



Dragonflies, Birds, & Frogs: The original mosquito control

Developers and homeowners can combine stormwater management and landscaping techniques to provide habitat for wildlife, such as dragonflies and birds, which feed on mosquitos and their larvae.

Stormwater management techniques can provide required detention capacity without causing a mosquito nuisance. Here's how.



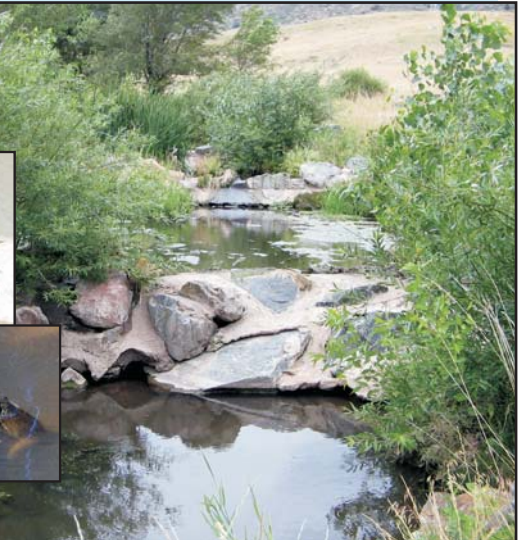
photo courtesy Amy Choate, CWRPCol

This detention pond has shallow, permanent water, and lacks vegetation diversity. Mosquitos can thrive in this low quality habitat, but not the mosquito predators.



Stormwater detention structures are necessary to prevent downstream flooding, but they can be designed to promote balanced ecology. A deep "micropool," the standing water area by the outlet structure, is necessary to create the habitat, plant growth and ecosystem that supports and attracts dragonflies, frogs, birds and other wildlife.

Providing habitat for birds, frogs, and dragonflies allows nature to reduce the number of insects. Healthy ecosystems allow all elements (mosquitos and predators) to survive.



Deep water pools at different elevations, as in the constructed wetland channel shown above, encourage plant growth that allows birds, frogs and dragonflies to thrive. A variety of vegetation, from wetland plants to riparian shrubs and trees, provides food, shelter and nesting habitat for wildlife that eat mosquitos.

For additional information please contact:
Jefferson County
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303.271.8700
<http://planning.jeffco.us>.

Creating balanced ecology does not replace the need to maintain property and remove standing water from rain gutters, buckets, tires, etc.