



# Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed

## 2022 Public Access Plan Update



February 2022 **DRAFT**

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Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Water Supply Protection  
Office of Watershed Management  
Wachusett/Sudbury Region

## ABSTRACT

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection (DWSP), controls over 1,400 acres of land and water in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoir Watershed System.

The *Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed 2022 Public Access Plan Update* establishes policies and develops an implementation strategy that controls the impacts to water quality from human activities on Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection property in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed.

### Acknowledgements:

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All maps were produced by Craig Fitzgerald, unless so noted, using DWSP and MassGIS data.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
A.	BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DCR/MWRA WATERSHED SYSTEM .....	3
B.	SUDBURY AND FOSS RESERVOIRS .....	4
C.	DWSP MISSION .....	4
D.	REGULATORY OVERVIEW .....	6
E.	PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT) .....	7
<b>II.</b>	<b>PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN UPDATE .....</b>	<b>8</b>
A.	PURPOSE .....	8
B.	PUBLIC INPUT .....	8
1.	<i>Public Survey</i> .....	8
2.	<i>Public Meetings</i> .....	8
<b>III.</b>	<b>EXISTING CONDITIONS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
A.	WATERSHED OWNERSHIP AND LAND USE .....	9
B.	SUDBURY AND FOSS PUBLIC ACCESS MANAGEMENT SECTIONS .....	10
1.	<i>Crane Swamp- Management Area “A”</i> .....	10
2.	<i>Wachusett Open Channel/Aqueduct Zone- Management Area “B”</i> .....	10
3.	<i>Sudbury Reservoir- Management Area “C”</i> .....	10
4.	<i>Foss Reservoir and Stony Brook- Management Area “D”</i> .....	10
<b>IV.</b>	<b>PUBLIC ACCESS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>16</b>
A.	PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN GOALS, EVALUATION, AND UPDATES .....	16
1.	<i>Public Access Plan Goals</i> .....	16
2.	<i>Plan and Policy Evaluation</i> .....	16
3.	<i>Ten Year Plan and Policy Update Process</i> .....	16
B.	GENERAL ACCESS CONDITIONS .....	17
C.	AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND ACCESS POLICIES .....	20
D.	SUMMARY OF POLICY UPDATES .....	20
E.	PUBLIC ACCESS POLICIES – 2022 .....	22
	<i>Advertising</i> .....	23
	<i>Alcohol (possession of)</i> .....	24
	<i>Bicycling</i> .....	25
	<i>Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking, Boat Fishing,</i> .....	26
	<i>Paddleboarding</i> .....	26
	<i>Camping</i> .....	27
	<i>Commercial Activities</i> .....	28
	<i>Cross-country Skiing</i> .....	29
	<i>Dogs/Other Domestic Animals</i> .....	30
	<i>Fishing Derbies</i> .....	31
	<i>Foraging</i> .....	32
	<i>Geocaching and Related Activities</i> .....	33
	<i>Group Activities (Weddings, Organized Walks, Tour Buses, etc.)</i> .....	35
	<i>Horseback Riding</i> .....	36
	<i>Hunting</i> .....	37
	<i>Ice Fishing and Ice Skating</i> .....	38
	<i>Marking or Cutting Trails/Roads</i> .....	39
	<i>Metal Detecting/ Magnet Fishing</i> .....	40
	<i>Night Access</i> .....	41
	<i>Off Road Vehicle Riding (ORV)</i> .....	42
	<i>Organized Sports</i> .....	43
	<i>Shore and Stream Fishing</i> .....	44
	<i>Sledding</i> .....	49

<i>Swimming</i> .....	51
<i>Target Shooting</i> .....	52
<i>Trapping</i> .....	53
<i>Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs, “Drones”)/</i> .....	54
<i>Underwater Drones (ROVs)</i> .....	54
<i>Wading</i> .....	55
<i>Walking and Snowshoeing</i> .....	56
<i>Wildlife/Bird Watching</i> .....	57
<i>Other</i> .....	58
<b>V. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION 2022-2031</b> .....	<b>59</b>
A. ENFORCEMENT.....	59
B. PUBLIC EDUCATION/INTERPRETIVE SERVICES .....	61
C. STRUCTURAL ACCESS CONTROLS .....	61
D. SIGNAGE .....	61
E. MAPPING.....	62
<b>VI. CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>62</b>
<b>VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> .....	<b>63</b>
<b>VIII. APPENDICES</b> .....	<b>64</b>
WATERSHED PROTECTION REGULATIONS (SELECTED SECTIONS).....	65
SPECIAL RULES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR HUNTING DEER ON SUDBURY RESERVOIR WATERSHED LANDS ..	69
<i>Watershed Ranger Legislation</i> .....	69
<i>Watershed Management Plan Legislation</i> .....	70
<i>MA Drinking Water Regulations, Surface Water Supply Protection</i> .....	71
APPENDIX B – AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION POLICY .....	73
APPENDIX C – SUDBURY AND FOSS RESERVOIRS WATERSHED SYSTEM PUBLIC ACCESS SURVEY RESULTS.	74
APPENDIX D – PUBLIC COMMENTS .....	93
APPENDIX E – SERVICE ANIMAL GUIDELINES FOR STATE GOVERNMENT FACILITIES .....	95

## LIST OF MAPS

MAP 1. DCR/MWRA WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM .....	2
MAP 2. SUASCo BASIN AND THE SUDBURY RESERVOIR WATERSHED SUB-BASINS .....	5
MAP 3. SUDBURY AND FOSS RESERVOIRS PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AREAS .....	11
MAP 4. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA “A” – CRANE SWAMP.....	12
MAP 5. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA “B” – OPEN CHANNEL.....	13
MAP 6. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA “C” – SUDBURY RESERVOIR .....	14
MAP 7. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA “D” – FOSS RESERVOIR.....	15
MAP 8. SUDBURY RESERVOIR FISHING AREAS.....	45
MAP 9. FOSS RESERVOIR FISHING MAP .....	47

## LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF DWSP PROTECTED LANDS .....	9
TABLE 2. DWSP SUDBURY AND FOSS RESERVOIRS PUBLIC ACCESS POLICIES – 2022.....	18
TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY UPDATES .....	21
TABLE 4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.....	60

## ACRONYMS

<b>ADA</b>	Americans with Disabilities Act
<b>AIS</b>	Aquatic Invasive Species
<b>CMR</b>	Code of Massachusetts Regulations
<b>DCR</b>	Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
<b>DEP</b>	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
<b>DWSP</b>	DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection
<b>EPA</b>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<b>FAA</b>	Federal Aviation Administration
<b>FBI</b>	Federal Bureau of Investigation
<b>MDC</b>	former Metropolitan District Commission (currently DCR)
<b>MGL</b>	Massachusetts General Laws
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MWRA</b>	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
<b>ORV</b>	Off-road Vehicle, includes four-wheeled, three-wheeled, and two-wheeled (dirt bike) motorized vehicles
<b>SCORP</b>	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
<b>SDWA</b>	Safe Drinking Water Act
<b>SWTR</b>	Surface Water Treatment Rule
<b>UAV</b>	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle ("drone")

## WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is a geographic area of land in which all surface and ground water flows downhill to common point, such as a river, stream, pond, lake, wetland, or estuary. The Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed is thus the entire area that drains into these two reservoirs. Watershed protection entails efforts on both DCR Division of Water Supply Protection property as well as concerns from impacts on all other public and private lands.

The *Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed 2022 Public Access Plan Update* focuses specifically on policies regarding use of DWSP property. DCR's Watershed Protection regulations, 313 CMR 11.00, defines "Watershed System" as:

...all real and personal property interests held by or on behalf of the Commonwealth ... for the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection (formerly, the Metropolitan District Commission) water system which were part of or appurtenant to the Quabbin Watershed, Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River watershed, Wachusett watershed, Wachusett Reservoir, North and South Sudbury watersheds, Sudbury Reservoir, Framingham Reservoirs 1, 2 and 3...

The policies in this plan are for the Sudbury and Foss (Framingham Reservoir 3) Reservoirs *Watershed System*. That technical term has been shortened for use in this document to "Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed" or "DWSP lands in the Sudbury and Foss watershed."

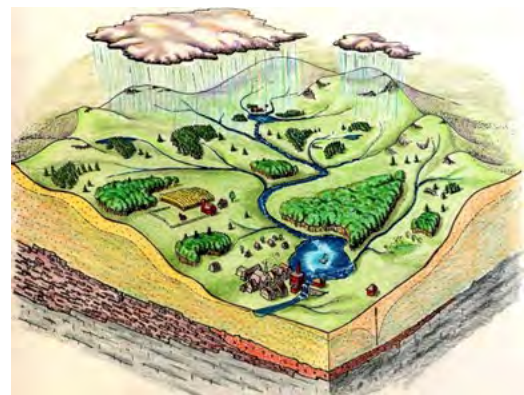


illustration by Jim Talyor, DCR

# 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 over 3 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 (Framingham #3) Reservoirs are the emergency source water supplies for this drinking water supply and were last used briefly for a water supply emergency in 2010. The watershed system is large and well protected (**Map 1**).

As the emergency source water supply, the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs are not as critical to the daily drinking water needs of greater Boston as the Wachusett and Quabbin Reservoirs (active sources), and thus do not require the same level of vigilant monitoring, inspection, and overall management. The Commonwealth's resources nevertheless need to be maintained and protected from degradation.

The *2008 Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed Protection Plan* states the following goal for DCR Watershed's management of its property in this basin:

**Maintain the integrity of DCR lands and waters in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoir watersheds for water quality protection purposes in order to serve as an emergency source water supply.**

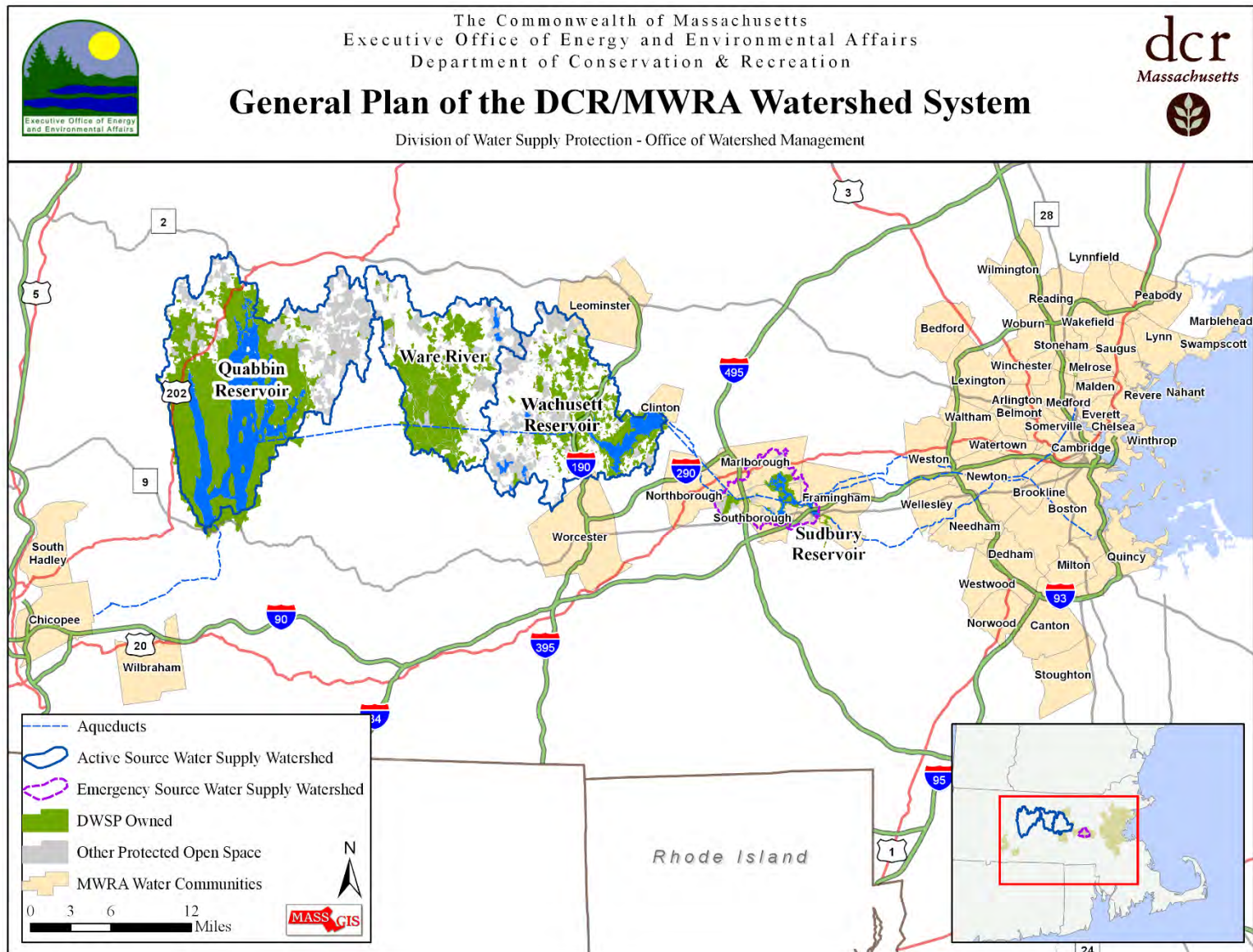
The *Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs 2022 Public Access Plan Update* helps DCR meet this goal by establishing policies and developing an implementation strategy that controls the impacts to water quality from human activities on DWSP property.

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 2017 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 Sudbury and Foss Reservoir watersheds, however, are based on its mission to protect this emergency drinking water supply resource from public access impacts.



**Map 1. DCR/MWRA Water Supply System**



## **A. *Brief History of the DCR/MWRA Watershed System***

The Boston metropolitan area drinking water supply has grown from 18<sup>th</sup> century cisterns to two source supply reservoirs that were the largest of their kinds when constructed in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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. 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](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/dcr-office-of-watershed-management); [www.mwra.com/04water/html/hist1.htm](http://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 3 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.



## **B. Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs**

The Boston Water Board began construction in 1878 on a system of seven reservoirs by holding back portions of the Sudbury River: the Sudbury, Whitehall, Hopkinton, Ashland, Stearns, Brackett, and Foss (the last three referred to respectively as Framingham Reservoirs Nos. 1, 2, and 3). This original Sudbury drinking water supply system watershed, a sub-basin within the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord (SuAsCo) drainage basin, consists of 47,841 acres, or 74.7 square miles, divided geographically into a North and South Basin (Map 2). The North Basin is the smaller of the two sub-basins, encompassing 17,782 acres (27.6 sq. mi., including the reservoirs). Both the North and South Basins drain into Stearns Reservoir. Releases from Stearns Reservoir flow into the Sudbury River at the Winter Street Dam and continue east towards the Assabet and Concord Rivers.

The Sudbury Watershed system, in particular the South Basin, had continually been hampered by limited yield, urbanization, and unsatisfactory water quality. The creation of the Wachusett and Quabbin Reservoirs over the first half of the 20th century meant that increasingly substandard source waters from many of the reservoirs in the Sudbury System could be discontinued. Lake Cochituate (constructed prior to the Sudbury System), along with Whitehall, Hopkinton, and Ashland Reservoirs were transferred in 1947 to one of DCR's predecessor agencies for use as State Parks. Although the Sudbury South Basin had not been used for water supply since 1930, the Stearns and Brackett Reservoirs were kept as emergency water supplies.

The entire Sudbury System was officially removed from active use and classified as an emergency water supply in 1976. Subsequent water forecasting needs, combined with the impacts from the Nyanza Superfund site in Ashland, concluded that neither Stearns or Brackett Reservoirs were suitable supplies for the DCR/MWRA water supply system (for more information, go to the EPA website [www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/nyanza](http://www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/nyanza)). The MWRA Board of Directors in the fall of 2007 declared the South Basin surplus to their needs. DWSP has continually been seeking opportunities to transfer control of these remaining South Basin lands. Due to limited access points and staff resources, DCR will continue its past policies of not allowing public access around these water bodies until there is a new manager of this property. This public access plan focuses solely on lands within the North Basin.

## **C. DWSP Mission**

The land surrounding the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs 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.*

[illegible]

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 *Watershed Protection Plan FY19-FY23* and an annual *Work Plan* (see [www.mass.gov/info-details/dcr-watershed-plans](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/dcr-watershed-plans) for all DWSP plans). Public access management within land owned by or on waters controlled by DWSP is an important element of the DWSP comprehensive watershed protection program.

## **D. 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.

Although the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs are not as highly regulated as the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs, water quality and DWSP watershed lands benefit by implementing the same watershed control programs when staff and resources allow.



## ***E. Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)***

Massachusetts General Laws c. 59, §5G mandates that DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection make Payments Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) on the Commonwealth property managed by the Office of Watershed Management. The Watershed Management PILOT amount is determined by multiplying the Department of Revenue (DOR) valuation of DCR Division of Water Supply Protection land by the local commercial tax rate. The current process used by DOR for valuing State Owned Land (SOL – which includes DCR Watershed Management ) under MGL c. 58 was established by the Mass Municipal Modernization Act – Chapter 218, Section 108 of the Acts of 2016.

Under this process, DOR determined a base year SOL valuation for each community as of January 1, 2017. This base year valuation used DOR guidelines on segmenting lands into prime lots (the requisite frontage and area needed to build a single family home in each community), rear acreage, and un-buildable acreage, as well as discount adjustments for the total number of prime lots and total acreage. After a hearing and appeal process, base year SOL valuations were finalized.

This base year valuations are adjusted every two years by a percentage equal to the change in a city or town's equalized cash value (EQV). Valuations are also updated annually to include the value of any acquisitions and/or dispositions in a community. Calculations for acquired lands will be made using the cost per acre average for each town, adjusted by the EQV. There is a wide variation in the per-acre PILOT payment from community to community. This is due to varying real estate prices, which are a key factor in determining land valuation, and local tax rates.

Money for the PILOT program comes from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) rate payers who use the reservoir waters. They pay their water bills to the MWRA, which provides DCR with the funds needed to make the PILOT payment. The DCR makes an annual payment in full to each community in the program. Legislative provisions state that the Watershed Management PILOT payment can never be less than that of the previous year, even if the value of the land or tax rates decrease.

Over the past ten years, PILOT payments to the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed communities has consistently averaged approximately 10% of the total Watershed PILOT. In FY2021, the total PILOT for the entire system was \$8.3 million, with payments to the Sudbury and Foss municipalities of \$835,459 (Framingham: \$261,931; Marlborough: \$112,802; Northborough: \$103,467; Southborough: \$301,691; Westborough: \$55,568).

## **II. Public Access Plan Update**

### **A. Purpose**

The purpose of DWSP's Public Access Plans is to guide and control public access, incorporating the most current information available to minimize the impacts from recreational activities on the drinking water supply lands managed by DCR. The federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Amendments, state drinking water regulations, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Watershed Protection Regulations (313 CMR 11.00) require that public access on drinking water supply lands must be managed to minimize the risk of waterborne disease and to control other human impacts. The primary function of these water supply lands is to protect and provide high quality drinking water for current and future generations. DWSP's access plans detail management rationale and explain which programs and activities are used to limit and control access to these lands and waters.

### **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 Sudbury and Foss Reservoir watersheds and their current concerns in order to aid in the evaluation of access policies. Approximately 80 people responded to the survey. The responses were similar to previous iterations of the survey completed for earlier plans across the entire system: 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. Public Meetings**

A public listening session on the *Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed 2022 Public Access Plan Update* was originally scheduled to be held on February 26, 2020 at the McAuliffe Hearing Room in the Southborough Town House but due to changes in DCR leadership, this date was postponed. The Covid-19 pandemic further postponed any progress on public meetings for the year. The listening session was eventually held remotely on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the initial session was to give an overview of the process and anticipated timelines and to give the public an opportunity to provide input before a plan was drafted.

A subsequent public meeting will be held after completion of the draft plan where additional comments will be accepted.



### 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 2,381 acres of land owned in fee by DWSP in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoir watersheds, as well as the 1,432 acres Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs themselves.

**Table 1. Summary of DWSP Protected Lands**

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

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.

		<b>Ownership as % of Watershed Land Area</b>			<b>DWSP Controlled Including Reservoirs</b>
	<b>Watershed</b>	<b>DWSP Controlled</b>	<b>Other Protected</b>	<b>Total Protected</b>	
Active System	Quabbin Reservoir	64.5%	20.4%	84.8%	71.7%
	Ware River	41.3%	16.7%	58.0%	41.3%
	Wachusett Reservoir	29.3%	21.1%	50.4%	33.2%
	Total	47.3%	19.6%	66.9%	53.2%
<b>Emergency System</b>	<b>Sudbury and Foss Reservoir</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>27.7%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>

Data from MassGIS and DCR Records. Figures taken from *DCR Watershed Protection Plan FY19-FY23*. Land area excludes the reservoir surface.

The Sudbury watershed, located just twenty miles from metropolitan Boston, is much more developed than active parts of the system. A major highway crosses Foss Reservoir, and several industrial/commercial developments exist in the watershed. Nevertheless, approximately 40% of the watershed is forested. A quarter of the watershed is protected, with DWSP lands comprising over half of this amount. Approximately 22 % of the Sudbury Reservoir watershed land area is impervious, well above the 10% impervious threshold where water quality impacts can be expected.

## **B. Sudbury and Foss Public Access Management Sections**

DWSP has divided the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed lands into four sections for ease of public access management (**Map 3**). Management areas have been reviewed and modified since the *Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed 2010 Public Access Plan Update* due to changes in policy and simplicity of discussion and clarification.

### **1. Crane Swamp- Management Area “A”**

Management area “A” includes all of the Crane Swamp area to the MWRA Carroll Treatment Plant in Marlborough. There is no public access on either side of the open channel from Cedar Hill Road to the MWRA facility.

### **2. Wachusett Open Channel/Aqueduct Zone- Management Area “B”**

Management area “B” includes the Open Channel. It extends from below the MWRA Carroll Treatment Plant in Marlborough east to Deerfoot Road, Southborough.

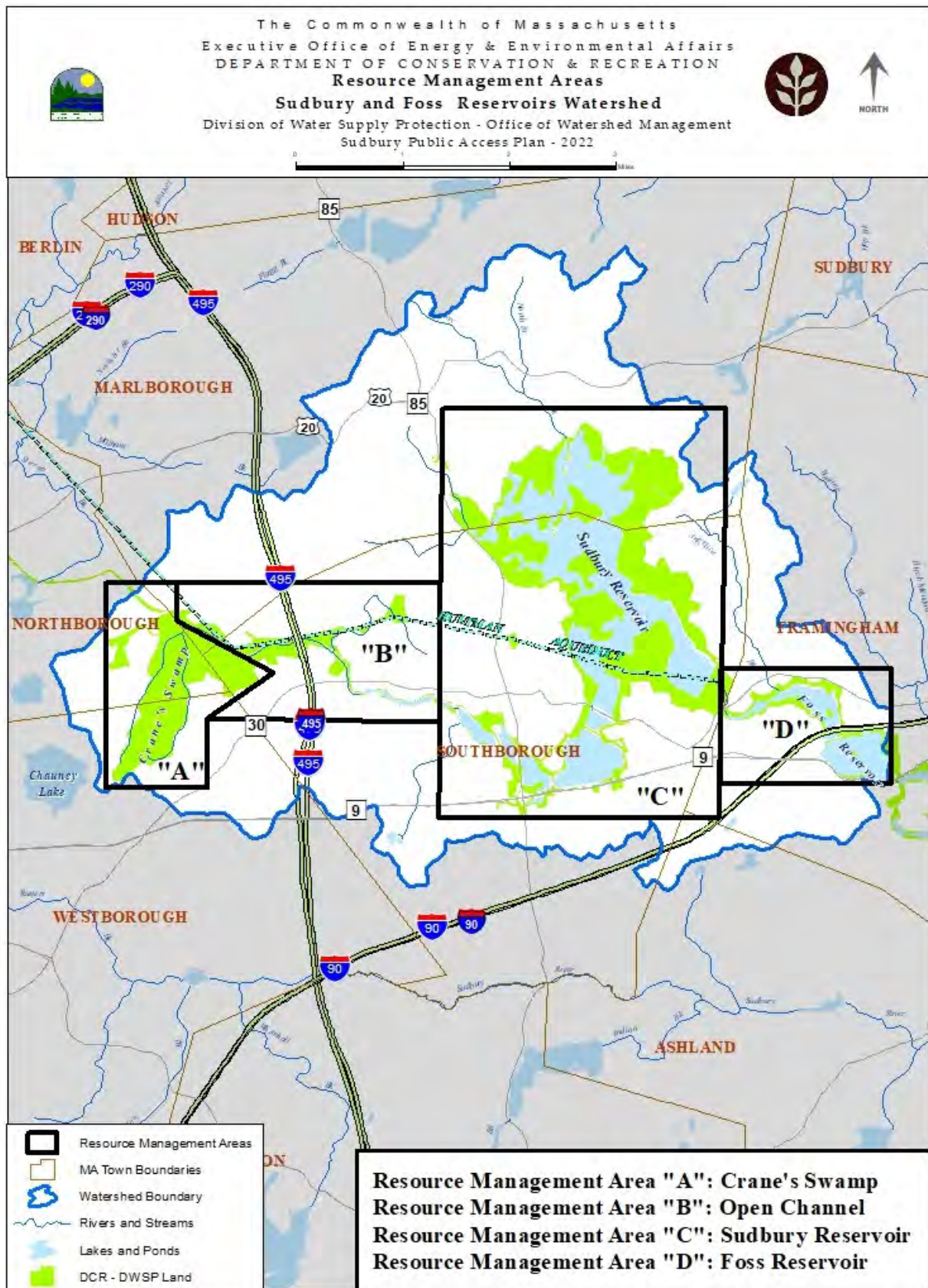
### **3. Sudbury Reservoir- Management Area “C”**

Management area “C” includes Sudbury Reservoir in its entirety and all DWSP lands extending from Deerfoot Road in Southborough eastward to below the Sudbury Reservoir dam. There is limited public access around and below the Sudbury Reservoir Dam; through an agreement with the Southborough Trails Committee and MWRA, access is allowed only on approved trail sections within the no trespassing area surrounding the dam.

### **4. Foss Reservoir and Stony Brook- Management Area “D”**

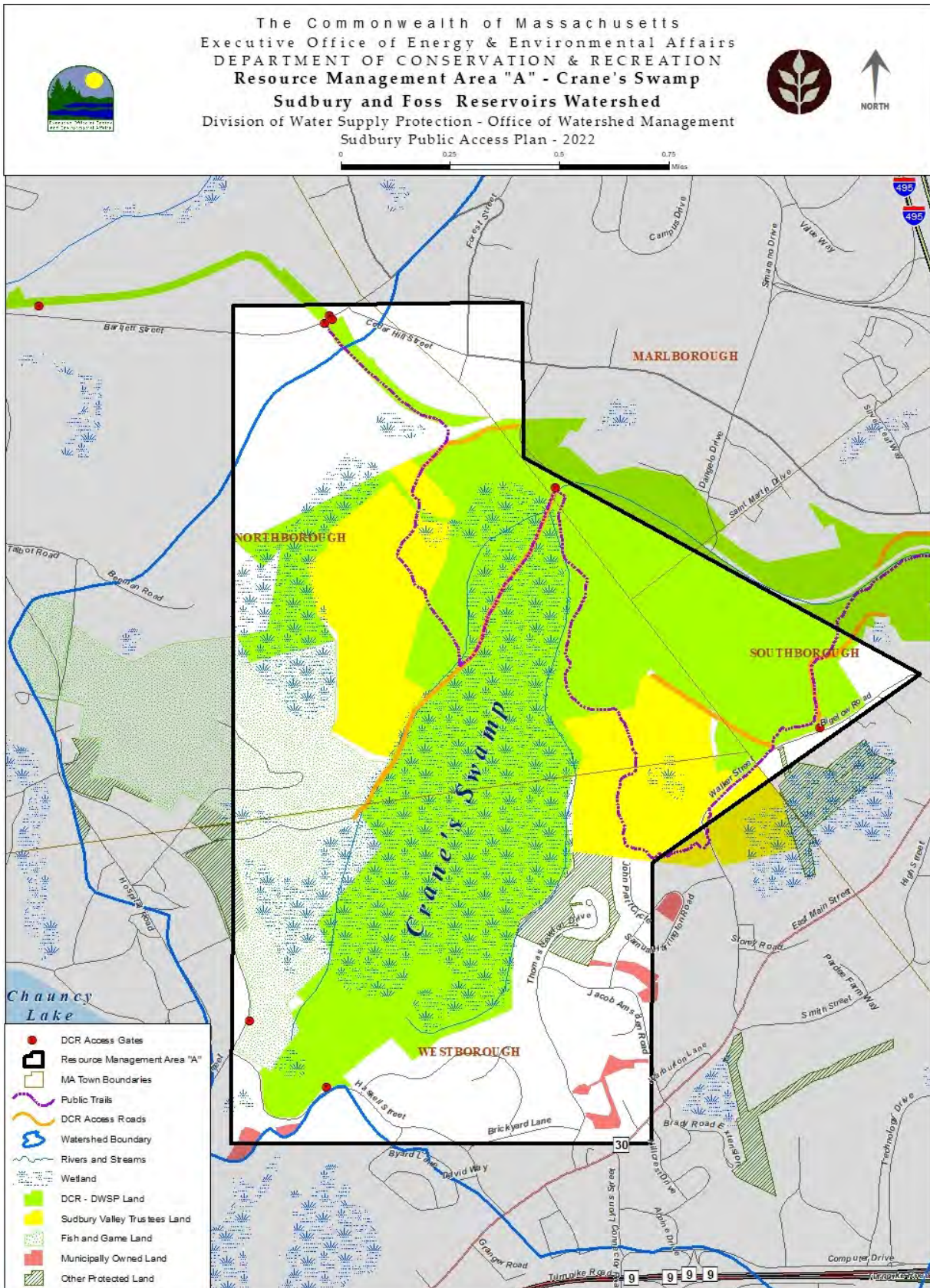
Management area “D” encompasses Foss Reservoir in its entirety and all DWSP lands from below the Sudbury Reservoir dam eastward. There is no public access around the Foss Reservoir Dam and gatehouse. Access to MWRA aqueducts in this area is prohibited.

**Map 3. Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Public Management Areas**



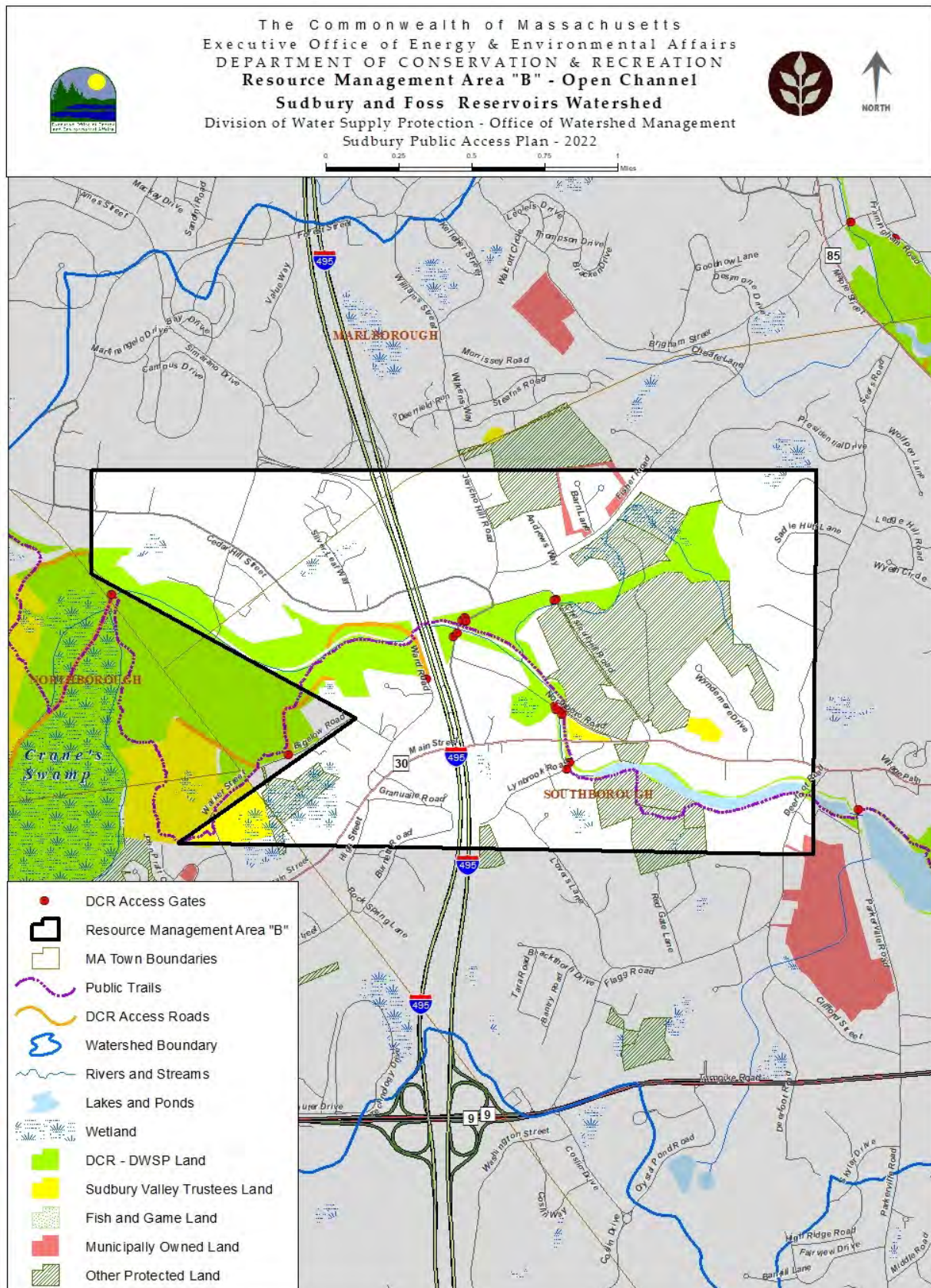


**Map 4. Resource Management Area “A” – Crane Swamp**



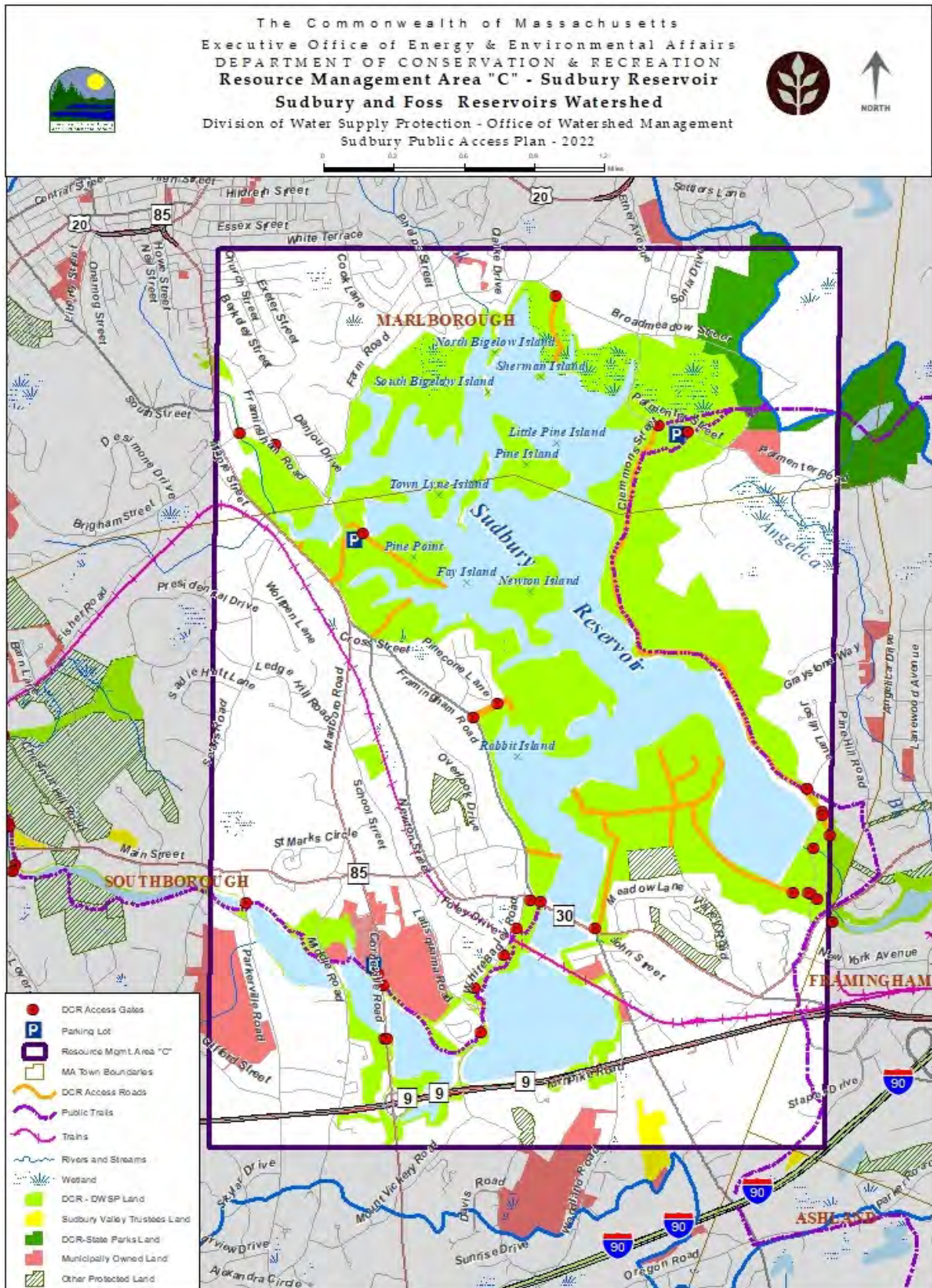


**Map 5. Resource Management Area “B” – Open Channel**



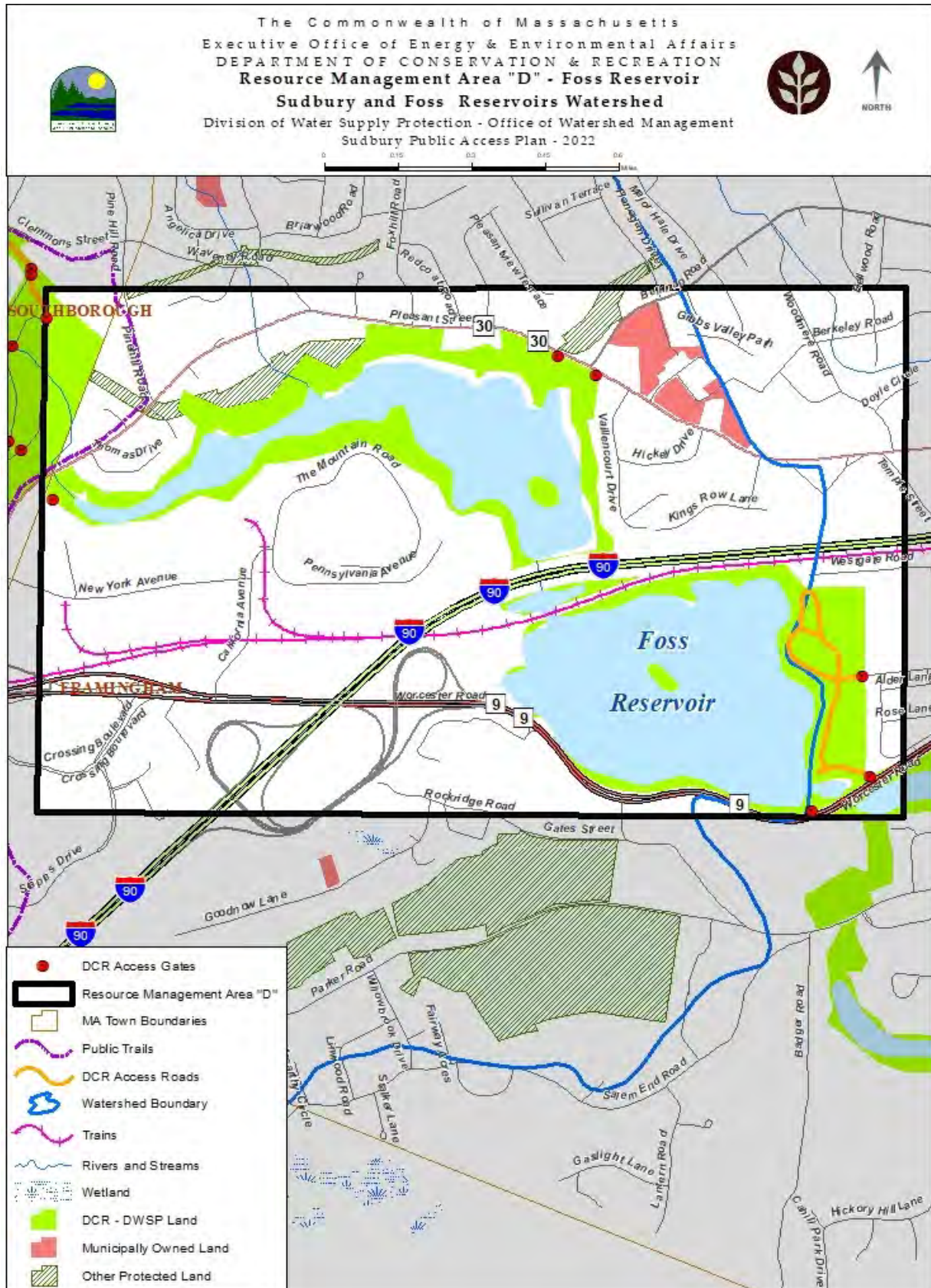


Map 6. Resource Management Area “C” – Sudbury Reservoir





Map 7. Resource Management Area “D” – Foss Reservoir



## **IV. Public Access Policies and Procedures**

Public access for low-impact recreational activities is allowed on lands of the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed when compatible with water supply protection and public safety, and when guided by DWSP's Public Access Plan Goals. Activities are deemed allowed when they do not pose a threat to the water quality of the Sudbury or Foss Reservoirs.

A list of all the current access policies and restrictions is shown in **Table 2**. Changes made to DWSP access policies since 2010 are summarized in **Table 3** and detailed in the individual activity sheets found in this Section. In total, there are 30 fact sheets representing historical, existing, and potential recreational uses of drinking water supply lands and waters.

### **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.

#### **3. Ten Year Plan and Policy Update Process**

DWSP updates its public access management plans for each watershed approximately every ten years. A year or so before the ten-year update deadline, DWSP staff review and provide field input on issues or needs related to public access policies. 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. 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 2. 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 DWSP lands in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed is restricted to one hour before sunrise to 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 forestry harvest operations may be in progress on DWSP properties. Please avoid visiting such areas, entering harvest areas, or coming within three hundred feet of 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 planning accordingly.
- Visitors are required to not wash objects in any watercourse.
- Visitors are asked to limit outdoor smoking activities to help prevent wildfires and carry out any refuse. No fires are allowed on DWSP properties.
- Please report any suspicious or dangerous activity on lands or waters by calling the MA State Police or 911. For areas around Sudbury Reservoir, the Open Channel and Crane Swamp contact MA State Police - Millbury Barracks at 508-929-3232. For areas around Foss Reservoir contact MA State Police - Framingham Barracks at 508-820-2250.
- Contact the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency 24-hour dispatch center at 508-820-2000 for emergencies and Wachusett/Sudbury Watershed Ranger office at 978-365-3800 for any general questions regarding public access.

Table 2. DWSP Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Public Access Policies – 2022

<i>Activity</i>	Crane Swamp “A”	Open Channel “B”	Sudbury Reservoir “C”	Foss Reservoir “D”
Advertising	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Alcohol (possession of)	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Bicycling	⊘ <sup>1</sup>	⊘ <sup>2</sup>	⊘ <sup>3</sup>	⊘
Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking, Boat Fishing, Paddleboarding	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Camping	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Commercial Activities	⊘ <sup>7</sup>	⊘ <sup>7</sup>	⊘ <sup>7</sup>	⊘
Cross-country Skiing	□	□	□	□
Dogs/Other Animals	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Fishing Derbies	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Foraging	□ <sup>5</sup>	□ <sup>5</sup>	□ <sup>5</sup>	□ <sup>5</sup>
Geocaching and Related Activities	□ <sup>9</sup>	□ <sup>9</sup>	□ <sup>9</sup>	□
Group Activities (organized walks, tour buses, etc.)	□ <sup>4</sup>	□ <sup>4</sup>	□ <sup>4</sup>	□ <sup>4</sup>
Horseback Riding	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Hunting	□ <sup>8</sup>	□ <sup>8</sup>	□ <sup>8</sup>	□ <sup>8</sup>
Ice Fishing/Ice Skating	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Marking or Cutting Trails/Roads	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Metal Detecting/Magnet Fishing	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Night Access	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
ORV (off road vehicle) Riding (including ATVs)	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Organized Sports	⊘	⊘	⊘ <sup>10</sup>	⊘
	□	□	□	□
Sledding	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Snowmobiling	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Swimming	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Target Shooting	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Trapping	□ <sup>8</sup>	□ <sup>8</sup>	□ <sup>8</sup>	□ <sup>8</sup>
Unmanned Aerial Shore and Stream Fishing Vehicles/Underwater Drones	⊘ <sup>6</sup>	⊘ <sup>6</sup>	⊘ <sup>6</sup>	⊘ <sup>6</sup>
Wading	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Walking/Snowshoeing	□	□	□	□
Wildlife/Bird Watching	□	□	□	□

⊘ Prohibited      □ Allowed - general restrictions      □<sup>#</sup> Specific Restrictions



## General Restrictions:

- ❑ General public access within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise to 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. Littering is strictly prohibited. Carry in/Carry out. Do not feed wildlife. No dogs allowed.**

## Specific Restrictions:

- <sup>1</sup> The Boroughs Trail Loop has been developed through an area within the Crane Swamp Public Access Management Area. Dogs and bicycles are not permitted on the sections of trail on DWSP land in this area.
- <sup>2</sup> The Boroughs Trail Loop has been developed along the Open Channel in the Open Channel Management Area. Dogs and bicycles are not permitted on the sections of trail on DWSP land in this area.
- <sup>3</sup> The Boroughs Trail Loop (Peninsula Trail) has been developed in the Sudbury Reservoir Management Area. Dogs and bicycles are not permitted on the sections of trail on DWSP land in this area.
- <sup>4</sup> Allowed without a permit for groups of less than 25 individuals. Permit required for group of more than 25 people.
- <sup>5</sup> 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.
- <sup>6</sup> Takeoff or landing of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles from DWSP land prohibited except by written permission from DWSP. Underwater drones are prohibited.
- <sup>7</sup> Prohibited except by written permission from DWSP.
- <sup>8</sup> Hunting and trapping are allowed with a DCR Permit provided the activities are consistent with MassWildlife seasons and regulations. See [www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt) for up-to-date information regarding permits.
- <sup>9</sup> Geocaching and Letterboxing are allowed provided DCR and DWSP guidelines are followed.
- <sup>10</sup> Organized sports allowed at 911 Field through a lease with the Town of Southborough.

## **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.

### **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, additions and clarifications to DWSP’s 2010 public access policies have been made in this plan (**Table 3**). 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 and has added several policies that were not identified in previous plans. One example is the policy 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.

A larger change is the opening of Foss Reservoir DWSP lands that were posted “no trespassing” to passive recreation activities being allowed (as described in later sections). DWSP has also provided names for the larger islands in Sudbury Reservoir to aid in staff direction and emergency situations.

DWSP is appreciative of the public input received through the online survey. The issues raised concerning additional access are very similar to survey answers and comments received throughout the access plan update processes across the entire DWSP watershed system. DWSP recognizes that the beauty and location of the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs and surrounding lands make it a very desirable place to swim, boat, mountain bike, or walk a dog. However, due to DCR statewide policy, water quality considerations, and/or 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. DWSP will continue its efforts to provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the property it controls.

**Table 3. Summary of Public Access Policy Updates**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>2010 DWSP Policy</b>	<b>2022 Policy Update</b>
Advertising	Not identified	Added as prohibited activity
Alcohol (possession of)	Prohibited	No change
Bicycling	Prohibited	No change
Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking, Boat Fishing, Paddleboarding	Prohibited	Clarified to include Paddleboarding
Camping	Prohibited	No change
Commercial Activities	Not identified	Added as prohibited activity
Cross-Country Skiing	Allowed with restrictions	Change – allowed in all areas that allow walking and snowshoeing.
Dogs/Other Animals	Prohibited	No change
Fishing Derbies	Not identified	Added as prohibited activity (without written permission)
Foraging	Not identified	Added as allowed and by regulation only for the collection of edible plants in a non-disruptive manner and for non-commercial use.
Geocaching and Related Activities	Allowed. Policy identified	No change
Group Activities	Not identified	Added as allowed with restrictions on group size without a permit
Horseback Riding	Prohibited	No change
Hunting	Prohibited	Change-allowed with restrictions
Ice Fishing/Ice Skating	Prohibited	No change
Marking or Cutting - Trails/Roads	Not identified	Added as prohibited activity with the exception of Boroughs Trail Loop with written agreement
Metal Detecting/Magnet Fishing	Prohibited	Clarified - addition of Magnet Fishing
Night Access	Prohibited	No change
ORV (off road vehicle) Riding (including ATVs)	Prohibited	Clarified - Replaced ATV with ORV
Organized Sports	Not identified	Added as prohibited activity without written permission of DWSP
Shore and Stream Fishing	Allowed with restrictions	No change
Sledding	Not identified	Added as prohibited activity
Snowmobiling	Prohibited	No change
Swimming	Prohibited	No change
Target Shooting	Not identified	Added as prohibited activity
Trapping	Prohibited	Change - allowed with restrictions
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs, drones)/Underwater drones	Not identified	Added as prohibited activity. Landing and taking off from DWSP land prohibited without written permission, or in an emergency
Wading	Not identified	Added as prohibited activity
Walking/Snowshoeing	Allowed with restrictions	No change
Wildlife Viewing/Bird Watching	Not identified	Added as allowed activity

## ***E. Public Access Policies – 2022***

This section provides one to two-page summaries of the policies, rules, and explanation for the most common types of public access activities on DWSP property in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed that are listed in Table 2. These are designed as stand-alone documents that can be reproduced and distributed as needed.

# Advertising

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## Policy

Advertising or any other unauthorized placement of signs is prohibited in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Advertising</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ 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.**



# Alcohol (possession of)

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## Policy

The possession or drinking of alcoholic beverages is prohibited throughout the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Alcohol</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ 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**

# Bicycling

## Policy

Bicycling is prohibited on all DWSP lands in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed. 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>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Bicycling</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

## 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. Control of these impacts is by the prohibition of bicycling to protect water quality.

## The Boroughs Trail Loop

The Boroughs Trail Loop, created by the Sudbury Valley Trustees and representatives from the towns of Marlborough, Southborough, Westborough and Northborough, is a 33-mile regional trail that was opened in 2018 to connect the existing trail networks of the four towns. To date, the completed portion of the trail encompasses 24 miles, of which over ten miles are located on DWSP lands through agreements with DWSP and MWRA. *While bicycling may be allowed on other sections of the trail it is not allowed on sections of the trails located on DWSP lands.*

For more information and detailed online maps of the trail go to [www.svtweb.org/properties/page/boroughs-loop-trail](http://www.svtweb.org/properties/page/boroughs-loop-trail).

**This policy has not been changed.**

# Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking, Boat Fishing, Paddleboarding

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## Policy

Boating, (including canoeing, kayaking, and paddleboarding; motorized and non-motorized), for recreational activity or fishing, is prohibited on the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs.

Watershed Protection Regulation 313 CMR 11.09(2)(b), prohibits boating except in areas specifically designated by the Commissioner at Quabbin Reservoir and in the Ware River watershed.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Boating</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

## 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. There is also the potential for body contact with the water. These impacts may introduce sediment, chemicals, and pathogens to the water, therefore any type of boating is prohibited.

**This policy has not been changed.**

# Camping

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## Policy

Camping in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System is prohibited. Camping includes, but is not limited to, tenting, trailers, lean-tos, and motor homes.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Camping</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ 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.”

**This policy has not changed.**



# Commercial Activities

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## Policy

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

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Commercial Activities</b>	⊘ <sup>1</sup>	⊘ <sup>1</sup>	⊘ <sup>1</sup>	⊘ <sup>1</sup>

⊘ **Prohibited**

<sup>1</sup> 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 an existing policy that was not identified in previous plans.**

# Cross-country Skiing

## Policy

Cross-country skiing is allowed within Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed lands. Access is prohibited in restricted areas including, but not limited to, posted no trespassing areas near the Sudbury Reservoir Dam and Foss Reservoir infrastructure. Cross-country skiing on frozen surfaces of the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs, associated ponds, and on the islands is strictly prohibited.

Cross- country skiers are warned that properties are open for hunting and are advised to take adequate precautions to avoid conflicts with hunting.

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.”

Previous Public Access Plans limited this activity to the fire road located between Parmenter Road and the intersection of Nichols and Clemons Streets in Marlborough. Cross-country skiing is now allowed anywhere that also allows walking and snowshoeing.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Cross-country Skiing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Prohibited

☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise to 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. Except for service dogs, no dogs are allowed.

## Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from cross-country skiing include physical, chemical and microbial water quality threats from erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, chemicals from ski wax (PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – also known as “forever chemicals” which do not break down in the environment) have recently been discovered in ski wax), and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering, or vandalism. Cross-country skiing typically has a greater range than other non-motorized winter activities such as walking and snowshoeing. Access on the frozen reservoir is strictly prohibited for safety and sanitation reasons.

Access is prohibited in posted no trespassing areas near both the Sudbury and Foss Dams.

Please contact the Wachusett/Sudbury Ranger Office at (978) 365-3800 for more information.

**This policy has been changed to allow cross-country skiing in all locations that allow walking and snowshoeing.**

# Dogs/Other Domestic Animals

## Policy

Dogs and all other domestic animals are prohibited by regulation on all DWSP land within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Dogs/ Other Domestic Animals</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

### ⊘ Prohibited

The use of a service animal by a person with a disability is allowed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and is not included in the prohibition.

## Explanation

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 (p. 20)).

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 can shed disease organisms into the drinking water supply. Dog walking has always been prohibited on DWSP's water supply lands in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed, however it remains one of the largest rule violations identified by the Watershed Rangers.

DCR encourages dog owners to protect water quality of the Sudbury Reservoir and tributaries by picking up after your pet and disposing of it properly when on privately owned trails.

**NOTE: Dogs are prohibited from all sections of the Boroughs Loop Trail located on DWSP lands.**

**This policy has not changed but has been modified to include identifying the prohibition of dogs on the Boroughs Loop Trail.**

# Fishing Derbies

## Policy

Fishing derbies for raising or collecting funds are prohibited in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Fishing Derbies</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

## 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.**



# Foraging

## Policy

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

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Foraging</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>

☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs 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. With the exception of service dogs, no dogs are allowed.

<sup>1</sup> 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.” [emphasis added]

**This policy has been identified as allowed.**

# Geocaching and Related Activities

## Policy

Geocaching (including Letterboxing) is a high-tech treasure hunting game played by people of all ages equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) devices that has become popular within DWSP lands over the past decade. The basic idea is to locate containers with small, non-valuable artifacts hidden outdoors, called geocaches. There are several websites that coordinate information on locations; one of the foremost of these, [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com), has close to 1 million geocache locations.

Notification to DWSP is required by any individual or organization that wants to locate geocaches within DWSP property. The applicant must also register the cache with [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) before placing any geocache on DWSP lands. Existing geocaches may be reviewed by DWSP staff; if a geocache falls outside the placement guidelines, it will be removed and the owner notified through [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

The following guidelines must be followed before locating a geocache on DWSP property:

- The geocache must not be located in dams or dikes.
- The geocache must not be located in a restricted or otherwise protected archaeological, historical, cultural (including rock walls), or natural area.
- No significant damage or disturbance to the ground or flora will result from placement of or visits to this geocache.
- The geocache must not be located in an area that might cause potential danger to visitors (e.g., climbing on cliffs/bluffs or in trees, underwater, in caves or dens, or along heavily traveled roadways).
- The geocache will not create confusing spur trails off the established network of trails.
- The geocache will not be located in any restricted access areas in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed.
- Geocaches must be transparent containers.
- Notify DWSP of the placement location by calling the Wachusett/Sudbury Watershed Rangers at (978) 365-3800.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Geocaching/ Letterboxing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs 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. With the exception of service dogs, no dogs are allowed.

**Explanation**

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 DCR.”

In recent years recreational activities such as geocaching, questing, letterboxing and benchmarking have grown significantly in popularity. Potential water quality impacts from geocaching include 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.

DCR is developing a statewide policy for Geocaching, Letterboxing and similar activities on all DCR lands, including the watershed system. In the meantime, these activities are allowed to continue as long as the activity does not have a negative effect on DWSP lands. Any questions regarding geocaching, letterboxing, or similar activities can be directed to the Wachusett/Sudbury Interpretive Services at (508) 792-7806 or Watershed Rangers at (978) 365-3800.

**This policy has not been changed.**

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

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## 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.
- A DWSP-issued permit is required for any group of more than 25 individuals. Reservoir permit applications are available at [www.mass.gov/service-details/watershed-permits](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/watershed-permits) or by contacting the Wachusett/Sudbury Region office at (508) 792-7806.
- Ceremonies, such as weddings and memorials, are limited to 75 people or less.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Group Activities (weddings organized walks, tour buses, etc.)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>

☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs 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. With the exception of service dogs, no dogs are allowed.

<sup>1</sup> Allowed without a permit for groups of up to 25 individuals. Permit required for groups greater than 25 individuals.

## 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 DCR.”

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

**This policy has not been changed.**



# Horseback Riding

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## Policy

Horseback riding is prohibited by regulation throughout the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs 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

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Horseback Riding</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ 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.

**This policy has not changed.**

# Hunting

## Policy

Hunting is allowed on DWSP lands in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed with a free five year DWSP permit (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt>), provided the activity is consistent with MassWildlife seasons and regulations.

DWSP opened 2,000 acres of land in 2019 to white-tailed deer hunting due to deer impacts on the forest surrounding the reservoir. DWSP's watershed management goals include having an actively growing, diverse, multi-age forest for regulating stream flow, maintaining water quality, and preventing erosion. Reversing the damage caused by deer by culling the herd is outlined in the *DWSP 2017 Land Management Plan* ([www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/01/22/dcrdws2017landmanagementplan.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/01/22/dcrdws2017landmanagementplan.pdf)).

## Summary

Activity	Crane Swamp	Open Channel	Sudbury Reservoir	Foss Reservoir
Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>

☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise to 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.

<sup>1</sup> Hunting is allowed on DWSP lands with a free five-year DWSP hunting permit provided the activity is consistent with MassWildlife seasons and regulations.

## Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from hunting include 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. Historically, deer hunting was prohibited on DWSP lands within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed. After extensive research, DWSP determined that deer hunting was necessary to limit over-browsing and facilitate natural regeneration of the forest surrounding the two reservoirs. The control of higher-density deer populations also benefits water quality by reducing contamination from fecal material and pathogens.

The following guidelines were established to minimize the potential risk of the spread of disease and possible water contamination:

- Washing your hands or animals in streams or ponds is prohibited.
- No animal parts may be disposed of within 100' of wetlands, streams, brooks, ponds or other water bodies.
- Field dressing only allowed at least 100' away from wetlands, streams, brooks, ponds or other water bodies.

Please contact the DWSP Natural Resources Section for more information about Sudbury Reservoir hunting and hunting access permits at (774) 261-1816 or go to [www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt).

## This policy has changed to allow hunting

# Ice Fishing and Ice Skating

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## Policy

Ice fishing and ice skating are prohibited on all DWSP lands within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed.

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

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Ice Fishing/ Ice Skating</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

## Explanation

Ice fishing or ice-skating activities have historically been prohibited on all DWSP lands within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed. In addition to the public safety risks ice fishing and ice skating on relatively unstable water levels can pose, there are associated actions that can affect water quality, such as: parking impacts, improper disposal of human fecal waste, littering, or vandalism.

**This policy has not changed.**

# Marking or Cutting Trails/Roads

## Policy

Marking, cutting, and/or the creation of trails or roads is prohibited on DWSP lands in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed without written permission. Unauthorized structures and trails will be removed.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Marking – Trails/Roads</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ 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 any accessible routes for public access within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs 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.

Existing and potential upcoming sections of the Boroughs Trail Loop located on DWSP lands are created with water quality protection in mind and are through written agreement with the Commonwealth.

**This policy has not changed**



# Metal Detecting/ Magnet Fishing

## Policy

Metal detecting is prohibited within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System. Magnet fishing is a fairly new activity which involves dangling a magnet attached to a rope into water to locate metallic finds.

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>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Metal Detecting</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ 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.”

DWSP is regulating magnet fishing as a similar activity to metal detecting as disruption of the stream or reservoir bottom is impacted.

**This policy has been clarified to include the prohibition of magnet fishing.**

# Night Access

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## Policy

Night access is prohibited throughout the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System.

The Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)2 state: “No person is allowed within and 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....”

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Night Access</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

## Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from night access include 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. Security concerns also arise from night access.

**This policy has not been changed**

# Off Road Vehicle Riding (ORV)

## Policy

Off road vehicle riding (including dirt biking, off-road motorcycles and ATVs) is prohibited throughout the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs 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>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>ORV Riding</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

## Explanation

Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) have multiple potential water quality impacts, including physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. ORV use on unpaved surfaces can also cause substantial vegetation and soil damage. In addition, this activity causes both air and noise pollution, erosion, sedimentation, as well as petrochemicals and other chemicals left on the land which can quickly migrate to the water supply system. This policy is based on regulation and significant documentation of the erosion impacts associated with off-road vehicle and all-terrain vehicle use.

**This policy has been clarified to include all off road vehicles.**

# 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 Sudbury/Foss 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>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Organized Sports</b>	⊘ <sup>1</sup>	⊘ <sup>1</sup>	⊘ <sup>1</sup>	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

<sup>1</sup> 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.

The Town of Southborough has control of land along Acre Bridge Road through a long-term lease for the construction, maintenance, and operations of the “911 Memorial Field.” The town coordinates all organized sports at this facility.

**This policy has not changed.**



# Shore and Stream Fishing

## Policy

Fishing is allowed along the shore of Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs in designated areas according to specific restrictions (**Maps 7 and 8**). Shoreline fishing is allowed on the Sudbury Reservoir in all areas except for the area closest to the Sudbury Reservoir Dam. This prohibited area is from the Route 30 causeway around the dam to Clemmons Street in Southborough. Fishing is allowed along the shore of Foss Reservoir except for the area around the dam and gatehouse. This prohibited area is from Route 9 to the end of the dam and the gatehouse. Footpaths and established trails to the shoreline are limited. Trespassing on railroad property is strictly prohibited by federal law.

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

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Shore/Stream Fishing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>

☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Fishing allowed from the first Saturday in April to November 30 provided no ice is present. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited. With the exception of service dogs, no dogs are allowed.

<sup>1</sup> No fishing area from the Route 30 causeway, around the dam to Clemmons Street, Southborough.

<sup>2</sup> No fishing area from Route 9 to the end of the dam and gatehouse.

## Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from shore and stream fishing include physical and microbial water quality threats from introduction of aquatic invasive species, erosion, improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism. The watershed protection regulations, 313 CMR 11.09(2)(a)5, allows shore fishing at the Sudbury Reservoir Watershed System. DWSP allows shoreline fishing along the shorelines of the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs from the first Saturday in April to November 30 provided no ice is present. Fishing is prohibited in posted areas near infrastructure. These controls, along with fisherman education and Watershed Ranger patrols, limits potential water quality impacts.

For additional information, contact the Wachusett/Sudbury Watershed Rangers at (978) 365-3800

**This policy has been clarified to allow fishing at the Open Channel and Foss Reservoir.**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION  
**Shoreline Fishing**  
**Sudbury Reservoir Watershed**  
Division of Water Supply Protection - Office of Watershed Management  
Sudbury Public Access Plan - 2022

**Legend:**

- No Trespassing Area
- DCR Access Gates
- Parking Lot
- MA Town Boundaries
- DCR Access Roads
- Public Trails
- Trains
- Rivers and Streams
- Wetland
- DCR-DWSP Land

**Scale:** 0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 miles

**North Arrow:** NORTH



## Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Water Supply Protection Sudbury Reservoir Fishing Regulations

The Wachusett and Quabbin Reservoirs provide water for 51 cities and towns within the Commonwealth. The Sudbury Reservoir is the system's backup supply. The land surrounding the reservoirs is managed by the DCR Division of Water Supply Protection to protect the quality of the water, enhance ecological integrity, and ensure the future protection of these valuable natural resources from pollution, encroachment, and environmentally damaging public use.

### STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON SUDBURY WATERSHED PROPERTY

- ANY bodily contact with the water
- Disposing of human waste, trash, or litter
- Alcoholic beverages
- Bicycling
- Swimming or bathing
- Boating
- Smoking or building fires
- Metal detectors
- Drones
- Animals/pets
- Transport or disposal of invasive or other plant/fish/wildlife species

DCR permits SHORE FISHING ONLY at Sudbury Reservoir from dawn to dusk. ***The fishing season at the Sudbury Reservoir opens on the FIRST SATURDAY IN APRIL, providing no ice is present, and extends through November 30.*** Possession of a valid Massachusetts fishing license is required by individuals 15 years of age or older. DCR and its employees are not responsible for any damage to, or loss of life which may be incurred in connection with the public use of the reservoirs.

Shore fishing at the Sudbury Reservoir is permitted everywhere except that portion of the reservoir closest to the dam. Prohibited area extends from Route 30 Causeway around past the dam to Clemmons Street. Please be advised that parking in the MWRA complex is prohibited.

### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS (911)**

**State Police – Millbury: (508) 929-3232**

**DCR Watershed Rangers: (978) 365-3800**

**MEMA State Control (24hr Dispatch): 508-820-2000**

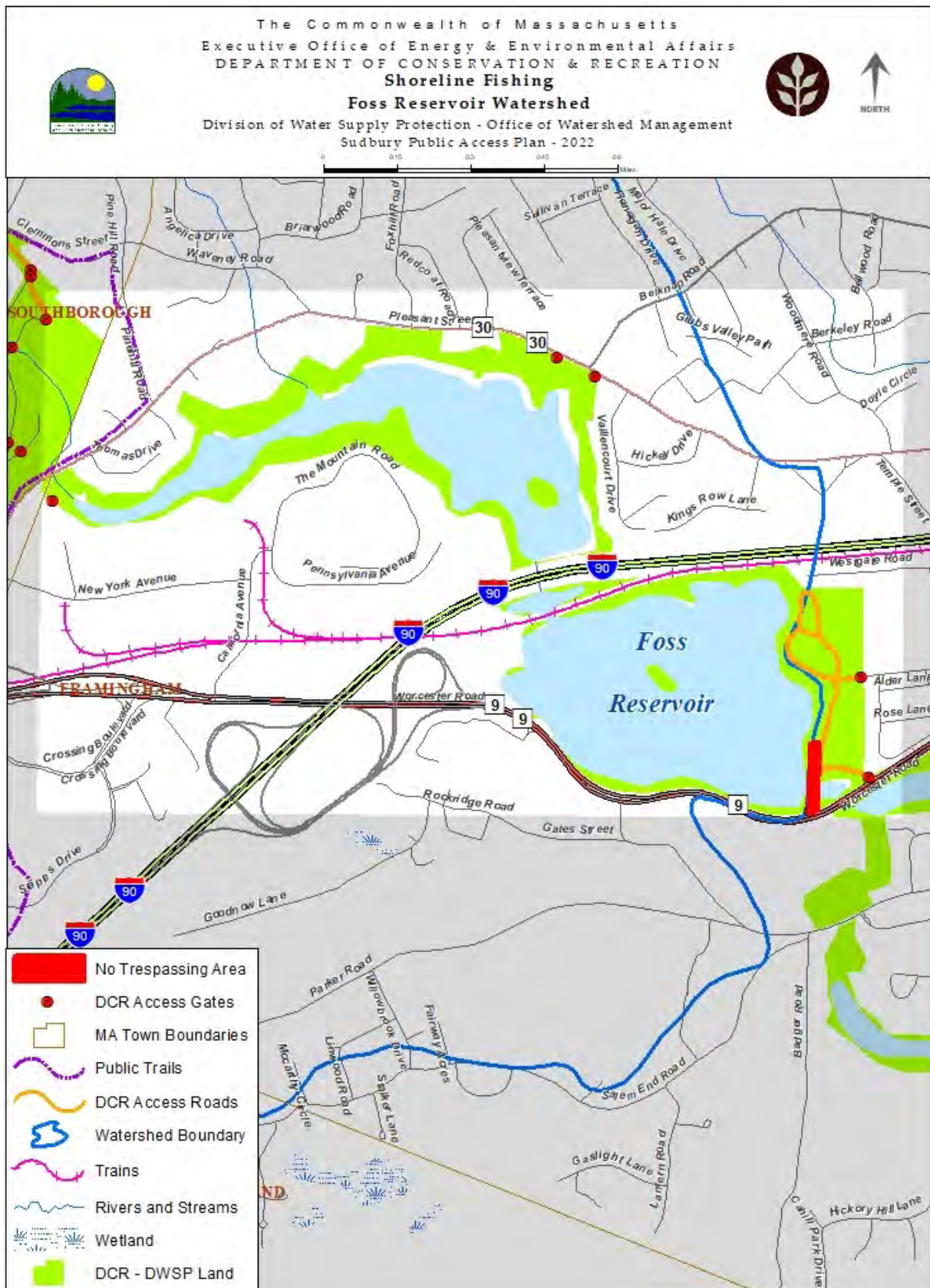
CAUTION: These watershed lands are managed for forest and wildlife improvements. Certain areas may occasionally be posted when forestry personnel and equipment are operating in the forest. Please be careful to avoid these areas. Hunting is also allowed during the fall hunting season; please be aware of dates when archery hunters are in the woods during October and November as well as the start of shotgun season that can begin by the end of November ([www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt)).

For more information and additional resources please visit:

[www.mass.gov/info-details/wachusett-reservoir-and-sudbury-reservoir-fishing-guide](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/wachusett-reservoir-and-sudbury-reservoir-fishing-guide).



### Map 9. Foss Reservoir Fishing Map





## Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Water Supply Protection Foss Reservoir Fishing Regulations

The Wachusett and Quabbin Reservoirs provide water for 51 cities and towns within the Commonwealth. The Sudbury Reservoir is the system's backup supply. The land surrounding the reservoirs is managed by the DCR Division of Water Supply Protection to protect the quality of the water, enhance ecological integrity, and ensure the future protection of these valuable natural resources from pollution, encroachment, and environmentally damaging public use.

### STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON FOSS WATERSHED PROPERTY

- ANY bodily contact with the water
- Disposing of human waste, trash, or litter
- Alcoholic beverages
- Bicycling
- Swimming or bathing
- Boating
- Smoking or building fires
- Metal detectors
- Drones
- Animals/pets
- Transport or disposal of invasive or other plant/fish/wildlife species

DCR permits SHORE FISHING ONLY at Foss Reservoir from dawn to dusk. ***The fishing season at the Foss Reservoir opens on the FIRST SATURDAY IN APRIL, providing no ice is present, and extends through November 30.*** Possession of a valid Massachusetts fishing license is required by individuals 15 years of age or older. DCR and its employees are not responsible for any damage to, or loss of life which may be incurred in connection with the public use of the reservoirs.

Shore fishing at the Foss Reservoir is permitted everywhere except areas closest to the dam and gatehouse. Trespassing on railroad tracks is strictly forbidden under Federal Law.

### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS (911)**

**State Police – Framingham: (508) 820-2250**

**DCR Watershed Rangers: (978) 365-3800**

**MEMA State Control (24hr Dispatch): 508-820-2000**

CAUTION: These watershed lands are managed for forest and wildlife improvements. Certain areas may occasionally be posted when forestry personnel and equipment are operating in the forest. Please be careful to avoid these areas. Hunting is also allowed during the fall hunting season; please be aware of dates when archery hunters are in the woods during October and November as well as the start of shotgun season that can begin by the end of November ([www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt)).

For more information and additional resources please visit:

[www.mass.gov/info-details/wachusett-reservoir-and-sudbury-reservoir-fishing-guide](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/wachusett-reservoir-and-sudbury-reservoir-fishing-guide).



# Sledding

## Policy

Sledding or any other kind of sliding activity is prohibited on Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed lands. 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

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Sledding</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

## Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from sledding include 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.

The use of sleds or other non-motorized snow toys is prohibited because sliding may impact the integrity of structures and damage vegetation with improper snow cover. 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.**

# Snowmobiling

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## Policy

Snowmobiling is prohibited on all Division of Water Supply Protection lands within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System.

Snowmobile use is prohibited 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>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Snowmobiling</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

## 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. Given the limited DWSP ownership in the Sudbury watersheds, control of potentially damaging uses on that land is critical.

**This policy has not been changed.**

# Swimming

## Policy

Swimming in any surface water of the Sudbury Reservoir Watershed System is prohibited by the Watershed Protection Regulations (313 CMR 11.00). 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.”

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Swimming</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

## Explanation

Direct water contact activities, such as swimming and wading, pose an established threat to the water supply and to public safety. Primary contact recreation, such as swimming, has been identified as direct cause of water contamination and waterborne disease outbreaks. Bathers are thus a source of water contamination. These activities are prohibited by regulation. In addition, limited DCR land ownership, resource limitations, and proper public safety considerations make water contact activities inappropriate for these areas.

The railroad trestle over the Foss Reservoir is an ongoing source of violations each summer. It is illegal, and extremely dangerous, to both be on these active railroad tracks as well as diving into the reservoir from the trestle. Nevertheless, each year there are trespassers who find their way to this location to swim. DWSP will continue its efforts to halt access to this site; Watershed Rangers will continue to document violations.

**This policy has not changed.**

# Target Shooting

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## Policy

Target shooting is prohibited in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Target Shooting</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ 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.**

# Trapping

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## Policy

Trapping is allowed on DWSP lands in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed with a free five year DWSP permit (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt>), provided the activity is consistent with MassWildlife seasons and regulations.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Trapping</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise to 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. Except for service dogs, no dogs are allowed.

## Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from trapping include 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.

Please contact the DWSP Natural Resources Section for more information about Sudbury Reservoir hunting/trapping and access permits at (774) 261-1816 or go to [www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/sudbury-reservoir-watershed-deer-hunt).

**This policy has been changed to allow trapping**



# Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs, “Drones”)/ Underwater Drones (ROVs)

## 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 DWSP. Any permit that may be granted would be specific to a designated location/time, for designated purposes, with a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) registered UAV and operated under FAA rules. Underwater Drones (Remotely Operated Vehicles or ROVs) are submersible, waterproof drones that enable users to explore marine environments remotely. ROVs are able to navigate through underwater currents due to propellers. They are generally equipped with cameras, obstacle avoidance sensors, and powerful lighting to record good quality footage even in dark underwater environments. Underwater drones are prohibited unless permission has been given in writing by DWSP.

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>
<b>Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVS)/ Underwater Drones (ROVs)</b>	⊘ <sup>1</sup>	⊘ <sup>1</sup>	⊘ <sup>1</sup>	⊘ <sup>1</sup>

⊘ Prohibited

<sup>1</sup> Takeoff or landing from DWSP land prohibited except by written permission from DWSP. ROV use prohibited except by written permission from DWSP.

## Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from UAV and ROV use include 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. UAVs and ROVs also risk unwanted wildlife harassment.

Recent technological advances have made civilian use of UAVs and ROVs an increasingly popular activity. The unregulated use of UAVs and ROVs 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 .**

# Wading

## Policy

Wading is prohibited in Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed. 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

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Wading</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

⊘ Prohibited

## Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from wading include 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. Direct body-contact with drinking water is a serious concern due to the potential to introduce pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. In addition, walking in and out of the water tramples vegetation and can introduce Aquatic Invasive Species. It also erodes soil along the shoreline. There are no designated boat launch areas at either Sudbury or Foss Reservoirs.

**This policy has not changed.**

# Walking and Snowshoeing

## Policy

Walking and snowshoeing access is allowed with restrictions within Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed lands. Access is prohibited in restricted areas including, but not limited to, posted no trespassing areas near the Sudbury Reservoir Dam and Foss Reservoir infrastructure. Trespassing on frozen surfaces of the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs, associated ponds and on islands is strictly prohibited.

Walkers and snowshoers are warned that properties are open for hunting and are advised to take adequate precautions to avoid conflicts with hunting.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Walking/ Snowshoeing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>

☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise to 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. Except for service dogs, no dogs are allowed.

<sup>1</sup> Walking or snowshoeing access is allowed within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System, except in restricted areas (e.g., around the Sudbury Reservoir dam, Foss Reservoir infrastructure, frozen surfaces and on reservoir islands).

## Explanation

Potential water quality impacts from walking or snowshoeing include 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. Walking and snowshoeing access is allowed on DWSP lands within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed except for restricted areas such as the no trespassing areas around the Sudbury Reservoir Dam and Foss Reservoir infrastructure. Access on the frozen reservoir and reservoir islands is strictly prohibited.

The Boroughs Trail Loop, created by the Sudbury Valley Trustees and representatives from the towns of Marlborough, Southborough, Westborough and Northborough ([www.svtweb.org/properties/page/boroughs-loop-trail](http://www.svtweb.org/properties/page/boroughs-loop-trail)) is a 33-mile regional trail that was opened in 2018 to connect the existing trail networks of the four towns. To date, the completed portion of the trail encompasses 24 miles, of which over ten miles are located on DWSP lands through agreements with DWSP and MWRA. ***Bicycles and dogs are not allowed on the DWSP portions of the Boroughs Trail Loop.***

Please contact the Wachusett/Sudbury Watershed Rangers office at (978) 365-3800 for advice about universally accessible trails.

**This policy has not been changed.**

# Wildlife/Bird Watching

## Policy

Wildlife/bird watching access is allowed in all areas where public access is not prohibited. Prohibited areas include the lands around the Sudbury Dam, Foss Reservoir infrastructure, on frozen surfaces, and on the islands.

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

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Wildlife/Bird Watching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ General Restrictions: General public access within the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise to 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. With the exception of service dogs, no dogs are allowed.

## Explanation

Wildlife and/or bird watching is a favorite activity throughout the DWSP watershed system. Potential impacts to water quality are the same as walking activities. Potential water quality impacts include physical and microbial water quality threats from erosion and improperly managed human fecal waste sanitation, and behavior such as illegal body/water contact, littering or vandalism.

Access on the frozen reservoir is strictly prohibited for safety and sanitation reasons.

**This policy has not changed.**

# Other

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## Policy

Not applicable.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Crane Swamp</i>	<i>Open Channel</i>	<i>Sudbury Reservoir</i>	<i>Foss Reservoir</i>
<b>Other</b>	<b>If an activity is not listed, please contact and discuss with the Wachusett/Sudbury Watershed Rangers (978) 365-3800 before proceeding.</b>			

## Explanation

If an activity is not listed by DWSP, including, but not limited to, pursuits such as kites with cameras, or any other air, ground, or water activity, please contact and discuss with the Wachusett/Sudbury Watershed Rangers at (978) 365-3800 before proceeding.



## V. Plan Implementation 2022-2031

DWSP staff will communicate, implement, monitor, and enforce its updated policies regarding public access on DWSP land in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed beginning after plan adoption in 2022. 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 *2022 Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System Public Access Management Plan Update* provides the framework for the following improvements to the watershed protection program conducted in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System:

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

**Table 4** lists a range of activities that DWSP will follow to implement this plan as staff and resources allow. 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 as 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 4. Implementation Plan**

<b>Work Unit</b>	<b>Activities</b>
All Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement plan policies.</li> <li>• Monitor threats, report violations, take corrective action.</li> <li>• Document findings in annual reports.</li> <li>• Conduct public education and outreach for watershed protection.</li> <li>• Evaluate public access uses and intensity over time and throughout DWSP lands.</li> <li>• Continue to gather public input.</li> <li>• Internally evaluate policies on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
Environmental Quality Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor water quality threats due to access type, frequency, location, etc.</li> <li>• Investigate and report anomalies found in water quality monitoring data.</li> <li>• Report violations found in the field to appropriate personnel.</li> <li>• Take corrective actions.</li> <li>• Document findings in annual reports and database.</li> <li>• Provide water quality outreach by means of printed materials.</li> </ul>
Watershed Rangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct regularly scheduled patrols.</li> <li>• Document findings in ranger logs and annual reports.</li> <li>• Coordinate with state police and local law enforcement agencies.</li> <li>• Continue to document violations observed at the Foss railroad trestle and enforce trespassing violations along aqueducts, Foss dam and gatehouse.</li> </ul>
Foresters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor, investigate, or report illegal actions found in the field.</li> <li>• Continue to mark DWSP boundary lines in the entire watershed with priorities of Sudbury Reservoir to Deerfoot Road and Crane Swamp.</li> </ul>
Watershed Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain roads, bridges, culverts, and dams.</li> <li>• Install and maintain access controls (e.g., gates and bar-ways).</li> <li>• Install and maintain erosion controls.</li> </ul>
Interpretive Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct environmental programs in watershed communities.</li> <li>• Maintain information kiosks as necessary.</li> <li>• Provide updated fishing map and hunting map on DWSP website.</li> <li>• Add more information on Sudbury Watershed to DWSP website.</li> </ul>
<b>Programs</b>	
Aquatic Invasive Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide educational material and post signage.</li> </ul>
DWSP Gate and Access Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor DWSP gates and add additional access barriers as needed.</li> <li>• Implement gate numbering system via physical signage and painting.</li> <li>• Research barriers or alternate solution to illegal swimming from Foss Reservoir railroad trestle.</li> </ul>
Signage Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Order signs for Deerfoot Road to Route 85 along the Boroughs Loop Trail reflecting prohibited activity and correct emergency phone numbers.</li> <li>• Place new signage at Foss Reservoir with prohibited activity and emergency phone numbers.</li> <li>• Correct signage at Crane Swamp where MWRA Aqueduct meets DWSP managed property.</li> <li>• Add mercury fish advisory information or link at key fishing areas.</li> <li>• Add “No Drones” signage.</li> <li>• Place “Do Not Block Gate” sign at pipe gate on Old Worceser Road.</li> </ul>
Information Kiosks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate potential areas for installation of kiosk structures.</li> <li>• Maintain up-to-date signage and information within information kiosks if installed.</li> <li>• Place bulletin boards at Foss Reservoir and on Parmenter Road</li> </ul>

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 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 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.

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.

Dog walking, wading/swimming, and illegal boating continue to be top violations the Watershed Rangers encounter on these lands.

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):			
Comments:			
Ranger/Trooper/Officer:		Badge:	
I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE FOREGOING CITATION			
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, 291 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*

## 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, three sections work on different fronts of public education, interpretative services and public outreach. The Watershed Rangers speak informally with users while patrolling the property, provide in school programs and offer public programs on DWSP property. The Interpretive Services staff conducts programs for students within watershed communities and offer a regular series of related programs.

## C. Structural Access Controls

Structural access controls include locked metal 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. An inventory of the gate system and DWSP access roads was conducted by Watershed Ranger staff and improvements will be conducted as needed, as resources allow, and on a priority basis. Improvements include physical painting and physical signage. The gate locking system will continue to be monitored by staff. DWSP staff coordinates security with MWRA. Limiting access to the Foss Reservoir railroad trestle will continue to be a priority to discourage illegal swimming.

## D. Signage

DWSP replaces and updates signage as needed. Signage consists of gate signage, tree signage, and kiosk signage. Current signage will be reviewed. New signage will be posted from Deerfoot Road to Route 85 along the Boroughs Loop Trail reflecting DWSP's prohibited activities and correct emergency contact information. New signage will be placed at Foss Reservoir lands reflecting prohibited activity and emergency contact information. No trespassing signs will be removed except for the area immediately

surrounding the dam and gatehouse. Signage will be corrected at Crane Swamp where the MWRA Aqueduct meets DWSP managed property.

### ***E. Mapping***

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

## **VI. Conclusion**

DWSP's top priority for the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System is to maintain a safe and adequate supply of water to be utilized by the MWRA in the event of an emergency where a backup source of drinking water is required. 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 *2022 Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System Public Access Plan Update* allows for continued public access and recreation on substantial acreage where it does not pose a threat to the water supply for 3 million people.

## VII. Bibliography

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## VIII. Appendices

# ***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.

(e) Special Regulations for Sudbury Reservoir. 1. Persons in compliance with Commonwealth Fish and Game Laws and Regulations will be allowed to fish from the shore of the Sudbury Reservoir in areas designated by the Commissioner. 2. Boating is prohibited on Sudbury Reservoir, Foss Reservoir, Stearns Reservoir, and Brackett Reservoir except in areas designated by the Commissioner. 3. 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.



## ***Special Rules and Requirements for Hunting Deer on Sudbury Reservoir Watershed Lands***

- Any violation of [313 CMR 11.09](#) will be deemed sufficient cause for revocation of hunting permit for a period of time not less than one year from the time of violation.
- All permittees MUST have a copy of their permit on them at all times.
- Access on DWSP property is one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. This will be strictly enforced.
- If you shoot a deer and it enters a restricted area or the reservoir itself call a Wachusett/Sudbury Watershed Ranger at 978-365-3800 or 508-792-7806 (M-F business hours) or MEMA State Control (24hr dispatch) 508-820-2000.
- Parking is allowed in designated areas only. Do not block gates. Subject to fine or tow.
- No scouting will be permitted in the *No Trespassing Area* until you receive your permit.
- Access in the *No Trespassing Area* is for Deer Hunting purposes only.
- Use of tree stands is permitted. Allowed 14 days prior to the Deer Hunting season and must be removed 30 days after the hunting season. All tree stands must be visibly labeled with Permit Number.

## **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.

# **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](http://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.*

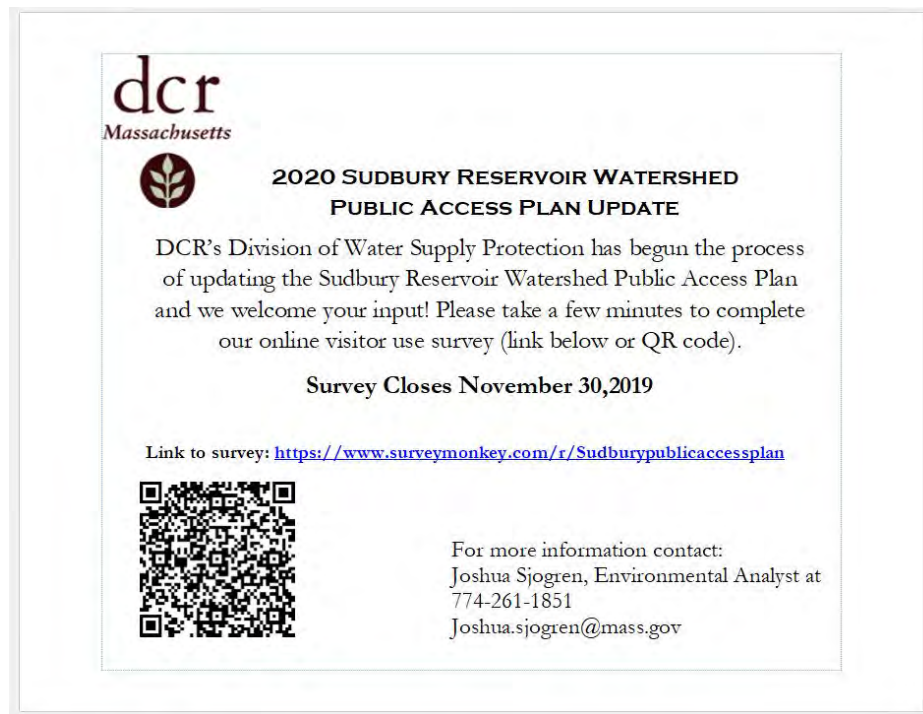
*Source: American Water Works Association Policy Statement on Recreational Use of Domestic Water Supply Reservoirs. American Water Works Association, June 2012. Web ([www.awwa.org/about-us/policy-statements/policy-statement/articleid/212/recreational-use-of-domestic-water-supply-reservoirs.aspx](http://www.awwa.org/about-us/policy-statements/policy-statement/art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



## **Appendix C – Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed System Public Access Survey Results**

In conjunction with the 2020 update of the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs 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 postcard:

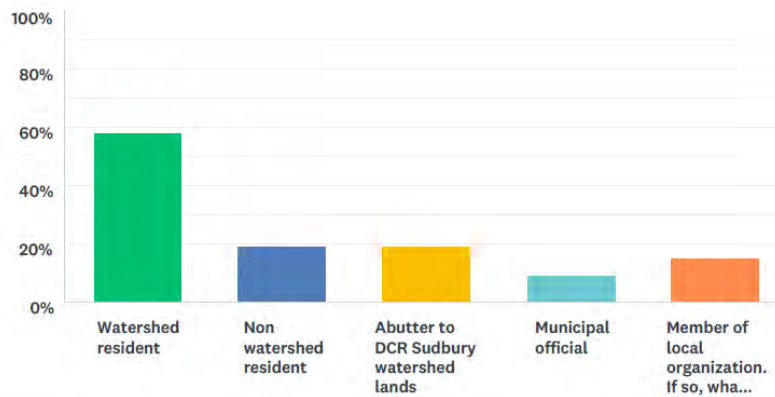


The card, in hard copy form, was distributed through all Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed town/city halls and libraries, DCR DWSP Headquarters in West Boylston, and MassWildlife in Westborough. Watershed Rangers also distributed the card to visitors directly. A letter announcing the survey (with the survey link) was direct mailed to all watershed town managers/ mayors or administrators, the Sudbury Valley Trustees and the Southborough Land Foundation. An e-mail providing the link was sent to all watershed town Conservation Commissions, Recreation Departments, Sudbury Valley Trustees, Framingham Open Space Committee, and Westborough Community Land Trust. The survey was also publicized on the DCR website and in local newspapers.

The survey was initially open from October 25, 2020 to November 30, 2019 but was extended until December 30,2019. A total of 80 responses were received.

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

**1) Please tell us what describes your affiliation with DCR Sudbury Watershed lands (check all that apply).**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Watershed resident	58.23%	46
Non watershed resident	18.99%	15
Abutter to DCR Sudbury watershed lands	18.99%	15
Municipal official	8.86%	7
Member of local organization. If so, what is the name of the organization?	15.19%	12

Local organizations listed included: AMC, Westborough Community Land Trust, Sudbury Valley Trustees, Northborough Trails, NEMBA, OARS, Southborough Trails, and Trailblazers of Southborough Sr. Center.

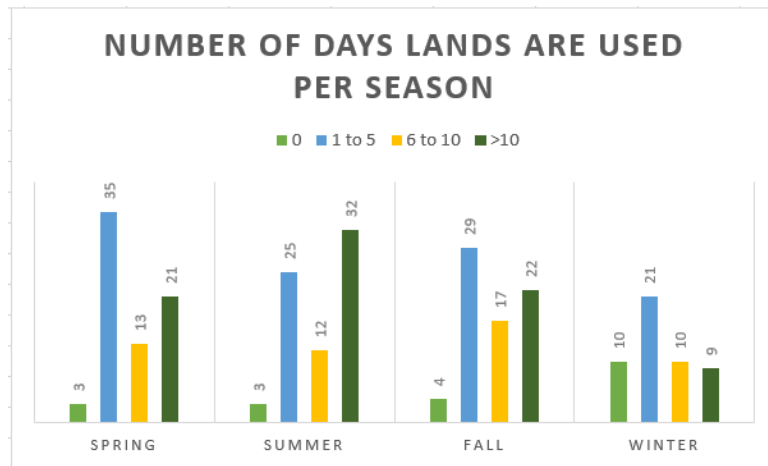
**2) What age group do you belong to?**

Under 18.....	3.8%
18-24.....	2.53%
35-44.....	10.13%
45-54.....	21.52%
<b>55-64.....</b>	<b>25.32%</b>
65+.....	22.78%

**3) Please tell us the zip code that you live in.**

There were 78 responses to this question, with over half from the towns of Southborough (32 responses) and Framingham (19 responses).

4) On average, how many days per season do you utilize DCR Sudbury Watershed lands?



5) When do you mostly use DCR Sudbury Watershed lands?

	<i>Day</i>	<i>Evening</i>	<i>Both</i>
<i>Weekday</i>	<b>60%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>17%</b>
<i>Weekend</i>	<b>70%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>30%</b>

6) What passive recreation activities do you use DCR Sudbury Watershed lands for?  
(check all that apply)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Response Percentage</i>	<i>Number of Responses</i>
Fishing	26%	20
Hiking/walking	96%	75
Cross country skiing/snowshoeing	41%	32
Picnicking/relaxing	14%	11
Geocaching/letterboxing	6%	5
Photography/nature study/bird watching	41%	32
Other (please specify)	15%	12

Other activities included trail running and hunting and listed several other activities which are prohibited on DWSP lands.

7) Of the above (Q6), what is the **PRIMARY** type of passive recreation you use DCR Sudbury Watershed lands for?

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Number of Responses</i>
Fishing	9
Hiking, walking, exercise	59
Hunting	1
Mountain Biking (prohibited activity)	1

8) *While on DCR Sudbury Watershed lands, would you know who to contact in case of an emergency or water/environmental issue?*

Yes..... 36%  
 No..... 51%

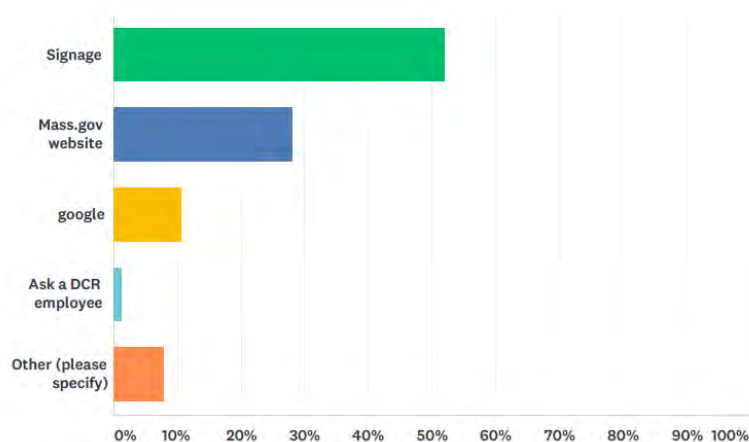
*Respondents were asked to name a contact if they answered Yes. Because the previous percentage does not equal 100%, it is assumed the first portion of this question was skipped.*

Contacts listed were: 911, Mass Environmental Police, DCR/DWSP (several contacts), and State Police

9) *While on DCR Sudbury Watershed lands, is it clear what is allowed and what is prohibited?*

Yes..... 73%  
 No..... 27%

10) *When looking for information on DCR Sudbury Watershed rules, regulations or general information, where do you find the answers?*



Other answers included: a combination of the above, signage and mass.gov page, both signage and web search and posting.

11) *Did you find the information that you were looking for (in relation to Q10)?*

Yes.....85%  
 No.....15%

12) *Have you ever used the DCR website to find out information about the Sudbury Watershed?*

Yes.....59%  
 No .....41%

13) *Did you find what you were looking for (in relation to Q12)?*

Yes.....74%  
 No.....26%

**14) How can the website be improved? (Suggestions not related to the website have been omitted).**

- More information about what rules there are for dogs (many do not follow any rules at all)
- Replace lost links
- More on history. What was here before the excavation?
- Site map or chapter quick links off all the links, when you use the search box only search DCR stuff not all Mass.gov webpages
- Map does not show trails or even parking areas. Access streets are not named.
- Easier access to interactive map apps
- Make it easier to find contact information for rangers or EPO's.
- Add contact information. DCR is so big it is impossible to tell who is responsible for what.
- The maps are fuzzy and I want to hunt, so I need more detailed maps to effectively plan my trips into the woods as safe as I can. Also, the watershed info is wicked old, how about an update?
- Horrible maps for hiking
- Continue to show trail maps for hiking and accessible parking areas.
- Make it more noticeable and popular.
- Nothing
- Regulations should be in simple language and updated into one file.
- Better explanation of allowed activities
- Better trails map

**15) Are you aware that DCR Rangers patrol DCR Sudbury Watershed lands?**

Yes.....75%  
No .....25%

**16) If yes (Q15), have you had the opportunity to talk with a ranger?**

Yes.....37%  
No.....63%

**17) Are you aware that DCR Sudbury Watershed staff offer free educational programs?**

Yes.....27%  
No.....73%

**18) If yes (Q17), have you attended a program?**

Yes.....12%  
No .....88%

**19) Do you fish at Sudbury Reservoir?**

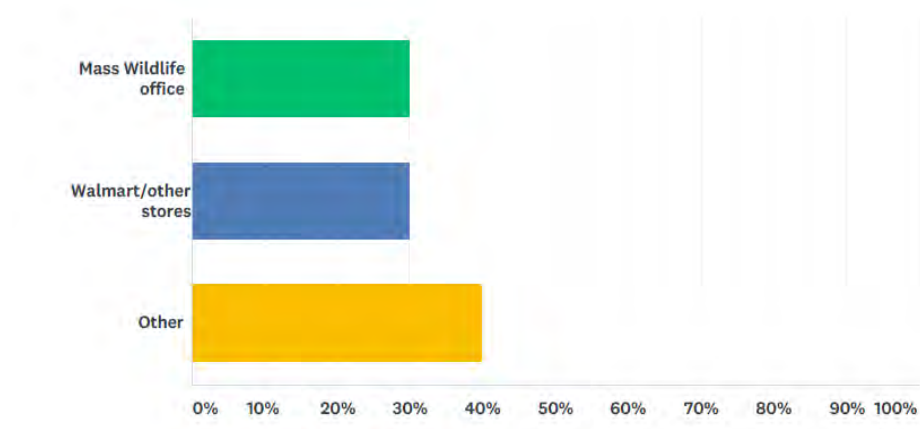
Yes.....26%  
No .....74%

**20) If yes (Q19), do you belong to a sportsmen's association?**

Yes.....9%  
No.....91%



21) How do you usually purchase your fishing license?



22) As a fisherman, are you aware of the types and impacts of Aquatic Invasive Species?

Yes.....83%  
No.....17%

23) Have you observed a violation of DCR Sudbury Watershed rules and regulations while on our property?

Yes.....48%  
No.....52%

24) While on DCR Sudbury Watershed lands, how often have you encountered the following: Part 1

<i>Prohibited Activity</i>	<i>Often*</i>	<i>Occasionally*</i>	<i>Rarely*</i>	<i>Never*</i>
Dog walking	25	25	9	7
Swimming or wading	0	10	18	34
Feeding ducks or geese	2	5	8	40
Biking	4	19	14	17
Snowmobiling/ATVs	11	1	7	40

\* Number of responses

25) While on DCR Sudbury Watershed lands, how often have you encountered the following: Part 2

<i>Prohibited Activity</i>	<i>Often*</i>	<i>Occasionally*</i>	<i>Rarely*</i>	<i>Never*</i>
Visitor consuming drugs/alcohol	1	3	13	43
Boating	1	6	9	43
Campfires	1	3	8	41
Camping	0	2	3	47
Drones	0	2	6	44

\* Number of responses



**26) What area of the DCR Sudbury Watershed do you frequent most? (open ended question)**

- Sudbury Reservoir - 7 responses
- Foss Reservoir - 11 responses
- Crane Swamp - 3 responses
- Marlboro/Southborough Parmenter Road - 5 responses

Other responses include: All areas in Southborough, Deerfoot Road, Old Worcester Road, Waterside Trails, Framingham Road, Northeast, Walnut Hill/Southborough Reservoir Trail/Bay Circuit Trail, area b, Southborough Pumping Station Road to Framingham Dam, White Bagley Road, Southborough between Route 495 and the center of town, Southborough, 9-11 field access, Far Eastern and Western portions, Reservoir Trail, Southborough Framingham Road to White Bagley Road.

Several responses listed areas not under the care and control of DCR DWSP: Cedar Swamp (4), Callahan State Park (2), and Ashland/Hopkinton State Park (1).

**27) Once through DCR Sudbury gates, is our trail system easy to follow?**

Yes.....85%

No.....15%

**28) Please tell us about one aspect of the DCR Sudbury Watershed that you really like. (open ended question). All responses have been provided in their entirety.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The trails are well maintained and close to the water</li><li>• Open space to enjoy nature</li><li>• I like being out in nature away from the business of life</li><li>• Foss Reservoir is a beautiful area right by our neighborhood. We used to enjoy walking in the woods, looking at the birds and fishing. We were very conscientious about following the rules and even trash pick up one day. Although the area was technically closed, until recently it was not enforced. However, the rangers have told us that we are no longer allowed to enter. Now we drive by and see a beautiful maintained park with nobody there. If we want to go to a park, we have to drive which adds to congestion and pollution. Our older kids used to go down to the reservoir on their own, but now they can't do that, which means they are cooped up inside and doing less productive things like watching TV.</li></ul> | <p>This area adds immensely to our neighborhood, so we would like to work with the DCR to resolve the access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beautiful scenery</li><li>• It is peaceful</li><li>• It is beautiful and close to home</li><li>• Walking the trail to get away from my neighborhood and being in the woods</li><li>• Peaceful place</li><li>• Deer hunting</li><li>• Peacefulness</li><li>• Undeveloped</li><li>• Trails are easy to navigate and convenient to access</li><li>• I like the fact that for 40 years we have abutted the Foss Reservoir with no problem walking or riding our bikes until a few years ago when all seemed to stop</li><li>• Proximity to home</li><li>• Tiny piece of nature amidst urban congestion</li><li>• Preservation of large tracts of land</li></ul> |
|---|--|

- The open space and trails
- Well maintained. Safety
- The trail markings are subtle it still seems like nature not plastered with signs. Most of the trails are well maintained. The section across the street from my house could be better I'm not sure many people walk it. It's off XXXX/XXXX.
- Wildlife
- Access
- Conservation
- Trails
- Open trail
- I like walking, fishing, and hunting
- Trails
- The views along the trail over the water are spectacular
- The trails are wide and well maintained and the scenery is beautiful. Also it's very peaceful
- It's beautiful
- It's a little slice of heaven to wander around on right here in suburbia
- Beautiful natural land and open trails
- Looking at it
- Clean area. Not too crowded
- Very natural, quiet
- Natural beauty
- Open land and beautiful waterfront
- It's well preserved
- The water
- N/A
- Lay out of trails
- Shore fishing access
- Being in nature
- Trails
- Open space
- The view
- The trail systems are commonly used and well defined
- Fishing, trails
- Extensive trails
- Access to the land. The amazing views of the reservoir and wildlife

**29) Please tell us about one aspect of the DCR Sudbury Watershed that you would change if given the chance. (open ended question). All responses have been provided in their entirety and as submitted.**

- reservoir trail access
- More easily accessible parks to be open such as Foss Reservoir
- Access to Foss reservoir---please!
- I would want to be able to go there now since they closed it off.
- Open Foss Reservoir for public use.
- Allow access at reservoir #3
- Please make Foss Reservoir publicly accessible!
- the opportunity to boat (kayak, canoe, paddle board)
- Public access to Foss Reservoir
- I am an abutting resident. I have lived here over 30 years and love this small walkable area around the reservoir. I understand that you have closed this area and are fining people that are just walking. While unfortunately there will always be people who abuse the environment, but in the end, I feel it is a win for the abusers to close the area to those of us who have been nothing but respectful and responsible. Perhaps more cameras would help identify wrongdoing, instead of the closure and fines?
- I do not understand the logging efforts in some areas by my home, more of mess is made when I see it done on DCR land.
- abutters attitudes
- I think dog walking should be allowed for members of the neighborhood around the reservoir.

- allow people to enjoy the woods and small trails and to allow fishing once more.
- Allow access to Foss Reservoir
- Allow canoeing and kayaking. No powerboats.
- Please cease enforcing restricted access. Remove monitoring cameras. Meet with interested citizens to discuss ways of enabling access while maintaining conservation of the area
- Better trail signage
- Strong dog ban signage.
- people using poop bags for their dogs and leaving them or tying them up to trees and branches.
- Allowance of non-powered boats. Kayaks/canoes
- Trash
- Allow boats
- More trails
- Area by water treatment plant has been done but not reopened officially.
- Stop people from dumping furniture and trash
- mosquitoes - but nothing to do there really
- The parking lot on Parmenter Rd. is very dangerous to get in and out of - perhaps move this location to one that is more safe.
- Allow dogs on leash and non-motorized boats - kayaks, canoes.
- Enforce on off leash dogs - they are a menace.
- I would restrict use during hunting seasons to only those who have a hunting license. Orange shmoreange, keep the general public out. They can use it the other nine months of the year
- Open trail to public use.
- In Summer, and nice days in Spring and Fall, there is one spit of land behind my

house that people tend to use as if it were a public campground and beach, with noise, I assume alcohol use, and campfires. Better patrolling.

- open more recreational access to non motorized boats, camping
- Would be fantastic to be able to bike on the path near Fayville.
- Non-motorized canoe and kayak access
- Find a way to reduce the deer ticks. You can't step in this area without being covered with ticks and potentially getting lyme tick disease. Many people in our neighborhood have had Lyme tick disease. Several required hospitalization for intensive antibiotic treatment. Many, many dead trees are ready to fall in the area and could kill people using this land. Lead shot from the former shooting range needs to be cleaned up. Fire lane access will be a high priority. We have had a one dangerous fire already that was higher than the tallest trees. Drainage has deteriorated over the years and the water levels have increased. The drainage problem needs to be addressed.
- Please allow kayaking.
- More hunting
- Boating and canoeing should be allowed- there is no harm from it
- Allow small boats such as canoes and kayaks.
- Allow non-motorized boating such as Kayaking and Canoeing via permits for residents of Southborough on the reservoir areas, as this would be a highly welcome change.
- I would really like canoes to be allowed on the DCR Sudbury watershed. Allowing canoes will better connect the community with nature, while maintaining the health of the



surrounding area since motors would still be prohibited.

- Access of small, non-motorized boats on limited areas of the reservoir.
- Additional cleanup
- Clearly designated areas for parking
- Allow more kayaking and hiking
- Please let us walk our dogs! I don't feel safe walking by myself and I feel more secure with the dog. All the dog people agree that we always pick up any waste!
- canoe access; dog access
- The Ashland State Park has a problem with off leash dog walking. In the summer, it is more strictly enforced, but

afterwards it seems to be a free for all. There have been issues with dogs running up to people that are not fans of poorly trained canines.

- Allow non-motorized boating (canoes, etc)
- Open more to walking
- Better access in Southborough.
- Biking. Especially on land with existing access roads. Off Clemmons/Nichols and the new proposed trail off Rt.30/Central and Rt.30/Stony Brook. Not talking hard core mountain biking but families who want a safe place off the road to enjoy biking with their kids.

***30) Is there anything else that you would like to tell us? (open ended question). All responses have been provided in their entirety and as submitted.***

- Yes. Our neighborhood has requested legal access to walk the trails in Foss Reservoir. As it is not used for drinking water (I checked with former legal counsel to the Speaker), it seems unreasonable to deny neighbors the opportunity to use the trails responsibly.
- I really want to be able to go back to Foss Reservoir.
- We have had a very difficult time getting information about the closure of Foss Reservoir. We don't understand why this area is closed when all other areas in the system have at least some public access. We have tried contacting DCR but got no response. We have contacted our elected officials, and they couldn't provide us with any information either, but said they would be willing to help us work towards opening the area. We would like to have more information about this area and the planning going on relative to use.
- We would like to be able to use Foss as a neighborhood recreation site, for simply

walking around, bird watching or taking kids sledding.

- I don't understand why Foss Reservoir (Area C) does not allow hiking or activities allowed in the other areas.
- Congrats /Good stuff to open lands for hunting.
- No
- Certainly would like to have the area patrolled a bit more so that people (especially young people do not abuse the area - I think that fishing would be something that people would like to enjoy again.
- I live near Foss Reservoir and would like public walking access through the trails.
- Remove from the lake the car wreck located near the Worcester Road dam. Remove signs threatening criminal prosecution for access. Do not threaten people with jail.
- Ban dogs. Most suburban dog owners interpret dog laws as until they're caught their predominantly poorly-behaved dogs will be threatening with no real disciplining.

- Thanks for maintaining it and making some parts accessible
- thank you
- It is a beautiful area, thanks for opening it up to allow pedestrian access- it is a wonderful place to get outside and walk.
- Thank you.
- I have seen a wolf
- No
- Looking forward to the opening of the BLT trails in Southboro!
- Nope doing a good job
- Boating and canoeing should be allowed
- Non-motorized boating should be allowed via permits for town residents for areas outside of Hopkinton State Park.
- I have sent a proposal to the email of DCR, regarding non-motorized boating access on the Sudbury Reservoir. Please consider this proposal.
- I understand the concern regarding dogs close to the water; however, it is a great area for responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs
- I think you should reconsider biking on designated trails.
- I'm unaware of how to access watershed lands or what is available to residents (trails?). I don't know how to access the resources/trails, where to park, what's available (are there trails, map etc?). As a newer resident I'd find it helpful if there was better education about what's available so that we can use this resource. If love to walk/hike here in town.
- The one rule I break is walking my dog on the trail. Dog access would be great. There are no dog parks in Southborough and there are a large amount of dog owners. Having more places to walk them would be helpful.
- Maps should have declination on them. Some people (though few) do this to keep up with their skill sets.
- I think people would pay for a license to access the water with a canoe. That would be great!
- thank you for conducting this survey and asking for feedback. Thank you for allowing public access to these lands. And thank you for all the services you provide
- I have never seen a "Ranger" Patrol the Reservoir behind my house which I have lived in for 41 years. I used to have problems the first few years living where I am, where people had no problem parking in front of my house and "cutting" through my yard to get the Reservoir to fish or boat. When noticed I would confront them and turn them away, usually with a comment from them like "hey, you don't own the water" to which I replied, "that's correct, but I do own the land you are crossing". I think the problem will come back with additional activity (e.g. swimming, any sort of water craft, etc.). Also why suggest fishing, I understand that the Sudbury Reservoir is contaminated with mercury, etc.

Responses to Questions 29 and 30 have several recurring topics. DCR DWSP is responding to those that have not been addressed elsewhere in this report. Other responses such as mapping improvements, more clean ups, and parking suggestions will be taken into account during the plan implementation period.

➤ **Foss Reservoir Access**

DWSP RESPONSE:

*Lands around Foss Reservoir have historically been posted No Trespassing due to the limited access points and parking available for the general public. With this iteration of the Public Access Plan, access to the lands surrounding Foss Reservoir will be re-opened to the public utilizing the same regulations and policies as the remainder of the Sudbury Reservoir Watershed. Public access is prohibited in the area immediately surrounding the Foss Reservoir Dam and gatehouse and along the railroad tracks.*

➤ **Watershed Ranger Increased Patrolling/Problem Areas**

DWSP RESPONSE:

*Watershed Rangers have been patrolling the Sudbury Reservoir Watershed for over twenty-five years to curtail illegal uses on DWSP property. Unfortunately, not all violations occur in their presence and problem areas are not always known. Please contact the Wachusett/Sudbury Watershed Ranger office at 978-365-3800 to report violations or speak with a Ranger. Please be aware that day, time and location the illegal activity usually takes place is extremely helpful.*

➤ **Reduce deer ticks**

DWSP RESPONSE:

*DWSP does not use pesticides on any of our properties to protect water quality and a majority of chemicals used to kill ticks also kill fish and aquatic organisms if they accidentally get into surface waters. The best protection from ticks and Lyme Disease is to check yourself, your children, and your pets daily and remove any ticks found. Other tips include wearing light colored protective clothing, tucking your pant legs into socks, and avoiding tick infested areas such as leaf litter and heavy brush. DWSP does not prohibit the use of personal insect repellants on our property but please be mindful of where it is being sprayed.*

➤ **Fishing and Mercury in Sudbury Reservoir**

DWSP RESPONSE:

*Mercury is found everywhere. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) monitors contaminant levels in the edible tissues of freshwater fish and the Department of Public Health (DPH) issues advisories on eating fish taken from bodies of water across the state. A fish consumption advisory warns either the general population or a specific group of people not to eat fish or to limit how much they eat. It is based on a conservative estimate of how much fish a person can likely eat without experiencing any adverse health effects and addresses one or more certain species of fish taken from a specific local body of water by sport and subsistence fishermen.*

*At the time of writing, two Public Health Fish Consumption Advisories are in effect for Sudbury Reservoir.*

- 1. Children younger than 12 years of age, pregnant women, women of childbearing age who may become pregnant, and nursing mothers should not eat any fish from this water body. (All fish)*
- 2. The general public should not consume Bass from this water body. (Calico Bass, Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass)*

*Updated information and advisories can be found on the DPH website at:  
[https://eohhs.ehs.state.ma.us/dph\\_fishadvisory/default.aspx](https://eohhs.ehs.state.ma.us/dph_fishadvisory/default.aspx)*

➤ ***Where to find information and maps***

*DWSP RESPONSE:*

*Maps, regulations, contact information and more can be found online at:  
[www.mass.gov/locations/sudbury-reservoir](http://www.mass.gov/locations/sudbury-reservoir).*

➤ ***Boats, canoes, kayaks***

*DWSP RESPONSE:*

*The introduction of Aquatic Invasive Species to any water body from any type of watercraft is a serious threat to water quality, infrastructure (including pipes), native plants and animals, and is a financial burden. Although discussed in earlier sections, we are providing our written response to a proposal that we received at the beginning of this update process which has a thorough explanation of the boating prohibition.*



November 12, 2019



Thank you for submitting your thoughtful proposal for the use of non-motorized boats on the Sudbury Reservoir. As you are aware, DCR Division of Water Supply Protection is beginning to review current policies for passive recreation on Division owned lands within the Sudbury Reservoir Watershed. Although we normally just take public comments received into consideration during the Public Access Plan Update process, we felt that your proposal warranted a direct response from us and we are taking this opportunity to provide you with some information about a recreational impact you may have not considered.

The potential introduction of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is one water quality threat that is highly elevated at any body of water where boats (motorized and non-motorized), canoes and kayaks are allowed. AIS are a group of non-native organisms (both aquatic plants and animals) that have the ability to become well established and spread rapidly within native aquatic communities. One of the ways AIS can be transported between bodies of water is via boats and anything else that comes into contact with the water, such as waders and fishing equipment. For the DCR/MWRA reservoir system, the most important potential impacts from AIS are a loss of native species, habitat degradation, damage to infrastructure, disruption of ecosystem function, and impairments to water quality. It is important to note that since 2002, over 4.4 million dollars (or an average of \$260 thousand/year) has been invested throughout the entire watershed system in an effort to understand aquatic plants and control or eradicate (get rid of) invasive species. In addition, DCR has been conducting public outreach to shore fishermen since 2010, stressing the importance of cleaning any fishing equipment when used at different fishing areas. This is important to keep in mind whether the body of water is part of the DCR/MWRA system or not. More information on this topic, along with a list of current and potential aquatic invasive species can be found online at: <https://www.mass.gov/lakes-and-ponds-program>.

Your statements that as a backup reservoir, Sudbury Reservoir is “not going to be in any need for a long time” and there is “simply no large chance of running out of water” is not entirely correct. Thankfully, through water conservation efforts begun in the 1980’s, the DCR/MWRA system reservoir levels have remained relatively stable. For the future, climate change and changes in precipitation patterns, although predicted, are still unknown. The backup and emergency supply status of the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs is not entirely due to a potential lack of water.

Because the DCR/MWRA system provides high quality drinking water for 3 million Massachusetts residents, it can be put into use at any time. The Sudbury system was most recently briefly used in 2010 when a pipe burst, cutting off Greater Boston from the water supply system further out west.

We applaud your efforts to further the community's connection with nature and to broaden appreciation for the natural world around us. We hope that you will continue to enjoy the lands that surround the Sudbury Reservoir for passive recreation while at the same time use your passion of science and nature to help us protect this precious resource. We encourage you to follow the Public Access Plan Update process and to learn more about the entire watershed system from Quabbin Reservoir to Greater Boston. Information can be found online at DCR's website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/dcr-office-of-watershed-management> and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority website at: <http://www.mwra.com>.

Thank you for submitting your proposal. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Kelley Freda, Environmental Analyst at 774-261-1836 or through e-mail at [Kelley.freda@mass.gov](mailto:Kelley.freda@mass.gov).

Sincerely,

[signed by Jamie Carr on 11/12/19]

Jamie Carr  
Regional Director



31) *This statement was listed as a question due to SurveyMonkey formatting. “The next questions will help DCR DWSP gain an understanding of the level of knowledge about general watershed protection to be able to provide public educational programs in the Sudbury Reservoir Watershed”*

32) *Do you think that the water in storm drains and catch basins is treated before it flows into rivers, lakes and streams?*

Yes.....19% (13 responses)

No.....81% (57 responses)

33) *Are you familiar with the term Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (Ms4)?*

Yes.....39% (27 responses)

No.....61% (43 responses)

#### **DCR DWSP RESPONSE:**

*The Ms4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) program began in November 1990 under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The Ms4 permit is designed to protect rivers, lakes and streams from polluted stormwater runoff. An Ms4 permit is issued to your city or town (or parts of depending on the population density) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that gives permission to your city or town to discharge from storm drains or catch basins to a surface water resource with the understanding that this will only be clean water. Your city or town will then have to comply with requirements of the permit to control any contaminant from entering storm drains. All communities within the Sudbury Reservoir Watershed are required to obtain this permit and violations can result in fines from the EPA.*

34) *Do you currently pick up after your pet on walks and in your yard?*

Yes.....81% (42 responses)

No.....2% (1 response)

If no, is there a reason why?..... 17% (9 responses)

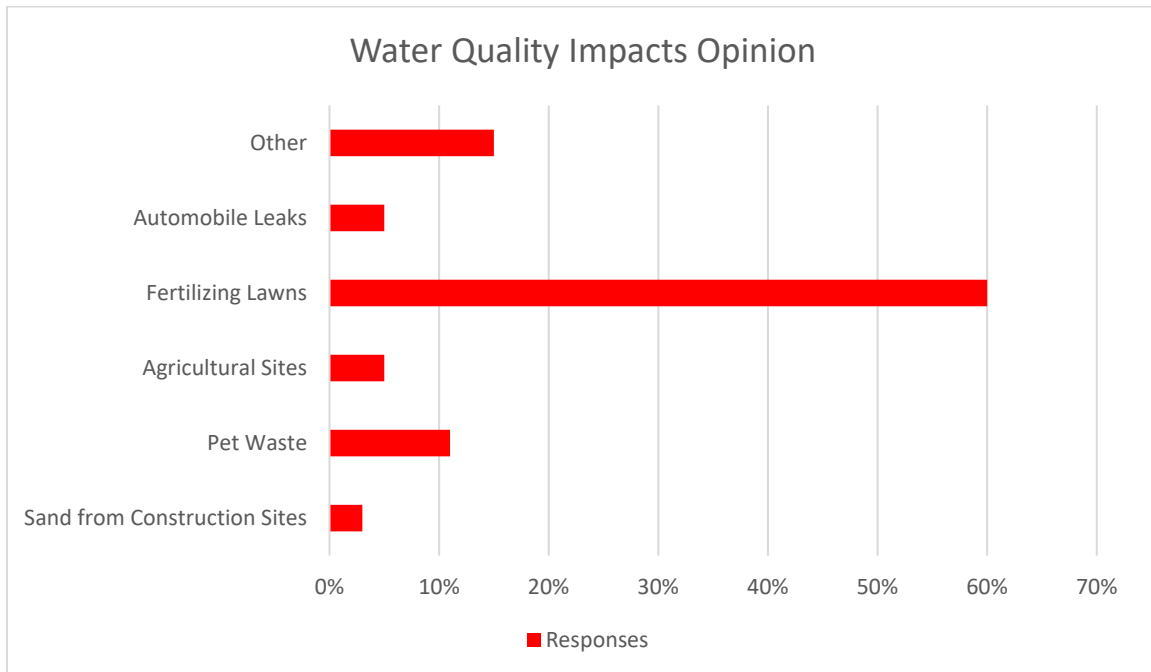
#### **Survey Responses:**

- We don't have pets but plenty of other people don't pick up after their dogs
- I don't own pets and I abhor people who habitually pollute by being poor pet owners
- It's a rabbit
- I do not have pets that go out to the park with me
- (5)- Do not own pets

#### **DCR DWSP RESPONSE:**

*Dog waste is a significant contributor to water pollution. It is estimated that each dog produces about 3 billion bacteria per day. When left on the ground, even for a significant period under the right conditions, bacteria can be washed into surface waters during a rain event or even snow melt. Dog waste can also contain parasites and pathogens which can become a public health issue in a drinking water supply or swimming area. Dog waste contributes excess nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen which, in turn, can cause overgrowth of plants and algae and can create an algae bloom. When algae dies, it uses up the Oxygen in the water and can kill fish. Please pick up after your pet at all times.*

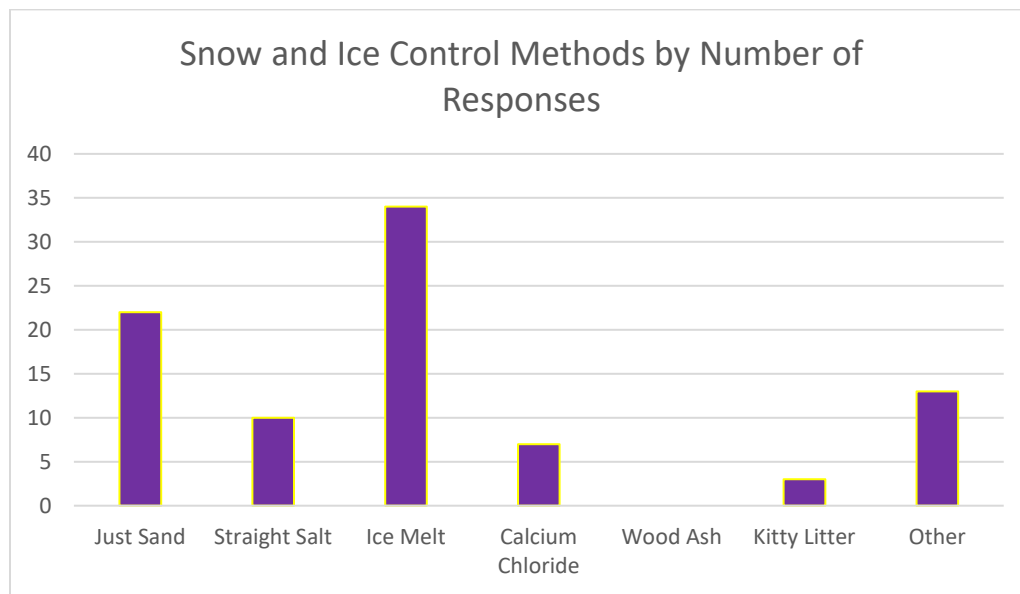
**35) Which of the following do you believe has the most impact on water quality in the reservoir?**



**Survey Responses to “other”:**

- Although Foss suffers from abutment to Rtes. 9 and 90
- Again, all of the above
- Maybe sand and salt from plowing on Rt. 9
- Pet waste and oils from road way runoff
- Combination of things
- I think winter road treatment (“salt”) is, but maybe fertilizers are
- All of the above
- All of the above
- Mix of fertilizing lawns and agricultural sites
- Mercury levels
- I think it’s a combination of pet waste and fertilizing lawns

36) During the winter months which of the following do you use on your property to combat snow and ice?



Survey Responses to “other”:

- Pet safe ice melt in spots, and sand
- Use very minimal (ice melt-Peladow)
- A shovel
- Shoveling and sand
- Sand/salt mix and a shovel
- I do not use anything
- Eco and pet friendly ice melt
- Mostly sand some salt
- I typically do not treat
- Salt/sand mix provided by Southborough DPW. Sparingly
- Nothing. Just clear snow

#### DCR DWSP RESPONSE

DCR DWSP routinely monitors water quality of the groundwater, streams and rivers that flow into Wachusett Reservoir, a drinking water supply for more than 3 million Massachusetts residents. Over the past thirty years, chloride concentrations in the tributaries and the reservoir have increased significantly and we assume the same at Sudbury Reservoir and all waterbodies within the Sudbury Reservoir watershed. In fact, increases have been observed across the United States in all areas that require winter snow treatment. Chloride does not degrade and cannot be easily removed. In central Massachusetts elevated chloride concentrations are caused primarily by the application of excessive amounts of salt to control snow and ice. Salt causes damage to infrastructure, public and private water supplies, vegetation, and soils when used in excess. Overuse of sand clogs and disrupts the flow of water in storm drain systems and eventually is deposited in surface water. Financial impacts due to damage and cost of materials can be significant.

Anti-icing is the most cost-effective and environmentally safe practice in winter maintenance. It should be first in a series of strategies for each winter storm. Applying a small and strategic amount of salt brine to pavement before the storm will prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement. Anti-icing requires less material and much less time than deicing. To protect water quality supplies, please limit the amount of any snow and ice control type utilized, where it is placed and always check the upcoming weather forecast. Please do not use if rain is being predicted.

## ***Appendix D – Public Comments***

Comments received through DCR website after September 22, 2021 public meeting.

Time	9/23/2021 21:06
Name	Sam Stivers
Topic	Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed Public Access Plan Public Comments - deadline 10/13/2021
Comment	<p>My name is Sam Stivers. I'm a member of the Southborough Board of Selectmen. I attended last evening's (9/22) listening session for the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs Watershed Public Access Plan.</p> <p>I wanted to follow up on the comments by Kathryn McKee, the Chair of Southborough's Trails Committee. I was unable to get my audio activated to make my comments--apparently the "Teams" software doesn't work well with Apple computers (maybe a reason to use Zoom for these sessions?).</p> <p>What I wanted to say is that the Southborough Board of Selectmen strongly supports and appreciates the good work of our Trails Committee. The access projects that Kathryn and her Committee are working on with you are important for Southborough, as we push to make our trails network more extensive and accessible for our residents. Particularly during the current pandemic, we have seen (and we expect to continue to see) much more use of our trails. Expansion of our trails network is also an important aspect of our new, 10-year Master Plan for the Town. We expect to continue to push to support, enhance and receive great value from our trails network over the next decade.</p> <p>We do appreciate the support we have received from DCR to date to expand our trail access to properties around the local reservoirs. We look forward to continuing a strong working relationship with you. If it turns out that the Southborough Board of Selectmen can do anything to make it easier for DCR to help us with these access projects, I would be glad to work to get support from our Board. While I can't speak officially for the Board (without a formal vote), I am certainly willing to carry proposals to our Board and to advocate for support of these efforts. If I can be helpful with these projects, please feel free to contact me at: <a href="mailto:ssstivers@southboroughma.com">ssstivers@southboroughma.com</a></p> <p>Thank you</p>
Email	<a href="mailto:ssstivers@southboroughma.com">ssstivers@southboroughma.com</a>

## **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.

### **Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs 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 anywhere public access is allowed.
- ❖ *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](http://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](http://www.mass.gov/ago/consumer-resources/your-rights/civil-rights/disability-rights/information-about-service-animals.html)