Wachusett Reservoir Watershed

Department of Conservation and Recreation,
Division of Water Supply Protection
Headquarters: 180 Beaman Street, West Boylston MA 01583
508-792-7806

Upcoming Programs November2026 - June 2027

All programs are free and open to the public. Please note that dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands. Hikes may be cancelled due to weather, to check event status, please call 617-352-4044 or email Kathryn.Parent@mass.gov. For full list of events scroll to the bottom of the Division of Water Supply Protection's Office of Watershed Management webpage.

Sunday Hikes November and December

Sunday, December 6, 10am-11:30 pm, Hike to Horseshoe Cove
Hike to the shoreline of this pristine water body. Ponds, rock ledges, and forest roads offer interesting views along the way. About two miles round trip. Meet at Wachusett Reservoir Gate 22, Rt 140, West Boylston. GPS address: 167 Temple St, West Boylston.

Sunday, December 13, 10am-12 pm, Then and Now Hike
About three miles round trip to loop around Tahanto Point. Discover the stone walls and evidence of land use before the construction of the reservoir along the way. Meet at Wachusett Reservoir Gate 30, 370 Lancaster Street (Route 110), West Boylston. Parking is available inside the gate.

Sunday, December 13, 1-2 pm, Old Stone Church History Walk
This popular landmark endured fire, flood, and collapse and has become a symbol of resilience through a changing landscape. Find out more on this short walk. Meet at The Old Stone Church, 130 Beaman Street, West Boylston.

Sunday, December 20, 10am-11:30 pm, Hike to the Narrows
Hike the forest roads and enjoy the views at the narrowest part of the reservoir. About three miles round trip. Meet at Wachusett Reservoir Gate 8, Intersection of Cross Street and Route 70, Boylston.

Sunday, November 29 and December 27 10am-12:00 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 Wachusett Dam. About three miles round trip. Be prepared for windy conditions. Meet at Wachusett Reservoir, Gate 39, Route 110 and South Meadow Road, Clinton.

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Youth Library Programs

Saturday, November 21, 2-3 pm, Plant a Terrarium at Boylston Library
For ages six and up. Make a miniature model of the Earth in a terrarium to see how the water cycle works. A terrarium is a miniature self-sustaining garden enclosed in a jar. Come create your own! Register at Boylston Library. 695 Main Street, Boylston.

Wednesday, December 9, 1:30-2:15 pm, Seeing Green Nature Story Time at Southborough Library
Stories, nature discovery and craft for children age three to six about trees that stay green all year long. Register at Southborough Library 25 Main St, Southborough.

Tuesday, December 15, 10:30-11:15 am, Seeing Green Nature Story Time at Boylston Library
For ages six and under. Stories, nature discovery and craft about trees that stay green all year long. Register for event at Boylston Library. 695 Main Street, Boylston.

Saturday, December 19, 2-3 pm, Evergreens at Boylston Library
For ages six and up. Ever wonder how some plants stay green all winter while others lose their leaves? Explore seasonal science and nature, uncovering the waxy secrets of real evergreen samples, and create a mini evergreen decoration. Register for event at Boylston Library. 695 Main Street, Boylston.

Historic Society Events

Sunday, December 6, 2026 2-3 pm, The History of the Construction of Wachusett Reservoir
Hawkins Fellowship Hall at the First Church of Christ, Unitarian located at 725 Main Street in Lancaster, MA. Free and open to the public. For more information, call (978) 733-6907.

The Lancaster Historical Society will host a program presented by DCR. Find out how the nearby Wachusett Reservoir fits into the larger water system that provides drinking water to fifty-three communities. Hear stories from the past gleaned from annual reports, archived scrapbooks and historical photographs, showing the engineering marvel of the reservoir system.

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First Friday Outside Adventures (December to June)

The West Boylston Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) and DCR will be offering free Outside Adventures on the first Friday of every month. These will be outside playgroups, utilizing the Project Learning Tree and Growing Up Wild curriculums to introduce children, and their caregivers, to the natural world around them. These sessions will be drop-in and are open to all. The program material is geared towards children age 2-8 although we will gladly welcome both younger and older siblings!

December 4, 2026 - 10:00 am
First Friday Outside Adventure: Hibernation.
Meet at Mass Central Rail Trail West Boylston Section.

January 8, 2027 - 10:00 am
Friday Outside Adventure, Winter
Meet at Mass Central Rail Trail West Boylston Section.

February 5, 2027 - 10:00 am
First Friday Outside Adventure: We Love Trees!
Meet at Mass Central Rail Trail West Boylston Section.

March 5, 2027 - 10:00 am
First Friday Outside Adventure: Signs Of Spring
Meet at Gate 25. Quarter mile walk to West Boylston Brook.

April 2, 2027 - 10:00 am
First Friday Outside Adventure: Water
Meet at the Old Stone Church.

May 7, 2027 - 10:00 am
First Friday Outside Adventure: Bird Song.
Meet at the Old Stone Church.

June 4, 2027 - 10:00 am
First Friday Outside Adventure: Forests
Meet at Gate 22. Three-quarter mile round trip hike to the Reservoir.