Quabbin Reservoir and its 56,000 acres of protected watershed were created in the 1930s to provide drinking water for Metropolitan Boston. Today Quabbin Reservoir is part of a system that supplies drinking water to 43% of Massachusetts residents. As the largest open space in Southern New England, it also provides a unique opportunity for groups to learn about watersheds, watershed management, drinking water supply, the history of the Quabbin valley and wildlife habitat.

The DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center offers educational programs in schools, remote programs via Zoom, guided outdoor hikes in areas of Quabbin Park in Belchertown, and for older students (5th and up) a Dana Common hike at Gate 40 in Petersham. We work with students of all ages, from Pre-K to college. There is no charge for any DWSP education programs.

For more information on programs or to schedule a program please contact:

OuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

If you plan to visit to Quabbin Reservoir or the Ware River Watershed with students please remember:

- Groups of over 25 people must have an Access Permit. There is no charge for permits for educational groups (www.mass.gov/info-details/watershed-permits).
- Please schedule programs at least two weeks in advance.
- Please be prepared when visiting Quabbin Reservoir: dress appropriately for the weather and outdoor recreation; especially be aware of ticks.
- All DWSP rules and regulations apply; dogs are not allowed anywhere at the Ouabbin Reservoir.

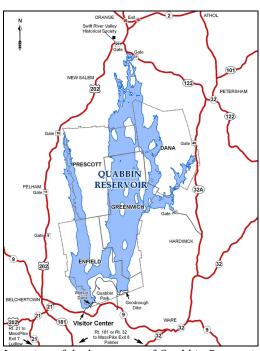
Quabbin Reservoir's Management Agency

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), part of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, is steward of 450,000 acres of forests, parks, greenways, historic sites and landscapes, seashore, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and watersheds throughout the Commonwealth.

DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection (DCR-DWSP) manages Quabbin, Wachusett and Sudbury Reservoirs as well as the Ware River watershed in cooperation with the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority.

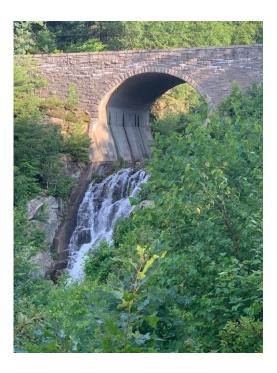
DCR-DWSP is responsible for the safe storage of source waters, protection of reservoir water quality, and management of the watersheds.

MWRA is responsible for drinking water distribution and treatment.



Quabbin Park and Reservoir

Educational Programs for Schools





Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Water Supply Protection
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007
413-323-7221

www.mass.gov/dcr/watershed

Narrated PowerPoint Presentations

35-45 minutes, available year-round as remote programs via Zoom or on–site at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center. These programs are also available in-person for schools in the Quabbin and Ware River watershed region.

Exploring the Quabbin Reservoir

Quabbin Reservoir is part of a water supply system that provides drinking water to 43% of Massachusetts. How much do you know about the reservoir, it's history and how it is managed today?

Lost Towns of the Quabbin Valley

What was it like growing up in Dana, Enfield, Prescott and Greenwich before the reservoir was built? Find out through historic photos and former resident's own words.

Eagles, Loons, and Bears oh My!

In the past 50 years our region has seen the return of many woodland animals in part because of the great habitat created by the Quabbin Reservoir and Ware River watershed forests. Learn about the behavior and habitats of some local wildlife.

Suggested Curriculum Connections Elementary curriculum connections

- Engineering Design
- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- Earth's Systems
- Massachusetts, Home to Many Different People

Middle School curriculum connections

- Engineering Design
- Earth's Systems
- United States and Massachusetts Government and Civic Life

Interactive Classroom Programs

30–45-minute programs focused on watershed protection, building dams and wildlife at Quabbin. These programs are available to schools in the Quabbin and Ware River watershed region.

Branching Out

What is a watershed? What role do they play in our environment? Students will build a model of a watershed and learn how they impact the world around us. (Project WET Activity)

Build a Dam

Where did the water for Quabbin Reservoir come from? In this program students will experiment building a model dam to better understand how the reservoir was created.

Wildlife Artifacts Exploration

How heavy is a moose skull? How soft is rabbit fur? How are turkey's tail feathers different from the wing feathers? This 30-minute program provides students the opportunity to touch and examine wildlife artifacts from bones to feathers to pelts of wildlife.



Outdoor Programs

Visitor Center staff is also available to offer guided outdoor programs to schools and groups on site at Quabbin Reservoir.

History Detectives

Explore Webster Road Trail in Quabbin Park and discover signs of the past. Easy 0.5 miles

Habitat Investigations

Walk the Shoreline Trail and look for signs of wildlife. Easy 1.0 miles.

Dana Common Hike (Available to 5th grade and older)

Walk the road to Dana Common and find out what life was like in one of the disestablished towns and discover how the landscape has changed since the Reservoir was built. Moderate, 1.8 miles to Dana Common



View of Dana Common c. 1930