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Are the mosquitoes bugging you? The City of Burleson does not spray for mosquitoes because spraying only kills the mosquitoes that come into direct contact with the spray. But, the City does help alleviate the problems in other ways.

Members of the parks and public works departments dredge canals and work to eliminate standing water in public spaces. Crews inspect retention ponds and put mosquito larvae-eating bacteria in stagnant water to kill the mosquito larvae before they reach the adult (flying) stage. The City's environmental services division also works with the Tarrant County Public Health Authority to collect and test mosquitoes for the presence of West Nile Virus and St. Louis encephalitis.

Different species of mosquitoes are active at different times of the day, so spraying at set times only affect certain species. According to the Texas Mosquito Control Association, treating the larvae or larvacide is 80 percent more effective than spraying adult mosquitoes, and, treating the larvae does not produce the harmful side effects that can be associated with spraying.

What can you do to alleviate the problem? Empty standing water in old tires, cemetery urns, buckets, plastic covers and toys. Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels, and potted plant trays at least once a week. Fill holes with dirt so water doesn't have the chance to pool. And, keep swimming pools treated and circulating, repair leaky pipes and keep rain gutters unclogged.

To protect yourself, use mosquito repellants, head nets, long sleeves and long pants when you know you will be going into areas prone to mosquitoes. Stay inside during the evening hours when mosquitoes are the most active. Make sure your windows and door screens are bug tight, and replace your outdoor lights with yellow bug lights.

To report stagnant water or mosquito infestation inside the city limits of Burleson, call Bianca Chafin, environmental programs specialist for the City, at 817-426-9842 or e-mail [bchafin@burlesontx.com](mailto:bchafin@burlesontx.com).