



Wachusett Reservoir Watershed

Department of Conservation and Recreation,
Division of Water Supply Protection

Headquarters: 180 Beaman Street, West Boylston MA 01583 508-792-7806

September Programs

All programs are free and open to the public. Please note that dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands. For additional information or to check event status, please call 617-352-4044 or email Kathryn.Parent@mass.gov.

September 13, 10-11:30 am Hike to Horseshoe Cove

Meet at Wachusett Reservoir Gate 22, Rt 140, West Boylston. GPS address 167 Temple St, West Boylston. About 2 miles round trip. Hike to the shoreline of this pristine water body. Ponds, rock ledges, and forest roads offer interesting views along the way.

September 20, 10 am- 12 pm Then and Now Hike

Meet at Wachusett Reservoir Gate 35, intersection of Route 110 and Chace Hill Rd, Sterling. This slow-paced walk will last about two hours and cover a moderate hilly four-mile round trip. Participants will see evidence of the past and compare the landscape over time, from glacial lake to farmsteads, to reservoir, and protected watershed.

Saturday, September 20, 1:30-2:30 pm Old Stone Church History Tour

Meet at The Old Stone Church, 130 Beaman Street, West Boylston. This popular landmark endured fire, flood, and collapse and has become a symbol of resilience through a changing landscape. Join us for a walking tour highlighting the history and recent site improvements of shoreline stabilization, walkway, and planting upgrades.

September 27, 10 -11am Forest Hike

Meet at Stillwater Farm Interpretive Site, 228 Redemption Rock Rd., Sterling. Kick off the Stillwater Farm Open House with this forest loop hike, along one mile of rugged terrain with a 180-foot elevation gain.

September 27, 11am -3pm Stillwater Farm Open House and Bioblitz

Stillwater Farm Interpretive Site 228 Redemption Rock Rd., Sterling. This historic farmhouse features displays on the Wachusett Watershed, local wildlife, and the farm's history. Stop by to explore and contribute to a biodiversity survey. Your participation will help us provide future educational opportunities. Everyone is welcome to participate!

coming events



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October Programs

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Saturday, October 4, 10 – 11:30 am Hike to the Narrows

About 2.5 miles round trip as we find the shore at the narrowest part of the reservoir. Discover the geology and history, discuss legends and lore of the misfortunes that surrounded the area during construction of the reservoir. Meet at Wachusett Reservoir Gate 8, Parking near the intersection of Cross Street and Route 70, Boylston.

Saturday, October 4, 1 - 2 pm Creatures of the Forest

Join us for a family-friendly, not-so-spooky walk as we explore what wild things in the watershed are up to this autumn. This is a ¾ mile round trip on flat terrain and is open to all ages and abilities. Meet at Mass Central Rail Trail (Sterling Spur), 25 Gates Road, Sterling.

Saturday, October 4, 6:15-7:30 pm Halloween Luminary Walk

Join us for a spooky lantern stroll, hear scary stories, listen for wildlife. Start at sunset and return in darkness with lanterns guiding the way. Glow sticks will be provided to ward off any Will-o'-the-Wisp! 1-mile round trip, flat terrain. Meet at Mass Central Rail Trail (Sterling Spur), 25 Gates Road, Sterling.

Sunday, October 12, 9 am Guided Walk to Dam Day

A guided 1 mile walk along the North Dike to the Wachusett Dam. This open hillside walk offers interesting views and points of interest. Explore the area when you reach the dam and return at your own pace. The walkway across the dam will be open for walking from 10am-1pm. Meet at Gate 39 – the intersection of South Meadow Road and Route 110 in Clinton.

Sunday, October 12, 10 am-1 pm Dam Day

The DCR Division of Water Supply Protection will open the top of the Wachusett Dam in the Town of Clinton for the public to access, walk across, and enjoy. DCR Watershed Rangers will be on hand to provide information regarding the agency's watershed protection program. Please note that there is limited parking on Route 70 and reserved parking for people with disabilities at the entrance to the promenade. Additional parking is available at Clinton High School, requiring a 1-mile easy walk to the Dam along the scenic North Dike Path. Due to increased security, backpacks, briefcases, and other large bags are not allowed at this event, and all other items may be subject to search. Wachusett Dam, Route 70, Clinton.

Saturday, October 18, 10 am-12 pm Earth, Wind, and Water Hike

This walk along the North Dike offers scenic views over the water and takes you through a railroad rock cut to the spillway and points of interest around the Wachusett Dam. About 3 miles round trip. Be prepared for windy conditions. Meet at Wachusett Reservoir, Gate 39, Route 110 & South Meadow Road, Clinton.

coming events