



2018

Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update



June 2018

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Water Supply Protection
Office of Watershed Management
Quabbin/Ware Region

ABSTRACT

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection (DWSP), controls over 82,000 acres of land and water in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System. DWSP manages these resources primarily for drinking water quality protection. The first public access management plan for the Quabbin Reservoir watershed was produced in 1988; this is the third subsequent update of the plan (previous updates were published in 1998 and 2006). The *2018 Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update* explains DWSP's policies and procedures related to public access management within the System. The plan outlines control and monitoring mechanisms used to mitigate possible negative impacts from general and specific public access activities within the watershed system. DWSP has involved stakeholders since 1988 in its public access policy development, review, and modification. The general public – local residents, land abutters, visitors, and environmental organizations – have been supportive of DWSP's policies to protect the public water supply while allowing controlled access.

Acknowledgements:

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ACRONYMS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle, includes four-wheeled, three-wheeled, and two-wheeled (dirt bike) off-road vehicles.
BLA	Boat Launch Area
CMR	Code of Massachusetts Regulations
DCR	Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
DEM	former Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (currently DCR)
DEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
DWSP	DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FEE	Complete ownership of land
MDC	former Metropolitan District Commission (currently DCR)
MGL	Massachusetts General Laws
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWRA	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
QBS	Quabbin Boat Seal
QWAC	Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee
SCORP	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SWTR	Surface Water Treatment Rule
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle ("drone")
WPR	Watershed Preservation Restriction
WSCAC	Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee

I. Introduction

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Division of Water Supply Protection, Office of Watershed Management (DWSP) Water Supply Watershed System provides source drinking water to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) for treatment and distribution to 2.5 million people. The source of water for the DCR/MWRA Water Supply System comes from three separate watersheds: Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River, and Wachusett Reservoir. The Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs are an emergency water supply source, last used briefly for a water supply emergency in 2010. The watershed system is large and well protected (**Map 1**).

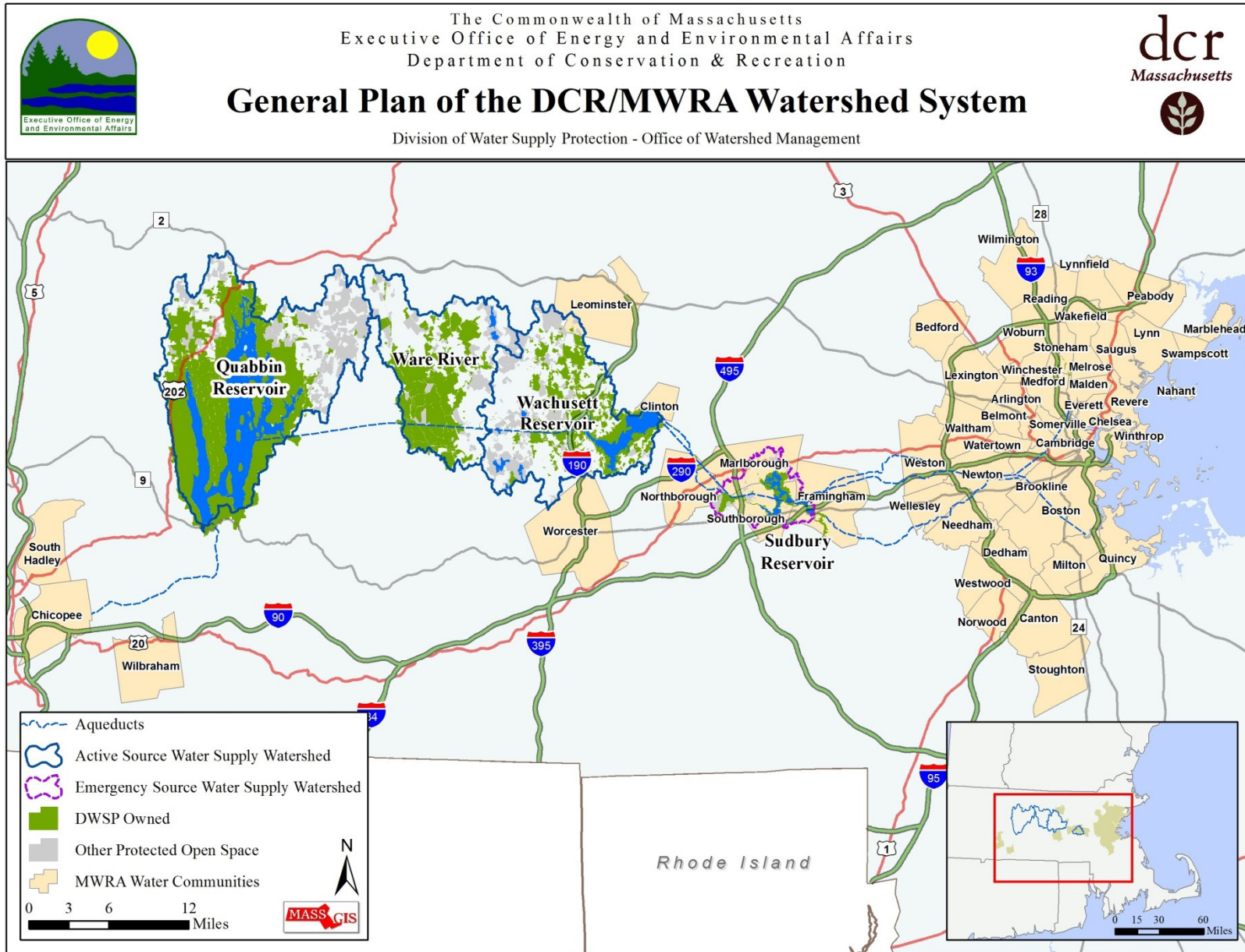
Quabbin Reservoir is one of the largest single purpose water supply reservoirs in the world. It serves as both the terminal supply reservoir for three communities serviced by the Chicopee Valley Aqueduct and as a storage reservoir for 48 communities east of the reservoir serviced by the Quabbin Aqueduct. The Wachusett Reservoir is the terminal supply reservoir for metropolitan Boston; it receives runoff from its watershed as well as transfers from the Quabbin Reservoir through the Quabbin Aqueduct. Flow from the Ware River Watershed, located between the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoir watersheds, can be diverted to Quabbin Reservoir by reversing flow in the Quabbin Aqueduct. Ware River flows can only be diverted to Quabbin Reservoir when the Quabbin Aqueduct is not being used to transfer flow from Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Reservoir. The Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs are emergency supplies and not part of the active water supply system.

The purpose of this plan is to guide and control public access and use of lands managed by DWSP within the Quabbin Reservoir watershed. The 120,000 acre Quabbin Reservoir watershed includes the area of the reservoir and portions of 12 towns (listed clockwise from the DWSP field office in Belchertown): Belchertown, Pelham, Shutesbury, New Salem, Wendell, Orange, Athol, Petersham, Phillipston, Barre, Hardwick, and Ware.

Public access to and recreational uses of water supply property are complex and sometimes controversial issues. There is an inherent conflict between water supply protection and public demand for access to these resources. Any human activity on or near water supply source waters can introduce disease-causing agents or pollutants to the water supply. Water supply managers must exercise caution when considering policies for public access and recreation on water supply lands. DWSP factors into its management that the source water protection program provided for MWRA's water supply must meet strict state and federal oversight guidelines as it services one of the few unfiltered drinking water supplies in the nation. At the same time, DWSP recognizes that these reservoirs and the DWSP lands surrounding them are valuable environmental resources of the Commonwealth that are attractive to watershed residents and the general public. DWSP, whose primary responsibility is water supply protection, views its public access plans as a blueprint for determining the levels of access that may be reasonably allowed without risking water supply safety, security, or re-directing DWSP resources.

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs 2012 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was reviewed when developing this plan; common issues and activities were integrated when appropriate for water supply protection lands. DWSP's goals and implementation priorities in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed, however, are based on its mission to protect this drinking water supply resource from public access impacts.

Map 1. DCR/MWRA Water Supply System



The policies outlined in this plan are for land owned in full fee by DWSP. DWSP also controls the development rights to 3,684 acres in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed through deeded Watershed Preservation Restrictions (WPRs, which are similar to Conservation Restrictions, are land restrictions on private property in DWSP's Watershed System encompassing the Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River, and Wachusett Reservoir watersheds). The purchase of a WPR by DWSP does not give the public any rights to access the private property. *Public access on land subject to WPRs is solely at the discretion of the landowner.*

A. Overview of the DCR/MWRA Water Supply System

1. Brief History

The Boston metropolitan area drinking water supply has grown from 18th century cisterns to two source supply reservoirs that were the largest of their kinds when constructed in the first half of the 20th century. The name of the agency responsible for these invaluable resources has changed many times over the past two centuries, but the mission of stewardship has remained constant. Shortly after the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir in 1908, Chapter 313 of the Acts of 1919, Section 12 transferred control of this water supply system from the Metropolitan Water and Sewer Board to the water division of a newly created state agency, the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). Despite Wachusett Reservoir's size, it was determined that additional capacity was required for the Boston region. The Quabbin Reservoir was constructed during the 1930s, using the Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike to impound the Swift river and flood an area formerly occupied by the four Western Massachusetts towns of Dana, Enfield, Prescott, and Greenwich. In order to make construction of the reservoir possible, 2,500 residents of those four towns were forced to relocate, and all buildings, structures, and cemeteries were removed from the valley. Quabbin Reservoir was completed in 1939; it took several years to completely fill, and came on line in 1946.

As part of the efforts to clean up Boston Harbor, the Massachusetts legislature, under Chapter 372 of the Acts of 1984, divided the former MDC Water Division into the MDC Division of Watershed Management (DWM) and the Waterworks Division of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). The MDC/DWM became responsible for reservoir watershed operation and management to supply a safe and sufficient supply of water to the MWRA; the MWRA became responsible for the treatment and distribution of this water. Additional historic materials can be found on both the DCR and MWRA websites (www.mass.gov/orgs/dcr-office-of-watershed-management; www.mwra.com/04water/html/hist1.htm).

In July 2003, Chapter 26 of the Acts of 2003, section 290 merged the MDC with the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to create the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The responsibilities of the former MDC/DWM were transferred in their entirety to the Office of Watershed Management within the Division of Water Supply Protection. Despite these name changes, the mission of the Division of Water Supply Protection's Office of Watershed Management remains consistent with its predecessors: to provide pure water through responsible land management. Together, DWSP and the MWRA provide high quality drinking water to approximately 2.5 million residents in 51 communities, primarily in the Boston region.

There is a well-established working relationship between DWSP and MWRA. MWRA's ratepayers entirely fund the Office of Watershed Management's annual \$25 million budget, including costs associated with land acquisition and payments in lieu of taxes. The terms of this relationship are defined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two agencies. The latest version of this MOU, developed soon after the creation of DWSP, was signed into effect in April, 2004. Though DWSP is a department of the Commonwealth, it is not funded by Massachusetts taxpayers; the entire budget, including land acquisitions, is paid through MWRA ratepayers.

The legislature further enhanced the ability of DWSP to maintain this drinking water supply by establishing a Water Supply Protection Trust, created by Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2004, s. 27, and written into the general laws at MGL c. 10, § 73. The Trust provides an efficient mechanism for MWRA's funding of DWSP's Office of Watershed Management. The Water Supply Protection Trust has a five person board of trustees responsible for approving the Office of Watershed Management's annual work plan and budget each spring for the following fiscal year beginning in July.

2. DWSP Mission

The land surrounding the Quabbin Reservoir is managed by DWSP in order to protect the quality of the reservoir water, enhance the ecological integrity of the watershed, and ensure the future protection of these valuable natural resources from pollution, encroachment, and environmentally damaging public use.

The DWSP's mission is laid out in its enabling legislation and subsequent amendments, found at MGL c. 92A½, §2. The statute directs DWSP to:

...construct, maintain and operate a system of watersheds, reservoirs, water rights and rights in sources of water supply [to] supply thereby a sufficient supply of pure water to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, and shall utilize and conserve said water and other natural resources to protect, preserve and enhance the environment of the Commonwealth and to assure the availability of pure water for future generations.

Building on this legislatively-defined mission, DWSP's current responsibilities include:

- Safe and efficient operations and maintenance of the source facilities (including dams).
- Preservation and enhancement of the water quality of the supply sources, using education, enforcement, and cooperation to meet state and federal water quality standards and protect public health.
- Watershed management activities associated with surface water protection.
- Regulatory compliance with specific directives of the Legislature, such as the protection of the water supply sources, consideration of recreation opportunities, and enforcing rules and regulations for DWSP lands and water resources.
- Public outreach and education to involve watershed towns, residents, and the public to increase stewardship of the water resources under DWSP's care and control.

DWSP staff concentrates on the management, operation, and maintenance of the DCR/MWRA water supply system watersheds, reservoirs, dams, and dikes. The MWRA is responsible for water treatment and distribution. MWRA finances the Water Supply Protection Trust, which funds DWSP, as well as major capital infrastructure, including the Winsor and Wachusett Dams. DWSP and MWRA work closely together, as defined in a 2004 Memorandum of Understanding. DWSP staff includes professional engineers, analysts, planners, watershed rangers, foresters, aquatic biologists, natural resources specialists, geographic information specialists, wildlife biologists, and support staff with a variety of skills and training. DWSP staff carry out specific watershed protection programs, provide public outreach and environmental education to watershed communities and visitors, and administer and enforce watershed protection regulations (313 CMR 11.00). Staff activities are guided, integrated, and prioritized by DWSP's *2013 Watershed Protection Plan Update* and an annual *Work Plan*. Public access management within land owned by or on waters controlled by DWSP is an important element of the DWSP comprehensive watershed protection program.

3. Regulatory Overview

Public drinking water supplies are highly regulated in the United States to protect public health. Both federal and state laws, including the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act along with its 1996 Amendments, the Surface Water Treatment Rule, and the Massachusetts State Surface Water Supply Regulations, 310 CMR 22.00 require water providers to meet rigorous water quality standards for source waters(see Appendix A for 310 CMR 22.20B, Surface Water Supply Protection regulations). Public water systems have responsibilities under 310 CMR 22.00 to control activities and to take enforcement to protect sources. These standards change over time based on research and testing. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers federal water quality regulations throughout the country. In Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been given primary responsibility for assuring compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations, and consistently monitors water quality throughout the DCR/MWRA water system to ensure compliance with these regulations.

The DCR/MWRA water supply system is subject to further scrutiny because it is an unfiltered water system. The Federal Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR, 1989) and Interim Enhanced SWTR (1998) essentially requires filtration for all surface water supplies across country, but does allow for a waiver from this expensive infrastructure for the highest quality source waters that maintain effective watershed control programs which demonstrate “substantial control” over all pollutant sources. DEP’s Watershed Resource Protection Plan Policy (89-09) set standards for the information required in a Watershed Control Program plan for SWTR filtration avoidance, including: maps; description; activities (natural and manmade); control of activities; land agreements and ownership; and management and operations. DEP also established in 1996 a set of “Measures of Success” for Unfiltered Watershed Protection Efforts, requiring programmatic milestones in several categories: Watershed Control; Public Access/Recreation; Wildlife Management; Infrastructure Improvements; In-lake Problems; Sampling; System Operation/Maintenance, Staffing; Emergency Planning/Response; and Education/Multi-town Coordination.

DWSP and its predecessor agency have successfully met DEP's "Measures of Success" since the first comprehensive Watershed Protection Plan was developed for the Quabbin Reservoir watershed in 1991. The watershed protection program, including the Watershed Protection regulations, 313 CMR 11.00, were a key factor in the successful defense against a federal lawsuit that attempted to require the MWRA to build a filtration plant (*USA v. Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and Metropolitan District Commission (Civil Action Number 98-10267)*).

There are several state laws and statutes that further guide DWSP watershed activities:

- **Chapter 737 of the Acts of 1972 (Kelly-Wetmore Act)**
Guiding law for activities on the Quabbin Reservoir and Ware River watersheds. It established initial rules for Quabbin Reservation and Off-Reservation zones and states that natural ecology shall be maintained, no new roads or ways are to be constructed (except for watershed management), and that public access is allowed only if consistent with the Act – except for the Prescott peninsula which is set aside for ecological and wildlife study.
- **Chapter 372 of the Acts of 1984 (MWRA Enabling Act)**
This law created the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and divided drinking water responsibilities between the MWRA and the Metropolitan District Commission's Division of Watershed Management. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) further delineated each agency's role in watershed management. **Chapter 26 of the Acts of 2003, s. 290** created the Department of Conservation and Recreation; the Division of Water Supply Protection assumed all responsibilities of the former MDC Division of Watershed Management and a new MOU was established with MWRA.
- **MGL c. 92A ½ (Watershed Management)**
This general law is the legal basis for most elements of the Division of Water Supply Protection. It incorporates the provisions of Chapter 36 of the Acts of 1992, the Watershed Protection Act ("the Cohen Bill"). Section 13 is the legislative support for the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee.
- **MGL c. 10, § 75 (Water Supply Protection Trust)**
The legislature enhanced the ability of DWSP to maintain the drinking water supply by establishing a Water Supply Protection Trust. This is the general law based on Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2004, s. 27 that created the Trust. The trust provides an efficient mechanism for MWRA's funding of DWSP and for the reviewing, monitoring, and approving of the annual *Work Plan*.
- **313 CMR 11.00 (Watershed Protection Regulations)**
These regulations incorporate the provision of MGL c. 92A½ as well as other rules on the management of the watershed system. Sections 11.01-11.08 cover the Watershed Protection Act, which controls development in the Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River, and Wachusett Reservoir watersheds. Section 11.09 contains the "General Rules and Regulations for the Protection of Watersheds and the Watershed System," including many provisions regarding public access and recreational activities. These regulations were formerly listed as 350 CMR 11.00, but were changed in February 2017 to 313 CMR 11.00 in order to be listed as a DCR regulation.

Both DEP and EPA maintain strict oversight of DWSP operations and watershed protection activities in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed. DEP conducts annual inspections of the system because MWRA is a public water supplier. DEP uses four distinct criteria in its evaluation of DWSP's watershed protection efforts:

- Demonstration and implementation of watershed control.
- On-site inspection of the water supply system.
- Documented absence of waterborne disease outbreaks.
- Compliance with the existing U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act's maximum contaminant levels.

Each year DEP conducts a thorough inspection of DWSP's watershed control program at Quabbin Reservoir. Inspection of the watershed and review of drinking water treatment processes include evaluation of specific criteria to measure the system's ability to produce safe drinking water. Inspection elements included the following:

- A. A review of the effectiveness of the Watershed Protection/Control Program Plan.
- B. A review of the physical condition of the source intakes and how well they are protected.
- C. A review of the appropriateness of the system's disinfection equipment and maintenance program in order to ensure a high operating reliability.
- D. An inspection of the disinfection equipment and review for appropriateness and physical deterioration.
- E. A review of management/operating procedures.
- F. A review of data records that included source water total and fecal coliform bacteria data and turbidity levels with the objective of ensuring that all required tests were conducted and recorded.
- G. A separate review of bacteriological data for the occurrence of coliform in the distribution system in order to ensure that the disinfection process is effectively applied.
- H. A review of disinfection byproduct data from the distribution system.
- I. An identification of any improvements that are needed in the equipment, system maintenance, system operation, or data collection processes.
- J. A review of the status of any Safe Drinking Water Act compliance issues previously identified.
- K. Confirmation that the system is using a laboratory certified by MassDEP for the required analytical methods.

The annual inspection report carefully document issues in the watershed and make clear that complete implementation of the Public Access Plan is key to retaining filtration avoidance. In its January 2017 report, DEP reiterates that trails and unauthorized activities reaching into the interior of the watershed may lead to contamination and that DWSP must completely manage and monitor all activities to prevent adverse impacts. The implementation of watershed plans, including the Quabbin Reservoir's Watershed Protection Plan, Public Access Plan, and Land Management Plan, ensures that 2.5 million people continue to enjoy an abundant and high-quality water supply.

II. Public Access Management Plan Update

A. Purpose

This document updates the 2006 *Public Access Management Plan Update: Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System*. The effort began in 2015 with the formation of an internal DWSP working group consisting of management, staff with firsthand experience and responsibility for public access, and a project manager. The working group met and reviewed various drafts of the update throughout the period, and also participated in the design of the public access survey.

This plan update explains DWSP's policies and procedures related to public access management within the Quabbin Reservoir watershed. The plan outlines control and monitoring mechanisms used to mitigate possible negative impacts from general and specific public access activities.

B. Public Input

DWSP involves stakeholders in its public access policy development, review, and modification. Local residents, land abutters, visitors, and environmental organizations have been generally supportive of DWSP's policies to protect the public water supply while allowing controlled access.

1. Public Survey

A public opinion survey was conducted in conjunction with this plan update. The survey was administered electronically through a Survey Monkey account, taking advantage of current internet technology that allows both ease of submitting comments and interpreting the data.

DWSP utilizes the public survey to obtain a perspective on who visits the Quabbin Reservoir watershed and their current concerns, in order to aid in the evaluation of access policies. Close to 700 people responded to the survey. The responses were similar to previous iterations of the survey completed for earlier plans: most people and organizations are appreciative of the resources, while a subset advocate for activities that are currently prohibited.

See Appendix C for a summary of the survey results.

2. Advisory Committees

A draft of the plan was presented to several citizen advisory committees associated with the Quabbin Reservoir, including the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee (QWAC), the Swift River Historical Society, and the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC). Each organization provided comments that were integrated into the final publication.

See Appendix D for public comments.

QWAC unanimously approved a motion supporting the 2018 *Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update* at their October 16, 2017 meeting.

3. Public Meetings

A presentation on the *2018 Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update* was provided to the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC) at their public meeting on August 30, 2017. The plan was presented to QWAC at their public meeting on September 11, 2017. At that time, the plan was posted on the DCR website for public review and comment; DCR's public comment page (www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments) had an option to pick the *2018 Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update* as a topic to submit comments with a deadline of October 20, 2017. DWSP gave a public presentation on the plan at the October 16, 2017 QWAC meeting. No comments were received on this plan from the general public through the DCR website. All other written comments provided to DWSP are shown in Appendix D.

Following the public process in the Fall of 2017, DCR conducted another internal review during the winter of 2017/2018. This additional review allowed the new Quabbin/Ware River Regional Director and DCR Commissioner the opportunity to provide comments. Following this internal review, a second public meeting in association with QWAC was held on April 2, 2018. At this meeting, proposed changes were presented and public comments were received. At the end of the public meeting, one formal change related to geocaching was posted on the DCR website for public review and comment. Two comments related to geocaching were received during the 30 day comment period (see Appendix D).



Panoramic vistas from the Quabbin Administration Building, Enfield Lookout, and Goodnough Dike.

III. Existing Conditions

A. Watershed Ownership and Land Use

DWSP manages over 100,000 acres of land and approximately 30,000 acres of reservoir surface area throughout the DCR/MWRA water supply system (**Table 1**). The policies in this plan specifically govern the 54,000 acres of land owned in fee by DWSP in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed, as well as the 24,469 acres Quabbin Reservoir itself and an additional 4,300 acres of land that are off-watershed, primarily below the Winsor Dam.

Table 1. Summary of DWSP Protected Lands

Active or Emergency System	Watershed	DWSP Fee	DWSP WPR	Other Protected	Total Protected	Land Area	Off- Water- shed	Reservoir
Active	Quabbin Reservoir	57,163	4,377	19,455	80,995	95,466	3,180	24,469
Active	Ware River	24,079	1,407	10,295	35,781	61,737		N/A
Active	Wachusett Reservoir	18,078	2,665	14,910	35,653	70,678	636	4,122
Active	Total	99,320	8,449	44,660	152,429	227,881		28,591
Emergency	Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs	2,381	0	2,146	4,527	16,350		1,432

Source: DWSP; all figures in acres. Fee – land owned in fee simple by Commonwealth of MA managed by DWSP; WPR – Watershed Preservation Restrictions, similar to Conservation Restrictions, are land restrictions on private property in DWSP's Watershed System; Other Protected – land owned in fee simple by other MA state agencies, municipalities, or non-profit organizations for conservation purposes listed as permanently protected open space by MassGIS; Off-Watershed – land owned in fee simple by Commonwealth of MA managed by DWSP that is outside the boundary of the respective watershed.

Ownership as % of Watershed Land Area

Active or Emergency System	Watershed	DWSP Controlled	Other Protected	Total Protected	DWSP Controlled Including Reservoirs
Active	Quabbin Reservoir	64.5%	20.4%	84.8%	71.7%
Active	Ware River	41.3%	16.7%	58.0%	41.3%
Active	Wachusett Reservoir	29.3%	21.1%	50.4%	33.2%
Active	Total	47.3%	19.6%	66.9%	53.2%
Emergency	Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs	14.6%	13.1%	27.7%	21.4%

Data from MassGIS and DCR Records. Land area excludes reservoir surface.

Land cover and land use for the Quabbin Reservoir watershed are shown in **Table 2**. The watershed system is sparsely developed. The main land cover in the watershed is forest and wetlands, totaling 94% of the area; this is also the most protective of water quality.

Table 2. Land Cover and Land Use of Quabbin Reservoir Watershed

Forest	Wetland	Agriculture	Residential	Commercial/ Industrial	Open Water	Other
88.3%	5.6%	2.2%	1.5%	0.1%	0.3%	2.0%

(%) Excluding the Reservoirs

A healthy forested watershed is a solar-powered, self-perpetuating, continuously functioning, disturbance-resilient natural water filtration system, providing unparalleled protection for drinking water supplies. Healthy individual trees take up and utilize mobile inorganic nutrients in the soil for growth and metabolism, as well as trap and process pollutants. Their leaves, branches and stems intercept and slow precipitation, and along with understory plants and thick leaf litter absorb the energy of falling raindrops and protect mineral soil from erosion. Tree roots anchor soils, while together with the activities of a myriad of soil organisms they also make soils more porous. The resulting high infiltration capacity recharges groundwater, minimizes overland flow and sedimentation from precipitation, and releases steadier amounts of water into surface streams than would occur in landscapes dominated by agricultural, residential, or highly developed cover.

B. Comparison of Major Unfiltered Drinking Water Supplies' Public Access Policies

A 1986 update to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, required drinking water supplies that utilized surface water to be filtered. An exemption to this expensive technology could be obtained through a filtration waiver if a water supplier could prove to the EPA that it satisfactorily protects the water and keeps it suitable for drinking without this treatment. The vast majority of surface drinking water supplies in the United States – 7,310 out of 7,400 – have filtration plants¹.

The largest of the remaining suppliers (Portland, OR; Seattle, WA; San Francisco, CA; New York City, NY; and Boston, MA) have obtained a filtration waiver due, in part, to watershed land ownership, limited passive recreational activity, and strict public access policies to protect their watersheds and reservoirs. Each system differs in the amount and types of activity it allows (**Table 3**). This section provides a brief description of the water resources and associated public access policies for these large unfiltered water supplies.

¹ Why New York City Needs a Filtered Croton Supply. (2017). [ebook] New York, NY: NYC DEP, p. 7. Available at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/croton/whitepaper.pdf> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].

Table 3. Public Access Policies for Large Unfiltered Water Supplies

City	Water Supply Watershed	Ownership	Hunting	Boating	Bicycling	Swimming	Dogs	Shoreline Fishing	Walking ¹
Portland, OR	Bull Run	96% US Forest Service; 4% City of Portland	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Seattle, WA	Cedar River	99.8% City of Seattle	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Tolt River (filtered)	70% City of Seattle 30% National Forest	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
San Francisco, CA	Hetch Hetchy	100% National Park Service	No	No	Yes ²	No	No	No	Yes
	Peninsula (filtered)	100 % SF Public Utilities	No	No	Yes ³	No	No	No	Yes ²
	Alameda ⁴ (filtered)	32 % SF Public Utilities	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
New York, NY	Delaware/Catskills ⁵	37.5% City of New York	Yes ⁵	Yes ⁵	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes ⁷
	Croton Reservoir ⁵	Limited City ownership ⁶ (This watershed is filtered)	Yes ⁵	Yes ⁵	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes ⁷
Boston, MA	Quabbin Reservoir	60% DCR/DWSP	Yes ⁸	Yes	Yes ¹¹	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Ware River	40% DCR/DWSP	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹¹	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Wachusett Reservoir	28% DCR/DWSP	Yes ⁹	No ¹⁰	Yes ¹¹	No	No	Yes	Yes

¹ Walking includes cross country skiing, snowshoeing, birdwatching, photography and nature study.

² Biking is allowed only along 12 miles of paved roads.

³ Public recreation not allowed except for the 10 mile gravel Fifield Cahill Ridge Trail (volunteer docent led walking, biking, and horseback riding only) and the 17.5 mile paved Crystal Springs Regional Trail (walking, skating/rollerblading, bicycling and horseback riding are allowed). Both trails are managed by the San Mateo County Parks Department.

⁴ A portion of lands within the Alameda Watershed are leased by East Bay Regional Park District as part of the Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness. This portion includes pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle trails. Access is allowed to some internal fire roads by permit for research or educational purposes.

⁵ In order to responsibly provide recreational access to City property, NYDEP issues a comprehensive permit "The Access Permit" that allows for fishing, hunting and walking on certain designated areas in the watershed. Other areas are referred to as "Public Access Areas" and are open to all without a permit. Boating only in designated areas.

⁶ In the densely developed Croton watershed, a minor part of the New York system which contains extensive NYC suburbs, development pressures and the high cost of land have limited the DEP's ability to undertake protection mechanisms such as land acquisition (although land acquisition is used as an secondary layer of protection).

⁷ Hiking is not allowed at or immediately around any NYC Reservoirs but other City properties throughout the watershed are open for hiking.

⁸ Hunting is allowed only during a controlled/permitted deer hunt within the Quabbin Reservation.

⁹ Allowed in designated areas

¹⁰ Boating is not allowed on the main reservoir. Non-motorized boats on Quinapoxet and Stillwater Rivers in the Tributary Headwaters Zone, Muddy Pond and on West Waushacum Pond only.

¹¹ Bicycling only on designated routes along culverted roads. No off-road/single track mountain biking allowed.

Data Sources: www.portlandoregon.gov/water/29784; www.seattle.gov/util/EnvironmentConservation/Education/CedarRiverWatershed/WaterSupplyTreatment/index.htm; www.seattle.gov/Util/EnvironmentConservation/OurWatersheds/Tolt_River_Watershed/index.htm; www.sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=199; www.sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=198; www.sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=200; www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/index.shtml; www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/water-res-protection/watershed-mgmt/plans.html.

1. Portland, OR

The 102 square-mile Bull Run Watershed is the primary drinking water supply for the City of Portland, OR. Water from the Bull Run serves more than 950,000 residents in the Portland metropolitan region and is located in the Sandy River basin within the Mt. Hood National Forest. The entire 65,280 square acre watershed has been managed under increasing levels of protection since it was established as a Forest Reserve in 1892. In 2001 the protection boundary was extended by federal law, and both the watershed and the protected buffer lands are known as the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit (BRWMU). The majority of lands within the BRWMU are under federal ownership (96%) and the rest are owned by the City of Portland. No unauthorized public entry is allowed inside the BRWMU and all land management activities are limited to only those necessary to protect water quality and operate the water supply and hydroelectric power facilities².

2. Seattle, WA

The City of Seattle, WA owns or controls more than 100,000 acres of watershed which consists of two large regional watersheds: the Cedar River Watershed and the Tolt River Watershed. Both watersheds are closed to general public access. The unfiltered Cedar River Watershed provides 70% of the drinking water for 1.4 million people in the Greater Seattle area, while the remaining 30% is provided by the now-filtered Tolt River watershed. This system provides approximately 140 million gallons/day³.

3. San Francisco, CA

The Regional Water System of San Francisco supplies approximately 176 million gallons/day of drinking water to 2.6 million residents and businesses in the San Francisco Bay area from the Hetch Hetchy, Peninsula, and Alameda Watersheds. The entire watersheds of two of these systems are owned by the National Park Service (Hetch Hetchy; 294,000 acres) and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC – Peninsula; 23,000 acres), so public agencies have total control of these water supply lands.

The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir lies within Yosemite National Park. Activities such as hiking and fishing are allowed in areas near the Reservoir, but not in the reservoir itself; bicycling is only allowed on 12 miles of paved roads⁴. No recreational activity is allowed in either the Alameda or the Peninsula Watersheds SFPUC property except for small designated areas. A portion of the lands within the Alameda Watershed are leased by the East Bay Regional Park District as part of the Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness. This portion of the watershed does include pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle trails. Permits can be obtained for internal fire roads within this watershed for research or educational purposes only. The Peninsula Watershed allows public access in two distinct locations. The Fifield Cahill Ridge Trail is a 10 mile gravel road where walking, biking, and horseback riding is led by volunteer docents. The Crystal Springs Regional Trail is a 17.5 mile

² <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/water/29784>

³ <http://www.seattle.gov/Util/MyServices/Water/AbouttheWaterSystem/WaterSystemOverview/index.htm>

⁴ <https://www.nps.gov/yose/learn/nature/upload/Fishing-Regulations.pdf>

paved route for walking, skating/rollerblading, bicycling and horseback riding, however there are barbed wire fences on both sides of the road to prevent unauthorized access to watershed lands. Both of these trails are managed by the San Mateo County Parks Department.

4. New York, NY

The New York City water supply system consists of many reservoirs and controlled lakes, some of which are over 100 miles from the city. The Croton Reservoir system (east of the Hudson River consisting of three controlled lakes and 12 reservoirs) and Catskills/Delaware system (west of the Hudson River consisting of six reservoirs) together provide over 1.2 billion gallons of water to 9 million customers, nearly half of the population of New York State, per day⁵. The much larger Catskills/Delaware system provides over 90% of the daily water supply.

Public access and passive recreation – consisting of walking (including cross country skiing, bird watching, photography, nature observation and snowshoeing), fishing and hunting – is available on almost 34,000 acres of reservoirs and more than 130,000 acres of watershed lands. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection requires an access permit for many of these activities. Walking is not allowed immediately around any of the New York City reservoirs. Boating, fishing, and ice fishing are allowed at certain designated reservoirs and controlled lakes. Dogs are allowed on most city owned lands but must be under control of the owner. Access permit holders for boats must go through a special cleaning and tagging system to ensure they are free of invasive species. Trail creation and marking, swimming, camping, fires, bicycling, and horseback riding are all prohibited on New York City watershed lands.

Because of increasing population density, the quality of water in the Croton Reservoir system decreased and it was decided in the 1990s to build a filtration plant which was completed in 2015.

Rules and regulations on New York City watershed lands are enforced by a staff of almost 200 sworn Environmental Police Officers.

5. Boston, MA

DWSP manages the Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River, and Wachusett Reservoir watersheds to provide pure water to the MWRA for treatment and distribution of 209 million gallons a day to 2.5 million people, mostly in the greater Boston area as well as several communities in western Massachusetts⁶. As shown in Table 1, 60% of the entire 227,881 acres of land in the watershed system is protected, 45% of which is under DWSP control.

Public access plans are developed for each of the watersheds, taking into account unique parameters for each region⁷. A wide range of activities, including walking, boating, hunting, and biking, are allowed across the system in a manner that allows people to enjoy the resources while at the same time minimizing impacts to water quality. These policies are detailed in each of the watershed's Public Access Plan. The policies are enforced by Watershed Rangers with the support of Environmental and State Police. Federal and state regulators inspect the watersheds annually to ensure that water quality is maintained at the level necessary for a filtration waiver.

⁵ http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/index.shtml

⁶ <http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/04water/html/wsupdate.htm>

⁷ <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/water-res-protection/watershed-mgmt/plans.html>

C. Quabbin Management Sections

DWSP has divided the Quabbin Reservoir watershed into six sections for public access management (**Map 2**).

1. Quabbin Park

Approximately 3,000 acres at the southern tip of Quabbin Reservoir that is generally open to the public. Quabbin Park includes the Quabbin Administration Building, State Police barracks, Quabbin Visitor Center, Quabbin Park Cemetery, Winsor Dam, Goodnough Dike, Pepper's Mill Pond, Quabbin Mountain and Tower, various lookouts, picnic areas, bathroom facilities, and a network of roadways and parking areas. Part of the park is outside the watershed boundary.

2. Quabbin Reservation

Over 45,000 acres of land that was part of the original land taking, including the reservoir islands. It is the area generally bounded by and within Massachusetts Routes 9, 202, 122, and 32A. This excludes land within Quabbin Park.

3. Off-Reservation

Approximately 10,000 acres of land outside of the bounds of the Quabbin Reservation.

4. Quabbin Reservoir

The 24,000 acre surface of the reservoir itself, excluding the islands.

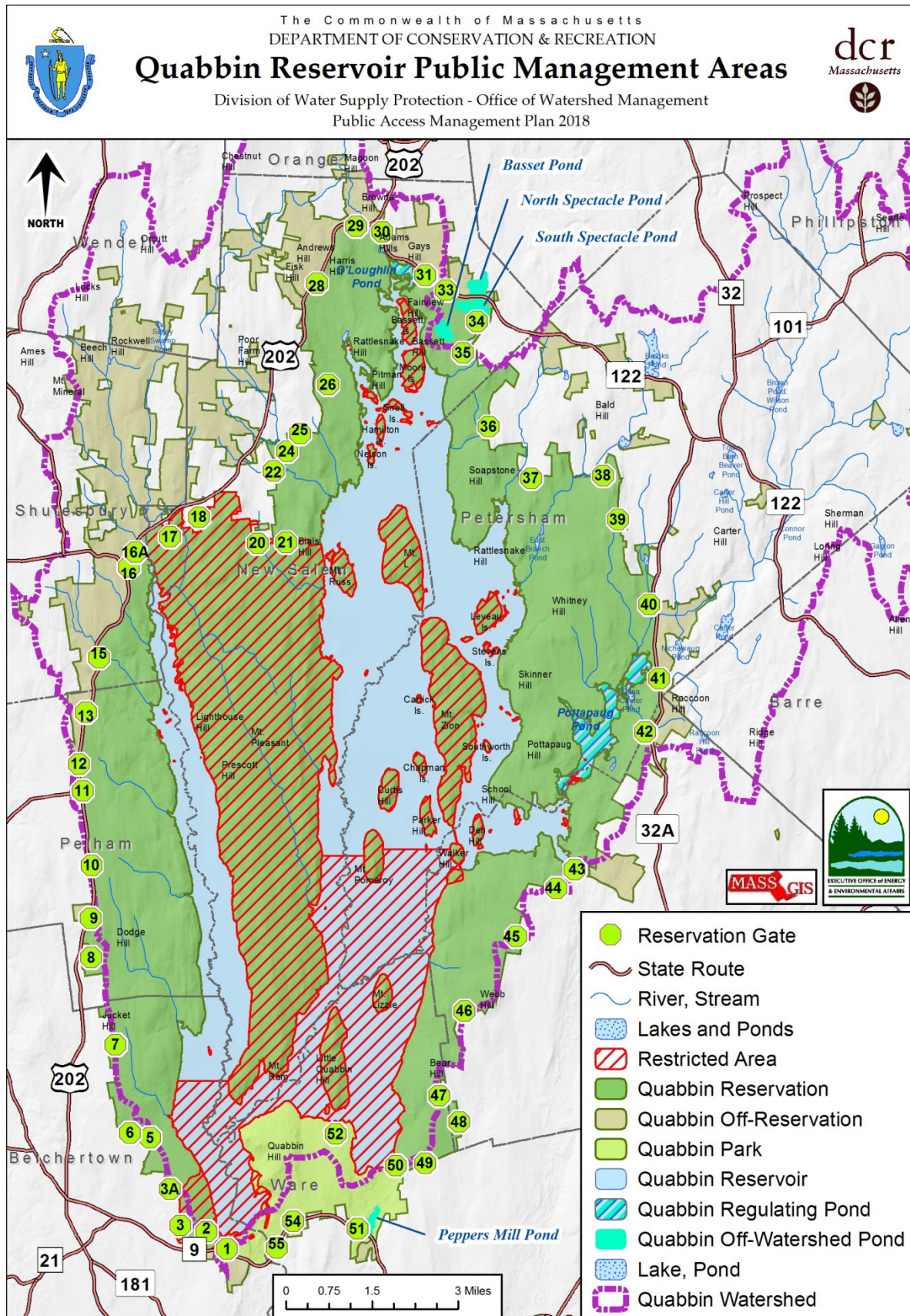
5. Regulating Ponds

Two large ponds of close to 700 acres, Joe O'Loughlin Pond at Gate 31 and Pottapaug Pond at Gate 43, maintained by regulating dams adjacent to the Quabbin Reservoir. The dams and associated ponds, constructed in 1938, are termed "regulating" because they impound and moderate flows from the East Branch and Middle Branch of the Swift River before releasing water to the upper body of the reservoir.

6. Off-Watershed Ponds

South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Pepper's Mill Pond are three small ponds that total 130 acres and are all outside the watershed boundary.

Map 2. Quabbin Reservoir Public Management Areas



IV. Public Access Policies and Procedures

Public access for low-impact recreational activities is allowed, with conditions, on lands and waters of the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System when compatible with water supply protection and public safety, and when guided by DWSP's Public Access Plan Goals.

As an unfiltered water supply, DWSP is required by the MA Department of Environmental Protection and the US Environmental Protection Agency to implement a public access/recreation plan which controls public access and recreational activities on the lands and waters so that they do not pose a threat to the drinking water's quality.

Changes made to DWSP access policies since 2006 are summarized in Table 5 and detailed in the individual activity sheets found in this Section. In total, there are 31 fact sheets representing historical, existing, and potential recreational uses of drinking water supply lands and waters. These activities have been grouped into four categories: 1) Vehicle Access; 2) Foot Access; 3) Water Access; and 4) Other Access. **Table 4** is a list of all the access policies and restrictions. The fact sheets which follow Table 4 provide more specific detail of the policy.

A. *Public Access Plan Goals, Evaluation, and Updates*

1. Public Access Plan Goals

DWSP strives to balance reasonable public access, legally mandated activities, and long-term resource protection throughout the DCR/MWRA Watershed System. The following public access management goals are used to develop the policies outlined in this plan:

- To properly manage a public resource used as a source supply of drinking water.
- To protect drinking water resources from public access impacts.
- To protect historic and prehistoric sites within the watershed.
- To improve and protect long-term ecosystem health and biological diversity within the watershed.
- To assure that public access is safe and appropriate to DCR/MWRA's water quality and regulatory goals.

2. Plan and Policy Evaluation

DWSP will continue to conduct periodic reviews to evaluate the plan in general, as well as any policy concerns or conflicts that arise. DWSP considers the following elements when evaluating new or expanded activity requests: potential water quality impacts, user benefits and potential conflicts, DWSP budgetary implications and land management activities, long-term ecosystem health, biological diversity, and cultural and historical resources. This review is coordinated through the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Advisory Committee (QWAC) during their regularly-scheduled meetings. QWAC meetings provide an opportunity to discuss, evaluate and, if necessary, adopt any minor policy changes (proposed by DWSP or by user groups), and will include a public input component. This review process will also continue to inform the larger plan and policy update process that is conducted every ten years.

3. Ten Year Plan and Policy Update Process

DWSP updates its public access management plans for each watershed every ten years. Approximately one year before the ten year update deadline, DWSP staff review and provide field input to an internal working group on issues or needs related to public access policies. Following this general issue identification, DWSP staff begins data collection in consultation with the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Advisory Committee. In addition, DWSP consults with its partners at MWRA as well as appropriate federal and state agencies to address inter-agency concerns or policy conflicts and to enhance coordination. Survey data are typically collected regarding abutters, recreational users, and other stakeholders views on existing recreation policies.

A draft plan update is submitted for review to MWRA and DEP. The draft plan is subsequently presented at public meetings and posted on the DCR website. All public input is considered prior to final modifications. The completed public access management plan update is approved by the DCR Commissioner; it is posted on the agency website and hard copies are distributed to staff and stakeholders.

B. General Access Conditions

DWSP has general conditions under which allowed activities must be conducted. These conditions are detailed below and summarized along with specific access conditions in Table 4. DWSP may close its properties to public access during weather, emergency, security, or other operational situations.

General Conditions

- It is the responsibility of the visitor to know and abide by the applicable rules, regulations, and conditions for access.
- General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only, unless authorized by a permit from DWSP or its designee.
- Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.
- Feeding wildlife is prohibited.
- Visitors are advised that active logging operations may be in progress on DWSP properties. Please avoid visiting such areas, entering logging areas, or coming within three hundred feet of logging equipment.
- Visitors are asked to respect the rights of owners of adjacent property and not trespass on private lands.
- Because of the importance of protecting water quality, visitors are prohibited from depositing human waste on watershed lands by using portable toilets and planning accordingly.
- Visitors are required to not wash objects in any watercourse.
- Smoking is not allowed in any public building (MGL c. 270 s.22(b)(3)). Visitors are asked to limit outdoor smoking activities, properly extinguish all embers to help prevent wildfires, and carry out any refuse.
- Please report any suspicious or dangerous activity on lands or waters by calling the MA State Police at 413-323-7561.
- Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center 413-323-7221 or Quabbin Watershed Rangers 413-323-0191 or 617-828-2452 with any questions regarding public access.

Table 4. Public Access Policies - 2018

<i>Activity</i>	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservatio	Off- Reservatio	Quabbin Reservoi	Regulating Ponds	Off- Watershed Ponds
VEHICLE ACCESS						
Driving for Sightseeing	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Snowmobiling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ATV Riding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bicycling -Designated Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Off-road Bicycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sledding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FOOT ACCESS						
Walking/Snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross-country Skiing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hunting/Trapping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ice Fishing/Ice Skating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁸
Shore and Stream Fishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁹	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹¹
WATER ACCESS						
Boat Fishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹²	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹³	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁴
Canoeing/Kayaking/Boating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹³	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁴
Wading (fishing, launching)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹⁵	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁶	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁶	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹⁷	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁷	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁵
Swimming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OTHER ACCESS						
Group Activities (weddings, organized walks, tour buses, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁸	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁸	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁸	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geocaching and Related Activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹⁹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife/Bird Watching	<input type="checkbox"/> ²⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> ²⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> ²⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> ²⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> ²⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> ²⁰
Night Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²²	<input type="checkbox"/> ²²	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Organized Sports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dogs/Other Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Horseback Riding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Metal Detecting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foraging	<input type="checkbox"/> ²⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ²⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ²⁴	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Camping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fishing Derbies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³
Target Shooting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertising	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marking or Cutting Trails/Roads	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²⁵	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²⁵	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²⁵	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²⁵	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²⁵	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²⁵
Alcohol (possession of)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial Activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²³

Other

Please call the Quabbin Visitor Center 413-323-7221 or
Watershed Ranger Station 413-323-0192.

☒ Prohibited

☐ Allowed - General Restrictions

☐[#] Specific Restrictions

General Restrictions:

- **General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited. This chart is based on the Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.00, copies of which are available at the Quabbin Visitor Center. Littering is strictly prohibited. Carry in/Carry out. Do not feed wildlife.**

Specific Restrictions:

- ¹ The Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike have restricted vehicle access for security reasons. Operational needs will require some Quabbin Park gates to close before the regulatory access times of one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset; closing times will be posted on Quabbin Park gates. Operators of motor vehicles shall obey all regulatory signs unless otherwise directed by a police officer or person in charge.
- ² Snowmobiling is allowed only on DWSP designated routes located on Off-Reservation land. 302 CMR 12.14 applies.
- ³ Bicycling is only allowed on designated roads in Quabbin Park. See DWSP bicycling maps. Helmets and protective gear are required by MA law for children under 16 years of age and recommended for others
- ⁴ Bicycling is allowed only on designated roads through DWSP gates 29, 30, 31, 35, 40, 43A & B, and 44. Bicycling is only allowed on designated roads through Gate 8 during fishing season. See DWSP Bicycling map for designated roads. Bicycling is not allowed on the baffle dams.
- ⁵ Bicycling is allowed on main forest roads only within Off-Reservation lands with seasonal restrictions (e.g., mud season).
- ⁶ Walking or snowshoeing access is allowed within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System, except in restricted areas (e.g., Prescott Peninsula, posted administration areas, reservoir islands, and along the baffle dams).
- ⁷ Hunting and trapping are prohibited except by permit during the Quabbin Controlled Deer Hunt and MassWildlife's White-tailed Deer Hunt for Paraplegic Hunters. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center for more information.
- ⁸ Ice fishing, ice skating, and carry-in boat access allowed only on three Off-Watershed ponds: South Spectacle, Bassett and Pepper's Mill Ponds. Please call Watershed Rangers, if accessing, at 617-828-2452.
- ⁹ No fishing in Quabbin Park except catch-and-release fly fishing (allowed all year) below the Winsor Dam in the Swift River, unless posted.
- ¹⁰ Shore fishing along the reservoir and along streams is permitted between Gates 8-16 (ending at West Branch of Swift River) and 22-44 (except on baffle dams), by foot, during the designated Quabbin Fishing Season only. See the current Quabbin Fishing Guide and Map available at the Quabbin Visitor Center. Fishing is not allowed on the baffle dams.
- ¹¹ Shore fishing within Off-Reservation lands and along Off-Watershed ponds is allowed year round according to state fishing regulations.
- ¹² Boat access on designated areas of reservoir or Regulating Ponds requires a valid MA fishing license and size/motor restrictions. Wearing boots is mandatory if wading while launching or removing boats at designated areas from the reservoir. Fishing access using DWSP-supplied canoes, kayaks, or jon boats is allowed only through Gate 31 above regulating dam and through Gate 43 on Pottapaug Pond with restrictions. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at 413-323-7221 for more information regarding the current fishing guide and the recent decontamination/boat seal requirements for all private boats.
- ¹³ Private canoes and kayaks are not allowed on the Regulating Ponds, however DWSP rents canoes and kayaks on a first come-first serve basis at Boat Launch Areas #2 and #3 for use on the Regulating Ponds at these areas. Fishing/sporting licenses or Quabbin fishing licenses are required for renting boats. All boating regulations for Quabbin Reservoir apply to these crafts. Fishing access using private jon boats with valid Quabbin Boat Seal is allowed only through Gate 31 above regulating dam and through Gate 43 on Pottapaug Pond with restrictions. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at 413-323-7221 for more information regarding current Fishing Guide.
- ¹⁴ Carry-in boat access is allowed on Off-Watershed ponds with DWSP size restrictions. See night access policy, if applicable. Allowed subject to MA boating regulations. Please call Watershed Rangers, if accessing, at 617-828-2452.

- ¹⁵ Wading with waders is allowed off-watershed below the Winsor Dam Power Station on the Swift River
- ¹⁶ Wading in waders is allowed in tributaries between Gates 8-16 (ending at West Branch of Swift River) and Gates 22-44, except in restricted areas, and in off-reservation tributaries.
- ¹⁷ Wading in the reservoir is prohibited except while launching or removing boats while wearing boots, at designated boat launch areas.
- ¹⁸ Allowed without a permit for groups of less than 25 individuals and less than 10 cars and/or 10 motorcycles. Permit required for group of 25 through 100 individuals or 10-40 cars/motorcycles or one bus. Special ceremonies (weddings, memorials) limited to 75 people.
- ¹⁹ Review by Quabbin Visitor Center required for any cache placement (also applies to “munzing,” “letterboxing,” “questing,” and other forms of related “hide and seek” activities).
- ²⁰ Wildlife/bird watching is permissible if conducted in conjunction with any permitted access activity, including night access. Access is prohibited on frozen reservoir and regulating ponds. Group viewing must obtain either a short-term birding access permit or a group activity permit.
- ²¹ Night access within Quabbin Park is prohibited except at two locations. It is allowed without a permit on the Swift River below the Y Pool, if access is from Route 9, and on Pepper’s Mill Pond, provided that access is limited to the immediate banks of the Swift River, Y Pool, or Pepper’s Mill Pond only. Access to the Swift River, Y-Pool and Rt. 9 parking area is prohibited between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m.
- ²² Night access within Quabbin Reservation is allowed by permit for pedestrians only through Gates 16, 31, 35, 41, and 43 only during the designated Quabbin fishing season. Night access directly from Route 122 is allowed without a permit on South Spectacle Pond (off-watershed). Night access is allowed on off-reservation lands with permit. Contact Quabbin Visitor Center for permit information.
- ²³ Prohibited except by written permission from DWSP.
- ²⁴ Foraging is allowed only for the collection of edible plants, such as blueberries and mushrooms, in a non-disruptive manner and for non-commercial use.
- ²⁵ Takeoff or landing from DWSP land prohibited except by written permission from DWSP.

C. *Americans with Disabilities Act and Access Policies*

The 1990 federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination in all programs, activities, and services of public entities. This title applies to all state and local governments, their departments and agencies, and any other instrumentalities or special purpose districts of state or local governments. DWSP is committed to meeting ADA requirements and providing accessible facilities.

1. Facilities, Services, and Programs

The Quabbin Reservoir has several facilities that are heavily used by the general public, all of which include restroom facilities.

- The Quabbin Administration Building: a three-story brick structure that houses a visitor center, administrative offices, professional offices, and a water quality testing lab. The visitor center is located on the first floor and contains audio visual equipment for showing slides and films. The space can accommodate up to 55 visitors for meetings.
- Three boat launch areas (BLAs): these sites are used as access for rental equipment and privately owned craft. Shore fishing is allowed in designated areas.
- The Quabbin Tower: a visually prominent multi-story structure with an observation deck for viewing the reservoir and beyond. It is a focal point for visitors. Interpretive signs are located at its highest level, a 365 degree observation room. A satellite visitor center is often set up on busy fall weekends. Below the tower is a stone faced building that contains restroom facilities for the general public's use.

DWSP's efforts to comply with ADA requirements have included alterations to the facilities, acquisition of additional facilities, and relocations or substitutions to services and programs. Examples of alterations made to the Quabbin Administration Building include: accessible signage, access curb cut, ramp and hand-bar construction, automatic door opener, and accessible unisex restroom. Alterations to the BLAs include installation of accessible public toilets. Examples of acquisition of additional facilities include the acquisition of portable, accessible toilets at BLA 2 and 3, Hank's Picnic Area, and Quabbin Tower Parking Area.

Changes made to services and programs include the addition of the paraplegic deer hunt in collaboration with MassWildlife; DWSP hosts an annual three day hunt for paraplegic sportsmen and women. Changes were made within the administration building to make programs more accessible, such as moving the second floor library to the first floor and a third floor meeting room for guests and staff was moved to the first floor for Visitor Center programs and meetings. DWSP also remodeled a former residence on Blue Meadow Road into the fully ADA compliant Blue Meadow Conference Room, which can hold up to 50 people.

Alternative accessible sites have been constructed at BLA 1 where an accessible fishing pier is available. The Student Conservation Association worked on the Forest Management Trail near Goodnough Dike to make it more accessible for all-terrain wheelchairs. Work along Webster Road sponsored by the DCR Universal Access Program offered an accessible walking program on these trails.

DWSP is also working with the DCR Universal Access Program who began in 2017 to offer a program for canoeing on the regulating ponds at Boat Launch Area 3 for six dates in the summer.

2. Service Animals

Service animals perform some of the functions and tasks that an individual with a disability cannot perform for themselves. The ADA defines a service animal as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. If they meet this definition, animals are considered service animals under the ADA regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government. A service animal is a working animal, not a pet. “Seeing eye dogs” are one type of service animal, used by some individuals who are sight impaired or blind.

A person with a dog where dogs are otherwise prohibited may be asked two questions, both of which must be answered in the affirmative: 1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability; and 2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform? Staff cannot ask about the person’s disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal’s work or the individual’s disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls. To comply with the ADA, DWSP clarified its regulation in 2006 prohibiting animals on the watershed to allow the use of a service animal by a person with a disability.

See Appendix E for additional information on service animals.

D. Summary of Policy Updates

Various updates and clarifications to DWSP’s 2006 public access policies have been made in this plan (**Table 5**). For more detailed descriptions, see the fact sheets later in this section. Overall, DWSP has clarified its policies to make them less confusing and more consistent. One new policy that has been added is for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV, or drones), which are not allowed to touch down (takeoff or land) on DWSP property unless in an emergency or with written permission from DWSP.

DWSP is appreciative of the public input received through the online survey. While the number of responses was greater than any previous DWSP survey, the issues raised concerning additional access are very similar to past iterations of the plan. DWSP recognizes that the size, beauty, and location of the Quabbin Reservoir and surrounding lands would make it a very desirable place to swim, canoe, kayak, sail, cross-country ski, ride a horse, mountain bike, or walk a dog. However, due to federal and state regulations, water quality considerations, and staff resource limitations, DWSP is proposing to maintain the existing public access policies as clarified in this plan.

It is important to reiterate that all DWSP lands were purchased using drinking water ratepayer money for one specific purpose – watershed protection. The response to the threat of zebra

mussels and other aquatic invasive species by implementing a boat seal program demonstrates how DWSP must respond to potential impacts caused by recreational activities. The amount of public access allowed on the Quabbin Watershed System remains significantly greater than the other major unfiltered American water supplies (see Section III-B); DWSP will continue its efforts to provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the property it controls in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed.

Table 5. Summary of Public Access Policy Updates

Activity	2006 DWSP Policy	2018 Policy Updates
<i>VEHICLE ACCESS</i>		
Driving for Sightseeing	Allowed with restrictions	Clarified – vehicle access has posted times and wildlife feeding prohibition emphasized
Snowmobiling	Allowed with restrictions	Clarified – designated specific Off-Reservation route, with map
ATV Riding	Prohibited	No change
Bicycling-Designated Roads	Allowed with restrictions	No change
Off-Road Bicycling	Prohibited	Clarified – includes prohibition on trail construction
Sledding	Allowed with restrictions	Clarified – prohibited except for pulling children during other allowed activities.
<i>FOOT ACCESS</i>		
Walking/Snowshoeing	Allowed with restrictions	No change
Cross-Country Skiing	Allowed with restrictions	Clarified – allowed on routes within specific section of off-reservation land
Hunting/Trapping	Allowed with restrictions	No change
Ice Fishing/Ice Skating	Allowed with restrictions	No change
Shore and Stream Fishing	Allowed with restrictions	Clarified – includes stream fishing
<i>WATER ACCESS</i>		
Boat Fishing	Allowed with restrictions	Clarified – includes decontamination/boat seal requirements for all private boats
Canoeing/Kayaking/Boating	Allowed with restrictions	Clarified – includes decontamination/boat seal requirements for all private boats; unsealed private canoes and kayaks are prohibited.
Wading (for fishing/launching)	Allowed with restrictions	Clarified – wading only allowed while fishing or boat launching with boots.
Swimming	Prohibited	No change

Activity	2006 DWSP Policy	2018 Policy Updates
<i>OTHER ACCESS</i>		
Group Activities	Allowed with restrictions	Clarified – group size thresholds
Geocaching and Related Activities	Placement of cache or related item requires review from Quabbin Visitor Center	Change – limited to Off-Reservation area only. Clarified –includes related discovery activities.
Wildlife Viewing /Bird Watching	Allowed with restrictions	No change
Night Access	Allowed with restrictions	Clarified – night access may be terminated for security reasons Adjusted – access to the Swift River, Y-Pool and Rt. 9 parking area is prohibited between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m.
Organized Sports	Prohibited (without written permission)	No change
Dogs/Other Animals	Prohibited	No change
Horseback Riding	Prohibited	No change
Metal Detecting	Prohibited	No change
Foraging	Prohibited – called “Collecting”	Change – re-named “Foraging”. Allowed by regulation only for the collection of edible plants in a non-disruptive manner and for non-commercial use.
Camping	Prohibited	No change
Fishing Derbies	Prohibited (without written permission)	No change
Target Shooting	Prohibited	No change
Advertising	Prohibited	No change
Marking or Cutting - Trails/Roads	Prohibited	No change
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs, drones)	Not identified	Landing and taking off from DWSP land prohibited without written permission, or in an emergency
Possession of Alcohol	Prohibited	No change
Commercial Activities	Not identified	Change – Added prohibited activity

E. Public Access Policies – 2018






This section provides one to two page summaries of the policies, rules, and explanation for the 31 common types of public access activities in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System that are listed in Table 4. These are designed as stand-alone documents that can be reproduced and distributed as needed.


Driving for Sightseeing

Policy

Driving access for sightseeing is limited to licensed drivers in registered vehicles on designated roads in unrestricted areas within Quabbin Park and to the three designated Boat Launch Areas. Vehicles must exit these areas at the posted time. General restrictions stating that public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset does not apply to vehicle access, as operational needs will require some Quabbin Park gates to close before the stated regulatory access times; closing times will be posted on Quabbin Park gates. Operators of motor vehicles shall obey all regulatory signs unless otherwise directed by a police officer or person in charge.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Driving for Sightseeing	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹					

 **Prohibited** ☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ The Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike have restricted vehicle access for security reasons. See Quabbin Park map for paved roads. Operational needs will require some Quabbin Park gates to close before the regulatory access times of one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset; closing times will be posted on Quabbin Park gates. Operators of motor vehicles shall obey all regulatory signs unless otherwise directed by a police officer or person in charge.

Explanation

The Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System has a large number of scenic views from its surrounding roads. Recent survey input suggests that this activity is currently one of the most popular recreational uses of the system. Driving is limited to designated paved roads and designated parking areas. The feeding of wildlife is prohibited.

Vehicles parked at overlooks or parking areas may leave toxic chemicals (e.g., motor oil, engine coolant) on the surface. These chemicals can concentrate in these areas and may be transported to the system's tributaries and ultimately the reservoir through stream or overland flow. In addition, the introduction of exhaust compounds, erosion, improper disposal of human fecal waste, disturbance of wilderness character, and behavior such as littering may be associated with this activity. Monitoring and maintenance of these locations is ongoing.

This policy has been clarified to emphasize that vehicle access has posted times, can be closed for emergencies or other reasons, and the feeding of wildlife is prohibited.







Snowmobiling



Policy

Snowmobiling access is prohibited throughout most of the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System: Quabbin Reservoir, Quabbin Park, Quabbin Reservation, and all restricted areas. Limited snowmobiling access on designated, marked routes (**Map 3**) is allowed only within Off-Reservation lands and only according to the general access conditions and all other applicable state regulations, using the guidance set forth in 302 CMR 12.14, which requires that a designated snowmobile use area is completely covered with a minimum of four inches of hard packed snow on land. Any future expansion or upgrades will consider potential impacts from ground disturbances to water quality and historical resources.

Snowmobile use in designated areas is allowed pursuant to 313 CMR 11.09 2(a)12: “No Person shall drive a motorized vehicle within the Watershed System except upon roads authorized for such use by DWSP or its designee. Recreational vehicles are prohibited on all Watershed System property except the use of snowmobiles in areas designated by the Commissioner.”

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Snowmobiling			 ¹			

 **Prohibited**  General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Snowmobiling is allowed only on the DWSP designated routes located on Off-Reservation land. 302 CMR 12.14 applies.

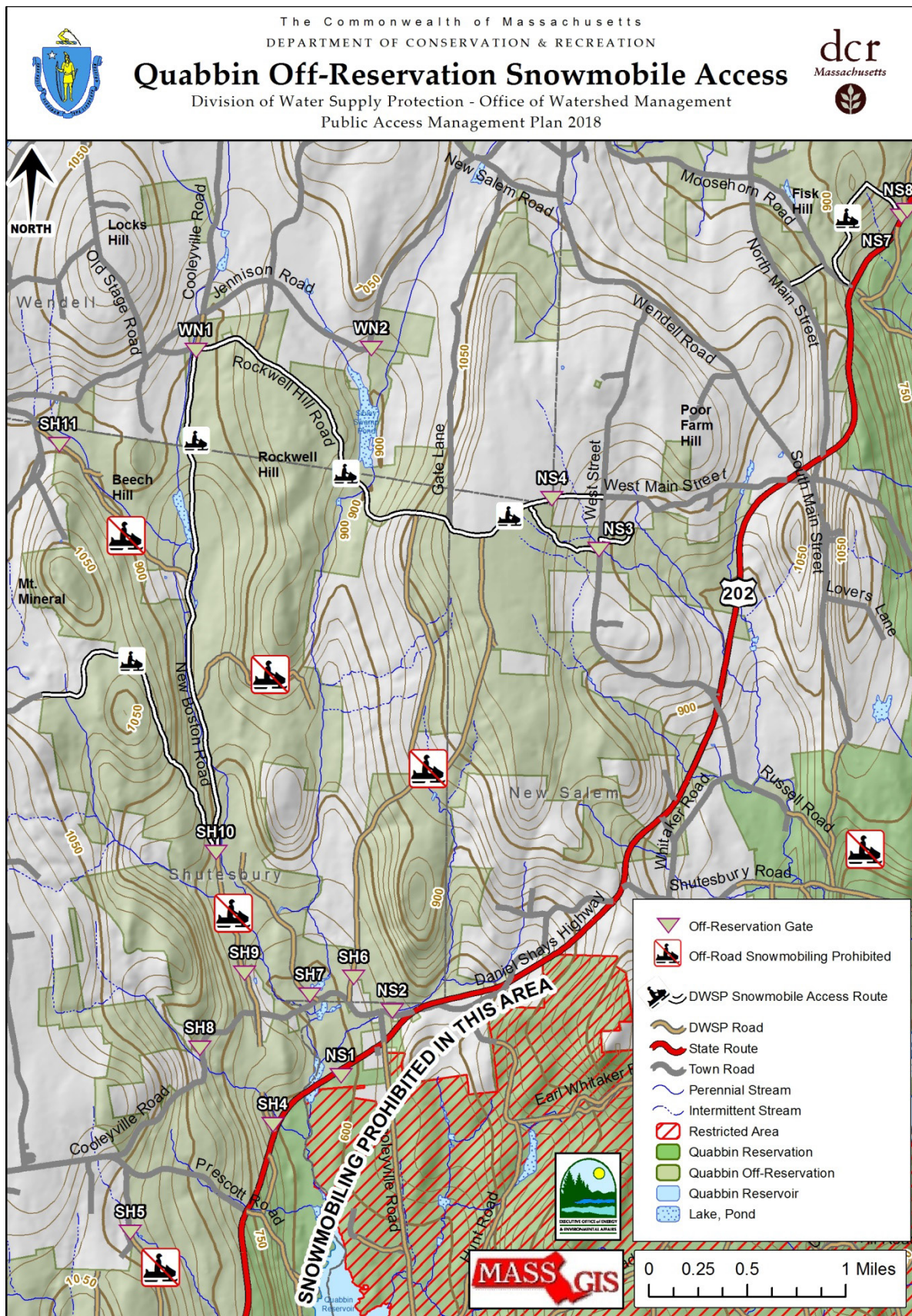
Explanation

Snowmobile use is prohibited throughout most of the DWSP Watershed System because of its potential impact to the wilderness character and disturbance of vegetation and the introduction of exhaust compounds and other hazardous materials. In addition, there is the possibility of chemicals on trails, improper disposal of fecal waste, and behavior such as littering which could introduce sediments, chemicals, and pathogens to the system. The creation of any trail can encourage other unpermitted activities that are difficult to monitor, control, and enforce.

There are nine miles of designated snowmobile routes in the Off-Reservation area. These specific routes, developed in collaboration with local snowmobile club input, protect water quality and public safety and minimize user conflicts. When snow cover is sufficient (a minimum of four inches) there should be little mechanical impacts on ground vegetation and soil.

This policy has been clarified to designate specific Off-Reservation routes, with updated map.

Map 3. DWSP Designated Snowmobile Access – Off-Reservation



All-terrain Vehicle Riding (ATV)

Policy

All-terrain vehicle riding (including dirt biking and off-road motorcycles) is prohibited throughout the entire Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System.

Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09 2(a)12 state: “No Person shall drive a motorized vehicle within the Watershed System except upon roads authorized for such use by the Commissioner. Recreational vehicles are prohibited on all Watershed System property...”

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
ATV Riding	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

Explanation

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) have multiple potential water quality impacts, including physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. ATV use on unpaved surfaces can also cause substantial vegetation and soil damage (commonly seen on the local power line rights of-way). In addition, this activity causes both air and noise pollution, erosion, sedimentation, petrochemicals and other chemicals left on the land which can quickly migrate to the water supply system. This policy is based on regulation as well as the erosion impacts associated with off-road vehicle and all-terrain vehicle use.




This policy has not been changed.


Bicycling – Designated Roads

Policy

Bicycling is allowed only on designated DWSP routes consisting of paved, gravel, or woods roads (**Maps 4-7**). In Quabbin Park, bicycling is allowed only on designated paved roads in unrestricted areas. In Quabbin Reservation, bicycling is allowed only on designated roads through DWSP Gates 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 40, 43A & 43B, and 44. Bicycling is only allowed on designated roads through DWSP Gate 8 (BLA 1) during the Quabbin fishing season. Bicycling is allowed on designated Off-Reservation woods roads with seasonal restrictions based on weather conditions. Bicycling is specifically prohibited off-road, on single-track trails, and along the reservoir shoreline. Helmets and protective gear are required by MA law for children under 16 years of age, and are recommended for all others. Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09 2(a)14 state: “The use of bicycles, skis and other means of non-motorized transportation within the Watershed System shall be permitted only in areas designated by the Commissioner.”

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Bicycling – Designated Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³			

 **Prohibited** ☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Bicycling is only allowed on designated roads. See DWSP map. Helmets and protective gear are required by MA law for children under 16 years of age and recommended for others. In Quabbin Park, bicycling is allowed only on designated paved roads in non-restricted areas.

² Bicycling is allowed only on designated roads through DWSP gates 29, 30, 31, 35, 40, 43A & B, and 44 on Reservation lands. Bicycling is only allowed on designated roads through Gate 8 during fishing season. See DWSP’s bicycling map for designated roads.

³ Bicycling is allowed on main forest roads only within all Off-Reservation lands with seasonal restrictions.

Explanation

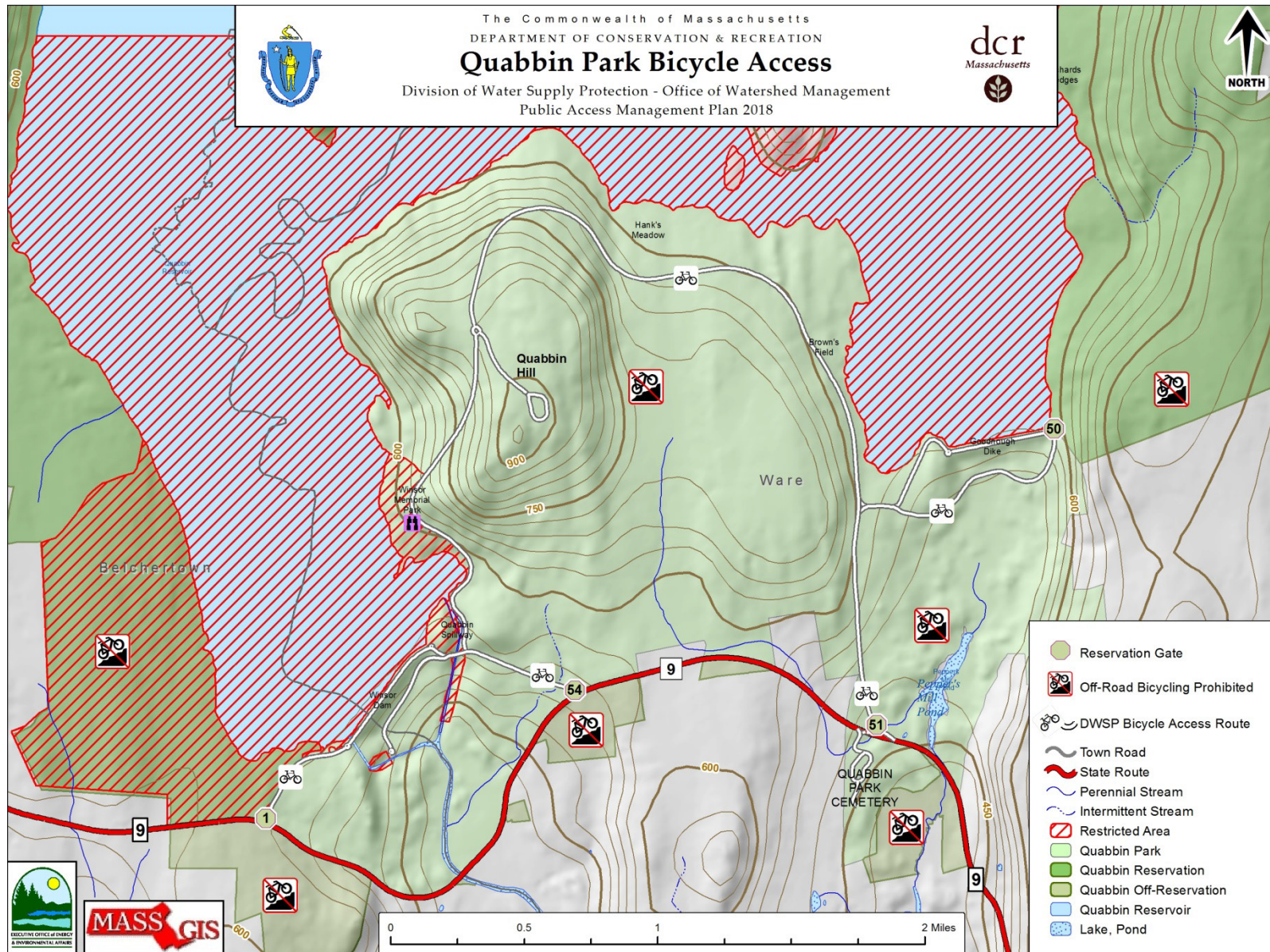
Bicycling has multiple potential water quality impacts, including physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. DWSP minimizes these impacts by limiting bicycling to existing paved, gravel, or woods roads, so that the activity in the Quabbin watershed will have little effect on water quality.

DWSP has designated close to 50 miles of existing roads for bicycling: 9.4 miles are shared with other vehicles and 38.2 miles are for bicycles only. Several loop routes are available for starting and stopping in the same location. Portable toilets are strategically placed throughout the watershed for visitor’s use.

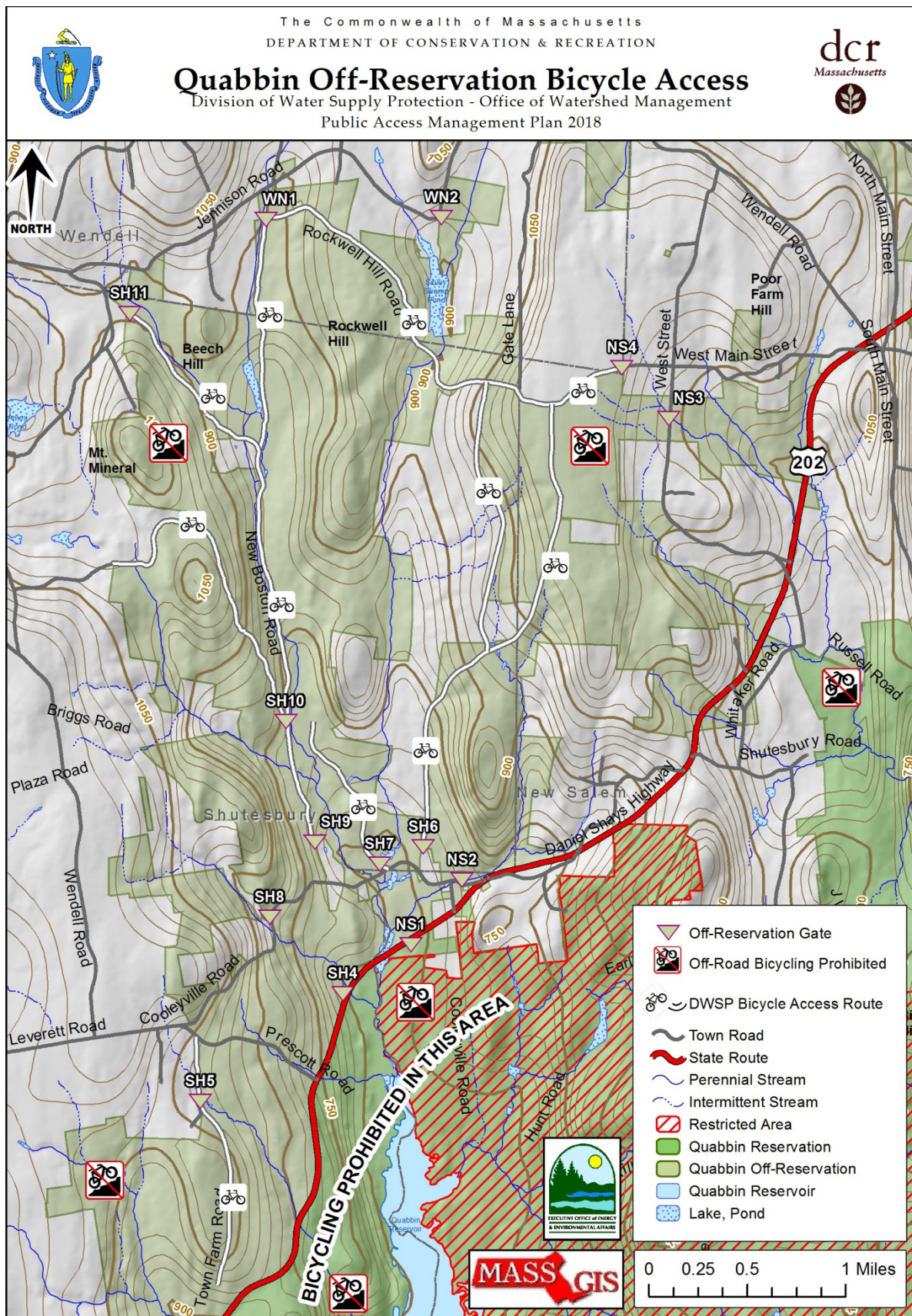
This policy is limited to bicycling on designated paved, gravel, or woods roads.

This policy has not been changed.

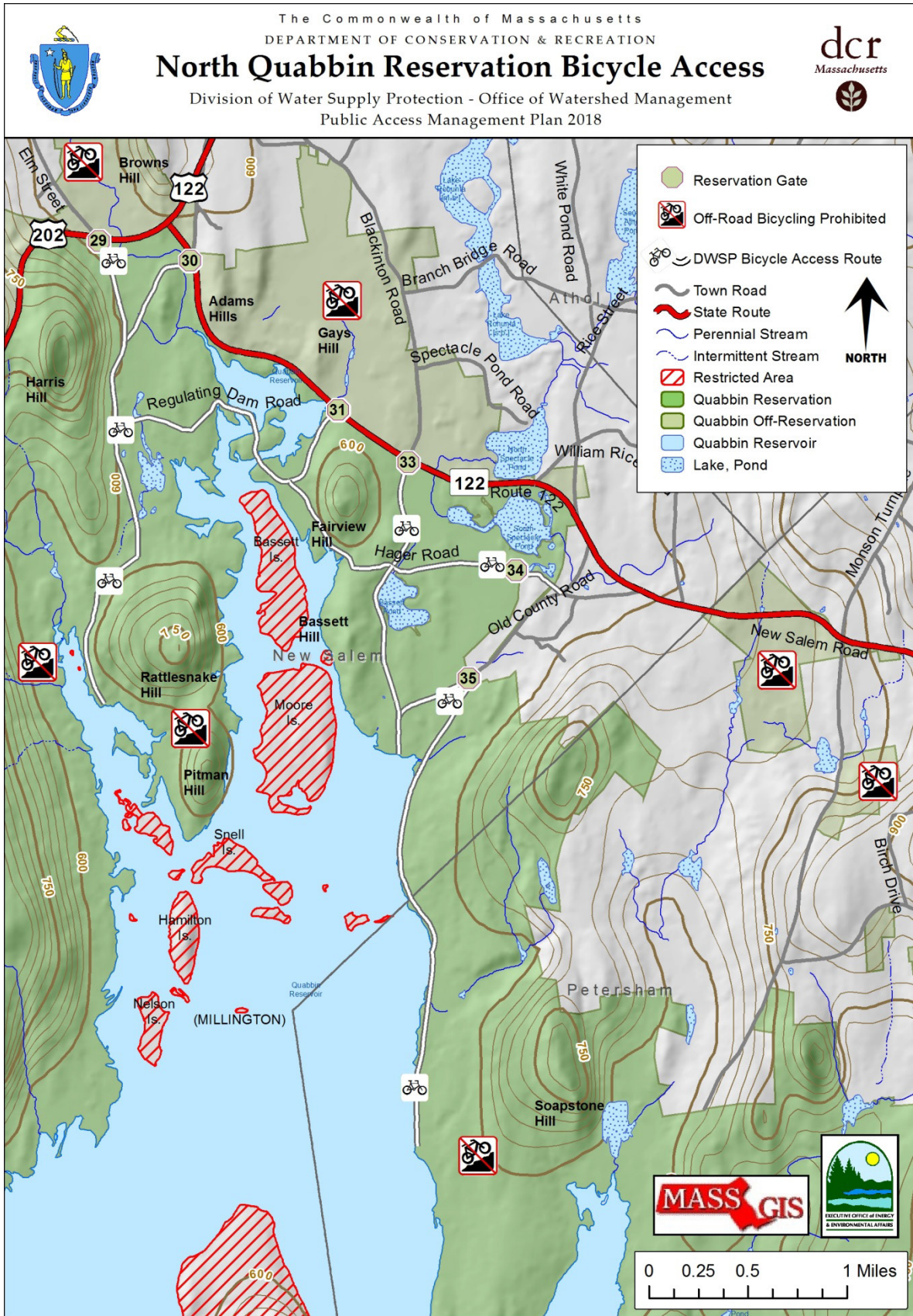
Map 4. DWSP Designated Bicycle Routes - Quabbin Park



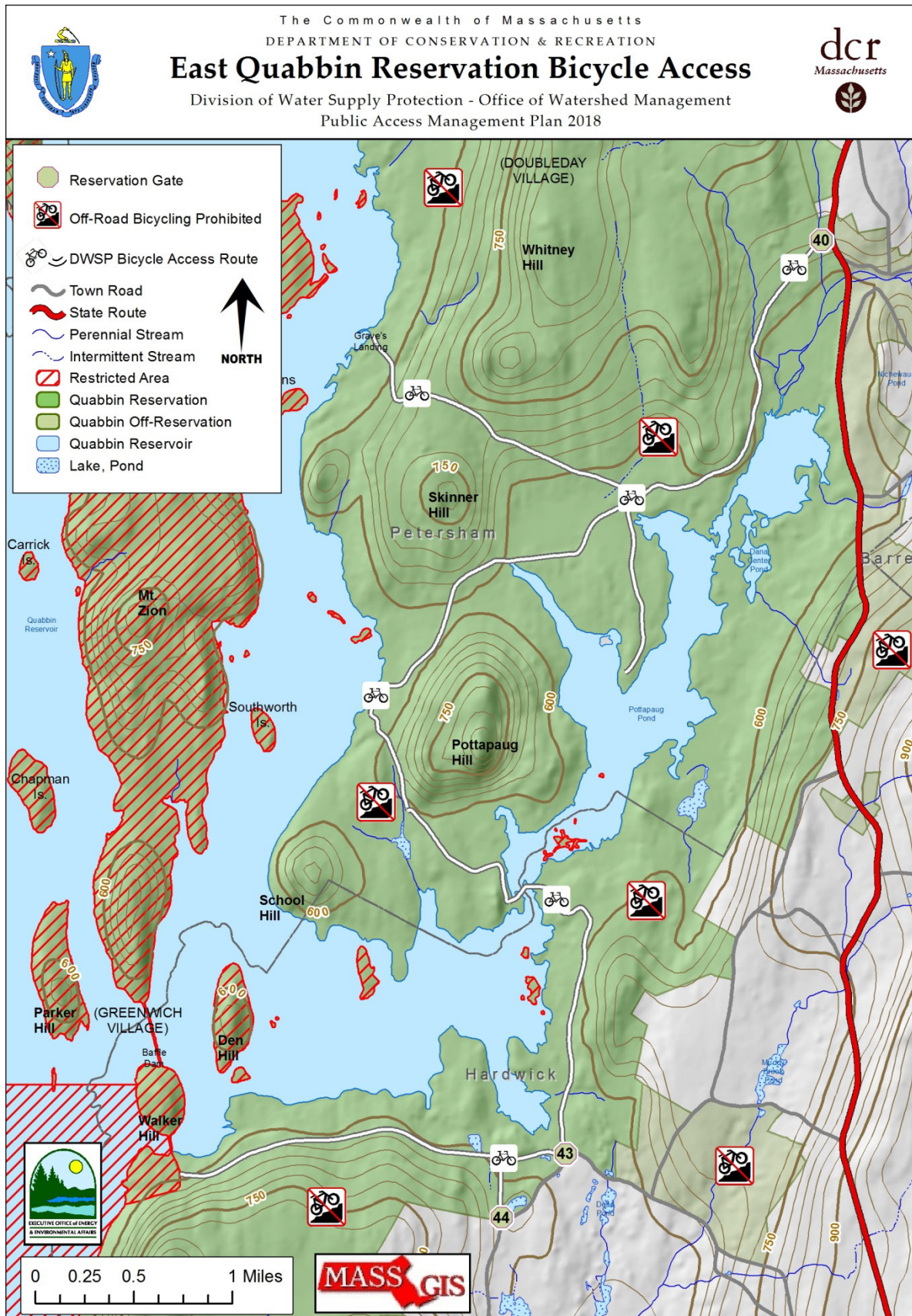
Map 5. DWSP Designated Bicycle Routes – Off-Reservation



Map 6. DWSP Designated Bicycle Routes – North



Map 7. DWSP Designated Bicycle Routes – East









Off-Road Bicycling (Single Track Riding)


Policy

Off-road bicycling is prohibited throughout the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System.

Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09 2(a)14 state: “The use of bicycles, skis and other means of non-motorized transportation within the Watershed System shall be permitted only in areas designated by the Commissioner.”

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Off-road Bicycling						

 Prohibited

Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from off-road bicycling include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. Creation of illegal trails can impact historic and cultural resources, wetlands, and endangered species habitat.

This policy is based on regulation as well as observations of the continued popularity of year round, single-track riding in the region. Watershed Ranger records show that there is an increasing demand for off-road bicycling; creation of unauthorized trails on DWSP lands in the watershed system and attempts to bicycle in prohibited areas, for example along the shoreline, are rule violations frequently encountered by the Watershed Rangers.







This policy has not been changed.


Sledding

Policy

Sledding or any other kind of sliding activity is prohibited on the Quabbin Reservoir dam, dike, or other structures, and in all restricted areas including, but not limited to, the Quabbin Reservoir, Prescott Peninsula, reservoir islands, plowed roads, and along the baffle dams. Pulling a child along in a sled while walking, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing is allowed, but any type of free-falling activity down a slope is prohibited.

Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
Sledding						

 Prohibited

Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from sledding include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism.

The use of sleds or other non-motorized snow toys is prohibited because sliding on the reservoir, dam, dike, or other restricted areas may impact the integrity of the structures, and can be very unsafe because of the dam and dike's steep slopes. Sledding prohibition does not include pulling a child in a sled while walking, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing.

This policy has been clarified. Sledding and sliding activities are prohibited on any type of vertical surface. Pulling a child on a sled is allowed while participating in other approved activities.

Walking and Snowshoeing

Policy

Walking and snowshoeing access is allowed with restrictions within Quabbin Park, Quabbin Reservation, and Off-Reservation lands. Access is prohibited in restricted areas including, but not limited to, Quabbin Reservoir (frozen), ponds (frozen), Prescott Peninsula (Kelly-Wetmore Act (Acts of 1972 Chapter 737), see Appendix A), posted areas near Winsor Dam, and reservoir islands.

Walkers and snowshoers are warned that Off-Reservation properties may be open for hunting and are advised to take adequate precautions to avoid conflicts with hunting.

Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
Walking/ Snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☒ **Prohibited** ☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Walking or snowshoeing access is allowed within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System, except in restricted areas (e.g., Prescott Peninsula, posted administration areas, reservoir islands, and along the baffle dams).

Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from walking or snowshoeing include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. Walking and snowshoeing access is allowed in designated areas during designated times. In order to protect sensitive areas, access is provided only on existing paved, gravel, and woods roads, which protects water quality as well as benefitting public safety in case of visitor emergencies. Access on the frozen reservoir is strictly prohibited. In addition, DWSP has installed a system of accessible portable toilets strategically sited, actively monitored, and maintained to address human sanitary waste concerns posed by this passive recreational activity.

The New England National Scenic Trail (NENST; www.newenglandtrail.org) was opened in 2013 on Off-Reservation land west of Route 202. This nationally designated trail was created as a re-route of the former Monadnock-Metacomet Trail. The designation went through a multi-year process that combined review by DWSP staff, other DCR staff, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee, and general public input. Using the lens of acceptable recreational activities, resource protection, and water quality issues, DWSP worked with these organizations to connect the NENST through watershed lands on existing networks of woods roads on the western edge of the watershed that was geographically distant from the reservoir. Language that all activities on the trail must be consistent with DWSP rules and regulations, including the prohibition on dogs, ATVs, camping, bicycling, and swimming, was included in the agreement developed and signed with the AMC, the organization responsible for maintaining the NENST.

Please contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221 for advice about universally accessible trails.

This policy has not been changed.







Cross-country Skiing



Policy

Cross-country skiing is allowed only within the northwestern Off-Reservation lands depicted on **Map 8** according to general restrictions. Cross-country skiing is strictly prohibited on the reservoir's frozen surface, in Quabbin Park, and in Quabbin Reservation.

Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)14 state: "The use of bicycles, skis and other means of non-motorized transportation within the Watershed System shall be permitted only in areas designated by the Commissioner."

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Cross-country Skiing						

 **Prohibited**  General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

Explanation

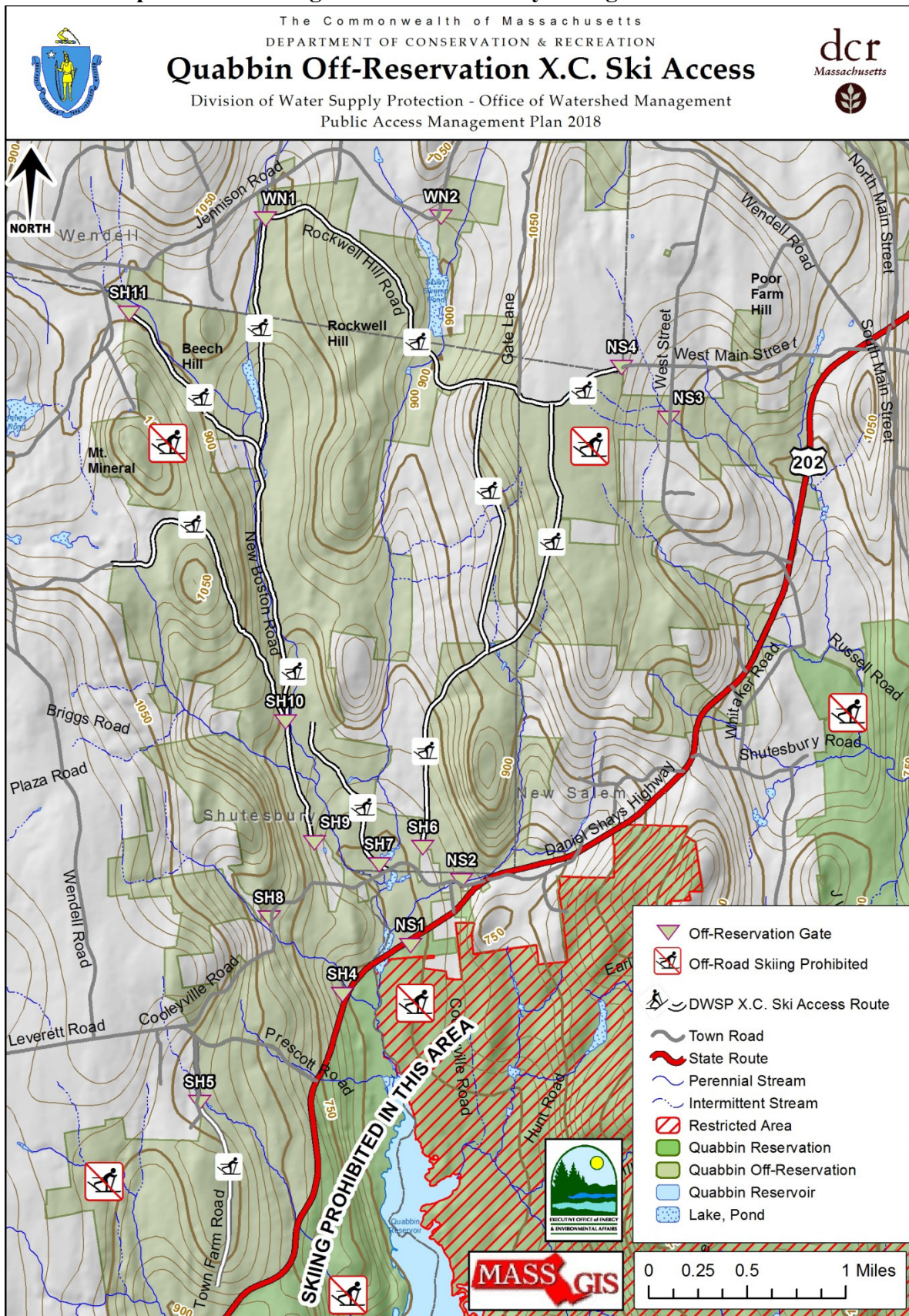
Potential water quality impacts from cross-country skiing include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. Cross-country skiing typically has a greater range (distance travelled in a given time) than other non-motorized winter activities such as walking and snowshoeing. Access on the frozen reservoir is strictly prohibited for safety and sanitation reasons; it is critical that DWSP limits any potential access to the reservoir shoreline and the possibility of people skiing on the frozen reservoir surface. DWSP has limited resources to patrol cross-country skiing activities, and in a worst-case scenario manage accidents, in remote locations throughout the watershed.

In order to protect water quality and public safety, the only places where DWSP allows cross-country skiing are along 13 miles of cross-country ski routes in the Off-Reservation management area, during designated times. These routes are utilized for bicycling during other times of the year.

Please contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221 for more information.

This policy was clarified by identifying specific routes in an updated map.

Map 8. DWSP Designated Cross-Country Skiing - Off-Reservation









Hunting and Trapping



Policy

Hunting and trapping activities are prohibited within Quabbin Park, Quabbin Reservation, and Quabbin Reservoir and ponds, with exceptions made for watershed management activities including the Controlled Deer Management Program and MassWildlife's White-tailed Deer Hunt for Paraplegic Hunters. Hunting within Off-Reservation lands is allowed according to the general restrictions and state hunting regulations.

Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)2 state: "No Person may hunt, shoot or trap animals on or within any Watershed System property except at times and in areas designated by the Commissioner."

Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
Hunting/Trapping						

 **Prohibited**  General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Hunting and trapping are prohibited except by permit during the Quabbin Controlled Deer Hunt and MassWildlife's White-tailed Deer Hunt for Paraplegic Hunters. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center for more information.

Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from hunting include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. Historically, recreational hunting and trapping activities within the Quabbin Reservoir watershed had been prohibited by MGL Chapter 737 (Kelly-Wetmore Act). However, after extensive research, DWSP determined that a limited and controlled deer hunt was necessary to limit over-browsing and facilitate natural regeneration of the forest. The Kelly-Wetmore Act was amended by the Acts of 1990, c. 436 to allow hunting for forest management purposes. Accordingly, DWSP developed the Controlled Deer Management Program within five blocks of the Quabbin Reservation (Pelham, Prescott, New Salem, Hardwick, Petersham). Working with MassWildlife, DWSP issues permits to hunters selected by lottery and who have successfully fulfilled the requirements to participate in the hunt. This program is highly structured for water quality protection. The control of higher-density deer populations also benefits water quality by reducing contamination from fecal material and pathogens.

Off-Reservation lands are open for hunting consistent with MassWildlife seasons and regulations. No DWSP permit is required with the exception for access in the Macedonia/Swift River West Branch area during the MassWildlife deer season. DWSP also assists MassWildlife with a White-tailed Deer Hunt for Paraplegic Hunters program at Quabbin in late October/early November in specially designated areas. Please contact the Quabbin Visitor Center for more information about the Controlled Deer Management Program and Off-Reservation hunting access permits at (413) 323-7221 or go to www.mass.gov/dcr/deerhunt.

This policy has not changed.

Ice Fishing and Ice Skating

Policy

Ice fishing and ice skating are prohibited within Quabbin Park, Quabbin Reservation, or on the frozen Quabbin Reservoir and Regulating Ponds. Traditional ice fishing (e.g., fishing through holes in the ice with tip ups, jigging rods, or hand-lines) with a valid MA fishing license and ice skating are allowed with general restrictions and other applicable regulations within Off-Reservation ponds and Off-Watershed ponds.

Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)5 state: “Fishing from the shoreline of the Quabbin Reservoir and its Tributaries within the Watershed System or from boats shall be allowed only during a season designated by DWSP or its designee.”

Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
Ice Fishing/ Ice Skating	⊘	⊘	□	⊘	⊘	□ ¹

⊘ **Prohibited** □ General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Ice fishing, ice skating, and carry-in boat access allowed only on three Off-Watershed ponds: Peppers Mill, South Spectacle, and Bassett. Please call Watershed Rangers, if accessing, at 617-828-2452.

Explanation

Traditional ice fishing or ice skating activities are allowed on Off-Reservation and Off-Watershed ponds. Overall, these activities have little impact, but their associated actions can affect water quality: parking impacts, improper disposal of human fecal waste, and behavior issues such as littering or vandalism. Traditional ice fishing has been a historical use and is considered relatively safe on the designated ponds which are off-watershed, have shallow depths and a relatively stable level. This policy is considered the permission necessary for these activities under 310 CMR 22.20B(6).

This policy has not changed.


Shore and Stream Fishing


Policy

Fishing is allowed along the shore of Quabbin Reservoir in designated areas according to specific restrictions (**Map 9**). Access to shore fishing areas is by routes along existing paved, gravel, and woods roads at specific times; foot access to the shore is permitted between Gates 8-16 and 22-44 during the designated Quabbin Fishing Season. Shore fishing is prohibited in Quabbin Park and all restricted areas including, but not limited to, Prescott Peninsula, reservoir islands, and on baffle dams. Shore fishing along Off-Watershed Ponds is allowed according to specific restrictions and all other applicable regulations.

Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(b)1 state: “Persons in compliance with Commonwealth Fish and Game Laws and Regulations, will be allowed to fish from [the Quabbin Reservoir] shore in areas designated by the Commissioner...Fishing from the shoreline of the Quabbin Reservoir and its Tributaries within the Watershed System or from boats shall be allowed only during a season designated by the Commissioner.”

Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
Shore/Stream Fishing	 ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³

 **Prohibited** ☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ No fishing in the Park except catch-and-release fly fishing (allowed all year) below the Winsor Dam in the Swift River, unless posted.

² Shore fishing along the Reservoir and along streams is permitted between Gates 8-16 (ending at West Branch of Swift River) and 22-44 (except on baffle dams), by foot, during the designated Quabbin Fishing Season only. See the current Quabbin Fishing Guide and Map available at the Quabbin Visitor Center.

³ Shore fishing within Off-Reservation lands and Off-Watershed ponds is allowed year round according to State Fishing regulations.

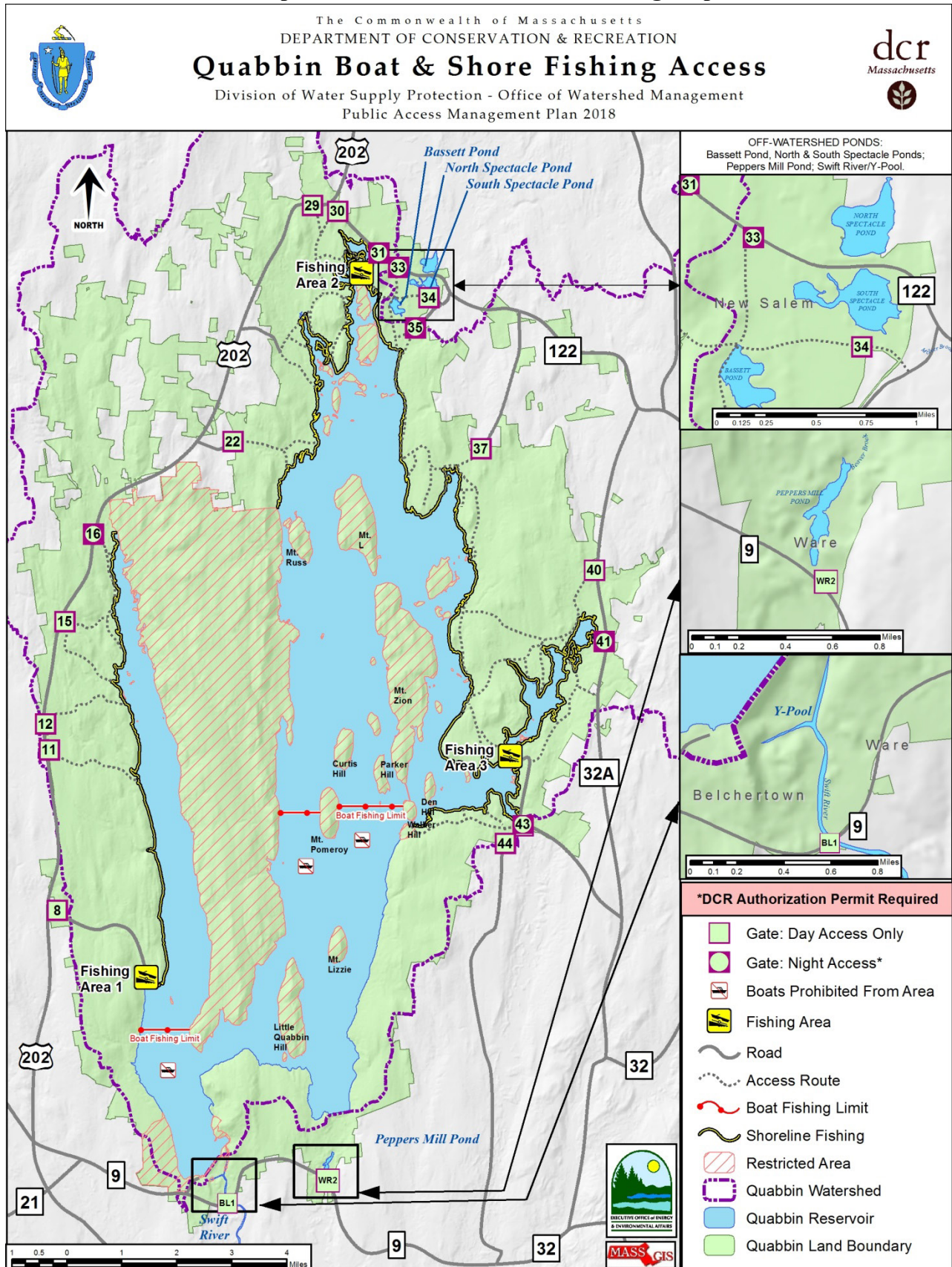
Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from shore and stream fishing include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. The watershed protection regulations, 313 CMR 11.09(2)(b)1, allows shore fishing at Quabbin Reservoir. DWSP limits the area open to shore fishing to areas along the northern portion of the reservoir between Gates 8-16 and Gates 22-44. Catch and release fly-fishing is also allowed on the banks of the Swift River from Route 9 to the Winsor Dam spillway. These controls, along with the strategic placement of portable toilets, fisherman education, and Watershed Ranger patrols, limits potential water quality impacts, which could include unplanned paths created by shore fishermen, potential transfer of invasive species unknowingly transported from other water bodies, improper disposal of human fecal matter, and littering.

For additional information, contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221 or view the annual *Quabbin Reservoir Fishing Guide* at www.mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish.

This policy has not changed.

Map 9. Quabbin Boat and Shore Fishing Map



Boat Fishing

Policy




Boating for fishing purposes is allowed on Quabbin Reservoir during the Quabbin fishing season in three designated areas only: Boat Launch Area 1 (west shore – William E. Pula Fishing Area); Area 2 (north shore – Robert D. Wetmore Fishing Area); and Area 3 (east shore – Stephen M. Brewer Fishing Area). Please see Map 9 for the designated areas. Boat fishing on the Quabbin Reservoir requires a valid Massachusetts fishing license. All boats must comply with safety regulations. Private boats must meet the requirements of the Quabbin Boat Seal program to guard against introduction of invasive species imported from other water bodies (see page 48). Motor sizes have previously been restricted to one half the rating of the boat with a maximum of 20 hp motor allowed; however, in an effort to encourage the replacement of two stroke motors with cleaner burning four stroke motors, boats with a rating of 40 hp or more will be allowed to use four stroke motors up to 25 hp. Watershed Protection Regulation 313 CMR 11.09(2)(b), Special Regulations for Quabbin Reservoir, outline the restrictions related to boating on the reservoir for fishing purposes.


The following are general rules for boats on the Quabbin Reservoir:

- The DWSP attendant may refuse any private boat.
- DWSP allows up to 25 hp, four-stroke motor.
- DWSP requires chock block use and wearing boots for launching and retrieving boats at designated boat launch areas.
- DWSP prohibits chumming in any form such as using pet food, chopped fish, or /and other material dispersed in the water as a fish attractant.
- DWSP prohibits the landing of any unauthorized boat on any island.
- Jet boats are allowed with boat size/motor size restrictions described in the regulations.
- Motor size exceptions:
 - All inboard motors or outboards in excess of 25 hp can take the prop off and mount an outboard motor which meets restrictions of boat size rating-25 hp four-stroke maximum
 - 12' boats or larger are allowed to use a 10 hp motor, if boat is rated for up to 10 hp. This is in recognition of historical use of smaller boats at the Quabbin Reservoir. However, attendant may refuse any boat. 12' boats are the most accident prone boats on the reservoir.
 - Cleaner burning four stroke motors between 20 and 25 hp, are allowed for boats rated up to 40 hp to encourage replacement of two stroke motors and support four stroke motors.
- Occupants of a boat, whether a private vessel or a DWSP rental, must have a valid MA fishing license and appropriate fishing tackle.
- Harassment of wildlife is prohibited. Boats must maintain a distance of 500' from loons and their nests; violators may be subject to fines and/or be banned from boat access (313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)(23) and 313 CMR 11.09(2)(b)(7)).

Please contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221 for up-to-date information regarding designated season, boating and decontamination/boat seal requirements, and for the current *Quabbin Fishing Guide*, or go to www.mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Boat Fishing				<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³

 **Prohibited** ☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Boat access on reservoir requires a valid MA fishing license. Wearing boots is mandatory if wading while launching or removing boats at designated areas from the Reservoir. Fishing access using DWSP-supplied canoes, kayaks, or jon boats is allowed only through Gate 31 above regulating dam and through Gate 43 on Pottapaug Pond with restrictions. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at 413-323-7221 for more information regarding current Fishing Guide.

² Private canoes and kayaks are not allowed on the Regulating Ponds, however DWSP rents canoes and kayaks on a first come-first serve basis at Boat Launch Areas #2 and #3 for use on the Regulating Ponds at these areas. Fishing/sporting licenses or Quabbin fishing licenses are required for renting boats. All boating regulations for Quabbin Reservoir apply to these crafts. Fishing access using private jon boats with valid Quabbin Boat Seal is allowed only through Gate 31 above regulating dam and through Gate 43 on Pottapaug Pond with restrictions. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at 413-323-7221 for more information regarding current Fishing Guide.

³ Carry-in boat access is allowed on Off-Watershed ponds with DWSP size restrictions. See night access policy, if applicable. Allowed subject to MA boating regulations. Please call Watershed Rangers, if accessing, at 617-828-2452.

Explanation

Potential impacts caused by boat fishing include physical and microbial water quality threats from soil erosion on landing areas, contamination by chemicals used in boat maintenance, and introduction of exotic, invasive species. Associated impacts include erosion and chemicals left on parking areas, improper disposal of fecal waste, and behavior such as littering and vandalism. These impacts may introduce sediment, chemicals, and pathogens to the water.

The boat fishing program at Quabbin is the legacy of political decisions made in the 1950s. The current operation of the boat fishing program – with its limits on motor size, a designated season (typically mid-April through mid-October), and controlled and managed areas open to launching – does not threaten public health. Since motor boating was implemented, the Quabbin staff, with the cooperation of the organized fishing clubs, has worked to minimize any impacts from the activity on water quality. Presently the program consists of three Boat Launch Areas with a total of 60 motorized rental boats (20 at each area), and 30 row boats (10 at each area). DWSP does not rent motors, only boats with motors, row boats, canoes, and kayaks.

All boats must be at least 12 feet long. Only DWSP-rented canoes and kayaks are allowed above the regulating dams at Boat Launch Area 3 in Hardwick on Pottapaug Pond, and at Boat Launch Area 2 in New Salem. Canoes, kayaks, sailboats, and jon boats are prohibited on the reservoir by regulation (313 CMR 11.09(2)(b)3; their size and weight make them susceptible to body contact with the water.

DWSP, however, minimizes these potential impacts through significant control over all aspects of this activity, including the Quabbin Boat Seal program (see below) and full-time staff committed to manage each of the three Boat Launch Areas. DWSP Rangers and Massachusetts State Police patrol the reservoir to ensure that participants are complying with all rules and regulations.

Quabbin Boat Seal Decontamination Program

The Quabbin Boat Seal (QBS) is a security tag that seals your boat to its trailer. When the boat is launched at Quabbin Reservoir, the QBS is inspected and removed by DWSP staff. When you are done fishing, DWSP staff attaches another QBS. As long as you have an intact QBS, the boat may be used on Quabbin Reservoir throughout the fishing season. If the boat is used on another body of water, the boat must be decontaminated and a new QBS attached before it can be used at Quabbin Reservoir again.

Ensuring that boats launched at Quabbin Reservoir have been properly decontaminated minimizes the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) getting into the reservoir. AIS are plants and animals that are not native to New England and can potentially spread rapidly if accidentally introduced. If they get into Quabbin Reservoir or other lakes and ponds, they could take over and disrupt the natural processes, degrade water quality, and interfere with recreation such as fishing.

All private boats must have an intact Quabbin Boat Seal (QBS) to be eligible for launching on the reservoir. Seals can be obtained through a DWSP-approved decontamination and inspection process. For a schedule of boat inspections/washings, call the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221.

- Seals must be intact when arriving at the boat launch area.
- DWSP personnel will inspect the QBS, and then break it before launching.
- As a boat is removed from the reservoir, it will be resealed to the trailer by the attendant.
- Tampering with QBS is a violation of DWSP Rules and Regulations and will result in loss of Quabbin Reservoir fishing privileges and possible fines.
- QBS FAQ Sheet is available at: www.mass.gov/service-details/quabbin-reservoir-boating-information.



A Quabbin Boat Seal being affixed to a decontaminated boat (left) and the seal as it appears on a boat trailer.





This policy has been clarified to reflect the recent decontamination/boat seal requirements for all private boats.


Canoeing/Kayaking/Non-Motorized Boating

Policy

Non-motorized boating in a canoe, kayak, or boat with a minimum length of 12 feet is allowed on the Regulating Ponds and Off-Watershed ponds according to Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(b)(3). A valid fishing license, however, is required for access on the Regulating Ponds. Private canoes or kayaks are not allowed on the Regulating Ponds due to the threat from invasive species, however canoes and kayaks are available for rent at those sites. “Sit on top” kayaks of any size are prohibited. Canoes less than 16 feet and jon boats less than 14 feet, six inches in length will be limited to two occupants; larger canoes and jon boats may carry up to three occupants. All boats must be in compliance with current Commonwealth boating laws. All boats must be clean and contain no refuse of any kind. All boats must comply with safety regulations. Private boats used on the Regulating Ponds must meet DWSP decontamination/boat seal requirements to guard against introduction of invasive species. DWSP personnel shall have the right to inspect all private boats launched at Commonwealth facilities and may deny access in order to protect water quality or the safety of occupants. Please contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221 for up-to-date information regarding designated season, boating requirements, and for the current Quabbin Fishing Guide, or go to www.mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Canoeing/ Kayaking/ Non-Motorized Boating					<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²

 **Prohibited** ☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Private canoes and kayaks are not allowed on the Regulating Ponds, however DWSP rents canoes and kayaks on a first come-first serve basis at Boat Launch Areas #2 and #3 for use on the Regulating Ponds at these areas. Fishing/sporting licenses or Quabbin fishing licenses are required for renting boats. All boating regulations for Quabbin Reservoir apply to these crafts. Fishing access using private jon boats with valid Quabbin Boat Seal is allowed only through Gate 31 above regulating dam and through Gate 43 on Pottapaug Pond with restrictions. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at 413-323-7221 for more information regarding current Fishing Guide.

² Carry-in boat access is allowed on Off-Watershed ponds with DWSP size restrictions. See night access policy, if applicable. Allowed subject to MA boating regulations. Please call Watershed Rangers, if accessing, as a courtesy at 413-323-0192.

Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from non-motorized boating include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. The prevention of human body contact with the drinking water supply is a critical and basic public health protection tool at the Quabbin Reservoir used to minimize the potential of microbial contamination from boat launching, retrieval, or capsizing. Because canoes and kayaks are designed for body/water contact, they are allowed only in two designated areas for public health and safety reasons. While the impact of non-motorized boats to water quality is lower than motorized boats, soil

erosion at launch areas and access-to-water trails remain common problems associated with the use of non-motorized boats such as canoes and kayaks. Canoes and kayaks have an unstable draft compared to wide bottomed rowboats, can tip more easily, and require a greater level of skill to operate. DWSP is not equipped to determine the skill level of boaters or conduct rescue operations on the reservoir for individuals in non-motorized boats.

Quabbin Boat Seal Program

All private boats, including non-motorized boats used on the Regulating Ponds, must have an intact Quabbin Boat Seal (QBS) to be eligible for launching on the reservoir. Seals can be obtained through a DWSP approved decontamination and inspection process. For a schedule of boat inspections/washings, call the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221.

- Seals must be intact when arriving at the boat launch area.
- DWSP personnel will inspect the QBS, then break it before launching.
- As a boat is removed from the reservoir, it will be resealed to the trailer by the attendant.
- Tampering with QBS is a violation of DWSP Rules and Regulations and will result in loss of Quabbin fishing privileges and possible fines.
- QBS FAQ Sheet is available at: www.mass.gov/service-details/quabbin-reservoir-boating-information.

This policy has been clarified to reflect the recent decontamination/boat seal requirements for all private boats.



Wading (for fishing or boat launching only)


Policy

Wading is prohibited in Quabbin Reservoir except while launching or removing boats while wearing boots, at designated Boat Launch Areas 1, 2, and 3. Wading with waders is allowed in tributaries in Quabbin Reservation between Gates 8-16 (ending at West Branch of Swift River) and Gates 22-44, except in restricted areas. Wading with waders is allowed off-watershed below the Winsor Dam Power Station and spillway on the Swift River.

Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)7 states: “No Person shall wade or swim in any reservoir except wading while using boots for the purpose of launching boats at designated boat launch areas.” The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.20B(6) states: “No person shall swim, wade or bathe in any source of drinking water supply...”

Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
Wading (fishing, launching)	 ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	 ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ³

 **Prohibited** ☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Wading with waders is allowed off-watershed and below the Winsor Dam Power Station on the Swift River.

² Wading with waders is allowed in Off-Reservation tributaries and tributaries between Gates 8-16 (ending at West Branch of Swift River) and Gates 22-44, except in restricted areas.

³ Wading is prohibited except while launching or removing boats while wearing boots, at designated areas on the Reservoir.

Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from wading include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. Direct body-contact with drinking water is a serious concern due to the potential to introduce pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Wearing boots or waders minimizes this potential impact. In addition, walking in and out of the water tramples vegetation and erodes soil along the shoreline.

This policy has not changed.



Swimming


Policy

Swimming in any surface water of the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is prohibited by both the Watershed Protection Regulations (313 CMR 11.00) and the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations (310 CMR 22.20B):

- 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)7 states: “No Person shall wade or swim in any reservoir except wading while using boots for the purpose of launching boats at designated boat launch areas.”
- 310 CMR 22.20B(6) states: “No person shall swim, wade or bathe in any source of drinking water supply...”

Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
Swimming						

 Prohibited

Explanation

Swimming in any public surface water supply/Class A water is prohibited because direct body-water contact increases the likelihood of microbiological contamination by pathogens, including *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* as well as other bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. In addition, walking in and out of the water tramples vegetation and erodes soil along the shoreline. Swimming also includes any wading not associated with fishing with waders.

This policy has not changed.




Group Activities (Weddings, Organized Walks, Tour Buses, etc.)


Policy

Group activities include many types of usage and are regulated by the number of people and number of vehicles.

- Group activities are allowed without a DWSP- issued permit for groups of up to 25 individuals and 10 cars or motorcycles. DWSP requests a courtesy call to the Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221 to avoid group conflicts.
- A DWSP-issued permit is required for any group of more than 25 individuals or 10 cars or motorcycles. Quabbin Reservoir permit applications are available at www.mass.gov/service-details/watershed-permits or by contacting the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413)-323-7221.
- Group activities of greater than 100 individuals or 40 cars or motorcycles shall be subject to additional review, including possible requirements for an accompanying Watershed Ranger detail.
- Any access by bus requires a DWSP-issued permit.
- Ceremonies, such as weddings and memorials, are limited to 75 people or less.

Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
Group Activities (weddings organized walks, tour buses, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹			

 **Prohibited** ☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Allowed without a permit for groups of up to 25 individuals or 10 cars or 10 motorcycles. Permit required for groups greater than 25 individuals, 10 cars or motorcycles or any bus. Special ceremonies (weddings, memorials) limited to 75 people.

Explanation

The Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09 (2)(a)18 states: “Public assemblies of more than 25 persons shall not be allowed within the Watershed System without a written permit from the Commissioner.”

Certain locations are increasingly utilized for special ceremonies, such as weddings and memorials. DWSP must manage the physical resources for water quality as well as public safety, therefore needs to limit the number of people at special events.

This policy has been clarified to address the increasing frequency of group access activity requests received by DWSP by stating numbers of people or vehicles requiring a permit.







Geocaching and Related Activities



Policy

Geocaching activities are limited to Off-Reservation areas only. A review process will continue to be conducted by Quabbin Section staff on the placement of any geocache, letterbox, or related activity, with particular emphasis given to site location, impacts to water quality, sensitivity of ecological or cultural resources, public safety, facility security, proximity to other existing sites, suitability of trails to absorb additional use and other pertinent factors. All geocache placements must be registered with www.geocaching.com; other activities must register with similar, appropriate websites. DWSP will continue to work with these organizations to prohibit placement of materials in unacceptable locations, such as cellar holes, historically sensitive area, and areas closed to the public.

This policy is based on the Watershed Protection Regulation 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)5 which states, “No Person shall build, construct, bury, or conceal any object, memorial, or structure on the property of the Commonwealth except with the written permission of the Commissioner.”

Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
Geocaching/ Questing			 ¹			

 **Prohibited**  **General Restrictions:** General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Review by the Quabbin Visitor Center required for any cache placement (also applies to “munzing,” “letterboxing,” “questing,” and other forms of related “hide and seek” activities).

Explanation

In recent years recreational activities such as geocaching, questing, letterboxing and benchmarking have grown significantly in popularity. Recent security concerns associated with geocaching have prompted DWSP to reconsider its access policy for this activity. Land managers from public agencies and private organizations have experienced problems with the establishment of unauthorized and unregulated cache sites on their property. Potential water quality impacts from geocaching include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. In addition, geocaches can be hidden in suspicious containers, prompting security concerns and unnecessary responses from law enforcement personnel.

All current geocache placements within Quabbin Park or Quabbin Reservation must be removed within six months of the final release of this plan. After six months, DWSP personnel will begin collecting and disposing of geocache placements on DWSP watershed lands in these areas.

DCR is developing a statewide policy for Geocaching, Letterboxing and similar activities on all DCR lands, including the watershed system. In the meantime, the following guidelines are followed for these activities on Off-Reservation lands in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed:

- All caches to be placed on DWSP property must be registered on www.geocaching.com, www.letterboxing.org or similar websites, noting that Quabbin Reservoir watershed rules must be adhered to when on the property. Each cache must contain contact information of the owner. In the event a cache has to be removed by DWSP staff, effort will be made to notify the owner.
- Caches placed in no trespassing areas or areas deemed to be inappropriate by the DWSP Watershed Rangers will be removed immediately and kept at the Watershed Ranger office or Quabbin Visitor Center for thirty days. Effort will be made to notify the owner of the cache removal.
- Caches and other materials and activities must be located so participants travel on existing roads or other routes.
- Caches CANNOT be placed in the following locations:
 - Areas that would encourage disturbance or dismantling of historic structures, historic buildings, rock walls or cellar hole foundations.
 - Wetland resources protected under the 310 CMR 10.00.
 - Areas that could potentially cause danger to visitors trying to locate the cache.
 - Underwater or in streams.
 - Wildlife dens.
 - Restricted access areas of the Quabbin Reservoir watershed.
- Caches must be in transparent containers (e.g., Tupperware or Rubbermaid) and clearly marked as a Geocache or Official Geocache. Metal (ammo boxes), PVC pipes, or other non-transparent containers are prohibited.
- No digging or excavation is permitted at any time in the placement or retrieval of a cache.
- No defacement or alteration to DWSP property, including but not limited to signs, benches, buildings, or natural features, is allowed.
- No removal or significant disturbance of vegetation, plant growth, or other flora is permitted at any time in the placement or operation of a cache or other associated materials.
- Caches will not contain food, alcohol, firearms, drugs, dangerous items (e.g., fireworks or matches), or sexually explicit material. No natural materials from DWSP watershed lands shall be placed into the cache.
- No monies or profits can be derived from the placement of a cache by the owner or an affiliated business or organization.
- Any questions regarding geocaching, letterboxing, or similar activities can be directed to the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221.

This policy has been modified to limit geocaching activities to Off-Reservation lands.

Wildlife/Bird Watching

Policy

Wildlife/bird watching access is allowed with restrictions within Quabbin Park, Quabbin Reservation, and Off-Reservation lands. Access is prohibited in restricted areas including but not limited to: Quabbin Reservoir (frozen), ponds (frozen), Prescott Peninsula, posted areas near Winsor Dam, and reservoir islands.

Bird watchers are warned that Off-Reservation properties may be open for hunting and advised to take adequate precautions to avoid potential conflict with hunting.

A DWSP Night Access permit can be used for night watching. Access is available during limited times and through designated gates (see Night Access policy). Use of a motorized boat on Quabbin Reservoir, whether a private vessel or a DWSP rental, requires the occupant to have a valid MA fishing license and appropriate fishing tackle. Harassment of wildlife while on a boat is prohibited. Boats must maintain a distance of 500' from loons and their nests; violators may be subject to fines and/or be banned from boat access (313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)(23) and 313 CMR 11.09(2)(b)(7)).

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Wildlife/ Bird Watching	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹

☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Wildlife/bird watching is permissible if conducted in conjunction with any permitted access activity, including night access. Access is prohibited on frozen reservoir and regulating ponds. Group viewing must obtain either a short-term birding access permit or a group activity permit.

Explanation

Wildlife and/or bird watching is a favorite activity in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed; visitors look for animals and birds while participating in all allowed public access activities. Potential impacts to water quality are the same as walking activities or boating activities if viewing from a waterborne craft. Potential water quality include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism.

There are state designated wildlife viewing areas established in Quabbin Park and Gate 29. Access on the frozen reservoir and regulating ponds is strictly prohibited for safety and sanitation reasons.

This policy has not changed.







Night Access



Policy

Night access is available for pedestrians with a DWSP permit issued through the Quabbin Visitor Center to pursue allowed activities through Gates 16, 31, 33, 35, 41 and 43 from mid-April to October (**Map 10**). Permission will continue to be issued to individual users upon review and approval by DWSP; applicants must specify the reason for the access request. The night access permit is valid for one year and must be renewed annually. Night access on South Spectacle Pond is allowed without a permit. Night access within Quabbin Park is prohibited with two exceptions: 1) it is allowed without a permit on and immediately adjacent to the banks of either Pepper's Mill Pond or 2) below Winsor Dam on the Swift River, if access to these areas is from Route 9. Access to the Swift River, Y-Pool and Rt. 9 parking area is prohibited between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m.

The Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)2 state: "No Person is allowed within any land of the Watershed System, except from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, unless authorized by a written permit from the Commissioner; or for the purposes of authorized night fishing along the Swift River downstream of the Y-pool below Winsor Dam, at Pepper's Mill Pond, or at South Spectacle Pond."

Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
Night Access	 ¹	 ²	 ²			 ^{1, 2}

 **Prohibited**  General Restrictions: General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited.

¹ Night access within Quabbin Park is prohibited except at two locations. It is allowed without a permit on the Swift River below the Y Pool, if access is from Route 9, and on Peppers Mill Pond, provided that access is limited to the immediate banks of the Swift River, Y Pool, or Peppers Mill Pond only. Access to the Swift River, Y-Pool and Rt. 9 parking area is prohibited between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m.

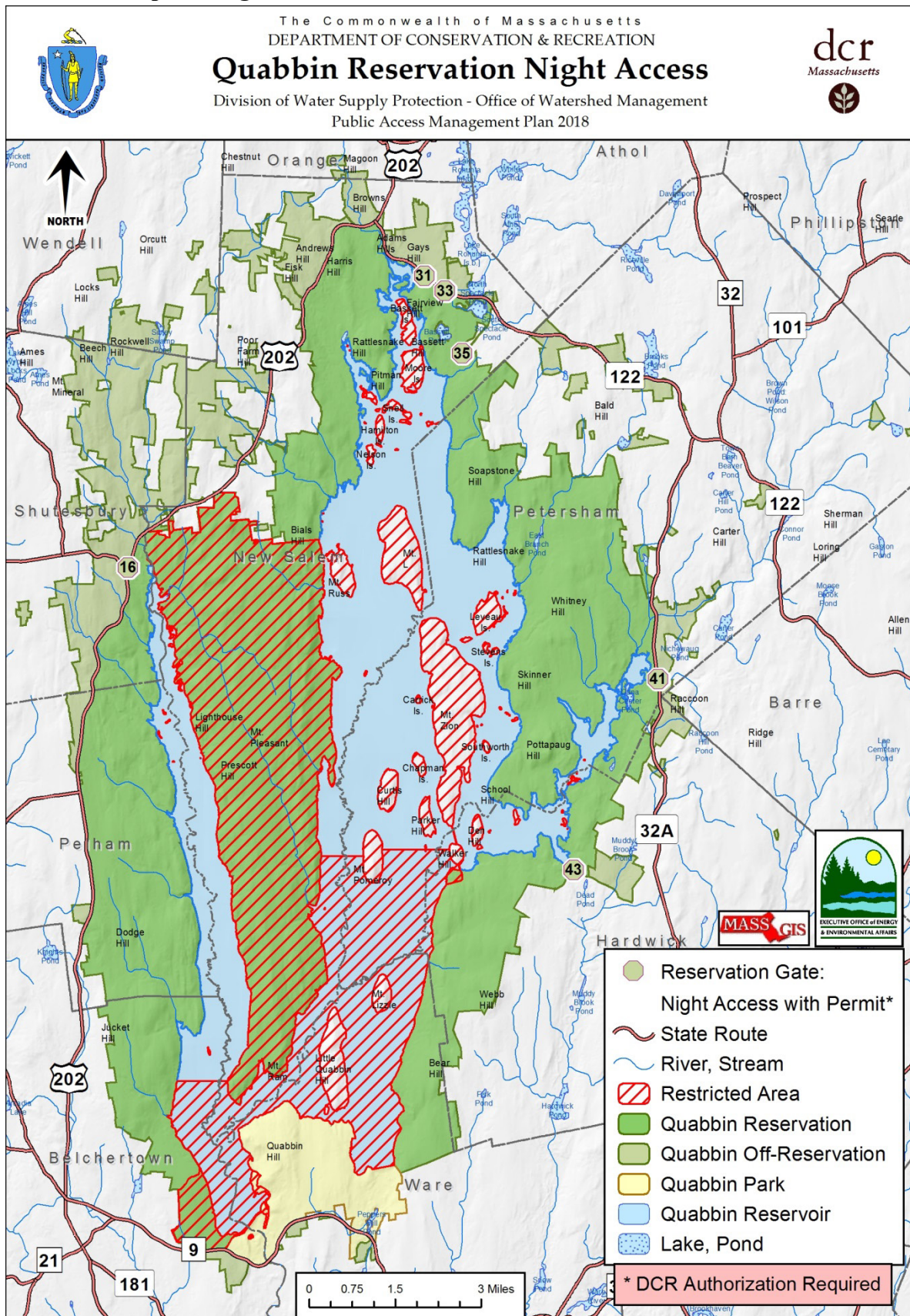
² Night access is allowed by permit for pedestrians only through Gates 16, 31, 35, 41, and 43 during the designated Quabbin Fishing season. Night access directly from Rt. 122 is allowed without a permit on South Spectacle Pond (off-watershed). Night access is allowed on Off-Reservation lands with a permit. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center for night access permit information.

Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from night access includes physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. Night access is allowed to limited and restricted uses in designated areas and during designated times and upon notification of the DWSP Watershed Rangers. The night access policy implemented in 1989 was incorporated into the Watershed Protection regulations in 1992 when night access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System became prohibited with the exception of specially designated areas with permission from DWSP. Night access may be denied during times of heightened security or alerts. Due to security reasons, the Massachusetts State Police requested DWSP to prohibit access to the Swift River, Y-Pool and Rt. 9 parking area during late night hours. DWSP evaluated common fishing practices and has established an 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. restriction that allows continued evening and early morning fishing access while prohibiting overnight parking.

This policy was clarified to explain that night access may be terminated for security reasons. Due to security reasons, access to the Swift River, Y-Pool and Rt. 9 parking area is prohibited between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m.

Map 10. Night Access Entrances - Quabbin Reservoir Watershed









Organized Sports


Policy

Organized sports are when any size group of people wishes to use DWSP lands for an outdoor, organized recreational game, such as baseball, ultimate frisbee, or touch football. Such uses may infringe on or limit the use of DWSP lands for other pursuits, including those of DWSP; therefore, organized sports are not allowed without a permit from DWSP.

Organized sports are prohibited in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System by the Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)9: “Organized sports activities, including but not limited to orienteering and baseball, are prohibited in the Watershed System except by written permission from the Commissioner.”

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Organized Sports	 ¹	 ¹	 ¹			

 Prohibited

¹ Prohibited except by written permission from DWSP.

Explanation

Organized sports increase frequency and intensity of recreation in a public water supply watershed. In addition, the development and maintenance of playgrounds or sports fields is inconsistent with DWSP’s Public Access Management Plan goals.







This policy has not changed.


Dogs/Other Domestic Animals

Policy

Dogs and all other domestic animals are prohibited by regulation throughout the entire Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System (i.e., all DWSP-controlled properties in and around the reservoir's watershed).

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Dogs/Other Domestic Animals						

 Prohibited

Explanation

While dog walking has always been prohibited on DWSP's water supply lands in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed, it remains the largest rule violation identified by the Watershed Rangers. For example, between 2006 through 2016, over 1,250 rule violations for domestic animals were issued in the Quabbin and Ware River watersheds. Dogs may carry bacteria and viruses in their waste products and deposit it near streams, brooks, or the reservoir. Consequently, disease causing organisms (e.g., bacteria and viruses) may directly enter the water supply or spread to other animal populations (e.g., deer, beavers, etc.). If dogs enter the reservoir directly, they may shed disease organisms into the drinking water supply.

The introduction of dogs and other animals within a public water supply watershed or its surface waters is incompatible with DWSP's public health protection goals. The Watershed Protection Regulation 313 CMR 11.09 (2)(a)13 states: "No Person shall bring any animal within any Watershed System property except for horses and dogs at the Ware River Watershed at areas designated by the Commissioner."

The use of a service animal by a person with a disability is allowed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (see Section IV-C-2 (p. 23)).







This policy has not changed.


Horseback Riding

Policy

Horseback riding is prohibited by regulation throughout the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System. Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)13 states: “No Person shall bring any animal within any Watershed System property except for horses and dogs at the Ware River Watershed at areas designated by the Commissioner.”

Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
Horseback Riding						

 Prohibited

Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from horseback riding include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human and animal fecal waste sanitation, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. Creation of illegal trails can impact historic and cultural resources, wetlands, and endangered species habitat.

The introduction and presence of horses and other animals within a public drinking water supply watershed or its surface waters is incompatible with sanitary goals in a water supply and public health protection from waterborne diseases. Horses can pose a particularly high risk of water contamination. Horses may be hosts to *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* pathogens which can infect humans and can be further spread by animal wastes. The *Cryptosporidium* parasite can cause prolonged fever and diarrhea and may kill persons with weak immune systems.

The Watershed Protection Regulation 313 CMR 11.09 (2)(a)13 states: “No Person shall bring any animal within any Watershed System property except for horses and dogs at the Ware River Watershed at areas designated by the Commissioner.”

This policy has not changed.







Metal Detecting


Policy

Metal detecting is prohibited within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System.

The Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)25 states: “The possession of all types of metal detectors or similar devices is prohibited on all of the Watershed System property.”

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Metal Detecting						

 Prohibited

Explanation

The Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)5 state: “All acts which injure the property of the Commonwealth are prohibited. No Person shall injure, deface, destroy, remove or carry off any property, real or personal, under the care and control of DCR, including but not limited to, all historic artifacts and natural materials, except that the collection of edible plants, such as blueberries and mushrooms in a non-disruptive manner and for non-commercial use, is allowed. Unless otherwise authorized, the removal from the Watershed System of gravel, topsoil, stones, boulders, or other earthen material is prohibited except for removal for use by DCR for land management purposes. No Person shall build or construct any object or structure of the property of the Commonwealth except with the written permission of the Commissioner.” In addition, 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)25 states: “The possession of all types of metal detectors or similar devices is prohibited on all of the Watershed System property.”

This policy has not changed.

Foraging

Policy

Foraging activities by individuals for individual consumption of edible plant materials (e.g., blueberries, grapes, fiddleheads, mushrooms, etc.) in a non-destructive manner for non-commercial uses is allowed.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Foraging	☐ ¹	☐ ¹	☐ ¹	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

¹ Foraging is allowed only for the collection of edible plants, such as blueberries and mushrooms, in a non-disruptive manner and for non-commercial use.

Explanation

The Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)5 state: “All acts which injure the property of the Commonwealth are prohibited. No Person shall injure, deface, destroy, remove or carry off any property, real or personal, under the care and control of DCR, including but not limited to, all historic artifacts and natural materials, except that the collection of edible plants, such as blueberries and mushrooms, in a non-disruptive manner and for non-commercial use, is allowed. Unless otherwise authorized, the removal from the Watershed System of gravel, topsoil, stones, boulders, or other earthen material is prohibited except for removal for use by DCR for land management purposes. No Person shall build or construct any object or structure of the property of the Commonwealth except with the written permission of the Commissioner.”







This policy has been specifically identified as allowed. This activity has been renamed from collecting to foraging.


Camping

Policy

Camping in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is prohibited. Camping includes, but is not limited to tenting, trailers, lean-tos, and motor homes. Overnight parking is prohibited.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Camping						

 Prohibited

Explanation

The Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)2 states: “No person is allowed within any land of the Watershed System, except from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, unless authorized by written permit from the Commissioner.” In addition, Acts of 1972, Chapter 737, Section 12 states: “There shall be no overnight camping within the Quabbin Reservoir area ... nor shall tents be erected nor trailers or other vehicular sleeping accommodation be parked overnight therein.”







This policy has not changed.


Fishing Derbies

Policy

Fishing derbies for raising or collecting funds are prohibited in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Fishing Derbies			 ¹	 ¹	 ¹	 ¹

 Prohibited

¹ Prohibited except by written permission from DWSP.

Explanation

Fishing derbies and other types of concentrated group activities associated with fairs or carnivals can have impacts related to multiple vehicles in one location, including the potential to leave toxic chemicals (e.g., motor oil, engine coolant) on the surface. These chemicals are concentrated in these areas and may be transported to the system's tributaries and ultimately the reservoir through stream or overland flow. In addition, the introduction of exhaust compounds, erosion, improper disposal of human fecal waste, disturbance of wilderness character, and behavior such as littering are associated with this activity.

The Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)16 states: "Parades, games, fairs, carnivals, fishing derbies, bazaars, gifts or solicitations for raising or collecting funds shall not be permitted within the watershed system without written approval of the Commissioner."







This policy has not changed.


Target Shooting

Policy

Target shooting is prohibited in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Pond</i>
Target Shooting						

 Prohibited

Explanation

The Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)21 state: “All forms of target shooting are prohibited on or within the Watershed System.”







This policy has not changed.


Advertising

Policy

Advertising or any other unauthorized placement of signs is prohibited in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Advertising						

 Prohibited

Explanation

The Watershed Protection Regulation 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)20 states: “Commercial signs and advertising are prohibited in the Watershed System, without written permission of the Commissioner.”







This policy has not changed.


Marking or Cutting Trails/Roads

Policy

Marking, cutting, and/or the creation of trails or roads is prohibited within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System without written permission. Unauthorized structures and trails will be removed.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Marking – Trails/Roads						

 Prohibited

Explanation

The Watershed Protection Regulation 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)5 states: “...No person shall build or construct any object or structure on the property of the commonwealth except with written permission of the Commissioner.” The locations of accessible routes for public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System have been carefully selected with water quality considerations in mind. Any marking and construction of new trails for any recreational purpose is a potential threat to introduce erosion and sedimentation from associated human activity.

This policy has not changed.







Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs, “Drones”)


Policy

The landing on or taking off by Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or “drones”) from DWSP lands is prohibited except in the case of an emergency, or with written permission from DCR Commissioner. Any permit that may be granted would be specific to a designated location/time, for designated purposes, with an Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) registered UAV, and operated under FAA rules.

Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)15 states: “No person except in an emergency, shall bring, land or cause to descend within any Watershed System property any aircraft without written permission from the Commissioner.”

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVS)						

 Prohibited

¹ Takeoff or landing from DWSP land prohibited except by written permission from DWSP.

Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from UAV use include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. UAVs also risk unwanted wildlife harassment.

Recent technological advances have made civilian use of UAVs an increasingly popular activity. The unregulated use of UAVs can cause security concerns, public safety and public enjoyment problems, and interfere with wildlife. DWSP will review permit applications for affiliated research projects on a case-by-case basis, provided such proposals do not interfere with security, wildlife functions or public safety.







This is a new policy developed due to rapidly expanding technologies that enable widespread participation in this activity.


Alcohol

Policy

The possession or drinking of alcoholic beverages is prohibited throughout the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds</i>
Alcohol						

 Prohibited

Explanation

The Watershed Protection Regulation 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)11 states: “Breach of peace, profanity, or other disorderly conduct offensive to the general public is strictly prohibited within the Watershed System. Possession of and drinking of alcoholic beverages is prohibited within said System.”







This policy has not changed.


Commercial Activities

Policy

Commercial activities on all DWSP watershed lands are prohibited without a permit from the Commissioner.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off- Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off- Watershed Ponds</i>
Commercial Activities	 ¹	 ¹	 ¹	 ¹	 ¹	 ¹

 Prohibited

¹ Commercial activities are prohibited except by written permission from DWSP.

Explanation

The Watershed Protection Regulation 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)19 states: “No person shall engage in any business, sale, or display of goods, wares, or services within the Watershed System without a written permit from the Commissioner.” Programs, trips, or other outings on DCR land or the Reservoir where participants are charged a fee by the host is a commercial activity.

This is a new policy that was not identified in previous plans.

Other

Policy

Not applicable.

Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off- Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off- Watershed Ponds</i>
Other	If an activity is not listed, please contact and discuss with the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221 or Watershed Rangers (617) 828-2452 before proceeding.					

Explanation

If an activity is not listed by DWSP, including, but not limited to, pursuits such as rockets, kites with cameras, or any other air, ground, or water activity, please contact and discuss with the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221 or the Watershed Rangers at (617) 828-2452 before proceeding.

This policy has not changed.

V. Plan Implementation 2018-2026

DWSP staff will communicate, implement, monitor, and enforce its updated policies regarding public access on DWSP land in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System beginning after plan adoption in 2017. Watershed protection strategies change over time, depending on new scientific information, regulatory changes, land use changes, DWSP watershed management experiences, and public values. Given these externalities, DWSP fully recognizes the likelihood that individual policies may need to be clarified during the next decade.

This *2018 Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update* provides the framework for the following improvements to the watershed protection program conducted in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System:

- Enhanced pathogen prevention techniques.
- Improved regulatory compliance through specifically tailored control measures.
- Enhanced sanitary waste facilities.
- Coordinated monitoring, patrolling, education, and enforcement activities.
- Improved visitor informational resources.
- Continued partnership activities with stakeholders, advisory committees, and state and federal agencies.

Table 6 lists a range of activities that DWSP will follow to implement this plan. Specific functions related to carry out the policies in this plan will be detailed in DWSP's annual Work Plan. DWSP will amend or update this plan and maps in 2025, or earlier if needed.

A. Enforcement

DWSP has a staff of Watershed Rangers to assist with enforcing the watershed rules and regulations through education, warnings, and, if necessary, citations. The Watershed Ranger mission statement summarizes their efforts:

As part of the DWSP Watershed Team, the Rangers seek to help safeguard the quality of the DCR/MWRA Water System by maximizing public compliance with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection's rules, regulations, and policies. The Rangers strive to achieve their mission by being a proactive presence on watershed property and educating the public through formal and informal means.

Table 6. Implementation Plan

Work Unit	Activities
All Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement plan policies. • Monitor threats, report violations, take corrective action. • Document findings in annual reports. • Conduct public education and outreach for watershed protection. • Evaluate public access uses and intensity over time and throughout DWSP lands and waters. • Continue to gather public input. • Internally evaluate policies annually on a regular basis.
Environmental Quality Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor water quality threats due to access type, frequency, location, etc. • Investigate and report anomalies found in routine water quality monitoring data. • Report violations found in the field to appropriate personnel. • Take corrective actions. • Document findings in annual reports.
Watershed Rangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct regularly scheduled patrols. • Document findings in annual reports. • Coordinate with state police and local law enforcement agencies. • Report enforcement actions to DEP.
Foresters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and mark property boundaries. • Monitor, investigate, or report illegal actions found in the field.
Watershed Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain roads, bridges, culverts, and dams. • Install and maintain access controls (e.g., gates and bar-ways). • Install and maintain erosion controls.
Interpretive Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct environmental programs for schools in watershed communities. • Maintain information kiosks. • Issue access permits.
Programs	
Aquatic Invasive Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Quabbin Boat Seal program. • Provide educational material and post signage.
DWSP Gate and Bar-way Closings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow closing schedule to improve control of public access, limit non-compliance with rules and regulations, and prevent degradation of road system.
Sanitary Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify appropriate locations, install, and maintain portable toilets. • Provide adequate sanitary waste facilities at various high-use areas (e.g., fishing and Boat Launch Areas, Quabbin Park, Quabbin Deer Hunt).
Signage Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to replace existing signs with new signage. • Install snowmobile access zone signs prior to winter season.
Information Kiosks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor status of kiosk structures. • Maintain up-to-date signage and information within information kiosks.

DWSP Watershed Rangers have the ability to issue non-criminal citations under 313 CMR 11.09: Watershed Protection; 302 CMR 18.00: Aquatic Nuisance Control Plan; 313 CMR 5.00: Parking and Penalties; and MGL 92A½ §8: Watershed Management Enforcement. Watershed Rangers will continue to employ enforcement methods of issuing written warnings, non-criminal citations, and/or evictions when other methods fail or the violation is so serious that it warrants a more severe response. The recent ability to issue written warnings and non-criminal citations for any violation of DWSP rules and regulations is an additional tool to help achieve this mission. Table 7 presents the breath and frequency of the violations encountered by the Watershed Rangers.

Table 7. 2006-2016 Watershed Ranger Activity, Quabbin Reservoir Watershed

Violation Type	Number of Violations
Domestic Animals	1,250
Fishing/Boating	309
Trespass	262
Swimming/Wading	132
Snowmobile/ATV/Motor vehicles	130
Bicycling	46
Dumping/Littering	28
Others (e.g., alcohol, metal detectors, withdrawing water)	296

Source: DWSP Watershed Rangers, 2016

When a violation rises to the level of Watershed Rangers issuing a citation, it is the ranger's discretion to provide a warning or otherwise levy a fine, which can vary from \$25 to \$200, depending on the severity of the violation. If the person does not pay the fine, DWSP can take out a criminal complaint in District Court, which will require the violator to appear before a Clerk Magistrate. For all serious offenses, Watershed Rangers will continue to utilize the Massachusetts State Police, the Environmental Police, local Police Departments, and federal agencies (e.g., FAA, FBI, CIA). There is also a requirement under 310 CMR 22.20B(7) to report all enforcement actions to DEP.

B. Public Education/Interpretive Services

Public education is a vital component of DWSP's watershed protection strategy. DWSP strives to directly communicate not only what the rules and regulations are, but also why the rules are needed for drinking water supply protection. To this end, two sections work on different fronts of public education and interpretative services. The Watershed Rangers speak informally with users while patrolling the property. The Quabbin Visitor Center interpretive staff conducts school programs for students within watershed communities, maintain the Quabbin Visitor Center, and offer a regular series of related programs.

MASSACHUSETTS Department of Conservation and Recreation NOTICE OF VIOLATION			
Date of this Notice:	Agency:	001172	
Name of Offender:			
Address of Offender:			
City, State, Zip Code:		Date of Birth of Offender:	
MV Operator License Number:	State:	MV/MB Registration Number:	State:
OFFENSE:			Fine:
			\$
			\$
			\$
Check One Only: <input type="checkbox"/> WARNING <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CRIMINAL VIOLATION			Total:
			\$
Time and Date of Violation: (A.M.) (P.M.) ON			
Location of Violation (include city or town):			
AT			
Comments:			
Ranger/Trooper/Officer:			Badge:
I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE FOREGOING CITATION			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X			
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to obtain signature of offender. Date Mailed			
YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES IN THIS MATTER: Either option (1) or option (2) will operate as a final disposition, with no resulting criminal record.			
(1) You may choose to pay the above fine, either by appearing in person or through a duly authorized agent, or by mailing a check, money order, to the address below, WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE.			
(2) If you desire to contest this matter, you may do so by making a written request for a noncriminal hearing, enclosing a copy of this citation, and mailing to the address below, WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE.			
(3) If you fail to pay the above fine or to request a hearing within 21 days, or if you fail to appear for the hearing or to pay any fine determined at the hearing to be due, a criminal complaint may be issued against you.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I HEREBY ELECT THE FIRST OPTION above and enclose payment in the amount of \$			
<input type="checkbox"/> I HEREBY REQUEST A NONCRIMINAL HEARING on this matter.			
<small>(DO NOT MAIL CASH. Payment shall be made to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and sent to DCR, Bureau of Ranger Services, 251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114. If payment is made after 21 days, this fine is increased.)</small>			
PLEASE PEEL OFF TAPE AND FOLD FLAP TO SEAL ENVELOPE			

*Watershed Ranger
Violation Ticket*

C. Sanitation

The Environmental Quality section monitors existing and future locations for seasonal portable toilet locations and maintenance. The proper siting of portable toilets is an important management control mechanism.

Permanent visitor sanitation facilities are located at the three boat launch areas (currently only open during the Quabbin fishing season), the Quabbin Tower, and the main administration area (main building, parking, and hangar).

D. Structural Access Controls

Structural access controls include locked metal and wooden gates, concrete barriers, and internal road intersection signage. Some gate systems may be modified to accommodate existing user groups while maintaining the structural integrity of the gates. The gate locking system will continue to be monitored by staff. DWSP staff coordinates security with MWRA.

E. Signage

DWSP replaces and updates signage as needed. Signage consists of gate signage, tree signage, and kiosk signage. New signs have been installed at popular gate entry points, including Gate 11, Gate 29, Gate 40, and the Hangar area.

F. Mapping

Public access maps will continue to be updated, as needed, to provide user with better location information. Maps will be available through the Watershed Rangers, Visitor Center, and on the DWSP website.

VI. Conclusion

DWSP's top priority for the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is to provide a safe and adequate supply of "pure" drinking water to the MWRA while maintaining compliance with filtration avoidance requirements. Given the multitude of pressures for public access and the inherent complexity of each issue on drinking water supply lands and waters, DWSP takes a conservative attitude toward all land uses that might have a repercussion on the integrity of the water supply.

The *2018 Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update* allows for continued public access and recreation on substantial acreage where it does not pose a threat to the water supply for 2.5 million people.

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VIII. Appendices

Appendix A – Legislation and Regulations

Kelly-Wetmore Act

ACTS, 1972. — CHAP. 737.

659

Chap. 737. AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSERVATION AND REGULATION OF CERTAIN LANDS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. In this act, the following words and phrases, unless otherwise expressly provided or the context otherwise provides, shall have the following meanings:

“Commission”, the metropolitan district commission.

“Commissioner”, the commissioner of the metropolitan district commission.

“Ware river watershed”, those parcels of land under the control of the commission and being situated wholly or partly in the towns of Rutland, Oakham, Barre, Hubbardston, Templeton and Princeton and being shown on plan of land entitled “Ware River Watershed, General Plan”, dated November 22, 1965, Metropolitan District Commission, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, filed in the office of the commission.

“Quabbin reservoir area”, those parcels of land including the Prescott Peninsula, so-called, contiguous to the reservoir under the control of the commission and presently lying within the bounds of Routes 9, 32, 32A, 122 and 202 and being situated wholly or partly in the towns of Pelham, Belchertown, Ware, Hardwick, Petersham, New Salem and Shutesbury, and being shown on plan of land entitled “General Plan of Quabbin Reservoir Watershed, dated February 18, 1959, Metropolitan District Commission, Water Division, Quabbin Section, Commonwealth of Massachusetts”, filed in the office of the commission.

“District”, the combined lands identified in this act as the Ware river watershed and the Quabbin reservoir area, which are a portion of the total lands comprising the Quabbin section of the metropolitan water district.

SECTION 2. The natural ecology of the district shall be maintained, and it shall be conserved in its present degree of wilderness character and shall be protected in its flora and fauna in all reasonable ways to assure the balanced wildlife habitat and to allow camping with the approval of the district superintendent and in areas subject to his approval. Except as otherwise specifically authorized herein, no act or practice shall be undertaken which will adversely affect the balance of nature in the district. The commission shall make and promulgate such rules and regulations regarding the uses authorized herein as are reasonably necessary to conserve the wilderness, watershed and reservoir character of the district.

SECTION 3. No lands or real property which are a part of the district shall be leased or sold or otherwise transferred without approval of the general court, nor shall there be any new or additional construction on said lands or real property except by the commission consistent with the purposes of this act.

SECTION 4. No new or additional roads or ways shall be constructed within the district, excepting only such ways as shall be required for forest management and fire control, or for watershed and reservoir purposes, nor shall existing soft surface roads or ways be hard surfaced, provided, however, that existing ways may be maintained and kept passable and in repair.

SECTION 5. The commission shall not permit the dumping of refuse or waste within the district except where such is allowed by permit granted by the commission prior to the effective date of this act for as long as such permit remains in effect, except, however, the commission may dispose of such refuse or waste resulting from normal operation of the district.

SECTION 6. No person shall take or remove and no town within the district shall authorize the taking or removal of sand, gravel, dirt or soil, nor any other mineral, from or within the district, except only that the commission may take such of these materials as are required for commission use within the district and may allow such use of these materials as may be required pursuant to section five.

SECTION 7. The commissioner, or his designee, shall annually prepare a plan detailing forestry activities, logging or lumbering activities, proposed plantings and the like which are to be undertaken for the next following year, which plan shall be open to inspection by the public.

SECTION 8. Lumbering or logging operations shall be permitted within the district to the extent and for the purpose of maintaining and conserving its forests in a healthful state of natural ecological balance consistent with reservoir and watershed purposes; but such lumbering and logging operations shall not be of a tree farming nature, so called, wherein natural diversification of tree species is upset nor wherein wildlife habitat or food chain growth is adversely affected. All lumbering or logging operations shall be performed under private contract pursuant to the bidding laws of the commonwealth the proceeds of which shall be used in whole or in part for the further management of the selfsame forests, excepting only for such emergency salvage operations as are deemed necessary by the forester, and with the further exception that the commission may take such lumber as is needed for its own use consistent with this act. All such lumbering or logging operations shall be supervised by the forester who shall designate cuttings and shall make and enforce such rules as are necessary regarding disposal of slash and toppings, construction of logging ways or ramps, or the like, to conserve said forests within the intent of this act. No tree shall be felled or cut within one hundred feet of any river or stream or flow line of reservoir or pond within the district which change the character of stream beds, except for such emergency or salvage cuttings as aforesaid.

SECTION 9. The public shall have access to the lands of the district for such recreational uses as are permitted by, and are consistent with the provisions of this act, except that the Prescott peninsula shall be set aside as a natural site for ecological and wildlife study and access thereto shall be regulated by the commission.

SECTION 10. Hunting shall not be allowed in the Quabbin reservoir area, however hunting may be permitted within the Ware river watershed subject to the rules and regulations of the commission and the division of fisheries and game regulating hunting.

SECTION 11. Powered boats or powered canoes shall not be used anywhere within that portion of the Ware river lying within the present bounds of Routes 68, 62, 122, 122A and 56, nor shall all-terrain or amphibious vehicles be operated in, on or through the streams, ponds or other waters within these same bounds except for official use.

SECTION 12. There shall be no overnight camping within the Quabbin reservoir area nor within that portion of the Ware River Watershed defined in the first sentence of section eleven of this act, nor shall tents be erected nor trailers or other vehicular sleeping accommodation be parked overnight therein.

SECTION 13. Motor vehicles, snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles may be operated within the Ware River Watershed only upon established vehicular ways and trails, or in such other areas as shall be designated by the commission. Public entry to the Quabbin reservoir area shall be limited to foot passage only, except that motor vehicles and manually operated bicycles may be admitted to such roads and ways within the Quabbin reservoir area as shall be designated by the commission. There shall be no racing of motor driven vehicles within the district, nor shall any associated rallies or commercial ventures be held therein. Snow vehicles or all-terrain vehicles shall be permitted within the Quabbin reservoir area only for official use.

SECTION 14. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act the establishment, construction and operation by the University of Massachusetts, hereinafter referred to as the university, of an astronomical observatory may be continued in compliance with and pursuant to the permit granted November twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and sixty-nine by the commission, to the university, provided that access to the site of the said astronomical observatory shall be limited to such access road as may be specifically designated by the commission for the purpose, and provided further that no person or equipment, other than construction, maintenance and repair personnel and equipment, operating personnel and equipment and such students in the field of astronomy as may be authorized by the university for the purpose, shall be entitled to be admitted to the aforesaid site except in accordance with and under the provisions of this act. Any such person so admitted shall be subject to supervision while on the site by an officer or official of the university designated for said purpose. Similarly, the construction, maintenance and operation of the United States Air Force antenna installations in compliance with and pursuant to the permit granted November twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and sixty-nine may be continued under the agreements pertaining thereto.

SECTION 15. The provisions of this act and of all rules and regulations made under the authority thereof shall be enforced by the commissioner, his duly appointed agents, by metropolitan district commission police officers, by police officers of any city or town, by members of the state police and by enforcement officers of the department of natural resources.

Approved July 17, 1972.

Watershed Protection Regulations (selected sections)

WATERSHED PROTECTION

313 CMR 11

Department of Conservation and Recreation

February 24, 2017

Official Disclaimer: These regulations are provided to you for your convenience. Official versions of all Massachusetts State statutes are available through the [State Bookstore](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/spr/sprcat/catidx.htm) (<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/spr/sprcat/catidx.htm>). When downloading from the web please be aware that the copy you receive may differ from the official version. If you need the statutes for work that may have any legal implications, make sure to get the official version from the State bookstore.

11.09: General Rules and Regulations for the Protection of Watersheds and Watershed System

In order to facilitate review of all regulations promulgated by DCR relating to Watersheds and the Watershed System, 313 CMR 11.09 includes regulations of general applicability to Waters of the Watershed System.

(1) Waters of the Watershed System.

(a) No Person shall take or divert any Waters of the Watershed System and no Person shall corrupt, render impure, waste or improperly use any such water.

(b) No Person shall:

1. engage in any construction activity involving filling, dredging, grubbing or altering land without adequate provisions to prevent erosion resulting in clay, silt or other turbidity laden waters from entering the Waters of the Watershed System;

2. construct, establish or maintain any agricultural facility or place where animal manure may be deposited or accumulated without adequate provision to prevent any manure or other Pollutant from flowing or being washed into the Waters of the Watershed System;

3. engage in any other activity which could degrade the quality of Waters of the Watershed System or interfere with their use as a source of water supply.

(c) No Person shall allow a condition to exist on such Person's property which could result in the direct or ultimate discharge of any Pollutant into the Waters of the Watershed System.

(d) Any records of any board of health or health agent concerning matters within the Watershed shall be open to inspection by the employees and agents of DCR and DEP.

(e) Whenever an incident occurs, is likely to occur, or a situation exists that threatens to add Pollutants to the Waters of the Watershed System, the Person causing or contributing to the pollution or potential pollution shall notify DCR and DEP immediately.

(2) Watershed System.

(a) General Regulations.

1. Entrance on and exit from land of the Watershed System shall be made through gates or other designated areas.
2. No Person is allowed within any land of the Watershed System, except from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, unless authorized by a written permit from the Commissioner; or for the purposes of authorized night fishing along the Swift River downstream of the Y-pool below Winsor Dam, at Pepper's Mill Pond, or at South Spectacle Pond.
3. Powered boats are prohibited within the Waters of the Watershed System except in areas designated by the Commissioner.
4. All acts which pollute or may pollute the Waters of the Watershed System are prohibited. No litter or refuse of any sort may be thrown or left in or on any land or water within the Watershed System. All Persons within said System shall use the sanitary facilities provided for public use.
5. All acts which injure the property of the Commonwealth are prohibited. No Person shall injure, deface, destroy, remove or carry off any property, real or personal, under the care and control of DCR, including but not limited to, all historic artifacts and natural materials, except that the collection of edible plants, such as blueberries and mushrooms in a non-disruptive manner and for non-commercial use, is allowed. Unless otherwise authorized, the removal from the Watershed System of gravel, topsoil, stones, boulders, or other earthen material is prohibited except for removal for use by DCR for land management purposes. No Person shall build, construct, bury, or conceal any object, memorial, or structure on the property of the Commonwealth except with the written permission of the Commissioner.
6. Cooking and all fires are prohibited within the Watershed System.
7. No Person shall wade or swim in any reservoir except wading while using boots for the purpose of launching boats at designated boat launch areas.
8. No Person shall wade or swim in any Tributary or Surface Waters on or within the property of the Commonwealth within the Watershed System except at areas designated by the Commissioner.
9. Organized sports activities, including but not limited to orienteering and baseball, are prohibited in the Watershed System except by written permission from the Commissioner.
10. The Division or Department and its employees are not responsible for any damage to or loss of property sustained by fishermen, or for any injury or loss of life which may be incurred in connection with public use of the reservoirs and Watershed Systems.
11. Breach of peace, profanity or other disorderly conduct offensive to the general public is strictly prohibited within the Watershed System. Possession of and drinking of

alcoholic beverages is prohibited within said System.

12. No Person shall drive a motorized vehicle within the Watershed System except upon roads authorized for such use by the Commissioner. Recreational vehicles are prohibited on all Watershed System property except the use of snowmobiles in areas designated by the Commissioner. Motor vehicles shall be parked only in areas designated by the Commissioner. Operators of motor vehicles shall obey all regulatory signs unless otherwise directed by a police officer or person in charge. No Person shall willfully obstruct the free passage of vehicles or Persons within the Watershed System. Vehicle access for official use may be granted by the Commissioner.

13. No Person shall bring any animal within any Watershed System property except for horses and dogs at the Ware River Watershed at areas designated by the Commissioner.

14. The use of bicycles, skis and other means of non-motorized transportation within the Watershed System shall be permitted only in areas designated by the Commissioner.

15. No Person, except in an emergency, shall bring, land or cause to descend within any Watershed System property any aircraft except with a written permit from the Commissioner.

16. Parades, games, fairs, carnivals, fishing derbies, bazaars, gifts or solicitations for raising or collecting funds shall not be permitted within the Watershed System without written approval of the Commissioner.

17. Lotteries, raffles, gambling and games of chance are prohibited within the Watershed System. No Person shall have possession of machinery, instruments or equipment of any kind for use of same in the Watershed System.

18. Public assemblies of more than 25 persons shall not be allowed within the Watershed System without a written permit from the Commissioner.

19. No Person shall engage in any business, sale or display of goods, wares or services within the Watershed System without a written permit from the Commissioner.

20. Commercial signs and advertising are prohibited in the Watershed System, without written permission of the Commissioner.

21. No Person, unless authorized by law, license, or permit, shall have possession of or discharge any weapon, firearm, fireworks, or other explosive on or within the Watershed System. All forms of target shooting are prohibited on or within the Watershed System.

22. No Person may hunt, shoot or trap animals on or within any Watershed System property except at times and in areas designated by the Commissioner.

23. All Persons within the Watershed System shall obey the lawful directions of regulatory signs, police officers, DCR Rangers, or persons in charge, or of Federal or Commonwealth wardens or enforcement officers.

24. The Watershed System or parts thereof may be closed for public access at the discretion of the Commissioner when necessary to protect the lands and waters under the care and control of DCR.

25. The possession of all types of metal detectors or similar devices is prohibited on all Watershed System property.

(b) Special Regulations for Quabbin Reservoir.

1. Persons in compliance with Commonwealth Fish and Game Laws and Regulations, will be allowed to fish from shore in areas designated by the Commissioner. A valid state fishing or sporting license is required by any Person renting or launching a boat at any DCR facilities subject to 313 CMR 11.09. Reasonable fees for the use of boats, for rental of outboard motors for fishing purposes, or use of DCR facilities, including parking and boat ramps, may be charged by DCR. Fishing from the shorelines of Quabbin Reservoir and its tributaries within the Watershed System or fishing from boats shall be allowed only during a season designated by the Commissioner.

2. Persons permitted to fish from boats shall, at all times, be responsible for the sanitary condition of the boats. Persons under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a Person possessing a valid fishing license in order to boat on Quabbin Reservoir.

3. Only boats of a minimum length of 12 feet, and of a type considered safe by DCR, shall be used. No inboard motors, collapsible boats, sailboats, pontoon boats, square sterned canoes, or other similar craft will be permitted in the water, and no boats will be permitted in the water except in areas designated for boating by the Commissioner. Outboard motors shall have a rating of not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ (one-half) the Boating Industries of America (BIA) or Outboard Boating Council (OBC) rated horsepower for the boat and shall not exceed 20 horsepower for 2-stroke engines and 25 horsepower for 4-stroke engines, except that outboard motors for DCR boats less than 14 feet six inches in length shall not exceed ten horsepower. Boats less than 14 feet six inches in length will be limited to three occupants, and boats of that length and in excess thereof may carry four occupants. No boats shall carry more than four occupants. Canoes, kayaks, and jon boats of a minimum length of 12 feet, and of a type considered safe by DCR, shall be used only in areas designated for boating by the Commissioner on Pottapaug Pond above the regulating dam and at Gate 31 above the regulating dam. Canoes less than 16 feet and jon boats less than 14 feet six inches in length will be limited to two occupants, and canoes and jon boats in excess thereof may carry three occupants. All boats must be in compliance with current Commonwealth boating laws. All boats must be clean and contain no refuse of any kind. DCR personnel shall have the right to inspect all private boats launched at Commonwealth facilities and may deny access in order to protect water quality or the safety of occupants. Chock blocks must be used on vehicles when removing boats from the Reservoir.

4. No Person shall operate a motor boat at a speed other than reasonable and proper or in such a manner as to annoy or endanger the occupants of other boats.

5. All privately-owned boats, motors and other equipment must be removed from

Watershed Property of DCR each day.

6. Boats shall not leave the mooring areas before dawn, and must return at the time posted at each mooring area. The beaching of boats at any point except at the designated mooring and landing areas is strictly prohibited, except in cases of extreme emergency.

7. Any violation of 313 CMR 11.09 will be deemed sufficient cause for revocation of fishing privileges for a period of time not less than one year from the time of violation.

11.10: Enforcement

(1) Any Person who, without lawful authority, takes or diverts any Waters of the Watershed System or corrupts or defiles any such Waters or any source of such Waters or who violates and refuses to comply with any rule, regulation or order of DCR shall be subject to the fines set forth in MGL c. 92A 1/2, § 9. The provisions of 313 CMR 11.00 shall be enforced upon petition of the Commission or of any town or Person interested by the Supreme Judicial Court or Superior Court or any justice of either court as provided in MGL c. 92A 1/2, § 10. In addition, upon written request by the Division, DEP shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of St. 1992 c. 36 and 313 CMR 11.00 by all legally permitted enforcement mechanisms including, but not limited to: issuing notices of noncompliance; convening pre-enforcement conferences; issuing water supply orders pursuant to MGL c. 111, § 160; and imposing administrative penalties pursuant to MGL c. 21A, § 16 and 310 CMR 5.00. Such written request by the Division to DEP may seek enforcement for a specified type of violation or area, for a designated group of cases or for an individual matter.

(2) Any person determined by DCR to have acted negligently in requiring a search and rescue response by DCR may be required to make restitution for the cost of those services as determined by the Commissioner.

Quabbin Deer Hunt Regulations

350 CMR 8.00: LAND WITHIN WATERSHED RESERVATIONS

8.02: Deer Management Program in the Quabbin Reservoir Area

- (1) Hunting of white-tailed deer shall be allowed in specified sections of the Quabbin Reservoir Area by those persons holding a use permit issued by the Commission or its designee for a controlled deer hunt conducted in conjunction with the Commission's Deer Management Program. All persons to whom such a use permit has been issued are also required to have a valid Massachusetts hunting license issued by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.
- (2) The use permit will specify the hunting season, the time of day, and the designated location for hunting. Certain sensitive areas shall be designated off limits to permittees. Access to the hunting area shall be by use permit only and shall be for the season, time and designated location only.
- (3) No hunting is allowed within direct view of the Quabbin Reservoir shoreline, or within 500 feet of any building, or in other areas posted as no hunt zones. Shooting or injury of any bird or animal species other than white-tailed deer is strictly prohibited.
- (4) 321 CMR 3.00 applies to MDC controlled hunt programs. The use of buck shot is prohibited and firearms shall be limited to shotguns only. No cutting of branches, trees or shrubs, or nailing of trees is allowed. All deer carcasses shall be brought to a check station, tagged, and concealed from view before being transported outside of Commission property. In the event of a conflict, 350 CMR 8.00 takes precedence over 321 CMR 3.00.
- (5) No litter or refuse of any sort may be thrown or left in or on any land or water within the Quabbin Reservoir Area. Sanitary facilities provided for public use shall be the only locations used for such purposes. No deer parts shall be disposed of within 100 feet of any brook, stream, wetland or other water body. All acts which may pollute the water supply are strictly prohibited. Permittees must obey all other promulgated Rules and Regulations of the Commission while on MDC lands.
- (6) All public access, whether pedestrian or by motor vehicle, is restricted to paths and roads specifically designated for use during the hunting season. All vehicle parking must be in designated areas only.
- (7) All persons within the Quabbin Reservoir Area shall obey the directions of regulatory signs, instructions contained on the use permit, and directions of police officers, Watershed Division employees, environmental police officers, rangers and enforcement officers.
- (8) The selection of participants in the program shall be randomly accomplished. Once selected, applicants must attend a training session, certify that they have not violated M.G.L. c. 131 (Massachusetts Fisheries and Game laws) or M.G.L. c. 92 (Metropolitan District Commission) within the past five years, and pay all requisite fees, including a non-refundable \$5.00 application fee, to participate in the hunting program. Use permits are valid only for the person named in the permit and for the period specified.
- (9) Any person who violates or refuses to comply with any of 350 CMR 8.00 may be subject to immediate revocation of the permit, a criminal fine or imprisonment.

Watershed Ranger Legislation

PART I. ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

TITLE XIV. PUBLIC WAYS AND WORKS

CHAPTER 92A1/2. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Chapter 92A1/2: Section 8. Enforcement of Sections 1-7

Section 8. The department, and its employees designated for the purpose, shall enforce sections 1 to 7, inclusive, and the rules, regulations and orders made thereunder, and may enter into any building, and upon any land for the purpose of ascertaining whether sources of pollution there exist, and whether the sections and the rules, regulations and orders made as aforesaid are complied with.

Advisory Committee Legislation

PART I. ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

TITLE XIV. PUBLIC WAYS AND WORKS

CHAPTER 92A 1/2. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Chapter 92A 1/2: Section 13. Quabbin watershed advisory committee

Section 13. The commissioner shall establish the Quabbin watershed advisory committee. The purpose of the committee shall be to advise the DWSP on its policies and regulations regarding fishing, boating and other recreational activities and environmental, wildlife and habitat matters within the Quabbin watershed. The commissioner of the department shall appoint to the advisory committee 1 person from 3 names nominated by each of the following organizations: the Massachusetts Council of Sportsmen, the Trout Unlimited, the Quabbin Fisherman's Association, the Worcester County League of Sportsmen, the North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Swift River Valley Historical Society, the Massachusetts Wildlife Federation, the New England Sierra Club, and the Friends of Quabbin, Inc.

The commissioner shall also appoint 1 member from the general public. The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members, shall meet at least twice each calendar year, and may provide for alternate members to participate fully in its meetings whenever a regular member is unable to do so.

Watershed Management Plan Legislation

PART I. ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

TITLE XIV. PUBLIC WAYS AND WORKS

CHAPTER 92A1/2. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Chapter 92A1/2: Section 16. Periodic watershed management plans

Section 16. The commissioner shall at least once every 5 years, adopt after public hearing one or more periodic watershed management plans for the watershed system, which shall have been prepared with the participation of a professionally qualified forester and the appropriate watershed advisory committee. Any watershed management plan shall provide for, but need not be limited to, forestry, water yield enhancement and recreational activities. All forestry activities shall be subject to sections 40 to 46, inclusive, of chapter 132.

MA Drinking Water Regulations, Surface Water Supply Protection

310 CMR 22.20B

310 CMR: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

22.20B: Surface Water Supply Protection

(1) To protect surface waters used as sources of drinking water supply from contamination, the requirements of 310 CMR 22.20B shall apply to Zones A, B, C of a surface water source, except at:

- (a) Rivers and streams designated as Class B waters pursuant to 314 CMR 4.00: *Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards* which are used as drinking water sources and are not impounded at some point by means of a dam or dike to create a reservoir at which the water supply intake is located;
- (b) Emergency sources approved by the Department under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 21G.

(2) On and after January 1, 2001, a public water system shall prohibit the following new or expanded land uses within the Zone A of its surface water sources.

- (a) All underground storage tanks,
- (b) Above-ground storage of liquid hazardous material as defined in M.G.L. c. 21E, or liquid propane or liquid petroleum products, except as follows:

- 1. The storage is incidental to:
 - a. normal household use, outdoor maintenance, or the heating of a structure;
 - b. use of emergency generators;
 - c. a response action conducted or performed in accordance with M.G.L. c. 21E and 310 CMR 40.000: *Massachusetts Contingency Plan* and which is exempt from a ground water discharge permit pursuant to 314 CMR 5.05(14); and
- 2. The storage is either in container(s) or above-ground tank(s) within a building, or outdoors in covered container(s) or above-ground tank(s) in an area that has a containment system designed and operated to hold either 10% of the total possible storage capacity of all containers, or 110% of the largest container's storage capacity, whichever is greater. However, these storage requirements do not apply to the replacement of existing tanks or systems for the keeping, dispensing or storing of gasoline provided the replacement is performed in accordance with applicable state and local requirements;

(c) Treatment or disposal works subject to 314 CMR 3.00: *Surface Water Discharge Permit Program* or 5.00: *Ground Water Discharge Permit Program*, except the following:

- 1. the replacement or repair of an existing treatment or disposal works that will not result in a design capacity greater than the design capacity of the existing treatment or disposal works;
- 2. treatment or disposal works for sanitary sewage if necessary to treat existing sanitary sewage discharges in non-compliance with 310 CMR 15.000: *The State Environmental Code, Title 5: Standard Requirements for the Siting, Construction, Inspection, Upgrade and Expansion of On-site Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems and for the Transport and Disposal of Septage*, provided the facility owner demonstrates to the Department's satisfaction that there are no feasible siting locations outside of the Zone A. Any such facility shall be permitted in accordance with 314 CMR 5.00: *Ground Water Discharge Permit Program* and shall be required to disinfect the effluent. The Department may also require the facility to provide a higher level of treatment prior to discharge;
- 3. treatment works approved by the Department designed for the treatment of contaminated ground or surface waters and operated in compliance with 314 CMR 5.05(3) or (13).
- 4. discharge by public water system of waters incidental to water treatment processes.

(3) (a) All on-site subsurface sewage disposal systems, as defined in 310 CMR 15.000: *The State Environmental Code, Title 5: Standard Requirements for the Siting, Construction, Inspection, Upgrade and Expansion of On-site Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems and for the Transport and Disposal of Septage*, within Zones A, B, and C, shall be in compliance with the requirements of 310 CMR 15.000.

(b) Within the Zone A of all surface water supplies and tributaries as defined in 310 CMR 22.02, all sewer lines and appurtenances are prohibited, except as required to eliminate existing or potential pollution to the water supply, or where the crossing of tributaries is necessary to construct a public sewer system. Where the exception is met, watertight construction of sewer lines and manholes shall be used.

(c) Within 1,000 feet of surface water supplies and tributaries, all pumping stations shall have standby power and high water alarms telemetered to an appropriate location that is manned at all times. An emergency contingency plan must be developed by the owner of the wastewater treatment facility and submitted to the Department for approval.

22.20B: continued

- (d) Beyond 1,000 feet, and within the watershed of surface water supplies, the Department may in specific circumstances, after review, require additional controls when deemed necessary for protection of public health.
- (4) No stabling, hitching, standing, feeding or grazing of livestock or other domestic animals shall be located, constructed, or maintained within 100 feet of the bank of a surface water source or tributary thereto. Owners and operators of agricultural operations should consult the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources *On-farm Strategies to Protect Water Quality - An Assessment & Planning Tool for Best Management Practices* (December 1996) for information about technical and financial assistance programs related to erosion and sediment control and nutrient, pest, pesticide, manure, waste, grazing, and irrigation management.
- (5) No burial shall be made, except by permission in writing by the Board of Water Commissioners or like body having jurisdiction over such source of supply, in any cemetery or other place within 100 feet of the high water mark of a source of public water supply or tributary thereto. No lands not under the control of cemetery authorities and used for cemetery purposes, from which lands the natural drainage flows into said source of water supply or tributary thereto, shall be taken or used for cemetery purposes until a plan and sufficient description of the lands is presented to the Department and until such taking or use is expressly approved in writing by the Department.
- (6) No person shall swim, wade or bathe in any public surface water source and no person shall, unless permitted by written permit by the Board of Water Commissioners or like body having jurisdiction over such source, fish in; enter or go in any boat, seaplane, or other vehicle; enter upon the ice for any purpose, including the cutting or taking of ice; or cause or allow any animal to go into, or upon, any surface water source or tributary thereto.
- (7) Enforcement. A public water system has the following enforcement responsibilities with respect to protection of the Zone A, B, and C of its surface water source(s)
- (a) A public water system shall conduct regular and thorough inspections of Zones A, B, and C to determine and enforce compliance with 310 CMR 22.20B. The public water system shall take prompt enforcement actions against persons violating 310 CMR 22.20B, and report all such enforcement actions to the Department in the system's Annual Statistical Report the results of the regular inspections made during the preceding calendar year. The report shall include the number and dates of the inspections, the number, nature and outcome of violations found, and enforced against by the public water system, and the general condition of the watershed at the time of the last inspection.
- (b) the public water system shall document on a form provided by the Department and submitted to the Department in calendar year 2001, that the public water system has established a protocol that provides the system with an opportunity to review and comment on all proposed new or expanded land uses or activities within the watershed of its surface water source(s) to local boards, commissions and other authorities with primary responsibilities for approving such uses and activities.
- (c) The Department may take enforcement actions against any public water system which fails to carry out its enforcement responsibilities under 310 CMR 22.20B, or may enforce directly against persons violating 310 CMR 22.20B.
- (8) No person shall apply herbicides to any surface water body including but not limited to any reservoir and their tributaries, which serve as a source of public water supply without a permit issued by the Department pursuant to M.G.L. c. 111, § 5E. This requirement does not apply to the application of algacides containing copper by the public water system. However, the public water system shall notify the Department in writing prior to the application of such algacides.

This is an excerpt from the entire Massachusetts Drinking regulation, 310 CMR 22.00.
A copy of the entire regulation is available at:
www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/10/us/310cmr22_372_16185.pdf.

Appendix B – American Water Works Association Policy

Recreational Use of Domestic Water Supply Reservoirs

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) supports the principle that water of the highest quality should be used as the source of supply for public water systems. Accordingly, the risks and potential mitigation requirements of any recreational activity on water supply reservoirs should be identified and publicly evaluated. In the evaluation, utility- and customer-determined acceptable levels of risk should be given the highest consideration. No recreation should be permitted on finished-water reservoirs under any circumstances.

Protection of public health and drinking water quality should be the highest priority in operational decisions for reservoirs used jointly for water supply and recreation. Decisions regarding recreational use of domestic water supply reservoirs should be consistent with the intent of the source water protection program developed and implemented by the utilities and other responsible parties.

Recreational uses of domestic water supply reservoirs and the land-based infrastructure necessary to support such uses can add sources of microbial, physical, and chemical contaminants to the drinking water produced from the reservoirs. Water utility decisions on permitting recreational uses of water supply reservoirs should consider the following issues: (1) the potential for water quality degradation, (2) the public health risk, (3) the acceptance of such health risk by the customers, (4) the current required level of treatment, and (5) additional treatment requirements, uncertainties, and costs that may be incurred. Recreational uses should be prohibited in those instances where a scientifically-based risk assessment, or, in the absence of a risk assessment, the best available scientific data demonstrates a probable or imminent degradation of water quality or hazard to public health that cannot be controlled or mitigated in a cost effective manner.

When considering proposals for recreational use of domestic water supply reservoirs, the water utility should work with stakeholders to develop an integrated reservoir management plan, including appropriate water quality monitoring, to evaluate and, if necessary, mitigate water quality impacts, and to minimize increased risks. Body-contact recreation (e.g., swimming, water skiing, wind surfing) and use of two-cycle gasoline engines on boats should be discouraged or prohibited. In addition, boat inspection/washing stations and restrictive use of live bait should be considered to prevent the introduction of foreign and invasive species (such as zebra mussels or non-native algal species) that could potentially destabilize a reservoir's ecology and water quality. Where feasible, costs for monitoring, evaluations, and mitigation should be borne by those proposing or benefiting from the recreational activity, not by the utility or its customers.

If recreation already exists on a reservoir, the water utility should work or continue to work with stakeholders to develop an integrated reservoir management plan and associated implementation actions to mitigate water quality impacts and to minimize increased risks.

Adopted by the Board of Directors June 13, 1971, reaffirmed Jan. 28, 1979, and Jan. 25, 1987, revised June 23, 1996, June 13, 2004, and Jan. 25, 2009. Revision approved June 10, 2012.

Source: American Water Works Association Policy Statement on Recreational Use of Domestic Water Supply Reservoirs. American Water Works Association, June 2012. Web (www.awwa.org/about-us/policy-statements/policy-statement/articleid/212/recreational-use-of-domestic-water-supply-reservoirs.aspx). 24 July 2017.

Appendix C – Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Survey Analysis

In conjunction with the 2017 update of the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan, a public opinion survey was conducted. The survey was administered entirely electronically through a Survey Monkey account set up for this purpose.

To publicize the survey DWSP staff widely distributed this flier:

Please Take Our Quabbin Public Access Survey

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection (DCR/DWSP) manages the Quabbin Reservoir and significant public waters, facilities, and tracts of land in the towns surrounding the reservoir (herein, Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System). The Quabbin Reservoir is an unfiltered, public water supply that provides high quality drinking water to approximately 2.5 million people in 51 Massachusetts communities, including several in western Massachusetts.

The Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System operates under federal and state water quality regulations that require proper management and adequate control of public access and recreation. Public input is an important source of information the DCR/DWSP uses in evaluating its access policies and plans. Your input is important to help guide the 2016 update of the Public Access Management Plan. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey questions.

Please take this survey online via Survey Monkey, or send paper copies to: Access Plan Update, DCR/DWSP, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007

Thank you for your time and insight.

Follow the following link or scan code to take the survey:

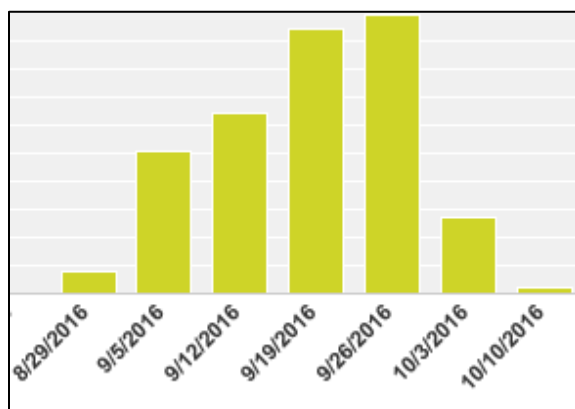


<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/quabbinaccess>

The flier, in electronic and hard copy forms, was distributed through the Quabbin Visitor Center, the three Quabbin Reservoir fishing areas, by Quabbin Rangers on patrol, and on the DWSP web site and Twitter accounts. The flier was sent to organizations including Swift River Historical Society, Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee, Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee, the Friends of Quabbin, New England Mountain Bike Association, Porcupine Ridge Runners

(snowmobile/ski group), and the North Quabbin Woods. Copies of the flier were placed in the town halls and libraries of all abutting and watershed towns. The survey was also publicized on the Mass Wildlife web site and in local newspapers.

Beginning on August 31, 2016 and ending on October 10, 2016 – a period of 41 days – 692 responses were received. The rate of response varied. Several spikes were observed during the period, possibly due to the immediate effects of appearances of the flier on social media or notices of the survey appearing in the newspapers. The responses received by week are displayed below.



The following is a summary of responses to the survey questions, with the most frequent response in bold:

1) Please tell us the town and state, or country where you live.

Almost all respondents live in Massachusetts, most in the surrounding watershed towns, the Connecticut River Valley, and in the central part of the state. The following ten Massachusetts towns had the most respondents, accounting for just over half of the total. The two decisively higher response rates – from Belchertown and Ware – are from towns that immediately adjoin the Quabbin Park (the area most accessible to the public).

Belchertown	17%
Ware	14%
Athol	3.2%
New Salem	2.9%
Orange	2.6%
Palmer	2.3%
South Hadley	2.2%
Chicopee	2.2%
Barre	2.2%
Amherst	1.9%
Sub-total	50.5%

2) Do you live within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed (defined as the geographic land area that drains water into the reservoir)?

No:47%
Yes: 34%
Don't know: 19%

This question called for some geographic knowledge that many visitors may not have, hence the high percentage that couldn't answer.

3) Please tell us who you are (check all that apply).

Visitor87%
Abutter 15%
Organization..... 2.5%
Local official 2%
Other 10.5%

Since respondents could check more than one category, the total adds up to more than 100%. The written responses to the "Other" category didn't so much establish other types of respondents as much as state their preferred activities or relationship with the Quabbin Reservoir (e.g., "fisherman" or "descendent of former resident").

4) What age group do you belong to?

20 or under 1%
21-35 18%
36-50 29%
51-7047%
70 and over 5%

5) How did you learn about this survey?

Social media56%
Local newspaper 18%
DCR/DWSP website 3.2%
Organization to which I belong..... 2.8%
Quabbin Visitor Center 2.3%
Watershed Ranger or staff 2.3%
Your town hall or library 1.4%
DWSP bulletin board 0.4%
Other (please specify) 14%

The high number of respondents who learned of the survey through social media is somewhat discordant with the results of the previous question, where the largest age bracket was 51-70.

This result somewhat contradicts the notion that social media is dominated by younger people.

6) On average, how many days do you utilize Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System in these seasons?

The weighted averages were as follows:

Spring.....	1.99 days
Summer.....	2.10 days
Fall	2.04 days
Winter	1.54 days

The most frequent choice for number of days in any season was “less than 7 days,” with the percentage of respondents dropping off as the number of days/season increased.

7) When do you mostly use the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System?

The total numbers of respondents were as follows:

Weekend.....	620
Weekday	535
Holidays	452

The highest time of use is in the afternoon, except during the week when it is equally divided between mornings and afternoons. Evening use is highest during the week, and night use is less than 3% for all times.

8) Where have you visited?

Quabbin Park.....	81%
Quabbin Visitor Center	76%
Boat Launch / Fishing Areas 1, 2, or 3	60%
Other Watershed lands (specify gates)	40%
Quabbin Park Cemetery.....	39%

Many different gates were listed by the respondents. Many respondents indicated they had accessed the watershed lands through many or all of the gates over time.

9) What activities, in designated areas, have you engaged in on Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System? (check all that apply)

The following activities were listed as engaged in “often” or “occasionally” by the highest percentage of respondents:

Walking/snowshoeing	86%
Driving / sightseeing	79%
Photography	69%
Picnicking / relaxing	63%
Bird watching / nature study	51%
Bicycle riding on roads	43%
Boat fishing	40%
Shore fishing	33%
Canoeing/kayaking/boating	27%
Stream fishing	26%
Other (please specify below)	17%

The “Other” responses were mixed, with some listing mountain biking (presently not allowed). Running, or trail running, was also frequently listed. A few listed letterboxing and field trips with children. One listed Pokémon Go.

10) While in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System do you know that the contact number for an emergency or water/environmental issue is 911?

Yes	83%
No.....	17%

11) When looking for information on the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System rules, regulations, or general reservoir information, where do you try to find answers?

DCR/DWSP web site.....	71%
Signs.....	45%
Quabbin Visitor Center	35%
DWSP printed materials	15%
Watershed Rangers	12%
Other web sites (list below) ...	4%

There were several listings of Mass Wildlife as an “other web site.” Many who responded to this open-ended choice simply listed “Google.”

12) While in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System, is it clear to you which activities are allowed and which are prohibited?

Yes58%
Sometimes..... 30%
No..... 12 %

13) While in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System, how often have you observed the following public access violations?

The following violations were listed as observed “often” or “occasionally” by the highest percentage of respondents:

Dog walking 36%
Swimming or wading..... 13%
Feeding wildlife 11%
Biking off-road or on footpaths 11%
Alcohol or drug use..... 10%

14) Have you read the information provided on DCR/DWSP web sites, bulletin boards, or signs, or at the Quabbin Visitor Center?

Yes89%
No..... 11%

15) Is the information clearly stated?

Yes69%
Some of it..... 27%
No..... 4%

16) If no, how could it be improved?

59/692 respondents commented. This was an open-ended question with a wide array of answers, with many comments more about access policies rather than improvements to DCR/DWSP communications. Interpretive Services staff and Watershed Rangers will carefully review these comments.

17) Please suggest additional types of information you would like available on DCR/DWSP web sites, bulletin boards, or signs, or at the Quabbin Visitor Center.

92/692 respondents commented. This was an open-ended question with a wide array of answers that were similar to the previous question. Interpretive Services staff and Watershed Rangers will carefully review these comments.

18) Are you aware that DCR/DWSP staff offer free education programs?

Yes52%
No..... 48%

19) If yes, have you attended a program?

Yes 24%
No.....76%

20) What types of programs have you or would you attend?

198/692 respondents commented. Many comments reflect what respondents have attended and some make suggestions for new programming. Interpretive Services staff will carefully review these comments.

21) Please tell us one aspect about public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System that you really like.

423/692 respondents commented. Those of highest frequency were:

Activity	#	%
Walk or run	119	28%
Fishing	84	19%
General ambiance	66	16%
Boating	25	6%
No motorized vehicles	25	6%
Biking	17	4%
Nature	13	3%
Driving	10	2%
Dog prohibition	9	2%
Uncategorized	102	24%

Some other common responses emphasized more passive pursuits, cleanliness, public bathrooms, DCR/DWSP staff, Visitor Center, photography, and just the fact that “Quabbin” exists as a publicly-accessible place.

22) Please tell us one aspect about public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System that you would change if given the chance.

504/692 respondents commented, the highest response rate for any open-ended question. Generally, these comments recommend increased access, both spatially and by mode. Often, the argument for more modes of access was based on the existence of motorized fishing boats, logging equipment, hunting, and internal roads on DCR/DWSP waters and lands, which are perceived to be greater threats to water quality.

The major response categories were:

Activity	#	%
Boating policies	100	20%
Dog policies	86	17%
Biking policies	80	16%
XC Ski policies	41	8%
Swimming policies	26	5%
Horse policies	10	2%
Camping policies	7	1%
Uncategorized	226	45%

Notes: Boating: most boating responses referred to kayaking.

Biking: most biking responses referred to mountain biking.

There were other types of uses suggested or comments made, but they were included in the 45% left uncategorized. Other frequent responses were for more shore fishing access points and general requests to reopen areas previously accessible, especially the dam and dike to motorized access.

23) Is there anything else you would like to tell us about public access to the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System?

263/692 respondents commented. This third question builds on and is somewhat repetitive of the previous two. Responses addressed many areas, from introduced snakes, to mountain biking and arguments about the reasonableness of DCR/DWSP's access policies. Comments were more general and ranged from highly supportive to highly critical:

Three aggregations of responses were created for analysis purposes: 1) Favorable; 2) Neutral/Constructive, and 3) Not Favorable. The 263 responses were assessed and divided up into one of these categories. The Favorable responses were generally very supportive messages about what DCR/DWSP does. The Neutral/Constructive responses were often a no-comment, a constructive suggestion, or a recommendation to increase an allowed activity beyond the levels now permitted. The Not Favorable responses ranged from simply suggesting something prohibited be allowed, to arguments disagreeing with policy, to highly critical statements regarding DCR/DWSP policies or personnel.

Response Type	#	%
Not Favorable	130	49%
Neutral/Constructive	74	28%
Favorable	59	23%

Combining the Favorable with the Neutral/Constructive represents 50.57% of the 263 responses

The following are the responses to the open ended questions.

Q16: How can public access information be improved?

- Add kayaking allowance in more areas.
- Allow camping maybe in only in some areas.
- Authors need to ask themselves if their grandma would understand the meaning.
- Be nicer.
- Better access and clearer rules that are not so convoluted
- Better control of pamphlets at gates
- Better signage inside on trails, pointing to gates. and maybe mileage to gates
- Bullet points: Bolder rather than lengthy text.
- By topic
- Clearer messages, especially about fishing
- Could be clearer about differences in violations in different areas - what is allowed where.
- Cycling and hiking access is unclear as to which trails are open and to the logic applied. More communication and dialogue would make the property more enjoyable for visitors.
- Explain better what and where things are allowed. The survey asked about cross country skiing, why is that not permitted.
- Get the hydro station back up and running. I think you may already be doing it but not at the original building.
- Have a larger sign or fewer rules and the 10 minute parking limit to read all of the (mostly unnecessary) rules is ridiculous.
- Have someone tell you the rules at Quabbin
- I believe public input should be implemented
- I have seen signs that say you can fish in areas I know that it is prohibited. Sign has since been corrected. (By Goodnough Dike)
- I would like to see specific rules regarding picnicking (like whether grilling is allowed) where ever there are picnic tables and scenic overviews.
- Information at all gates to be honest I don't even know where the visitor center is. if u only go to one gate when driving bye then u have no idea there is a visitor center
- it is good
- It keeps changing with the perception of terror activities. i.e.First you can do something, then can't, then can again. Lets get a steady understanding of what is allowed.
- It's really badly done.
- I've seen people walking dogs, not knowing, and mad when I point out dogs are not allowed. Not enough large signs. I've seen people walking to shore to fish near visitor center, need signs stating no fishing, no dogs.
- Just keep the poisonous snakes out of there.
- Larger font
- Larger No Dog Signs
- Larger, clearer signs. More frequent signs.
- Legalize some of these activities. Mountain biking, camping, horseback riding, encourage organized trail construction (by permit), & allow dogs!! Oh, and boating for recreation - i.e., non-motorized small sailboats!!
- Less bureaucratic language, more welcoming, less text.
- Make NO DOGS and NO FEEDING WILDLIFE, INCLUDING BIRDS a major signage priority
- Make signs pursuant to maps and other information. Too often, as an avid mountain bike we will be looking at the maps on line for the right areas where it is allowed. When we arrive there will be a sign on the gate or surrounding area that says no biking. This is very hypocritical and makes an individual feel like they are doing wrong even though it states you can bike there on the map. Make it clearly visible what you can or can't do on each specific gate.
- Many of the port-a-potties have been removed. I wish someone would update the signs.
- More on social media , Facebook
- No rattlesnake, they will bite someone and the tax payer will get have to pay the law suit;
- Not sure if you have a Facebook page (?)
- Places where Kayaking is allowed should be marked more clearly
- Print it in papers and have a greeter at the visitor center greet people and quickly talk about rules?

- Print it in the local newspapers. I read that.
- Rules outline & highlighted where people park & enter trails
- Should have a Information Board by the State Police Barracks. If there is one I have not seen it in all my days there....
- Signs are too small
- Signs need to be more complete about restrictions.
- Simplify rules to allow things like snowshoeing and cross country skiing anywhere in the Quabbin vs. in just specific areas.
- Some of this information (about what activities are allowed and which ones are not) should be listed at the entrances to Quabbin Park.
- Specific, clear information that can be read quickly
- The information doesn't make sense - no boats, but you can rent a boat. Cross country skiing seems prohibited, but that is unclear as well.
- The reasons for regulations, such as no sailing or no access to the Prescott Peninsula are not explained. These rules seem arbitrary. The ban against sailboats is not explained nor is it reasonable. The USCG's annual report on boating accidents show that motorboats are FAR more dangerous: more accidents and more fatalities, than sailboats. When you don't base your regulations on facts, no one (including me) will respect them.
- The signs on the entry roads are easily missed by many visitors who don't observe the posted speed limits and drive right past them. The signs on the various gates are often faded, difficult to read, or ambiguous. Also, the various DCR maps about bicycle roads do not cover the entire area around the Quabbin, so it is ambiguous about whether the roads between the areas the maps cover are legal or not.
- The signs that are on the islands to tell people which direction to go to get to a certain boat launch are often grown in and can not be seen and can cause people to get lost on the water!
- The website is awful and hard to find
- The website needs to improve. Primarily better maps. Also more information about night access.
- There are too many nuances to the rules and some rules should be eliminated.
- There is some inconsistencies in what activities are allowed, particularly bicycling, depending on where you look; website and site signage differ.
- Too many words
- Trails should be labeled clearly and maybe periodically. I.e. Trail number Quabbin.5(NSEW) or such. They provide a list on the web site indicating restrictions per trail. It would also be beneficial for the future when lost souls with poor gps, call for help in identifying their location. Just my 2 cents.
- Understanding why swimming and recreational boating is not permitted. The importance of that..
- Vague signage no notice of construction prior to visit.

Q20: What types of programs have you or would you attend?

- A one or two hour presentation covering the essential rules, regulations and activities available at the Quabbin.
- About Eagles returning.
- Animals in quabbin. History of Quabbin
- Animals tracking
- Any historical events
- Any kind of tracking, birding, wildlife, history, etc.
- Any review of the history of the 4 towns is cool.
- Any that interest me.....
- Anything fishing related
- Anything regarding fishing techniques used at Quabbin
- Anything that has to do with the history of the Quabbin, nature.
- Assistance with school projects
- Attended Informational session regarding rattlesnake introduction
- Attended on a school field trip
- Attended Quabbin Cemetery tour
- Bat and Bears lecture
- Bear, moose, eagles, coyote, and fishing

- Bird and wildlife, including flora
- Bird Watching
- Bird watching programs - nature hikes, etc.
- Bird watching, camera trapping
- Birding
- Birding
- Birding
- Birding photography
- Birds, fish, Quabbin aqueduct system.
- Birdwatching programs
- Bow hunting course
- Boy Scout merit badges like fishing, environmental science, forestry, bird watching, fishing and wildlife management, fly fishing, geology, geocaching, hiking, insect study, plant science, reptile and amphibian study, soil and water conservation,
- Classes on compass reading or survival
- Classroom visits by staff
- Dale Monette, Eagles
- Dana Center walk, Enfield walk with Nancy Huntington
- Depends on what is offered for programs.
- Eagle photo show, loon education
- Eagle watching, guided hikes for mobility impaired visitors
- Eagles, bears, coyotes, building the dam. More wildlife programs would be nice.
- Educational presentations with kids
- Educational programs on nature, history, water use
- Envirothon
- Family events
- Fishing (six times)
- Fishing and hunting educational programs.
- Fishing/hunting, hiking, trail building, plant info
- Forest ecology, watershed management
- Free outdoor yoga? Dog activities?
- General History about Quabbin. I would love to see more programs on research. I do not hear about programs much. YOU need to be getting info out to Jennifer Whitehead at the Clapp Library, Colleen at the Hitchcock Center and get an e-mail list so you send out info in real time to people who want to know.
- General Informational Seminars - Creation of the Quabbin, History of the Quabbin, etc.
- Guided hikes
- Guided hikes with historical commentaries
- Have attended nature programs and history programs
- HI story of the areas prior to the flooding. I am interested in native American settlements.
- Hikes, Mountain Bike rides.
- Hikes, programs about life before the taken of reservoir
- Hiking info
- Historic
- Historic and nature hikes.
- historical, photography, birding,
- Historical.
- History
- History
- History
- History and nature programs
- History of lost Towns.
- History of Quabbin
- History of Quabbin towns, wildlife, geology, ecology
- history of the Quabbin
- history of the Quabbin, Quabbin ecosystems
- History of the reservoir, q and a regarding the restrictions on usage and why they are in place.
- History of the towns under water, owl watching eagle watching
- History of the Valley
- History of the villages
- History programs,
- History, natural science
- History, wildlife
- History, Wildlife, Engineering
- Homeschooler programs of natural history or pleasure hiking
- Human-powered watercraft explorations.
- Hunter education classes
- Hunter education for the controlled hunt.
- Hunter safety
- Hunter Safety Course
- Hunting/trapping/firearms/archery wildlife ed agricultural/forestry

- I brought my inner city students (18-24YO) to walks and to general info sessions that Dale Monette enthusiastically offered us. He was fantastic! Miss him.
- I have elementary school aged children, getting them involved in anything regarding nature, history is great and they go to Pelham Elementary.
- I haven't attended any. I would love a history lesson and maybe a hike. How about a boat trip over to the island and a tour of the golf house?
- I hear about some events while they're happening or after the fact, but usually not in enough time to be able to go and plan to attend them!
- I like to see a Quabbin controlled archery hunt exclusively for bow hunters with many of the same regulations as the current program has
- I live too far away to attend the program
- I unfortunately miss the programs or find out about them too late because I do not know where to find the information. I would attend history programs, wildlife programs, hikes, etc. I recently attended the Enfield bi-centennial celebration at Hank's Meadow.
- I went with Katie from the Hitchcock Center. We took part in a one hour program at the visitor center. I learned a lot. I would have liked a tour of the labs and to meet biologist and lab techs and learn from them too.
- I work weekends, so it is impossible for me to get out for weekend programs. I would love to see weekday/weeknight programs.
- I would attend a kayaking event.
- I would attend ATV group rides lead by a DCR employee.
- I would be interested in learning more about the history of the Quabbin watershed.
- I would like family community programs at Quabbin but also for you to come to the library and schools and Sr center and non profits to share quabbin.
- I would like to attend a program about identifying local wildlife, particularly birds, that inhabit/visit the Quabbin.
- I would love to attend a night hike on a Friday or Saturday.
- I'd like to learn more about the history of Quabbin, animals and where we can see them, more about the fish hatchery too.
- It would depend on when they were scheduled and what they were about.
- Kids school programs
- Learn more about every day life in the valley before the flooding
- Lecture on beavers
- Lectures at Visitor Center
- Local biodiversity
- Maps, and wind directions for hunting whitetail deer in massachusetts.
- Memorial Day Services QPC, DCR programs at QVC, Quabbin Park Cemetery, Dana Common (Dana Reunion), Enfield Bicentennial Observance.
- Moose movement patterns, wildlife information, fly fishing training, kayak use in the Quabbin
- Moose, or other large-type wildlife sighting trips.
- More stories about discontinued towns as a result of the Quabbin construction
- Most stuff is interesting to me
- Mushroom hunting, fishing the quabbin as to where to go and what types of fish, history of quabbin
- Mushroom identification.
- My children would love nature programs.
- Natural history Forest management
- Nature
- Nature and education about wildlife or Quabbin history
- Nature history
- Nature programs about the ecology of the Quabbin.
- Nature programs, history programs, hikes, outdoor fun activities
- Nature showings I have attended and would love to attend more nature based information especially on the wildlife that resides within Quabbin Reservoir
- Nature talks Fishing
- Nature, eagles, construction of the reservoir

- Nature, historical
- Nature, wildlife, Quabbin history
- Night access star gazing
- None
- Not sure.
- Paddling trips
- Personal responsibility in terms of human impacts on water quality and supply--how to conserve water, use organic and natural personal care products instead of synthetics.
- Photography
- Photography with access to typically off-limits areas
- Plant identification, history,
- Presentations at the visitor center
- Probably none, but you never know.
- Programs about the local wildlife, geology, and history of the Quabbin
- Public Forums
- Quabbin history and Wildlife
- Quabbin history, Eagles, Loons, wildlife,
- Quabbin history, management updates, current wildlife studies.
- Quabbin hunting orientation.
- Quabbin Hunting safety course
- Quabbin permitted deer hunt
- Raptors in Quabbin and mycologists study of plant life
- Rattlesnakes
- Required deer hunter training sessions
- Rattlesnake meeting
- Rules/regulations.
- Sailing, fishing, history programs
- School activity
- School events
- School program on history and wildlife of the Quabbin
- Snake education!
- Something like how to use a compass
- Speakers/lecturers
- Star Gazing, uniquely Quabbin events, Deer education,
- Successful fishing techniques for shore and boat fishing specifically for the Quabbin
- Talks/presentation...wildlife, plants, photography, etc.
- The building of the dam
- The Making of the Quabbin; Superintendents Reservoir.
- Through elementary school trip
- Tours
- Tracking. Walking in closed areas.
- Transit of Venus, a short movie in the VC
- Types of wildlife living in and around Quabbin
- Walking tours visiting the remains of former towns and landmarks with their history.
- Watershed stewardship and setting up a program to help keep the tributaries clean
- We live too far away
- We would attend most anything.
- Where the best fishing spots are
- Wild edibles workshop
- Wilderness Survival
- Wildlife
- Wildlife old Quabbin house histories
- Wildlife and nature programs, cemetery tours, tours of areas related to lost towns.
- Wildlife and Swift River Valley History
- Wildlife based
- Wildlife education
- Wildlife information. Star gazing information.
- Wildlife walks. Canoe excursions.
- Wildlife, canoeing/kayaking
- Wildlife, History of the Towns (Dana Common etc.)
- Wildlife, history, and projects being done at Quabbin.
- Wildlife, natural history, cultural history, environmental
- Wildlife/bird programs
- Winter programs at Visitor Center
- Would attend programs on animals, wildlife, and eagles.
- Would love animal tracking, birding, night sky viewing
- Would love to ice fish here

Q 21: Please tell us one aspect about public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System that you really like.

- Ability to boat fish the Reservoir
- Ability to hike the various roads/gates
- Ability to hike to old Dana common
- Ability to walk at gates where it is allowed. I like that gates are far from the water in places, it ensures solitude for those who undertake the long walk.
- Ability to walk down gates at anytime of year.
- Able to go fishing there
- Abundant trail system
- Access by foot at the gates.
- Access for all
- Access to a beautiful and special place.
- Access to all of the old roads cellar holes etc.
- Access to beautiful natural environment
- Access to hiking trails
- access to hiking trails
- access to really great fishing
- Access to shore, water
- Access to wildlife and wooded areas with relatively low public use
- All the hiking trails
- All wildlife protection laws/rules.
- Always been interested in crossbow hunting whitetail deer at quabbin res.
- Areas are kept very clean and are very quiet.
- At least some parts are still open to the public
- Bathrooms located near parking areas.
- Beautiful and quiet, love that motorized vehicles are prohibited on trails
- Beautiful area
- Beautiful area to walk and relax
- Beautiful environment
- Beautiful place to walk. Always clean.
- Being able to boat.
- Being able to drive roads and hike. Going in tower
- Being able to fish both from shore and boat. Ability to hike in quabbin
- Being able to fish from my own boat.
- Being able to hike and geocache.
- Being able to relax and take pictures
- Being able to visit where my father's family lived
- Being able to walk areas without the worry of traffic
- Being able to walk the dam.
- Being allowed to fish
- Bicycle riding in a natural area
- Bicycling on roads.
- Biking
- Biking
- BIKING
- Biking trails and kayaking potential.
- Biking, cross country skiing
- Boat fishing
- Boat Fishing
- Boat Fishing The Quabbin is the number 1 place to fish in Massachusetts
- Boat fishing the reservoir
- Boat ramp attendants always seem to be friendly and informative.
- Boat ramps, parking areas, and the good folks that man and supervise them.
- Boat rentals
- Boating access area, Gate 43, is great! Terrific staff, helpful and courteous. More boats!!
- Boating available at gate 8
- Boating fishing (five times)
- Catch and release fishing, boat fishing.
- Catching huge smallies!
- Clean
- Clean, lack of liter.
- Cleanliness
- Clearly marked gates and helpful DCR staff
- Climbing the tower
- Close to nature
- Controlled deer hunt.
- Cross country skiing at the off reservation area
- DCR keeps Quabbin Park extremely clean and well maintained.
- Early hours at boat rental sites
- Easy access
- Easy access and friendly DCR workers
- Easy access for hiking.
- Easy access to open areas. Well marked signage.
- Easy parking

- Easy parking
- Easy parking at the gates
- Enfield look out
- Enjoy bike riding where allowed but would like more access to other roads
- Enjoying the accidental wilderness for what it is.
- Expanded Shore fishing
- Few motorized vehicles
- Fishing (20 times)
- Fishing access (3 times)
- Fishing and boat rental
- Fishing and its pristine beauty.
- Fishing at the 3 areas is a "must keep." One of the greatest fisheries ever. Been going there over 30yrs and it's a privilege to educate and bring new people, young and old alike to this watershed to see the history and fish these waters.
- Fishing by boat
- Fishing fishing fishing
- FISHING FROM THE THREE BOAT LAUNCH GATES.
- Fishing in the river
- Fishing via boat launch areas
- Fishing, shore or boat, watching the eagles and loons
- Fishing, hiking, and the Quabbin Park cemetery where alot of my relatives are buried. After to ride thru the dam area. .
- Fishing.
- Fishing. Wachusett reservoir should follow suit.
- Fishing/Boat Launches
- Fishing/hiking/biking
- Free parking at most gates, and a wave from the rangers as they drive by.
- Free! (except parking at the boat ramp)
- Gate 8 boat rental and access is much appreciated
- Gates are clearly marked
- Going to gate 40 where my relatives lived and going to the Dam
- Great boating and fishing
- Great place to hike, walk, relax, take photographs
- Great place to walk, observe nature
- Great trails and access up to the waters edge. I'd like to go fishing too.
- Great walking trails/roads
- Guided hikes
- Hiking (12 times)
- Hiking and biking
- Hiking and freedom to explore. Wish there was access to hiking on the Prescott Peninsula My husband would love to go kayaking and sailing...
- Hiking and geocaching
- Hiking in to go fishing
- Hiking the trails at the many gates
- Hiking the wilderness
- Hiking trails
- hiking trails
- Hiking trails within the public park
- Hiking/Snowshoeing
- Hiking/walking trails but I wish they were marked better and maintained better.
- Hiking; views; visitor center
- History
- How clean it is and how you can rent boats to go fishing on.
- Hunting
- I am an avid boat fisherman on the Quabbin. The access area are always well manned and organized
- I appreciate the ban on off-road vehicles.
- I appreciate the peace and unspoiled beauty of the watershed, with little to no trash or graffiti, or other evidence of unruly public behavior, so prevalent in other state parks.
- I appreciate the visitor center
- I don't like the added fencing since 9/11. Also, I don't like the dog and bike restrictions.
- I enjoy bass fishing on The Quabbin.
- I enjoy hiking they many trails
- I enjoy riding my mountain bike on the gravel paths in North quabbin. I see no destruction in riding my bike where DCR officials drive trucks on. Riding gate 29-35 I have not seen any illegal trail systems.
- I enjoy the ability to hike all the trails. The ability to sled is great for the kids as well!
- I enjoy the ability to walk or run on the trails.

- I enjoy the trails throughout the reservoir watershed
- I enjoy walking and admiring nature. The fresh air and being outside. I like bringing the kids there for fresh air and sight seeing
- I just like being able to drive around and relax. As a photographer, I do wish I had more time to photograph sunset before it closes sometimes. However, I understand that it takes a while for the rangers to chase everyone out.
- I like all the trails.
- I like being able to bring my kids up there any time we like to enjoy the serene environment. The grounds are very well maintained and it is very peaceful and beautiful. I find the people to visit the Quabbin seem like they appreciate it like we do.
- I like being able to park at the gates and hike or snowshoe. I love that it is a huge area with abundant wildlife.
- I like being able to rent boats on the reservoir but they seem a bit sluggish. (a new or used 9.9hp outboard would definitely do the trick) but I know that they are not cheap
- I like that cars aren't allowed on the dam or dike - nicer for walking
- I like that it is highly restrictive and like that motorized vehicles are not allowed on land.
- I like that public access for fishing. Being one of the two lake trout salmon fisheries and the fact that with the scenic views you don't feel like you're fishing Massachusetts makes it one of my favorite places to get out with my young family and do some fishing and teach my boys about enjoying and respecting the outdoors.
- I like that the people in the local, surrounding communities can access the natural beauty of the area.
- I like that there are areas you can still go.
- I like that there are no vehicles allowed.
- I like that we can still go into the quabbin
- I like the ability to hike and enjoy the forest and watershed
- I like the ability to walk the dams and hike the woods and forage for wild fruits
- I like the beauty and history of the area. I grew up here and am now raising two boys who already know and love Quabbin.
- I like the fishing areas and that you can rent boats
- I like the long stretches of undeveloped wilderness accessible to the public from the many gates off 202
- I like the visitors center and the walking on the dam. I enjoy driving the roads too and taking in the views.
- I like to be able to access Quabbin at all times of the year. I think the majority of Quabbin users are very respectful of this treasure of ours
- I love being able to go through at my own pace and look for wildlife, plants, etc. to photograph.
- I love being able to walk along the dam.
- I love hiking and biking in the Quabbin.
- I love renting a boat to go fishing. I also enjoy walking or driving through the park.
- I love that we can walk/hike all over
- I love that we have access to the beautiful Quabbin Reservoir very early in the morning through sunset as I love to take photography hikes. I also always feel very safe at the Quabbin and appreciate that there are rangers driving around routinely. I like the improvements you have made to hiking trails.
- I love that we have the opportunity to enjoy the quabbin road system. Wonderful walks and great views.
- I love that you can hike on many different paths and see old relics from the past.
- I love the hiking access and the wilderness feel.
- I love the open space it provides. The quabbin and wachusett are the best cold water fisheries in the state!
- I love to walk all over on trails with my kids. I love to bike over the dam since they are safe and cut off from traffic.

- I really appreciate how everything is clearly marked. Bike-friendly trails have bike markers on them, etc. The trails are well kept and properly signed with trail markers as well. The hard work that DCR Rangers put into maintaining this space is remarkable!
- I really enjoy hiking around the area.
- I really enjoy hiking in the Quabbin. Was not aware that you could kayak there.
- I really like the fact that I am able to spend a day on the water fishing and boating on one of the most peaceful and scenic places in New England.
- I really like the trails.
- I really like the walking trails at the different gates and that maps indicating the locations of the various gates are available.
- I Really love The Way You make Us pay for parking At your public Access .Don't we pay enough Tax to the State.. or is this your slush Fund. Paying to park at your public access area. You folk just get every dollar from us Tax Payer you can.
- I would like to be able to drive across the Dam or the Dike again. Seems to me to be a very low risk of terrorism on these two roadways. I grew up living on Blue Meadow Road in Quabbin Park and I miss being able to drive along the dam/dike to look out across the reservoir. There is no other visual like it!
- I would like to swim, fish at night, fish from more places from the shore, bike on the dirt roads, boat and kayak from more places.
- I would really like to have access again, doesn't feel like Quabbin to me anymore with places barricaded. Also would love to be able to walk my dogs on a leash. Have a picnic anywhere in Quabbin
- I'm glad people are able to hike there.
- It can be hard to find a peaceful safe place to walk and bike. I always find peace walking through the quabbin trails. Being around nature allows me to clear my head. I do wish we could walk dogs there. Maybe only in certain areas??
- It is an amazing place to teach kids about local history, engineering, nature, etc!
- It is generally free of debris and quiet.
- It is largely open and available.
- It is quiet and beautiful and peaceful.
- It is such a gift to have access to the Quabbin & it is well managed.
- It provides local residents with a wonderful place to hike and enjoy the natural scenery.
- It was much more enjoyable before 9/11. It used to be a great place to fly kites. It was just better.
- ITS A GREAT PLEASE TO GO AND WALK AROUND WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY
- Its BEAUTIFUL! Hiking in the quabbin is like stepping into another place. I love the access to the tower and the dam the views are breathtaking
- It's beautiful! Well maintained& lovely to walk.
- It's beauty, of course.
- It's clean
- It's easy to find places to go where no one else is.
- Its free
- It's free for the most part.
- It's free or inexpensive to get out and the great area we live in.
- Its free.....
- It's mostly protected, except from the DCR.
- it's real open and you can feel like you can just go do what you want
- It's refreshing to be there.
- It's so beautiful, and well cared for.
- Kayaking
- Kayaking at pottapaug pond
- Lack of people and solitude
- Like being able to kayak on the pond areas
- Like walking access
- Limited access no motor vehicles
- Limited residential or commercial presence. The trails are mostly maintained.
- Lots of publicly accessible outdoor space.
- Love being able to walk Quabbin Reservoir.
- Love hiking it.
- Love the hiking! Love riding bikes to old Dana!
- More hunting allowed
- Mountain bike access to all trails and roads in the watershed
- Mountain biking on trails

- Mt biking
- Natural Beauty
- Nature (three times)
- Nature at its finest
- Nice to hike all the gates
- Night access for night fishing
- Night permit/fishing.
- Night time fishing permits
- No admission/entry fees
- No automobiles
- No cars
- No cars on dam and dike walks, no boating in Main gates in Belchertown and Ware
- No dogs (4 times)
- No hunting.
- No motor vehicles
- No motorized vehicles
- No motorized vehicles
- No motorized vehicles on trails
- No pets
- Non-powered boating
- Not many people visit the places we like best. Hanks meadow is the exception- lots of visitors. They are respectful of the site. There are unusual butterflies in the wet seep there that we monitor each spring. None this year most likely due to lack of water. Veriagated Fritillaries
- Not much left to do. Can't even walk the dog.
- Open access
- Open hours are very convenient
- Open space without motorized vehicles...or snakes
- Open to public and free
- Opening park at 5:30am. Please continue year round
- Parking and boat rental
- Parking is generally good.
- Parking near the dam & dike
- Peace
- Peace and quiet
- Peaceful
- Peaceful being among nature
- Peacefulness
- Pedestrian access only
- Photo ops.
- Photography!!!
- Picnic areas
- Picnic areas in the scenic view locations
- Preservation of wildlife habitat
- Pretty hikes.
- Pristine
- Provides an opportunity to walk the hollowed grounds where my ancestors once lived, worked and enjoyed their recreation.
- Public toilets
- Quabbin is my favorite place to walk and jog and bike ride.
- Quabbin Park Dam access again.
- Quiet nature time
- Really like its no dog policy, I hope that never changes. You feel safe as no dogs are making a mess, barking, or attacking you. It is serene, keep it that way. No atvs.
- Reduced weekday prices for boat rentals for over 62 anglers.
- Rental boats and launch areas are well kept
- Restricting dogs, limiting bicycles
- Restrictions on motorized vehicles
- Restrictions that keep things cleaner and more peaceful
- Roads are well cared for in the winter.
- Running across the dams in all sorts of weather.
- Safe place to exercise
- Serenity
- Shore fishing (three times)
- Sights/walking
- Simply the fact that there IS public access to this amazing piece of property
- So many beautiful walks and hikes. Access to the water's edge to sit and relax.
- So many places to walk in peace.
- Solitude
- Some marked trails to walk.
- Such a big space to explore.
- Serenity
- That cars cannot cross dyke or dam. It makes it safe for walking and biking especially with kids
- That it exists!
- That it is allowed!
- That it is clean and well-kept!

- That it is open and accessible
- That it is publicly accessible for taxpayers and water ratepayers to enjoy.
- That roads are maintained and accessible.
- That the public does have access.
- That there is an area where we can protect the timber rattlesnakes from people, and that dogs aren't allowed.
- That there isn't an island full of deadly snakes in the middle of it.
- That we are not breeding rattlesnakes
- That you protect and manage local biodiversity.
- The ability to access the wonderful views around the quabbin.
- The ability to get closer to nature.
- The ability to have a shaded picnic table and a nice vista to enjoy at the same time.
- The ability to hike and explore the gates that lead to Dana Common
- The ability to rent boats at a very affordable price is terrific!
- The ability to walk around many parts of the area without having to worry about traffic and seeing the wildlife (deer, turkeys)
- The access for hunting and fishing.
- The amount of different gates and trails to explore with my family.
- The area is beautiful.
- The areas that only allow foot traffic.
- The awesome scenery!
- The barriers erected after 9-11 actually make a stroll in the dike/dam areas more pleasant without motor vehicles present.
- The beauty and peace
- The beauty of the place, wildlife, good fishing, and clean
- The beauty of the place.
- The boat ramps
- The boat rental program is amazing. My family and children age 6 and 9 love it. We rent at least twice a year and appreciate the affordability and great helpful staff. We all love having the opportunity to fish by boat at the quabbin.
- The cleanliness in the natural beauty of the place
- The cleanliness of the park and the mostly untouched nature.
- The cold water fishery
- The different gates to hike
- The existing policy
- The extensive fishing access is vital to my enjoyment of the system
- The fact that it is open to the public for walking/hiking.
- The fact that the majority of land is accessible for hiking.
- The fishing
- The fishing is great!
- The fishing is really great. It's such a beautiful lake.
- The hiking
- The hiking access
- The large number of gates allows for easy access.
- The many areas to walk, without the fear of being attacked by dogs.
- The motor boat rental and deer hunt
- The night passes!
- The opportunity to see the wildlife that the quabbin has such as deer moose turkeys eagles etc.
- The peacefulness of the park and the beauty
- The people manning the launch sites
- The quabbin reservoir is an amazing place to go I just wish I could drive my elder relatives in the damn area like we used to
- The reduction of car access into the reservoir has made it a quieter and natural setting. Just walking on the roads is much more pleasant.
- The remoteness and cleanliness. The opportunity to view wildlife. I go there mainly for the fishing.
- The roads are beautifully maintained.
- The roads are maintained to allow access
- The serenity and quiet
- The simplistic beautiful peaceful atmosphere where one can drive, walk, or hike and enjoy nature unspoiled.
- The slow speed of cars or paved areas without cars for my children on scooters or bicycles
- The tower and public programs
- The trails! We love to hike!

- The view from The Lookout
- The walking trails
- The well-maintained hiking trails
- The wide variety of hiking paths
- The Windsor dam, the Goodenough dike, and Hell Huddle road to the old dirt roads through Dana Center.
- There are abundant opportunities and paths for walking and hiking.
- There are many gates open to public use for year round hiking opportunity.
- There are many points of access with differing environments
- There are potties!
- There's plenty of bike trails
- To be able to hike to waters edge and be able to observe fauna & flora
- To be able to utilize this beautiful land for observing nature and wildlife, hiking the incredible trails and driving through to enjoy it.
- Traffic free walking areas; the dike, the dam and surrounding areas.
- Trails (4 times)
- Unrestricted access for day and night fishing.
- Very beautiful center and well maintained hiking trails.
- View is nice.
- Visitors Center
- Walking
- Walking
- Walking & access to observation tower
- Walking fishing
- Walking is allowed just about everywhere.
- Walking on trails at various gates
- Walking through the park, particularly to the tower
- Walking trails scenic views on road.
- Walking while enjoying nature
- Walking/biking trails
- Watching wildlife and fishing from my boat.
- We like the fishing areas
- Well maintained roads
- Well maintained roads for bicycling and beautiful grounds
- Well marked and maintained entry points
- Wildlife
- Would like to see a larger parking areas at the more popular access gates ie 16
- Would love to kayak.

Q22: Please tell us one aspect about public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System that you would change if given the chance.

- \$2 gate charge
- A longer fishing season on the reservoir
- A way to deter visitors from leaving their trash inside the gates during their walks and hikes.
- Ability to scout for annual deer hunt more than single weekend currently given.
- Ability to swim and kayak. Enjoy more of nature on the water
- Ability to walk a family pet on main roads or in designated walking areas
- Access across the dike. Dogs on leashes should be allowed.
- Access for kayaks and canoes that are properly manned and equipped on the major part of the reservoir.
- Access for mountain bikes on single track trails
- Access for mountain biking and rattlesnakes ;)
- Access to different areas
- Access to fish both boat & shore, hike & bike the entire watershed.
- Access to prescott peninsula
- Access to the dam and dike by cars
- Accessible shore access
- Add kayak access
- Add mountain bike trails. Work with the new england mountain bike association (nemba) to develop off road mountain bike trails in areas where there would be no deleterious effects on the watershed. Utilize nemba's experience and skills in design, construction, and maintenance of sustainable trails.
- Adding approved biking and hiking trails combined with education about their care and low impact use. Encouraging people to exercise and enjoy the land in a way that does not hurt the water quality.

- Allow access to drive over the dam and dike as in the past
- Allow access to prescott peninsula and other closed areas. Allow kayaking in the pottopaug. Increase access for hikers and bicyclists.
- Allow atv access on certain trails
- Allow bicycle riding in more areas, particularly paved roads
- Allow bicycles on all accessible roads, work with swift river historic society to give more guided tours of prescott peninsula, add more historic information at major gates.
- Allow bicycles on more of the roads around the quabbin
- Allow bike riding on off road trails near the visitor center, dam & dike. Provide bike access on route 9 from local roads into the quabbin park.
- Allow camping
- Allow camping
- Allow camping in designated areas.
- Allow canines in areas away from the water.
- Allow canoeing and kayaking
- Allow canoeing, kayaking, swimming, cross-country skiing, bicycling.
- Allow cartop boats in some sections of the main reservoir. If private powerboats are allowed, lightweight boats should be also, at least in some areas.
- Allow concealed carry
- Allow cross country skiing (six times)
- Allow dog walking
- Allow dog walking on a leash within the park.
- Allow dog walking on leashes, allow cross country skiing
- Allow dogs (four times)
- Allow dogs and canoeing.
- Allow dogs and horses. Non motorized boating without a fishing license.
- Allow dogs in some areas, e.g. Areas that allow biking. Contamination fears seem somewhat inflated and overly protective in this regard. Quabbin is a wonderful local resource that we'd like to share with our dog.
- Allow dogs in the park area and tracks while leashed
- Allow dogs on a leash and fishing.
- Allow dogs on leash. Can restrict them to stay x feet from water (perhaps 1000'?)
- Allow ice fishing (three times)
- Allow kayaking (seven times)
- Allow kayaking. Allow access over windsor dam
- Allow leashed dogs on areas that are not near the water.
- Allow leashed pets, kayaking and sailing.
- Allow low impact activities such as cross country skiing, perhaps horses and more biking access too, as long as its not in commercially organized groups. And i wish there was an area where swimming would be allowed.
- Allow more access to non motorized biking
- Allow more use of established trails outside main park area. Allow bicycling, horseback riding. Clear some existing trails better.
- Allow mountain biking
- Allow mountain biking off roads.
- Allow mountain biking on approved trails.
- Allow mountain biking on single track trails. Allow the creation of new trails and adoption of existing trails that do not negatively impact water quality.
- Allow mt biking
- Allow much more non-motorized activity, including biking on all roads, canoeing, kayaking and swimming but in the reservoir, and cross-country skiing to go along with snow shoeing.
- Allow night fishing without permits if you over within the quabbin region
- Allow non-motorized biking on trails or trail development.
- Allow non-motorized boats without fishing license - such as small sailboats.
- Allow off road vehicles/atv's
- Allow overnight fishing
- Allow personal kayak/canoes.
- Allow private kayaks, leashed dogs, xc skiing.
- Allow shared use trail access for mountain biking.
- Allow small sailboats....perhaps 18 ft or smaller.

- Allow snowmobiling in quabbin away from reservoir
- Allow snowshoeing and cross country skiing throughout watershed during winter; allow kayaking and canoeing for sport (not being required to fish) during spring, summer and fall.
- Allow swimming
- Allow swimming
- Allow trail bicycling
- Allow use of kayaks and canoes in quabbin reservoir.
- Allow waterfowl hunting on the quabbin reservoir?
- Allow xc skiing!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Allow xc skiing.
- Allow leashed dogs
- Allowed cycling on all dirt access roads.
- Allowed to walk dogs on leash
- Allowing canoeing and kayaking.
- Allowing cross-country skiing
- Allowing dogs
- Allowing dogs and cross country skiing
- Allowing dogs, x-country skiing and off road bicycles in more designated than are allowable today.
- Allowing dogs.
- Allowing kayaking
- Balanced access based on recognized facts regarding the use by a variety of non motorized users.
- Ban vehicles, make all roads pedestrian and cyclist friendly only.
- Be able to walk down to the water in all areas again
- Being able to drive across the dam from the visitors center into the main part of the quabbin park
- Being able to drive over the dam again. I think it's ridiculous that it was closed off.
- Being able to go past the barrels near the presscott
- Being able to ice fish in the winter would be great
- Being able to walk dogs on leash
- Being able to walk with my dog.
- Better marked trails
- Better marking of the smaller trails.
- Better parking at more remote gates.
- Better road access. Portions are in pretty poor shape with pot holes and narrowness.
- Bicycle access on the dirt roads. There is absolutely no reason to allow hiking but not allow bicycles. Both activities are similarly low-impact. I am not talking about off-road riding, just riding on the dirt roads. Given how busy routes 9, 122, and 202 are, and how narrow the shoulders on these roads often are, it would be very nice to be able to ride around the reservoir on all of the dirt roads, not just some of the,.
- Bicycles or other wheeled vehicles.
- Bigger horsepower boats to be allowed. Its not the die hard fisherman that ruin bodies of water
- Biking
- Biking on the trails should be allowed
- Boating restrictions on boat trailers - no longer fish the reservoir due to the restriction. Have read where this should be a non-issue at quabbin due to water quality.
- Bring in dogs
- Brush removal in scenic areas should be reinstated that have been discontinued over the years
- Canoeing
- Canoeing and kayaking should be allowed.
- Canoeing, kayaking restrictions, particularly the rental policies. I can understand that keeping people away from restricted areas, but other areas should be open.
- Canoeing/kayaking everywhere with access to islands.
- Canoes
- Change the controlled hunt to 3-4 years off for each area
- Charge more for parking at public access area
- Contiguous trail system
- Cost to rent boats
- Create the quabbin reservoir into a "youth hunting only area "for what a better place to learn!
- Cross country skiing

- Cross country skiing would be nice
- Cross country skiing, more biking access, swimming
- Cross country skiing; non-motorized boating
- Cross country sky, kayaking and mountable should be allowed!
- Current balance of access and protection is just fine.
- Didn't know that night permits are available. Would like to have kayaking allowed. There is no reason to have the dam or dike blocked, that was an overreaction to 9/11.
- Dog access
- Dog access! We should be able to walk our dogs there!
- Dog prohibition on the new england national scenic trail. I am thru-hiking alone with my dog for protection and companionship. I may be forced to bypass quabbin and walk down highways for many miles due to this prohibition.
- Dog walking (12 times)
- Dogs being allowed to walk either on specific days or trails, even if it was a once a year dog day. With registration and sign in and out feature so abusers could be denied access. Obviously leashed, rabies tags and poop pick up a must. Also i thought you could ride bicycles on the trails, that would be nice personally I don't see why you can't now.
- Dogs should be allowed as long as they are on a leash. Horseback riding should be allowed.
- Dogs should be allowed if the owner is responsible and picks up after it.
- Dogs, I drove put there with my dog and had to turn around. Isn't this land funded by tax money. Why aren't dogs allowed
- Driving on the dam again. Come on..... Walking dogs on leash.
- Driving over the dam and dime should be given access again
- Driving over the dams like when I was a kid.
- Dyke roads open and no snakes brought in
- Easing of some of the restrictions from 9/11.
- Educate present employees on the watershed and history of the place. It is a place to be cherished, not just a 9 - 5 job.
- Electric vehicle access
- Eliminate need for fishing license to launch/rent a boat
- Enforce dog leash issues.
- Enforce speed limits and patrolling for drug exchanges
- Evening access
- Expand bicycle use!!!
- Expand biking to some trails
- Expand hunting opportunities ie bow hunting
- Expanded shore fishing
- Extend the fishing season into november 2nd saturday.
- Fish the dam just one time for 24 hours. Theres some giant fish in that area and I really want to catch them!!!!
- Fishing area restrictions
- Fishing beyond the barrels. Moving them further south.
- Fishing expanded to more areas
- Fishing on the feeder streams of the quabbin res.
- For checking in people for fishing if there was a line for renters and a separate line for people with their own boats it would speed things up. Maybe only do this for the first hour or two in the morning and most likely on weekends and holidays when it is the busiest.
- Gate 43 needs another boat ramp.
- Go back to allowing bicycles on trails.
- Have special dcr "boat tours." make bookoo bucks. Keep it extremely limited. One trip on a sunday. Through the spring summer and fall. Very small, very slow. Use it as a shoreline check.
- Have the changes made to access following 911 really increased the security of the reservoir?? In my opinion, it has not. I would love for future generations to be able to enjoy our quabbin as we did when we were younger.
- Having the ability to archery hunt the quabbin during the archery season
- Hope there could be some shelter on winsor dam sometime when it rains you just can't rush back to your car or the visitor center
- Horse power limits

- Horseback riding access. Really, how much manure and attrition to trails can you argue would harm this beautiful spot? A system of trails could provide awesome recreational opportunities. Rangers could patrol on horseback and that would eliminate some of the pressure from vehicles.
- Horseback riding should be allowed.
- Hours I would like to be able to see the sunset . Handicap access to driving over the dams for viewing.
- Human-powered watercraft explorations should be allowed and motor-powered watercraft should be disallowed.
- Hunting access and logging practices
- Hunting, logging
- I can't think of anything
- I definitely think cross_country skiing should be allowed on all open lands. I would like to see single track mt biking allowed on some portions of quabbin watershed.
- I feel that snowmobile access should be allowed on more trails. They offer almost zero impact on natural wild life. Day permits could be granted similar to state forests providing additional revenue. Atv access could be regulated as well and limited to a certain number a day.
- I go far less frequently than I would because dogs are not allowed. Dogs should be permitted on trails away from the water. The boating restrictions also make no sense. Why are fishing boats permitted and kayaks not? Swimming vs. Wading: also seems like a pointless distinction.
- I haven't gone fishing there this year, which is mostly what I do. Would be nice to have more opportunities for free boat washing from zebra mussels. I agree with the washing, just I can go fish somewhere else without having to pay or figure out when I can get my boat washed.
- I know those people have just as much right to visit quabbin as I do, but I really dislike the noise pollution of loud motorcycles and souped up cars, especially when I'm watching, or trying to photograph wildlife, or just relax and read.
- I own a sea kayak and would love to explore the reservoir in it without having to pretend I am fishing. I would also love to ski there.
- I really liked when the quabbin roads were all accessible and I hope they changes back again one day. Driving over the dykes and down below them growing up was always so beautiful and more welcoming when time is short. Kayaking and canoeing is much healthier for the environment and the reservoir than motor boats. I would like to see paddlers welcome and polluting boaters banned.
- I spent a lot of time enjoying quabbin when I was younger. Since access to the dam and dike areas was prohibited I rarely go there. I would love to be able to share those experiences with my family.
- I strongly believe dogs should be allowed to walk on the trails.
- I think it should stay as it is. Recreation should be limited to protect the water and ecology.
- I think my family and I would get so much more out of the quabbin if there were more loop trails (clearly marked) of varying difficulties, kayak access, and swimming! Regular free birding programs too. More quiet family picnic areas that motorcycles do not have access to (due to the noise). Comprehensive, clear park map available online with designated areas and what is allowed where. So much if it is paved, and there's a lot of trails in the woods but I have no idea if they're safe or appropriate for my family. Or worthwhile. Trail signs indicating length of trail and what to look for, such as interpretive signage indicating nature highlights and history, would be great.

- I think quabbin should be like a look park or state park like lake wyola in wendell. We should be allowed to use it for swimming, biking, sledding, snowmobiling, boating, kayaking , skiing, everything! Sure there should be areas off limits if there is a rare or sensitive plant, animal. Yes, we should protect the island for the rattle snake.
- I want to drive across the dam. It was closed up after 9/11 but that was bs. I can drive across the hoover dam but not quabbin.
- I wish I could launch my canoe on the quabbin.
- I wish that we could go back to how things used to be. I went to quabbin much more often before the rules that were imposed after 9/11.
- I wish there could be primitive campsites but we know they would be abused so we understand why they can't be there
- I wish there were more areas to drive and access like when I was a kid so my son could enjoy it like I used to.
- I wish there were more picnic areas. I miss being able to picnic in the field at the bottom of the dam. As a child some of my greatest memories are of picnicking there but now it is too far a walk to picnic there with children and there are no tables.
- I wish visitors could bring dogs on leashes. I end up going hiking in the quabbin a lot less than I would otherwise because I can't bring my dog with me.
- I wish you would allow kayaking!
- I would allow dog walking in some areas and place bag dispensers and trash cans. Dogs could be walked on paved roads while leashed with no more than 4 feet of leash and also in the cemetery which appears not to be staffed daily. That would also bring people to the area, especially the cemetery, and cut down on vandalism.
- I would allow dogs on leash with a stiff fine for failure to pick up after your dog.
- I would allow for ice fishing.
- I would allow kayaking and canoeing with private crafts. The quabbin is so beautiful I would be willing to store/certify my kayaks and exclusively use them at the reservoir if required.
- I would allow leashed dogs (with owner responsible for picking up after pets) in at least one or two areas.
- I would allow more fishing access.
- I would ask that mountain biking and dcr approved trails be included in the list of allowed activities
- I would change the "no firearms" policy. If I can carry a concealed weapon with my permit at a restaurant, store or to church, why can't I carry it in the quabbin?
- I would change the mountain biking policy. I do not understand why certain gates you are not allowed to ride a bicycle where trucks and heavy machinery drive through all the time. Cycling is not very abrasive to these dirt roads.
- I would create a "quabbin catch and release program" during the spring spawn for bass; opening day until 3rd week of june. This is important as too many people are now taking those big spawners out of the reservoir.
- I would like evening access for night photography.
- I would like some access for dogs.
- I would like to be able to go in at night for night hikes, and to be able to nature watch for all the nocturnal animals.
- I would like to be able to ice fish parts of the res and I would like to be able to use my canoe on the res also I would also like to be able to waterfowl or turkey hunt the area
- I would like to be able to kayak in the quabbin with my own kayak. If I understand the rules correctly, kayaking is allowed only if I rent a kayak from the dcr.
- I would like to be able to ride my bicycle in, especially as the walk in from many gates is very long
- I would like to be able to ride my bicycle on dirt roads. What would be wrong with that? Also, it is weird that snowshoeing is allowed, but cross-country skiing is not.

- I would like to be able to take a (guided) wildlife tour of some of the interior islands that are usually surrounded by water. For wildlife viewing, (limited) overnight camping, etc. It's such an amazing place on it's own.
- I would like to be able to walk my dog there too.
- I would like to kayak around quabbin
- I would like to see a study done on the fish pop.(smelt ,white and yellow perch and rainbow trout) from the long term effects of the copper sulfate that was added to the water. I would also like a report of why it was put in the water and who authorized it ?
- I would like to see an option for off road mountain biking and hiking for the public.
- I would like to see dogs be allowed in quabbin on a leash. Alternatively, I would like to see fines increased for anyone not picking up after themselves or their dogs. I grew up on the property abutting gate 5 and we had dogs. Before the public access restrictions, our dogs were allowed to hike with our family in quabbin and it was a memorable and enjoyable experience. Dogs in general are safe and clean. The owners who fail to follow rules and clean up after their dogs are the problem and should be penalized accordingly. Please allow leashed dogs into quabbin!
- I would like to see increased bicycle access. Especially while the "adventure cycling" and "bikepacking" categories of cycling have gained popularity. Studies have shown that in most conditions cycling has minimal impact, in some cases less erosive impact than walking/hiking. The quabbin is an amazing and beautiful place where cyclists of western and central massachusetts would love to be able to take advantage of legally!
- I would like to see kayaks allowed. It would be nice to have a small camping area even if it didn't allow fires.
- I would like to see the boat launch areas extend the fishing season, especially later on into the fall. Maybe run from the first saturday in april (ice permitting of course) through the end of november, just like wachusett?.
- I would like to see the fire lanes reposted and cleared like the old days where you know the boundaries and opened up to bow hunters should be wildlife management area for hunting and fishing
- I would like to see the rules against public assemblies of more than 25 persons lifted, or at least amended to increase the number. I belong to several hiking meetups, and we've decided against visiting the quabbin several times because our hiking groups can be as large as 30. (they're usually more in the 15-20 range, but we don't want to risk trouble if everyone shows up - and we rarely plan far enough in advance to obtain a written permit from the commissioner!)
- I would like to see the watershed open to bow hunters...maybe a new quabbin controlled deer hunt during the archery season
- I would like to walk my dog - on or off leash.
- I would like to walk my dog.
- I would love an occasional open night in the park.
- I would love more guided tour options to places that we don't have access to.
- I would love to be able to bring my dog
- I would love to be able to take my small dog on a walk on a leash in a small area of the quabbin. I understand why you wouldn't want them running loose or walking all through the quabbin but wonder if there is a small hike that could be opened to dogs.
- I would love to cross country ski, mountain bike and walk my dog there!
- I would love to have the digestive reopened, that was a popular spot for family time and building.
- I would love to kayak at quabbin
- I would open the access to kayaks, canoes... And small sailboats under 15 foot.
- I would open the area to dogs.

- I would really like to have access again, doesn't feel like quabbin to me anymore with places barricaded. Also would love to be able to walk my dogs on a leash. Have a picnic anywhere in quabbin.
- I would really love to be able to mountain bike on the quabbin fire roads. No littering, and I'd be happy to pick up and pack out any trash I see.
- I would really really like if the reservoir was open later in the fall like wachusett reservoir is. I don't have a boat and would like the opportunity to shore fish for cold water species like trout and salmon in the fall when water temps cool down and these fish species are moving back into shallower water. Maybe the reservoir could close for boats in october but remain open for shore fishing at the unmanned gates until later in the fall. I know there would be a lot of avid shore anglers who would enjoy and utilize this opportunity
- I would reinstate full road access to all paved roadways!
- I would restrict access on a rotating basis so every area was inaccessible one year out of three
- I would stop all the "photography workshops" where guys are taken by a "guide" charging about "\$350" per day to learn where the eagles and loons nest in quabbin. They in turn, bring in other people and show them where to get to these birds and before you know it you have undue stress on the threatened listed species.
- I would try to be more logical about boating access, winter usage and the ability to walk dogs on leads.
- I wouldn't change a thing.
- I'd allow mountain biking in specific areas that would preclude any impact concerns.
- I'd like a swimming area but I understand that as a watershed for many communities that it can't be possible.
- I'd like to see the fishing times expanded.
- I'd love dogs to be allowed. I don't go as often as I'd like because dogs aren't allowed. Would request on leash only. If dogs are allowed would like to see trash cans so that people will be more likely to pick up after their dog- perhaps with doggy bags like some parks provide.
- If motorized boats are allowed, why not canoes and kayaks? This type of passive recreation seems far less damaging to the water, and I would love to paddle in the quabbin. If non-mechanized boating is not allowed, I recommend disallowing motorboats in the quabbin as well, given that they are likely polluting the water with oil & gas.
- If only people would pick up after themselves, litter.
- Illegal activity
- Improved signage at gates would be nice, telling what's permitted. Some are worn or unclear. A simple map of connecting trails, distances and highlights along the way.
- Increase access for my biking and camping
- Increase public access. Especially trails, and allow bicycles on all foot path sand trails.
- Increased access to cell phone towers.
- It closes at dusk
- It would be good to allow dogs. I would come to the quabbin more if I could bring my dog. Strictly enforced leash and clean-up laws ought to protect the watershed as much as the current ban on dogs does.
- It would be great to allow leashed dogs on paved roads.
- It would be nice to be able to kayak and to have a designated swimming area.
- It would be really nice to have opportunities to visit accessible areas (maybe a licensing fee) that would allow time to learn animal behaviors and photographing. Main traffic areas animals will hide more than not, and this would open up new opportunities for true nature lovers.
- It would be so nice to drive over the dams again
- It's fine the way it is
- Kayaking (nine times)
- Kayaking and cross country skiing should be permitted.

- Kayaking perhaps cross country skiing
- Kayaking, dog access
- Less access.
- Less restrictions, more access.
- Let dogs have access.
- Let us swim!!!!!!
- Longer access periods for stream fishing with catch and release regs in place
- Make all paths open to foot traffic and running. I'd like to be able to run from my home near gate 5 to the fire tower on the trails without breaking any rules.
- May not be realistic but it would be great to have a launch ramp and retrieval ramp side by side.
- Metal detecting should be allowed. .it's impact would be minimal. ..and would create another reason for people to visit..the vast majority of metal detector users are responsible people who take care to leave the area as they found it..it seems a shame to let all the history of the quabbin /ware river watershed to be left as it lays..never to be seen by human kind again..I would even be open to only letting in several detectorist in per year by a lottery type system..or permits. .money could be made and the detectorist could enjoy they hobby ...
- More access for kayaks/canoes seems like a benign use that should be allowed. Dog walking and xcounrty skiing also are benign activities that should be allowed.
- More access on prescott peninsula, which is near where I live. I would like to see more biking on the trails, and kayaking on the water.
- More access to biking
- More access to cycling and fishing from shore
- More bicycle access
- More bicycle access on dirt roads
- More bicycle riding off of paved roads! Many federal and state protected lands allow this and their admins know that respectful mountain biking is no more damaging than respectful hiking.
- More bike riding leniency
- More boundary markage and slightly better mapping. Reduce or limit the amount of hunters allowed in the quabbin hunt to allow the deer herd to recover.
- More c&r areas, expanded boat fishing.
- More car access, kayaking, swimming but I'm sure that's not possible because it's a reservoir :) I went just the other day off old enfield rd and it was so beautiful. I felt like I was at the ocean!
- More defined trails in the woods
- More designated bike trails and legal access to shared use trails
- More driving paths, drive into old dana
- More enforcement & harsh penalties for atvs, guns, fires, litter/ dumping
- More extended use of multi use trails.
- More fishing access
- More fishing!
- More fission access
- More gates open for night fishing! Preferably more on the west side / channel
- More hunting. Have a moose hunt and require a lottery. Pick 3 names and have a fee of \$1,000 for the permit. Have it be a 2 day hunt.
- More informational and historical facts signs
- More kayaking
- More mountain bike access
- More mountain biking allowed.
- More mountain biking opportunities. I understand the conservation efforts but there are no reasons why you shouldn't be able to bike on gates like 11 and 12 which have dirt roads where the rangers drive occasionally. If a vehicle is ok by staff, how would a bike hurt? Again I understand issues/hazards/conservation in some areas but there are places where biking would be great.
- More off pavement bicycle access/dirt roads
- More porta potties; especially at enfield look out. It would be nice to be able to drive across the windsor dam again but I understand the security issue.
- More shore fishing

- More shore fishing areas, most of them are too far off the road and the lower part of the reservoir. Is restricted.
- More shore line to use and use of contained camp fires within high water mark and low water mark area on scoreline access areas only overnight public mooring
- More staff to enforce the rules and regulations.
- More variety in the night fishing access.
- Most states have state parks and such where they actually welcome visitors. Not massachusetts.
- Motor boats
- Mountain biking access
- Mountain biking and equestrian access
- Mountain biking on the trail system should be allowed like it is in almost every other dcr park.
- Much more access to photograph, to kayak and for shooting photos from a kayak
- Need to allow recreational canoeing and kayaking.
- No boats. Although I have friends who fish there and had plans to do so. I believe we live in a time there are increased threats to our public security and I would rather tighten than loosen public access to a major water supply (or any water supply).
- No breeding of rattlesnakes
- No horsepower limit on the reservoir, maybe just use a speed limit instead
- No relocating snakes in the quabbin !!!
- No smoking, the risk for fire is high with the drought, yet after your own workers leave an area they have just cleaned I often see cigarette butts on the ground, left by these very workers. Only in massachusetts, can a state employee clean an area then leave his own cigarette butts on the ground, if a supervisor ever visited a work site I guarantee they would see this.
- No snakes
- No swimming rules
- No timber rattle snake. Please don't bring them there. I won't be able to bring the kids for walks there without putting their life in danger
- No timber rattle snakes
- Noise from motorcycle "parades" and loud music
- Non motorized mechanical users should be allowed on trails and specific trails for mountain biking should be built and allowed. Also canoeing and kayaking should be allowed for all residents not just licensed fishermen.
- None, the rules are clearly posted and make complete sense
- Non-motorized boats only
- Not allowed to bring wine for picnic
- Nothing - it's perfect!!
- Nothing. Seems to work well for a great number of folks with varied interests.
- Occasional litter. Which I pick up.
- Offer sensible access to backcountry, shared use trails open to all non-motorized and/or human-powered recreation including bicycles.
- One or two public additional public bathrooms would be nice.
- One really nice addition for neighbors would be for dcr to maintain the long-distance access to the reservoir (i.e., keep the road gated far away), but allow people to carry in kayaks or canoes to launch at other gates. It seems that with a 1km approach, the number of people undertaking this activity would be limited (and therefore controllable). Also, having designated dog walking trails or horse trails would be nice. Allowing wilderness camping permits would also be nice.
- Open access to boat fishing do away with stupid rules ie no biking on walking trail
- Open all the roads inside
- Open boat access 1/2 hour earlier
- Open it up more to allowing cars to drive in areas that before 9/11 that were not restricted. Would also love to see it open maybe twice a year at night for star gazing.
- Open more areas that used to be open prior to 2001
- Open more fishing shoreline area.
- Open more gates to night fishing like; gate 22 and 37 also allow night anglers to use bikes.

- Have a once a year ice fishing event to raise money for the care of quabbin. This could be done safely in a small area or in one of the "ponds" if need be.
- Open more gates to vehicle traffic during daytime/seasonal fishing hours. Many shore fishermen, especially senior citizen/disabled are restricted to only 3 areas.
- Open prescott peninsular to public move barrels closer to windsor dam
- Open the dam and dike up for vehicle access
- Open the dam back up to car traffic.
- Open the dam/dikes for traffic, and get rid of the tagging system for the boats
- Open the dike and dam again
- Open the entire reservoir to boat fishing.
- Open the roads and parking by the dams. Always enjoyed those areas with a long walk.
- Open the trails to snowmobiling in the wintertime. Also, authorize off road biking on the roads. Open up another fishing area closer to the dike, which could be accessed off of fisherdick road, in ware.
- Open up more access
- Open up the swift river to year-round catch and release angling.
- Paddling in the quabbin
- -pave road at gate 8 access -allow leashed dog walking (with owner responsible for waste cleanup)
- Paying to park at the boat rental lots. I don't pay to park at other gates, and I only fish from shore.
- Permit cross country skiing on roads or gated trails
- Please add/allow kayaking
- Please allow clean sea kayaks to be used on the main reservoir.
- Please allow kayaking and cross-country skiing.
- Please allow kayaks on quabbin reservoir for recreational boating (not fishing), at approved gates.
- Please allow leashed dogs on hiking trails. I would visit this beautiful place daily if I were allowed to walk my leashed dogs in the wooded trails.
- Please consider opening more areas to bicycle riding. Allow swimming at all gates north of gate 8, except for those that are restricted on the prescott peninsula. Allow night access without requiring a permit, especially during winter months when daylight hours are short.
- Please ensure mountain biking access is open.
- Please no rattle snakes
- Prevent the use of any motorized watercraft in the reservoir system.
- Provide parking at each gate that serves areas open to public access
- Public access is too restrictive. Many reservoirs offer many more recreational activities such as boating, camping, swimming, allow pets and mountain biking. The restrictiveness hurts tourism in the area and if changed could increase economic opportunities for surrounding communities.
- Put more sand bags on both sides of the ramps. Fix the road to gate 8
- Quabbin deer hunt. I've attended 2 times to be very disappointed not with the fact of not having success but it needs to be regulated better maybe switch to every 3 years. The deer herd is nearly gone with the exception of quabbin park which does not get hunted it has effected many of the hunting area's bordering the quabbin were hunting used to be great. It appears that the hunt is all about the \$ now less then 10% success rate the numbers are so low the goal of knocking the heard numbers down has been done switching to at least every other year would be great but I think every 3 years would keep the numbers in check if it's really about keeping the woods at a good manageable population do something about the moose. It's all about the \$
- Rattle snakes, and cougars. And more jobs in dcr for people with handicap. You only get hired there if you have connections .
- Reduce the frequency of the quabbin hunt to one segment a year
- Remove banding of privately owned boats
- Remove most barriers from paved roads within the quabbin reservoir.

- Remove the shoring rules for boats. Boats should be allowed to shore and people should be allowed to access the shore from a boat. I cannot think of any purpose this rule serves, except to be overly restrictive. Also allow access to the islands from boats, another overly restrictive rule without a purpose.
- Re-open dams to vehicles.
- Reopen ability to drive across the dike and dam in quabbin park
- Reopen the dam and dike to vehicles
- Reopen the dikes
- Reopen the road to the lower damn areas.
- Repaving gate 31
- Responsible dog walking
- Restriction on horse back riding
- Ridiculous rules that allow motor boats but not kayaks or sailboats and allow walking but not cross country skiing or biking.
- Sailboats allowed.
- Sailing should be allowed. The idea that sailboats are more dangerous, or are more in need of rescue is false. Motorboats leave a slick of oil, and sailboats, clean and safe are not allowed. Also, not allowing hiking or running in the prescott peninsula has no rationally stated logical reason. This hypocrisy makes me not trust or respect the integrity of any regulations regarding the quabbin. It makes the rules seem arbitrary. If the regulations had reasonable, logical regulations, people would be more likely to respect and follow them. You bear a great responsibility for people disregarding your poorly explained rules.
- Severely limited access to the entire lake. And why no sailboating? It's non polluting and fun. It seems to me quabbin management works very hard to keep people out, not to welcome them in.
- Shore fishing
- Shore fishing along all the coastline. New hunting areas for the lottery hunting. We miss driving and hanging out at the damns like we did back in the day, we remember playing soccer, hacks sack, picnicking there and how great that was
- Should allow pontoon boats
- Should be greater access for cyclists
- Sinking brush piles or other types of "fish" habitat.
- Small increase in allowed engine size for boats
- Snowmobiles
- Snowmobiling
- Some outboard motors are old and need replacing
- Some parts of quabbin to be dog friendly. The reason I don't visit as often, even though I live right there, is because I'm not going to go hiking without my dog.
- Stop all gas powered motors . If you can't launch a boat and wade barefoot there shouldn't be gas and oil being released in a drinking water supply.
- Stop all recreational boating! It makes no sense that people cannot swim in the reservoir and yet the state allows pollution and human waste from boaters? Why do boaters get special access privileges that are denied to the rest of us? For the sake of the reservoir, all recreation and non-essential access should be prohibited.
- Stop limiting our access
- Stop people from stacking rocks better signage within the gates to inform visitors about various points of interest
- Stop the use of gas-powered motor boats.
- Stream fishing after october 15th should be allowed for catch and release anglers
- Swimming
- Swimming
- Swimming - hard to believe a boat engine is less polluting than a few swimmers; wildlife feces is entering the watershed regularly, 3 months of swimming can't be a greater risk than that.
- Swimming and night fishing and kayaking.
- Swimming by special permit or something for locals anyway.
- Swimming! It doesn't make sense that you can put a motor boat in the water but not a human body.

- Tagging system. Allow the gate rangers to perform the inspection and tag a boat instead of insisting that the boat be washed (similar to lake george restrictions). 2. Allow washings on the weekends. Many of us cannot take a day off of work to get the boat washed.
- Terminate the timber rattlesnake program, fully.
- That a small group of ignorant people (i.e., those opposed to rattlesnake conservation) have such power over what happens on public land.
- The ability to bring your own kayak/canoe
- The ability to drive the dike and dam
- The attitude of "no".
- The continued deer hunt, including the fact that hunting is allowed on the prescott peninsula, while hiking/birding is not.
- The forms of recreation allowed on and around the quabbin are far too restrictive. For example cross country skiing is listed on the signs as not allowed but biking is allowed. This doesn't make any sense as cross country skiing is far less impactful than bicycling. I've also called and asked more information about why kayaks and canoes aren't allowed to be rented and brought onto the quabbin and received nonsense answers about how it's not safe. The quabbin should be allowed to be responsibly enjoyed through a variety of recreational activities including cross country skiing, canoeing and other sports. Requiring rental of equipment or some special detox of boats is one thing. Banning those activities is something else that isn't acceptable to me.
- The hours for fishing. You miss the best two bites early morning and night.
- The lack of connecting visitors to how they can help in joining in monitoring and other stewardship activities that help them protect the water assets everywhere. That opportunity gets missed for all tributaries and waterbodies across the state.
- The main quabbin water way should be open to all of us to use. We should have a swimming area off that side road, use of the boat ramp in front of visitor center...we should be able to use it!
- The open drive across the dam/dike. Also, being able to cross country ski in the park would be wonderful.
- The opportunity to ice fish parts or specific dates would be terrific. Expanded night fishing access.
- The opportunity to walk my dog on a leash . . We are able to bring family there . .well my dog is part of my family and I believe it should be allowed. I would visit quabbin more if I was allowed to do this
- The permission to fish anywhere along the shore.
- The restoration and usage of the single track trail network by trail runners, bicyclists, hikers, etc.
- The seal program is a hassle. I understand why it's in place however finding the time to have it re-certified after an annual trout fishing trip to maine can be a hassle. Would be nice if they did it more frequently than twice a month after april.
- There are a few areas (lookouts) that, in summer's full bloom, no longer offer a view. Some thoughtful tree maintenance could return the view of the quabbin.
- There are many but the number one is the ability to bring your dog for a walk
- There should be balanced access for all forms of passive recreation that have been shown through scientific studies to have comparable impacts: hiking, snow shoeing, x-country skiing, mountain biking.
- This land is for use by the public yet the land has been increasingly restricted by state officials. It's important to keep open land available to the public and not take it over for other non-public uses.
- To allow mountain biking at least in designated areas/trails; not allowing clear cutting etc
- To be able to drive on the windsor dam to the municipal building again.
- To be able to have full access again.
- To be able to sail on the quabbin.

- To be able to walk my dog on a leash
- To not require fishing license when renting a boat as all I bring is photography equipment
- Travel over the dike and dam by vehicle
- Use of all of the roads, like it was 30 years ago
- Vehicle access across the dam and dike.
- Vehicle access to the dam and dike should be brought back.
- Vehicle access to the dikes. No rattlesnakes on zion
- Very limited use. Swimming, camping, and more trails would be a welcome improvement.
- Walking dogs, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, horse back riding, kayaking.
- Want cross country skiing allowed
- Washing and tagging of boats. Given the chemical makeup of the water zebra mussels cannot survive and flourish
- We would love to be able to swim the quabbin.
- We would really love to bring our dog for a walk (on a leash).
- When ice is safe be able to ice fish
- Why no bicycling on the trails? They don't have motors (like the boats in the water do). Also, if its state property, why no target shooting or hunting (except for the brief quabbin deer season)?
- Would like better opportunities for cycling other than dirt roads.
- Would like cross country skiing (but you can snowshoe??) Sailing and kayaking
- Would like guided boat tours of the quabbin. I have never been in that part, only the part where you can kayak.
- Would like to bring my dog. Would visit much more often if I could
- Would like to see cross country skiing allowed in winter.
- Would like to see drive able access to the dam and dike as I am handicapped and can not get there otherwise
- Would like to see mountain biking access
- Would love to be able to kayak from gate 8
- Would love to be able to kayak more of it.
- Would love to be able to kayak in quabbin
- Would love to kayak.
- You should allow cross country skiing and mountain biking on more of the trails.
- You should allow human powered vessels, like kayaks. It's clean, would bring income to the area, and is an active/outdoors activity with no impact on the environment at all (you already have launches).
- You should allow non motorized boats and swimming

Q23: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about public access to the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System?

- A priority to keep dogs out....ticket people if necessary as rangers now have the ability to ticket
- A safe place to enjoy natural beauty.
- A true treasure for the public to enjoy.
- Access is a privilege and very much appreciated
- Access to most places closed off after 9/11 have been reopened to the public, why hasn't the quabbin access to closed area's been reopened?
- Access to these public areas is a very important. It seems to me that there are lots of things/violations that are reported by some of the more seasoned users like fishermen. Examples of this are boats being beyond the marker barrels, beached boats (swimming, picnicking on shore etc.) Having these extra eyes out there to report these things is a tremendous help and benefit. It seems that more and more we look to the boaters for this type of info. We should be promoting this type of activity in any way we can to increase our "eyes on the water". Try to make it easier for people to get on the reservoir not more difficult.
- Add a coffee shop to the visitor center.
- Add xc ski access

- All access that was allowed prior to 9/11 should be opened again.
- Allow access to pre 9 11 norms
- Allow access to the prescott area
- Allow cross country skiing on off road trails near the dam & dike.
- Allow leashes dogs on quabbin grounds.
- Allow metal detecting
- Allow other boats to enjoy the quabbin!!!!
- Allow rattlesnake introduction
- Allowing dogs into the watershed would be great. With the provision the owners pick up after their pets, of course.
- Although I am not a fisherman, I do think that other types of watercraft should be allowed, especially those without motors.
- As a nearby residence, I consider access to the quabbin the jewel in our area.
- Be nice to be able to bike on some of the unpaved roads.
- Beautiful area that is only there for the special few to enjoy. I used to fish the quabbin every day that I had off from work. I now find that its not worth the hassle. I now buy a ny non resident license and enjoy the adk region of ny.
- Better and more trails in the north quabbin and prescott area. Maintain the roads well enough for bicycles (and then allow bicycles). Also repair the bridge across hop brook. Open the prescott peninsula for low-intensity use and do less logging.
- Better patrol of the swift river for poaching is needed.
- Better signage
- Clean up all the areas where there was logging done it looks awful
- Consider allowing an (eco-friendly) tour boat that could give visitors a chance to view the beauty of the site, and could also generate revenue to pay for other programs.
- Continued public access is very important to me and my family and to my community.
- Could there be camping sites made available?
- Cross country skiing and mountain biking should be allowed.
- Cross country sky, kayaking and mountable should be allowed!
- Decisions should be science based.
- Do not allow the deadly rattlesnake project to continue. Keep the snakes out of my backyard.
- Do not back out of the plan to rear restore rattle snakes on mount zion.
- Don't care how you boston people feel. Quabbin should be open to the public. No snakes
- Don't think it should be the massachusetts state polices personal playground I think environmental police and dcr does a fine job
- During busy times, parking is not available. Another designated area, open as needed, would be helpful.
- Eastern timber rattlesnakes should be given refuge there, and the public access discontinued in that area.
- Either protect it from everyone, including hunters, fishermen and especially loggers, or have it open to everyone. Stop treating the place like your private fiefdom to do as you please. Protect it or let everyone join in the spoils.
- Enforce the rules.
- Enjoy gate 40 old dana town, the dike area and the dam area, love gate 16 fishing from shore. Rented a boat last year seat was broken, guy signing us in could care less. Gate 43 should allow use of personal kayaks and canoes. Very expensive to rent boat, or kayak or canoe. I'm age 61 can only afford going once a year. Not fair for elderly kayak owner, ideally we should be allowed to put our own personal kayak in at gate 43 small side, poquonoc pond. Rental people at gates 2, 8 and 43 are always rude. Entitled jobs, boats need work, for the amount of money it cost to rent a boat. Also more handicapped access for the elderly, one at gate 8 is a joke. My father is 89 and there is no way that he could fish from that one. He is a vet who grew up fishing quabbin, now that he is old he's done. Qua bin should have more handicap access for the elderly that have supported it throughout their lives. One last fishing trip!

- Even though I am a dog owner and would love to be able to bring my dogs there, completely understand and approve of the ban on dogs.
- Explain why these things are not allowed
- Extend shore fishing season... Maybe open shore fishing a few weeks earlier then the boat launches and open for a few weeks longer after the launches close
- Fishermen have way too much access privilege compared to other users. This favoritism affects dcr's credibility with the general public.
- From an impact standpoint, many years of responsible mountain biking in the watershed has not had any negative impact, while the many logging initiatives certainly have. I cannot understand why responsible groups of mountain bikers aren't allowed to partner with the dcr and be stewards of the trail system and being allowed to ride specific trails. This would foster a partnership that would extend the dcr's oversight of the watershed to riders who care just as much for the preservation of the land rather than continuing the current adversarial stance held by the agency's decision-makers.
- Gate 43 road condition needs improvement as you near the dam area.
- Given that various other users have wide access to the quabbin lands, similar access should be extended to all public users who are using the quabbin lands responsibly, safely, and with low impact. I fail to see how riding a bicycle along a dirt road has the same impact to water quality as a boat being put into the water. Please allow bicycles to use all of the quabbin roads -- or, at the very least, more of them.
- Glad it's in my backyard!
- Handicapped access for wheelchairs in path system
- Hunters should not be allowed vehicle access on off reservation property. They drive on muddy roads causing major rutting and wash out. If they want to hunt let them walk. Not related to public access - random clear cuts are good for forest and wildlife/bird diversity. I would really like to see the clear cuts on west main st/rockwell hill kept open. They are closing in quickly. We noticed more bird varieties after the clear cutting was done.
- I agree with most of the rules. The quabbin is a great place that hasn't been as affected by humans as other places and parks have. I believe keep the same rules just maybe ease up on some restricted areas.
- I also oppose the current policy of banning the public completely from certain areas of the watershed. Passive recreation is not incompatible with maintaining water quality. Finally, why are motor boats allowed and canoes/kayaks are not? It should be the other way around!
- I believe public access to boat ramps and fishing should be extended beyond the standard opening & closing dates.
- I believe that quabbin should never be open after dark, to protect it from terroristic opportunities. I would hope that it has surveillance that would make the nearby residents feel safe.
- I did not know you could go snowmobiling there... Where is that info
- I do not like that hunters can get a key to the gate across the road past where i live (off-reservation watershed property) to drive deep into the woods to hunt. Hunting should not be allowed. But if it is, they should have to walk in. They leave large ruts in the road which cause washout. I live here and enjoy the peace and quiet of nature. I cannot open the gate and drive through, yet they can for the purposes of killing wildlife. Not related to public access - i like the clear cuts for forest / habitat diversity.
- I don't think venomous snakes should be introduced to quabbin. Nor do i think any new species should be introduced.
- I enjoy the quiet and natural environment and do not want to see it ruined but some activities like cross country skiing should be allowed.

- I have been night fishing countless times on the quabbin for over 30 years. I have only see a rangers truck patrolling twice and only once did the driver see us and did not even stop to check anything... My point of this is, that the night anglers are a great resource to "watch" over the waters that we love. Free eyes and ears...
- I hope controlled access to quabbin is always allowed. Thank you for protecting this beautiful resource.
- I like it keep it open & clean
- I love it. I really appreciate that we are able to use such a wonderful resource. Thanks
- I love the peace and tranquility that quabbin provides
- I love the quabbin.
- I love the quabin i am thankful for the time we get to enjoy it.
- I miss being able to drive over the dam.
- I see increase in invasive plants such as bittersweet-- perhaps the public can be organized to help with control. I'd like to know if any action is being taken toward invasive species control.
- I sent an email to william pula, who was listed on the website, asking if there was a way to obtain a permit or something so when i'm backpacking the new england trail at quabbin i can have my dog. After several days there has been no response. This rule poses a hardship for thru hikers. I hike alone and have my dog for protection and companionship.
- I support "snake island"
- I think dog walking shouldn't be prohibited.
- I think if you involve people more in all aspects of quabbin. Invite people down for a big picnic and get to meet the state police, scientecist the lawn mowers. Make this a place where everyone know you. Invite volunteers speciallu kids to help out so they appreciate nature, resources and get to learn from adults in different fields. We need to change the way everyone sees quabbin. Invite schools, homeschoolers and hitchcock center/organizations for environment/ umass or 5 college grad students to present new research like anne stengle on timber rattle snakes. Invite the community and kids more often to see biologist/scienctists/rangers work and touch people with real issues/research going on inside quabbin. How we can help work together to learn and even fight better together for better funding for quabbin too.
- I think it is unreasonable to not allow visitors to carry a side arm while hiking the trails.
- I think it works well how it is now.
- I think it's silly that motorized boats are allowed, but kayaks and canoes are not. What's the rationale behind that?
- I think it's silly that people are not allowed any access to the water, especially since boats and fishing are allowed. If nobody was allowed to touch the water it would at least make sense to me, but forbidding any kind of wading or swimming when fishing and boats are allowed seems strange. I'd love to see some sort of policy allowing people access to the water.
- I think the few regulars or season pass buyers should have there own place to launch. Waiting an hour or more at gate 43 if you pay for a season pass is ridiculous. I am sure the number of passes went way down since the seal program why not throw your loyals a bone. I think massachusetts anglers of the year should be able to fish the no fishing zone at wachusett as well.
- I think the horsepower restrictions for boats is a little low for a body of water of this size. You could even put in a 'pay to play' system... An annual pass with a 25hp engine is the current \$50. You could allow up to 50hp engines and charge and extra \$2 per hp over 25hp, so an annual pass for a 50hp engine would be \$50 + \$50 = \$100.
- I think you should finish paving the road to gate 43. I feel like my boat will jump off the trailer ones off these times.
- I understand why it has changed, but i miss driving across the dams.

- I want the quabbin to be as amazing to my grand children and their grand children as it was for me growing up in Ware. The history behind it is chilling but I was fortunate to know Robert Wilder, one of the last survivors of the towns and hear his stories. Open full access to the quabbin, put back the picnic tables and let folks climb the dikes and slide or roll back down. Maybe put in a campgrounds. Make the quabbin awesome again and a place that people will want to visit and come back to. It can be so much more than your letting it be :)
 - I wish I could hike into the Prescott peninsula, even at limited times, just to see something different, and of historical interest.
 - I would be ecstatic to have access to all areas that make up 'the quabbin' for photography (and general travel)
 - I would be nice if additional vehicle access was granted through additional gates for shore fishing access
 - I would like better night access for meteor showers. Maps show the quabbin to be an area with the least night pollution.
 - I would like to be able to walk my dog on the old rabbit run road at gate 35
 - I would like to be able to walk with my dog on trails that are in the watershed area.
 - I would like to know what ever happened with the people accused of trespassing at night. We never were able to find out what that was about.
 - I would like to see an option for off road mountain biking and hiking for the public.
 - I would like to see it open even if it is snowing as long as the roads are passable many times I have tried to gain access and the gates were closed and no snow on the roads.
 - I would like to see more awareness given to folks in reference to seeing anyone in these places during the hunting season
 - I would love to see a larger visitor's center. It really is too small for some of the wonderful programs put on. People are often turned away. There is such potential for a great educational center for both the history of quabbin and the natural history of quabbin.
- Quabbin is such a special place and more people need to know about it.
- I would really like more signage about littering. I have taken to carrying a trash bag most times I am in the area.
 - Ice fishing some day.
 - I'd like to see more programs about everything going on at quabbin. I'd love to rules to be more relaxed. We have a great resource my family can't use. That stinks.
 - If they allow those damn snakes (which we don't want) to not restrict us when those damn things leave that so called island. Our fear is if someone gets bit then they will limit our access because the snakes will have the rights to it and not us. Also, as a Ware resident and having quabbin land in our town, which limits our tax base even though we get some money from the state, we don't want to ever lose our privilege and right to access this remarkable land. Thank you.
 - I'm appalled at the Mount Zion timber rattlesnake issue and am against that experiment being brought to the watershed. Bad idea!.
 - I'm so glad to live near quabbin, I hope it remains open to the public.
 - Improvement of biking paths within the quabbin
 - In my 49 years fishing quabbin the roads to area 1 and area 3 are the worst I've ever seen. The boat ramps are even worse. Seems like no one cares about everyone who uses these fishing areas.
 - It is a great place, I wish there were not as many restrictions.
 - It is frustrating that commercial loggers, sugarers, hunters, etc. Are able to drive in and out of quabbin to utilize the resource and neighbors are not allowed to walk dogs or horses, camp, canoe at certain gates, etc. I appreciate you conducting this survey! Thank you!
 - It is high time that kayakers be allowed to kayak in places that even motor boats are allowed

- It is over restricted and should be open to more public recreation. There are signs everywhere stating what can't do. How about some signs saying what you can do.
- It is ridiculous to not allow kayaking.
- It is truly an undiscovered gem. So many people I meet have no idea it exists.
- It is unfair that top dcr officials and their political cronies have access to prescott peninsular and can fish on either side of barrels
- It seems arbitrary to disallow a form of passive recreation like cross-country skiing while allowing snowshoeing.
- It would be amazing to be able to kayak/swim in the water.
- It would be great to have some off road bicycling access.
- It would be nice if you could go fishing and have somewhere to take a leak while boat fishing
- It would be nice to have foot access to prescott peninsula for nature viewing
- It would be terrible if shaft 12 road ended up closed to public after rattlesnake island is established. I walk there often since the 80's. I photograph wildlife regularly. I just saw moose this morning at 6:45am.
- It would be wonderful if (1)charcoal grilling were allowed in a few areas near picnic tables; (2) the gates remained open later in the evening during the late spring and summer months; (3) there were programs at night for star gazing; (4) guided metal detecting was allowed in restricted areas once in a while - with finds donated to the visitor center or swift river historical society. My family considers quabbin a gem and would love any additional access provided.
- It's a beautiful area right in my back yard I just wish I could share it with my dog. I don't utilize everything it has to offer because I'd rather hike with my dog elsewhere.
- It's a wonderful resource that we have used regularly even before we lived in the area. We made many trips there when living in framingham and the worcester area.
- It's a wonderful spot. This past summer the dam being closed so long has been an immense challenge for my daily walks with my boys. I only hope it will be accessible next summer.
- It's far too limited. Most of the property is off limits which leads one to wonder, "what are they hiding?"
- I've never seen the access roads to gate 8 and 43 in such poor and unsafe conditions. I've personally spent hundreds of dollars repairing my trailer and truck due to the washboards. I also believe they are unsafe because visitors are swerving and going on the other side of the road to avoid these conditions. Why hasn't there been any repairs? Management knows about it, the bla attendants we've spoken with have done an excellent job and have spoken with management about the conditions of the road. Whoever is in charge should be spoken with before someone is either hurt or killed on these unsafe roads, the worst I've seen of any dcr park.
- Kayaks and canoes should be allowed. X-c skiing should be allowed
- Keep it like it is..
- Keep it open! It is a beautiful peaceful get away from the everyday hectic life.
- Keep it safe.
- Keep it the way it is. Add restriction signs. It is great, keep it that way. No dogs, no atvs, add no smoking!
- Keep the dogs out and maybe better signs or bigger fines for littering
- Keep those snakes out
- Keep up the good work!
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the great work.
- Leashed dogs could be allowed in certain areas.
- Leave it as is. No changes necessary except complete ban on wheeled vehicles.
- Less restrictions on bicycles
- Let us use it more!

- Let's get back to enjoying the area and having a world class water system. This is a win-win scenario and not a conflict.
- Lets keep it as is. No rattlesnakes in the quabbin it is very dumb idea. They can crawl across the baffle dam. Is there going to be anti venom provided?? Lets maybe put them in blue hills res. Will an eagle carry one and maybe drop it in some schoolyard??
- Local use of the water would be nice.
- Love going there
- Love it!
- Love to see the dam and sire reopened.
- Make it accessible to all.
- Monitor use of drones. Maybe shouldn't be allowed
- More areas unrestricted
- More biking area
- More information about how to become a ranger for the youth.
- Most of its great and I believe most people understand why there are limits.
- Most of the visitors are very respectful of "our" quabbin and miss access to areas which were open before the horrors of sept. 11th. How about giving approved "locals" special permits??
- Most other states have their lakes open for public recreation. I would love to see it open to more activities such as swimming, etc.
- Motorboats should not be allowed!
- Mountain bikes do not cause erosion any more than other non motorized form of travel (hiking, snowshoeing etc) and should have more legal access
- Mountain biking in the ware river watershed should be reconsidered as an allowable recreational use. It also should be considered in outlying areas that are not directly adjacent to yet quabbin. Cycling impact is similar to the impact from hikers and less than the impact from horses that poop everywhere and access streams for water
- My main concern is do I need to be aware of hunters in the area or are they only out there on the designated deer hunting days.
- My mom and 2 grateful grandparents and my 3 aunts lived in north dana.
- No rattlesnakes
- No, simply wish dogs were allowed so I could enjoy it more often.
- Non motorized access restrictions are stupid
- None it is constantly a work in progress keep up the good work
- None at this time
- Non-powered recreational boating access to main reservoir (canoe/kayak) would be great
- Not being able to drive down to the field at the base of the windsor dam
- Not directly related to public access, but I would like to see epo's at the boat launch areas checking to make sure anglers are following regulations.
- Once I tried to park at the fishing access on the east side for a couple of minutes to take a photograph of the fall colors, and was yelled at by the guy managing the parking lot for not paying. It would be nice to be able to drive down to the water there without being hassled! Maybe it was just that particular guy. The staff are very nice and helpful at the visitor's center and the rangers I run into are great.
- One wonders about the allowing of motor boats and the exclusion of horses . I am for public boating and understand the profits to the state and people enjoying boating but how can you reconcile excluding horses ?
- Open gates earlier..first light.
- Open it for ice fishing
- Open it up for more access
- Open the winsor dam to vehicular traffic
- People need to learn to live with wildlife and keep it wild.
- Please keep it open to the public
- Please allow dogs 🐕
- Please allow waterfowl hunting.
- Please consider allowing additional water access such as kayaking.
- Please consider allowing more on water activities as many other public reservoirs do

- Please consider opening the dyke access for picnics and adventures so today's busy families get to enjoy the grounds as much as we did growing up.
- Please end the deer hunting within the quabbin. This program was intended to thin out the deer population "many. Years ago" I believe it was balanced out 4-5years after it was introduced. Now I believe it draws too much revenue to the state. Stop the deer hunting!
- Please increase police presence. Open land encourages misdeeds by the public. Thank you.
- Please keep it accessible
- Please keep it available to the public. Please do not welcome the rattlesnake colony because it is very upsetting to the nearby communities. I say this even though I respect the scientists' concerns. More protection for existing snake habitat would be good.
- Please keep the quabbin watershed open to the public as the hikers and walkers are the ears and eyes to this beautiful property.
- Please let us ice fish it.
- Please no more deer shootings.
- Please open dam access its discerning for disabled people not to have access to those areas with their vehicles.
- Please open up this wonder to the masses again. Bring people back to the area to enjoy it as a whole, not just in part.
- Please reopen closed trails for public access, dcr has closed way too many trails in rutland
- Please reopen the post-9/11 blocks still in quabbin, including driving across windsor dam.
- Public access over all is very good, and appreciated. But, please base your regulations on facts, not just "sailboats are just trouble, they tip over! Someone will have to save them!" that's the story I got from one of your officers. The uscg stats prove otherwise. Educate yourselves! If you just make stuff up, no one will respect your regulations
- Public access seems to heavily favor certain individuals and groups.
- Public access should be encouraged more by opening more areas, especially for shore fishing.
- Public access should maximize utilization of the natural resources in this state. I, and many that I know, would gladly purchase an annual pass in order to recreate on these lands in a more open way. I imagine that the state could have enough revenue to fund the increased labor costs required for the higher numbers of humans recreating. This includes activities of kayaking (in specific areas), cross country skiing, and walking dogs on leash as allowed in some national parks. Should these activities be allowed, then I would be a frequent visitor, patron, and steward of the natural resources in the quabbin watershed.
- Qrws should be open to more recreational activities. I do not understand why fishing is allowed but recreational non-motorized boating is not.
- Quabbin reservoir is a very special place to me with lots of photography opportunities.
- Reduce the frequency of the quabbin hunt. The local heard in the hardwick area is nearly non existent
- Rent sit in kayaks in some of the boat gate areas.
- Reopen the road to the goodnough duke area for picnicking.
- Revisiting long-entrenched restrictions in an attempt to find ways to increase access would be appreciated. Quabbin is an incredible local resource but it feels largely "off limits" at this time.
- See above. It is a beautiful place.
- Shore fishing policies at gate 5 should be changed.
- Should have more protection to guard the water. (terrorism) . Planes should not fly over!!!.
- Some of the restrictions are confusing and frustrating. As an abutter, I can only imagine how my property value would increase if access to some of the trails near my home were allowed. Many of us simply want to walk hike and bike.

- Some trails should be dog friendly. I would understand if the visitor center was not dog friendly because that is a busy area, but some of the trails along route 202 should become dog friendly.
- Stop trying to introduce dangerous reptiles. Ridiculous waste of funds when coyotes are out of control.
- Stricter enforcement with increased personnel for ranger duties
- Stupid boating rules.
- Teach your rangers how to deal politely with the public.
- Thank you
- Thank you for reassessing the rules, and making them more accessible to nature.
- Thanks
- Thanks for asking.
- Thanks for the efforts to provide historical context in places like dana center.
- Thanks! The quabbin is my "happy place"
- That region needs help, desperately.
- The access and activities that dcr allows and manages is very adequate.
- The common available map is outdated and contains errors. Fishing debris is often found along shores. I.e: lures, hooks, lines, bait containers. I wish for canoe access to the main body of the quabbin
- The current usage policy is hypercritical, prejudicial and ridiculous. Studies show that mtb and hiking have similar impacts. Allowed activities such as logging have more negative affect. Single-track trails constrain the affect of visitors on the eco-system. The enforcement that has been brought to bear is over the top, intrusive and fascist. Doesn't the r in dcr stand for recreation?
- The employees at your boat launches are courteous and professional.
- The land management seems a bit biased and unreasonable. Massive dcr logging operations but unwilling to allow various recreational activities which cause far less damage. The opportunity to provide healthy recreation in and enjoyment of our wild spaces should be encouraged not pushed against.
- The many billions of gallons of water and miles of shore are over protected. Those families like mine that gave up homes and communities can't even enjoy a boat ride. Motor size limitations and access points make most of the water area inaccessible for average people. The towns that utilize the drinking water during this year of drought aren't on water bans even though the reservoir is down billions of gallons.
- The public that would access the forest is a potential ally, not the enemy. There is no factual reason that these public lands can't be open to more access. The rules in place today make no sense given the vast amount of data available on recreational impacts especially as established by the dcr itself. You've clear-cut the quabbin watershed forest to the reservoir's edge with heavy equipment in the recent past and yet still think trails, bicycles, and even somehow cross country skiing are a risk to water quality. The dwsp position on public access is free of logic and fueled only by fear, uncertainty, doubt, and bias.
- The recreational restrictions do not meet the needs of the many folks living in central massachusetts. Relax the restrictions so that our beautiful part of ma can be enjoyed by more than just the boston area water users.
- The roadways along the quabbin aren't shown to have filtering mechanisms for stormwater runoff. The garden retention pond is visible near the center, but little else is described showing visitors examples of bmps for keeping oil and sedimentation. The vistas, tower and turnouts offer opportunities to help get the message across if used to do so.
- The swift fly fishing only section and hatchery are beautiful assets to have in this day and age! Nice job!
- There are many watersheds I the country that utilize the water for recreation. Qua bin doesn't allow this. It is a shame. Would love to take a boat ride (even if it was a state run boat) to see views from the water

- There are only 2 state parks in the entire state that allow atv use. If snowmobiles are allowed to use designated trails the atvs should be allowed too.
- There is no reason dcr should allow mountain biking on some of the trail in the quabbin
- There should be less access.it would be smart to protect our water resources now as the future population pressures on this resource could lead to a catastrophe. Clean water is already not given in this country.
- To give fishermen more access to water ways
- To restricted.
- To truly look at use and what users contribute to trash, trail destruction vs. What users not allowed and don't do damage or litter etc.
- Too restrictive
- Trail biking would be nice if its expanded
- Very adamant about implementing a catch and release program during the spring spawn and would be happy to help in any way I can to help make this a reality; it will do nothing but increase the incredible fishery it already is. Feel free to contact to discuss; jim marco, enfield, ct 860-218-3183
- We are thankful it is open for public enjoyment
- We enjoy visiting on a daily basis
- We have noticed over the last two years the increase of employees in your white trucks that seem to be sitting around which seems like a waste of public money . There is a women ranger who we have seen many times and have talked with her as she walks the dams this is great.
- We so appreciate all the work that is done daily to keep the quabbin so beautiful. We are so fortunate to have access to this lovely and peaceful area.
- What a treasure! Please maintain the current level of access as it is a rare natural gem for the state.
- Why do allow logging on prescott peninsula?
- Why does quabbin fishing season shut down in oct but the wachusett is open till nov 30th?
- With all the road runoff and chemicals that come down when it rains, I can't believe that bicycles have any impact compared to that.
- Wonderful place to walk
- Would love to see shore fishing open until thanksgiving. Would also love to see ice fishing access from certain gates.
- Yeah. Relax. The way we reacted to 9 11 was over reacting.
- Yes I live 2 min away and would love snowmobile access. I'd even buy a pass and that's revenue. Better access to water kayaks more shore fishing access. Designated swimming areas. I would buy seasonal passes for all of these. And I'm sure many other people will. I would even love to take my metal detector throughout quabbin.
- Yes, I also snowmobile and would like access to the trails. Not sure where they could connect to the rest of the mass / sam trail system but its worth investigating.
- Yes, I don't like the introduction of rattlesnakes.
- Yes, it makes no sense that people can use motorboats in a drinking water supply, but people cannot x-c ski or use a canoe on most of it.
- Yes, this reservation is a real jewel and every bit as beautiful as a 7 hour trip to the northeast kingdom. We are very lucky to have this access.
- Yes,,, do not accept counsel from massachusetts fish and wildlife natural heritage staff. They are insular and exclusionary in their approach to their "lessors" . I am passionate in my support of resurrecting timbers within the quabbin at the glacial pile selected. The public could have been inclusively turned to support. They were insulted and berated. The advisory board with brigadier meehan must be unanimously supportive to rectify this silliness. They are thoughtful kind folks who will make the reasoned choice if someone of quality presents. Ed wilson is in louisiana but perhaps would return for this. It takes great effort to accomplish great things. We cannot lose this opportunity.

- Yes. How about loosening things up. Really. How about allowing dogs on leashes and how about allowing people to picnic near the water over by the visitor center.
- You allow boats and cars and logging trucks but not human powered bikes...that suggests your policies represent a minority groups ideological extremism and not practical science or a just usage policy.
- You are doing a great job. Thank you, tom guertin
- You do a great job!
- You need to rent kayaks and row boats and canoes and paddle boats. This way the boats will be clean of invasive species and give a low cost solutions to fishermen and boaters.
- You people are doing a great job.
- You're doing a great job! I hope the timber rattlesnakes get a second chance. Nothing wrong with having them on mt zion.

Appendix D – Public Comments

Letter from Judith Eisman

To: Quabbin Advisory Committee Members

Date: December 12, 2016

The trend at DCR seems to be toward more access for more modes of recreation – bikes and snowmobiles, for example – and I expect that pressure will increase. Inviting the snowmobilers back seems to imply some sort of agreement to open up for them – along with the noise, the pollution and whatever else might accompany them.

If DCR is really considering to allow the creation of a new trail on off-reservation land, the agency should realize that the trail **MUST** also be open to all other users, including horses, dirt bikes, and dog walkers. Think about it: It **is** public land, after all. I had always assumed and understood that this public land is for the preservation of the public's drinking water. What has changed? Is it that people no longer understand needs that are longer term than their immediate desire to do as they please, wherever they choose regardless of the common good?

Why should a new trail be available to only a select group? If protecting water quality is still the goal, no trail should be created that close to the reservation inviting a concentration of horses, or dog walkers, or mountain bikers, or anything else. The fishermen and hunters are one thing, a done deal. The snowmobilers will say that if they create it and agree to maintain it and police it, they should be able to have it to themselves, but that's just inviting ugliness and vandalism if someone else gets caught using 'their' trail. (I know someone who has been confronted while horseback riding on a snowmobile trail on public land, and these folks do claim ownership; I am told it was not a fun encounter.)

DCR must realize the size of the Pandora's box this will open. Will swimming be next? Having grown up in Michigan, I'd sure like to have a big lake nearby. And public beaches with bath houses, trash, lotions, bug spray, campfires, hot dog roasts and food trucks? Oh, and perhaps expensive filtration for the system down the road a piece? I am very worried. Small rational-seeming decisions can lead to unexpected and much larger consequences.

Judith Eisman, Past President, Swift River Valley Historical Society

Excerpts from September 11, 2017 Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting September 11th, 2017 7:30 PM

Location: DCR Quabbin Visitor's Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown, MA 01007

Members Present: Tom Barnes (North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers Association), Tom Berube (MA Council of Sportsmen), Jim Boyko (Swift River Valley Historical Society), Tony Brighenti (North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers Association), Craig Cortis (Worcester County League of Sportsmen), Jerry Eves (Trout Unlimited), Larry Gates (Quabbin Fisherman's Association), J.R. Greene (Friends of Quabbin, Inc.), Ralph Lapinskas (General Public), Tom Lautzenheiser (MA Audubon), Bill Pula (MA Wildlife Federation)

DCR Staff Present: Dan Clark, Herm Eck, Justin Gonsor, Lisa Gustavsen, Brian Keegan, John Scannell, Jonathan Yeo

Public Attending: Rosemary Charron, Brad Miner, John Tobiason, Larry Tucker

Meeting Start Time: 7:30 PM

Brief Overview of Quabbin Public Access Plan Update Review Process

John Scannell updated the committee on the Quabbin Public Access Plan Update review process. Quabbin's Public Access Plan update will be presented at the next QWAC meeting on October 16th. No significant changes are being proposed to Quabbin's plan. Drone usage will be addressed in the plan; they will not be allowed except in limited research type cases with permit. Our rangers now have increased enforcement capabilities and are now able to write tickets for watershed infractions.

J.R. Greene noted an error on the Reservation Bicycle Access map; the bicycle road from Gate 31 is missing on the map. He was also looking for additional clarification on access to the baffle dams in Hardwick for various recreation activities (bicycling, hiking, shore fishing).

Tony Brighenti asked if the canoe rentals at BLA2 and BLA3 can hold 2 or 3 people. They hold 2 people maximum. John Scannell mentioned that there has been discussion to purchase 3-person canoes in the future. Jonathan Yeo talked about the Adaptive Canoe program that took place this season at BLA3. DCR-Universal Access provided free canoe rentals on 4 or 5 different days this season.

Excerpts from October 16, 2017 Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting October 16th, 2017 7:30 PM

Location: DCR Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown, MA 01007

Members Present: Tom Barnes (North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers Association), Tom Berube (MA Council of Sportsmen), Tony Brighenti (North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers Association), Jerry Eves (Trout Unlimited), Larry Gates (Quabbin Fisherman's Association), J.R. Greene (Friends of Quabbin, Inc.), Ralph Lapinskas (General Public), Tom Lautzenheiser (MA Audubon), Jane Peirce (Swift River Valley Historical Society), Bill Pula (MA Wildlife Federation)

DCR Staff Present: Justin Gonsor, Lisa Gustavsen, John Scannell, Jonathan Yeo

Public Attending: Lexi Dewey, Ray Harbaugh, Jon Lariviere, Brad Miner, Will Shattuck, Clayton Sydla, Larry Tucker

Meeting Start Time: 7:31 PM

Approval of Minutes of Meeting on September 11th, 2017

Bill Pula made a motion to accept the minutes from the QWAC meeting held on September 11th, 2017. J.R. Greene seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jane Peirce abstained from voting as she did not attend the September 11th meeting.

Draft Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update 2017

Lisa Gustavsen presented an overview of the draft version of the 2017 Quabbin Public Access Management Plan (QPAMP) to the committee.

The main purpose of the plan is to explain regulations, policies, and procedures related to public access and its management within each drinking water supply watershed managed by the Division of Water Supply Protection (DWSP). The plan

also outlines on-going control and monitoring mechanisms used to mitigate possible negative impacts from general and specific public access activities. Quabbin's first public access plan was published in 1988; the first update occurred in 1998, the second update in 2006, the third update is currently ongoing. A working group of internal DWSP staff was formed in 2015 to draft the current update.

The plan recognizes that there is an inherent conflict between water supply protection and public demand for access to these resources. Any human activity on or near water supply source waters can introduce disease-causing agents or pollutants to the water supply. DWSP factors into its management that the source water protection program provided for MWRA's water supply must meet strict state and federal oversight rules, regulations and guidelines as it services one of the few unfiltered drinking water supplies in the nation. There is recognition that the reservoirs and the land surrounding them are valuable environmental resources of the Commonwealth that are attractive to watershed residents and the general public. Therefore, DWSP, whose primary responsibility is water supply protection, views its public access management plans as a blueprint for determining the levels of access that may be reasonably allowed without risking water supply safety, security, or re-directing of DWSP resources.

Legislation regarding unfiltered water supplies was discussed. A 1986 update to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) required drinking water supplies that utilized surface water to be filtered. An exemption to this expensive requirement could be obtained through a filtration waiver if a water supplier could prove to the EPA that it satisfactorily protects the water and keep it suitable for drinking without this treatment. The DCR/MWRA system is one of five large U.S. cities that are unfiltered: Boston, New York, San Francisco, Portland (OR), and Seattle. Currently, DCR meets the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) 'measures of success' to maintain the filtration waiver through its watershed protection programs, one of which is the public access plan. Jonathan Yeo stated that, in general, the Boston and New York systems allow more public access in comparison to the Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco systems.

The public input process for the plan was detailed. In 2016 DWSP utilized an online survey tool to collect public comments. Fliers were distributed to towns, libraries, advisory committees, and user groups. Social media, including town and

agency facebook pages, were used. The 23 question survey was available for 41 days: 8/31/2016-10/10/2016. 692 people took the survey. Most people and organizations were supportive of the resources and activities that are allowed while a smaller subset of comments advocated for activities that are currently prohibited.

Under the public access plan, Quabbin is divided into 6 management areas (which are managed slightly differently). The names and details of those areas are as follows:

1. **Quabbin Park** – Approximately 3,000 acres at the southern tip of Quabbin Reservoir that is generally open to the public.
2. **Quabbin Reservation** – Over 45,000 acres of land that was part of the original land taking, including the reservoir islands, bounded by and within state routes 9, 202, 122, and 32A.
3. **Off-Reservation** – Approximately 10,000 acres of land outside the bounds of the Quabbin Reservation.
4. **Quabbin Reservoir** – The 24,000 acre surface of the reservoir itself, excluding the islands.
5. **Regulating Ponds** – Two large ponds of close to 700 acres; Joe O’Loughlin Pond at gate 31 and Pottapaug Pond at gate 43.
6. **Off-Watershed Ponds** – South Spectacle, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are three smaller ponds that total 130 acres.

The goals of the plan were stated as follows:

- To properly manage a public resource used as a source supply of drinking water
- To protect drinking water resources from public access impacts
- To protect historic and prehistoric sites within the watershed
- To improve and protect long-term ecosystem health and biological diversity within the watershed
- To assure that public access is safe and appropriate to DCR/MWRA’s water quality and regulatory goals.

DWSP will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate the plan in general, as well as any policy concerns or conflicts that arise. Review will be coordinated through the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Advisory Committee during their regularly-

scheduled meetings, and will include a public input component. The plan goes through a full update process every 10 years.

The plan takes the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) into account. Facilities and signage are continuously updated. Quabbin takes part in Masswildlife's white-tailed deer hunt for paraplegic hunters. Service animals are allowed in areas where dogs are prohibited.

Various public access activities in the plan were summarized and clarified. Those activities are listed below:

- **Shore fishing**
 - Allowed during the designated fishing season on existing trails between gates 8-16 and gates 22-44, excluding the baffle dams.
 - Night access allowed with permit at certain gates for shore fishing.
- **Boat fishing**
 - Allowed for fishing purposes on Quabbin Reservoir during the designated fishing season from three boat launch areas (BLA's) with restrictions.
 - Private boats must meet size and boat seal requirements.
 - Rental boats are available
 - The program is a legacy of the 1950's; is closely controlled and does not threaten public health.
- **Bicycling**
 - There are 47.6 miles of designated bicycle routes on DWSP lands in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed.
 - Allowed only on existing paved and designated internal roads.
 - Single track trail/off-road bicycling is not allowed.
- **Snowmobiling**
 - Prohibited throughout most of the DWSP watershed system.
 - Limited access is allowed on designated, marked roads only within off-reservation lands.
 - Policy has been clarified to designate specific off-reservation roads and the snowmobile public access map has been updated.
 - These specific roads were developed in collaboration with local snowmobile club input.
- **Night Access**

- Night access for pedestrians allowed through certain gates with DWSP permit during designated fishing season.
- Allowed without a permit on the Swift River below the Y Pool, if access is from Route 9, and on Peppers Mill Pond, provided that access is limited to the immediate banks of the Swift River, Y Pool, or Peppers Mill Pond only.
- Due to security reasons, access to the Swift River, Y Pool, and Route 9 parking area is prohibited between 11PM and 4AM.
- Night access may be denied during times of heightened security of alerts.
- **Group Activities**
 - Quabbin reservoir lands, especially within Quabbin Park, are a desirable scenic backdrop for many group activities, such as weddings, memorial services, organized hikes, and tour buses.
 - DWSP policy has been clarified to address the increasing frequency of group access activity requests by stating numbers of people or vehicles requiring a permit. Examples include:
 - Group activities are allowed without a DWSP-issued permit for groups of up to 25 individuals and 10 cars or motorcycles. DWSP requests a courtesy call to the Visitor Center at 413-323-7221 to avoid group conflicts.
 - A DWSP-issued permit is required for any group of more than 25 individuals or 10 cars or motorcycles.
 - Group activities of greater than 100 individuals or 40 cars or motorcycles shall be subject to additional review, including possible requirements for an accompanying watershed ranger detail.
 - Any access by bus requires a DWSP-issued permit.
 - Ceremonies, such as weddings and memorials, are limited to 75 people or less.
- **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) aka Drones**
 - Recent technological advances have made civilian use of UAVs an increasingly popular activity.
 - The unregulated use of UAVs can cause security concerns, public safety and enjoyment problems, and interfere with wildlife.
 - The use of UAVs is prohibited on the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System without a DWSP-issued permit specific to a designated

- location/time, for designated purposes, with a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) registered UAV, and operated under FAA rules.
- DWSP will review permit applications for affiliated research projects on a case-by-case basis, provided such proposals do not interfere with security, wildlife functions, or public safety, privacy, or enjoyment.
- This is a new policy developed due to the rapidly expanding technologies that enable widespread participation in this activity.
- In 2017, seven criminal citations for drone use at Quabbin have been issued by the Massachusetts State Police.

Wording on the Quabbin boat seal (QBS) program is included in the plan. The program was initiated to ensure that boats launched at Quabbin have been properly decontaminated to minimize the threat of aquatic invasive species (AIS) getting into the reservoir. If AIS get into Quabbin or other lakes and ponds they can take over and disrupt the natural balance, degrade water quality, and interfere with recreation activities such as fishing. All private boats must have an intact QBS to be eligible for launching on the reservoir. Seals can be obtained through either a cold weather quarantine (CWQ) or full boat decontamination.

Quabbin/Ware River Watershed Ranger statistics were discussed. For FY17, the rangers tallied 18,926 visitor contacts. Of those contacts, 410 violations were noted. 399 verbal warnings were given, 2 written warnings were given, and 9 citations were issued. The ranger's strategy in most cases has been to explain our rules and regulations through communicating with people to achieve compliance, rather than through issuing fines or warnings.

Tom Berube questioned how many annual group events of over 200 people happen at Quabbin. Two events were mentioned; the Walk of Champions and a cycling event around Quabbin. John Scannell noted that requests for other large events do come in from time to time and may be turned down due to potential impacts to the water supply and larger events being a drain on staff resources.

Tony Brighenti reaffirmed his support in DWSP not allowing dogs, ATVs, and horseback riding at Quabbin.

Bill Shattuck asked if sugar maple tapping is still allowed at Quabbin. Lisa Gustavsen answered that the wording and details on maple tapping can be found in the comprehensive land management plan; it still occurs as it has in the past, via permit.

Larry Gates wanted to be sure that wording on a specific boat motor size exception is in the plan. It is in the plan and is stated as follows: Cleaner burning 25 hp, four stroke motors are allowed for boats rated up to 40 hp to encourage replacement of two stroke motors and support four stroke motors.

Jane Peirce stated the Swift River Valley Historical Society's (SRVHS) support for the plan and noted their specific comments on the plan:

- Add additional information to the historical section on page 3 of the plan. SRVHS suggest inserting this italicized sentence after, "...formerly occupied by the four Western Massachusetts towns of Dana, Enfield, Prescott, and Greenwich. *2,500 residents of those towns were forced to relocate, and all buildings, structures and cemeteries were removed from the Valley to make construction of the Reservoir possible.*"
- Appreciation for the comparison of other major unfiltered drinking water supplies' public access policies.
- **Snowmobiling:** In addition to allowing that snowmobile operation with sufficient snow cover has little impact on soils and vegetation, the policy should specify that snowmobiling is not permitted when there is not sufficient snow cover to protect underlying soils and vegetation.
- **Wildlife and bird watching:** SRVHS understand that there have been incident(s) of photographers using boats to transport clients, which results in harassment of waterfowl. They see nothing in the plan that addresses this egregious violation. In addition, the discussion section implies that watercraft may be used for wildlife and bird watching, which is inconsistent with the boating policy (fishing only). Clarification is needed, and strong prohibition against wildlife harassment should be included here as well as in sections addressing boating and UAVs.
- **Smoking:** The plan includes only one mention that visitors are merely asked to "limit" smoking and extinguish embers properly (page 18). Given the profound risk to water quality if a fire should start in the watershed, SRVHS recommend a policy to protect against such an occurrence.

Larry Tucker expressed appreciation for the leadership of DCR, their personnel, and QWAC. He thanked the committee in their fairness when considering public access requests.

Tony Brighenti made a motion that QWAC supports the 2017 Quabbin Public Access Management Plan. Bill Pula seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

John Scannell noted that the public comment period will remain open until October 20th; those comments will be addressed in the final plan. The DCR commissioner will give final approval of the plan.

Swift River Valley Historical Society Comments

SWIFT RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
40 ELM STREET PO BOX 22
NEW SALEM MA 01355
978-544-6882

October 14, 2017

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Office of Public Outreach
251 Causeway Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Public Comment, Draft *2017 Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update*

Dear Commissioner Roy:

The Swift River Valley Historical Society (SRVHS) is pleased to provide comment on the 2017 draft of the *Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update (2017 Plan Update)*.

The SRVHS serves as the historical society for the four towns of Dana, Enfield, Prescott, and Greenwich that were disincorporated in 1938 to make way for construction of the Quabbin Reservoir.

SRVHS appreciates the DCR's continued focus on water quality and minimization of human impacts to the water supply. Because "Any human activity on or near water supply source waters can introduce disease-causing agents or pollutants to the water supply" (2017 Plan Update, page 1), 2500 residents were moved from the Swift River Valley in 1938. Their homes and villages were razed, and all structures, including cemeteries, were removed. While we understand the public's strong desire for increased enjoyment of the beautiful watershed, DCR correctly and carefully limits access. This not only protects the reservoir and ensures compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations; it also honors the sacrifices of Valley residents who gave up their homes to make the Reservoir possible.

We offer these specific comments on the 2017 Plan Update:

Page 3, **A. Overview, 1. Brief History**, paragraph 1, next to last sentence: We suggest inserting this italicized sentence after "...formerly occupied by the four Western Massachusetts towns of Dana, Enfield, Prescott and Greenwich. 2500 residents of those towns were forced to relocate, and all buildings, structures and cemeteries were removed from the Valley to make construction of the Reservoir possible." This additional information not only offers missing detail about the historical record, but it also helps to illustrate the critical importance of removing and controlling human impacts on water quality. From the numerous public comments that are recorded in the Draft Update, it is clear that many people do not realize the extreme precautions that are necessary to ensure clean water.

Page 10, **B. Comparison of Major Unfiltered Drinking Water Supplies' Public Access Policies**, is extremely helpful information. Table 3, in particular, serves to reinforce the necessity of the measures proposed in the Plan Update, and even suggests that reduced access in some categories (hunting,

boating, bicycling) would not be unreasonable or inconsistent with good water supply protection practices.

Table 4 is also very helpful in specifically describing the activities that are allowed by area. SRVHS is pleased to note that no major changes have been made, and that clarifications offered in the 2017 Plan Update are sensible and necessary.

E. Public Access Policies – 2017: The descriptions and details of each activity are good, offering not only clarification of what is generally expected, but also outlining the reason why the activity has a water quality impact. This is an important reference that will help to address public comment, explaining why dog walking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and other seemingly passive activities can have a profound effect on water quality.

We note the following concerns with certain activities, described beginning on page 25:

Snowmobiling: In addition to allowing that snowmobile operation with sufficient snow cover has little impact on soils and vegetation, the policy should specify that snowmobiling is not permitted when there is not sufficient snow cover to protect underlying soils and vegetation. SRVHS is also concerned that future expansion or upgrade of snowmobile trails might include ground disturbance with water quality and archaeological effects on the historic roads and should therefore be prohibited on or off reservation.

Wildlife and bird watching: We understand that there have been incident(s) of photographers using boats to transport clients, which resulted in harassment of waterfowl. We see nothing in the 2017 Draft Update that addresses this egregious violation. In addition, the discussion section implies that watercraft may be used for wildlife and bird watching, which is inconsistent with the boating policy (fishing only). Clarification is needed, and a strong prohibition against wildlife harassment should be included here as well as in sections addressing Boating and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

Horseback riding: In addition to the information presented, the hooves of horses can disrupt soil and vegetation, presenting a high risk of watershed erosion with resulting sedimentation and turbidity in nearby water resources.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, see comment at Wildlife and Bird Watching. UAV's present a risk of wildlife harassment.

Page 69, **A. Enforcement.** Table 7 presents a useful summary of the violations that occur. The high number of domestic animal violations (presumably dogs) correlates with the high number of public comments related to a wish to dog-walk. Given the risk of water quality impacts from dog feces, increased enforcement and penalties for this violation may be warranted.

This section describes the issuance of non-criminal ticketing as the enforcement mechanism, but no information is offered to reveal the actual penalties and/or fines to be levied. Given that this is a public plan, it would be helpful to include more specific information about the enforcement consequences.

Finally, a comment about **smoking.** Surprisingly, the 2017 Plan Update includes only one mention that visitors are merely asked to "limit" smoking and extinguish embers properly (page 18). Given the profound risk to water quality if a fire should start in the watershed, we recommend a policy to protect against such an occurrence.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft *2017 Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update*. We hope these comments are helpful. We appreciate and support DCR's good stewardship of the Quabbin and its many resources.

Sincerely,

Shelley

Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee Comments



**WATER SUPPLY CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
to the Mass. Water Resources Authority

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Belchertown MA 01007
(413) 213-0454
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October 20, 2017

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Water Supply Protection
Office of Public Outreach
251 Causeway Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Public comment on the 2017 Draft of the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update

Dear Commissioner Roy,

The Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the 2017 Quabbin Public Access Management Plan Update.

WSCAC is formally contracted as the water supply citizen's advisory committee to the MWRA which provides water to 2.5 million people in the metro Boston area and to Wilbraham, Chicopee and the South Hadley Fire District 1 through the Chicopee Valley Aqueduct. Since 1977 WSCAC has advised the MWRA Board of Directors on water resources management and watershed protection. The committee produces formal written comment on environmental reviews, and makes programmatic recommendations to the MWRA, DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection and other relevant state agencies.

As noted in the beginning of the Quabbin Reservoir Public Access Plan Update, the Quabbin Reservoir is one of the largest single purpose water supply reservoirs in the world. The reservoir has a filtration waiver from MassDEP due to the high quality water made possible by the significant watershed protection program funded by the MWRA and administered by DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection in partnership with MWRA staff.

The Plan Update provides a clear and thorough explanation and description of the Quabbin water supply system and its primary goal—maintaining a high quality drinking water supply.

The Plan effectively addresses the balance of meeting state and federal regulatory laws while acknowledging the general public's desire to use watershed lands for specific recreational uses. As Table 3 on page 13 notes, public access policies for other large unfiltered water supplies provide fewer recreational opportunities than DCR/DWSP which allows hunting, boating, bicycling, and shoreline fishing.

There will always be requests for new or expanded recreational uses on watershed lands. DWSP—along with their legislatively mandated citizen advisory committees—prudently evaluates each request to determine the specific activity’s effect on water quality and the ecological health of the watershed. The Plan Update includes policy descriptions that are clear and explanations that effectively communicate the necessity of each policy. For instance, clarifications of the Night Access Policy, the Group Activities Policy, and the Boat Seal Requirement for all private boats serve the public by providing additional information about policy rationales—including security. We appreciate the continuation of the DWSP policy to prohibit off-trail single-track mountain biking while allowing biking in designated areas throughout the watershed.

We support the policy that prohibits the use of drones on the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed without a permit. Unrestrained use of drones by the public is a safety issue that affects other visitors and can negatively affect wildlife.

We support the two new full time ranger positions at the Quabbin Reservoir. In addition to monitoring activities over a very large area, rangers provide the important role of educating the public on why rules and regulations are necessary on the watershed. We fully support the ability of rangers to issue written warnings and citations for violations. We appreciate the inclusion and clarity of Table 7, which documents the types and amounts of the violations found on the watershed. Although educating the public is an important component of effective management, WSCAC contends that repeated violations call for stronger actions, such as ticketing.

WSCAC suggests that the Final 2017 Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Management Plan be available at the Quabbin Visitor Center for public distribution. As noted in the Plan Update, DWSP has an ongoing responsibility to public outreach and education. WSCAC supports increased funding for programs that involve watershed towns, residents and the general public in the stewardship of the land and water resources at the Quabbin.

In summary, WSCAC supports the Plan Update and the conservative approach DWSP exhibits in its management role of the Quabbin Reservoir and watershed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Executive Director, WSCAC

Excerpts from April 2, 2018 Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting

April 2nd, 2018

7:30 PM

Location: DCR Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown, MA 01007

Members Present: Tom Barnes (North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers Association), Tom Berube (MA Council of Sportsmen), Tony Brighenti (North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers Association), Elisa Campbell (Sierra Club), Craig Cortis (Worcester County League of Sportsmen), Jerry Eves (Trout Unlimited), Larry Gates (Quabbin Fisherman's Association), J.R. Greene (Friends of Quabbin, Inc.), Ralph Lapinskas (General Public), Tom Lautzenheiser (Mass Audubon), Bill Martell (Quabbin Fisherman's Association), Jane Peirce (Swift River Valley Historical Society), Bill Pula (MA Wildlife Federation)

DCR Staff Present: Dan Clark, Justin Gonsor, Lisa Gustavsen, Leo Roy, John Scannell

Public Attending: Donald Berthiaume, Rosemary Charron, Lexi Dewey, Doc Filinowich, Anne Gobi, John Kellstrand, Brad Miner, Mike Moss, Rob Roy, Todd Smola, Clayton Sydla, Susannah Whipps

Meeting Start Time: 7:31 PM

Proposed changes to the draft Quabbin Public Access Management Plan

DCR Commissioner Leo Roy solicited input on various proposed changes to Quabbin's public access plan.

The designation of off-reservation vs. on-reservation lands was discussed. J.R. Greene noted that on-reservation lands refer to the 45,000 acres of land that are generally bounded by and within Massachusetts Routes 9, 202, 122, and 32A while off-reservation lands refer to the approximately 10,000 acres of land that fall outside of those route boundaries. Certain activities, such as cross country skiing, are allowed on off-reservation lands but disallowed on-reservation. Multiple committee members commented that they would like to keep the off-reservation distinction as is; it is a useful delineation tool. Off-reservation and on-reservation distinctions will not be changed.

Hunting off-reservation lands was discussed. Currently, hunting is allowed on those lands consistent with MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife regulations. A member of the public commented that he would like to see the hunting rights on off-reservation lands stay the same. No changes will be made to this activity.

The activity of geocaching, and whether or not it should be allowed on the watershed, was discussed. Representative Susannah Whipps stated that she has received several calls from constituents who would like to see geocaching remain an allowed activity and asked if there have been any problems in the past related to geocaching. Dan Clark answered that there have been instances of caches being found on accident, people thinking they might be dangerous, and then having to get the state police get involved. It was noted that geocaching gives kids and families an opportunity to get outdoors and learn orienteering skills. Elisa Campbell suggested only allowing geocaching on off-reservation lands. Tom Lautzenheiser commented that Mass Audubon has had problems dealing with geocaching on their properties; caches showing up without sanction and can cause access issues. He also stated that if properly administered, geocaching should be able to be done with minimal impact. The committee recommended that if geocaching is to continue to be allowed on the watershed, DCR should come up with a specific set of rules and guidelines to be monitored and enforced.

Quabbin fishing regulations were discussed. Boating on the reservoir is allowed for fishing purposes only. Currently to rent a boat you need a Massachusetts fishing/sporting license. 1-day Quabbin fishing licenses are also sold at all three fishing areas for people who don't have a sporting license for the year. Bill Pula commented that the 1-day fishing license was developed in conjunction with

QWAC. Commissioner Roy stated that commercial activities are not allowed on the reservoir and that the 1-day license can be loophole to allow people who aren't fishing to get out on the water. There was an incident last year where a photographer purchased a 1-day fishing license and was documented harassing loons. Visiting family and friends from out of state who only want to fish Quabbin that day were given as examples of the type of people who benefit from having the 1-day licenses available. Tony Brighenti felt that there was no reason to change the fishing regulations and does not support altering any of the fishing access policies. Anne Gobi commented that she hasn't heard any major problems with current public access and wondered if DCR is looking for a problem that doesn't exist. She cited the loon harasser as an example; find and ban him, but don't take away the 1-day licenses for everyone else. Tom Barnes thought roughly 2,000 1-day licenses were sold at Quabbin last year. He felt that people who rent a boat and don't plan to fish represent a very small percentage of the 1-day licenses sold. A member of the public commented that he would like to see anyone who is disrupting wildlife to lose their privileges at Quabbin. He would also like to see some sort of access on the water given to photographers, by permit or otherwise. A member of the public commented that he would like to see photography and other non-impact related activities encouraged at Quabbin, as long as it is done in a safe and respectful manner. It was mentioned that the public should be reporting any violations they see to the watershed rangers or the state police; those phone numbers can be found in the Quabbin fishing guide. Bill Martell commented that he would hate to see the 1-day license sales go away. A member of the public stated that the money from the 1-day license sales goes toward land stamps and that he would like to see the program continue.

Larry Gates asked about the night access program for shore fishing; the program is currently suspended. Ralph Lapinskas added that he hasn't heard of any problems stemming from the program. Although the permits are supposed to be given for shore fishing, anyone can receive a permit. Multiple members of the public commented that people who hunt and fish can act as the eyes and ears throughout the watershed, know the resource best, and are protectors of the water supply. The night access program will no longer be suspended and the application will be put back on the web site ASAP.

Cross country skiing and snowshoeing was discussed. Currently, snowshoeing is allowed on-reservation while cross country skiing is limited to off-reservation

land. Bill Pula noted that Quabbin's public access rules stem from a mix of historical usage, public pressure, and lobbying efforts at different times. J.R. Greene thought one of the reasons cross country skiing was banned on-reservation was due to concern of people making their way on to the ice.

A member of the public asked about night access to the Swift River Y-pool for fly fishing. Due to security reasons, access to the Swift River, Y-Pool, and Rt. 9 parking area is prohibited between 11PM and 4AM.

Elisa Campbell talked about her experiences on QWAC over the years and the increasing proposals for new forms of recreation on the watershed. She talked about the balancing act between conservation and recreation.

Bill Pula asked about the proposal which would clarify that walking and snowshoeing are allowed only on designated routes in the watershed. He gave examples for why some people hike off route: searching for fallen antler sheds in the forest, fishing tributaries/brooks, bird watching, and off-season deer scouting. J.R. Greene commented that he would like to see access stay the way it has been.

A member of the public asked that the list of proposed changes to the public access plan be posted on the DCR web page. J.R. Greene commented that if DCR is planning to make any changes to the access plan that was presented to the committee last year, those changes should be made clear to the committee before implementation. Commissioner Roy responded that public comments will be taken through the end of April, the public access plan will then be posted online by mid-May, and that any changes to the plan would be presented at the next QWAC meeting in June.

Member Issues

Jane Peirce stated a reminder that the Quabbin land was taken for water supply purposes, displacing 2,500 people, and is concerned about constant pressures from user groups for increased levels of access on the watershed.

Tom Barnes talked about the night access program. He doesn't believe that getting rid of the program would solve any problems of illegal activity happening after dark, and that it might remove any responsible people from the area who would report illegal activities. Ralph Lapinskas agreed with this sentiment. Commissioner Roy added that he is interested in consulting with the watershed rangers on how often people are calling in to use their night access permits and to possibly do some targeted monitoring and enforcement at night.

Bill Pula thanked Commissioner Roy for attending the meeting and hearing out the committee and public in person.

Comments received through DCR website, April 2018

Time	Comment	Name	Email Address	Address
Apr 11, 2018 09:07:22	<p>I have many geocaches in the Quabbin placed under the geocaching name of WellAwayGang.. I was granted permission by Justin Gonser and worked with him on the placement of some until he told me I no longer needed to inform him of new caches, just hide them properly. I even helped him with locating and removing existing old caches that were in walls etc.</p> <p>Geocaching is a wonderful activity that many outdoor enthusiasts enjoy. I understand the reasons for the suggested restrictions on containers and am prepared to replace my ammo cans and remove the micros that are not transparent or too small to hold contact info. On the subject of transparency I would like to point out an issue. Many of mine are hanging above ground so as to be accessible in winter, They are wrapped in camo tape or painted to make them less visible. If they must be transparent they will have to be placed on the ground and covered with sticks etc. . I have many like that already but like to make some available year round. Maybe having the bottom of the container transparent so that the contents can be seen would satisfy the reason and allow for camo enough to make it not so visible to a non cacher.</p> <p>The biggest concern I have is the Restriction to Off Reservation only. Eliminating Quabbin Park and Quabbin Reservation effectively eliminates 90% of existing caches. I have a very popular series of caches that form a Geoart of a star. Half the series is off reservation but half is along an old road on reservation. The best roads and trails are on Reservation and in Quabbin Park . I could accept restriction to a reasonable distance off trail but restricting to Off Reservation would be devastating to the hobby</p>	Bryan Thackeray	bctpapa@aol.com	7 Nash Hill Place, #105 WILLIAMSBURG, MA 01096
Apr 17, 2018 20:10:58	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I would like to express my disappointment with the proposal to eliminate geocaching and related activities from the Quabbin are entirely instead of following the plan outlined in the original draft proposal which I thought did a good job of balancing the use of reservoir lands with the necessary protections for watershed management.</p> <p>It is my understanding that this decision was made due to some misunderstandings between the DCR team and the geocaching community specific to getting permission and/or what types of caches were allowed. It is my belief that the majority of the caches were placed with good intention and with the hider believing that they had appropriate permission. After the April 2 meeting, I reached out to our local geocaching reviewers so that they can work with DCR leadership on a plan that would allow the activity to continue but would clarify what the rules are so that they can help enforce them.</p> <p>As a local resident and long time geocacher, I know that there are many parts of the reservation that I never would have discovered if not for my hobby as it has brought me into the public access gates on all sides of the reservoir.</p> <p>It is my hope that a compromise can be reached with common sense, enforceable rules that will allow this activity and support watershed protection</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	Michael Pelletier	mcmike9642@yahoo.com	6 Catherine Circle Wilbraham MA 01095

Appendix E – Service Animal Guidelines for State Government Facilities

The following information was provided to DCR Division of Water Supply Protection from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office on Disability.

- ❖ Dogs are the only animal legally recognized as a service animal, with the exception of miniature horses. A service dog can be any breed, weight, size (i.e., a service dog can be a pit bull or a tiny dog)
- ❖ Service animals have been individually trained to perform a task or service to assist a person with a disability. Examples of tasks/services:
 - Guiding a person who is blind
 - Alerting a person who is deaf
 - Interrupting a compulsive behavior
 - Reminding a person to take medication
 - Sniffing out a room for someone with PTSD
 - Retrieving objects.
- ❖ Service animals are NOT required to display a particular vest or badge.
- ❖ There is no official form of verification for someone to prove their animal is a service animal.
- ❖ An individual with a disability accompanied by a service animal ***may not*** be asked to:
 - Provide documentation
 - Answer questions regarding his/her disability
 - Have the service animal demonstrate its work.
- ❖ It is important to remember that not all disabilities are visible. Staff may ask the following two questions only when the individual's disability is not obvious:
 1. Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
 2. What task or service is the animal trained to perform?

The law requires staff to take the individual at their word.
- ❖ Service animals must be housebroken, remain under the handler's control, and not pose a direct threat to health or safety. "Under control" means:
 - Harnessed, leashed or tethered unless these interfere with the animal's work or the person's disability prevents use of these items. It is rare for a service animal to be unleashed.
 - Should not bark repeatedly in a quiet place.
 - One or two barks is reasonable, as it may be to alert the handler to something.
 - Barking because provoked does not mean the dog is out of control .
 - Housebroken.
- ❖ If a service animal is not "under control" and the handler does not correct the behavior, staff may ask the handler to remove the animal from the facility. The handler is welcome back to the facility without the dog.

- ❖ Service animals are permitted to go anywhere the handler may go, including exam rooms, cafeterias, etc.
 - Service animals, however, do *not* have to be allowed to sit on furniture meant for patrons *or* to eat from plates provided by a food service establishment.
 - The DOJ ruled that service animals are *not* allowed in grocery carts.
 - “All four on the floor” is an easy to remember, general principle followed by handlers of true service animals.
- ❖ Service animals are allowed in an area even if others have a fear of or allergies to dogs.
 - If someone is fearful or allergic, you must reasonably try to accommodate both parties.
 - You may not ask either party to leave.
 - You can offer to make accommodations for either party to come back at another time.
- ❖ Service animals are not allowed in pools; however they can be in the pool area.

Quabbin Reservoir Watershed:

- ❖ The above rules govern that a service dog shall be allowed in the watershed and at watershed facilities.
- ❖ The animal must be under the handler’s control.
- ❖ Service dogs are allowed at the fishing areas, including in the rental boats. Staff should point out how hot the boats can get and the need for fresh water for the dog.
- ❖ *Service dogs are NOT allowed in the water.*
- ❖ *Handlers are still required to pick up after their dog, and properly dispose of the refuse.*

Additional Information:

www.mass.gov/service-details/about-service-and-assistance-animals

www.mass.gov/ago/consumer-resources/your-rights/civil-rights/disability-rights/information-about-service-animals.html