

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE RECLAMATION AND MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD

BRISTOL COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT  
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**ANNUAL REPORT – BERKLEY, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019**

This year marks the 60th 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 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, this is due to many environmental variables that change every season. Because of this constant change in risk, BCMCP works in a close relationship with the MA Dept. of Public Health to analyze disease risk in current and future years. Often, particularly during drought years, the public tends to forget about mosquito control, it is only the years when arbovirus activity becomes a public health problem that mosquito control gets noticed. 2019 was one of these years, it was extremely active for Eastern Equine encephalitis.

During the 2019 mosquito season, 127,007 mosquitoes were tested for the mosquito borne viruses EEE and WNV. There were 160 isolations of EEE and 3 human cases in the County. Bristol County had 16 mosquito pools test positive for WNV with 1 reported human case. There were no 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.

During the period of January 1, 2019– December 31, 2019 the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project:

- Sprayed over 7,566 acres
- Treated 17.5 acres with *B.t.i.* in 20 locations for mosquito larvae
- Received 419 requests for spraying
- Cleared and reclaimed 2,150 feet of brush
- Treated 600 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](http://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 3, 2020

**Bristol County Mosquito Control Commissioners:**

Robert Davis, Chairman  
Gregory D. Dorrance  
Joseph Barile  
Christine A. Fagan