

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This section is intended to provide customers with a description of allowed and prohibited activities surrounding the watershed of the surface water supply sources. This section also discusses the fines and penalties associated with violating the Reservoir Use Ordinance, contained in Appendix G, and management programs adopted by the Holyoke Water Works. Additional information regarding reservoir management procedures and policies is located in the Holyoke Water Works Watershed Resource Protection Plan.

## 1.2 WALKING IN RESERVOIRS/PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

For purposes of this chapter, "Water Works property" shall mean any reservoir, land, water supply, watershed, or any structure or building appurtenant thereto, owned or controlled by the Holyoke Board of Water Commissions.

Pedestrian traffic shall be allowed on paths and roadways specifically designated and marked by the Board of Water Commissioners for such use. All other activity, including but not limited to the following, shall be **prohibited** on Water Works property:

- Walking dogs or any other domestic animal
- Horseback riding
- Use of motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, or any other forms of recreational vehicles
- Sledding, hiking, camping, open fires, picnicking, bathing, swimming, fishing, hunting, target shooting (includes discharge of firearms as well as bow and arrows), wading in the water bodies, launching/operating boats or other water craft, smoking
- Throwing or depositing dirt, rubbish, refuse, or any other matter (including cigarette butts)
- Drawing or causing to be removed any water from any source
- Any act of drunkenness or inebriation, breach of peace, profanity, or other disorderly conduct offensive to the general public
- Possession of any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance
- Doing any activity, as determined by HWW, that could injure, defile, deface, destroy, or pollute Water Works property

Many of these prohibited activities could negatively impact the natural resources and watershed areas. Strict control of the watershed areas is necessary to maintain the high quality of Holyoke's water supplies for public health protection.

Pedestrian activities are restricted from the Water Works property 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise. By limiting the access to the watershed property, the potential threat for sanitary problems substantially decreases. As the total number of users of the watershed increases, the potential for contamination by human viruses, *Giardia lamblia*, and heterotrophic bacteria also increases. Due to a limited staff, patrolling the watershed property from sunset to dawn is not feasible. The restricted access after hours ensures the

safety of the watershed area and the public domain. The fine/penalty for this violation is indexed in Appendix B.

Parking is prohibited in front of reservoir gates so as not to restrict emergency access to/from the reservoirs. Automobiles found parked in an identified restricted zone will be towed at the expense of the Owner. The fine for parking in a restricted zone is presented in Appendix B.

### **1.3 SPECIAL PERMITTED ACTIVITIES**

The following activities are prohibited on Water Works property without a **special permit** from the Board of Water Commissioners:

- Use of automobiles, trucks and construction equipment
- Lotteries, parades, games, fairs, carnivals or road races
- Solicitations for raising/collecting funds
- Commercial signs, notices or other form of advertising displays
- Cutting, logging or removing timber or woodland

### **1.4 FINES AND PENALTIES**

Any person and, if applicable, the employer and all other persons concerned therein, violating the provisions set forth in this Section of HWW Rules and Regulations, shall be fined accordingly, as indexed in Appendix B. All fines provided for herein shall inure to the use of, and be paid to the Holyoke Water Works.

### **1.5 PATROLLING THE RESERVOIRS**

Patrolling programs assist in enforcing the Reservoir Use Ordinance, presented in Appendix G, and the prohibited activities described in Section 11. Policing the area helps to limit public access violations and encroachments that may degrade water, forest, and wildlife resources.

The Holyoke Police Department and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) are generally used to patrol the watersheds. The patrolling is conducted in the Ashley, Tighe-Carmody, Whiting St., McLean, and White watershed areas. Each patrolling officer submits a written report to HWW, documenting reservoir condition, and violations. The HWW personnel also patrol the reservoirs five days a week throughout the year.

### **1.6 WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

In the Waterfowl Management Program, the roosting gulls and occasional geese populations are monitored. These wildlife species can negatively impact the water quality through bacterial contamination. Typically, the increased gull population will result in high bacteria levels in the water supply source. The program supports scare tactics using single shell shotguns to discourage waterfowl nesting in the watershed area.