

Drinking Water Source Management Practices in New England

	CT ¹	RI ²	MA ³	ME ⁴	NH ⁵	VT ⁶
Sites Managed Where Recreational Activity Allowed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Invasive Species Sites Defined and Managed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Water Source Intake Area Defined and Protected	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Human Waste Controls (Porta-potties, etc.) provided	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Shoreline Fishing Prohibited	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Ice Fishing Prohibited	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Swimming Prohibited	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Boating Prohibited	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Internal Combustion Engines Prohibited	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ice shanties prohibited	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

¹ Swimming is prohibited in Connecticut public water supply sources (Conn. Gen. Stat. 25-43(a)). Water companies may permit some recreational fishing activities on designated areas of watersheds (Conn Gen Stat 25-43(c)). Hartford Metropolitan District Rules and Regulations for West Hartford Reservoirs: location of porta-potties, no swimming, fishing, boating, hunting, trapping, no activities on ice, no camping, etc. Sources include personnel at Reservoir 6 Welcome Center and Hartford Met. Dist.

² Rhode Island General Laws § 46-14-1 prohibit bathing, swimming or any activity which can lead to discharge of sewage, drainage, refuse or polluting matter in, or on, or in the immediate vicinity of any public drinking water source. Providence Water controls 6 reservoirs in a 93-square-mile watershed. From their website: "Personal recreational activities are not compatible with drinking water security but we do encourage participation in the guided tours we offer." Providence Water official stated that some professional hunting is allowed to control deer population - porta-potties are provided for hunters.

³ Massachusetts state law prohibits swimming in public water supplies, and other recreational activities are prohibited unless a water district applies for permit. (310 Mass. Code Regs. 22.20B.) "Public access/recreation should be prohibited if appropriate controls, and funds to sustain those controls, are not available." (Massachusetts Dept of Environmental Protection, Drinking Water Program, Guidance Document for developing a local surface water supply protection plan, outlining minimum protections for filtered surface water sources.) Wachusett Reservoir Watershed 2011 Public Access Plan Update gives specifics for that reservoir. Other sources include personnel at Wachusett Water Resources Authority.

⁴ Maine municipalities may adopt regulations governing the surface use of public water supplies (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 22, § 2642) Any water utility or municipality and the Dept of Health and Human Services are authorized to take reasonable steps to protect a public water source from pollution consistent with section 2642 (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 22, § 2647-A) Nothing in this section may be construed to limit in any way any private and special or other law granting a water utility or municipality greater controls for protecting its public water source than those set forth in this section. (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 22, § 2647-A (6)) Portland (ME) Water District's White Paper, describing protection of 10% of 30,000-acre Sebago Lake for drinking water, defines a no-body-contact area beginning 2 miles from the water intake. All trespass on land and water is prohibited within 3000 feet of the intake. Auburn Lake (water supply for Auburn, ME) boating and use rules specify no body contact, boat launch open sunrise to sunset only, no-access intake protection zone, no ice fishing, and more. Carlton Pond, back-up water source for Augusta, is closed to all recreation. Sources include personnel at those municipalities.

⁵ New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Env-DW 902 compile specific state regulations for protection of some water sources in NH. Each watershed may have different rules. Local ordinances prevail in case of discrepancy. Penacook Lake, water source for Concord, is a prohibited-access lake. Lake Massabesic, which serves Manchester and portions of surrounding towns, has a large no-access intake protection area with no trespassing on surrounding watershed; body contact is prohibited on the rest of the lake. Sources include personnel at both water districts.

⁶ Vermont Water Quality Standards, Section 3-03, Class A-2 Public Water Supplies: designated uses include swimming, boating, fishing and other recreational uses, as well as public water supply with treatment. Use of Public Waters Rules specify rules for each water body, including public water supplies and most other inland lakes and ponds; all water supply ponds prohibit internal combustion engines. A footnote on most of the water supply ponds in the UPW indicates that "Restrictions adopted by authorities other than the Natural Resources Board may also apply -- for example, restrictions on recreational uses established by the state or a local board of health to protect public water supplies," but no specifics are available. Some charters have language giving various levels of protection for their water sources. Local municipalities have proactively attempted to protect their consumers by restricting uses of their water supply sources through land ownership and monitoring, but road rights-of-way permit access which municipalities cannot control. Source Protection Plans, required by the Department of Environmental Conservation, do not include protection of the water itself.