

**Department of Conservation and Recreation**  
**Quabbin Interpretive Services**  
**Educational Information Packet**



Thank you for considering Quabbin Reservoir and Watershed in your educational plan. The Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Quabbin education program has much to offer, with information ranging from history and economics to water and wildlife conservation. We offer in house and outreach programs, and we work with students of all ages, from Pre-K to graduate level. There are opportunities for classes to come and explore on their own as well.

Our most common programs are listed below, but this is by no means the limit of our availability; we can design a program to fit the particular interests and curriculum guidelines for any class. Please contact us for details (contact information listed below).

**Overview of Programs**

**Quabbin Park –**

Quabbin Park is the primary area of visitation for the Reservoir. At the Visitor Center, classes can meet with an Educational Interpreter, who will provide an introduction to the Quabbin and all its resources. There are also optional video programs and power point presentations that cover many natural, historical and technical topics that can be seen here. From the Visitor Center classes can travel through the Park by foot over the 21 miles of trails, or by vehicle on the 4.5 mile paved road that winds through this 3,200 acre section of the watershed. Some of the main points of interest are the Winsor Dam, “Y” Pool, Spillway, Winsor Memorial, Quabbin Tower, Enfield Lookout, Webster Road, Goodnough Dike and Trail and, just across the street, Quabbin Park Cemetery.

**Dana Common –**

Though the Town of Dana was officially discontinued in 1938, classes can still visit the remains of the town center. Dana Common is regularly maintained by the DCR, so the foundations of the buildings that once stood here are visible, as well as the Town Green and the original roads. Not only will students be able to match up photos of the old buildings with the current landscape, they will learn about some of the “new inhabitants” of Dana – the wildlife that has made this place its home.

**Gate 35 –**

Gate 35 in New Salem, in the northern section of the Reservation, provides a place for wildlife observation. Some of the animals that have been seen here are bald eagles, loons, turtles, deer and moose. Students can travel down an old railroad bed along the water’s edge and learn about the changes in the plants and animals since the former farmland was flooded. They can also view an “ice” pond from which came large blocks of ice that were used in “iceboxes” in the past to keep food cold – in the days before modern refrigeration was invented.

## **Outreach Programs –**

The DCR offers a variety of Outreach programs to schools in communities that are contiguous to Quabbin Reservation or that are users of Quabbin water. These programs cover a wide variety of topics including water conservation and resource management, history of the Quabbin and the towns affected bald eagles, loons, vernal ponds and animals of the Quabbin. Programs can be geared toward any age group. If you are thinking about an outreach program, please contact the Interpretive Services Dept. at the number below and we will be happy to discuss our programs with you, or to work with you to develop a program to fit your needs.

### **How to Book an Educational Program**

All educational programs must be booked at least 2 weeks in advance. It is recommended that schools book as soon after the beginning of each semester as possible, as available dates fill up fast. Groups of over 25 persons must have an Access Permit, and groups wishing to go to any area other than Quabbin Park must have additional permits for all vehicles. All standard Rules and Regulations apply, and a list is included in this packet. Groups must be aware of the danger of **ticks** which are prevalent in the Quabbin, and should wear appropriate clothing, stay on designated paths and take any other necessary precautions.

For more information on programs or to schedule a program:

Quabbin Visitor Center  
485 Ware Road,  
Belchertown, MA 01007  
**(413) 323 – 7221 Phone**

### **Other Places of Interest**

In addition to the programs listed above which are run by the DCR, there are **2 other** programs available to school groups. These programs are run independently and contact information is provided.

#### **Air Quality Monitoring Station -**

The Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) has ambient air monitoring locations throughout the country. One of these stations is located at the base of the Tower in Quabbin Park. Field trips are welcome here to learn about air quality and pollution and the elements that directly affect public health and the environment. For more information please contact: **Mark Ducomb, DEP (413) 755 – 2296.**

#### **McLaughlin State Trout Hatchery –**

The Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife raises trout and salmon to stock certain Massachusetts lakes, ponds and waterways for public recreation and consumption. These fish are bred and raised at hatcheries throughout the state, one of which is located less than a mile from the Administration Building (at Quabbin Park), just off Route 9 in Belchertown. It is open to the public daily from 9:00 – 3:45, but groups are asked to call in advance. For more information or to schedule a visit please call the Hatchery directly at: **(413) 323 – 7671.**

### **Additional Information**

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Massachusetts Water Resource Authority  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Friends of Quabbin  
Swift River Valley Historical Society

**[www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)**  
**[www.mwra.state.mass.us](http://www.mwra.state.mass.us)**  
**[www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)**  
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