

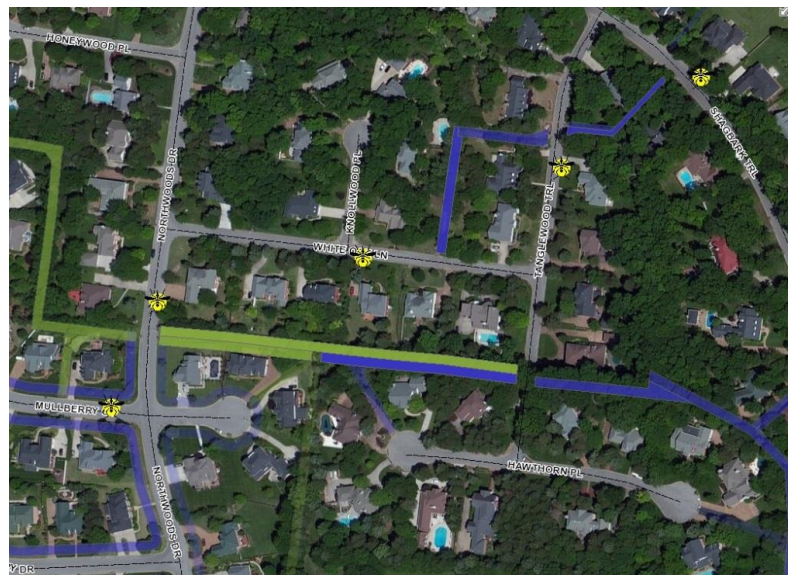


Mosquito Control and Prevention

Though ample rainfall has provided better growing conditions for flowers and plants this spring, the standing water it leaves has also provided ideal growing conditions for one of the area's most notorious pests – mosquitoes. With spring firmly in place and even warmer days already here, plans for what will be this summer's fight against mosquitoes are already underway.

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) advises a major part of the battle is to kill the larvae before they have a chance to become adults. To do that, the City of Murfreesboro Street Department routinely places larvicide dunks in standing water along public rights-of-way where the insects are breeding and electronically records it in a web map. The dunks contain BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis*

subspecies *israelensis*), a bacteria only toxic to mosquito larvae, non-toxic for humans or pets, and approved for organic gardening. Although the Street Department can not apply these dunks to private property, homeowners can purchase them at major retailers. They also recommend to remove any items that hold standing water such as kiddie pools, dog bowls, or tires from your yard to discourage



Picture of the Street Department Mosquito Treatment Tracker

mosquito breeding sites. For those mosquitoes that do make it to adulthood, the Rutherford County Health Department has some advice. Officials caution citizens not to venture outside during dusk and dawn times of day when mosquitoes are most active, or if you do to wear long sleeves and insect repellent. The City of Murfreesboro Street Department has decided not to develop a mosquito-spraying program. Recently retired Rutherford County Agricultural Extension Agent Dewayne Trail agreed saying spraying only gets to the adults. The larvae hatch in about a week and “you’re right back where you were. The insecticide is also unhealthy and dangerous for people with respiratory problems”. Call the local health department at 898-7785, the Rutherford County Agricultural Extension Service at 898-7710, Murfreesboro Street Department at 893-4380 or city administration at 849-2629 for more information.