

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

In 2009 the Arlington Recreation Department continued to offer a variety of safe, quality programs and facilities for the residents of the Town of Arlington.

The Veterans' Memorial Skating Rink at the Arlington Sports Center made many important improvements including: painting of the spectator stands, repair of the radiant heaters in the rink stands, installation of new plexi-glass for the entrance doors, and repair of the snow guard on roof. The Rink Supervisor also increased marketing opportunities at the rink by continuing to sell board advertisements and Zamboni sponsorships. In 2009 the Veterans' Memorial Rink had over 2,000 hours of ice rentals and our attendance numbers were 3,824 adults and 8,597 youth, excluding seasonal skate passes.

The Department has been committed to providing quality programs, special events, and improvements to its many facilities. New programs offered in 2009 include: Rock & Roll Babies, Challenger Soccer, Super Star Soccer, Mass Youth Soccer Clinics, AC Milan Soccer, Real School of Music Classes, Film Making, Game Design, and increased tennis offerings throughout the year. Mainstay summer programs continued to include Club Rec, Kids Corner, Adventure, and the Magnolia Community Gardens. Specialty offerings included Lacrosse, Fencing, Karate, Field Hockey, Cheerleading, Youth Basketball, and Skating Lessons. Overall the participation numbers in recreational programs have increased slightly from 3,685 participants in 2008 to 3,907 participants in 2009.

Despite early summer's poor weather, Reservoir Beach continued to be a popular summer cooling spot. A total of 1,129 season passes were sold, which was a decrease from the 1,525 season passes sold the previous year. The decrease can be attributed to the inclement weather.

The North Union Spray Pool, located adjacent to the Thompson Elementary School, was also enjoyed by residents on a daily basis throughout the summer. The North Union Spray Pool continues to be a free service offered by the Department.

Gibbs Gymnasium continued to house a majority of the recreation indoor programs as well as provide indoor birthday party and gym rental options for the Arlington community. The Department oversees the rental of the facility, which currently includes various youth activities and organizations, adult basketball, and soccer. Gibbs Gym hosted 102 birthday parties in 2009, a 10% increase from 2008. Capital funds were allocated to Gibbs Gym to repair and replace the gymnasium floor. Additional funding is being sought prior to bidding and the project should begin during the summer of 2010.

The Department collaborates with various organizations and recreation centers in Arlington to offer

Town-wide special events. Such events include: the Town Day Road Race, Daddy Daughter Dance, Egg Hunt, Halloween Window Painting, and Olde Tyme Summer Field Day. This year we continued to offer the successful Special Needs Skate Program with the Arlington Catholic HS Boys' & Girls' Hockey team and their coaching staff. The Arlington Sports Center offered a series of spring dances for grades 5-8 and off-season batting cage rentals during the spring. Arlington Recreation proudly held their Second Annual Golf Tournament at Hillview Country Club, honoring long-time Park

Season	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual
Summer	1470	1464	1349
Fall	901	913	1057
Winter	1502	764	905
Spring	808	544	596
Reservoir Tags			
Adult Resident	526	464	352
Child Resident	521	461	346
Senior Citizen	56	67	51
Non Resident	6	31	13
Resident Family	357	358	290
Non Resident Family	55	46	17
Resident Family Plus 1	52	90	59
Non Resident Family Plus 1	7	8	1
Total	1580	1525	1129
Reservoir Passes			
Weekday Pass	3872	3500	3051
Weekend Pass	1936	1191	1431
Total	5808	4691	4482

Commissioner Don Vitters.

Limited outdoor recreational facilities and playing fields continue to be an important issue facing Arlington Recreation. Working with both high schools and the Town's many youth sports associations, the Department is crafting policies and procedures to assist in the scheduling and maintenance of Town playing fields. The Department also works with many park abutters, neighbors, and friends' organizations on park concerns and maintenance items.

Arlington Recreation continues to offer phone registration and messaging services 24 hours a day through a contract with Business Professional Exchange. The Recreation Department continues to receive compliments regarding this increased level of customer service. The Department was very pleased to welcome Patti Brennan to the staff as the Department's Principal Clerk.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Arlington Recreation continues to manage the capital improvement projects for the Park and Recreation Commission.

In 2009 the replacement of the safety surfacing at the Spy Pond Playground was completed. Funds were also raised through the Arlington Friends of Park Fund to repair the cracks at the Spy Pond Tennis Courts. The Commission continues to work on the Thorndike Field Parking Lot and Summer Street Playground projects, and completed the Arlington Sport Complex Master Plan. The Department received approval from Town Meeting for a one million dollar rink facility renovation project. This project was designed, and bid documents approved, for an early 2010 bidding season. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in September of 2010. The management of the recreational capital projects continues to be a major responsibility for the Director of Recreation.

2010 Objectives

Arlington Recreation will continue to offer quality recreational programming to residents. It is the goal of the Department to increase and improve program offerings every season. The Department will continue to work with users of the Arlington Sports Center and Town outdoor playing fields to address the increasing needs of the community. Our financial goal is to continue to become increasingly self-supporting through appropriate fee structuring and program and facility management.

Spring and Summer

Fall

Winter

Arlington Recreation...Sign Me Up! Register Online at www.arlingtonma.gov/recreation