Is Aquatic Weed & Algae Control an Essential Service?

Yes.

Clarke provides aquatic services for lakes and ponds that control and help:

- Prevent harmful algae blooms
- Maintain navigability of waterways
- Balance managed waterfowl and fish habitats
- Maintain healthy recreational waters for the public and help maintain water health for public and wildlife use.
- Maintaining healthy retention ponds, waterways and lakes that are an integral component of a watershed system helps ensure overall water resource quality.

These operations support the public health and safety of communities, and are considered in the Department of Homeland Security guidance as essential businesses and services during a shelter-in-place, community restriction or closure order (*Healthcare & Public Health* and *Food & Agriculture* sectors. Refer to the references on the following page for more information).

Clarke has effected stay-in-place and social distancing protocols for the limited on-site and public staffing to ensure personal safety of our co-workers and the community during the Covid-19 outbreak. Outdoor projects generally will provide for good social distancing that pose little risk of transmission.

Mosquito abatement programs help prevent the spread of vector borne diseases such as West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Dengue, and Zika. These services are essential to help minimize the stress on our medical systems by suppressing illnesses caused by vector borne viruses.

References:

Department of Homeland Security *Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce*

Mosquito control services are covered under Public Works section. *"Workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences."*

Mosquitoes are recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a pest of significant public health importance.

The **CDC** as well as the National Association of City and County Health Organization **(NACCHO)** deems mosquito control as key to managing vector borne diseases in the United States.

For more information about the role of public health mosquito control in the U.S., see the Association of State and Territorial Health Organization's **(ASTHO) *Public Health Confronts the Mosquito*** and National Association of County and City Health Officials **(NACCHO) Capabilities Based Framework for Mosquito Control in the U.S.**

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