

# Be a History Detective

## DCR Water Supply Protection Area-Quabbin Reservoir

### TRIP-TIP SELF-GUIDED ADVENTURE

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#### Welcome

Explore the history of the Quabbin Reservoir with these self-guided “Trip-Tips”. Three unique areas in the Quabbin Reservation that spotlight what life was like before four towns were removed to build the reservoir. **Quabbin Park, Quabbin Park Cemetery, and Dana Common (Gate 40)**. Choose one site, two sites, or make it a multi-day adventure and challenge yourself to visit all three sites with your family during February Vacation Week, or anytime this winter.

- ▲ **Explore Webster Road Trail at Quabbin Park in Belchertown, MA**
- **Quabbin Park Cemetery Search at Quabbin Park in Ware, MA**
- ★ **Walk to Dana Common at Quabbin Reservation in Petersham, MA**

Trip-Tip gives families information and some fun ideas to explore the great outdoors at DCR Massachusetts State Parks and Watersheds. With a little preparation and a sense of adventure, people of all ages can safely enjoy our outdoor spaces during our coldest months.

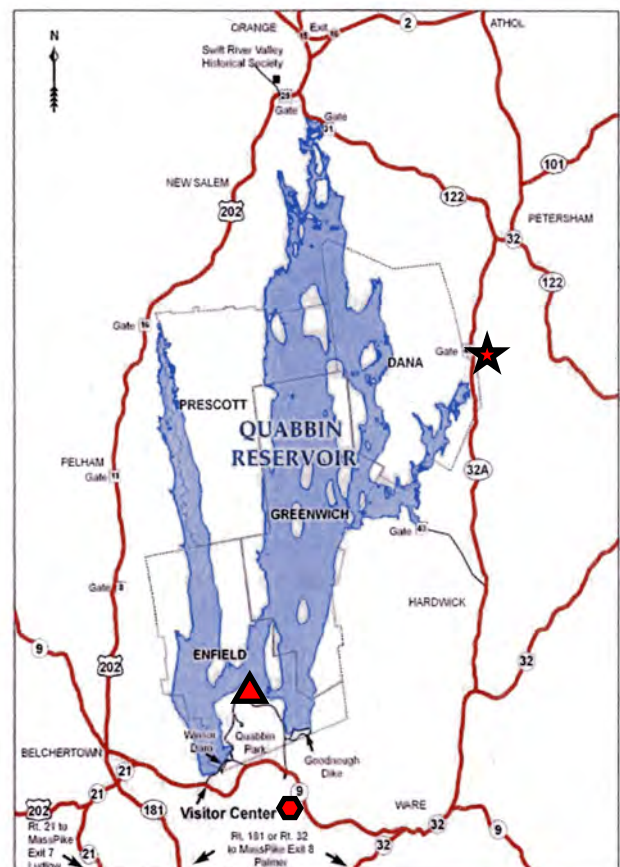
Look through this guide to help plan your outing. Choose one park, two parks, or make it a multi-day adventure. Visit them in any order, you decide. Challenge yourself to visit all the sites with your family during February Vacation Week, or anytime this winter. We hope you enjoy this Trip-Tip tour.

#### Share Your Adventure!

Share your Trip-Tip adventure with others through word of mouth, or on social media using the hashtags **#massdcr** and **#dcrtip**.

#### Things To Know, Before You Go

- Carry-in, carry-out all of your belongings, including trash.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Observe all posted rules and regulations.
- Dress appropriately for the weather
- Dogs are not allowed at Quabbin Park or Reservation



## Why are dogs are not allowed anywhere in Quabbin Park or Quabbin Reservation? \*



**Did you know?** Quabbin Reservoir is an unfiltered drinking water reservoir that serves 3 million people in Massachusetts.

**Why does that affect me bringing my dog?** Dog waste is full of harmful bacteria, excess nutrients, and sometimes parasites and viruses. When dog waste is left on the ground, heavy rain and snowmelt wash the waste into streams and tributaries, compromising water quality. Dog waste carrying bacteria, parasites, and viruses can also infect wildlife and have a serious impact on local ecosystems.

**I always pick up after my dog. Why can't I bring them to Quabbin?** Even when you remove your dog's waste, residual fecal matter is left behind which can impact water quality and the

**Remember, Quabbin Reservoir is the water supply for 3 million people in MA. Respect the rules that protect the water and leave your dog at home.**

\* The **use of a service animal** by a person with a disability is allowed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## Start Your Adventure!

### Explore Webster Road Trail at Quabbin Park

**Phone:** 413-323-7221

**Website:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/dcr-quabbin-park-access-map/download>

**Winter Hours:** Sunrise to sunset

**Winter Parking Fees:** No parking fees

**Restrooms:** No public restroom access at this time due to COVID restrictions.

Travel two miles East on Route 9 from the main entrance (100 Winsor Dam Rd), and turn left at the green sign marked "Quabbin Reservoir/Winsor Dam. Follow the Administration Road to the rotary, take the second turn towards the Enfield Lookout. About ¾ of mile past Enfield Lookout on your left is a sign for Hanks Meadow. Across from Hanks Meadow is the trailhead to Webster Road.

### Explore Webster Road Trail (2 miles -Easy)

The trail begins at the Gate across from Hanks Picnic Area. It is a wide, easily managed trail with only a slight hill. Historically, it was known as "Long Hill Road" and stretched out from the center of Enfield past what is now Route 9. Although this road was long, there were only a handful of large properties that abutted it, mostly working farms.

The Quabbin forest was once home to four towns and thousands of people. As you walk along this trail, be a history detective and look for clues of life before the reservoir was here. Below are some hints of things to look for!

Bring a notebook to record what you find or use a phone or camera to take photos.

## **Clues**

### **1) Sweet reminders**

Sugar maples were commonly planted as shade trees along roads and in front yards. What other reason would people like to plant sugar maples? (hint: think pancakes!) Look closely at the bark for scars of old maple syrup taps.

### **2) Foundations of the past**

Over 1,100 buildings were cleared from the Swift River Valley when Quabbin Reservoir was built. But pieces of buildings (made of stone) were left behind. Look for these remnants as you hike...can you guess what part of the house was left behind?

### **3) Don't fence me in**

Many of the residents of the 4 towns were farmers and owned cows, sheep and other animals. Barbed wire fences were common ways to keep the animals in the pastures. Look closely at the trees that line the road as you walk. Do you see anything that could have been a fence?

### **4) A poem as lovely as a tree**

One hundred years ago this road passed through acres of open pasture and farmland. Any trees that grew here than had lots of sun, water and space to spread out in. As you walk the road can you guess which trees may have been here before the reservoir? What trees grew after the reservoir?



### **5) Stonewalled**

Winter is a great time to explore the forest while the trees and brush have no leaves. Quabbin forest is lined with walls made of stone. Can you guess who built the walls? Where do you think the stones came from?

Look on the right for a trail marker. Turn around here for a shorter hike. For longer, take the trail up to Quabbin Hill or continue straight to the end of Webster Road. The home and land beyond the gate are private property, and no trespassing is allowed.

## Visit Quabbin Park Cemetery (Easy)

Travel two and a half miles East on Route 9 from the main entrance (100 Winsor Dam Rd), and turn right at the green sign marked “Quabbin Park Cemetery”.

**Phone:** 413-323-7221

**Website:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/dcr-quabbin-park-access-map/download>

**Winter Hours:** Sunrise to sunset

**Winter Parking Fees:** No parking fees

**Restrooms:** No public restroom access at this time due to COVID restrictions.

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Quabbin Park Cemetery was developed on farmland acquired during the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir. All of the known graves from 34 cemeteries were removed from the Swift River Valley and most were relocated to Quabbin Park Cemetery. It is a sanctuary for the remains and memories of the people of the Swift River Valley. Many of the grave markers are old and extremely fragile. **Please be aware that grave rubbings are strictly prohibited.** It is also still an active cemetery. Please keep this in mind as you explore these beautiful grounds. Bring a notebook to record what you find or use a phone or camera to take photos.

## Quabbin Cemetery Search

### 1) Time Immemorial

The Valley towns’ war memorials were relocated to the Quabbin Park Cemetery when it was built. How many memorials can you find? (Hint: one memorial is a plaque located on the side of a building)

### 2) Time after Time

Gravestones have been made from many different kinds of stone over the centuries. As you walk through the cemetery see how many different colors and textures of stone you can see. Can you tell what kind of stone they are? Slate, fieldstone, marble and granite are some of the types of stone that you can find here.

### 3) Oh Say can you see?

Gravestones of military veterans are marked with a special flag holder. (Flags are placed there before Memorial Day every year). How many can you find? Based on the dates they were alive, in which wars do you think they may have served?



#### 4) Memento Mori

Throughout history, people have marked the graves of their loved ones with different symbols. Can you find 3 different symbols as you walk through the cemetery?

(If you are interested in learning more about the meanings of common symbols found in New England graveyards here is a good source <https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/iconography-gravestones-burying-grounds> )



#### 5) A story in stone

A local family by the name of Sykes were known for their unique carved gravestones, called "Portrait stones" The faces carved on the stones tell a story of the person's life. Can you find one of these in the cemetery? What story do you think was carved in the stone? (Hint: clues may also be in the name of the person whose grave it marks).

#### Quabbin Park: Extend the Experience

There is lots to explore in Quabbin Park! Check out this map for more ideas of places to visit: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/dcr-quabbin-park-access-map/download>



- Drive to Goodnough Dike and take a walk across the dike and enjoy the view of Mt. Liz
- Although it may be too chilly for a bike ride in the winter, once in a while we get a winter day that feels like spring. If that happens, consider taking your bikes and bike helmets along and biking across the Winsor Dam.

## **Dana Common (Gate 40) 4 miles round trip Moderate**

Gate 40 is located in Petersham, Massachusetts, on the west side of Rte. 32a, also known as Hardwick Road. It's about 3 miles down on the right of 32a from Rte. 122 in the north. Coming from Rte 32 in the south, it's about 9 miles up the road on the left from where scenic Rte. 32a .breaks off, not far after Dana Road on the right.

**Phone:** 413-323-7221

**Website:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/east-quabbin-reservation-bicycle-access/download>

**Winter Hours:** Sunrise to sunset

**Winter Parking Fees:** No parking fees

**Restrooms:** No public restroom or portable toilets at this time due to COVID restrictions.

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**Dana Common Search** ( this search is specific to the Common area.)

### **1) Remembrance of what was lost**

As you walk into the common area you will see two stones marking the history of the town that was removed. What do they say? What organizations placed them here?

### **2) Pictures of the past**

The Dana Center school and Town Hall were on the right side of the Common area next to the Dana Center Cemetery. A row a granite pillars shows where the cemetery fence was located.

In front of the school and town hall foundations is a photograph. Look at it closely... is there something unexpected in front of the school?



### **3) A river of stones**

Across the road from the school and town hall a road heads out of the Common. What is different about the road that runs along the left side of the road?

### **4) A place of cooling shade**

Continue walking down the road into the field. On the left is a large tree. How old do you think this tree is? Take a few minutes and look at it. What do you think is most special about it?

## 5) Hidden Secrets

Head back down to the main road and turn left. There are several cellar holes along the road. Inside one cellar is a large object that may have held secrets. What do you think was kept in there?

### Extend the Experience

The Quabbin Reservoir has many forest roads that are open to hiking and biking throughout the year. Find out more areas to explore with the Quabbin Reservoir Access app <https://mass-eoeaa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=b0c88edfe1eb4168a943a35c5e26c8fc>

Please be aware of all regulations [www.mass.gov/quabbin-reservoir](http://www.mass.gov/quabbin-reservoir)

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### Conclusion

As the water supply source for 3 million people in Massachusetts, Quabbin Reservoir is a vital resource. We hope you take the chance to explore this property and learn the history of the towns that were lost to build it

