

Massachusetts State State Police investigate fatal crash on Route 90 in Westfield

This afternoon, at approximately 3:10 p.m., troopers assigned to State Police – Westfield responded to calls of a multiple motor vehicle crash on Route 90 Westbound near the 39.6 mile marker in Westfield.

Preliminary investigation indicates that three vehicles were involved in a crash in the left lane of Route 90 Westbound while in heavy traffic. This crash involved a 2019 Toyota Rav4 operated by a 36-year-old female, a 2017 Ford Super duty pick-up operated by a 57-year-old male and a 2005 Nissan Altima.

Subsequent to that crash a 2003 Peterbilt heavy-duty tow truck also traveling in the left lane struck the rear vehicle of the first crash, the 2005 Nissan Altima. The male operator of the Nissan, a 21-year-old male from Plymouth, was determined to be deceased at the scene.

The victim's name will be released once appropriate next-of-kin notifications are made.

The operator of the Peterbilt, a 24 year-old male, suffered minor injuries and was transported by Westfield EMS to Bay State Medical Center. The operator of the Toyota also suffered minor injuries and was transported by Westfield EMS to Bay State Medical Center. The operator of the Ford was not injured.

The westbound side of Route 90 were closed approximately four hours.

The crash remains under investigation by Troopers assigned to State Police Westfield, State Police Collision Analysis Reconstruction Section, Crime Scene Services Section and Hampden County Detectives. Members of the Westfield Fire & EMS, the Medical Examiner's Office and MassDOT assisted at the scene.

No further information is available at this time.

Massachusetts public health officials announce season's second EEE positive mosquito sample

Residents urged to start using bug spray to avoid getting bitten.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced that eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus has been detected in mosquitoes in Massachusetts for the second time this year. The presence of EEE was confirmed today by the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory in a mosquito sample collected on July 5 in the community of Wendell in Franklin County. Today's finding increases the risk level of EEE to moderate in the communities of Wendell and New Salem. On Friday, the state's first detection of EEE in mosquitoes was also found in Franklin County, which increased the EEE risk level to moderate in the communities of Orange and Athol. No human or animal case of EEE has been detected so far this year.

“We are seeing EEE activity in mosquitoes very early in the season,” said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. “We will continue to conduct additional surveillance, including trapping and testing mosquitoes in the region over the next several weeks to better inform our guidance to local communities.”

EEE is a rare but serious and potentially fatal disease that can affect people of all ages. EEE is generally spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were 12 human cases of EEE in Massachusetts in 2019 with six deaths. There were also nine cases in domestic animals.

“This second early finding reinforces our concern about EEE activity this season,” said State Epidemiologist, Dr. Catherine Brown. “We urge all Massachusetts residents to be aware of the risks associated with mosquito bites and to take precautions against being bitten.”

Information about current mosquito activity is updated daily and can be found [here](#).

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long-sleeves,

long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent West Nile virus (WNV) and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795 and to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results, can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information webpage at www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800. A short video with State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown about EEE and what residents can do to protect themselves can be found [here](#).

New Law Sets in Motion Mail-In, Early Voting Options in Massachusetts

Chris Lisinski

State House News Service

A dramatic expansion of mail-in and early voting in Massachusetts is now law, and Secretary of State William Galvin is now preparing to quickly mail applications to all 4.5 million of the state's registered voters by a deadline next week.

Galvin announced late Monday afternoon that Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law the reforms drafted during the pandemic and aimed at ensuring maximum participation while allowing people to choose voting options and minimize their COVID-19 risks. This election season, for the first time in the state's history, all voters who wish to do so will be able to cast a ballot via mail without needing to qualify for an absentee ballot. By July 15, Galvin's office must send applications for mail-in primary election ballots to all voters. His staff will then need to send another round of applications in September for the general election.

The new law also creates the state's first-ever early voting period before a primary election, from Aug. 22 to Aug. 28, and expands general election early voting to run from Oct. 17 to Oct. 30. A six-member legislative conference committee reached a deal last week after both branches passed their own reform bills. The House passed the compromise legislation 157-1, with only Dracut Democratic Rep. Colleen Garry voting against it,

while the Senate approved the measure unanimously.

Baker had until Sunday to decide whether to sign, veto or return the bill with an amendment. By signing it Monday, he gave Galvin more than a week to meet the July 15 application-mailing deadline rather than only a few days. Baker had offered few hints about his thinking on the topic. In late May, he questioned the urgency of the issue, arguing that “the elections are a long way away.”

Community Foundation Awards Over \$1.5M to 41 Nonprofits from the SouthCoast Emergency Response Fund in June

The Community Foundation today announced that in June they have awarded over \$1.5 Million to 41 nonprofits providing significant emergency support for essential front-line workers and vulnerable populations, including the homeless, immigrant families, people with disabilities and those facing food insecurity.

These grants contribute to the more than \$2.68 Million that the Community Foundation has allocated over the past three months through its SouthCoast Emergency Response Fund. The Fund supports nonprofits that are on the frontlines serving those in our region most severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of the grants made in June, \$820,000 was distributed to organizations alleviating hunger and homelessness throughout

the region. From Round the Bend Farm of South Dartmouth for their Manifest Love project to the Wareham Area Committee for the Homeless who is providing rental and utility assistance, and support for parents through their Baby Point program, these grants were wide-ranging and awarded to organizations that are making a big impact in the communities they serve.

Another significant portion of these grants was made to organizations providing direct supports to immigrant families in need. \$410,000 was distributed to organizations including the Cambodian American Rescue Organization (CARO) and Centro Comunitario De Trabajadores (CCT) which will use grant funds to purchase gift cards, culturally specific food and sanitary supplies (PPE) for immigrant families. The Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern Massachusetts (CEDC) will utilize grant funds to support undocumented and mixed status immigrant taxpayer households who have fallen behind on rent, medical, utility and other bills, due to loss of employment as a result of the pandemic.

Other grants made through these two rounds will provide supports for essential/frontline workers, disabled individuals, and organizations providing mental health services.

These grants are made possible through the Community Foundation's partnership with the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund. The Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund supports those across the state most impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis, focusing on essential frontline workers and vulnerable populations including the homeless, immigrant populations, people with disabilities and those facing food insecurity. The Fund works in concert with regional community foundations and non-profit leaders who partner with local leaders to understand the response and relief landscape, strategically filling in where gaps are pronounced. For more information, visit MACovid19ReliefFund.org.

“The pandemic has reminded us of how fragile our lives are but also how truly resilient, innovative, and caring our community is”, said John Vasconcellos, President of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts.

To date, the Fund has raised more than \$4.2 Million from a wide range of corporate donors, foundations, and individuals, in response to the Community Foundation’s call to come together on behalf of our community.

Details of each grantee’s work can be found listed below. Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000 were distributed to the following organizations:

Grantees:

Early June:

- Attleboro Interfaith Area Collaborative
- Cambodian American Rescue Organization
- Catholic Social Services Diocese of Fall River, Inc.
- Citizens for Citizens, Inc.
- Coastal Foodshed, Inc.
- Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Inc.
- Hockomock Area YMCA, Inc.
- Northstar Learning Centers, Inc.
- People Acting In Community Endeavors (PACE) Community Housing Corporation
- Round the Bend Farm, Inc.
- Schwartz Center for Children
- United Interfaith Action of Southeastern Massachusetts
- United Way of Greater Fall River, Inc.
- Wareham Area Committee for the Homeless

Late June:

- Balanced Learning Center, Inc.

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South
- Bristol Community College Foundation, Inc.
- Centro Comunitario De Trabajadores
- Citizens for Citizens, Inc.
- Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, Inc.
- HealthFirst Family Care Center, Inc.
- Hockomock Area YMCA, Inc.
- Immigrants' Assistance Center
- Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford
- Kennedy-Donovan Center, Inc.
- M.O.L.I.F.E., Inc.
- My Brother's Keeper, Inc.
- Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen Foundation -Taunton
- Our Daily Bread- Mansfield's Food Pantry
- Plymouth Task Force to End Homelessness
- Seven Hills Behavioral Health, Inc.
- The Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry, Inc.
- The Literacy Center, Inc.
- The Salvation Army
- UMASS Dartmouth Foundation
- United Way of Fall River, Inc.
- United Way of Greater New Bedford, Inc.
- West Side Benevolent Circle, Inc.
- YMCA Southcoast, Inc.
- YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts

How to give

You can help those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting our region's nonprofits on the front lines. Donations to the SouthCoast Emergency Response Fund may be made online at <https://cfsema.securepayments.cardpointe.com/pay>.

For general questions and inquiries about the Fund, please direct your inquiry to emergencyfund@cfsema.org. For any questions regarding making a donation, please contact the Community Foundation's Development Manager, Tricia Grime at pgrime@cfsema.org. Lastly, for media inquiries and interview

requests, please contact Jasmyrn Baird at jbaird@cfsema.org.

About the Community Foundation

Our Community. Your Foundation. Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. The Community Foundation is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts. To date, the Community Foundation has distributed over \$25 million from over 175 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. More information about the Foundation can be found at www.cfsema.org.

Mosquito spraying scheduled for Dartmouth, Somerset, Taunton, Westport, and other towns

The Bristol County Mosquito Control Project will be doing more ground spraying concerning mosquitoes.

The following cities and towns are expected to be treated on Monday, July 6th, 2020 between 2:00 a.m. and sunrise.

Dartmouth, Easton, Mansfield, Somerset, Taunton, and Westport

These spray applications will be limited to the general areas listed below, subject to weather and spray operator's

discretion. For more information, residents may call the BCMCP office during business hours from 8 AM until 2 PM at 508-823-5253.

Scroll through the list to see if your street is on it.

2020-Adulticide-Daily-Schedule_7-6

Massachusetts State Police arrest Vermont man and women for Trafficking Narcotics

At about 9:00 p.m., July 3, 2020, Troopers Adam Couture and Michael Leslie, assigned to the State Police Shelburne Falls, were on patrol on Route 91 northbound near in Bernardston when they observed a black Jeep Patriot speeding. The Jeep had a temporary license plate that was unreadable.

The Troopers conducted a motor vehicle stop and spoke to the operator, KWESI WILSON, a 35-year-old man from Londonderry Vermont. WILSON had a suspended license. The passenger ASHLEY BLANCHARD a 27-year-old woman from Holly Mountain Vermont was not wearing a seat belt.

As a result of a subsequent investigation, Trooper Couture and Leslie located approximately 100 grams of white powder consistent with crack cocaine as well as approximately 200 white waxed baggies of heroin. Also located was a digital scale and a machete.

WILSON and BLANCARD were placed under arrest and transported to the State Police-Shelburne Falls Barracks.

WILSON and BLANCARD were transported to and held at the Franklin County House of Corrections in Greenfield pending arraignment.

WILSON was charged with the following offenses:

1. Trafficking In Cocaine;
2. Possession with intent to distribute Heroin;
3. Conspiracy to violate drug laws;
4. Possession of dangerous weapon (Machete);
5. Failure to wear seat belt;
6. Operate a Motor Vehicle with License Suspended/Revoked;
7. Speeding;
8. Unregistered motor vehicle;
9. Equipment violation;

BLANCHARD was charged with the following offenses:

1. Trafficking In Cocaine;
 2. Possession with intent to distribute Heroin;
 3. Conspiracy to violate drug laws;
 4. Possession of dangerous weapon (Machete);
 5. Failure to wear seat belt;
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New Bedford woman arrested for breaking into car on Fourth of July

On Saturday, July 4, 2020, at approximately 3:44 a.m., while patrolling the Allen Street area, Dartmouth Police Officer Brian Parent reports observing a female, subsequently identified as 32-year old Cassie Mandeville of Purchase Street

in New Bedford, breaking into a vehicle.

As a result of the incident, Mandeville was placed under arrest and is charged with a felony count of breaking and entering into a vehicle during the nighttime. In addition, Mandeville also had three outstanding arrest warrants, all of which were related to breaking and entering.

According to Dartmouth Chief of Police, Brian P. Levesque, "This arrest is the direct result of the dogged determination of our Patrol Division to prevent crime 24/7. As it is inherently difficult to catch someone in the act of committing a crime, this arrest is the perfect example of an officer remaining both vigilant and knowledgeable of the area which he or she is responsible for patrolling."

As car breaks are a constant issue, the Dartmouth Police Department continues to encourage residents to remain proactive in monitoring their security systems and locking their vehicles.

Massachusetts State Police Lt. Col. Robert Favuzza retires after 33 years of service

Colonel Christopher Mason (left) and Lieutenant Colonel Scott Warmington (right), Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of Department, congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Robert Favuzza earlier this week upon his retirement after 33 years with the Massachusetts State Police.

Lt. Col. FAVUZZA most recently commanded the Division of Standards and Training, where his accomplishments included overseeing the successful completion of the 85th Recruit Training Troop, perhaps the most challenging Academy class in the MSP's history due to training adaptations necessitated by the coronavirus public health crisis. Lt. Col. Favuzza previously commanded MSP Troop F, which provides policing and security for Logan Airport and other Port Authority properties.

We wish him well in the next chapter of his life.

An Open Moment for Ernestina-Morrissey and for all of us

As we approach the celebration of our Nation's beginnings 244 years ago, we must consider where we are now. The statement below, shared by Laura Pires-Hester, past Chairwoman of the Ernestina Commission and Julius Britto, President of Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association, reflects on Ernestina-Morrissey's place in history, and her place in the present and in the future.

An Open Moment

Most Americans today would agree that this is a momentous period for us—as individuals, as a country, and as a people. We have seen too many senseless deaths of African Americans, especially African-American males, at the hands of police officers.

While several of these names are now well-known, we have also been reminded of the names of those less well-known or totally forgotten. We have seen how this moment has brought to the

forefront our country's centuries-old "Black/White" challenges, and how the phrase and movement Black Lives Matter has crystallized those challenges. Corporations, community organizations, educational institutions, sports associations, faith leaders and faith-based institutions and others have acknowledged the painful reality of this moment and the need for change, including within their own walls. Some have also declared their own specific action commitments. Different sectors of our society are not only demanding "what must be done" but also resolving "what we will do."

What does Ernestina-Morrissey have to do with the age of Black Lives Matter? What can this 1894 Gloucester Schooner now being reconstructed to resume active sailing tell us?

Ernestina-Morrissey returned to the state of her birthplace as the extraordinary gift from newly-independent Cabo Verde in 1982, in explicit acknowledgement of the centuries-old ties between the African country and the "people of the United States". Her return crew, composed of a diverse crew, citizens of Cabo Verde and of the U.S., men and one woman, and led by Cabo Verde's Captain Marcus Nascimento Lopes, demonstrated and honored the diversity of her history and future.

Over the decades between her birth and repatriation, hundreds of people and organizations played significant roles in her history. Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey is alive today because Black People and White People listened to and learned about each other's histories, hurts, and aspirations; challenged each other; acknowledged their similarities and differences; and collaborated with each other.

We believe that at this critical moment many are seeking opportunities for bridge-building, boundary-crossing, and more authentic listening to each other, especially toward the goal of building a more just society for all. We believe that Ernestina-Morrissey's return to sailing can help provide such opportunities, especially for young people of all ethnicities

but also for people of all ages.

This conviction comes not from wishful thinking but from actual experience of utilizing Ernestina-Morrissey as educational platform, cultural ambassador, intercultural and interracial relations educator, youth developer, etc. In the fast-changing environment of 2020 and beyond—with issues of social justice and local and global survival concerns at peak level—Ernestina-Morrissey's powerful potentials are limitless.

This is a powerful “open moment” in our nation when people from all perspectives and histories are listening to, and hearing, other people and experiences perhaps for the first time. There is much to be done and no one person or entity can do it alone. But everyone and every entity can do a part. We are excited about Ernestina-Morrissey's sailing again, educating again, bringing people together again, telling her distinguished story again, and playing her part to help unite people of all colors around the world.

This Project to rehabilitate Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey, the official vessel of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is being supported by a public/private partnership with funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, The Lenfest Foundation, the Hildreth Stewart Charitable Foundation, The Manton Foundation, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts – Mary Morley Crapo Hyde Eccles Fund, the City of New Bedford's Community Preservation Act Program, the Carney Family Foundation, the Island Foundation, other grants and many individual contributions.

Massachusetts State Police and State Officials remind public to prioritize safety during holiday weekend

As Massachusetts celebrates Independence Day this weekend, state environmental and public safety officials are urging members of the public to use caution and common sense on roadways and in the water, to avoid the risks posed by illegal fireworks, and to continue practicing health and safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 during the July 4 holiday weekend.

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides on Friday joined EOPSS Undersecretary Terrence Reidy, State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Environmental Police Colonel Shaun Santos, and State Police Colonel Christopher Mason at Constitution Beach in East Boston to discuss the importance of using caution to ensure a safe and healthy holiday weekend for all Massachusetts residents.

“As we celebrate Independence Day this year under the unique and unprecedented circumstances created by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is critically important that residents throughout the Commonwealth are mindful to prioritize safety for themselves, their families, and their neighbors,” said EEA Secretary Theoharides. “In recent weeks we have seen an increase in tragic boating accidents, as well as drought conditions that increase the risk of brush fires, and we urge the public to take extra care when engaging in outdoor recreational activities to keep themselves and others safe and healthy throughout the holiday weekend.”

“The people of Massachusetts have done a remarkable job in

reducing the spread of COVID-19, but the virus isn't taking a holiday," said EOPSS Undersecretary Reidy. "We're asking that everyone observe Independence Day safely by using face coverings and maintaining social distance in public, operating boats and vehicles responsibly, and leaving fireworks to professionals."

As a result of low precipitation since May and recent above normal temperatures leading to drying conditions across the Commonwealth and steep declines in precipitation and streamflow, several regions in Massachusetts are in a Level 2 – **Significant Drought**. At Level 2 – Significant Drought, as outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, conditions are becoming significantly dry, increasing the potential risk for brush fires.

"Massachusetts has had more than 700 **brush fires** this year, consuming hundreds of acres of land," said Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "Fire safety is a year-round priority, but in light of the significant drought conditions we're urging extra caution with grills, campfires, and smoking materials. We're also reminding the public that fireworks aren't just illegal in Massachusetts but dangerous as well. They can cause grave injury, burn down a home, or spark an outdoor fire that takes days to bring under control. Preventable fires can slow down the response to other common emergencies, so please play it safe and smart this summer."

Boaters are reminded that operating any vessel under the influence of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited. To help address boating under the influence (BUI), the Massachusetts Environmental Police will take part in **Operation Dry Water**, a nationwide campaign addressing BUI during the July 4 weekend. Increased numbers of recreational boaters on the water, as well as an increase in the number of injuries and deadly accidents related to boating under the influence, is common during the July 4 holiday weekend. The U.S. Coast Guard, local and state law enforcement agencies, recreational boating

safety advocates and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) are participating to help raise awareness and prevent tragedies related to boating under the influence.

“It is important that boaters take important steps to practice safe and responsible boating, as the Commonwealth has seen a dramatic increase in tragic boating accidents this year,” said Massachusetts Environmental Police Colonel Shaun Santos. “As we anticipate significant boating traffic throughout the July 4 holiday, the Massachusetts Environmental Police will take part in Operation Dry Water and will focus on enforcing Boating Under the Influence law to increase boating safety throughout the Commonwealth.”

According to the United States Coast Guard, there were 4,168 recreational boating accidents nationally in 2019 leading to 613 deaths, 2,559 injuries and approximately \$55 million dollars of damage to property. Of the fatalities, 77% were due to drowning. Of those who drowned, 84% of the victims were not wearing a lifejacket.

Boaters are also prohibited from operating within 150 feet of public or private swimming areas. All boaters are urged to operate their vessels at reasonable speeds based upon existing conditions, including traffic density, weather, and visibility. For inland waters, operating at a speed greater than 45 mph is considered excessive.

Under Massachusetts law, boaters under the age of 12 may not operate a motorboat unless accompanied and supervised by an adult. Children under the age of 16 may not operate a personal watercraft. Children ages 12-15 must complete an approved boating safety course to operate a motorboat, children ages 16 and 17 must do so to operate a personal watercraft. All boating accidents must be reported to the Massachusetts Environmental Police at (800) 632-8075.

Parents and caregivers are also reminded to pay extra attention to young children in and around **swimming pools, lakes, and beaches** even when a lifeguard is present.

“Massachusetts State Police will be on the road to keep **motorists** safe this holiday and every day,” said Massachusetts State Police Colonel Christopher Mason. “Be sober, slow down, wear your seatbelt, and when you are the driver, pay attention to your only responsibility – driving the car. And we urge motorcyclists to be just as careful. Nothing says freedom more than the open road, so slow down and enjoy the ride.”

Officials said state beaches and other Department of Conservation and Recreation sites would be open this weekend but emphasized the need to follow public health guidance on those properties to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and exposure.

Recently, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) created a Find a Park webpage to provide the public with information prior to visiting a state parks property. The webpage, which has a search feature to identify state park properties within a select distance, displays pertinent details about each state park or facility, such as the availability of amenities, recreational activities offered, trail maps, and more. Importantly, the new webpage will enable visitors to shape their plans prior to exploring the state parks system’s many properties throughout the Commonwealth.