

DCR Division of Water Supply Protection – Land Protection Program

Fiscal Year 2026 Completed Projects

Project	Town	Watershed	Acres	Interest	MWRA Capital Funds	DCR Capital Funds	Description	Land Protection Priorities
Ball Brook Woods	Holden; Sterling	Wachusett Reservoir	48.0	Fee	\$180,000		This mostly forested property includes a perennial stream, wooded wetlands, an abandoned irrigation pond, and approximately 11 acres of open fields at the headwaters of Ball Brook. Nearly surrounded by DCR-owned and WPR-protected land, the property expands an existing block of conserved land. It also contains important natural resources identified by BioMap.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity; Enhance Current Ownership/Management
Malagasco Brook WPR	Boylston	Wachusett Reservoir	24.0	WPR	\$528,000		Please note: Watershed Preservation Restrictions (WPRs) are privately owned properties. No public access. This property includes intermittent and perennial streams, approximately 250 feet of Malagasco Brook, wetlands, a farm pond, and open fields. Malagasco Brook flows into the Wachusett Reservoir less than one mile downstream. The property also expands a larger network of protected land by directly bordering DCR-owned property.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change
East Branch Fever Brook WPR	Petersham	Quabbin Reservoir	4.3	WPR	\$45,900		Please note: Watershed Preservation Restrictions (WPRs) are privately owned properties. No public access. This fully forested property contains two intermittent streams and wooded wetlands that drain to the East Branch Fever Brook. It connects with a large network of DCR-owned land and WPRs extending to the Quabbin Reservoir. The property also contains important natural resources identified by BioMap, including Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity
East Branch Swift River WPR	Petersham	Quabbin Reservoir	26.3	WPR	\$30,000		Please note: Watershed Preservation Restrictions (WPRs) are privately owned properties. No public access. This property includes a five-acre hay field, one perennial stream, and two intermittent streams that form headwaters of the East Branch of the Swift River. It connects with nearby protected lands, including Harvard Forest and an adjacent DCR-held WPR. The property also contains important natural resources identified by BioMap.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity

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Bullard Brook Forestlands 1	New Salem	Quabbin Reservoir	2.3	Fee	\$10,000		This fully forested property includes a small wooded wetland that may support a vernal pool. Water from the property flows across nearby protected lands to Bullard Brook and the Middle Branch of the Swift River. The acquisition expands DCR ownership and connects with the Bullard Brook Forestlands 2 acquisition completed later in Fiscal Year 2026. The property also contains BioMap-designated Critical Natural Landscape and Regional Connectivity areas.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity; Enhance Current Ownership/Management
Wilder Brook WPR	Sterling	Wachusett Reservoir	43.3	WPR	\$200,000		Please note: Watershed Preservation Restrictions (WPRs) are privately owned properties. No public access. This mostly forested property includes active hayfields, three intermittent streams, and approximately 280 feet of Wilder Brook. These water resources flow to the Stillwater River, a major tributary of the Wachusett Reservoir. The property connects with nearby protected lands, helping expand a larger network of conserved forests.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change
Natty Pond Brook Woodlands	Hubbardston	Ware River	25.5	Fee	\$55,000		This mostly forested property includes more than 2,000 feet of Natty Pond Brook, an intermittent stream, and approximately 6.5 acres of wetlands. The property directly borders DCR-owned land, expanding a large block of protected forest that extends to the Ware River Intake. It also contains important natural resources identified by BioMap, including Core Habitat and Regional Connectivity.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity; Enhance Current Ownership/Management
Bullard Brook Forestlands 2	New Salem	Quabbin Reservoir	16.6	Fee	\$115,000		These two fully forested parcels were created when a larger property was divided following the Wendell Road relocation in 1974. Together they include intermittent streams, wetlands, and other water resources that drain toward Bullard Brook and the Middle Branch of the Swift River. The acquisition expands DCR ownership and connects with nearby conservation lands protected in 2013 and the Bullard Brook Forestlands 1 project completed earlier in Fiscal Year 2026. The property also contains BioMap-designated Critical Natural Landscape and Regional Connectivity areas.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity; Enhance Current Ownership/Management
Shutesbury Uplands	Shutesbury	Quabbin Reservoir	32.0	Fee		\$155,000	This fully forested property fills a gap within existing DCR-owned land, creating a larger, more connected protected forest. The property also contains important natural resources identified by BioMap, including Critical Natural Landscape and Regional Connectivity.	Address Climate Change; Protect Habitat Biodiversity; Enhance Current Ownership/Management

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Connelly Brook Woods	Sterling	Wachusett Reservoir	24.0	Fee	\$440,000		This fully forested property includes approximately 500 feet of Connelly Brook, more than 1,000 feet of intermittent streams, and nearly seven acres of wetlands. The acquisition connects three previously protected DCR properties into one larger management area while strengthening protection of important headwater water resources.	Preserve Water Resources; Address Climate Change; Enhance Current Ownership/Management
Total	-	-	243.8	-	\$1,603,900	\$155,000	-	-