

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

DISTRICT MANAGEMENT

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- **Mosquitoes** – Our mosquito control program is based on the principle of integrated pest management (IPM). It is most effective to control the larval stages of mosquitoes since they are concentrated in a smaller area and cannot fly away. Larval control is achieved through source reduction (elimination of standing water), and through the use of safe, effective biological and chemical control methods chosen specifically to minimize their impact on the environment. Biological control agents include mosquitofish, which feed on the larvae, and natural bacterial insecticides like BTI. Chemical control agents include insect growth regulators and larvicidal oils. Fogging for adult mosquitoes can occur as part of control efforts, but only when necessary and after surveillance and testing indicates an above-normal threshold of potential for disease transmission or high numbers of nuisance mosquitoes. Materials used by the District are applied by trained and state-certified technicians and registered with the Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Mosquitofish** – As a natural predator of mosquito larvae, these fish are routinely stocked by technicians to control larval populations throughout the County. By law, only vector control technicians can place fish in water sources other than those located on private property. Some common 'sources' or sites where these fish are stocked include; artificial lakes, irrigation ditches, storm channels, and natural industrial ponds. To avoid competition with sensitive native amphibian and fish species, we do not stock mosquitofish in habitats where such species are known to be present. More than 1 million of these fish are produced each year at the District's mosquitofish production facility.
- **Rats & Mice** – The District provides rat prevention and control for sewers, creeks and marinas and assists cities, parks, etc. with rat control in public areas. The District does not trap nor bait rats and mice in or around private homes. Homeowners with rats and mice problems can obtain advice and request a site visit from one of our expert technicians to assist them in rat and mouse prevention and control.
- **Skunks** – The District maintains a rabies risk reduction program. Property inspection and advice are given to property owners on exclusion, habitat modifications, and the best methods to discourage skunks from taking residence on the property. Upon the inspection, if a skunk den is verified by the inspector the District shall warrant a trap for use.
- **Yellowjackets** – The District provides a control program for ground-nesting yellowjackets only. Residents who locate yellowjacket nests in trees or structures should contact a licensed structural pest control company.
- **Ticks and Lyme Disease Testing** – The District conducts annual surveillance for the Western black-legged tick and the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.