

MEMORANDUM

To: All Meadows-Ferndale HOA (MFHOA) Owners and Residents
From: MFHOA Board of Directors
Date: June 22, 2021
Subject: MOSQUITO ABATEMENT PLANNING

This issue has arisen as a result of an inquiry from one of our owners/residents. Basically, the question was: is anything being done to control the mosquito population?

The short answer is "no", since there has been no evidence to suggest that we have either a mosquito population or a mosquito problem. But our wetlands certainly provide the right conditions. Based on the premise that it is better to be proactive than reactive, we asked the City of Ferndale and Whatcom County about mosquito prevention and abatement plans. It turned out to be quite a chore to find the right person to answer our questions but finally the answer was revealed: they have no such plans. So, in the interest of being proactive, we contacted Aqua-Terr Systems Inc. (the environmental specialty company that is certified to monitor and report our stewardship of the native growth protection areas in our neighborhood) for advice about how to be prepared. The following is the essence of their reply.

.....

If mosquitos have not yet become a problem, then applying pesticides would not accomplish much and might even be harmful to the ecosystem. When and if they do become a problem, we (ATSI) are licensed to apply insecticides that specifically target their larval stage to control the population.

To prevent the problem from presenting, a couple of preventative steps can be taken.

1. Prevent the spread of mosquitos into the area. The primary approach to this task is through eliminating stagnant water. Obviously, we cannot drain the wetlands, but we can eliminate stagnant water in the other private, public, and common areas of the neighborhood. The attached document was provided by ATSI to inform (or remind) residents about ways to control stagnant water.
2. Encourage mosquito predators. Within the site, waterfowl and other mosquito predators can help stop populations from establishing or proliferating. The primary mosquito predators are bats and birds. The bird population assistance is fairly well taken care of by our native growth area itself. Bats could be encouraged to also assist with a mosquito problem by installing bat boxes at strategic locations. This would have a secondary beneficial effect of aiding the overall bat population, which is in serious decline, mostly due to loss of habitat. ATSI could help us with this also, including building and installing the boxes, and providing environmental education to both adults and children in our neighborhood.

.....

In the short term, we (the Board) intend to pursue only step number 1. Let's (collectively) make sure we have no stagnant water outside the wetlands. This will minimize the chances of developing a mosquito problem. We will also monitor mosquito issues from surrounding areas (most

mosquitoes have flight ranges of 1-3 miles) and if a potential problem presents, we will reassess our options and move forward from there.

Board of Directors

Meadows-Ferndale HOA

ATTACHMENT 1



The Meadows Community

Mosquitos in The Meadows, What you can do...

The Meadows Community in the City of Ferndale borders a large quantity of recently enhanced wetlands. As residents of the community, you may be concerned that these wetlands may be breeding grounds for mosquitos.

Fortunately, **the wetlands themselves provide habitat to a large number of predators that will keep mosquito populations under control.** The wetlands support waterfowl, amphibians, and predatory insects, all of which prey on mosquitos and/or mosquito larvae.

To ensure your community stays free of mosquitos there are several steps you can take, namely ensuring they do not have habitat, and providing their natural predators with places to live.

Remove Mosquito Habitat

Mosquitos reproduce most effectively in **stagnant water** with no predators. The wetland will not support a large population of mosquitos, as predators will prevent this from happening. However, **if stagnant water is left near homes, this may provide mosquitos a place to breed and establish larger populations.**



During spring and summer, ensure you **do not leave standing water outside for extended periods of time without changing it.** This include pools, watering cans, and non absorbent surface where water can pool.

Provide Predator Habitat

Providing habitat for predators will allow for mosquito consumption to keep the populations down. Additionally, many predator species are also threatened by habitat loss so providing places for them to live will help them.

Bats and non waterfowl birds both consume adult mosquitos from the air. Bat boxes and bird houses are easy to make and install and will encourage residency.

Insects and spiders will prey on both larval and adult mosquitos. You can encourage their habitat by **installing native plants** when and where you can.

Finally, help protect habitat by **cleaning up trash and avoid letting pollutants flow into the wetland area.**



Salamanders and birds both keep mosquito populations down.




aquaterrsystemsinc.com
 (360) 389-5593
 info@aquaterrsystemsinc.com
 1337 Lincoln St #3
 Bellingham, WA 98225

ATSI provides environmental mitigation, installation, project management, and education services.

If you or your organization is interested in wetland mitigation, installation, or education (such as this pamphlet or a presentation), please contact us so we can help.