

East Quabbin Land Trust **Hunting Policy**

Adopted by the Board of Directors on August 12, 2013, and revised February 10, 2026

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 1) the donor of the land did not want hunting allowed or wanted the area managed as a wildlife sanctuary; 2) the property is too close to residences according to public guidelines; 3) it would violate the policy of a project donor; or 4) there is potential for damage to specific sensitive natural environments. Nothing in this policy removes Indigenous peoples' rights to hunt, fish, and trap on EQLT preserves.

Our hunting policies are based on Massachusetts state law and the latest scientific research. All applicable state and federal laws apply on our properties concerning hunting. Please go to www.mass.gov/hunting-regulations to review Massachusetts' hunting laws.

Target shooting is not allowed on EQLT properties. Shooting down or across trails 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 hunting seasons.

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

- Permanent structures may not be erected (blinds, permanent tree stands) on EQLT properties.
- Temporary portable tree stands may be used seasonally, but spikes, nails, screw-in stairs, or any other fasteners that pierce the bark and wood of a tree are not allowed. Tree stands may not be in place for more than 30 days and must be labeled with the hunter's name and contact information. Any stands left on EQLT property for longer than 30 days may be removed by EQLT. All tree stands must be removed within three weeks of the end of hunting season.
- Trucks, dirt bikes, ATVs 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 EQLT.

- Leave no trace behind. Pick up shotgun shells and litter. Do not dump carcasses on EQLT land or leave gut piles near trails.
- Baiting of wildlife is not allowed.
- All activities on EQLT lands are undertaken at your own risk.
- EQLT is not responsible or liable for any injuries occurring on EQLT property.
- EQLT reserves the right to ask visitors who are not compliant with our rules and regulations to leave the property.
- We reserve the right to require any hunter to display their hunting license and identification and to read and/or photograph their license and identification. Failure to comply may result in being banned from the property.

East Quabbin Land Trust **Fishing Policy**

Adopted by the Board of Directors on August 12, 2013, and revised February 10, 2026

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 MassWildlife, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries 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, fishing line, and hooks.