL**
Enjoy an evening walk to look for wildlife.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun. and Moon</td>
<td>255470</td>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>Tue., 8-9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. and Moon</td>
<td>255471</td>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>Wed., 7:30-8:30 p.m.</td>
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</table>

**NATURE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**
Stroll the trails in your neighborhood park with a naturalist to see what animals are out in the evening.

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pronghorn</td>
<td>255472</td>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>Fri., 8-9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronghorn</td>
<td>255473</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Fri., 8-9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronghorn</td>
<td>255474</td>
<td>Aug. 20</td>
<td>Fri., 8-9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POLLINATORS AND PLANTS**
Celebrate National Pollinators Week! Find out why plants are important to pollinators and vice versa. Visit our sensory garden and learn how to make your garden more pollinator-friendly.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honeybee</td>
<td>255475</td>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>Sat., 10-11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honeybee</td>
<td>255476</td>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>Sat., 10-11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STAR K KIDS**
Ages 5 and younger

- **Join us for a walk as the full moon rises to see who's out at night.**
  - 255452 | July 27 | Fri., 8:15-9:15 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
  - **$5 per child**
  - **Aurora Reservoir/Senac Creek NC**

**STAR K NATURE CAMP**
Ages 6-12

- **Celebrate National Pollinators Week! Find out why plants are important to pollinators and vice versa.**
  - 255449 | June 19-22 | Tue.-Fri., 9 a.m.-noon | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
  - **$50 per child**
  - **Aurora Reservoir/Senac Creek NC**

**ADVANCED JR RANGER CAMP**
Ages 10-14

- **Learn about the plants and animals that call Star K Ranch home in this fun and educational class at the Morrison Nature Center.**
  - 255445 | June 25-29 | Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
  - **$100**
  - **Aurora Reservoir/Senac Creek NC**

**WET and WILD WEDNESDAYS**
Ages 6-12

- **Nature adventures at the Aurora Reservoir.**
  - 255482 | June 8 | Wed., 9-10 a.m. | Aurora Reservoir/Senac Creek NC |
  - 255483 | June 15 | Wed., 9-10 a.m. | Aurora Reservoir/Senac Creek NC |
  - 255484 | June 22 | Wed., 9-10 a.m. | Aurora Reservoir/Senac Creek NC |

**KIDS**

**BIRD WALKS**
Ages 8 and older

- **Join us to look for hawks, owls and other birds as we walk the trails.**
  - 255441 | June 8 | Wed., 8-9 a.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
  - 255442 | June 15 | Wed., 8-9 a.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
  - 255443 | June 22 | Wed., 8-9 a.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |

**KAYAK EXPLORATIONS**
Ages 15 and older

- **Explore Aurora Reservoir by kayak. Instruction included.**
  - 255446 | June 8 | Wed., 8-9 a.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
  - 255447 | June 15 | Wed., 8-9 a.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
  - 255448 | June 22 | Wed., 8-9 a.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |

**FULL MOON HIKE**
Join us for a walk as the full moon rises to see who's out at night.

- 255450 | June 8 | Wed., 8-9 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
- 255451 | June 15 | Wed., 8-9 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
- 255452 | June 22 | Wed., 8-9 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
- 255453 | July 6 | Wed., 8-9 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
- 255454 | July 13 | Wed., 8-9 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
- 255455 | July 20 | Wed., 8-9 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
- 255456 | July 27 | Wed., 8-9 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
- 255457 | Aug. 3 | Wed., 8-9 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
- 255458 | Aug. 10 | Wed., 8-9 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
- 255459 | Aug. 17 | Wed., 8-9 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |
- 255460 | Aug. 24-25 | Wed., 8-9 p.m. | Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch |

**COYOTE**
Cover photo by Bert Philippus. Other photos by Victoria Samuel and Meg Reck.

Registration is required for all programs, except for Star K Kids. To register for nature programs, call 303.326.8650 or go online at AuroraGov.org/Recreation. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult for all programs except Junior Rangers and school break camps. Programs may be canceled due to low participation or poor weather. For information call 303.326.8445 or nature@auroragov.org.