



# New National Parks

## PROPOSED QUABBIN NATIONAL PARK Massachusetts

The Quabbin Reservation in central Massachusetts is the [largest tract of public land](#) in southern New England. The reservation is the result of a 1930s-era public works project that acquired and flooded parts of four towns encompasses the 25,000-acre Quabbin Reservoir. Today, this is the primary water supply for [3 million people](#) in the Boston metro area. It is also one of the best chances in the region to restore wilderness on a landscape scale.

Surrounding the reservoir are thousands of acres of forest with no public roads or development — what some have called an “[accidental wilderness](#).” Although it is located in the third-most densely populated state, this landscape has remote backcountry with rolling hills, rich forests, lush wetlands, and clear streams reminiscent of the North Woods. Wildlife species that are rare or absent from southern New England thrive here, including the black bear, bobcat, moose, beaver, loon, and bald eagle.

Instead of protecting this uniquely undeveloped forest, state agencies have been heavily [logging](#) it, claiming with [little credible evidence](#) that they are improving “forest health,” “protecting” water quality and creating needed “young forest” wildlife habitat. This intensive and intrusive management is fragmenting the forest, harming interior forest wildlife species, spreading invasive species, eroding soils, threatening water quality, and displacing backcountry recreation.

The creation of a 120,000-acre **Quabbin National Park** would preserve and restore the state-owned lands in the Quabbin watershed as well as more than a dozen neighboring state forests and wildlife management areas. The proposed park would maintain the existing reservoir system — similar to [Jackson Lake](#) in Grand Teton National Park — and safeguard water quality by ending the misguided logging program. The park would fight climate change by maximizing forest carbon storage and by providing habitat connectivity to [Pisgah State Park](#) in New Hampshire — the state’s largest. The new park would also offer a wilderness experience less than 100 miles from Boston Common.

rev: 10/23/23