

Wetlands and Water Resources

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Credits

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- Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC)
- Michael Howard, Epsilon Associates

Management Goal

The first of DCR's stated Management Goals for the RMP is: "Protect the Quality of Water Resources." It reads:

Wetlands and water resources at the Middlesex Fells Reservation provide clean drinking water, aquatic habitats and water-based recreation. Manage the reservation to ensure that water quality of wetlands, streams, vernal pools, ponds and reservoirs is protected.

Types of Wetlands & Waterways



Inland Wetlands (per WPA)

- Land Under Water (lakes & ponds)
- Bordering Vegetated Wetland (swamps, marshes)
- Banks (rivers and streams)
- Land Subject to Flooding (Bordering, Isolated – vernal pools)
- Riverfront Area (in Fells?)

Authority for Protection of Wetlands

- Mass Department of Environmental Protection (for state & on behalf of federal)
- Conservation Commissions (Stoneham, Winchester, Melrose, Malden, Medford)
- Also: MWRA, Winchester Water Department protect water supplies

Wetland Values: Eight Interests of the W.P. Act

- 1 Private & Public Water Supply
- 2 Ground Water Protection
- 3 Pollution Prevention
- 4 Flood Prevention
- 5 Storm Damage Protection
- 6 Land Containing Shellfish
- 7 Fisheries
- 8 Wildlife Habitat

Jurisdiction: Activities

ACTIVITIES subject to regulation under the Act are Activities that will:

**Remove, Fill, Dredge, or Alter a
Resource Area**

The Regulatory Process

File permit request simultaneously with MassDEP and the relevant Conservation Commission(s)

Review by DEP and Conservation Commission(s)

May approve with conditions or deny

DEP and Conservation Commissions may also take enforcement action – including for ongoing violations, such as damage to a wetland from park users

Wildlife Habitat

Protection for Physical and Biological Factors Providing:

- Food
- Shelter
- Breeding areas
- Over-wintering areas
- Migration areas and travel corridors

Protection for Wildlife Habitat

- Protection for important habitat
- Special protection for rare species

310 CMR 10.37 & 10.59

- Protection for vernal pool habitat

310 CMR 10.57

- Thresholds and wildlife habitat evaluations

310 CMR 10.60; Wetlands Policy 88-2; Wildlife Advisory #2; DEP's MA Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guidance, issued March 2006

Final Word

- Wetlands and waterways provide many benefits to both people and wildlife
- They are protected by law
- Protection of wetlands and waterways should be incorporated into RMP
- MassDEP and local Conservation Commissions should be asked to comment on draft RMP