

East Quabbin Land Trust

Hunting Policy

Board Approved August 12, 2013

The East Quabbin Land Trust (EQLT) recognizes that hunting is a traditional part of our rural heritage. Hunting is allowed on EQLT owned properties unless the donor of the land did not want hunting allowed or wanted the area managed as a wildlife sanctuary; the property is too close to residences according to public guidelines; it would violate the policy of a project donor; or there is potential for damage to specific sensitive natural resources.

Our hunting policies are based on Massachusetts state policy and the latest scientific research. All applicable state and federal laws apply on our properties concerning hunting. Target shooting is not allowed on EQLT properties.

It is expected that hunters will respect private property rights, strictly adhere to residential safety zone distances, and exercise courtesy with EQLT as the landowner and with our abutters. Hunters are expected to understand and respect that preserves are used by a variety of recreational users throughout the year.

EQLT properties, many of which have maintained trails, are also open to the general public for nonmotorized uses. Hikers and outdoor enthusiasts must familiarize themselves with hunting season schedules as issued by MassWildlife, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. All preserve visitors should wear blaze orange during spring and fall hunting seasons.

In addition, we ask that hunters respect and agree to the following:

- Permanent structures may not be erected (blinds, permanent stands).
- Portable stands may be used seasonally but spikes, nails, and screw-in stairs are not allowed.
- Trucks, dirt bikes, ATV's and snowmobiles are not allowed, with the exception that snowmobiles are allowed on the Mass Central Rail Trail as specified in an annual written agreement with the East Quabbin Land Trust.
- Hunting is not allowed on any hiking trails.
- Leave no trace behind. Pick up shot gun shells and litter. Do not dump carcasses on EQLT land or leave gut piles near trails.
- Training of hunting dogs and field trials are not allowed on preserves.
- Baiting of wildlife is not allowed.
- All activities on EQLT lands are undertaken at your own risk.
- The East Quabbin Land Trust is not responsible or liable for any injuries occurring on EQLT property.
- East Quabbin Land Trust reserves the right to ask visitors to leave who are not compliant with our rules and regulations.

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Fishing Policy
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Fishing is allowed on East Quabbin Land Trust (EQLT) properties according to Massachusetts state laws and regulations. EQLT staff and volunteers will monitor fishing use and periodically check for impacts to natural resources, visitor use, and safety. EQLT will confer on a regular basis with the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife regarding potential impacts to aquatic species of concern. EQLT has the discretion to close properties or certain waters on EQLT properties to fishing if the activity is posing a threat to specific natural resources or the condition of the land, including its biodiversity and ecological health. Please remember to carry out what you carry in, including bait containers and fishing line.