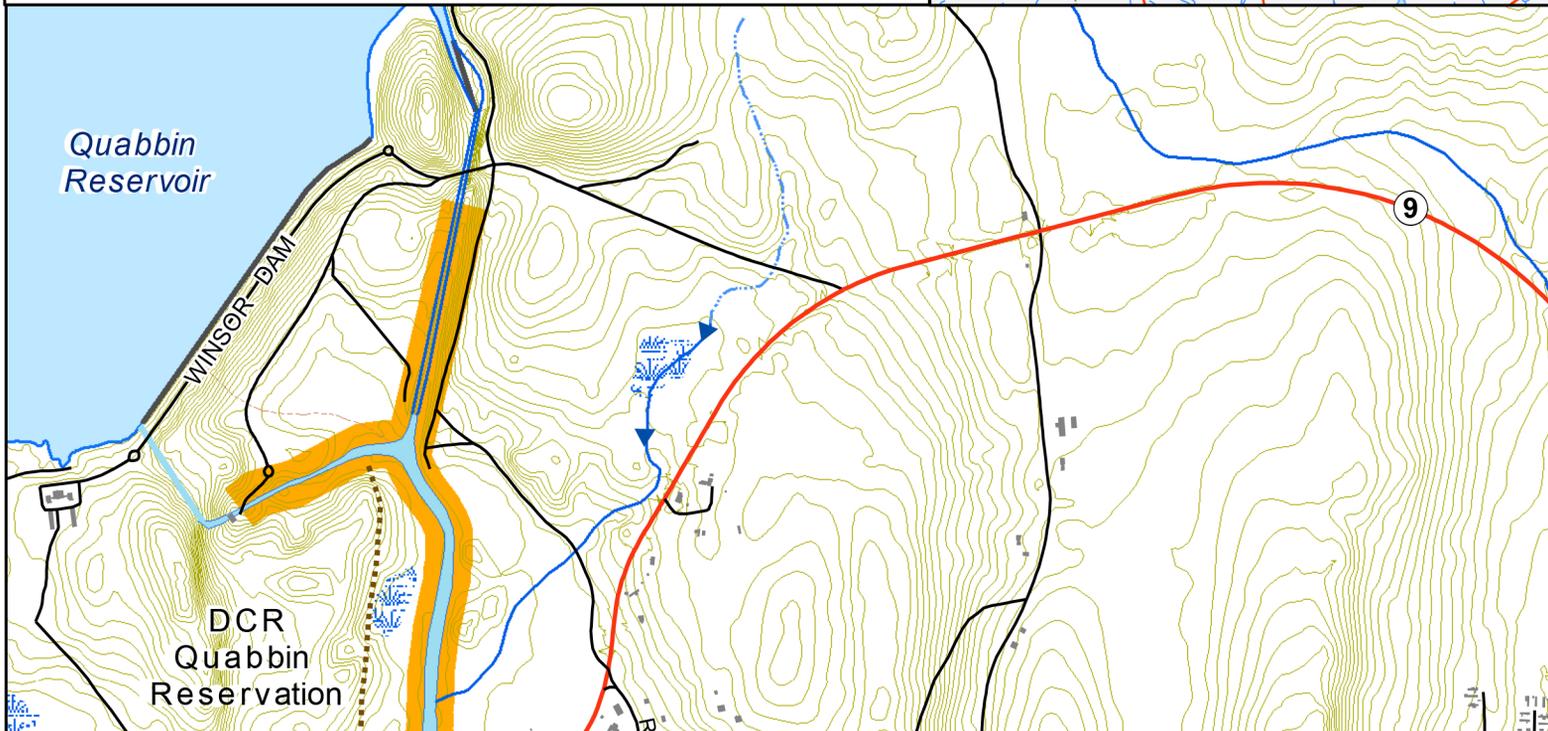
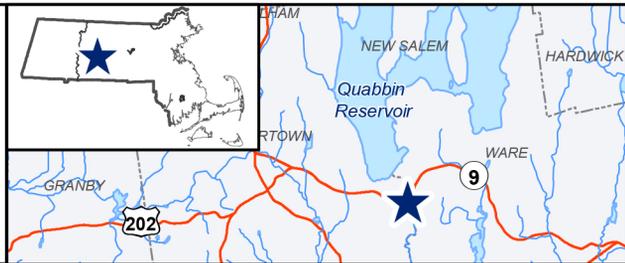




# Swift River Catch-and-Release Area

Belchertown/Ware, MA

Chicopee Watershed  
USGS Quad: Winsor Dam



## Legend

There are 2 sections to this Catch-and-Release Area with different regulations:

-  **Winsor Dam to Route 9:**  
All anglers must use a conventional fly rod and fly line, or Tenkara setup, year-round and all fish must be released.
-  **Route 9 to Cady Lane:**  
**From July 1 to December 31:** only artificial lures are permitted, all fish must be released.  
**From January 1 to June 30:** bait and conventional tackle may be used, the standard 3 trout daily limit for major rivers is in effect.

-  Wildlife Management Area
-  Stream-Flow Direction
-  Wetland
-  Major Road
-  Road
-  Parking
-  Access Path

Elevation contours: 3 Meters





MASSWILDLIFE

## DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

p: (508) 389-6300 | f: (508) 389-7890

MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE

### Swift River Catch and Release Area Belchertown/Ware

#### General Information

The main stem of the Swift River is formed from the outflow of Quabbin Reservoir below Windsor Dam. The Swift River Catch-and-Release Area is located mostly within the boundaries of the Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and DCR Quabbin Reservation, which means that the riparian area is mostly undeveloped. In this section of the Swift, the flow and water temperature remain relatively consistent throughout the year due to the minimum required daily release of cold water from Quabbin Reservoir. The Catch-and-Release Area begins just below Windsor Dam and extends 2 ¼ miles downstream to Cady Lane. This section is fairly low gradient with typical riffle-run-pool morphology, although there are mostly riffles and deep runs until the lower reach near Cady Lane. The deeper pools attract a lot of anglers. Sand, gravel, and cobbles are the dominant substrate. This section of the Swift River provides suitable water temperatures and good habitat for all size and age classes of trout.

There are 2 sections to this Catch-and-Release Area with different regulations:

- **Windsor Dam to Route 9:** All anglers must use a fly rod and fly line year-round and all fish must be released.
- **Route 9 to Cady Lane: From July 1 to December 31:** only artificial lures are permitted, all fish must be released. **From January 1 to June 30:** bait and conventional tackle may be used, the standard 3 trout daily limit for major rivers is in effect.

#### Fish Populations

The Catch-and-Release Area supports wild Brook Trout as well as stocked and holdover Brown and Rainbow Trout. The wild Brook Trout are abundant but generally smaller, while the stocked fish of both species are often substantially larger and can attain true trophy size. Fish surveys conducted by MassWildlife have found Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout—and further downstream, Chain Pickerel and White Sucker.

#### Recreational Access

There is good access to the upper reaches of the area from either side of the Route 9 bridge where a well-marked trail runs along the length of the river for a ½ mile upstream to the Windsor Dam. The middle and lower reaches have good access on the east side along River Road at two well-marked parking areas, and at Cady Lane, where a small, dirt road allows access through the WMA. On the west side of the river, Enoch Sanford Road runs south from the Route 9 bridge and provides plenty of parking for about a ¼ mile along the river.

MASSWILDLIFE

## **Fishing**

The consistent flows and cool water temperatures, along with stocked trout and natural reproduction of Brook Trout, mean that the Swift River Catch-and-Release Area supports a robust trout fishery throughout the year. Most of the area is easily accessed and wadeable, making it one of the most popular and busy fisheries in the Commonwealth. This fishing pressure, along with the clear water, can make hooking a trout a challenge. The Swift is a good place to hone your skills in spotting fish, observing behavior, and then coaxing large trout into biting. In general, there is more consistent fishing pressure at pools in the fly-fishing-only section upstream of Route 9. MassWildlife stocks a large number of catchable-size Rainbow and Brown Trout into the Swift River in both spring and fall. Unlike other rivers in Massachusetts, the Swift also receives a supplemental stocking of Rainbow Trout in mid-summer.