

## Group Activities (e.g., Weddings, Tour Buses, etc.)

### Policy

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

- Group activities are permitted (i.e., allowed w/out DCR-DWSP issued permit), for a group of less than 25 individuals and/or less than 10 cars or motorcycles. DCR requests a courtesy call to the Visitor Center to avoid group conflicts. (413) 323-7221.
- A DCR-DWSP issued permit is required for any group sized between 25 and 100 individuals, 10 and 40 cars/motorcycles, or 1 bus. DCR requires a call to the Visitor Center (413)323-7221.
- A DCR-DWSP issued permit and Watershed Ranger supervision is required for group of over 100 individuals or more than 40 cars/motorcycles. Groups need to arrange this level of permitted access both through the Visitor Center and Watershed Rangers.

### Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds <sup>1</sup>
Group Activities (e.g., weddings)	□ <sup>2</sup>	□ <sup>2</sup>	□ <sup>2</sup>	⊗	⊗	⊗

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

### Discussion

The Watershed Protection Regulations 350 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 DCR or its designee.

This policy has been modified to address the increasing frequency of group access activity requests received by the OWM.

<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.

<sup>2</sup> Allowed without a permit for groups of less than 25 individuals and/or less than 10 cars and/or 10 motorcycles. Permit required for group of 25 through 100 individuals and/or 10-40 cars/motorcycles or 1 bus. Permit and Ranger required for larger groups or other combinations.

## Geocaching/Questing

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### Policy




A special permit is required from the Visitor Center for any cache placement.

While the Department of Conservation and Recreation does not have a formal policy in effect at this time, the agency is in the process of drafting one which would be applied on an agency-wide basis. Once in place, the Office of Watershed Management will use this policy as the basis for regulating geocaching and related activities on its watershed lands.

The policy will require a special permit for the establishment and maintenance of sites on any watershed land. A permit application review process will be conducted by Quabbin Section staff, with particular emphasis given to site location, impacts to water quality, sensitivity of ecological or cultural resources, public safety, facility security, proximity to other existing sites, suitability of trails to absorb additional use and other pertinent factors. Once the DCR agency policy is in effect, existing cache sites will be required to apply for these special use permits, which are likely to be limited to a one to three year period. Permits can be reauthorized using the application process. Until an official DCR Policy takes effect, all new cache sites are required to contact the Quabbin Visitor directly and use the OWM application form which will be available in March, 2006.

This policy is based on the Watershed Protection Regulation 350 CMR 11.09(2)(a)5 which states: 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. The removal of gravel, topsoil, stones, boulders, or other earthen material is prohibited from the Watershed System except for removal for official use for land management purposes by Commission staff. No Person shall build or construct any object or structure of the property of the Commonwealth except with the written permission of DCR or its designee.”

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Geocaching/ Questing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>			

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

## Discussion

In recent years recreational activities such as Geocaching, Questing, Letterboxing and Benchmarking have grown significantly in popularity. Although the activities differ in specifics, they share many general similarities. They are outdoor focused activities which are family friendly and encourage exploration of the environment. Since they lend themselves to larger tracts of land, Quabbin watershed lands have become a popular location for geocache sites.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, its predecessor agencies, the Metropolitan District Commission and the Department of Environmental Management, did not have formal policies on these types of activities. As a result, the activity was not identified in the 1998 version of the Quabbin Public Access Plan. The OWM views Discovery Activities as an appropriate activity for its watershed lands, although one which needs to be managed through an application process and registry. Land managers from public agencies and private organizations have experienced problems with the establishment of unauthorized and unregulated cache sites on their property. Although websites such as Geocaching.com have criteria for establishing cache sites which include securing permission of the land owner, few cachers have sought approval from the property holder. As a result sites may be located in unsuitable locations from the land manager's perspective. It is clear that a permit application and approval process is necessary for DCR lands and the OWM will follow the agency wide policy once it is established.

The OWM will develop its own set of criteria for permitting cache sites on DCR watershed lands as an interim step until an agency policy is adopted. This temporary permit system will be in place by March, 2006. OWM staff will continue to work with the DCR Geocaching Policy Group to formulate a policy which will be implemented for the entire agency in 2006.

This is a new policy.

<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.

<sup>2</sup> Permitted without a permit for groups of less than 25 individuals and/or less than 10 cars and/or 10 motorcycles. Permit required for group of 25 through 100 individuals and/or 10-40 cars/motorcycles or 1 bus. Permit and Ranger required for other combinations.

## Wildlife/Bird Watching

### Policy

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

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

Night access permit during limited times through designated gates can be used for night viewing (see Night Access policy).

### Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Wildlife/ Bird Watching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>

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

### Discussion

Historically, the Division has allowed special permit access to named bird clubs. In the past, this historic use was vaguely defined. Since the last Plan, State designated wildlife viewing areas have been established in Quabbin Park and Gate 29. The Division, through a written short-term access permit, provides a limited number of short-term access permits to birding organizations. These permits have been to issued Forbush Bird Club (max. 2 permits), Athol Bird and Nature Club (max. 2 permits), and Hampshire Bird Club (max 2 permits). The vehicles will be limited to five passenger vehicles, three vans or one bus due to the nature of the activity.

This policy clarifies this grandfathered use and associated restrictions.

<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.




<sup>2</sup> Walking, hiking, and snowshoeing are allowed within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System, except in restricted areas (e.g., Prescott peninsula, posted Administration Areas, and Reservoir Islands).

## Night Access

### Policy

Night access is allowed with DCR permit issued by Quabbin Visitor Center for pedestrians only through Gates 16, 31, 33, 35, 41 & 43 during the designated Quabbin fishing season (**Map 9**). Night access on South Spectacle Pond is allowed without a permit. Night access within Quabbin Park is prohibited with two exceptions. Night access is allowed without a permit on Peppers Mill Pond and below Winsor Dam on the Swift River, if access to these areas is from Route 9. Night access in other locations for approved activities will be considered by the Regional Director, on a case-by-case basis through the Night Access permit process. The Watershed Protection Regulation 11.09(2)(a)2 state: No Person is allowed within any land of the Watershed System, except from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, unless authorized by a written permit from DCR or its designee.

### Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds<sup>1</sup></i>
Night Access	 <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>			<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2, 3</sup>

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

### Discussion

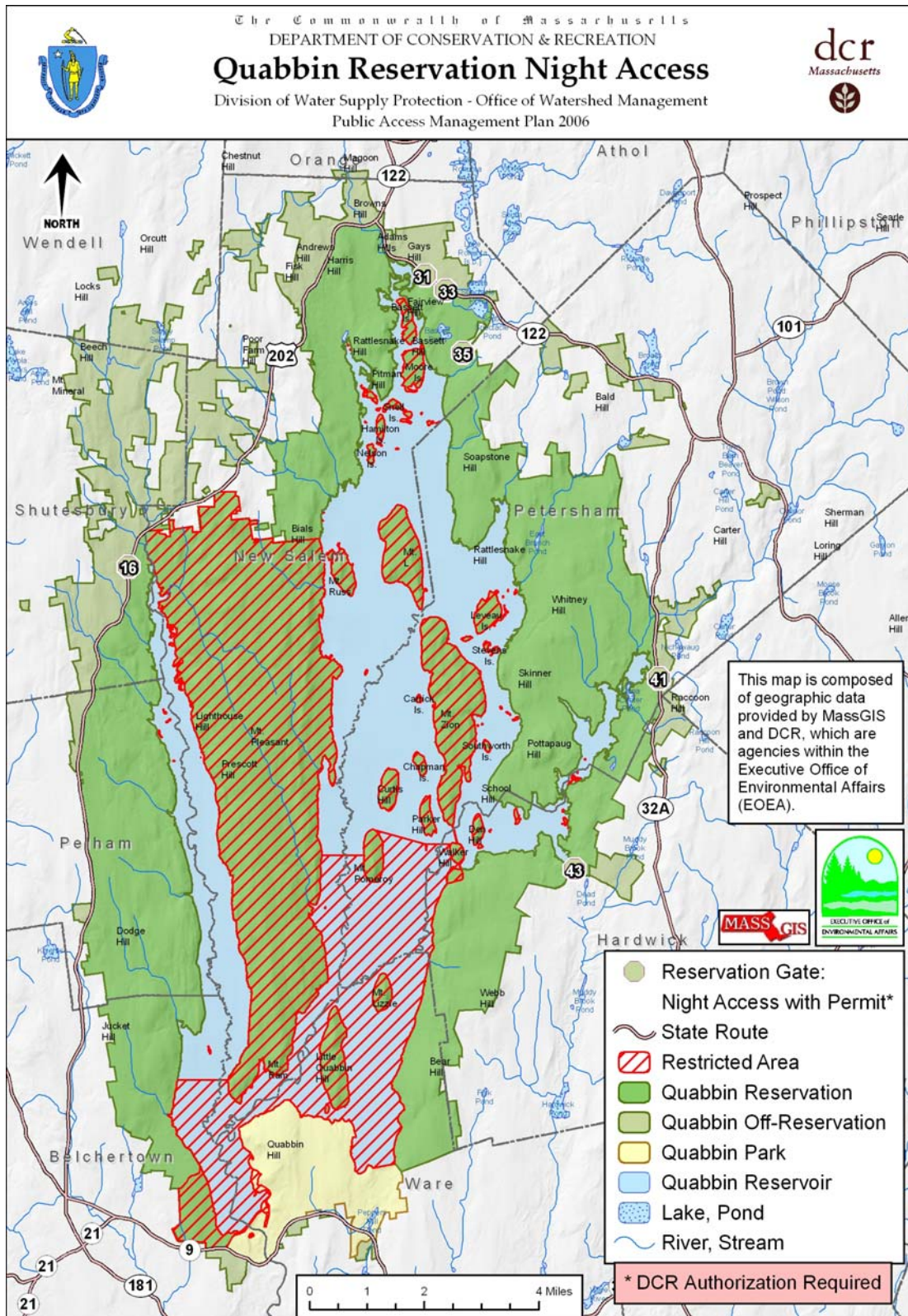
Night access is allowed in designated areas, during designated times, and upon notification of the DCR Watershed Rangers, to limit and restrict use. The night access policy implemented in 1989 was incorporated into the Watershed Protection Regulations in 1992 when night access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System became prohibited with the exception of specially designated areas with a permit.

<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.

<sup>2</sup> Night access within Quabbin Park is prohibited with two exceptions. It is allowed without a permit on Swift River below Y pool, if access is from Route 9, and on Peppers Mill Pond.

<sup>3</sup> Night access is allowed by permit for pedestrians only through Gates 16, 31, 35, 41, and 43 during the designated Quabbin Fishing season. Night access directly from Rt. 122 is allowed without a permit on South Spectacle Pond (off-watershed). Night access is allowed on Off-Reservation lands with a special permit. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center for night access permit information.

Map 9 Night Access Entrances - Quabbin Reservoir Watershed



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## Organized Sports

### Policy

Organized sports are prohibited in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System except by written permit from DCR or its designee by the Watershed Protection Regulations 350 CMR 11.09(2)(a)9.

Organized sports are when an individual or group wishes to use DCR/DWSP lands for an outdoor, organized recreational game. When this use may result in limiting the use of DCR/DWSP lands for other uses, including those of DCR/DWSP, this use will require both DCR policy and permit.

### Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Organized Sports</b>	 <sup>2</sup>	 <sup>2</sup>	 <sup>2</sup>			

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

### Discussion

Organized sports increase frequency and intensity of recreation in a public water supply watershed. The development and maintenance of playgrounds or sports fields is inappropriate with the Division's Master Policy. This 1998 policy has not changed.

<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.

<sup>2</sup> Prohibited except by written permit from DCR or its designee.

## Dogs/Other Domestic Animals

### Policy

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

### Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Dogs/Other Domestic Animals</b>	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

### Discussion

While dog walking has always been prohibited on the Division's water supply lands in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed, dog walking remains the largest rule intervention issued by the Watershed Rangers. For example, between 1999 through 2004, over 812 rule interventions for domestic animals were issued in the Quabbin and Ware River watersheds (Rangers, 2005). Dogs may carry bacteria and viruses in their waste products and deposit it near streams, brooks, or the Reservoir. Consequently, disease causing organisms (e.g., bacteria and viruses) may directly enter the water supply or spread to other animal populations (e.g., deer, beavers, etc.). If dogs enter the reservoir directly, they may shed disease organisms into the drinking water supply. Recent research has shown that dogs in high concentrations create very large volumes of fecal waste. During an eight month period, MWRA measured 25,766 pounds of fecal dog waste in designated disposal cans at the Weston Reservoir (no longer an active drinking water supply).

The introduction of dogs and other animals within a public water supply watershed or its surface waters is incompatible with the Division's public health protection goals. The Watershed Protection Regulation 350 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 DCR or its designee."

This policy has been slightly modified to communicate that all animals, not just dogs, are prohibited within the system.

<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.







## Horseback Riding

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### Policy

Horseback riding is prohibited throughout the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System by regulation. Watershed Protection Regulations 350 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 DCR or its designee."

### Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Horseback Riding</b>						

### Discussion

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 1988 policy has not changed.

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<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.







## Collecting/Metal Detecting

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### Policy

Collecting and metal detecting are prohibited within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System with one exception: historic collecting activities by individuals for individual consumption of edible plant materials (e.g., blueberries, fiddleheads, mushrooms, etc.), in a non-destructive manner for non-commercial uses.

### Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Collecting/ Metal Detecting</b>						

### Discussion

The Watershed Protection Regulations 350 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. The removal of gravel, topsoil, stones, boulders, or other earthen material is prohibited from the Watershed System except for removal for official use for land management purposes by Commission staff. No Person shall build or construct any object or structure of the property of the Commonwealth except with the written permission of DCR or its designee.” In addition, 350 CMR 11.09(2)(a)(25) state: “The possession of all types of metal detectors or similar devices is prohibited on all of the Watershed System property.”

This policy has been modified to reflect historic collecting activities conducted on system lands which as currently conducted are under control by the Division.

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<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.







# Camping

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## Policy

Camping in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is prohibited. Camping includes, but is not limited to tenting, trailers, lean-tos, and motor homes. Overnight parking is prohibited. Limited car parking is allowed at designated gates during designated seasons with a DCR-OWM issued permit.

## Summary

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

## Discussion

The Watershed Protection Regulations 350 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 Commission or its designee. In addition, Acts of 1972, Chapter 737, Section 12 state: There shall be no overnight camping within the Quabbin Reservoir area ... no shall tents be erected nor trailers or other vehicular sleeping accommodation be parked overnight therein.

This 1988 policy has not changed.

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<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.







# Fishing Derbies

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## Policy

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

## Summary

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

## Discussion

The Watershed Protection Regulations 350 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 DCR or its designee.”

This 1998 policy has not changed.

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<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.







# Target Shooting

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## Policy

Target shooting is prohibited in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System.

## Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Target Shooting</b>						

## Discussion

The Watershed Protection Regulations 350 CMR 11.09(2)(a)(21) state: “No Person shall have possession of or discharge any weapon, firearm, fireworks, or other explosive on or within the Watershed System except at times and areas designated by DCR or its designee. All forms of target shooting are prohibited on or within the Watershed System.

This 1998 policy has not changed.

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<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.







# Advertising

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## Policy

Advertising, trail marking, or any other unauthorized placement of signs is prohibited in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System. All unauthorized sign installation is prohibited.

## Summary

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

## Discussion

The Watershed Protection Regulation 350 CMR 11.09(2)(a)(20) states: “Commercial signs and advertising are prohibited in the Watershed System.”

This 1998 policy has not changed.

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<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.







## Marking – Trails/Roads

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### Policy

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

### Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off-Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off-Watershed Ponds<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Marking – Trails/Roads</b>						

### Discussion

The Watershed Protection Regulation 350 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 DCR or its designed. This policy has been modified to clarify the Division’s policy on the construction of recent road memorials on Division’s internal roads.

This 1998 policy has not changed.

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<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.







# Alcohol

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## Policy

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

## Summary

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

## Discussion

Watershed Rangers reported 30 alcohol and disorderly conduct rule interventions for the 1999-2004 time period. The Watershed Protection Regulation 350 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 1998 policy has not changed.

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<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.

## Other

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### Policy

Not applicable.

### Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Quabbin Park</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservation</i>	<i>Off- Reservation</i>	<i>Quabbin Reservoir</i>	<i>Regulating Ponds</i>	<i>Off- Watershed Ponds<sup>1</sup></i>
Other	If an activity is not listed, please contact and discuss with the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221 or Watershed Rangers (413) 323-0192, before proceeding.					

### Discussion

If an activity is not listed, please contact and discuss with the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221 or the Watershed Rangers at (413) 323-0192, before proceeding.

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<sup>1</sup> South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond are off-watershed ponds.

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