

Preventing tick bites can seem nearly impossible, but we are trying to make it simple enough so that it becomes part of life for people living or visiting wherever ticks occur. Effective strategies are available - don't forget to:

Protect Yourself

- Tick Checks
- Tick-Protective Dress
- Use Repellents

Protect Your Yard

- Eliminate Tick Habitat
- Don't Attract Wildlife
- Perimeter Sprays and Granules
- Mouse-Targeted Devices

Protect Your Pets

- Topical Sprays and Spot-ons

Increasing your knowledge about ticks and tick encounters will make you better prepared to protect yourself and others.

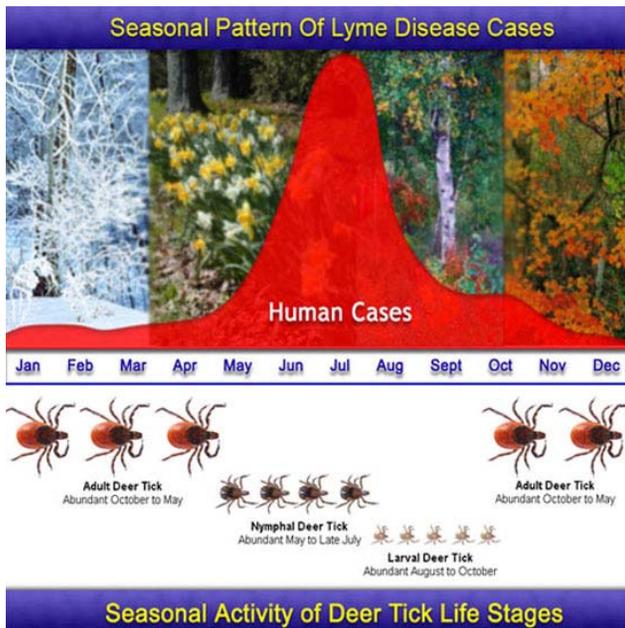


Deer Tick Information



Take Notice

High risk deer tick population in this area.
 Ticks carry diseases including Lyme disease.



State Of Rhode Island
 DEM Division of Parks and Recreation

2321 Hartford Avenue
 Johnston, RI 02919

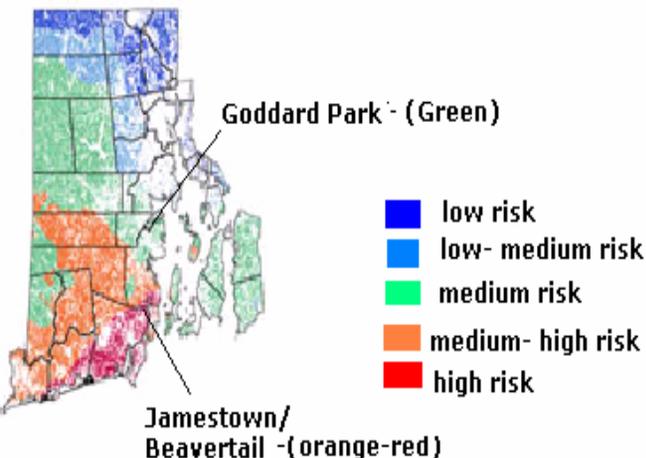
Phone: 401-222-2632

Web Site: www.riparks.com

State Of Rhode Island
 DEM Division of Parks and Recreation



Tick Encounter Risk Area Maps



Helpful hints to prevent Tick Encounters:

- Check thoroughly every day for ticks
- Use a sharp tick removal tweezers to safely remove attached ticks
- Treat clothing with a repellent containing Permethrin and wear the treated clothing whenever going in areas where ticks may lurk
- Keep the edge of your yard clear of leaf litter because that's where exposure to ticks is most likely to occur
- Hire a trained professional pest controller or arborist to apply an appropriate tick treatment around the yard
- Tuck pant legs into socks in tick infested areas



Deer ticks transmit Lyme disease, Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis.



Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is caused by infection with a spirochete (a type of bacteria) which can be transmitted to people by bites from nymphal and adult black-legged ticks. American dog ticks are NOT able to transmit Lyme disease spirochetes.

Symptoms and signs of Lyme disease

Early Lyme Disease: The early stages of Lyme disease is usually marked by one or more of the following symptoms:

- fatigue
- chills and fever
- headache
- muscle and joint pain
- swollen lymph nodes
- a characteristic “bulls eye” skin rash

Late Lyme Disease

Some symptoms and signs of Lyme disease may not appear until weeks, months, or years after a tick bite:

- Arthritis is most likely to appear as brief bouts of pain and swelling, usually in one or more large joints, especially the knees.
- Nervous system abnormalities can include numbness, pain, Bell's palsy (facial paralysis which usually occurs on one side), and meningitis (fever, stiff neck, and severe headache).
- Less frequently, irregularities of the heart rhythm occur.

In some persons the rash never forms; in some, the first and only sign of Lyme disease is arthritis, and in others, nervous system problems are the only evidence of the disease.



How to Remove Ticks:

Because it takes roughly 24-48 hours for a tick to transmit bacteria, it is important to remove ticks from your skin as soon as you discover them.

- Use fine-point tweezers to grasp the tick
- Grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible and pull upward with a steady, even pressure. Try to avoid squeezing the body of the tick
- Do not twist or jerk the tick because this may cause the mouth parts to detach and remain in the skin.
- You should pull firmly enough to lift up the skin. Pull the tick straight out with a firm and steady force.
- If doesn't come out immediately, hold this tension for 3 to 4 minutes and the tick will back out.
- Place the tick in a vial or jar of alcohol to kill it
- Call doctor immediately. Some doctors will want you to save the tick so it can be identified.



Protecting your pets:

- When walking or exercising your outdoor pet, try to keep it away from grassy or wooded areas and leafy debris.
- Check your pet regularly for ticks, especially after any trips through grassy or wooded areas. Comb your pet's hair thoroughly. If you find a tick, remove it promptly.
- Topical Sprays and Spot-ons: You not only want to keep your pets healthy but dogs and cats that roam in tick areas can be of risk to your family. Products when correctly and timely applied to your pets body can greatly reduce the chances of tick bites.