



Whiting Street Reservoir Committee

Established by order of the Holyoke City Council

Public Meeting Presentation

October 7, 2021

Holyoke City Council Charge to the Committee

Review and consider Whiting Street Reservoir, including:

Costs to maintain

Considerations for future use

Ensure reasonable environmental
considerations are maintained



Study To Date

Review of legal considerations, restrictions included:

Property Owner - Holyoke Water Works: Policies and Plans

Applicable Commonwealth, Federal, and Local laws

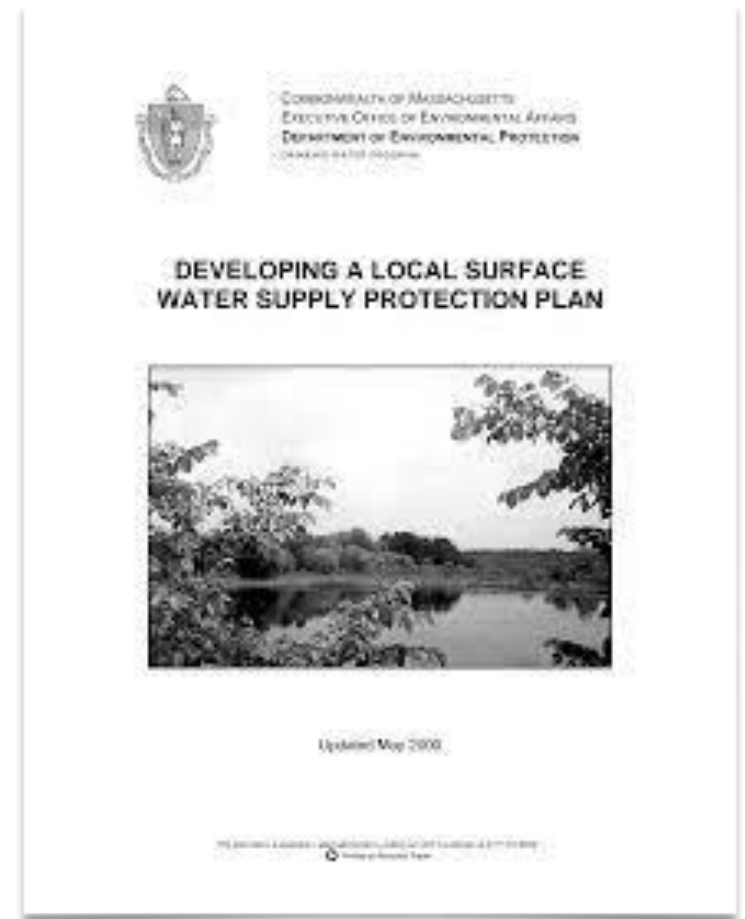
Mass Wetlands Law

Commonwealth Law Article 97

- Any changes require action by City and

 - Massachusetts Commonwealth's Legislature

Other potential protections



Review of Land Use Plans

Conway School of Design 2015

Mt Tom, Making Connections, Conway School 2016

HG & E Comprehensive Report by Tighe and Bond, 2012

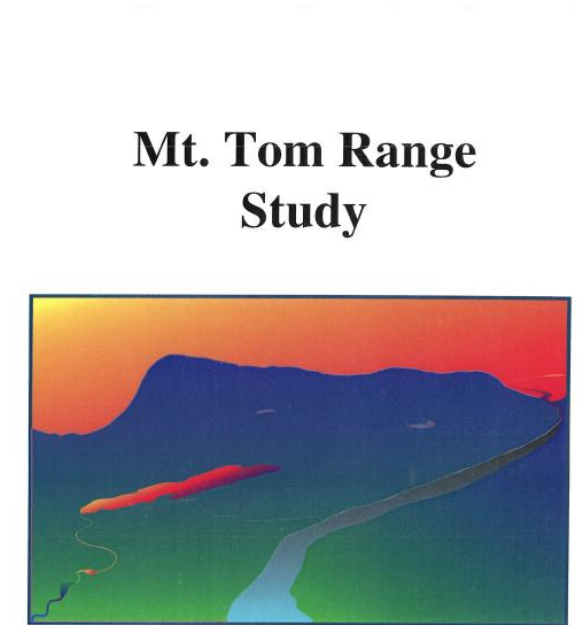
Capital Open Space and Rec Plan

Forest Stewardship- Green Certification- Wigmore, 2016

Mt Tom Power Plan Reuse Study- 2015

Mt Tom Range Study- 1991

Historical tour- 2021



The first of a three-part analysis covering the Mt. Tom area of Holyoke, Massachusetts. Topics addressed: land use/zoning, real estate, and ecology. The purpose: to have this study serve as a guide for future planning and as a marketing tool.

prepared by

The Mt. Tom Range Commission

Meetings with Neighbors and Abutters

Stated purpose:

- How neighboring property relates to Whiting Street Reservoir
- Present uses of properties
- Traffic and Management
- Conservation/easements
- Hopes/plans for future



List of participants

Holyoke Water Works

Holyoke Conservation Commission

Wyckoff Country Club

Suher Concert Venue on Mountain Park

US Fish and Wildlife Service

MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, DCR

Trustees of Reservations

Holyoke Gas & Electric

New England Trails

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission



Activities Currently Adopted

Holyoke Water Works Board of Water Works Commissioners

Passive recreation:

- Walking
- Jogging
- Hiking
- Biking
- Photography
- Observing nature
- Non motorized vehicles



Issues Identified from Discussions

Maintain current status as backup water supply for the City

Unplanned public use and recreation

Need for comprehensive vision for the entire Mt Tom area including the reservoir

Establish a mechanism for communication among neighbors and stakeholders of adjacent properties

Desire for long term protection of the reservoir and other natural amenities

Access and parking including to site and through gate

Environmental concerns: public use, water quality, trash, erosion, graffiti, drainage, endangered species

Lack of amenities

Safety/security/staffing

Size of reservoir proper limits ability to support significant additional recreational activities/uses

Costs/revenues for all the above

Opportunities Identified from Discussions

Shared belief that this is a precious resource and jewel for the community

Develop a comprehensive vision for the Mt Tom area including the reservoir

Cooperation among neighbors/partners/city/stakeholders to develop overarching framework and solve current and future problems

Preservation of reservoir as a public resource

Planned and managed public use and recreation

Educational resource

Revenue opportunities consistent with protection of the reservoir

Next Steps

- Public input
- Develop recommendations for Holyoke City Council



Thanks for you input

Whiting Street Reservoir Committee Members:

Sue Ellen Panitch

Marlene Connor

Kate Kruckemeyer

Jeff Horan

Harry Craven

Kip Foley

Dave Moore

Thank you to City Council,
Mayor, Holyoke Water Works Staff,
and those who met with our
committee

