

MWRA Quabbin–Wachusett Watershed Protection Program (USA)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

By protecting 75% of the Quabbin, Ware River and Wachusett watersheds as forested open space and buying about 1,500 acres a year, Boston's MWRA won a 2000 federal court ruling that its supply meets all criteria to avoid a filtration plant, saving an estimated \$180M.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Massachusetts Water Resources Authority \(MWRA\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[MWRA — Watershed Protection](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[MWRA vs. EPA trial summary](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Evolution of Water Treatment in the Greater Boston Area \(BSCES\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

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