

## **Appendix B.**

### **Open Space Committee and Vision 2020 Surveys and Results**



# Open Space Committee Survey

**Town Day, September 16, 2000**

The Town of Arlington is updating its comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan. Your answers to the following questions will help in that process. Thank you for completing this survey.

**1. Do you think our parks and playgrounds are adequately maintained (operational maintenance)?**

yes     no     don't know / no opinion

**2. Do you think our parks and playgrounds are adequately upgraded (capital improvements)?**

yes     no     don't know / no opinion

**3. For each type of facility listed below, indicate if the town has an adequate amount:**

Type of Facility	Adequate Amount	Inadequate Amount	Don't Know / No Opinion
Childrens' Playgrounds	_____	_____	_____
Neighborhood Parks	_____	_____	_____
Team Playing Fields	_____	_____	_____
Walking / Nature Trails	_____	_____	_____
Natural Areas	_____	_____	_____
Community Gardens	_____	_____	_____
Bike Trails	_____	_____	_____
Basketball Courts	_____	_____	_____
Tennis Courts	_____	_____	_____
Small Landscaped Areas	_____	_____	_____
Other (specify)	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**4. Would you support appropriating more town funds for upgrading and maintaining our existing parks and recreation facilities?**

yes     no     don't know / no opinion

**5. Would you support appropriating more town funds for increasing our amount of open space?**

yes     no     don't know / no opinion

**6. What are your three favorite open spaces, parks, or recreation facilities in Arlington?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. What do you like best about these town resources?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your additional comments are welcome. Please use the sides or back of this form.

Return this survey to: OSC % Planning Department, Town Hall Annex, Arlington, MA 02476

## Open Space Survey – Arlington Town Day – September 16, 2000

82 surveys returned

**1. Do you think our parks and playgrounds are adequately maintained (operational maintenance)?**

23 – yes (28%)      5 – mixed (6%)    **39 – no (48%)**    15 - don't know/no opinion (18%) (82)

**2. Do you think our parks and playgrounds are adequately upgraded (capital improvements)?**

20 – yes (25%)      5 – mixed (6%)    **38 – no (48%)**    17 - don't know/no opinion (21%) (80)

**3. For each type of facility listed below, indicate if the town has an adequate amount:**

	Adequate	Inadequate	Don't know/no opinion	
children's playgrounds	48	9	21	(78)
neighborhood parks	24	39	14	(77)
team playing fields	28	22	26	(76)
walking/nature trails	15	47	12	(74)
natural areas	10	<b>53</b>	13	(76)
community gardens	16	35	26	(77)
bike trails	<b>54</b>	18	5	(77)
basketball courts	26	8	<b>42</b>	(76)
tennis courts	29	9	<b>38</b>	(76)
small landscaped areas	25	25	23	(73)

other: (7 @ 1 each topic)

handicapped accessible areas, wilderness areas, farms, dog parks, boating, wetlands, Little League fields

**4. Would you support appropriating more town funds for upgrading and maintaining our existing parks and recreation facilities?**

72 – yes (94%)    1 – no (1%)      4 - don't know/no opinion (5%)      (77)

**5. Would you support appropriating more town funds for increasing our amount of open space?**

72 – yes (90%)    2 – no (2.5%)    6 - don't know/no opinion (7.5%)      (80)

**6. What are your three favorite open spaces, parks, or recreation facilities in Arlington? (192)**

<b>39</b>	<b>Menotomy Rocks Park</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>Minuteman Bike Path</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Spy Pond and Parks</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Robbins Farm</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Reservoir Path and Beach</b>	<b>13%</b>
8	Magnolia/Thorndike Fields	4%
7	Town Hall Parks	4%
3	Mugar Woods	2%
2 each	Mystic Lakes, Tennis Courts, Summer St. fields	
1 each	Alewife Reservation, Mt. Gilboa, Poets Corner, Dallin field, ball fields (general), No. Union playground, Bishop playground, Buzzell, Basketball courts, Skating Rink, Grove Street park/playground	

7. What do you like best about these town resources?

(86)

31	natural, wooded open spaces	36%
19	peace and quiet/ pleasant, attractive, well maintained places	22%
12	walkable, accessible areas, open to all	14%
6	bird/animal habitats	7%
3	variety of uses	3.5%
3	community playgrounds	3.5%
3	nice views	3.5%
3	water	3.5%
3	community involvement	3.5%
2	large areas for walking, playing	2%
1	swimming (Reservoir)	1%

Other Comments:

- purchase Knowles Farm for community gardens
- keep Mugar land as open space
- develop more links to Minuteman Bike Path
- provide public access to Mystic Lakes in Arlington
- create/clear walking trail around Spy Pond
- improve water quality in Spy Pond
- upgrade Spy Pond playgrounds and Magnolia fields
- clean up beer cans, glass, etc., at various parks
- use wood chips, not pavement, in playgrounds (i.e., Parmenter)
- landscape more trees and plants in playgrounds
- provide better maintenance of the cemetery on Pleasant Street

compiled by Ann LeRoy  
October 2000

## Open Space Survey – 1995

705 surveys returned from 1995 Census Mailing

**1. Do you think our parks and playgrounds are adequately maintained (operational maintenance)?**

412 – yes (59%)      164 – no (23%)      125 - don't know/no opinion (18%)      (701)

**2. Do you think our parks and playgrounds are adequately upgraded (capital improvements)?**

291 – yes (42%)      222 – no (32%)      176 - don't know/no opinion (26%)      (689)

**3. For each type of facility listed below, indicate if the town has an adequate amount:**

	Adequate	Inadequate	Don't know/no opinion
children's playgrounds	405	72	192
neighborhood parks	390	172	103
team playing fields	388	80	198
walking/nature trails	323	235	113
natural areas	252	269	132
community gardens	178	246	230
bike trails	543	61	67
basketball courts	284	101	278
tennis courts	267	154	239
small landscaped areas	253	191	204

**4. Would you support appropriating more town funds for upgrading and maintaining our existing parks and recreation facilities?**

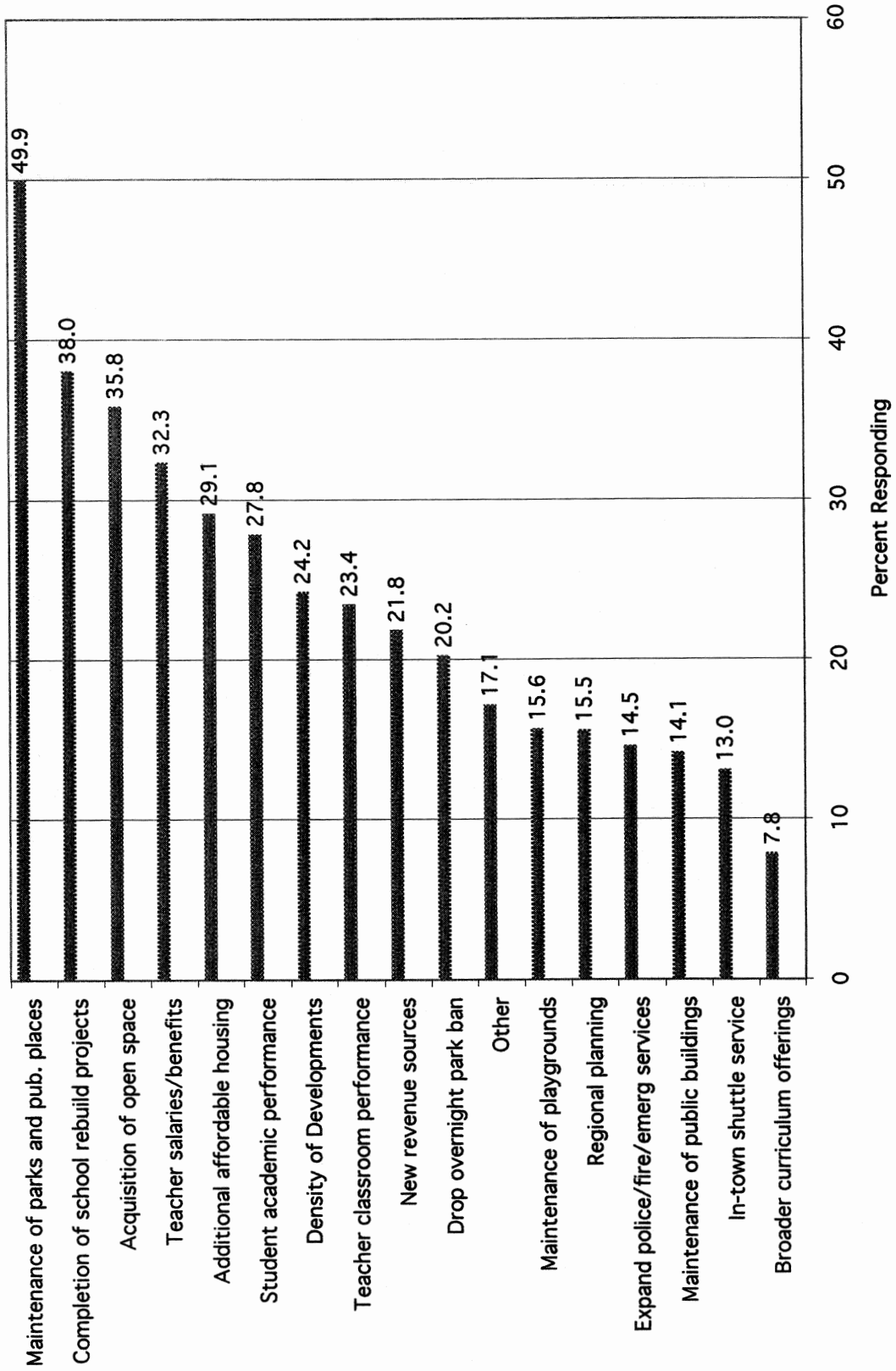
375 – yes (54%)      197 – no (28%)      128 - don't know/no opinion (18%)      (700)

**5. Would you support appropriating more town funds for increasing our amount of open space?**

378 – yes (54%)      201 – no (28%)      126 - don't know/no opinion (18%)      (705)

Results compiled and presented in Appendix of 1996 Town of Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan

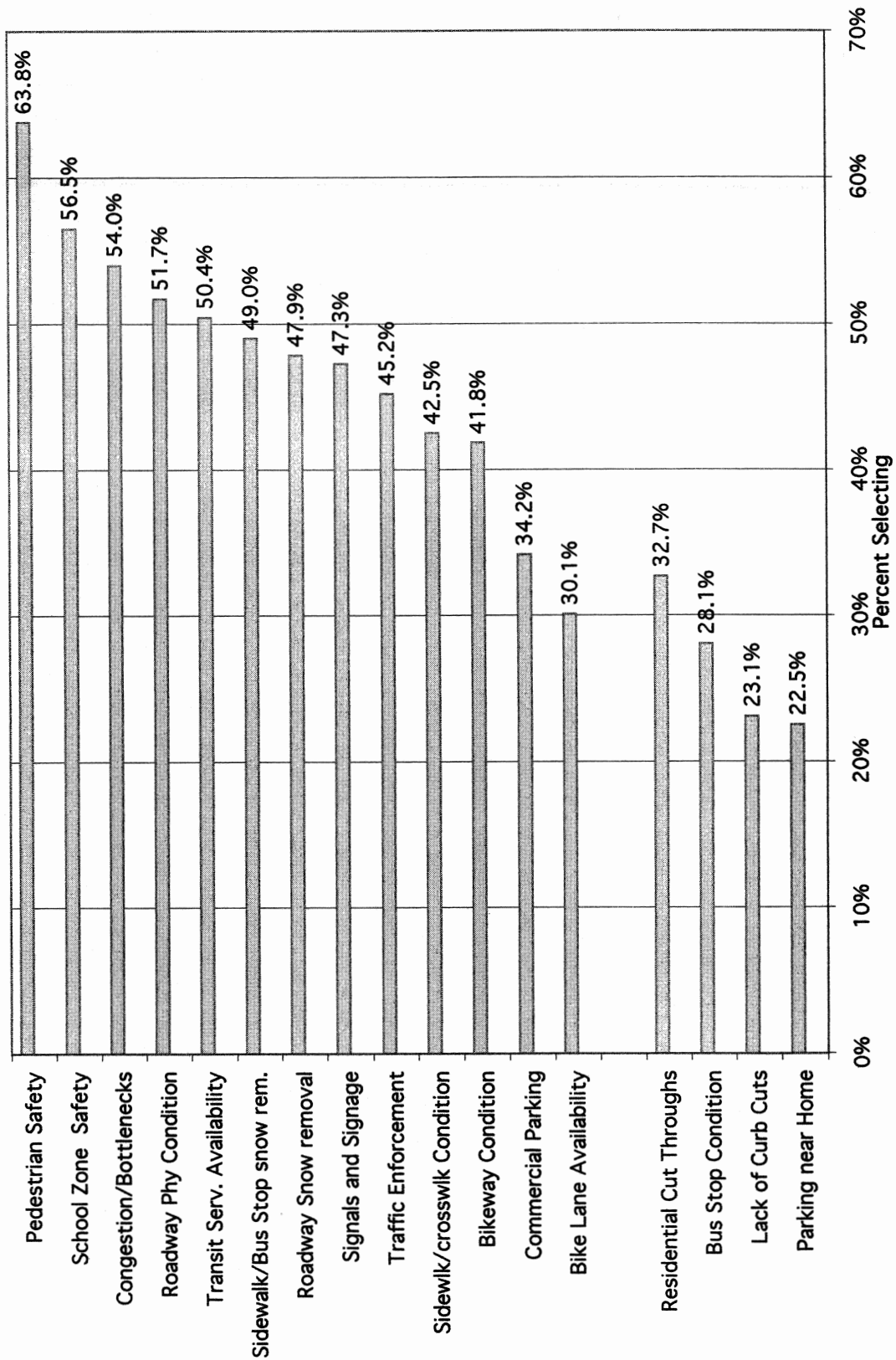
**Percent of Households Selecting Issue - 2002 Survey**  
 (1589 households - 4/25/02)



# V2020 Transportation Survey Results

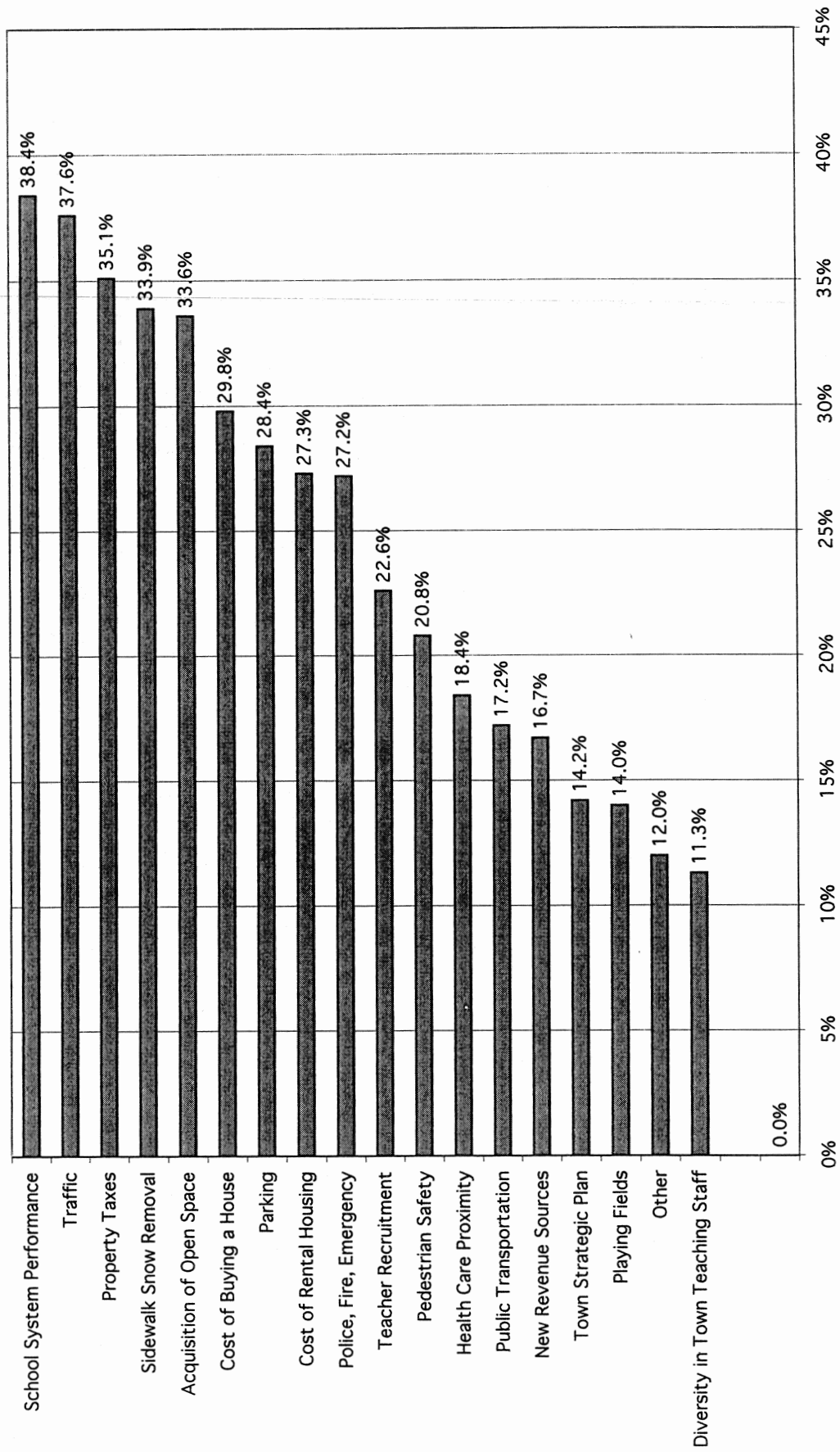
(1589 households responding to Jan.'02 survey)

The question: How important to you is it that the study include these issues? Percent answering : "Very Important"



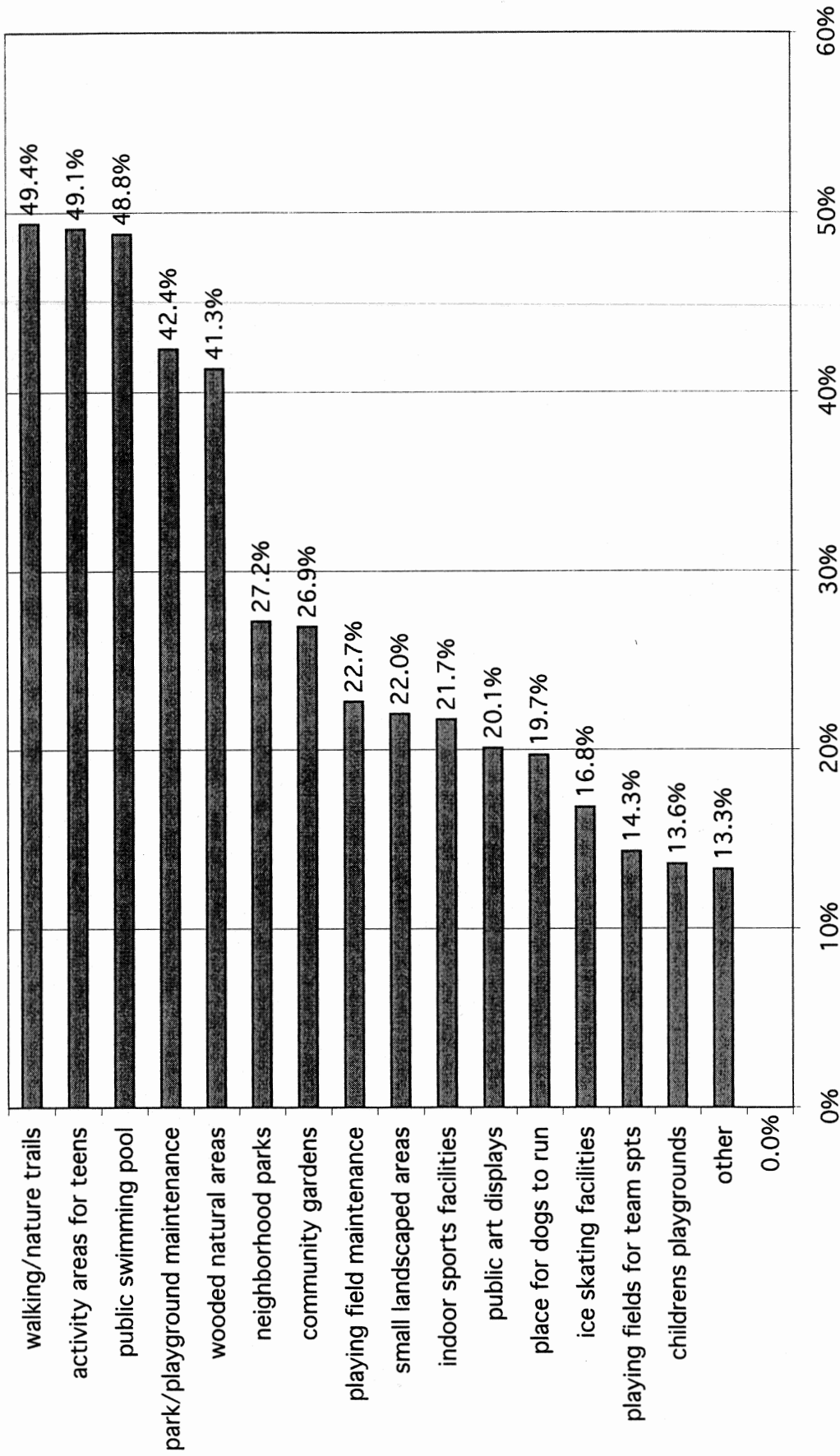


## Percent of Those Responding to 2001 Census Insert (Preliminary Data - 3/14/01)



# Open Space, Parks and Recreation Responses

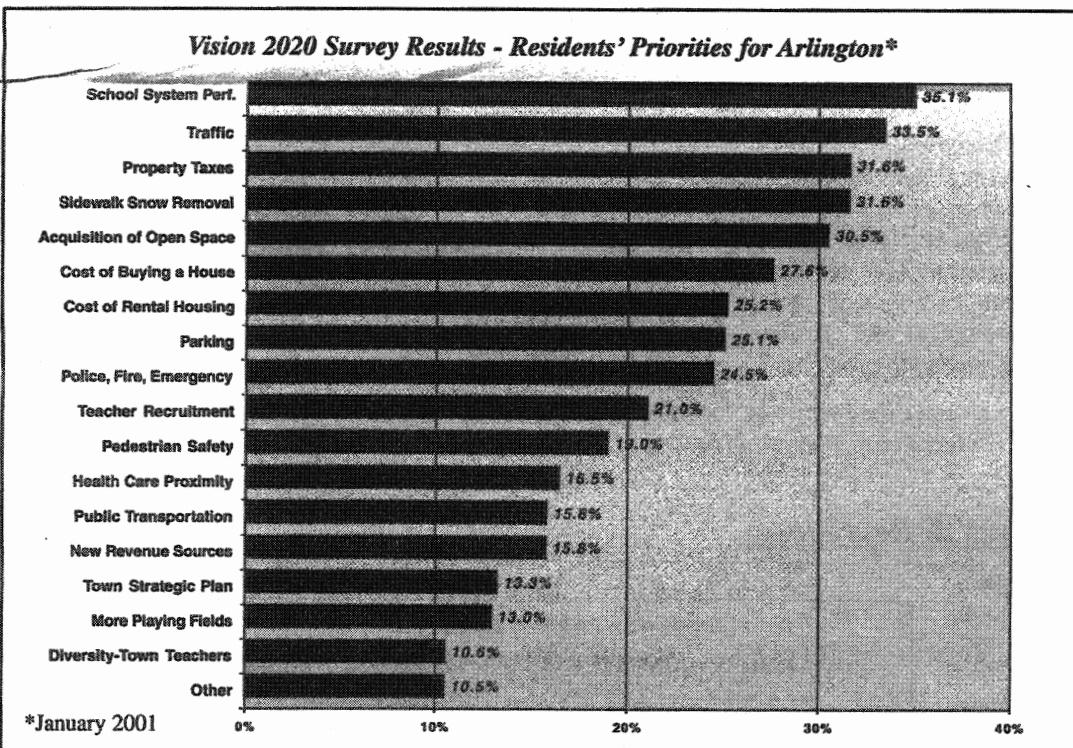
(Preliminary Data 3/14/01)



# Stand up and be counted... your opinions are important!

**A Proud Past, A Focused Future**

Vision 2020 is a Committee of the Town that works in a partnership of townspeople, Town employees and Town leaders. It is also a joint planning process, where active task groups function within a framework of Town Goals established by Town Meeting in 1993. This past year alone the partnership process resulted in the First Annual State of the Town Address, a state grant of \$299,990 for improving Spy Pond, creation of a multi-cultural family group for social and cultural exchanges, a public forum to discuss Arlington Reservoir issues, and energy-saving replacements for Robbins Library lights and Town traffic signals. In addition, when hate literature was distributed in Arlington, Vision 2020 collaborated with the Human Rights Commission and various Town officials to formulate a response, which culminated in a candlelight vigil held to give our community an opportunity to affirm its values.



Vision 2020 helps to identify the priorities of Arlington's residents through this insert to the Annual Town Census mailing. Last year, once again, over 2,500 households responded to Vision 2020's survey. The results, shown in the chart on the left, provide important information for Vision 2020 and Town officials throughout the year.

*School System Performance and Traffic*, identified as important issues, are now being examined by the Town. Also, more than 30% of the responding households chose *Property Taxes, Sidewalk Snow Removal and Acquisition of Open Space* as significant issues for our Town.

Many of your concerns are being addressed; some issues require long-term strategies as well as short-term solutions. Examples of efforts underway include:

- *To prepare students for our multi-cultural world, the Diversity Task Group is playing an active role on the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee by encouraging recruitment and retention of teachers and administrators to offer first-hand contact with people from a variety of races and ethnicities.*
- *The Transportation Advisory Committee is working to address community transportation issues. Public forums were held to obtain input and suggestions on resident concerns. Please take a minute to participate in their survey located on page 4.*
- *The Planning Department, Redevelopment Board and Open Space Committee are working to protect the Town's open spaces by creation of districts zoned specifically as "Open Space." This zoning amendment was adopted by the 2001 Town Meeting.*
- *The Affordable Housing Task Force, Housing Corporation of Arlington, Arlington Housing Authority, and Fair Housing Advisory Committee are working to ensure that the housing needs of the community are being met. Specific initiatives are detailed on page 2.*

Vision 2020 is proud of its Town and townspeople collaboration, and once again asks for your help.

We value your comments and invite you to join our Task Groups, which are listed on page 5.

**Please look inside for more information and an opportunity to be counted... ➔**

## Affordable Housing Report

Last year's Vision 2020 survey asked Arlington residents about their housing and their perception of housing problems in the Town. We received responses from 2,257 households. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of respondents said there is a housing crisis in Arlington. Of those who said there is a crisis, 66% were concerned about their own ability to continue to rent or own in Arlington. Other perceptions of the crisis were concern about high taxes associated with soaring values (11%), the changing character of the Town, and loss of diversity (10%). Four percent (4%) reported that they had experienced discrimination in housing. The primary reason for this discrimination was having children (51%). The second most cited cause was racial or ethnic discrimination (8%).

Over the past year, the Town has initiated a number of efforts to help our residents who are struggling to stay in their current housing, or to find safe, stable and affordable housing.

- **Affordable Housing Zoning Amendment.** In April of 2001, Town Meeting adopted an amendment to the zoning bylaw requiring that any new residential developments in Town with more than 5 units include 15% affordable units. The first development to include units under this program is expected to come onto the market in 2002.
- **Two-Family Affordable Rental Program.** Another partnership between the Town and the nonprofit Housing Corporation of Arlington involves the purchase of two-family houses, using both private and public (federal) funds. The goal of this program is to provide families currently being priced out of the area with affordable housing scattered throughout the Town, without adding density. These units now offer 8 low- and

moderate-income families safe, stable and affordable rental housing.

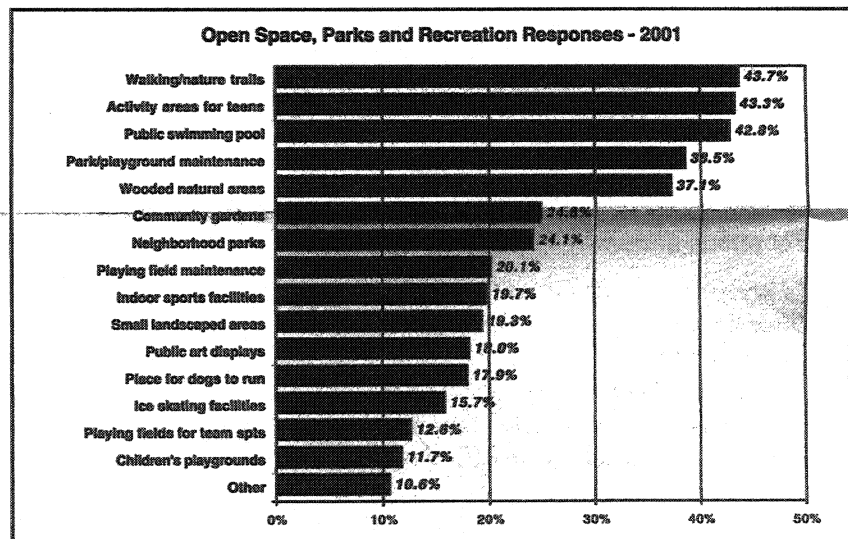
- **Homeless Prevention Fund.** With the strong support of the Town, a new source of emergency help for people with a housing crisis was created under the nonprofit Housing Corporation of Arlington. This Fund comes entirely from private donations, individuals, businesses, and Arlington foundations concerned about their neighbors and housing. During the past year, the Fund raised \$47,000, and helped 23 individuals or families to stay in their homes. The size of the average grant was \$1,500. More than half the families that received assistance have lived in Arlington for over 20 years.

For more information, for housing assistance, or to make a contribution to the Homeless Prevention Fund, please contact Laura Wiener, Director of Housing, at (781) 316-3429.

## Report on Open Space / Parks & Recreation

Last year's survey also asked Arlington residents their opinions about the open space and recreational needs of the town. More **Walking / Nature Trails**, more **Activity Areas for Teens** and a **Public Swimming Pool** topped the list. These were followed by better **Park & Playground Maintenance** and more **Wooded Natural Areas** as important concerns.

Both the Town's Open Space Committee and Park & Recreation Commission are actively working to help ensure that residents' open space and recreational needs are being met. The updated **Open Space Plan** was approved at the 2001 Annual Town Meeting.



For more information on the specific projects and issues being addressed by these groups, please consider attending the public meetings that are held each month. The Park & Recreation Commission meets monthly at the Whittemore-Robbins House; the Open Space Committee meetings are generally held in the Town Hall Annex. Meeting times for each of these groups are publicly posted at Town Hall and on Arlington's website.

Please read on for more information and an opportunity to express your opinion. →

## The Community Preservation Act

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is new state legislation, passed in December 2000, that helps Massachusetts cities and towns plan for sustainable growth and raise funds to achieve their plans. CPA allows communities to create a permanent stream of funding dedicated **only** to open space, historic preservation and affordable housing. At least 10 percent of revenues must be spent in each of these three areas each year; the remaining 70 percent may be allocated to one or more projects in the same categories.

### Is CPA important for Arlington?

CPA provides funds for the acquisition and preservation of open space, such as the Mugar site. Many Arlington children play soccer, baseball and other sports, and residents of all ages need additional passive and active recreational facilities. CPA funds could be used to acquire and restore land for recreational use. In addition, CPA funds can be used to acquire and preserve historic resources, such as the Dallin Museum, and to create and support affordable housing. All of these kinds of projects will help to enhance and maintain the character of our community.

### How would CPA be funded?

CPA funds are raised through a community-wide property tax surcharge of up to 3 percent. These funds are matched by state funds.

### How would Arlington get started?

Passing CPA is a local process that requires a majority vote of Town Meeting followed by referendum approval at the next election.

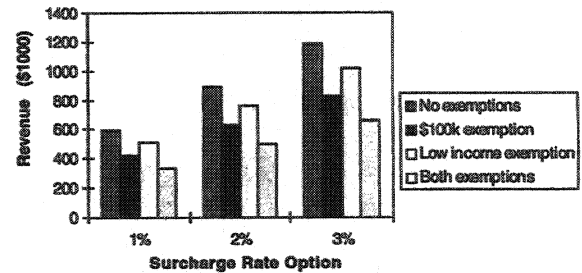
### Who decides on Arlington's use of CPA funds?

If CPA is approved in Arlington, the state legislation requires the Town to establish a Community Preservation Committee that will make annual recommendations to Town Meeting on how the money should be spent. The Committee must consist of 5 to 9 members including a representative from the Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Redevelopment Board, Housing Authority, and Park & Recreation Commission. The composition and duties of the Committee would be fully defined in a new bylaw that must be approved by Town Meeting.

### Are there financial advantages to CPA?

To communities that adopt CPA, the state will provide matching grants of up to 100% of revenue collected. These grants are supplied through the newly created Community Preservation Trust Fund (CPTF). The CPTF revenues are derived from charges levied at the Registry of Deeds. These revenues are estimated at upwards of \$25 million annually and are not subject to annual appropriation by the legislature.

CPA Surcharge Revenue Estimates FY2002

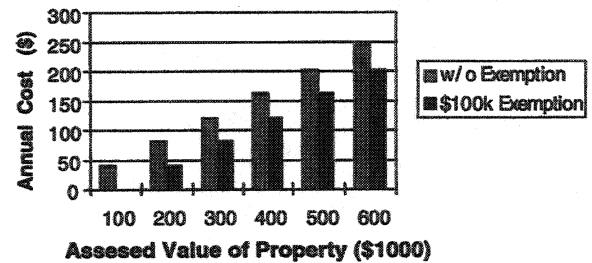


(Note: the low-income exemption is based on an estimate & may not "cost" this much.)

### How will CPA affect my taxes and how much money will it raise?

Depending on the surcharge rate and exemptions voted, Arlington could raise from \$300,000-\$1,200,000 annually. The annual cost to each homeowner, based on assessed home value, could range from less than \$50 to more than \$250. The charts illustrate these possibilities.

CPA Annual Cost To Taxpayer  
(3% Surcharge, FY2002)



(Note: if exempted, low-income taxpayers would pay no surcharge.)

### Must all homeowners contribute?

No, the Town can choose one or both of the following two exemptions:

1. The first \$100,000 in assessed value on all homes - this means that if your home were assessed at \$300,000, your surcharge would be calculated on a value of \$200,000.
2. No surcharge for low-income homeowners or moderate-income homeowners over age 60.

### How long will CPA remain in effect?

CPA remains in effect for a minimum of five years from the date it is accepted. The bylaw may be modified at any time using the same process by which it was accepted. After five years, CPA may be revoked, using the same process.

### How can I learn more about CPA?

Visit <http://www.communitypreservation.org> (Community Preservation Coalition's website), or <http://www.tpl.org> (Trust for Public Land's website), or contact a member of Arlington's CPA Study Committee (Freeland Abbott, Roland Chaput, Marc Dohan, Peter Howard, Ann LeRoy, Clarissa Rowe, Myra Schwartz, Lynn Sternbergh, Nathaniel Stevens, Donald Vitters, Laura Wiener)

**Stand up and be counted...your opinions are important!**

**What are your thoughts on the Community Preservation Act (CPA)?**

- 1. Should Arlington accept the Community Preservation Act?     \_\_\_ **Yes**           \_\_\_ **No**
- 2. If "Yes", what surcharge percentage should Arlington adopt?     \_\_\_ **Less than 1%**   \_\_\_ **1%**   \_\_\_ **2%**   \_\_\_ **3%**
- 3. What exemptions would you favor?   \_\_\_ **First \$100,000 of value**   \_\_\_ **Low-income/seniors**   \_\_\_ **Both**   \_\_\_ **None**
- 4. Indicate open space, affordable housing & historic preservation projects you would like Arlington's CPA funds to support:

**Arlington Transportation Survey for the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

The Town is seeking your opinions to help set priorities for its ongoing transportation study. Take a few minutes to fill out this survey. For additional information, visit the TAC website at <http://www.tac.arlington.ma.us/>

**1. How important is it to you that the study examines the following transportation issues in Arlington?**

<b>(Circle one answer for each issue)</b>	<b>Very</b>	<b>Somewhat</b>	<b>Not at All</b>
a. Roadway physical conditions	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
b. Roadway snow removal	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
c. Traffic signals and signage	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
d. Traffic enforcement	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
e. Traffic congestion/Bottlenecks	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
f. Cut through traffic on residential streets	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
g. Parking in commercial districts	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
h. Parking near home	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
i. Sidewalk/Crosswalk/Ramp conditions	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
j. Sidewalk/Bus stop snow removal	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
k. Lack of curb cut ramps	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
l. Pedestrian safety	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
m. School zone safety	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
n. Bikeway condition	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
o. Bike lane availability	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
p. Bus stop condition	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
q. Transit service availability	<b>V</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>

**2. In a typical month, how often do you engage in each of the following in Arlington:**

- a. Use public transportation                                    \_\_\_ days
- b. Ride a bicycle for pleasure or to a specific destination   \_\_\_ days
- c. Take a walk for pleasure or to a specific destination      \_\_\_ days

**Opinions on Townwide Issues**

From the following list, please choose up to four issues, which you think are most important for the Town to address:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of public buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Commitment to completion of school rebuild projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of parks & public spaces      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition of open space       | <input type="checkbox"/> Student academic performance                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional planning                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher classroom performance   | <input type="checkbox"/> Expanded police, fire, and emergency services       | <input type="checkbox"/> Creation of additional affordable housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Density of developments         | <input type="checkbox"/> Overnight parking ban elimination                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher salaries/benefits                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New revenue sources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Broader curriculum offerings                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-town shuttle service         | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of playgrounds                          |  |

Thank you for taking the time to complete this Vision 2020 survey. Please return it with your Town Census form or mail to Vision 2020, Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

# While you're being counted... your opinions count too!

**A Proud Past, A Focused Future**

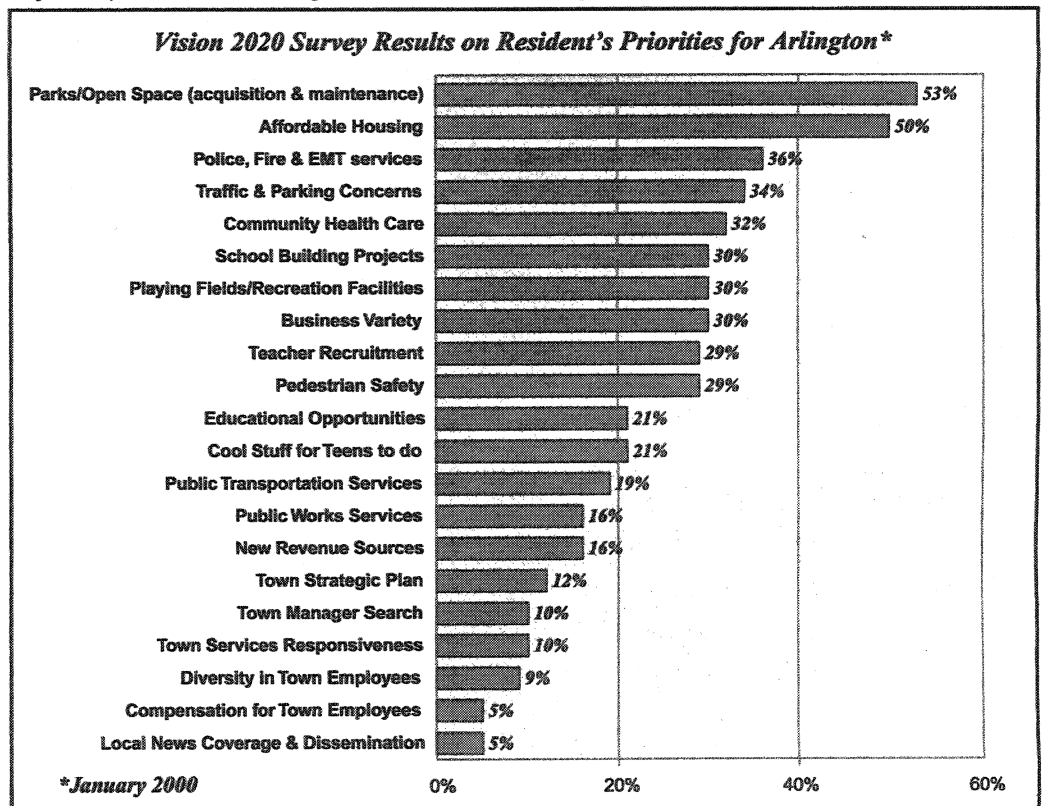
Vision 2020 is a Committee of the Town that works in a partnership of townspeople, Town employees and Town leaders. It is also a joint planning process, where active task groups function within a framework of Town Goals established by Town Meeting in 1993. This year alone the partnership process resulted in adoption of a Minority Hiring Policy by the School Committee, Town Meeting approval for funding weed reduction at Spy Pond in spring 2001, and creation of a Human Resources position by the School Department. The Environment Task Group now has three committees. The newest, Sustainable Arlington, is addressing climate change issues and is collaborating on a free, Town-coordinated Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program this winter.

Vision 2020 helps to identify the priorities of Arlington's residents through this insert to the Annual Town

Census mailing. Last year, over 2500 households responded to Vision 2020's survey. The results, shown in the chart at the right, provided important information for Vision 2020 and Town officials throughout the year.

As you can see, half of the households that responded identified *Parks / Open Space* and *Affordable Housing* as important issues. In addition, over 30% of households chose *Police, Fire & EMT Services, Traffic & Parking Concerns* and *Community Health Care* as significant issues.

Many of your concerns are being addressed, although some issues



are so complex that quick fixes are unlikely. Examples of work underway include:

- *An Affordable Housing Task Force, created at 1999's Annual Town Meeting, is recommending action dealing with housing in Arlington.*
- *The Town is proceeding with the Reeds Brook project to correct neighborhood flooding problems and add playing fields & open space.*
- *Arlington voters overwhelmingly passed a debt exclusion referendum to generate funds to complete rebuilding all our elementary schools.*
- *Vision 2020 is at work on several of our open spaces. At Spy Pond, the committee is addressing water quality and weed remediation issues. At the Reservoir, the committee is working on dam and beach issues.*
- *A preliminary transportation study, with funding authorized by Town Meeting, is underway to analyze traffic, parking, public transit and pedestrian issues.*

Vision 2020 is proud of its Town and townspeople collaboration, and we once again ask for your help. We value your comments and invite you to join our Task Groups, which are listed on page 5.

**Please look inside for more information and an opportunity to be counted...**



# While you're being counted...your opinions count too!

## Opinions on Townwide Issues

Please choose up to four issues from the following list, which you think are most important for the Town to address:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Public transportation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Strategic Plan       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing fields                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Health care proximity            | <input type="checkbox"/> New revenue sources       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of rental housing           | <input type="checkbox"/> Property taxes            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of buying a house               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalk snow removal            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian safety         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher recruitment                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition of open space        | <input type="checkbox"/> School system performance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Police, fire, and emergency services | <input type="checkbox"/> Diversity in Town teaching staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____     |

## Opinions on Open Space / Parks & Recreation

Please select up to four from the following list of potential improvements that you consider most important for the Town to pursue, related to *Parks / Open space / Playing fields / Recreation facilities*. Then, for each selection you make, identify how you would expect the improvement to be funded by placing an "X" in the appropriate column.

*For example, if you want to have more community gardens in Arlington, what sources do you think would fund them? Your local taxes? A charge levied on each gardener (user fee)? Sale of advertising space in the garden? Pursuing grants or other State or Federal funding opportunities? Or, a collaboration between individuals / business donations and public money?*

List of Potential Improvements	Local Taxes	User Fees	State / Federal Funding	Advertising	Public / Private Partnerships
more activity areas for teens					
more children's playgrounds					
more community gardens					
better ice skating facilities					
more indoor sports facilities					
more neighborhood parks					
better park / playground maintenance					
places for dogs to run					
more playing fields for team sports					
better playing field maintenance					
more public art displays					
a public swimming pool					
more small landscaped areas					
more walking/nature trails					
more wooded natural areas					
other (specify)					

Thank you for taking the time to complete this Vision 2020 survey. Please return it with your Town Census form or mail to Vision 2020, Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476



## Arlington Reservoir Report: 2000 Survey Results

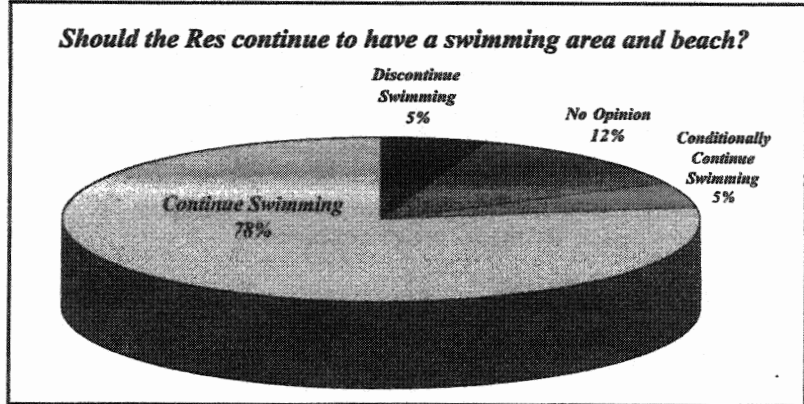
The Arlington Reservoir Committee is working to understand usage of the Reservoir area and to help identify and solve problems associated with this natural resource. Issues such as dam safety, tree removal, flooding and animal habitat are being discussed. Last year's Census insert survey offered the opportunity for residents to express their opinions and concerns about the "Res".

Nearly 1400 households responded to last year's Reservoir survey. 69% of the townwide responses came from those who identify themselves as "Res" users. Uses throughout the year include walking, jogging, birdwatching, swimming, dog walking, using the playground and fishing. And while 31% of respondents identified themselves as "non-users", these residents still offered opinions on what is important about the "Res". Several residents expressed their concerns about flooding. Overwhelming sentiment verifies that the "Res" is a valuable natural and recreational resource for the Town and its residents.

However, the majority of all respondents felt the need to improve the "Res" in some way, including:

- *striking an appropriate balance between healthy, clean water for swimming & water quality suitable for wildlife*
- *permanent removal of the "stump dump"*
- *access to parking year-round*
- *elimination of duck, goose & other waste from the beach area*
- *better maintenance of all areas*
- *protection of wildlife habitat*
- *more comfort and safety features*

**An information session on Reservoir issues / plans is slated for late winter. Watch for a date.**



## **Sustainable Arlington Asks: *How Can We Limit Arlington's Impact on Climate Change?***

The vast majority of the world's scientists and a special scientific panel convened by the United Nations agree that the earth's climate is changing due to human activity, with effects such as more extreme weather, more droughts and floods, melting of polar ice, and rise in sea level. The main cause is emissions of "greenhouse gases," primarily carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), from the burning of coal (used to generate electricity), gasoline, heating oil, and natural gas. An inventory of Arlington's emissions, in tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, showed these sources:

- ❖ **Municipal Government:** 18,400 tons (Buildings 72%, Vehicle Fleet 7%, Street Lights 1%, Sewage 10%)
- ❖ **Community:** 335,000 tons (Residential 63%, Commercial 21%, Transportation 13%, Waste 3%)

In May 2000, the Town of Arlington joined the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. A Climate Wise task force within Town government is developing a Local Action Plan to reduce municipal emissions. As the data above show, community sources account for the largest part (95%!) of Arlington's impact. Each one of us can make a big difference by taking some simple steps:

**Increase the energy efficiency of your home.** Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors. Insulate walls and especially the attic adequately. Replace your old, inefficient heating system. Wrap insulation around your water heater. Call Boston Edison (617) 424-3377 or Boston Gas (800) 292-2032 for a free energy audit.

**Buy energy-efficient appliances.** Check the Energy Guide labels found on most major appliances. Find out more from [www.epa.gov/energystar](http://www.epa.gov/energystar).

**Replace your light bulbs with efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.** These cost more than incandescent bulbs but give the same light for about 1/4 as much electricity, last 10 times longer, and can save \$40-\$60 over their lifetimes. Call (800) 473-9150 for Boston Edison's free catalog with discounts on efficient lights.

**Install low-flow showerheads and faucets.** Save 1/2 the water without decreasing performance. Turning your hot water heater down to 120°F lowers costs up to 50%.

**Buy and use cars with high fuel efficiency.** It's one of the most important ways of preventing global warming. Every gallon of gas we burn emits 21 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>!

**Drive smart.** Have your vehicles tuned up and tires properly inflated. If you have two cars, drive the more efficient one whenever possible. Carpool or telecommute when you can; better yet, take public transit, walk or bicycle.

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.** Producing new paper, glass, and metal items from recycled materials saves 70-90% of energy and pollution compared to production from virgin materials. Always buy recycled when possible. (This insert is printed on recycled paper.)

**Sustainable Arlington is a community group working with the Town to reduce our emissions. Please contact us at 643-5911 or [Environment2020@aol.com](mailto:Environment2020@aol.com).**

# Vision 2020 Census 2000 Survey - Resident Priorities

