

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

Quabbin Reservoir

485 Ware Road (Rte. 9) Belchertown, MA 01007, (413) 323-7221

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Quabbin Reservoir, we offer the following suggested experiences that we think you might enjoy.

- **“Introductory”** are short and appropriate for most users, including families with children.
- **“Signature”** are recommended trail experiences. These may be longer or more difficult but highlight some of the best park features.

For a safe and enjoyable park experience please review the **Things to Know Before You Go** section at the end of this document.

Signature Hike Dam, Dike and Tower Trek

Trailhead: Begin at Quabbin Park Visitor Center near the Windsor Dam. **Lat/Long:**

Distance: 9.8 mi **Difficulty:** Difficult

Brief Description: Head right traveling over Windsor Dam and then across the spillway, past the gate to Quabbin Hill Rd. Turn left and travel on-road along this park road (low volume/low speed traffic). Here begins the strenuous ascent up Quabbin Hill. Continuing your climb, the road now heads inland and brings you to another overlook at mile 2. Continue uphill to a rotary at 2.2 miles. If you head right and travel uphill a bit more this road will bring you to the Quabbin Observation Tower after 0.4 miles. Travel around the rotary and descend to Enfield Lookout at 2.6 miles with more views of the reservoir and its islands. The trail finally levels off after 3.25 miles as it passes by Hanks Meadow. After passing Brown's Field you'll come alongside the reservoir with views of Goodnough Dike. At 4.7 miles you come to an intersection. Turn left and travel past the gate. Bear left at an intersection and you'll soon be crossing over the 2140' long Goodnough Dike. You reach the end of the dam at 5.2 miles where you encounter Gate 50. Turn right and follow the road back below the dam before another steep ascent returns you to Old Ware-Enfield Rd after 6.5 miles. Turn back here and retrace your route to the Visitor Center. A brochure is available here:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/watersupply/watershed/quabbinbrochure.pdf>

Things to Know Before You Go

- **Time, distance, difficulty.** The average hiker pace is estimated at 1.5 miles per hour. Most distances are round-trip. Plan conservatively, start early. Be aware of weather and sunset. Trail difficulty ratings based on ruggedness and gradient are *easy*, *moderate*, or *difficult*.
- **Wear weather appropriate clothing**, layer for temperature changes. Bring sunblock. Wear appropriate and sturdy footwear.
- **Parking at trailheads.** [Parking fees](#) may apply. Space may be limited. Be courteous to avoid blocking in others. Do not leave valuables in your car.
- **Bring a map and share your plans with someone.**
- **Drinking water** may not be available on site. Bring plenty!
- **Stay on designated trails.** Follow painted blazes and signs if available. Generally, double blazes indicate an intersection or direction change.
- **Pace & group size.** Keep your group together; hike only as fast as your group's slowest hiker or rider. Limit your group size to 12 people or fewer to lessen impacts.
- **Carry-in, carry-out all trash and personal belongings.** Follow the Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. [More information here.](#)
- **Know which parks are pet friendly.** Dogs are not permitted in DCR Water Supply Protection areas (such as Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs) and certain state parks. Always keep your dog leashed, 10-foot maximum. Always pick up after your dog and dispose of waste properly. [Complete guidelines here.](#)
- **Be aware of hunting seasons.** Wear blaze orange when appropriate. [More information here.](#)
- **Wear a bicycle helmet** while biking. Riders age 16 and under must wear a helmet. It is the law. [More information here.](#)
- **Wear your PFD** while boating. A Personal Flotation Device (PFD), or life preserver, must be worn by boaters age 12 and under; and canoeists/kayakers from Sept. 15-May 15. [More information here.](#)
- **Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers.** Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment. It is the law. [More information here.](#)
- **Be aware some trails may not be well marked, and some may not be identified on a trail map.**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees over 450,000 acres of state parks, forests, beaches, bike trails, parkways, watershed lands,

and dams across the Commonwealth. DCR's mission is to: *Protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all.*