FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mosquito Samples Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Hutto
Truck Mounted Spraying to Occur Friday, Nov. 11 – Sunday, Nov. 13 in Hutto
Everyone encouraged to follow the 3 Ds of mosquito safety

Mosquito samples collected from two locations in Hutto have tested positive for West Nile Virus. This testing is part of the City of Hutto’s proactive participation in the Williamson County and Cities Health District’s mosquito management program. The samples were taken on November 1 and the positive test was indicated in a lab result from the Texas Department of State Health Services lab in Austin and reported to the City on November 7, 2016.

The Health District sets traps at two locations in Hutto. The traps that tested positive were located in the Hutto Parke Subdivision and in Creekside Park. The species that tested positive is Culex quinquefasciatus (southern house mosquito). This species has a flight range of about one mile.

The City is following the Health District’s Best Practices for Integrated Mosquito Management which, at this time, calls for truck mounted spraying along with enhanced monitoring and testing and increased public outreach and education. Enhanced mosquito control efforts will also continue with the treatment of standing water with larvicide.

A pesticide contractor is scheduled to spray in the vicinity. **Truck-mounted-spraying is planned for three consecutive nights beginning Friday, November 11 at 9 pm in the impacted areas including the Hutto Parke Subdivision and the Creekside Estates Subdivision.** Maps are included showing the areas where application of the pesticide is planned. Although the mosquito control product poses no significant health risk, if possible, people and pets may want to stay indoors during spraying.

The City and Health District are encouraging everyone to be especially vigilant about protecting themselves from mosquito bites when outdoors – and preventing mosquito breeding on their personal property.

**What you can do**
Mosquitoes breed in standing or stagnant water. Eliminating places where mosquitoes can breed and reducing the chances of mosquito bites are the most effective lines of defense against exposure to West
Nile Virus. As part of its Fight the Bite campaign the Health District recommends the 3 Ds of mosquito safety.

- Drain standing water in flower pots, pet dishes or clogged gutters so mosquitoes don’t have a place to breed and treat water that can’t be drained,
- Defend by using an EPA-approved insect repellent, and
- Dress in long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

The City’s Parks and Recreation Department uses bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) larvicide tablets on public property (such as parks) to treat any standing water that cannot be drained. Bt is a naturally-occurring bacteria that is harmless to people and most pets but it interrupts the reproduction cycle of mosquitoes. You can find Bt for home use at most “big box” hardware retailers.

In addition, the City’s Code Enforcement Division is focusing its efforts on mosquito abatement throughout the community. If you are aware of a location of stagnant water on public or private property, please report it to the City’s Code Enforcement Division via www.huttotx.gov/RequestTracker, the HuttoNow app on your mobile device or e-mail CodeEnforcement@huttotx.gov.

For more information on mosquito safety, please visit the Williamson County and Cities Health District’s website at www.wcchd.org

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0.5 Mile Buffer Orchard Way