

# Multnomah County Vector and Nuisance Control (MCVNC)

## 2003 Annual Report

### MISSION STATEMENT

Multnomah County Vector and Nuisance Control's (MCVNC) integrated pest management program balances best management practices with current scientific approaches that consider the health and ecology of the public and the environment. Conference with identified stakeholders, partners and healthcare professionals help identify and implement the most effective practices.

### COUNTY SIZE

465.15 sq. miles

### MOSQUITO BORNE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE<sup>1</sup>

MCVNC conducts surveillance to determine species composition, geographic distribution, transmission and abundance of potential vectors (carriers). Adult mosquitoes are tested for presence of St. Louis encephalitis Western Equine Encephalomyelitis, West Nile virus. In 2003, MCVNC carried out the following surveillance methods (in bold);

#### **Larval identification (immature mosquitoes)**

7500+ individual mosquitoes

#### **Adult identification**

24680 individual mosquitoes

#### **Adult collection and testing for disease presence**

510 samples containing 22414 individual mosquitoes

Flocks of sentinel chickens are strategically located at three different locations in Multnomah County. Each flock contains 6-8 chickens which are tested every other week to determine if St. Louis encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalomyelitis, and West Nile virus are being transmitted in the area.

**Sentinel chicken sera tested** – 322 samples

Dead corvids (crows, jays, and magpies) can be indicators of transmission of West Nile virus. MCVNC advises that citizens do not handle dead birds as they are a regulated bird species by Oregon Fish and Wildlife. Instead, MCVNC collects dead corvids reported by the public that;

- are part of a continuous die-out (2-3 days)
- do not appear to have suffered from trauma not indicative of West Nile virus (e.g., those killed by a car or injured by other animals)
- are approx no more than 24 hours deceased

More information about the criteria for Oregon WNV surveillance can be found online at <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/acd/w Nile/survey.cfm>

**Dead birds tested** <sup>2</sup> – 60 samples (97% corvid)

**Dead birds reported and mapped for surveillance** – 237 birds<sup>3</sup> (81 % corvid)

<sup>1</sup> Data for Mosquito Borne Disease Surveillance is September 1, 2002 to October 31, 2003

<sup>2</sup> Specifics of included data: 2 birds Stated tested *only* (not VecTested), 3 birds both state tested and VecTested, 57 birds were Vectested, 3 birds tested twice.

<sup>3</sup> Number does not include birds reported that were tested

## **CONTROL**

MCVNC suppresses vector populations by means of an integrated program designed with;

- measures initiated when adequate justification based upon surveillance data exists
- option(s) evaluated for best management practices including public education, source reduction, biological, biorational and chemical control methods.
- control methods selected and used in a manner with the least impact on non-target organisms, environment and minimizes resistance development.

### **Immature mosquito control**

3924.78 acres

- Acres treated by aerial application - 3237.25 acres
- Acres treated by ground application - 687.62 acres

### **Immature mosquito control in storm water structures**

19997(≥ 1) structures treated (e.g., manholes, catch-basins, etc.)

### **Adult mosquito control**

1137.76 acres

### **Rat Control in Public Areas**

Multnomah County is responsible for the suppression of rat populations in the City of Portland parks. Through control work and by working cooperatively with Portland Parks & Recreation to eliminate rodent habitat and food sources in the parks, MCVNC reduces the risk of rodent-borne disease.

## **INSPECTIONS – MOSQUITO AND RAT**

MCVNC responds to public complaints regarding mosquitoes and rats. Inspectors provide free educational assessments at the site of the reported infestation, giving homeowners individualized analyses of the problem and making recommendations for long-term resolution. Based on each situation, our inspectors may supply the appropriate control tools necessary to begin control. It is the responsibility of the property owner to continue and maintain the control regimen. For rat inspections, sewer baiting may be performed at the inspector's discretion to reduce the rodent population in the area when a connection between external and underground access points is evident.

**Mosquito inspections** – 245 inspections

**Mosquito complaints** – 204 complaints

**Rat inspections** - 1260 inspections

**Rat complaints** - 1239 complaints

## **INSPECTIONS – CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Code enforcement activities promote community livability that reduces neighborhood conflict by addressing health, safety and protection of urban and rural areas.

MCVNC regulates “Specified Animals” and Sanitation codes in the City of Portland to maintain appropriate animal husbandry and sanitary conditions. Specified animals are typically domesticated animals such as fowl, livestock, bees, etc.

**Specified Animal inspections – 232**  
**Specified Animal complaints – 229**  
**Specified Animal Permits Issued - 18**

**Sanitation inspections - 270**  
**Sanitation complaints – 168**

MCVNC is responsible for the code enforcement response in the City of Maywood Park.

**Maywood Park inspections – 52**  
**Maywood Park complaints – 11**

MCVNC is also responsible for nuisance enforcement issues in unincorporated Multnomah County and illegal dumping abatement in partnership with METRO.

**Nuisance inspections – 175**  
**Nuisance complaints – 62**

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Public education is one of the key elements in controlling vector breeding and obtaining pervasive surveillance. Effective mosquito control depends on each resident recognizing and eliminating potential vector breeding sources on private property. Through public education, MCVNC encourages property owners to voluntarily eliminate mosquito breeding sources on their property, reducing the risk of vector-borne disease for family, neighbors, and the community. In cases where voluntary compliance cannot be achieved, property owners may be subject to District Court citations, fines, liens, and or abatement of mosquito breeding sources by Multnomah County or the municipal code enforcement agency. By persuading our citizens to act preemptively rather than through enforcement, our county decreases the need for pesticides, leading to a better environment and improved public health. MCVNC's education program involves various partners, the public and other agencies via outreach and media contacts. Education tools used to communicate vector and code enforcement prevention are printed materials, website, inspections, strategic focus groups, presentations and media.