



WEST NILE VIRUS IN KELLOGG PARK

CONTENTS

- ***West Nile Virus Discovered At Kellogg Park***
- ***What is the Risk of Contracting West Nile virus?***
- ***Mosquito Control Procedures Adopted By The APD***
- ***How You Can Stay Safe***
- ***Where To Go For More Information***

West Nile Virus Discovered At Kellogg Park

The Hamilton County Health Department has trapped and tested samples of mosquitoes along the 6700 block of Kellogg Avenue. One of these mosquitoes at Kellogg Park, caught in traps placed by the Hamilton County Health Department in cooperation with the Anderson Park District, tested positive for West Nile Virus.

The Anderson Park District has been working with Health Department Field Crews since 2003 to reduce the environment for the mosquitoes by making a concerted effort to fill in puddles and holes of standing water and by putting tablets called mosquito "dunks" which kill mosquito larvae into standing water areas in all of the parks. Mosquito breeding areas near the creeks and rivers adjacent to many of the parks are more difficult to control because the water is constantly moving. These areas should be avoided because there are many places near these bodies of water that are ideal breeding sites. At this time, commercial spraying is not available but the APD will continue to work with Health Department employees and will allow them to do some test spraying as they determine is feasible. However, according to the Health Department, spraying is not very effective because the effects last less than a week and it is easy to miss many mosquitoes which might be hiding under leaves, rocks, or in tires, etc.

While positive mosquitoes and birds have both been collected in Anderson and Green Townships, those are not the only areas under high surveillance in the county. In areas close to rivers, creeks and streams, like Kellogg Park, mosquito populations are high and the chance probable that some mosquitoes within those populations carry the virus. Mosquito trapping and surveillance continues throughout the county and *all* residents should take precautions to reduce the risk of WNV.

What is the Risk of Contracting West Nile virus?

The Hamilton County Health Department states that the risk is very low for most residents. Studies indicate that even in an area where West Nile Virus is circulating, less than one percent of mosquitoes carry the disease, and less than one percent of people who are bitten will become seriously ill. Those most at risk for developing a

severe infection from West Nile Virus are people age 50 and older, and anyone with a compromised immune system.

According to the Hamilton County Health Department, West Nile fever is characterized by flu-like symptoms. West Nile fever only lasts a few days and does not appear to cause any long-term health effects. More severe cases can lead to West Nile encephalitis, West Nile meningitis, or West Nile meningoencephalitis. However, according to the Ohio Department of Health, only one infected person in 150 people will get very sick from WNV and those tend to be infants, the elderly, and anyone who is sick.

Mosquito Control Procedures Adopted By The APD

As the APD works to minimize the environment for mosquitoes at Kellogg Park, Clear Creek Park, Riverside Park and all of your Township Parks. Below is the Anderson Park District's Mosquito Control Procedure adopted in August of 2003.

- The Anderson Park District will follow all Hamilton County and State of Ohio guidelines for mosquito control. The APD will allow the Health Department to set up traps to monitor mosquito activity.
- The Anderson Park District personnel will:
 - Keep storm drains open and clear on park properties and will advise the proper authorities where attention is needed on adjacent properties;
 - Fill holes in park areas to prevent standing water wherever possible;
 - Use mosquito dunks or the appropriate chemical application, when necessary, in areas where standing water remains;
 - Keep a record of when the mosquito dunks were used and monitor when they need to be reapplied, according to the time limit and the amount of rainfall received, in specific areas;
 - Keep the routine park checklist for each APD facility current with items pertaining to controlling the mosquito breeding;
 - Keep concessions stands stocked with mosquito repellent product both for use by staff and for sale to patrons;
 - Provide the public with information regarding West Nile Virus when possible.

How You Can Stay Safe

While the APD is make a concerted effort to control the breeding grounds for mosquitoes, collaboration between the community, the family and the individual is needed to achieve the best prevention of West Nile virus infection. You are advised to do the following to reduce your risk:

- ✓ Wear insect repellent on any exposed skin before and during your visit to your Parks. Carefully read all instructions on the label. These products should contain DEET (children 10 and younger should use a product containing no more than 10% DEET; older children and adults should use a product with a higher percentage.)
- ✓ Do not play in puddles or any water.
- ✓ Avoid the rivers, creeks or near the underbrush and woods near the rivers and creeks particularly close to dawn or dusk.
- ✓ Try to leave the Park before dusk and wait to arrive until after dawn. (Mosquitoes are the worst during dawn and dusk hours). *(Coaches are advised to dismiss teams before dusk.)*

The Park District will have insect repellent for sale at the concession stands during sporting events, should you forget yours.

Where To Go For More Information

Check out the Health Department's website: <http://www.hamilton-co.org/boh>.

Or, visit the West Nile Virus Section on the website of the Center for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>