

Examples of Signs placed around the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed



Who is DCR/DWSP?

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Division of Water Supply Protection (DWSP), controls over 82,000 acres of land and water in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System. DCR/DWSP manages these resources primarily for drinking water quality protection.

Water from the Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River, and Wachusett Reservoir is ultimately sent to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) for treatment and distribution to approximately 2.5 million residents in 48 Boston communities, as well as three local communities.



QUABBIN RESERVOIR WATERSHED

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DOG WASTE AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY

DID YOU KNOW?

There are an estimated 83 million dogs in the U.S.

Each dog produces about ¾ pounds of solid waste with 7.8 billion bacteria per day!



What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land where all of the water that falls upon it drains off to a common body of water, such as a reservoir. Watersheds consist of surface water from rain, snowmelt, wetlands, streams, and lakes, as well as underlying groundwater. Ridges and hills define the basin-like area.

All activities within a watershed, no matter how big or small, have an impact on overall water quality.

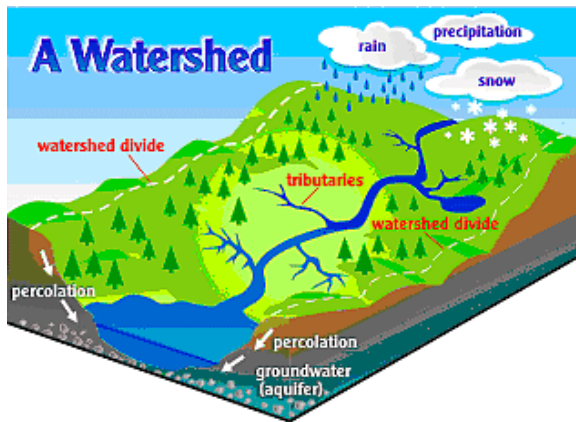


Diagram of a watershed from the [Sandusky River Watershed Coalition](http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watershed.html).

<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watershed.html>
U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, 2016

Why Aren't Dogs Allowed on Quabbin Watershed Property?



Dog waste is full of harmful bacteria, excess nutrients, and sometimes parasites and viruses.

Parasites such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* can last for long periods of time in dog waste. When dog waste is left on the ground, heavy rain and snowmelt wash the waste into streams and tributaries, compromising water quality. In the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed, these streams and tributaries all lead to the Quabbin Reservoir, an unfiltered drinking water supply. The drinking water that comes from the Quabbin Reservoir is regulated by both state and federal laws.

Dog waste carrying bacteria, parasites, and viruses can also infect wildlife and have a serious impact on local ecosystems.

How You Can Help

Know where you are walking:

- ✓ Who owns the property?
- ✓ What are the rules and regulations?
- ✓ Pay attention to the signs.

DCR/DWSP property is posted. Dogs, and all other domestic animals, are prohibited by regulation throughout the entire Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System; 313 CMR 11.09 (2)(a)13.

For more information on activities that are and are not allowed, please refer to signs posted around the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed. You may also contact the Quabbin Visitor Center or view the Quabbin Public Access Plan online.

www.mass.gov/dcr/quabbinaccess



* The use of a service animal by a person with a disability is allowed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.