

Statement from the Village of Mamaroneck Regarding Mosquito Concerns Near Otter Creek Preserve

News & Updates

Posted on July 01, 2026

Update: On Wednesday, July 1, 2026, Westchester Land Trust informed the Village that its contractor conducted Bti treatment this morning at three of the eight tidal ponds at Otter Creek Preserve. Westchester Land Trust, the property owner, arranged for the work under its DEC permit.

The Village of Mamaroneck is aware of resident concerns regarding increased mosquito activity in the area surrounding Otter Creek Preserve.

Otter Creek Preserve is property owned by Westchester Land Trust. It is not Village-owned land and is not property maintained by the Village of Mamaroneck. Because the preserve is privately owned property, the Village must carefully review whether public funds may legally be used to pay for or reimburse mosquito control work on land the Village does not own or maintain.

The Village has requested written guidance from the New York State Comptroller's Office regarding whether public funds may legally be used to pay for or reimburse Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*), a biological larvicide used for mosquito control, on privately owned property. The verbal guidance received to date has indicated that using public funds for work on private property is not permissible under General Municipal Law and the New York State Constitution. Until written guidance is received and reviewed, the Village cannot make a determination regarding any potential funding or reimbursement.

At this time, the Village has not authorized, approved, or committed to any funding or reimbursement related to the Bti application. Any future consideration of Village funding would require written legal guidance and

compliance with all applicable Village procurement, approval, and documentation requirements.

Earlier this year, the Village explored a potential agreement with Westchester Land Trust that would have allowed the Land Trust to provide services directly to the Village, such as environmental education programming for Village camps or the Marine Education Center, in exchange for a fee. This proposed structure was intended to ensure that any Village payment would be tied to services provided to the Village for a public purpose, rather than a direct reimbursement for work performed on privately owned property. Westchester Land Trust declined to move forward with that proposed agreement.

On Tuesday, June 23, 2026, Westchester Land Trust informed the Village that it received a permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to apply Bti at Otter Creek Preserve and anticipates beginning treatment in early July.

The DEC permit allows Westchester Land Trust to apply Bti at Otter Creek Preserve, but it does not determine whether the Village may use public funds to pay for or reimburse the work, nor does it address the Village's procurement or approval requirements.

While the Village had assisted with Bti applications at the preserve in the past, that practice was discontinued after questions were raised during the permitting process regarding the Village's role in applying treatment on property the Village does not own or maintain.

The Village understands that this is a significant quality-of-life concern for nearby residents and families. We will continue to communicate with Westchester Land Trust and other involved parties and will provide updates as additional information becomes available.

Questions regarding Otter Creek Preserve, including the planned Bti application, may be directed to Janelle Robbins, Vice President of Conservation, Westchester Land Trust, at janelle@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914-234-6992 ext. 16.

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