

Safeguarding Our Reservoirs

The Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) is committed to providing the citizens of the City of Baltimore and surrounding counties with the cleanest, purest drinking water possible. DPW has stewardship over 477 square miles which comprise the Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoirs and their watersheds. These reservoirs not only store water but also support natural settling and biological processes that improve the quality of the stored water and reduce treatment costs. However, for the natural purification to be effective, the reservoir's natural processes must be uninhibited. Therefore, it is essential that care be taken to protect the reservoirs and contiguous watershed lands from influences that would adversely affect their natural balance.

As forest and farmland in the privately-owned portions of the drainage area convert to housing developments, industrial parks, and shopping centers, the importance of the 17,580 acres of City-owned watershed property surrounding the three reservoirs has increased, as does the need to protect it. We ask all visitors to be aware that the reservoirs were created for the sole purpose of maintaining an ample supply of high quality water for treatment and distribution to 1.8 million consumers in the Baltimore Metropolitan region. Because of this, any recreational use of these properties must not result in damage to the environment.

In order to protect the resource, the City of Baltimore asks patrons of the reservoirs and their surrounding watersheds to read and abide by all watershed regulations. These regulations exist solely to protect our drinking water while allowing recreational use which is compatible with the goal of source water protection. We thank you for your cooperation and we hope that you enjoy your time while visiting City of Baltimore Watershed property.

