

**This brochure answers frequently asked questions regarding typical ditch restoration work performed by CMMCP. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to access our website at [www.cmmcp.org](http://www.cmmcp.org) or to call us at (508) 393-3055.**

### **Who is the CMMCP?**

The Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) is a state agency under the jurisdiction of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board. The Project was created under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 252, *Improvement of Low Land and Swamps*. There are currently 9 mosquito control projects in Massachusetts, servicing 193 towns. We have over 30 years of experience and currently serve 39 cities and towns in Worcester and Middlesex County.

### **What is involved in ditch restoration work, and how does it reduce mosquito levels?**

The ditch restoration program focuses on ditches and small ponds that have deteriorated due to lack of maintenance or other factors. By removing obstructions and debris, the flow of water can be restored and existing and/or potential mosquito breeding sites can be reduced or even eliminated. This type of preventative control can reduce or eliminate the need to use pesticides to control mosquitoes from this area.

There are many misconceptions about our ditch restoration program, including that the goal is to drain wetlands. The CMMCP will only perform work only on existing ditches and ponds that require maintenance. WE DO NOT perform any work in natural pristine wetlands, nor will we perform any new construction of ditches that will drain wetlands. The CMMCP may also refuse work for other legal and technical reasons.



### **How are ditch restoration sites chosen?**

We are notified of possible ditch restoration work by property owners, town officials, or CMMCP staff. When work is requested, the CMMCP Wetland Project Coordinator will visit the site and begin an assessment. Site assessment includes locating the ditch, determining historic measurements, documenting present conditions, identifying vegetation, finding wetland boundaries, performing larval surveys, and determining flow velocity of the ditch. In addition, background information on prior ditch maintenance, flood history, and larval history is gathered. All data is analyzed to determine if work should be performed. Site

assessments can be time consuming and actual work performed will be dependent on the scope of the project.

### **If CMMCP is performing ditch restoration work on my property, will they also be spraying?**

**NO!** We will spray for adult mosquitoes by request only. We also maintain an exclusion list of property owners who do not wish to be sprayed. To be placed on this list, please call our office to learn about the proper procedures.

### **What is the cost for ditch restoration work?**

**Nothing!** Property owners in the CMMCP service area do not pay any additional cost for individual services rendered by the CMMCP.

### **Am I liable for workers on my property?**

**NO!** The employees of CMMCP are covered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Workmen's Compensation Insurance. All other claims are handled by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which is self-insured. CMMCP and its employees are represented by the State Attorney General's Office in all litigation.

### **What happens if someone doesn't sign the permission slip for a ditch restoration project?**

Most projects are dependent on securing property owners' permission. Several

attempts will be made to secure permission and a final notification letter will be sent before the project begins. Refusal to return the slip does not equal denial of permission: if you wish to deny or comment on the project, please call the office or use the space provided and return the slip. We will adjust the ditch restoration project accordingly by altering, delaying, or possibly canceling it.

### **How does ditch restoration work fit in with the Wetland Protection Act?**

The ditch restoration work performed by CMMCP is exempt from the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, as outlined in MGL, Chap. 131, Sec. 40;

Subsection 15. *“The riverfront area shall not apply to any mosquito control work done under the provisions of...Chapter 252 or any special act...”*:

Subsection 24. *“The provisions of this section shall not apply to any mosquito control work done under the provisions of ...Chapter 252 or any special act...”*

under MGL, Chap. 131, Sec. 40A; *“No such order shall prohibit, restrict, or regulate the exercise or performance of the powers and duties conferred or imposed by law upon...the state reclamation board of any mosquito control or other project operating under or authorized by Chapter 252.”*

and under MGL, Chap. 40, Sec. 8C; *“No action taken under this section shall affect the powers and duties of the State*

*Reclamation Board or any mosquito control or other project operating under or authorized by Chapter 252.”*

Although ditch restoration work performed by the CMMCP is exempt from the WPA and Conservation Commission review, CMMCP understands and supports the environmental, ecological, and socioeconomic benefits of the state’s wetlands. We notify DEP and the local conservation commission at least 30 days prior to every machine job, to allow the agencies the opportunity to survey the sites and provide comment. The CMMCP is committed to working with DEP and local conservation commissions. We will alter, postpone, or even cancel ditch restoration work if the agencies have justification.

### **What other services does CMMCP provide?**

The CMMCP provides several services to towns as part of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. By incorporating IPM into mosquito control, CMMCP can reduce and sometimes eliminate the need for use of chemical pesticides.

There are 6 main aspects of mosquito control that CMMCP focuses on as part of our IPM program:

**Ditch restoration – Larval & Adult mosquito surveillance – Education – Research & Efficacy – Larval mosquito control – Adult mosquito control**

For more information on these services please log onto our website at: <http://www.cmmcp.org/services.htm>

### **What can I do to reduce mosquito breeding around my home?**

You can reduce the presence of adult mosquitoes by eliminating stagnant water in your yard. Keep fresh water in your pets’ water dishes. Change water in birdbaths and wading pools at least once a week. Eliminate old tires, bottles, buckets, drums, or other containers that may be collecting rain water. Turn small boats or canoes upside down. As always, you can call us at **(508) 393-3055**, or visit us on the web at [www.cmmcp.org](http://www.cmmcp.org)



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

**Central Mass. Mosquito Control**  
111 Otis Street Northborough,  
MA 01532 (508) 393-3055  
[www.cmmcp.org](http://www.cmmcp.org)