

It is that time of year again when weather is warm, birds are chirping, and time spent outdoors increases significantly. It is also that time of year when we must not forget to protect ourselves from mosquito bites. West Nile Virus, although not discovered as frequently as in the past, is still lurking in some mosquito populations.

West Bloomfield has a Mosquito Control Program that utilizes an integrated pest management approach that is Reduce, Repel, Report. The program includes applying larvicide briquettes to 5,000 storm water catch basins and live trapping and testing of mosquitoes.

The presence of a dead bird is a possible indicator of the West Nile Virus, and crows, ravens, and blue jays are the most susceptible. The DNR is no longer doing regular WNV testing of dead wildlife, but Oakland County will proceed with the testing of dead birds found in the local area. If you discover a dead bird, please notify the county's West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-877-377-3641 to ensure proper testing.

Do not forget to protect yourself either. Reduce standing water in your yard where mosquitoes breed, and if possible, avoid the outdoors during dusk or dawn when these insects are most active. If you must be outdoors, make sure to wear insect repellent, and protect your skin with long sleeves and pants. For more information on West Nile Virus please visit www.wbtwp.com (Go to the Environmental Department homepage).