



**Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Water Supply Protection  
Wachusett Reservoir**

The Wachusett and Quabbin Reservoirs provide water for 51 cities and towns within the Commonwealth. The Sudbury Reservoir is the system's backup supply. The land surrounding the reservoirs is managed by the DCR Division of Water Supply Protection to protect the quality of the water, enhance ecological integrity, and ensure the future protection of these valuable natural resources from pollution, encroachment, and environmentally damaging public use.

**STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON  
WACHUSETT WATERSHED PROPERTY**

- ⊘ **ANY bodily contact with the water**
- ⊘ **Disposing of human waste, trash, or litter**
- ⊘ **Alcoholic beverages**
- ⊘ **Motorized vehicles**
- ⊘ **Swimming or bathing**
- ⊘ **Boating (except as designated below)**
- ⊘ **Smoking or building fires**
- ⊘ **Metal detectors**
- ⊘ **Animals/pets**

The following activities are allowed on DCR Wachusett Reservoir Watershed properties:

- Hiking
- Shore Fishing (in season; see limits below and map on reverse)
- Cross-country Skiing
- Picnicking (carry-in/carry-out)
- Biking (on [Rail Trail](#) and on [designated routes in Holden only](#))

DCR permits SHORE FISHING ONLY in designated areas at the Wachusett Reservoir from dawn to dusk (see map on reverse). The fishing season at Wachusett Reservoir opens on the FIRST SATURDAY IN APRIL, providing no ice is present, and extends through November 30. Possession of a valid Massachusetts fishing license is required by individuals 15 years of age or older. DCR and its employees are not responsible for any damage to, or loss of life which may be incurred in connection with the public use of the reservoirs.

Wachusett Reservoir fishing access is allowed through the following areas:

- Route 70 – Gates 6 to 16
- Route 140 – Gates 17 to 24
- Route 12/110 – Gates 25 to 35
- West Boylston – Thomas Basin

*FISHING IS PROHIBITED FROM ANY OTHER AREAS.*

Fishing at West Waushacum (the Quag), Middle Waushacum and Muddy Ponds in Sterling extends from the first Saturday in April through November 30. ICE FISHING IS NOT PERMITTED. Boats up to 14 feet in length, canoes, and kayaks are permitted at the Waushacum Ponds. From September 15 to May 15, all users must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device. Only electric outboards may be used.

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS (911)**

**State Police – Holden: (508) 829-8410**

**DCR Watershed Rangers: (978) 365-3800**

**MEMA State Control (24hr Dispatch): 508-820-2000**

**CAUTION:** These watershed lands are managed for forest and wildlife improvements. Certain areas may occasionally be posted when forestry personnel and equipment are operating in the forest. Please be careful to avoid these areas.

