



## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Nick Wolda

nwolda@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov

### **North Harris County reports mosquitoes positive for West Nile Virus**

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (August 23, 2013) – Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) reports a sample of mosquitoes collected in North Harris County tested positive for West Nile Virus. Response protocol by HCPHES includes street spraying three times a week within a wide radius of the trap site. The Village of Creekside Park is within the targeted response zone and will experience street spraying.

All residents of The Woodlands are reminded to use mosquito repellent, eliminate sources of standing water and treat areas that cannot be drained with mosquito dunks containing *Bti*, a biological larvicide available at home and garden centers.

To protect yourself and family, stay indoors from dusk to dawn when disease-carrying mosquitoes are most active. If you must be outside, wear long, loose, light-colored clothing and use mosquito repellent. Select product strength based on the amount of time you plan to spend out of doors. Follow the label directions.

Residents are also urged to monitor landscapes weekly for sources of standing water. “Eliminating standing water goes a long way to controlling nuisance and disease-carrying mosquitoes,” explained Lynne Aldrich, manager of Environmental Services for The Woodlands Township.

Run-off from landscape irrigation caused by overwatering creates mosquito breeding sites. Set sprinkler systems to irrigate no more than twice a week on your designated watering days, delivering no more than one inch of water a week.

Also check water meter boxes, French drains and irrigation boxes for standing water. “Pop the lid on your water meter box. If water from irrigation or rain stands for more than three or four days, treat with a larvicide, such as mosquito dunks,” Ms. Aldrich says.

For information about Harris County’s street spraying schedule, visit [www.hcpbes.org/hcmosquitoctrl/](http://www.hcpbes.org/hcmosquitoctrl/). To learn more about eliminating breeding sites and selecting a repellent, visit The Woodlands Township Web site at [www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/mosquitoinfo](http://www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/mosquitoinfo) or call Environmental Services at 281-210-3800.

**PHOTO:** Jarred Garza checks a water meter box for standing water, a prime breeding spot for mosquitoes. To stop mosquitoes before they fly, apply mosquito dunks to all sources of standing water.

