



Sudbury & Foss Reservoir Watershed
2021 Public Access Plan Update
Remote Public Listening Session
September 2021

Meeting Logistics

- You will have the opportunity to submit comments over the course of the next two weeks at:
 - DCR Public Comments <https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>
- Two ways to ask questions during the meeting
 - Use chat feature
 - Raise your hand using the Teams function, and you will be given permissions to unmute and speak.
- *Please note that this public information meeting will be recorded; the recording will be a public record.*



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Charles D. Baker

Lieutenant Governor

Karyn E. Polito

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Kathleen A. Theoharides

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

Jim Montgomery

Project Team

- John Scannell – Director, Division of Water Supply Protection
- Andrew Leahy – Ranger Supervisor, Wachusett/Sudbury Watersheds
- Derek Liimatainen – Assistant Regional Director, Wachusett/Sudbury Watersheds
- Kelley Freda – Environmental Analyst, Wachusett/Sudbury Watersheds
- Josh Sjogren - Environmental Analyst, Wachusett/Sudbury Watersheds
- Dan Cushing – Director of Public Engagement

DCR Mission Statement

To protect, promote, and enhance our Commonwealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the well-being of all.

Sudbury Public Access Plan Revised Estimated Timeline

Fall 2019 Sudbury Reservoir Watershed Public Access Survey data collected

Public Listening Session postponed due to Covid-19

September 2021 Public Listening Session Rescheduled and held via remote platform

Fall 2021 Writing of Draft Plan and distribution to stakeholders/public for review

Public Meeting on Draft Public Access Plan

Plan revisions (if needed)

Winter 2021/Spring 2022 Plan finalized

The Purpose of DCR DWSP Public Access Plans

- To establish policies and develop an implementation strategy that controls the impacts to water quality from human activities on Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection lands in the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs watershed.
- The federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Amendments, state drinking water regulations, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Watershed Protection Regulations (313 CMR 11.00) require that public access on drinking water supply lands must be managed to minimize the risk of waterborne disease and to control other human impacts.
- The primary function of these water supply lands is to protect and provide high quality drinking water for current and future generations.
- DCR-Watershed's access plans detail management rationale and explain which programs and activities are used to limit and control access to these lands and waters.

Division of Water Supply Protection Public Access Plans are reviewed approximately every 10 years on a rotating watershed basis.

The review takes into consideration new recreational activities, staff observation of current impacts and updated research.

The first Sudbury Public Access Plan was written in 1994 and subsequent updates were completed in 2002 and 2010.

Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs as an Emergency Supply

The Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs are the only emergency drinking water source supply for three million residents of Eastern Massachusetts.

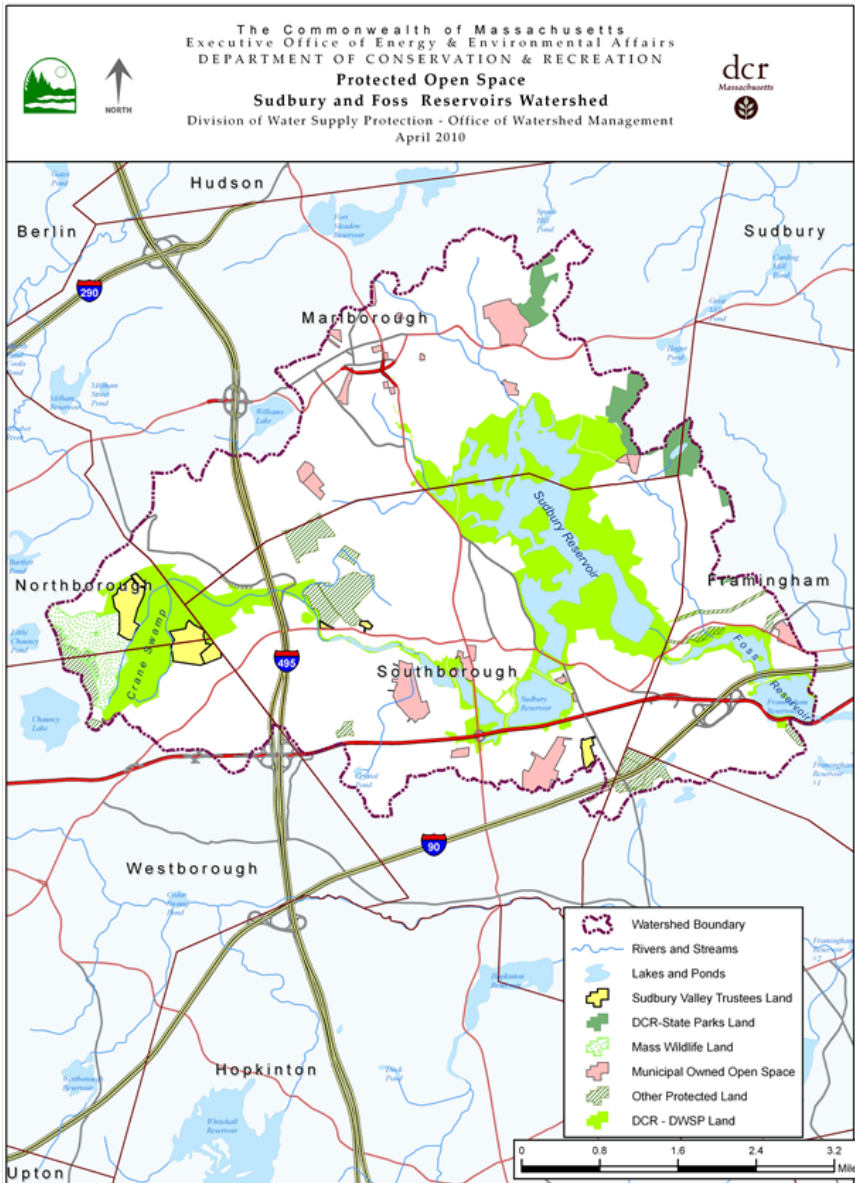
There are three emergency conditions that would require the use of the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs:

- Wachusett Reservoir is declared non-potable.
- There is an inability to convey water from the Wachusett Reservoir to the MWRA distribution system.
- A serious drought occurs.

Depending on the situation, the Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs would be used either as a primary source of water supply, as a pass through of Wachusett Reservoir water, or as a supplemental source to the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs

The Sudbury and Foss Reservoirs are therefore not critical to the daily operations and service provided by DCR and MWRA. However, once an emergency occurs, the water quality of these water bodies will impact the ability of their use as a reserve supply.

Therefore, DCR views the protection of this resource as an important objective in its overall watershed management strategy

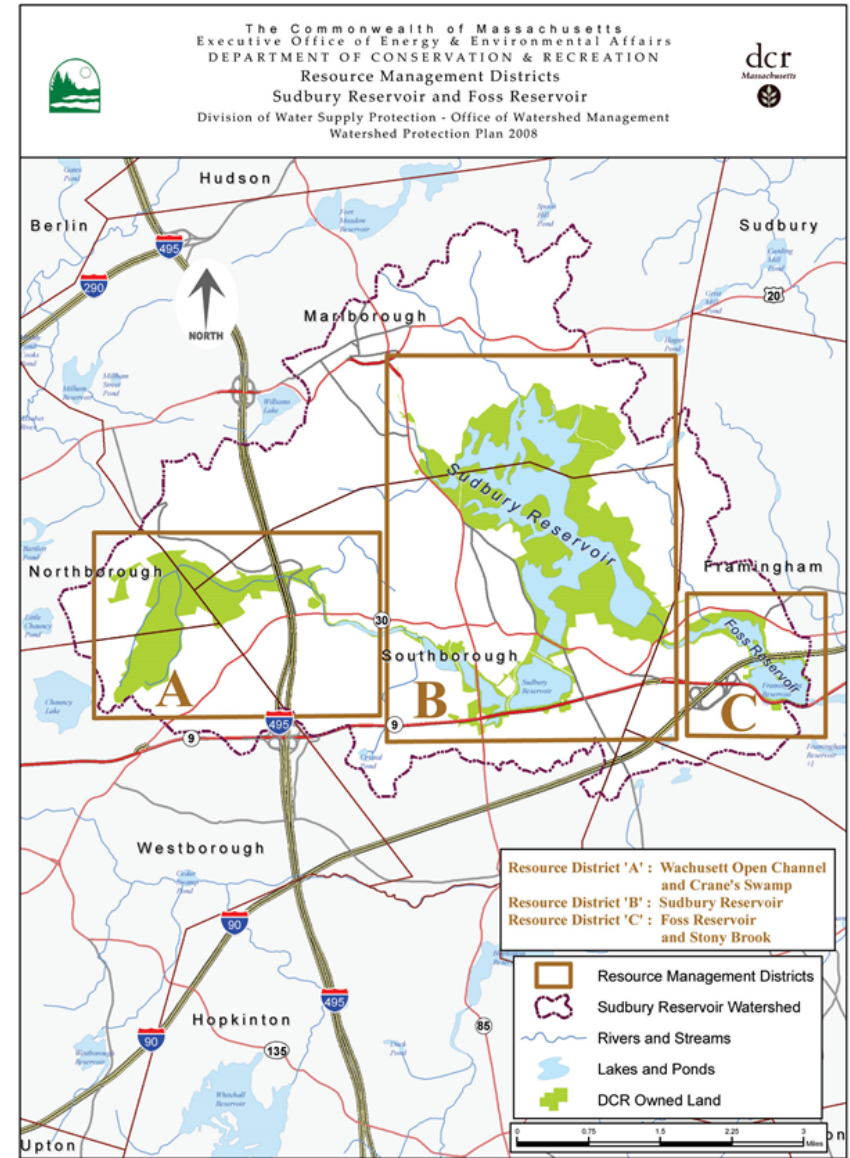


DCR DWSP ownership 2,381 acres

District A: Wachusett
Open Channel and Crane's
Swamp

District B: Sudbury
Reservoir

District C: Foss Reservoir
and Stony Brook



Current Sudbury Watershed Public Access Policies

ACTIVITY	Wachusett Open Channel/Crane's Swamp (Area A)	Sudbury Reservoir (Area B)	Foss Reservoir (No. 3)/Stony Brook (Area C)
VEHICLE ACCESS			
Off-Road Driving (ORVs, ATVs)	⊘	⊘	⊘
Snowmobiling	⊘	⊘	⊘
Bicycling	⊘	⊘	⊘
FOOT ACCESS			
Hiking	✓	✓	⊘*
Dog Walking	⊘	⊘	⊘
Cross-Country Skiing	✓	✓	⊘
Shoreline Fishing	✓	✓	⊘*
Horseback Riding	⊘	⊘	⊘
Hunting	⊘	⊘	⊘
WATER ACCESS			
Boating - non -motorized	⊘	⊘	⊘
Boating – motorized (including “jet-skis”)	⊘	⊘	⊘
Swimming	⊘	⊘	⊘
Ice Skating/Ice Fishing	⊘	⊘	⊘
OTHER ACTIVITIES			
Camping	⊘	⊘	⊘
Picnicking	✓	✓	⊘*
Fires & Cooking	⊘	⊘	⊘
Collecting/Metal Detecting	⊘	⊘	⊘
Geocaching	✓	✓	⊘*



Public access is allowed in designated areas only

⊘ Activity prohibited

*

Activity prohibited, but may be allowed in future if suitable access is identified.

Potential Policy Changes for Consideration

- Private construction of a portion of the Southborough Trail Loop (the Peninsula Trail) in a currently posted No Trespassing Area on land adjacent to the Sudbury Dam with an approved DCR/MWRA agreement.
- The opening of lands surrounding Foss Reservoir for passive recreation where public access is currently prohibited.



Additional Information

- Recording and tonight's slide deck will be available at:
 - www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings
- If you have comments on this project:
 - *Submit online:* www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment
 - *Deadline: Wednesday, October 6th, 2021*

Please note: the contents of comments submitted to DCR, including your name, town and zip code, will be posted on DCR's website. Additional contact information provided, notably email address, will only be used for outreach on future updates to the subject project or property.

- If you wish to subscribe to a DCR general information or project-related listserv: contact DCR's Office of Community Relations via email at mass.parks@mass.gov

Questions and Comments?

Please state name, address and affiliation, if any.