

Quabbin-Ware River Region

Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007

coming events

Spring Programs offered by the DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center

All ages are welcome. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water. Dogs are not allowed anywhere at the Quabbin Reservoir. All programs are free, but registration is required; indoor events limited to 45 people and outdoor programs to 25 people. Please scan QR codes or use web address to access registration information. Go to <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir> for Quabbin Reservoir details.



Sunday, March 17 2-3pm

Be a Good Neighbor - Don't Kidnap Wildlife! or How to help our wild friends without unintentionally causing harm

Often in spring and summer, well-intentioned people pick up wildlife they believe to be "abandoned," but this is not the always case and the animal is at greater risk being taken in by humans than being left alone. Learn what is normal behavior for common wildlife and when you should or *should not* intervene. Indoor program at the Visitor Center.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8e8d598f902a41e99ea84f2f472288e5>



Sunday, March 31 11am – 1pm

Rutland Prison Camp

Easy, uneven ground Location: Rutland Prison Camp, main parking lot, 299 Intervale Rd, Rutland, MA 01543

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/J1iuV7QGB3rEAbxJ9>

Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital - sounds like a delightful retreat for a prison?? Indeed, it was! Join DCR staff as we explore the remains of this surprisingly successful social experiment. Ticks may be active so protection is advised.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fa8d3c217fd347dcab85747d5a39a6a1>

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Saturday, April 13, 2024 11am – 1pm

Exploring the Ware River Watershed – group hike near Muddy Pond

4.1 miles Moderate

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/jWsgofmrd6NDyGzB6>

Ware River Watershed, Route 122 rest area parking lot, Oakham, MA 01068

Join us for a 4.1-mile looped hike in the Ware River Watershed. The route climbs/descends roughly 140 ft. in elevation. The foot path we will travel on is non-technical. The last mile of the hike is on a scenic section of the Mass Central Rail Trail. We will all meet at the Route 122 rest area parking lot in the town of Oakham. The rest area is in the shape of a banana with grass and picnic tables. The hike begins/ends north of Muddy Pond. Visit the following website for additional information on the route: <https://www.trailforks.com/route/4mi-loop-near-muddy-pond-from-rest-area/>. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ab0e732a488d4dfda9847662dfe78286>.



Vacation Week Program!

Thursday, April 18 11am-12:30pm

Habitat Investigations

1 mile-easy

Meet at the Hank's Meadow parking lot. <https://goo.gl/maps/4RiEq17PCNEf6s9E7>

Every wondered what kinds of critters live around us? Join one of our staff while we explore the Shoreline Trail and look for signs of wildlife.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water. Dogs are not allowed.

No registration required.

Saturday, May 11, 2024 11am – 1pm

Exploring Quabbin Park via the Tower Trail and Webster Road Trail

3.1-miles, Intermediate

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/KeEppMJmKDSjjMFz8>

Quabbin Reservoir, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown, MA 01072

The hike will begin at the Tower Trail parking area which is located just inside the Middle Gate off Rt. 9 in Belchertown. We will hike up to the Observation Tower and take in the scenic view. The tower is currently closed indefinitely for repairs, so we won't be able to go inside. We'll then utilize a connector trail down to Webster Road, and then loop back to where we began. In total, the hike will cover 3.1 miles. The trail to the tower gains 475 feet of elevation. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water. Dogs are not allowed.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ce6482dfca1943e78057b9bf42c06a5c>



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Sunday, May 12, 2024 11am-1:00pm

Quabbin's Hidden History: Webster Road

Approximately .5 mile-easy

Meet at the Hank's Meadow parking lot. <https://goo.gl/maps/4RiEq17PCNEf6s9EZ>

Quabbin's ghost towns are hiding in plain sight – if you know where to look. This two-hour guided interpretive walk will teach you how to read the natural landscape as you uncover clues that reveal the hidden history of Webster Road. Explore old cellar holes and historic stone walls, get to know some native and invasive plants, and learn more about the families who lived in the town of Enfield a hundred years ago. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water. Dogs are not allowed.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8fa0a8815fd1474c801926220047b22f>



Sunday, May 26 11am-12pm

Memorial Day Commemoration at Quabbin Park Cemetery

Refreshments will be offered at 10:00 am

Parade and services begin at 11:00 am

No registration required.

In 1868, Major General John A. Logan, the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, named May 30th as a special day for honoring the soldiers that had died in the Civil War. Like communities across the United States, the towns of the Swift River Valley commemorated their war dead each year on Memorial Day until the towns' demise in 1938. Since 1947, Quabbin Park Cemetery has been the center of Memorial Day services for the four towns. Please join the Friends of Quabbin, the Swift River Historical Society, the Veterans Council of Belchertown, Chauncey D. Walker Post #239, American Legion and the staff of the DCR Quabbin Reservoir for our annual Memorial Day Service at Quabbin Park Cemetery. (Public is welcome but please no dogs).

<https://goo.gl/maps/tDuKU2VLjxnhVbdc8>

Sunday May 26, 2024 2pm-3pm

Quabbin Park Cemetery Tour -Memorial Day Edition

Easy walk, uneven ground

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/rv4tzdEPproba1jV9>

After our Memorial Day remembrance ceremony, join us for a cemetery tour focused on the stories of some of the Valley residents that served and lost their lives in service to the United States. The tour will begin at the town monuments.

Register here : <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/31306340e82941628d5e7fb1bee3b017>



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SAVE THE DATE!

National Trails Day-June 1, 2024

On National trails day Saturday June 1 and in partnership with Pioneer Valley Hiking Club, we will be performing light trail maintenance at Quabbin Park.

Volunteers would need to bring either hand snippers or loppers and be prepared for related work within a couple of miles of hiking.

For details, please send email to jebrown.1927@gmail.com by May 15th.

Saturday, June 8, 2024 11am – 1:30pm

Exploring Quabbin Park via the East Gate Trail and the Goodnough Dike paved walk 4.2-miles

Intermediate

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/m7UyxtzWLSBFETmG7>

Quabbin Reservoir, East Gate entrance, Rt. 9, Ware, MA 01082

Join us for a 4.2-mile hike that will feature the scenic view from the road at the top of the Goodnough Dike. We will be walking on a mix of foot paths, forest roads, and paved roads. The hike is mostly flat except for walking up and down the road to the Dike. Hike begins at the East Gate parking area. The parking area is located on the north side of Rt. 9 in Ware, across from the Quabbin Park Cemetery. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water. Dogs are not allowed. Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8690ed7c74ab40f982865ddeae94fd8a>



Saturday, June 15 10am-1pm

Explore the Road to Dana Common

3.6 miles Moderate

Meet at Gate 40 on Rt 32A in Petersham <https://goo.gl/maps/d4RxN91vsyHUzhEE6>

The old foundations, stone walls, and shade trees of Dana Common will transport you to the past as you explore Quabbin's unique history. This hike will introduce you to some of the notable residents of Dana as you discover what life was like in the Swift River Valley over a hundred years ago. Photos and letters illustrating Quabbin's past will bring Dana to life before your eyes.

Register Here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6741b6657b6948c5b5239c7120a0ea1c>

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Sunday, June 16, 2024 11am – 1pm

Exploring the Ware River Watershed - Rutland Prison Camp-

Approximately 1-mile Easy, uneven ground

Meet at Rutland Prison Camp, main parking lot, 299 Intervale Rd, Rutland, MA 01543

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/J1iuV7QGB3rEAbxJ9>

Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital - sounds like a delightful retreat for... a prison?? Indeed, it was! Join DCR staff as we explore the remains of this surprisingly successful social experiment. Tick protection is advised.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/27b860913b844a109280f0a3506f0381>



The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teacher workshops, and general information about DCR's water supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and Ware River Valley and wildlife of the area. Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system - (413) 323-7221 - provides 24-hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs, rules and regulations, and public access. You can also reach the Visitor Center by email at QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov.



Massachusetts



Quabbin/Ware River Region

485 Ware Road
Belchertown, MA
413-323-7221

First Thursday Habitat Hikes

Quabbin is an area of immense diversity of habitat, from shady vernal pools to sunny mountaintops. Staff from the DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center Quabbin will be hosting hikes one Thursday each month (weather permitting) to spotlight some of these beautiful landscapes. Hikes will vary in location and intensity and may focus on an individual species or on a more general area. For more information and to register scan the QR code to visit

<https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir>

Questions? email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

Reminder: Dogs are not allowed anywhere at Quabbin Reservoir



Thursday, April 4, 2024, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Wetlands Walk

1.5 miles – Easy <https://goo.gl/maps/RvC5y8AMtmWToTTq5>

This Habitat Hike will visit 2 different types of wetlands. It will begin at the parking area for Goodnough Dike in Quabbin Park and walk the Dike Road down to the wetlands' location and back, covering approximately 1.5 miles round trip. Please dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for wet/muddy conditions (wear appropriate footwear). Dogs are not allowed anywhere at Quabbin.

Register at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fef46ba08256404fa1bd49660f68c624>

Thursday, May 2, 2024, 11 am – 12:30 pm

Gate 37 Forest Walk to Wetlands

1.5 miles -Easy <https://goo.gl/maps/wPedFYxiN5Qp8sVv9>

Meet at Gate 37 off Route 122 in the North of Quabbin Reservation. Parking is limited.

This Habitat Hike will be a short walk down a forest road to a stunning wetland habitat. It is a little over 1 mile round trip. Those who are feeling adventurous may opt to hike further, up the side of Soapstone Mountain to a spectacular view of the Quabbin, though be advised this portion is difficult and will not be a part of the official hike. Please wear appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks.

Register at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c3936c4d26c8443694b6b3fc0beb97d4>

Thursday, June 6, 2024, 11 am – 1 pm

Tower Trail Habitat Hike

3 miles Moderate <https://goo.gl/maps/9K3L4xf44nbVK4bG7>

This hike will meet at the parking area inside the Middle Entrance off Route 9. It is a moderately difficult hike, approximately 3 miles round-trip up Quabbin Hill through woodland and mountain habitat and back. Due to safety issues, we will not be able to go up to the tower itself, as it is currently closed for renovations. Please wear appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks.

Register at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c2dd1551fbb7467bbdda704a469c7929>