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PressRelease for June 13, 2007 Forum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Open Space Committee
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Help Plan the Future of Arlington's Parks and Open Spaces

The Arlington Open Space Committee is in the process of updating its 2002-2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan. As we continue to work on our draft plan, we invite you to come to a public meeting on June 13 to share your thoughts about specific recommendations, goals, and objectives to be incorporated into the next five-year plan for 2007-2012.

-- **What:** A Public Forum with the Arlington Open Space Committee

When: Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 7 – 9 pm (*Refreshments will be provided*)

Where: Town Hall Auditorium at 730 Massachusetts Avenue

The Open Space Committee is appointed by the Town Manager, and one of its major tasks is to prepare the Town's official Open Space and Recreation Plan every five years, and then to monitor and document its provisions, goals, objectives, and accomplishments.

The current plan was approved by both the Town and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Division of Conservation Services. Having a state-approved plan enables the Town to apply for certain state grants that can be used for open space acquisition and the construction, restoration, or rehabilitation of land for park and outdoor recreation purposes.

Copies of the 2002-2007 Plan are available in the Robbins Library, Planning Department, and Town Clerk's office. The entire plan, including numerous maps and photographs, is available on the Town Web site (http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_BComm/OpenSpace_Folder/OpenSpacePlan).

Last year the committee submitted an application for Community Development Block Grant funds to hire consultants to help

with preparation of the new plan for 2007–2012. Town Meeting in the spring of 2006 approved the request, and later in the year the committee prepared a Request for Proposals. In November the committee selected Ralph Willmer of VHB in Watertown to spearhead the public participation process and to help the committee prepare the final report to the Town and the state. Willmer is an Arlington resident who has extensive experience as a planner, and in particular has worked with the state and many other communities on open space planning.

Another source of information that will contribute to assessing resident concerns about open space and recreation issues is the Vision 2020 survey that accompanied the annual Town Census mailing. The 2007 survey was developed in conjunction with the Open Space Committee in order to incorporate responses into the final 2007-2012 Plan.

Please come to the meeting on June 13 so your ideas and concerns about the protection and maintenance of our town's valued open spaces and recreational facilities can be incorporated.

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