

DCR Division of Water Supply Protection - Land Protection Program
Fiscal Year 2024 Completed Projects

Project	Town	Watershed	Acres	Interest	MWRA Capital Funds	DCR Capital Funds	Other Funds	Description	Land Protection Priorities
East Branch Fever Brook Forestlands	Petersham	Quabbin Reservoir	123.4	Fee	\$470,000			This acquisition is made up of two tracts, one north and one south of West Road. Both tracts are entirely forested with areas of wooded wetland, open water, and tributaries. The western section of both parcels encompass portions of the East Branch of Fever Brook. DCR owned lands abut this property on the north and south, while DCR held Watershed Preservation Restrictions (WPRs) abut this property to the west. The land is a direct extension of the northerly terminus of the Quabbin Reservation, with contiguous DCR ownership and WPRs flanking the East Branch of Fever Brook from this property to the reservoir proper. The woodlands have been professionally managed for sixty years. These tracts also includes significant natural resource values including BioMap for Core Habitat, Critical Natural Landscape and Regional Connectivity, and is identified as having above average resilience to climate change based on TNC's Resilient and Connected Network analysis.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity; Enhance Current Ownership/Management
Canesto Brook Woods	Hubbardston	Ware River	74.6	Fee	\$130,000			This land is entirely forested and encompasses two unnamed tributaries which flow directly into Canesto Brook. DCR owned lands abut this property to the southwest making this parcel a direct extension of the Ware River Reservation, with contiguous DCR ownership along Canesto Brook from this property to where it meets the Ware River. The woodlands have been managed for four decades. This property also includes significant natural resource values including BioMap for Core Habitat, Critical Natural Landscape and Regional Connectivity, and is identified as having above average resilience to climate change based on TNC's Resilient and Connected Network analysis.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity; Enhance Current Ownership/Management
Middle and West Branch Swift River WPR	Wendell	Quabbin Reservoir	101.6	WPR	\$153,000			This Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR) is entirely forested with areas of wooded wetland and multiple unmapped and unnamed tributaries. These tributaries are headwaters to the Middle Branch of the Swift River on the eastern portion of the property and to the West Branch of the Swift River on the western portion of the property. This parcel, which is split by Gate Lane, abuts DWSP lands to the east and north, and DCR State Parks land to the west and south, connecting two large swaths of protected open space. This WPR property also includes significant biodiversity and resilience attributes such as BioMap for Core Habitat, Critical Natural Landscape and Regional Connectivity, and is identified as having above average resilience to climate change based on TNC's Resilient and Connected Network analysis. The protection of this tract was accomplished through a collaboration with Mass Audubon Society.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity
Ball Brook Forestlands	Sterling	Wachusett Reservoir	10.0	Fee	\$55,000			This 10-acre backland parcel was subdivided from the adjacent residential lot. The acquired parcel is entirely forested, includes over 500ft of Ball Brook, and abuts DWSP ownership to the north. This property also includes significant natural resource values including BioMap for Core Habitat, Critical Natural Landscape and Regional Connectivity.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity; Enhance Current Ownership/Management

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East Branch Swift River WPR	Petersham	Quabbin Reservoir	8.9	WPR				<p>Please note: Watershed Preservation Restrictions are privately owned properties. No public access.</p> <p>The gifted Watershed Preservation Restriction over this entirely wooded tract expands upon efforts to protect the East Branch of the Swift River. This parcel, which lies about 400ft from the edge of Nichewaug Pond, abuts an existing network of DWSP-owned lands and WPRs. The property is identified as having above-average resilience to climate change based on TNC's Resilient and Connected Network analysis and contains natural resource values such as BioMap for Critical Natural Landscape. This WPR also includes an interesting geological feature: the outcrops of rock on this parcel are one of the best sites to see evidence of a collision between two massive plates some 360 million years ago: the Hardwick Tonalite (the largest tonalite in New England, a type of igneous rock, formed from the cooling of volcanic magma) with the Rangeley Paragneiss (a plate that extends into Northern Maine).</p>	Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity
Longmeadow Brook WPR	Rutland	Ware River	6.8	WPR				<p>Please note: Watershed Preservation Restrictions are privately owned properties. No public access.</p> <p>Located along the Ware River and Wachusett Reservoir watershed divide, this gifted Watershed Preservation Restriction is primarily forested with areas of wooded wetland and unnamed tributaries that are not regulated by the Watershed Protection Act. Protection of this tract builds upon DWSP's recent conservation efforts in this rapidly developing neighborhood as it abuts the 72-acre Calkins Trust property, acquired in 2023. The perennial streams and wetlands on the property are headwater tributaries to Demond Pond and Longmeadow Brook, which feed into the East Branch of the Ware River.</p>	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity
Middle Branch Swift River WPR	Wendell	Quabbin Reservoir	35.6	WPR	\$135,000			<p>This property, which is owned and managed by Mass Audubon (also known as Whetstone Wood Trust Fund), features forested areas, wooded wetlands, unnamed tributaries, and includes 3.5 acres of open water. Protection of this tract expands upon efforts to protect the Middle Branch of the Swift River. It abuts additional Mass Audubon land to the north and DWSP land to the west. The tract is identified as having above-average resilience to climate change, based on TNC's Resilient and Connected Network analysis and includes significant natural resource values, such as BioMap for Critical Natural Landscape.</p>	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity
Middle Branch Swift River Forestlands	New Salem	Quabbin Reservoir	1.5	Fee	\$6,000	0		<p>This strategic acquisition consolidates DCR ownership along this stretch of Wendell Road. This entirely forested tract is located along an unnamed tributary to the Middle Branch of the Swift River and was once an old mill site. The tract is identified as having above-average resilience to climate change, based on TNC's Resilient and Connected Network analysis and includes significant natural resource values, such as BioMap for Critical Natural Landscape.</p>	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity; Enhance Current Ownership/Management
Malagasco Brook Woods	Boylston	Wachusett Reservoir	9.5	Fee		\$70,000		<p>This nearly 10-acre backland parcel was subdivided from the adjacent residential lot a. The acquired parcel is entirely forested, includes over 5.5ac of wooded wetlands, over 900ft of Malagasco Brook, and abuts DWSP ownership to the east. This unprotected property presented a rare opportunity for conservation within this predominantly developed subbasin.</p>	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Enhance Current Ownership/Management

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Sibley Swamp Forestlands	Wendell	Quabbin Reservoir	19.3	Fee		\$33,000		This landlocked tract is primarily forested and includes over 2.6 acres of open water and wetlands that are part of Sibley Swamp, along with 1,000 feet of intermittent streams. The acquisition of this property aims to consolidate DCR ownership in the area, as it is an inholding nearly entirely surrounded by DCR-owned land, both from the Division of Water Supply Protection and the Division of State Parks. Rich in natural resources, the property features BioMap for Critical Natural Landscape and Core Habitat. It is also identified as having above-average resilience to climate change based on The Nature Conservancy's Resilient and Connected Network analysis.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity; Enhance Current Ownership/Management
Gaston Pond WPR	Barre	Quabbin Reservoir	174.1	WPR		339,500	145,500	<p>Please note: Watershed Preservation Restrictions are privately owned properties. No public access.</p> <p>This WPR was one of eight properties protected under the 790-acre Hawes Hill Landscape Partnership Grant project, a collaborative effort with Mt. Grace Land Trust, Mass Audubon, the Town of Barre, and East Quabbin Land Trust. Of the total project area, over 260 acres were conserved within the Quabbin Reservoir watershed. This WPR tract is forested and includes wooded wetlands, unnamed tributaries, and the 17-acre Gaston Pond. The streams, wetlands, and pond on the property are tributaries to Rutland Brook, which feeds into the East Branch of the Swift River. The property also holds significant natural resource values, such as BioMap for Critical Natural Landscape and Regional Connectivity.</p>	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity
Total	-	-	565.2		\$949,000	\$442,500	\$145,000	-	-