

Spring Ramble

DCR DWSP Quabbin Reservoir and Quabbin Park



TRIP-TIP SELF-GUIDED ADVENTURE

Welcome

Explore the Quabbin Reservoir with these self-guided “Trip-Tips”. Three unique areas in the Quabbin Reservation that spotlight the both the history and the natural resources of **Quabbin Park, Quabbin Park Cemetery, and Dana Common (Gate 40)**. Choose one site, two sites, or make it a multi-day adventure and challenge yourself to visit all three sites with your family during April Vacation Week, or anytime this Spring.

- ▲ **Enfield Lookout Trail at Quabbin Park in Belchertown, MA**
- **Quabbin Park Cemetery at Quabbin Park in Ware, MA**
- ★ **Walk to Dana Common at Quabbin Reservation in Petersham, MA**

Trip-Tips give families information and some fun ideas to explore the great outdoors at DCR Massachusetts State Parks and Watersheds. With a little preparation and a sense of adventure, people of all ages can safely enjoy our outdoor spaces.

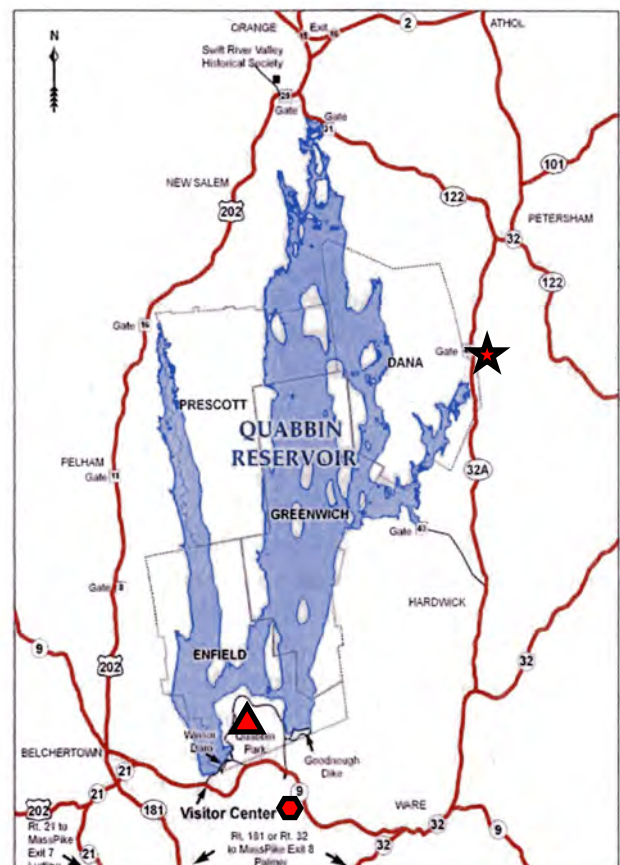
Look through this guide to help plan your outing. Choose one park, two parks, or make it a multi-day adventure. Visit them in any order, you decide. Challenge yourself to visit all the sites with your family during April Vacation Week, or anytime this Spring. We hope you enjoy this Trip-Tip tour.

Share Your Adventure!

Share your Trip-Tip adventure with others through word of mouth, or on social media using the hashtags **#massdcr** and **#dcrtip**.

Things To Know, Before You Go

- Carry-in, carry-out all of your belongings, including trash.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Observe all posted rules and regulations.
- Dress appropriately for the weather
- Dogs are not allowed at Quabbin Park or Reservation



Why are dogs are not allowed anywhere in Quabbin Park or Quabbin Reservation? *



Did you know? Quabbin Reservoir is an unfiltered drinking water reservoir that serves 3 million people in Massachusetts.

Why does that affect me bringing my dog? Dog waste is full of harmful bacteria, excess nutrients, and sometimes parasites and viruses. When dog waste is left on the ground, heavy rain and snowmelt wash the waste into streams and tributaries, compromising water quality. Dog waste carrying bacteria, parasites, and viruses can also infect wildlife and have a serious impact on local ecosystems.

I always pick up after my dog. Why can't I bring them to Quabbin? Even when you remove your dog's waste, residual fecal matter is left behind which can impact water quality and the

Remember, Quabbin Reservoir is the water supply for 3 million people in MA. Respect the rules that protect the water and leave your dog at home.

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

Enfield Outlook Trail

Quabbin Park

Travel two miles East on Route 9 from the main entrance (100 Winsor Dam Rd), and turn left at the green sign marked "Quabbin Reservoir/Winsor Dam. Follow the Administration Road to the rotary. Pass the road to the Tower and look for a barway on the right side of the rotary. The gate is marked WR21. Limited parking is available by the gate.

Phone: 413-323-7221 Email: QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/dcr-quabbin-park-access-map/download>

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Parking Fees: No parking fees

Restrooms: Portable toilets are available outside the Visitor Center and at the Quabbin Tower.

Enfield Lookout Trail (1/4 miles -Easy)

The trail begins at the Gate marked WR21 in the Tower Road Rotary. It is a wide, easily managed trail that passes by an old apple orchard. It ends at Enfield Lookout which provides a spectacular view of the reservoir.

Spring is a wonderful time to explore the Quabbin Forest and to look and listen for the signs of nature around us.

Bring a notebook to record what you find or use a phone or camera to take photos. (If you would like, tag us on Twitter use the hashtags **#massdcr** and **#dcrtip**)

Clues

1) Lovely as a tree

As you walk the trail you may see a stand of trees that have a distinctive white bark. Similar to the skin of humans, tree bark provides protection from the outside world. It insulates from both heat and cold and keeps out insects and disease. It can also be used to identify a tree. Do you know what type of tree this is? (hint: Indigenous people used the bark of this tree to make canoes.)

2) Apple of my eye

As you walk further along the trail you will see a turn to the right. This takes you into an apple orchard. Although apple trees were commonly cultivated in the Valley, this orchard was planted after the reservoir was built. Walk around the orchard and look at the different shapes the tree branches form. What shapes do you see? How is the bark different then the trees you just looked at?

3) The sound of silence

Head back to the main trail and take a right to continue. (Although there are other trails leading out of the orchard these are not designated trails.) As you walk give yourself a challenge and be silent for 30 seconds. What sounds do you hear? How many different sounds do you hear? (some of them may be from other humans, those count too!) If 30 seconds was easy challenge yourself to 60 seconds!

4) Dead or alive

Continue along the trail and follow it to the left. As you walk you may see dead standing trees (snags) or trees that have fallen on the ground (logs). Stop and take a closer look at a snag. Take a closer look at a log. What might be living in a snag? How might wildlife use a log? How do you think dead trees benefit a forest?

5) I can see clearly now



Enfield Lookout, c. 1922

The barway marks the end of this trail. After looking for traffic, cross the paved road and head right towards the Enfield Lookout. A wayside sign shows views of the valley from the past. Compare the photos to the view in front of you. Can you spot features of the landscape that are the same?

Quabbin Park Cemetery (Easy)

Travel two and a half miles East on Route 9 from the main entrance (100 Winsor Dam Rd), and turn right at the green sign marked "Quabbin Park Cemetery".

Phone: 413-323-7221 Email: QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/dcr-quabbin-park-access-map/download>

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Parking Fees: No parking fees

Restrooms: Portable toilets are available at the Visitor Center and Quabbin Tower.

Remember, Quabbin Reservoir is the water supply for 3 million people in MA. Respect the rules that protect the water and leave your dog at home.

Quabbin Park Cemetery was developed on farmland acquired during the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir. All of the known graves from 34 cemeteries were removed from the Swift River Valley and most were relocated to Quabbin Park Cemetery. It is a sanctuary for the remains and memories of the people of the Swift River Valley. Many of the grave markers are old and extremely fragile. **Please be aware that grave rubbings are strictly prohibited.** It is also still an active cemetery. Please be respectful and keep this in mind as you explore these beautiful grounds.

Bring a notebook to record what you find or use a phone or camera to take photos. If you would

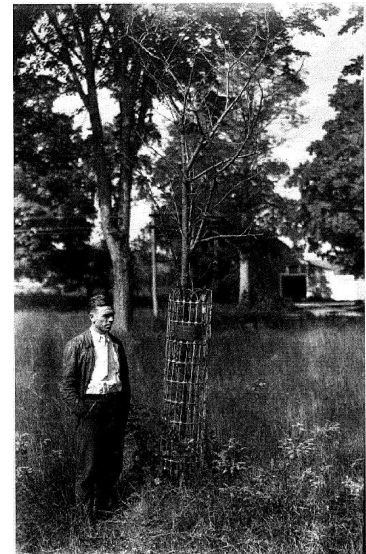
Quabbin Cemetery Search

1) Remembrance Tree

Close behind the War Memorials is a single tree. A single tree like this once grew in the center of Greenwich in memory of Stephen Walker. He died of Influenza at Camp Devens in 1918 while serving in the US Army in World War 1. Do you think this is the original tree planted in 1918 in Greenwich? Why would a family choose to plant a tree in memory of a loved one who died?

2) Speaking of trees...

As you walk around the cemetery, take a moment to notice the different kinds of trees. Certain species of trees were often planted in cemeteries because of their symbolic meanings. Evergreen trees, like the red cedars here, represented everlasting life. Oak trees were revered for their strength and longevity. What other symbolism might trees represent in a cemetery?



*Stephen Walker
Memorial Tree,
Greenwich, MA*

3) How you lichen that?

When we walk in older cemeteries and look at gravestones we usually focus on the names and symbols carved on the stones. But if we look beyond the carvings we can see the organisms that have grown on the stones over years. Lichens are a partnership between a fungus and an alga. They can grow on many surfaces, including gravestones. Although some people don't like the look of lichens, their presence is a sign that our air is healthy and clean. There are dozens of different kinds of lichens. How many different types can you see? Interested in learning more about lichens? Check out this website: <https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/lichens/index.shtml>

4) Memento Mori

For thousands of years and in many different cultures, humans have marked loved ones' burial places with stones. Stones or monuments made of stone would last for hundreds of years as a reminder of the people who died. Our cemetery has four centuries of gravestones and in each era different types of stone were used. As you walk around, can you identify different types of stone? Why do you think each era may have chosen different types of stone to mark graves? Was it because the stone was common, or for its beauty or longevity or perhaps even because certain types of stones were popular? Learn more about the common stones and their geological composition here: <https://spadeandthegrave.com/2019/05/05/the-geologic-composition-weathering-of-gravestones/>

5) Musicians of the Air

Quabbin Park Cemetery was designed in the style of the "rural cemetery movement", cemeteries that were landscaped to create beautiful park like areas for burials. Consequently, our cemetery is also an excellent habitat for wildlife. In the spring particularly, this is a great spot for listening and spotting birds. As you travel through the cemetery, pause and listen for the "little nimble musicians of the air" as the author Izaak Walton described them. (If you are interested, read more about how other cemeteries have created habitat for diverse species here: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/cemeteries-home-to-diverse-plants-animals>)

Quabbin Park: Extend the Experience

There is lots to explore in Quabbin Park! Check out this map for more ideas of places to visit: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/dcr-quabbin-park-access-map/download>



- Bring your bikes and helmets along and take an easy 1-mile bike ride over the Winsor Dam.
- Drive up to Quabbin Hill and take a short walk to the top and take in the views of the whole region. (Due to Covid-19 restrictions Quabbin Tower is not open to the public.)

Dana Common (Gate 40) 4 miles round trip Moderate

Gate 40 is located in Petersham, Massachusetts, on the west side of Rte. 32a, also known as Hardwick Road. It's about 3 miles down on the right of 32a from Rte. 122 in the north. Coming from Rte 32 in the south, it's about 9 miles up the road on the left from where scenic Rte. 32a .breaks off, not far after Dana Road on the right.

Phone: 413-323-7221 Email: QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/east-quabbin-reservation-bicycle-access/download>

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Parking Fees: No parking fees

Restrooms: There is one portable toilet placed in the Common area.

Remember, Quabbin Reservoir is the water supply for 3 million people in MA. Respect the rules that protect the water and leave your dog at home.

Dana Common Search (this search is specific to the Common area.)

For your own safety and to preserve our historic resources, please stay on the trails and paved surfaces, and stay off the historic walls, features, and foundations.

1) Remembrance of what was lost

As you walk into the common area you will see two stones marking the history of the town that was removed. What do they say? What organizations placed them here?

2) Pictures of the past

The Dana Center school and Town Hall were on the right side of the Common area next to the Dana Center Cemetery. A row a granite pillars shows where the cemetery fence was located.

In front of the school and town hall foundations is a photograph. Look at it closely... is there something unexpected in front of the school?



3) A river of stones

Across the road from the school and town hall a road heads out of the Common. What is different about the wall that runs along the left side of the road?

4) A place of cooling shade

Continue walking down the road into the field. On the left is a large tree. How old do you think this tree is? Take a few minutes and look at it. What do you think is most special about it?

5) Hidden Secrets

Head back down to the main road and turn left. There are several cellar holes along the road. Inside one cellar is a large object that may have held secrets. What do you think was kept in there?

Extend the Experience

The Quabbin Reservoir has many forest roads that are open to hiking and biking throughout the year. Find out more areas to explore with the Quabbin Reservoir Access app <https://mass-eoea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=b0c88edfe1eb4168a943a35c5e26c8fc>

Please be aware of all regulations www.mass.gov/quabbin-reservoir

Remember, Quabbin Reservoir is the water supply for 3 million people in MA. Respect the rules that protect the water and leave your dog at home.

Conclusion

As the water supply source for 3 million people in Massachusetts, Quabbin Reservoir is a vital resource. We hope you take the chance to explore and learn more about this property.



Middle Branch of the Swift River from Gate 40.