

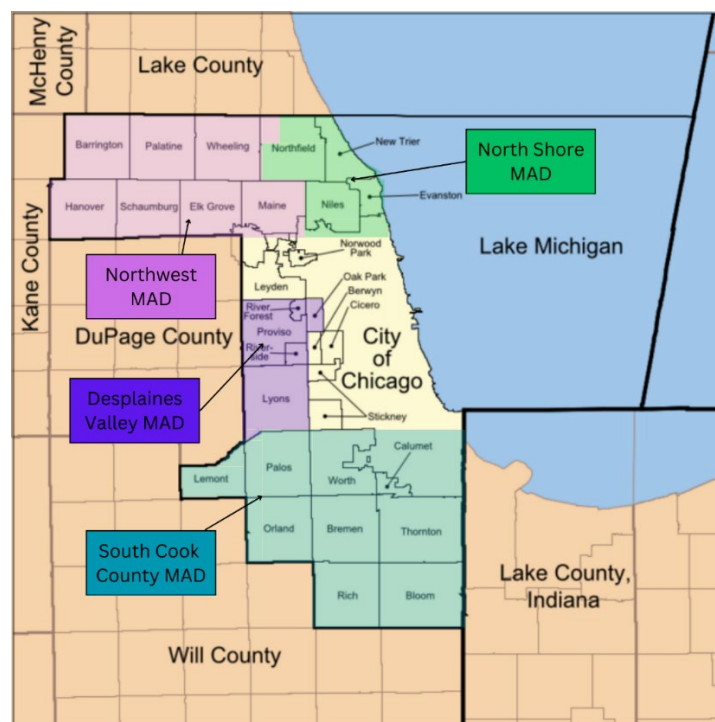


CIVIC FEDERATION MOSQUITO ABATEMENT REPORT

The Civic Federation recommends that the Cook County Mosquito Abatement Districts be dissolved and absorbed into Cook County government in the same manner as the Suburban Tuberculosis Sanitarium District was nearly two decades ago.

BACKGROUND

Mosquito abatement districts (MAD) in Illinois utilize integrated pest management strategies to control mosquito populations and prevent diseases from mosquito-borne viruses such as malaria, yellow fever, dengue fever, filariasis, encephalitis, and West Nile virus. Mosquito abatement services can be delivered by special district governments, municipal or county public health programs, public works programs, or through contracts with private companies. In parts of Cook County, four mosquito abatement districts deliver these services: the Northshore, Desplaines Valley, Northwest, and South Cook County Mosquito districts. These districts are funded by dedicated property tax levies, personal property replacement tax revenues (a corporate income tax), investment income, and sales of capital assets. There are disparities in the mosquito abatement control programming among the different districts and the districts vary in the amount of transparent information about government documents, records, and finances that are publicly available as measured by twelve key indicators.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- The four Cook County Mosquito Abatement Districts should be dissolved and their functions and taxing authority incorporated into the Cook County government. Mosquito abatement services should be delivered by the Cook County Health and Hospital System. The current individual property tax levies, totaling \$9.1 million in FY2022, could be transferred to the Cook County government to fund vector control services, reduced or abolished.
- The dissolution process for the districts is relatively straightforward. It should commence as soon as possible and should reasonably be concluded within a 24-month period.
- While the ultimate long-term goal should be to dissolve the Mosquito Abatement Districts and incorporate their functions into Cook County government, this should not preclude the implementation of transparency and increased scrutiny by the Office of Inspector General in the short term. In the interim:
 - All Illinois special districts, including Cook County Mosquito Abatement Districts, should be required by state statute or county ordinance to make information about their finances, operations, and governmental activities publicly available on a website. Wherever this reporting is already required, there should be a mechanism to ensure enforcement.
 - Legislation should be adopted that would authorize Offices of Inspector General to investigate special district governments, including mosquito abatement districts, not just their governing officials. The legislation should also require that a report of actions taken in response to the findings and recommendations of Inspector General reports be made publicly available.

To read the full mosquito abatement report,
visit, civicfed.org/CookCountyMosquitoAbatementDistricts

or scan the QR code below.

