



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DPNR ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY EVENT:
“BUILDING A CONNECTION TO OUR PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS”**

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) is excited to invite the public to a special event hosted by the Division of Territorial Parks and Protected Areas (TPPA). The event, titled *“BUILDING CONNECTION TO OUR PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS,”* will take place on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library Auditorium on St. Thomas.

This interactive session will bring together community members and partners for meaningful discussions on topics such as park development, stewardship, system diversification, and advancing conservation efforts.

TPPA is honored to welcome Parker McMullen Bushman as the featured guest and presenter. Parker is widely recognized as *“an innovative leader, speaker, and facilitator dedicated to creating transformative experiences that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice across industries and for the environment.”*

Kristina “Kitty” Edwards, Director of TPPA, shared her enthusiasm:

“I am ecstatic for the community to have the opportunity to meet Parker and participate in this interactive presentation! Over the years, I have attended multiple online sessions and followed their work closely. Parker’s insights have deeply influenced how I navigate conservation spaces.”

Event Details:

- **Date:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026
- **Time:** 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library Auditorium, St. Thomas
- **Registration:** <https://TPPABuildingConnectiontoOurParks.eventbrite.com>
- Light snacks will be provided

For more information, please contact TPPA Director Kristina “Kitty” Edwards at kristina.edwards@dprn.vi.gov.