

NORTHWEST MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

Keeping the community safe

Weekly mosquito report for epidemiological week 30 (July 20 – July 26).

Mosquito Surveillance:

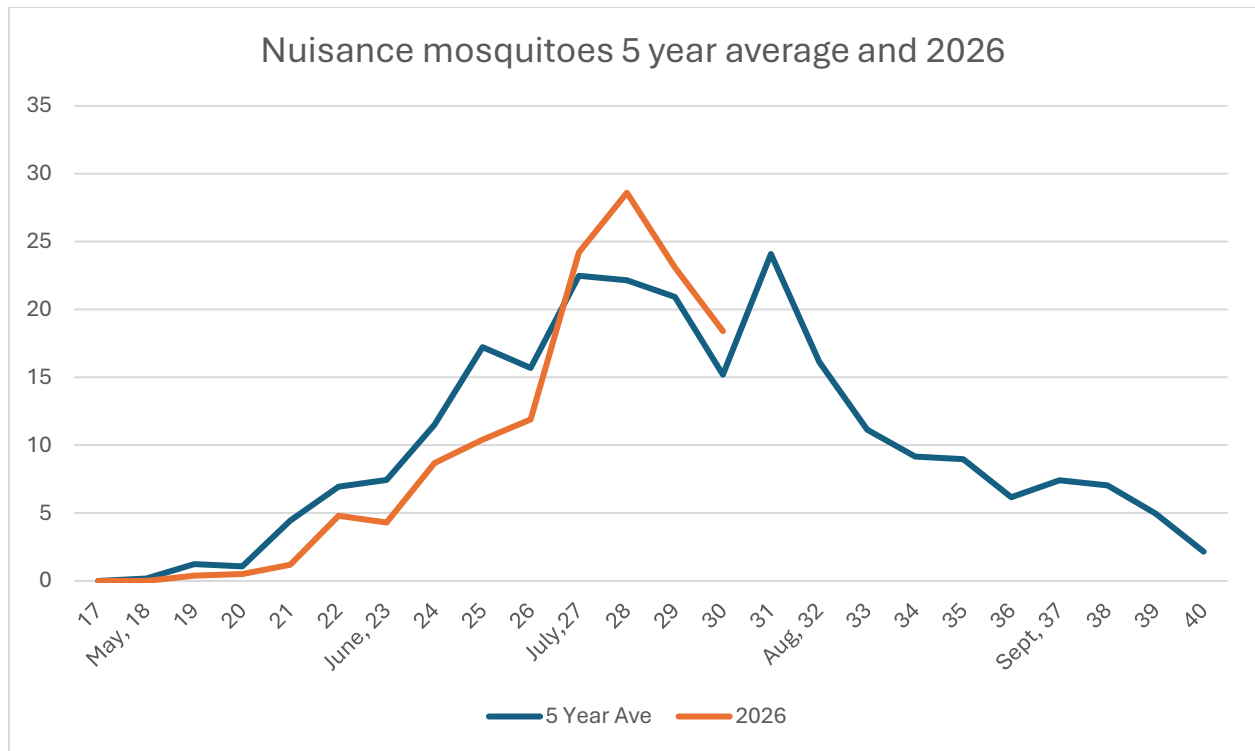
Northwest Mosquito Abatement District operates 36 mosquito traps throughout the 242 square miles we cover. These traps help us track mosquito populations and West Nile virus. Traps run continuously from May 1 until October, and mosquitoes are collected everyday Monday through Friday. All mosquitoes are identified to the species level. We test certain mosquito species for the presence of West Nile virus.

Floodwater/nuisance mosquitoes.

These are the species of mosquitoes which are more likely to take blood meals from humans. These species come out 5-10 days after rainfall. These species populations tend to be higher in the late spring and early summer – historically peaking around the beginning of July. These mosquitoes live for about 2 weeks and tend to prefer shady forest areas.

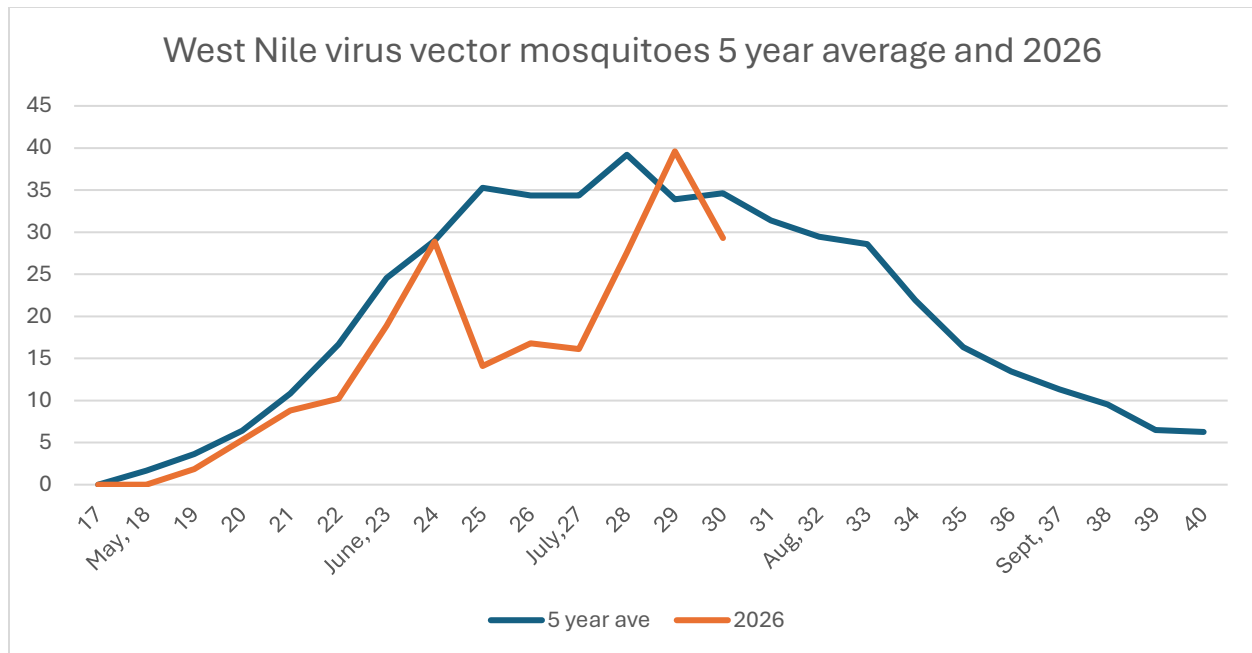
With the warmer weather and additional rain, we are seeing nuisance mosquitoes – especially in wooded areas with shade.

We are seeing a significant increase in nuisance mosquitoes, primarily in the western part of the district. These are species which are notoriously difficult to trap using our standard mosquito traps and are not reflected in our average nuisance graph.



West Nile virus vector mosquitoes.

There are two main species of WNV vector mosquitoes, *Culex pipiens* and *Culex restuans*. These species prefer to feed on birds (which are the reservoir hosts for WNV) but will feed on humans opportunistically. In general, we tend to see the population of these mosquitoes increase during drought-like conditions.

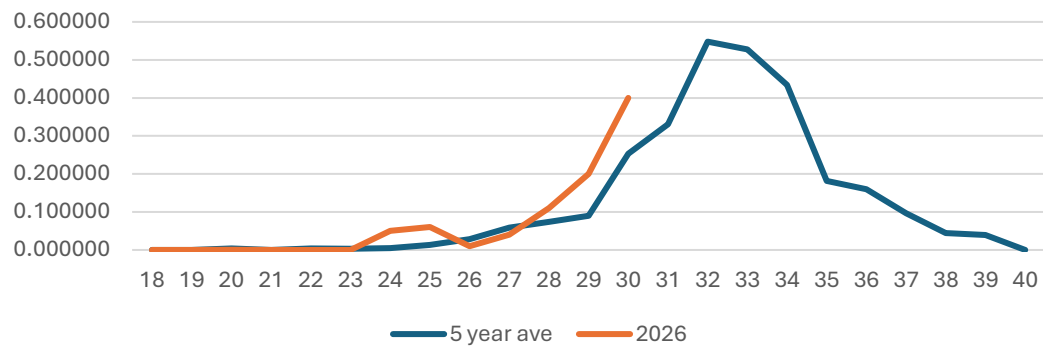


West Nile virus detection in mosquitoes.

In our lab we test most, if not all, WNV vector mosquitoes for West Nile virus daily. From this data we can calculate the risk of transmission (Vector Index), allow us to monitor the infection rate over time, and better inform our field operations on where to focus our abatement. We tested 111 batches of mosquitoes last week and had 30 WNV positive. The Vector Index for the district was 0.40

VI Range	Risk
0.0 - 0.2	Very low
0.21 - 0.99	Low
1.0 - 1.99	Moderate
> 2.0	High

Vector Index 5 year average and 2026



Location Code	Test Last Week	Positives Last Week	Total Tests	Total Positives
Arlington Heights	7	1	53	4
Buffalo Grove	2	0	20	0
Barrington	2	0	14	1
Bartlett	6	0	39	2
Des Plaines	3	0	19	0
Elk Grove	6	1	48	3
Elgin	4	0	24	2
Glenview	5	2	31	2
Hoffman Estates	7	2	25	2
Hanover Park	10	2	28	2
Mount Prospect	1	0	80	15
Northbrook	12	4	20	9
Palatine	5	2	39	6
Prospect Heights	13	4	45	6
Park Ridge	3	0	40	4
Schaumburg	15	8	65	11
Streamwood	6	4	27	5
Wheeling	4	0	40	5
Total	111	30	657	79

Mosquito Abatement Activities

The District has about 80,000 storm water catch basins which are the primary habitat for the aquatic stages of West Nile virus vector mosquitoes. We also have approximately 10,000 above ground aquatic sources where other species of mosquitoes may be found. Above ground sources that permanently hold water generally do not produce mosquitoes.

To date we have treated 81,572 catch basins.

We have inspected 4511 above ground water sources and treated 624. We concentrate on catch basins early in the year to reduce the WNV vector mosquitoes and switch to above ground sources once most basins are treated.

Tick Surveillance

As the spring and early summer tick season winds down, we have observed a rapid decrease in both dog and deer tick activity over the past two weeks.

While the risk of encountering a tick has lowered, they have not disappeared entirely. A small number remain active, but far fewer are currently seeking host blood meals. We anticipate a secondary increase in deer tick activity later this autumn, typically stretching from late September through early November.