

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE RECLAMATION AND MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD

BRISTOL COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT
38R Forest Street * Attleboro, MA 02703
Tel: (508) 823-5253 * Fax: (508) 828-1868

ANNUAL REPORT -BERKLEY, MASSACHUSETTS
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

This year marks the 64th anniversary of the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project and its services to the cities and towns of Bristol County. Our mission is to bring mosquito populations to tolerable levels using a variety of scientifically effective methodologies consistent with applicable laws. Surveillance, water management, biological and chemical controls are performed in an environmentally sensitive manner to minimize potential effects on people, wildlife and the environment. The Project is a regional response to a regional problem, and provides a way of organizing specialized equipment, specially trained employees, and mosquito control professionals into a single agency with a broad geographical area of responsibility.

The Project continues to make investments in new technologies that increase our efficiency and accuracy when fulfilling our mandate. We remain committed to applying environmentally responsible larvicide and adulticide products. Our surveillance program, along with service request data and updated GPS and computer equipment, allow us to focus our pesticide applications to targeted areas.

Disease risk from mosquitoes changes greatly from year to year. Because of this constant change in risk, BCMCP works in close relationship with the MA Dept. of Public Health to analyze disease risk in current and future years.

During the 2023 mosquito season, 14,763 individual mosquitoes in 497 samples were tested for the mosquito borne viruses EEE and WNV. There were 6 isolations of EEE and no human cases in the County. Bristol County had 22 mosquito samples test positive for WNV with no reported human cases. There were no reported equine cases for EEE or WNV.

The Project continues its year-round efforts to reduce mosquito breeding areas through water management and source reduction. Our goal is to remove debris, silt and vegetation from drainage ditches to improve water flow, thus eliminating standing water conducive to larval development. Work is conducted using mechanized machines and by hand.

Bristol County Mosquito Control Project completed the following work in the Town of Berkley during the time period of January 1, 2023– December 31, 2023.

- Sprayed over 3,038 acres
- Treated 17.5 acres in 24 locations with *B.t.i.* for mosquito larvae
- Received and completed 139 requests for spraying
- Cleared and reclaimed 2,150 feet of brush
- Treated 480 catch basins

Throughout the year, we strive to educate the public concerning mosquito borne diseases and simple ways residents can protect themselves and help prevent breeding on their own property. We have many types of outreach programs available including speaking at public health events, radio/newspaper interviews, visiting local schools, senior centers, and creating informational handouts for distribution. Be sure to check out our website: www.mass.gov/eea/bristolcountymosquitocontrol for updates and information.

I would like to thank the town officials and residents of Berkley for their continued support and cooperation. Our Project is extremely proud of the work we perform and look forward to serving our communities in the upcoming year. If there are any questions concerning the Project's efforts or objectives, please feel free to contact our office.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Matton
Superintendent

January 2, 2024

Bristol County Mosquito Control Commissioners:

Joseph Barile, Chairman
Gregory D. Dorrance
Christine A. Fagan
Henry R. Vaillancourt