

## Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Public Access Policies - 2018

<i>Activity</i>	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds	Off-Watershed Ponds
<b>VEHICLE ACCESS</b>						
<a href="#">Driving for Sightseeing</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Snowmobiling</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">ATV Riding</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Bicycling -Designated Roads</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>5</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Off-road Bicycling</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Sledding</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>FOOT ACCESS</b>						
<a href="#">Walking/Snowshoeing</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>6</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>6</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Cross-country Skiing</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Hunting/Trapping</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>7</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>7</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Ice Fishing/Ice Skating</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
<a href="#">Shore and Stream Fishing</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>9</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>10</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>11</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>10</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>10</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>11</sup>
<b>WATER ACCESS</b>						
<a href="#">Boat Fishing</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>12</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>13</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>14</sup>
<a href="#">Canoeing/Kayaking/Boating</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>13</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>14</sup>
<a href="#">Wading (fishing, launching)</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>15</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>16</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>16</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>17</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>17</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>15</sup>
<a href="#">Swimming</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>OTHER ACCESS</b>						
<a href="#">Group Activities (weddings, organized walks, tour buses, etc.)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>18</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>18</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>18</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Geocaching and Related Activities</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>19</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Wildlife/Bird Watching</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>20</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>20</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>20</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>20</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>20</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>20</sup>
<a href="#">Night Access</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>21</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>22</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>22</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>22</sup>
<a href="#">Organized Sports</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Dogs/Other Animals</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Horseback Riding</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Metal Detecting</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Foraging</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>24</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>24</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>24</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Camping</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Fishing Derbies</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>
<a href="#">Target Shooting</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Advertising</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Marking or Cutting Trails/Roads</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Unmanned Aerial Vehicles</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>25</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>25</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>25</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>25</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>25</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>25</sup>
<a href="#">Alcohol (possession of)</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Commercial Activities</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup>
<a href="#">Other</a>	Please call the Quabbin Visitor Center 413-323-7221 or Watershed Ranger Station 413-323-0192					

Prohibited

Allowed - general restrictions

<sup>#</sup> Specific Restrictions

*Please click on each activity name for additional details about that particular public access policy.*

*A map of the different management areas is at the end of this document.*

### 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. This chart is based on the Watershed Protection Regulations 313 CMR 11.00, copies of which are available at the Quabbin Visitor Center. Littering is strictly prohibited. Carry in/Carry out. Do not feed wildlife.**

### Specific Restrictions:

- <sup>1</sup> The Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike have restricted vehicle access for security reasons. Operational needs will require some Quabbin Park gates to close before the regulatory access times of one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset; closing times will be posted on Quabbin Park gates. Operators of motor vehicles shall obey all regulatory signs unless otherwise directed by a police officer or person in charge.
- <sup>2</sup> Snowmobiling is allowed only on DWSP designated routes located on Off-Reservation land. 302 CMR 12.14 applies.
- <sup>3</sup> Bicycling is only allowed on designated roads in Quabbin Park. See DWSP bicycling maps. Helmets and protective gear are required by MA law for children under 16 years of age and recommended for others
- <sup>4</sup> Bicycling is allowed only on designated roads through DWSP gates 29, 30, 31, 35, 40, 43A & B, and 44. Bicycling is only allowed on designated roads through Gate 8 during fishing season. See DWSP Bicycling map for designated roads. Bicycling is not allowed on the baffle dams.
- <sup>5</sup> Bicycling is allowed on main forest roads only within Off-Reservation lands with seasonal restrictions (e.g., mud season).
- <sup>6</sup> Walking or snowshoeing access is allowed within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System, except in restricted areas (e.g., Prescott Peninsula, posted administration areas, reservoir islands, and along the baffle dams).
- <sup>7</sup> Hunting and trapping are prohibited except by permit during the Quabbin Controlled Deer Hunt and MassWildlife's White-tailed Deer Hunt for Paraplegic Hunters. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center for more information.
- <sup>8</sup> Ice fishing, ice skating, and carry-in boat access allowed only on three Off-Watershed ponds: South Spectacle, Bassett and Pepper's Mill Ponds. Please call Watershed Rangers, if accessing, at 617-828-2452.
- <sup>9</sup> No fishing in Quabbin Park except catch-and-release fly fishing (allowed all year) below the Winsor Dam in the Swift River, unless posted.
- <sup>10</sup> Shore fishing along the reservoir and along streams is permitted between Gates 8-16 (ending at West Branch of Swift River) and 22-44 (except on baffle dams), by foot, during the designated Quabbin Fishing Season only. See the current Quabbin Fishing Guide and Map available at the Quabbin Visitor Center. Fishing is not allowed on the baffle dams.
- <sup>11</sup> Shore fishing within Off-Reservation lands and along Off-Watershed ponds is allowed year round according to state fishing regulations.
- <sup>12</sup> Boat access on designated areas of reservoir or Regulating Ponds requires a valid MA fishing license and size/motor restrictions. Wearing boots is mandatory if wading while launching or removing boats at designated areas from the reservoir. Fishing access using DWSP-supplied canoes, kayaks, or jon boats is allowed only through Gate 31 above regulating dam and through Gate 43 on Pottapaug Pond with restrictions. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at 413-323-7221 for more information regarding the current fishing guide and the recent decontamination/boat seal requirements for all private boats.
- <sup>13</sup> Private canoes and kayaks are not allowed on the Regulating Ponds, however DWSP rents canoes and kayaks on a first come-first serve basis at Boat Launch Areas #2 and #3 for use on the Regulating Ponds at these areas. Fishing/sporting licenses or Quabbin fishing licenses are required for renting boats. All boating regulations for Quabbin Reservoir apply to these crafts. Fishing access using private jon boats with valid Quabbin Boat Seal is allowed only through Gate 31 above regulating dam and through Gate 43 on Pottapaug Pond with restrictions. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at 413-323-7221 for more information regarding current Fishing Guide.
- <sup>14</sup> Carry-in boat access is allowed on Off-Watershed ponds with DWSP size restrictions. See night access policy, if applicable. Allowed subject to MA boating regulations. Please call Watershed Rangers, if accessing, at 617-828-2452.

- <sup>15</sup> Wading with waders is allowed off-watershed below the Winsor Dam Power Station on the Swift River
- <sup>16</sup> Wading in waders is allowed in tributaries between Gates 8-16 (ending at West Branch of Swift River) and Gates 22-44, except in restricted areas, and in off-reservation tributaries.
- <sup>17</sup> Wading in the reservoir is prohibited except while launching or removing boats while wearing boots, at designated boat launch areas.
- <sup>18</sup> Allowed without a permit for groups of less than 25 individuals and less than 10 cars and/or 10 motorcycles. Permit required for group of 25 through 100 individuals or 10-40 cars/motorcycles or one bus. Special ceremonies (weddings, memorials) limited to 75 people.
- <sup>19</sup> Review by Quabbin Visitor Center required for any cache placement (also applies to “munzing,” “letterboxing,” “questing,” and other forms of related “hide and seek” activities).
- <sup>20</sup> Wildlife/bird watching is permissible if conducted in conjunction with any permitted access activity, including night access. Access is prohibited on frozen reservoir and regulating ponds. Group viewing must obtain either a short-term birding access permit or a group activity permit.
- <sup>21</sup> Night access within Quabbin Park is prohibited except at two locations. It is allowed without a permit on the Swift River below the Y Pool, if access is from Route 9, and on Pepper’s Mill Pond, provided that access is limited to the immediate banks of the Swift River, Y Pool, or Pepper’s Mill Pond only. Access to the Swift River, Y-Pool and Rt. 9 parking area is prohibited between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m.
- <sup>22</sup> Night access within Quabbin Reservation is allowed by permit for pedestrians only through Gates 16, 31, 35, 41, and 43 only during the designated Quabbin fishing season. Night access directly from Route 122 is allowed without a permit on South Spectacle Pond (off-watershed). Night access is allowed on off-reservation lands with permit. Contact Quabbin Visitor Center for permit information.
- <sup>23</sup> Prohibited except by written permission from DWSP.
- <sup>24</sup> Foraging is allowed only for the collection of edible plants, such as blueberries and mushrooms, in a non-disruptive manner and for non-commercial use.
- <sup>25</sup> Takeoff or landing from DWSP land prohibited except by written permission from DWSP.



# Quabbin Reservoir Public Management Areas

Division of Water Supply Protection - Office of Watershed Management  
Public Access Management Plan 2018

