



4 - Environmental Inventory and Analysis

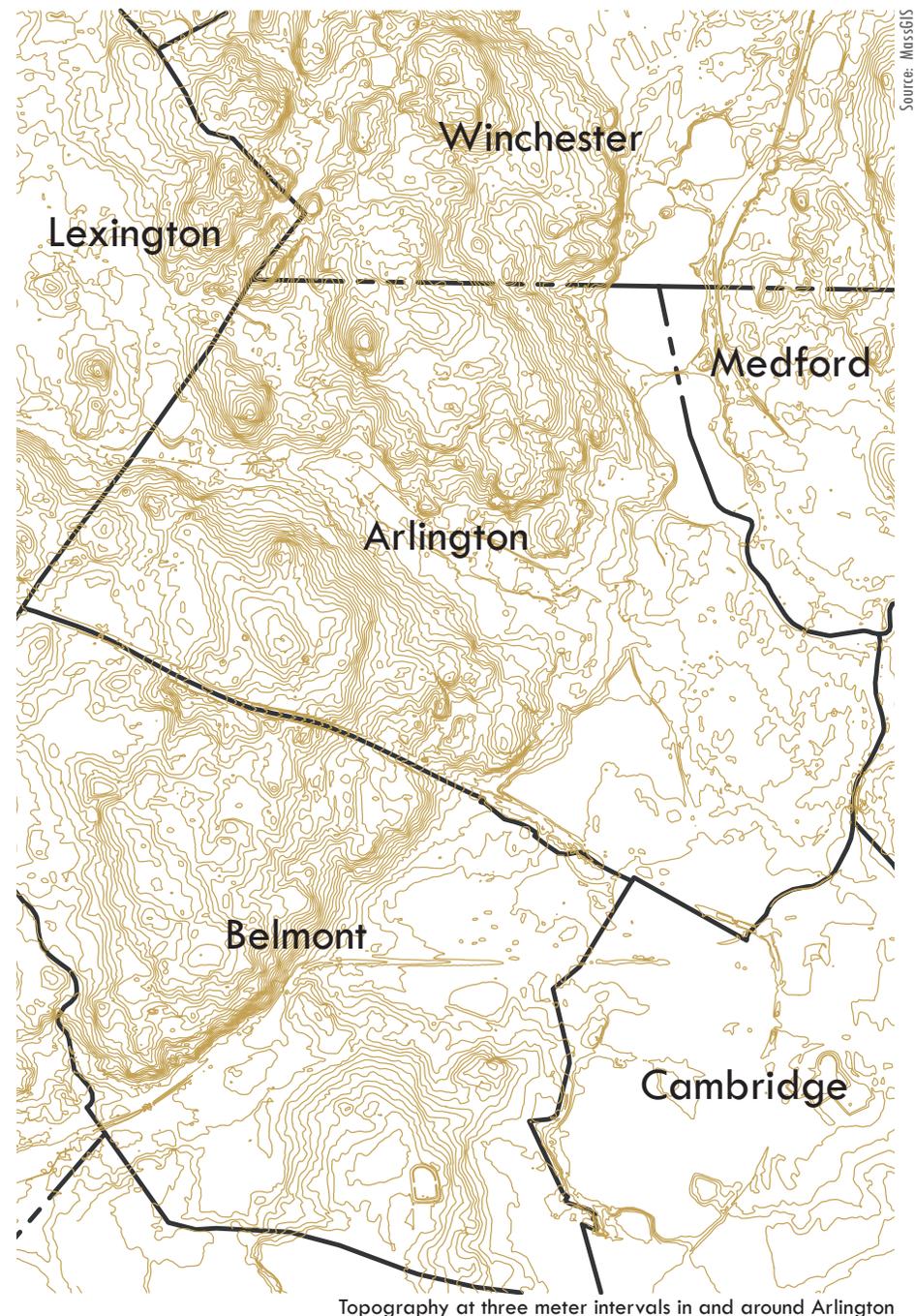
4. Environmental Inventory and Analysis

A. Topography, Geology, and Soils

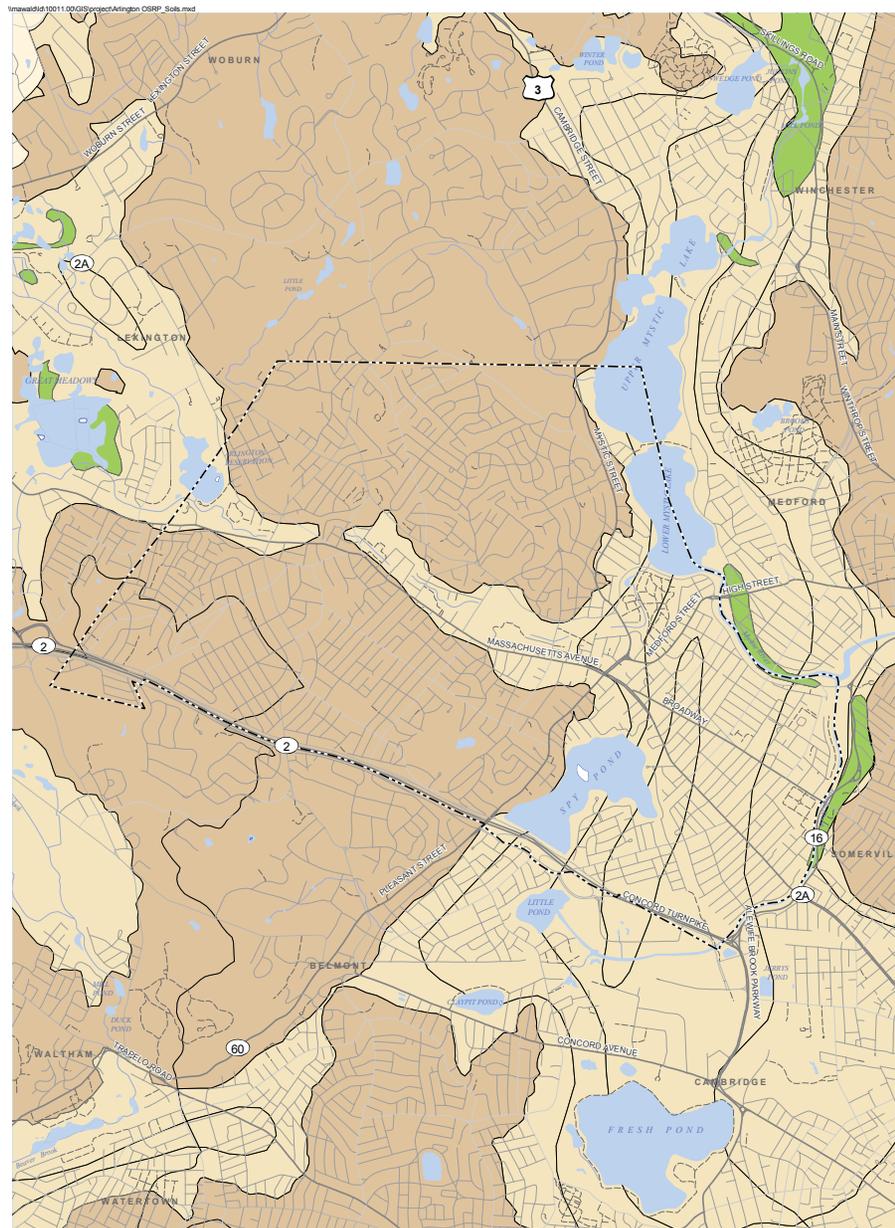
Arlington is situated in the Coastal Plain of Eastern Massachusetts. Approximately 8 percent (286 acres) of Arlington's area is the surface of water bodies, including Spy Pond, Hill's Pond, Arlington Reservoir, Mill Brook, Alewife Brook, and the Mystic Lakes. The Town lies on the western, or outer, geological edge of a broad, flat, floodplain known geologically as the Boston Basin.

Topography and Geology

Approximately one-third of the Town (east of Arlington Center) is part of the Boston Basin, a fairly low and level land mass. The range of elevation in this section is from 10 to 40 feet above mean sea level; it is located along the Alewife Brook floodplain and extends to Spy Pond and the Lower Mystic Lake. Spy Pond is part of the headwaters of Alewife Brook. It feeds the Alewife Brook through the Little River in Belmont, although the construction of Route 2 altered Spy Pond's historic relationship to the Little River.



Map 6 - Soils



Legend

- Sand and gravel deposits
- Fine-grained deposits
- Till or bedrock
- Floodplain alluvium
- Town Bounds



Just beyond the western shores of the Lower Mystic Lake and Spy Pond is an unbroken ridge (elevation 49.2'), which is part of a terminal moraine. This ridge marks the beginning of Arlington's characteristic rocky knobs and unsorted glacial rock masses. The western portion of Arlington is hilly and rocky, with elevations ranging from 100 to nearly 400 feet above sea level. This part of Town marks the beginning of the Boston escarpment. Arlington's hills, which are remnants of ancient mountains, are divided by a valley carved by the action of the now-extinct Arlington River. Outcrops of igneous rock are evidence of this earlier mountain-building volcanic period. Mill Brook now flows in a west-to-east direction through this valley.

Arlington's topography bears distinct marks of the glacial period. As the glacier moved down from the north, rocks of various shapes and sizes were scoured from the mountains, pulled up and carried forward by the flow of ice. As the glacial period ended, masses of rocks were dropped in unsorted layers as the forward edge of ice melted. These formations are called terminal moraines, and an example may be seen on the southern slopes of Arlington Heights.

Soils

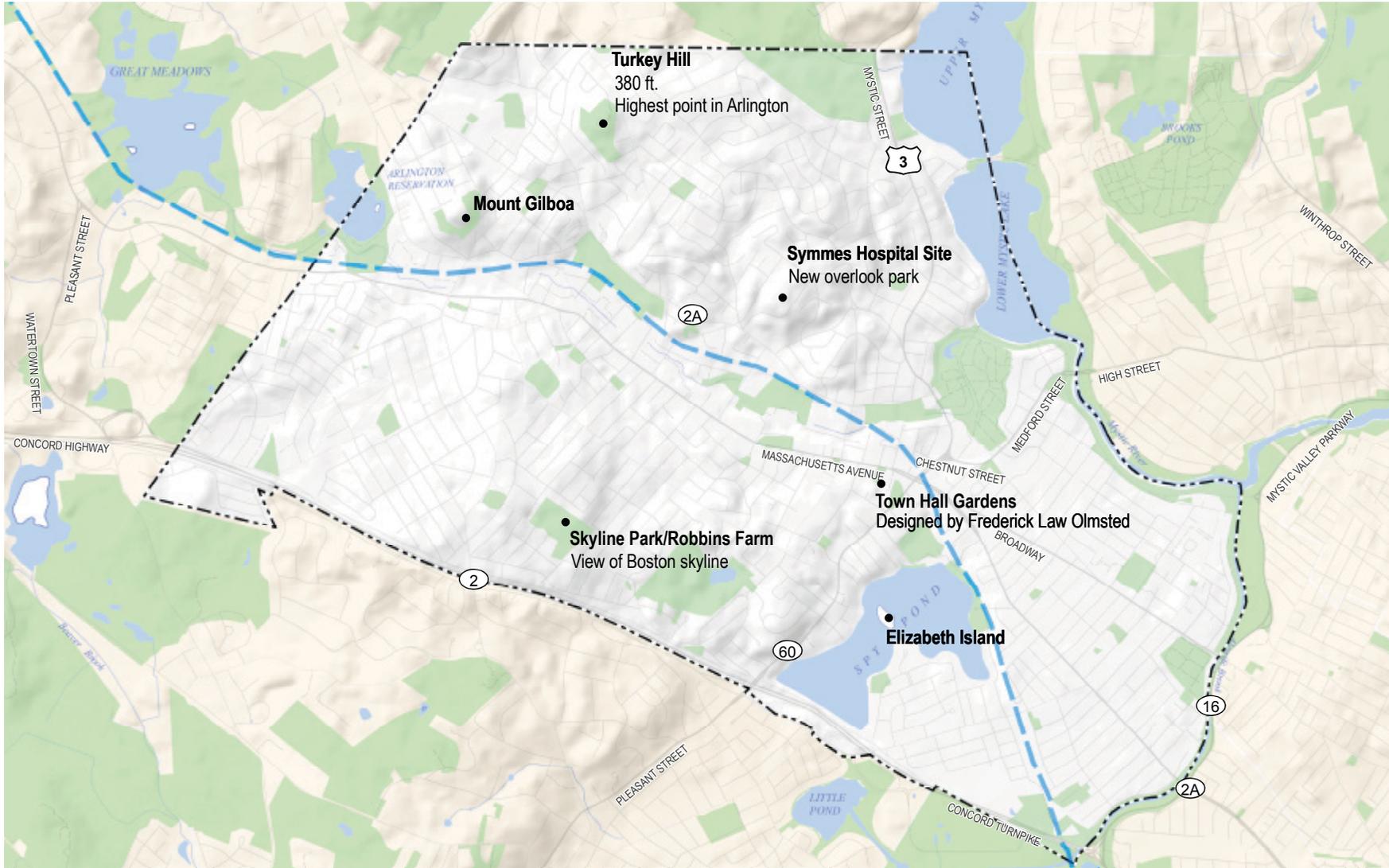
Most of the soils in Arlington are designated urban land complexes because they have been modified so they no longer retain their original properties. Arlington's most common soil, a Charlton-Hollis-Urban Land Complex, is located in western areas and is found on slopes of 3 to 5 percent. Charlton soils are well-drained, upland soils where the relief is affected by the bedrock. They are stony, with 60 inches or more of friable fine sandy loam (a silt-sand-clay mixture). Hollis soils are shallow (<20 in.), excessively drained soils on bedrock uplands. They are also friable fine sandy loam (adapted from McLaughlin 1994, 13).

The Newport-Urban Land Complex soil is also located in western areas of Town, particularly the land west and northwest of Park Circle, lands east of Turkey Hill, and lands west of the Winchester Country Club. These soils have 3 to 15 percent slopes and tend to be silty loam.

East Arlington contains primarily a Merrimac-Urban Land Complex soil found on 0-8 percent slopes. Merrimac soils are excessively drained soils on glacial outwash plains and are sandy loams over a loose sand and gravel layer at 18 to 30 inches (adapted from McLaughlin 1994, 13). These soils contain approximately 75 percent urban land/disturbed soils. There are also some pockets of Sandy Unorthents and Unorthents wet substratum soils by the lakes, streams,

Map 7 - Unique Features

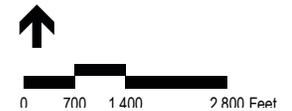
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Data Sources: MassGIS

Legend

- Protected and Recreational Open Space
- Minuteman Bikeway
- Town Bounds



and wet areas. Unorthents soils have “been excavated and/or deposited due to construction operations” (USDA Soil Conservation 1991, 27). Map 6 shows the location of Arlington’s most prominent soils.

B. Landscape Characteristics

Effects of Soils, Topography and Geology on Open Space

Arlington has been more affected by its location in the greater metropolitan Boston area than by its soil types or topographical and geological limitations. Even though much of Arlington is quite hilly, especially in the western area known as the Heights, these hills have not significantly affected development. Further, Arlington’s most common soils and topographical and geological characteristics pose little hindrance to potential development or redevelopment. The majority of buildable land has already been used for housing development, and very little land is available for other purposes, including open space and recreational use.

Table 4.1 - Arlington’s Water Resources

Lakes and Ponds	Rivers and Streams
Arlington Reservoir	Alewife Brook
Hill’s Pond	Mill Brook
Lower Mystic Lake	Mystic River
Upper Mystic Lake	Reed’s Brook
Spy Pond	

C. Water Resources

Arlington’s water resources have great scenic, recreational, and ecological value; they are not used for drinking water, because Arlington receives its drinking water from Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Arlington’s water bodies are part of the Mystic River Watershed, which is part of the Boston Harbor River Basin. Map 8 shows Arlington’s water resources and wetlands, the Town’s floodplains.

Surface Water

Surface water makes up roughly 8 percent (286 acres) of Arlington’s area (3,517.5 acres). The numerous water bodies within the Town make water resources a unique attribute to Arlington and its open space assets, compared to other metro-Boston communities (see Table 4.1). However, as in many Massachusetts communities, access to water bodies is limited, since shoreline in Arlington is predominantly in private ownership. Charles Eliot (1926) and others recognized the recreational, ecological, and visual importance of the Town’s larger water bodies - Spy Pond, the Mystic Lakes, and the Arlington Reservoir. Even though much of the land bordering these water bodies has been lost to development, there are still significant opportunities for improving access to them.

According to the Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) 314 CMR 4.00 (January 2007), all Arlington water resources have a classification of B or better, indicating either the water body’s current class or its goal classification. The DEP defines waters classified as B or better as water bodies that “are designated as a habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth and other critical functions, and for primary and secondary contact recreation.”

Profiles of Key Water Resources

A brief profile of each water resource follows, including the water’s public access, recreational uses and, for some water bodies, wildlife uses. The Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest (Section 5) has further details on some of these resources.

Alewife Brook

Access: Much of the state-owned Department of Conservation and Recreation Alewife Brook Reservation in East Arlington is accessible by foot; the reser-

Source: MAPC. A Decade of Change, 1990-2000 - <http://www.mapc.org>

vation also encompasses areas in Cambridge and Belmont. Access points to walking paths along the brook can be found at the intersections of the brook and the following major roads: Massachusetts Avenue, Broadway, and Mystic Valley Parkway; access is also available at the end of Thorndike Street, where there is a large phragmites marsh adjacent to the brook.

Recently completed and proposed commercial developments in Arlington, Belmont, and Cambridge continue to threaten the hydrology and nature of the upper Alewife Brook drainage area. The threat of flooding conditions to wildlife habitat, native vegetation, and public access for passive recreation is very serious and has prompted much public comment and advocacy.

Recreational Use: Passive recreation is the primary use of Alewife Brook, notably walking and bird watching. The brook itself is not typically used for active recreation, although parts of the brook are navigable by canoe or kayak.

Wildlife Use: Alewife Brook supports a small herring run, one of the few left in the Boston area. The brook and its banks attract many varieties of birds, small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

Arlington Reservoir

Access: The Arlington Reservoir is accessible from several streets and neighborhoods via paths to the walking trail around the water body. A parking lot on Lowell Street is accessible throughout the year. Another year-round parking lot abuts Hurd Field and Drake Village, a short walk from the Reservoir trail, the Minuteman Bikeway and Massachusetts Avenue. There is also the potential to connect the Reservoir to Arlington's Great Meadows in Lexington via walking trails along Munroe Brook and existing roadways. Another trail along Sickie Brook links the Reservoir to the Minuteman Bikeway in East Lexington.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) notified the Town in 1998 that the earthen dam around the southern (Arlington) end of the Reservoir posed a high hazard to downstream residents and property. The initial remediation proposal called for the removal of trees and other vegetation and the rehabilitation of the dam. In response to active community involvement, a mitigation plan was developed over the next several years that met safety concerns yet also preserved the natural habitats. The dam was reinforced with an I-Wall barrier that protects against seepage and breaching while also preserving most of the trees.



Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee

Some of the wildlife that Arlington Reservoir supports

The work, which also added a new spillway and bridge and rebuilt the existing spillway and bridge, started in 2005 and was completed in 2006. The project won the Public Works Project of the Year for 2006 from the American Public Works Association and a state engineering excellence award. Beyond habitat concerns and scenic/passive recreational benefits from the walking path around the Reservoir, changes to the dam and the level of water would have important consequences for public access to the swimming area and beach.

Recreational Use: Arlington Reservoir is a manmade recreational and storm-water management reservoir. In the early 1980s the Town reconstructed a sandy beach and swimming area within the Reservoir by building an earthen impoundment to separate the swimming area from the rest of the Reservoir. A water filtration system keeps the swimming water clean. Residents from Arlington and surrounding communities use this area (called Reservoir Beach) in the summertime for swimming and other recreation. The Reservoir and its one-mile walking trail is used throughout the year for birding, cross-country running, jogging, walking, and access to fishing and skating.

Wildlife Use: Arlington Reservoir supports the most diverse aquatic wildlife in Town. Over 60 species of water birds and shorebirds have been found there among the 187 bird species recorded to date. The annual cycle of raising and lowering the water level enhances the variation of habitats that attract different species at different times of year.

Hill's Pond

Access: Hill's Pond in Menotomy Rocks Park is accessible by a path that begins at the Jason Street entrance and from other access points around the park.

Recreational Use: Hill's Pond is a manmade pond that offers scenic recreational value. People use the pond for passive recreation, including fishing, ice-skating, and bird watching.

Wildlife Use: This small pond is home to common inhabitants such as sunfish, frogs, and insects.

Mill Brook

Access: Most of the area abutting Mill Brook is developed, and some of it is industrial, so access is limited. Several sections of the brook run through underground culverts. The public can access the brook at Meadowbrook Park, Mt.

Pleasant Cemetery (off Mystic St.), Cooke's Hollow conservation area (located near the brook's eastern end), Mill Street, Mill Brook Drive, Wellington Park (on Grove St.), Watermill Place, Old Schwamb Mill, Park Avenue, Hurd Field, and the Arlington Reservoir, where the brook begins. Town policy requires that all new developments or redevelopment abutting Mill Brook provide public access.

Recreational Use: Mill Brook has scenic and historic value in certain areas, but is not used for active recreation. Accessible areas are very limited, but are used for walking and bird watching.

Mystic Lakes

Access: Access to the Mystic Lakes in Arlington is limited because most of the shore land is privately owned. Public access is available along Mystic Valley Parkway in Medford and Winchester, but parking on the Arlington side is available only by parking on side streets nearby.

Recreational Use: The Upper and Lower Mystic Lakes straddle the boundaries of Arlington, Winchester, and Medford. People use the lakes for swimming, boating, and fishing. A three-acre wooded waterfront area of conservation land next to Upper Mystic Lake off Mystic Street (Route 3) near the Winchester Town line, known as "Window-On-The-Mystic," is used for passive recreation. The Arlington Conservation Commission installed a bench on this shoreline so visitors may rest and enjoy the view of the lake and the preserved open space. Two private boat clubs are located on the Mystic Lakes. The Medford Boat Club is on DCR land and is accessible from both Arlington and Medford. It straddles land next to the dam that separates the upper and lower lakes. The Winchester Boat Club on Upper Mystic Lake is not accessible from Arlington.

Wildlife Use: The Mystic Lakes support a varied fish population; Alewife and Blueback Herring migrate and spawn as far upstream as the dam. The lakes also support numbers of seasonal and migrating water birds. Bald Eagles have been seen regularly over the past several winters.

Mystic River

Access: Access to the Mystic River is available along the Arlington portion of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) parkways; however, there are no parking lots along the Arlington side of the river.

Recreational Use: The Mystic River is used for boating, fishing, bird watching, and enjoyment of nature. Along its banks, many people enjoy picnicking, walking, and dog walking.

Wildlife Use: The Mystic River supports a small herring run of both Alewife and Blueback Herring. The river is an important habitat for many species of birds, and an over-wintering area for waterfowl, because its water current usually prevents it from freezing completely.

Spy Pond

Access: Spy Pond is accessible to the public at several points, via streets that lead to the pond and at Spy Pond Park on the northeastern shore. Access to the pond also exists along a paved path on its southern shore, adjacent to Route 2. The Spy Pond Committee of Vision 2020, with assistance from the Appalachian Mountain Club Trail Team, has carried out major rehabilitation work on that path, including building steps at access points, removing invasive plants, and planting native vegetation.

Recreational Use: Fishing, boating, bird watching, and skating are popular on and around Spy Pond. The Arlington Boys and Girls Club, located on the northwestern shore, uses Spy Pond for boating in the summer months. A major landscape renovation of the parkland was implemented in 2005 through the Park and Recreation Commission. In addition, the Town received a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for a Lake and Pond Watershed Restoration Project, and a Section 319 stormwater grant which incorporated innovative and comprehensive stormwater management measures in an effort to restore this urban pond to recreational usability.

Wildlife Use: Spy Pond supports a limited fish population, and in the fall and spring the pond is an important resting and feeding area for migrating birds. Throughout the year Canada geese, mallard ducks, and mute swans are found along the shores, and more than 120 permanent and migrating species have been documented. Because the pond is less frequented by birdwatchers than the Reservoir, additional species have probably visited the area, but escaped notice.

Wetlands, Flood Hazard Areas, and Aquifer Recharge Areas

Arlington's wetlands provide opportunities for nature observation, skating and fishing as well as walking and bird watching in adjacent uplands. Arlington's

wetland and flood hazard areas are detailed on Map 8. Major flooding problems caused by severe storms have been experienced every few years. The areas around Reed's Brook, Mill Brook, Alewife Brook, and the Mugar property were particularly affected. As mentioned earlier, Arlington imports water from the MWRA for its domestic and commercial consumption; therefore, the issue of aquifer recharge is not relevant to Arlington and is not included on Map 8.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is remapping the region, but the final map with new floodplain elevations is not yet available. The results could have important implications for future land uses in this flood-prone region of Arlington, Belmont, and Cambridge.

D. Vegetation

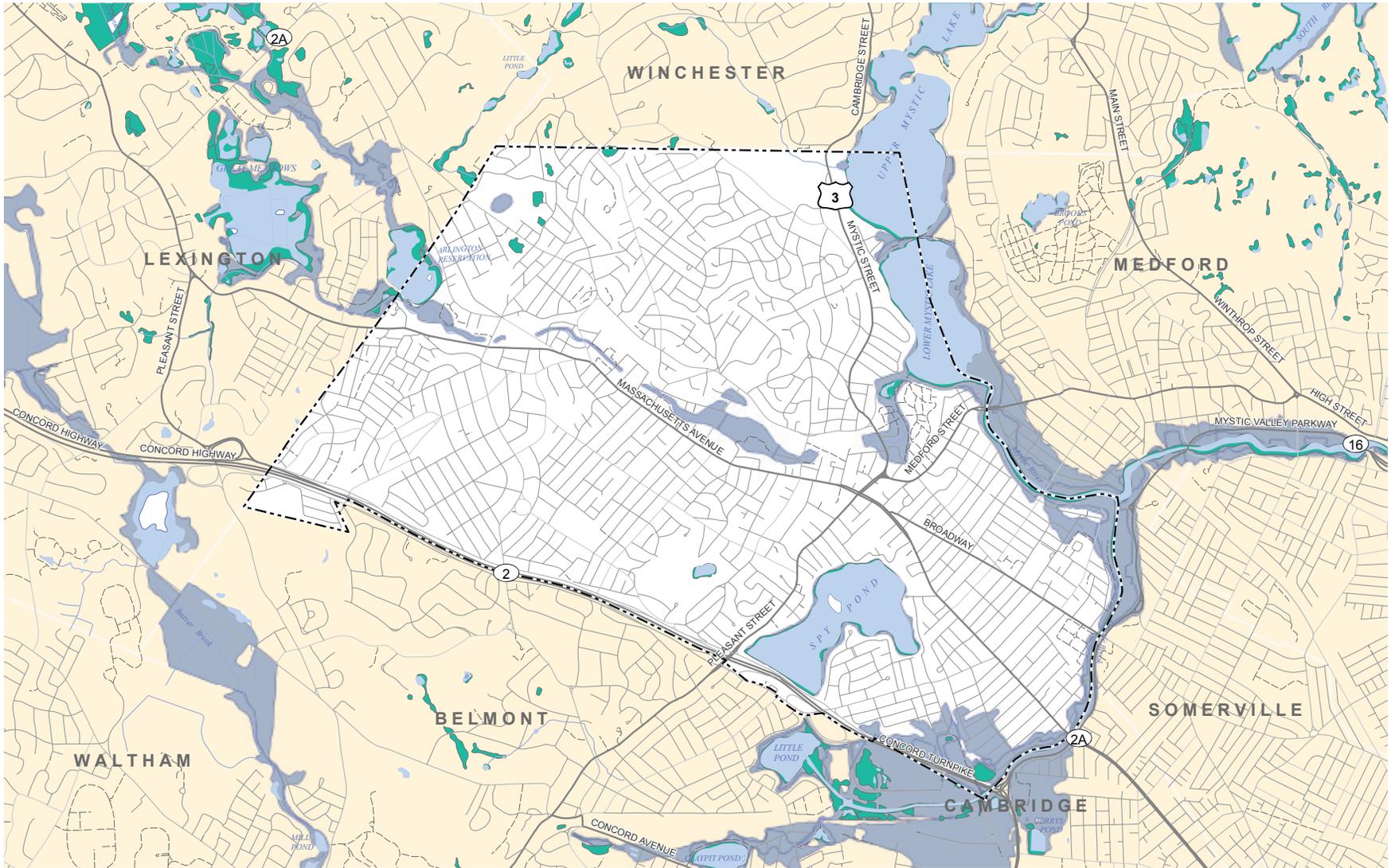
Arlington's vegetation consists of a mixture of native and introduced species. Little is known about the Town's vegetation throughout history; however, Arlington was clear-cut in the 1600s (McLaughlin 1994) when much of the area was farmed, so most of the existing vegetation is second or third growth. An in-depth, Townwide survey of flora found in Arlington has not been undertaken, but a major study of vegetative communities in Arlington's Great Meadows was commissioned by the Arlington Conservation Commission and completed in the spring of 2001 (see Clark 2001). The Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park has surveyed the vegetation in that park, and the Town now has a Tree Committee that serves in an advisory capacity.

Woodland Areas

A few wooded areas in Arlington provide peaceful areas for passive recreational activities, walking and nature observation, and are second-growth reminders of more heavily wooded areas or forests of the past. Arlington's wooded areas include Menotomy Rocks Park, Turkey Hill, Mount Gilboa, Arlington Reservoir, a portion of the Symmes property, and the Crusher Lot at the Ottoson Middle School. All of Arlington's woodlands have significant overstories, which do not allow extensive shrub growth. Species typical of an Oak-Hickory forest dominate the woodland areas, including White Ash, Black Oak, Red Oak, White Oak, Scarlet Oak, Hophornbeam, Bitternut Hickory, Shagbark Hickory, White Pine, and Sassafras. These areas also contain species common to disturbed soils, including Staghorn Sumac, Grey Birch, and Paper Birch. Some woodland communities also include Sugar Maple, Black Cherry, and Basswood (Linden).

Map 8 - Wetlands, Waterbodies and Flood Hazard Areas

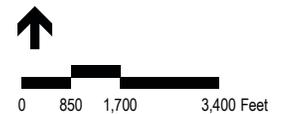
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Data Sources: MassGIS

Legend

-  Town Bounds
-  Wetland
-  Floodplain



The native shrubs and plants found in Arlington woodlands are typical of those found in other Boston Basin areas: Blueberry, Currant, Dangleberry, Deerberry, Maple Leaf Viburnum, Pipsissewa, Whorled Loosestrife, Sarsaparilla and False Solomon's Seal.

Non-native species that have infiltrated Arlington include Norway Maple, Tree-of-Heaven (Ailanthus), Sycamore Maple, European Mountain Ash, and Cherry Cultivars. Non-native shrubs include Common Buckthorn, European Buckthorn, Forsythia, Winged Euonymus, some Honeysuckles, Multiflora Rose, Oriental Bittersweet, Barberry, and Japanese Knotweed.

Wetland Areas

Arlington has a number of marshes, ponds, streams, rivers, and lakes containing trees such as Green Ash, Silver Maple, Red Maple, Ashleaf Maple, Cottonwood and Willow. Cattail, Silky Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, Buttonbush, and the pervasive Purple Loosestrife and Phragmites are also key constituents in these areas. Willow trees, which grow in wet soils, line the edge of Spy Pond, Thorndike Field, and Arlington Reservoir. Reed pads and aquatic weeds are found in and along the edges of the watercourses, inland marshes, Mystic Lakes, and Spy Pond.

Landscaped and Mowed Areas

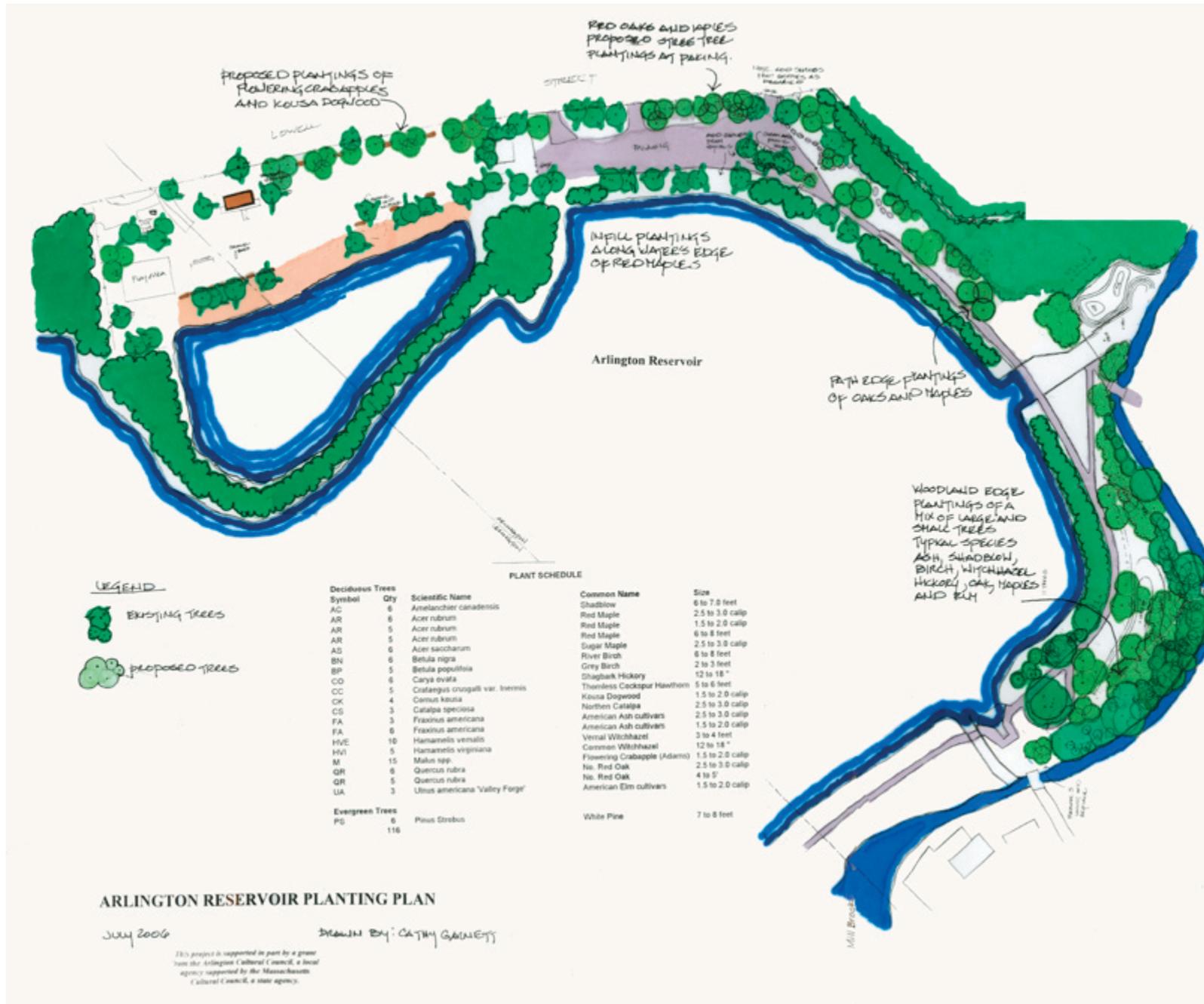
Arlington contains many landscaped and mowed parks and reservations that are accessible for sporting activities, sledding, picnicking, strolling, relaxation, and scenic viewing. Robbins Farm, Town Hall Garden, Poets Corner, Waldo Park, Thorndike Field, Magnolia Field, and McClennen Park are some of Arlington's landscaped and mowed areas. Given the suburban character of the Town, the primary vegetation found in its parks and reservations is a variety of deciduous and coniferous trees and cultivated shrubs and grasses.

In mowed areas, a variety of herbs and wildflowers grow naturally. Chicory, Yarrow, Burdock, Clover, All-heal, Plantain, and Tansy are among the plants that have managed to take root amidst the grasses. Non-native Japanese Knotweed often invades paved or mowed areas, and is especially prevalent along the Minuteman Bikeway.



Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee

Peering into a wetland in Menotomy Rocks Park



A landscape plan for the Arlington Reservoir

Tree plantings in parks and reservations include Alder, Cedar, Hawthorn, Metasequoia, Lombardy Poplar, Sycamore, Dogwood, and flowering ornamentals. Arlington's streets are lined with several species of maples and oaks, Sycamore, Basswood (Linden), and Ash, among other trees.

The use of native plantings in Arlington has gained ground through the efforts of the Arlington Conservation Commission and its native plant list, and through the policies of the Town Department of Public Works to use native trees and plants in its own work.

Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species

Currently there are three species of vascular plant which appear on the Massachusetts Endangered Species List: Estuary Arrowhead, Long-leaved Bluet, and Northern Bedstraw (Massachusetts DFW, 2006). In addition, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife lists Engelmann's Umbrella Sedge, found in Arlington, as a threatened species (New England Botanical Club 1982). Threatened species, as defined by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, "are native species which are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, or which are declining or rare as determined by biological research and inventory" (Massachusetts DFW, 2006).

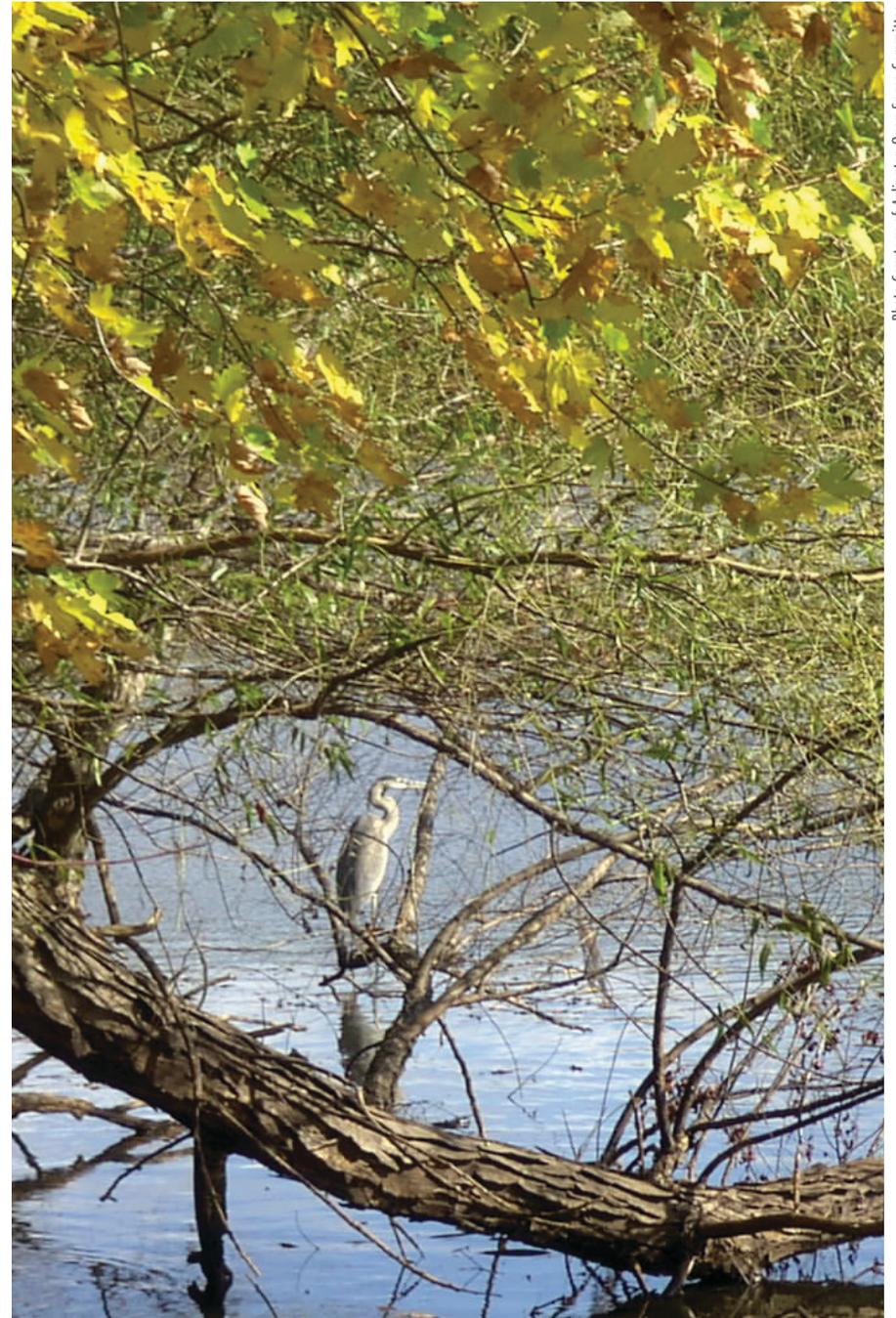


Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee

A heron relaxing in the Arlington Reservoir

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Although there are few areas for wildlife to thrive in Arlington's urban setting, the Town still has a good mixture of wildlife and fisheries. Arlingtonians value the Town's natural areas, and protection of wildlife is an important aspect of preserving those open spaces.

Fauna, in General

The fauna of Arlington is linked directly to the quantity, quality, and diversity of soils, water, and vegetation. The relative abundance and diversity of the fauna is also constrained by human activity. Thus, maintenance and regulation of the use of certain areas within open spaces is crucial to Arlington's ability to enhance, preserve and enjoy its living resources.

Currently, there are few existing inventories of Arlington's fauna. Birds are the best documented species, due to the expertise of local observers and the relative ease with which they are inventoried. The Menotomy Bird Club maintains an informative Web site, and bird lists have been compiled by volunteers for the Arlington Reservoir, Menotomy Rocks Park, and Spy Pond.

In general, what is known about birds probably represents most of the fauna in Town; that is, where proper habitat exists, there are pockets of wildlife that have

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adapted to or tolerate the changes of the last three centuries. However, some areas that appear to be natural are not prime wildlife habitat and require active management. The majority of Arlington's wetlands are good examples of these poor habitat areas, because of the large stands of introduced Phragmites reed and Purple Loosestrife that have thrived, compared to native cattails, sedges, and grasses. In addition, most wildlife does not thrive in fragmented, small plots, and each wildlife species requires a certain minimal sized area. Even paths or roads through certain habitats can change the species' assemblage.

The presence and distribution of major fauna groups other than birds, such as invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and mammals, are less well known. There is no doubt that virtually all of the local native fauna have declined drastically over the past century, as has wildlife across all of urban North America. However, because of its well-planted residential areas, existing undeveloped open spaces, small wildlife corridors, and the close proximity of open space in neighboring Towns, Arlington hosts a surprising array of wildlife for a Town of its size and development. Biodiversity Days, sponsored by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, conducts wildlife inventories, and Arlington's Great Meadows and Alewife Reservation are two of the areas surveyed regularly. Those reports are an important resource for more up-to-date information on wildlife in those specified regions.

Invertebrates

Thousands of species of invertebrates inhabit Arlington, but none have been well surveyed. Because these animals are the part of the fauna that binds ecosystems together, they are vital to a viable ecosystem. The most common invertebrates are insects. Arlington's fauna range from the obvious butterflies (e.g., Monarch, Viceroy, Cabbage Butterfly, and Black and Tiger Swallowtails), to the dragonflies, to the many other pest and nonpest species. The abundance and distribution of common insects in Arlington is unknown. Numbers of species of spiders, crustacea, and mollusca are also unknown.

Fishes

The Mystic River watershed has very few species of fishes; biologists have documented only 31 species (21 native and 10 introduced) in the small drainages of the north shore of Massachusetts. Due to the geology, the relative small size of the Mystic drainage basin, and the changes in the quality of the Town's

streams, the Arlington area may now have fewer than 15 fish species. While not listed state-wide, two species of river herring have declined drastically in the Cambridge/Arlington area. They currently migrate in small numbers in Little River and the lower parts of Mill Brook from the Mystic River. The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) has been active in promoting enhancement of the passage of migrating native anadromous herrings wherever they have potential access in the watershed.

There is a limited amount of sport and ice fishing in Arlington's major water bodies. Large Carp, Bluegill, and Pumpkinseed Sunfish are common, and even 2 to 3 pound Largemouth Bass appear occasionally. The infertile hybrid tiger-musky has been introduced into Spy Pond as a trophy fish and as biological control for overpopulated sunfishes. Spy Pond was first stocked as early as 1918 and reclaimed in 1957 to eliminate so-called "trash" species.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Because of the secretive nature of reptiles and amphibians, little is known about their occurrence in Arlington. The common species that exist in populated areas can easily be found in Arlington: Eastern Red-backed Salamander, Bullfrog, Green Frog, Garter Snake, Snapping Turtle, and Painted Turtle.

Birds

Over the past 25 years, careful observers have recorded 228 species of birds in Arlington, including more than 60 breeding species. The most abundant are those that have adapted to urban habitats. The European Starling, Pigeon, and House Sparrow, which were introduced in the 1800s, are very numerous. Common breeding birds found in backyards, small wooded areas, and vegetated parks in Arlington are Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, Black-capped Chickadee, Goldfinch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Mockingbird, Downy Woodpecker, House Finch, American Robin, and Mourning Dove.

Species such as Northern Flicker, Chimney Swift, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Northern Oriole, and Red-tailed Hawk breed in Arlington, but generally migrate south for the winter. Most of these species are insect eaters, consuming thousands of insects and worms over the summer season.



The Northern Flicker is only in Arlington during the warmer months

Arlington's wet open spaces and ponds attract large numbers of birds, especially during migration. More than twenty-five species of ducks visit Spy Pond, the Mystic Lakes, and Arlington Reservoir; the most spectacular and common are American Wigeon, Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-necked Duck, Wood Duck, Canvasback, and Ruddy Duck. Also common are Mallard Duck, Canada Geese, and Mute Swans.

A dozen species of sandpipers and plovers can be found at the water's edge, especially around the flats at Arlington Reservoir and Hill's Pond. All of these species require relatively clean aquatic habitat with abundant prey items. Spotted, Least, Pectoral, Semi-palmated and Solitary Sandpipers, along with Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, are found regularly. Great Blue and Green Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons are quite common.

More than 50 species, many of which require open meadow or edge, nest at Arlington's Great Meadows. American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Northern Harrier, Ring-necked Pheasant, Marsh Wren, and other meadow birds are among some of the birds found there (Andrews et al. 1993; Clark 2001).

Of the 228 species of birds reported in Arlington, 35 species are new to the area since the 193 species reported in the 1996 Arlington Open Space Plan, which was based on the bird list of Andrews et al. (1993). The current bird species are listed in a web-based report by Marjorie Rines and Karsten Hartel (<http://mrines.com/menotomy/>), which also includes extensive local birding information.

Additions since 2002 include: Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Tricolored Heron, Baird's Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Northern Goshawk, Philadelphia Vireo, Horned Lark, Pileated Woodpecker, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Monk Parakeet. The "Blue" form of Snow Goose visited in January 2007, and may be new, although the Snow Goose species had been listed previously.

A number of locally uncommon or unusual birds are found in and around Arlington's open spaces. These species may not be listed officially as rare, but they form a special part of the very urban nature of Arlington and Greater Boston. These included such species as the Great Cormorant, Green Heron, European Wigeon, Canvasback, Woodcock, Golden Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, two species of Cuckoos, Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers, all six species of local swallows, numerous warblers species, Bobolink, and Orchard Oriole. These species may be found in Arlington because of the availability of appropriate habitat, be it the large Mystic Lakes, the mudflats of the Reservoir, the wet meadows at Great Meadows, or the mature trees at Menotomy Rocks Park.

Mammals

Many of the typical mammals that survive and sometimes even thrive in urban settings appear in all areas of Arlington, including Virginia Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk, Gray Squirrel, House Mouse, and Norway Rat. Other species are found less frequently, such as Northern Short-tailed Shrew, Little Brown Bat, Eastern Chipmunk, White-footed Mouse, and Eastern Cottontail. Certain species may be common but are found only in restricted habitats, such as Muskrat in aquatic areas, Meadow Vole in open meadows and Red-backed Vole in wooded areas. Larger mammals are generally absent from Arlington, although White-tailed Deer, Red Fox, Coyote, Fisher Cat, and Woodchuck have been seen regularly. Several coyote dens have been reported in different parts of Town (see Clark 2001).



The Menotomy Bird Club on an outing



The Eastern Gray Squirrel

Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species

There are few federal- or state-listed rare, threatened or endangered species in Arlington (see Table 4.2 from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program). Three birds, the Northern Harrier, Sedge Wren and the Golden-winged Warbler, are listed as endangered (Massachusetts DFW, 2006). The Mystic Valley Amphipod *Crangonyx aberans*, is known from Great Meadows and possibly other water bodies (Smith 1983; 1991). The Bridle Shiner *Notropis bifrenatus* is found, or was known from, the Mystic River just east of Arlington and might have occurred in Arlington in the past. Arlington also has breeding populations of the uncommon Black-billed Cuckoo and Orchard Oriole. Other state-listed species, such as Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Harrier and American Bittern, are also recorded occasionally but are not known to breed in Arlington (Andrews et al 1993; Viet and Peterson 1993). No state or federally listed fishes or mammals have been found in Arlington.



The Northern Harrier is a threatened species in Arlington

<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/literatr/grasbird/moha/bird.gif>

Table 4.2 - Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species in Arlington

Town	Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Federal Status	Most Recent Observation
Arlington	Amphibian	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	Blue-spotted Salamander	SC	-	1895
Arlington	Amphibian	<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Marbled Salamander	T	-	1800s
Arlington	Beetle	<i>Cicindela duodecimguttata</i>	Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetle	SC	-	1923
Arlington	Beetle	<i>Cicindela rufiventris hentzii</i>	Hentz's Redbelly Tiger Beetle	SC	-	1930
Arlington	Bird	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	T	-	1879
Arlington	Bird	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Sedge Wren	E	-	1868
Arlington	Bird	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler	E	-	1874
Arlington	Butterfly/Moth	<i>Eacles imperialis</i>	Imperial Moth	T	-	1903
Arlington	Reptile	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC	-	1900
Arlington	Vascular Plant	<i>Aristida purpurascens</i>	Purple Needlegrass	v	-	1913
Arlington	Vascular Plant	<i>Cyperus engelmannii</i>	Engelmann's Umbrella-sedge	T	-	2002
Arlington	Vascular Plant	<i>Sagittaria montevidensis ssp. spongiosa</i>	Estuary Arrowhead	E	-	1876
Arlington	Vascular Plant	<i>Houstonia longifolia</i> var. <i>longifolia</i>	Long-leaved Bluet	E	-	1898
Arlington	Vascular Plant	<i>Galium boreale</i>	Northern Bedstraw	E	-	1890
Arlington	Vascular Plant	<i>Asclepias vericillata</i>	Linear-leaved Milkweed	T	-	1854

Wildlife Corridors

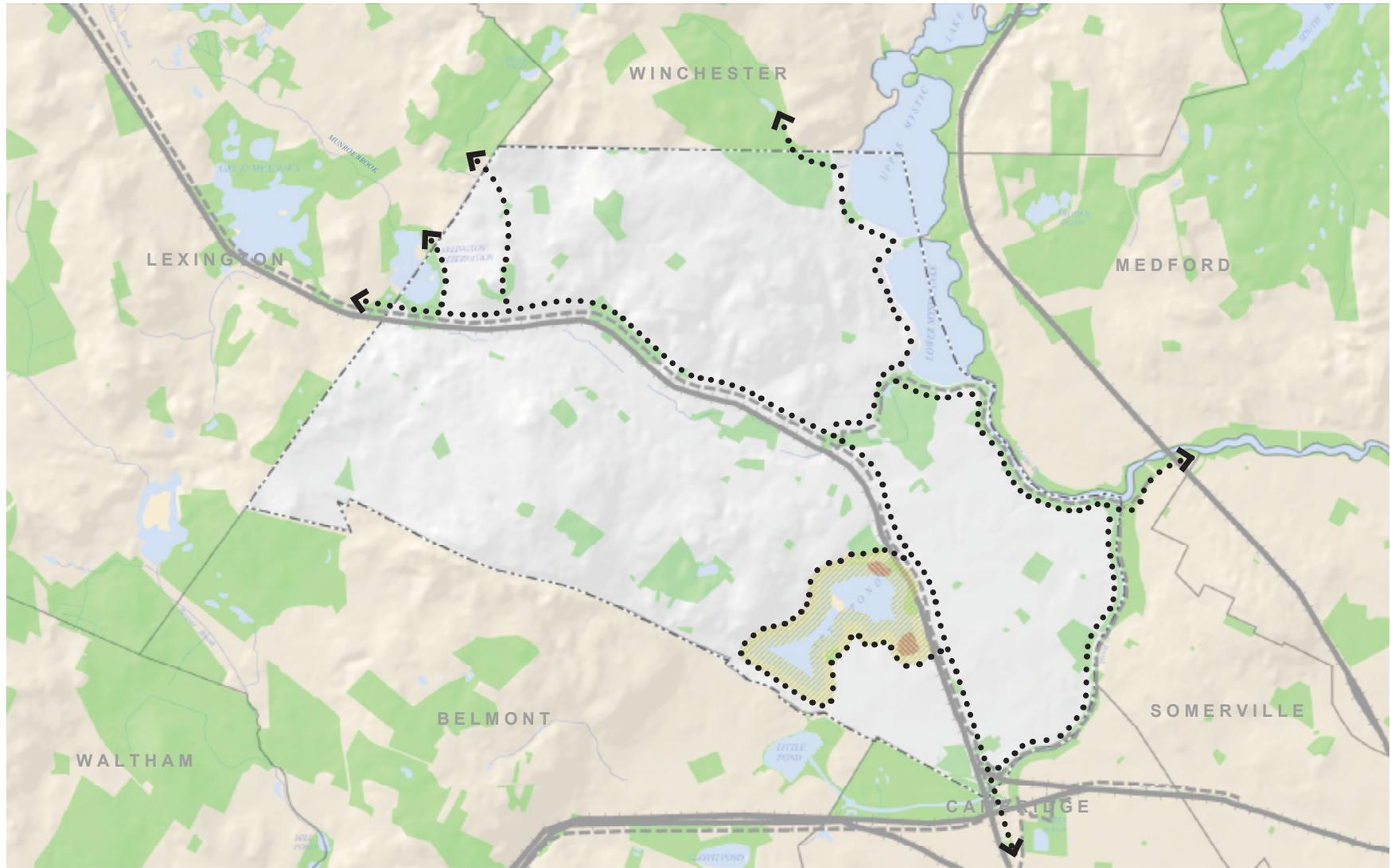
Wildlife corridors connect two or more wildlife habitat areas, allowing the movement of wildlife. In densely populated communities such as Arlington, wildlife may be forced to use train tracks, rail trails, bike paths or power lines as corridors, as well as streams, rivers, undeveloped wetlands and riparian buffers. Since there is no established database available for wildlife corridors in Massachusetts, a cartographic analysis of Arlington was conducted using GIS software and pertinent datalayers available through MassGIS.

The first step was to establish open spaces in and around Arlington. Second, bike trails, rail lines, and the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) layers of BioMap Core Habitat and Priority Habitat of Rare Species were added to the map. Once all these layers were plotted on the map, a network started to emerge.

Due to its proximity to open space, streams, rivers, and habitat in Arlington, the Minuteman Bikeway which runs parallel to the Boston and Maine Railroad line forms the spine of habitat movement. It runs roughly west to east from the northwest portion of Arlington to the southeast corner and connects with the Arlington Reservoir and Spy Pond (the area of BioMap Core Habitat and Priority Habitat of Rare Species in Arlington). It also branches off at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery and leads to Lower Mystic Lake. An additional habitat corridor is formed to the north along the banks of the Lower Mystic which then leads to the Upper Mystic and into Winchester. To the south the habitat corridor continues with the Minuteman Bikeway following Alewife Brook and leading into Cambridge. Wildlife activity has been noticed along the Munroe Brook toward Lexington and in neighborhoods between wooded parcels such as near the Symmes Hospital site and Turkey Hill.

Map 9 - Wildlife Corridors

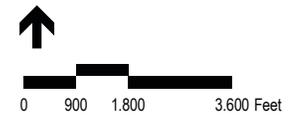
\\mawald\ld\100111.00\GIS\project\Arlington OSRP_Hab Corridors.mxd



Data Sources: MassGIS

Legend

-  NHESP BioMap Core Habitat
-  NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
-  Bicycle Trails
-  Rail Lines
-  Open Space
-  Possible Habitat Corridors





Menotomy Rocks Park

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Arlington's scenic areas contribute to the character of Arlington and remain cherished by Town residents and visitors. Fortunately, the Town's historical zoning bylaws protect most of these significant areas. Some of Arlington's special landscape features are included in Map 7.

Situated in the Mill Brook Valley (the site of a major glacial river at the end of the Ice Age), Arlington is a land of many steep hills that provide scenic vistas both throughout Town and into Boston and neighboring communities. Most streets are tree-lined, making Arlington feel less urban than neighboring Cambridge or Somerville.

With houses dating back to the eighteenth century, Arlington retains some of its colonial roots. Perhaps the Town's biggest claim on American history is its role at the dawn of the American Revolutionary War, in the events of April 19, 1775, when Arlington (then known as Menotomy) saw some of the fiercest fighting between the British troops and the Minutemen.

The Marquis/Minuteman Bikeway has created its own unique environment in Town. The bikeway bisects the entire length of the Town, crosses through Arlington Center, and connects many of Arlington's significant open spaces and historical sites. The Marquis/Minuteman Bikeway has become the most used bicycle/recreational trail in the entire country, according to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. The nationally renowned bikeway is now one of Arlington's most unique features, and helps to sustain a sense of community in the Town.

Scenic Landscapes

- ☞ Views of Boston are available from vantage points atop the Town's many hills (Robbins Farm Park/Eastern Ave., Route 2 East, Mount Gilboa, Jason Heights, Turkey Hill, former Symmes Hospital property). The Robbins Farm playground area has such a good view of Boston that on July 4th hundreds of people gather on this steep hillside to view the Esplanade Fireworks — 8 miles away!
- ☞ Views from steep Arlington hillsides are available on both sides of the Mill Brook Valley (Arlington Heights, Mount Gilboa, Turkey Hill, Hill's Hill, and Symmes).
- ☞ The Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden, enclosed by a wall as part of the Town Hall Civic Block, features a brick walkway through a formal garden

- of flowering trees and shrubs (designed by Olmsted Associates, Inc.) and a statue of a Native American (called “The Menotomy Indian Hunter”) by Cyrus E. Dallin, the famous sculptor who lived and worked in Arlington.
- ☞ Views of the Mystic Lakes are most easily seen from Arlington at the Window-on-the-Mystic, a three-acre conservation site off Route 3, which is Arlington’s only public waterfront on the Upper Lake. A bench has been provided by the Arlington Conservation Commission. Mt. Pleasant Cemetery also offers pleasing views of the Mystic Lakes.
 - ☞ Spy Pond can be viewed from a walking path along the border of Route 2, from the Minuteman Bikeway, and from the recreational areas along the shore at Spy Pond Park.
 - ☞ Mill Brook is visible from the Arlington Reservoir walking trail, the Minuteman Bikeway, Cooke’s Hollow Park behind the Community Safety Building on Mystic Street, and other pockets of unculverted stretches throughout the valley.
 - ☞ Alewife Brook can be viewed from the Alewife Brook Parkway and from several neighborhoods in East Arlington.
 - ☞ Arlington Reservoir is reached from its beach area on Lowell Street, the walking trail around the reservoir, and the Mount Gilboa hillside. Parking is also available on the Massachusetts Avenue side next to the Drake Village elderly housing complex and Hurd Field, with access available by crossing the field.
 - ☞ Mystic River views are from the Mystic Valley Parkway (DCR land).
 - ☞ Mount Gilboa and Menotomy Rocks Park have glacial rock formations and woodlands.
 - ☞ Arlington’s Great Meadows is reached from the Marquis/Minuteman Bikeway, and offers one of the most scenic areas along the bikeway, though this land is located entirely within Lexington’s borders.
 - ☞ Views of historic houses and buildings and their surrounding open space include the Jason Russell House (situated at Mass Ave. and Jason St., on a large landscaped lot), the Jefferson Cutter House (situated on Whittemore Park in Arlington Center), the Old Schwamb Mill complex (situated on Mill Lane in Arlington Heights), and the Whittemore-Robbins House (behind the Robbins Library in Arlington Center).
 - ☞ The Marquis/Minuteman Bikeway is scenic because of landscaping, converted railroad bridges, historic landmarks (e.g., Jefferson Cutter House), and abutting open space (e.g., Spy Pond Park, Hurd Field, Great Meadows, Buzzell Field, Summer Street Field, and Hill’s Hill).

<http://flickr.com/photos/94044317@N00/522071902/>



Arlington's Great Meadows

- ☞ Mount Pleasant Cemetery, the Town's public cemetery, adds green open space to the Town near Arlington Center. Trees and rolling hills provide picturesque scenery and complement adjacent open space in Meadowbrook Park, which is protected by the Conservation Commission. Mill Brook runs through the park and empties into the Lower Mystic Lake, creating wetlands that are home to many bird species.
- ☞ Symmes Hospital property was acquired by the Town in early 2002 for a combination of open space, residential, and commercial/retail/medical uses, so public access to this hilltop will be enhanced once the construction is completed. The sale of this land to the E.A.Fish Company and its partners was finalized in June 2007. Construction of the residential sections is expected to begin in late 2007.

Major Characteristics or Unusual Geologic Features

Arlington is geologically interesting because of its dramatic changes of elevation and its hilly and rocky contours. The eastern part of Town has elevations close to sea level, whereas elevations in western Arlington are often as high as 350 to 400 feet above sea level. Almost all the hills, including Mount Gilboa, Symmes, and Menotomy Rocks, contain rock formations left behind by melting glaciers after the Ice Age that are suitable for light hiking or rock climbing.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

According to the Massachusetts Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) program, administered by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Arlington does not have any areas of critical environmental concern.

Cultural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources

Arlington has many cultural and historic areas that attract both residents and visitors. Populated by many people in the visual, print, and performing arts (and related fields), the Town also has many organizations concerned with maintaining and enhancing its cultural and historic attractions and heritage.

In 2007 Arlington celebrated its 200th anniversary as an independent Town (separated from West Cambridge) with many historic lectures, family celebrations, fireworks near Spy Pond Park, a senior picnic, anniversary ball, and other special events.

Performing and Visual Arts/Theaters

In Arlington Center, the renovated Regent Theater and the Arlington Friends of the Drama present live theater and other performance programs. In East Arlington, the popular Capitol Theater shows feature films and features an old-fashioned concession counter.

The Arlington Center for the Arts, located at the former Gibbs Junior High School in East Arlington, is a vibrant center with studios for visual, print, and performing artists, as well as a resident theater (Underground Railway Theater). This center also offers arts classes for adults and children, and vacation/summer camp programs.

Throughout Arlington, churches, libraries, and other halls (Robbins Memorial Town Hall Auditorium, Arlington High School Lowe Auditorium) provide rehearsal and performance space for dance, choral, and other performing arts groups.

Festivals, Fairs and Parades

The Arlington Center for the Arts sponsors regular exhibits and special programs for the community. Other arts-related organizations and Town agencies collaborate on these events. Local artists participate in juried exhibits of their work. Open studio exhibits, literary readings, crafts, and drama and musical offerings make the center an exciting place for people of all ages. The center also sponsors a Townwide Open Studios weekend in the fall, when visual artists who work in many media open their home-based studios to visitors.

The Town Recreation Department sponsors carnivals for young children in the summer and winter.

East Arlington celebrates the Feast of the East, a street fair sponsored by restaurants, art galleries, and other businesses in that neighborhood and business district.

In mid-September during Town Day, Arlington commemorates the birthday of Uncle Sam (Samuel Wilson), supplier to the U.S. Army, who was born in Arlington on September 13, 1766. This event includes a street fair, performances, picnic, and fireworks.



Arlington celebrated its 200th Anniversary in 2007



Vision 2020 is a non-profit planning organization working with the Town

Arlington hosts its own Patriot’s Day Parade, (one of the largest local parades in Massachusetts), complete with appearances from “William Dawes” and “Paul Revere” in an annual re-creation of their famous ride in 1775. A Veterans’ Day Parade is also held annually in November.

Cultural Organizations

The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum, founded in 1955 by a dedicated volunteer group of Arlington residents, is housed in the Jefferson Cutter House in Arlington Center. Many of Dallin’s 26 Town-owned sculptures are exhibited there, and plans are underway to locate the collection to a larger facility.

The Arlington Arts Council reviews grant applications from local arts applicants and disburses funds allocated to the Town from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The community benefits from these grants with many enriching and innovative programs and cultural contributions. One project funded in 2006-2007 supported artist and landscape architect Cathy Garnett to develop an exhibit of watercolor paintings and photographs of the Arlington Reservoir before and after the work on the earthen dam. She also coordinated a lecture and discussion about the birds and native plants found at the Reservoir.

Arlington’s Vision 2020 Culture and Recreation Task Group works to maintain and establish a variety of cultural and recreational activities.

Archaeological Areas

In 1959, Arvid Carlson found a fossil tusk of a mastodon (a prehistoric cousin of the elephant) in Spy Pond (Balazs 1973). The Arlington Historical Society’s Smith Museum displays the 6 1/2 foot tusk, which is about 42,000 years old.

In 1988, members of Boston University’s Archaeology Department, under contract with the Prince Hall Mystic Cemetery Association, performed a geophysical survey of Arlington’s Prince Hall Mystic Cemetery, the country’s earliest Black Masonic cemetery. People buried in this cemetery are said to be from the country’s first Black Grand Lodge, formed in 1776 (Pendleton 1989). Survey findings included remains from structures that once belonged in the cemetery, such as the cemetery gate and an obelisk monument. A small park and historical marker now commemorate the cemetery, although most of the former cemetery land has since been developed.

During work in the early 1990s to renovate Spy Pond Field (Ritchie 1993), the Town conducted archaeological excavations along the shores of Spy Pond. Some of the archaeological remains found in this area included prehistoric lithic chipping debris and structural remains from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries ice industry buildings.

Historic Organizations

Several historic organizations in Arlington focus on the Town's heritage, including:

- ☞ Arlington Historical Society
- ☞ Arlington Historical Commission
- ☞ Arlington Historic Districts Commission (and commissions for each of seven historic districts).

Historic Districts

Arlington has one National Historic District, which is also listed in the Massachusetts State Register of Historic Places: the Arlington Town Center National Historic District. Encompassing more than 230 properties, this area is bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Pleasant and Gray Streets, and has an irregular boundary on its south side. The historic Whittemore-Robbins House, the Robbins Memorial Town Hall, and the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden are important individual sites in this National District. The Arlington Historical Commission has jurisdiction over this space.

Arlington also has seven local historic districts, comprised mostly of single-family homes:

- ☞ The Broadway Historic District
- ☞ The Central Street Historic District
- ☞ The Mount Gilboa/Crescent Hill Historic District
- ☞ The Pleasant Street Historic District (expanded in 2002 and 2006)
- ☞ The Russell Street Historic District
- ☞ The Avon Place Historic District
- ☞ The Jason Gray Historic District (established in 1998)

Arlington's local historic districts are under the jurisdiction of the Arlington Historic Districts Commission. The Town has demolition delay bylaws that



Photos from The Library of Congress - <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>



Structural remains from early 20th century ice industry buildings like these were found in the early 1990s while renovating Spy Pond Field

With houses dating back to the eighteenth century, Arlington retains some of its colonial roots. Perhaps the Town's biggest claim on American history is its role at the dawn of the American Revolutionary War, in the events of April 19, 1775, when Arlington (then known as Menotomy) saw some of the fiercest fighting between the British troops and the Minutemen.

protects historic structures within or outside of the historic districts (see Appendix K for maps of all Arlington local historic districts).

Historic Sites and Attractions

The Massachusetts Register of Historic Places lists over 70 entries for Arlington, covering more than 660 individual properties. In addition to the seven locally designated historic districts listed earlier, the entries include historically significant individual properties and landmark sites, such as the milestone marking the ride of Paul Revere at the corner of Appleton and Paul Revere Road.

Several of Arlington's historic attractions are described below.

The Jason Russell House (ca. 1740), which is open for public tours, is the centerpiece of the Town's history. On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere and William Dawes rode through Arlington warning the colonists that the British were marching to Concord. The following day, battles between British troops and Colonial Minutemen took place along Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington. In the restored Jason Russell House, visitors can see several bullet holes from shots fired that day. Its owner, Jason Russell, was killed and is buried in the Old Burial Ground in Arlington Center, along with 11 other Minutemen (from

Arlington and other Massachusetts' communities) who died that day. A plaque on the property reads:

"The site of the house of Jason Russell where he and 11 others were captured, disarmed, and killed by the retreating British on April 19, 1775."

As the British retreated through Arlington to Boston, colonists atop Mount Gilboa fired guns on the Redcoats marching down Massachusetts Avenue.

In 1988, the Jefferson Cutter House (ca. 1830) was moved to Whittemore Park, the location of one of the Town's first houses in Arlington Center. This house now serves as the Town's Visitor Center (sponsored by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce) and houses the Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum, which displays many of his sculptures. The Cutter House has meeting and gallery space in its basement, which provides public exhibition space for rotating exhibits by local artists throughout the year.

The Old Schwamb Mill (ca. 1861), now a working museum, is open for public tours and a variety of special events and educational programs. Visitors can view the manufacture of high-quality oval and circular wooden picture frames using original tools and processes. It is the only place left in the United States that practices this craft.

Samuel Wilson, or "Uncle Sam," was born in Arlington in 1766. His monument is located in a small park in the Town center (at the intersection of Mystic/Pleasant Sts. with Mass. Ave.).

Eagle Scout John Coglianese in 2007 published "Menotomy Minuteman Historical Trail: A Walking Tour of Arlington's past." It is available at www.menotomytrail.com. The 4-mile trail follows a loop that begins and ends at the Jefferson Cutter house in Arlington Center. It tells the exciting history of Arlington, Massachusetts, the site of the most fighting and bloodshed on the opening day of the Revolutionary War, April 19, 1775. The trail passes many important historic landmarks in Arlington, such as the Jason Russell House, the Old Schwamb Mill, and the Uncle Sam Memorial. At roughly the halfway point along the trail, walkers stop at the Foot of the Rocks, where the largest engagement occurred as over 1,500 British troops were ambushed by colonial militias from all over Massachusetts at the start of the Revolutionary War.

G. Environmental Problems

Arlington's environmental problems and challenges are typical of other northwest suburban Boston communities. The major types of environmental problems the Town faces include hazardous waste site remediation, storm water and drainage control, and wetland enforcement matters.

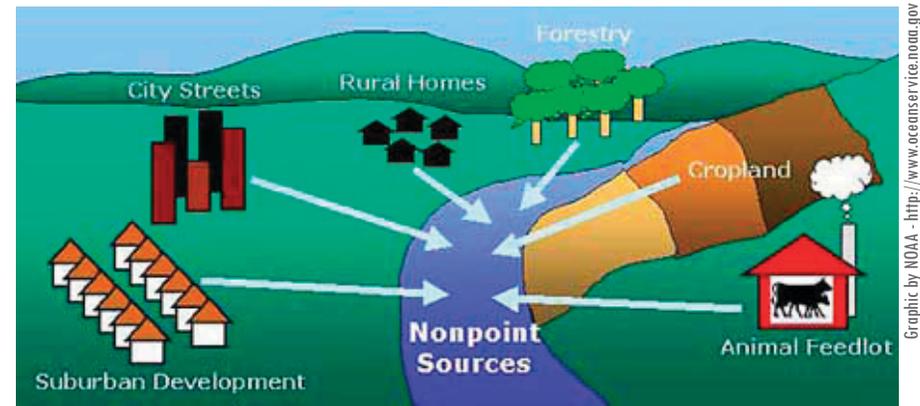
Hazardous Waste Sites

Most of Arlington's required hazardous waste remediation efforts are the responsibility of private parties, although the Town was solely responsible for the closing and remediation of the old municipal landfill at Reed's Brook. Arlington has 155 confirmed reportable releases of hazardous waste dating back to 1985, according to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup listing (see <http://db.state.ma.us/dep/cleanup/sites/search.asp> and Appendix H). The sites are at various phases of site cleanup pursuant to M.G.L. c.21E and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.000), and most have Remedial Action Outcomes of class A or class B, meaning that clean-up has been achieved. There are several sites that have achieved a temporary clean-up status (class C). The majority of these sites relate to gasoline service stations or automobile repair establishments; some of the sites are dry cleaners. Municipal or public facilities include fire stations and MBTA property.

None of Arlington's hazardous waste sites are expected to represent a significant threat, meaning the sites can be remediated with no long-term effect to the environment. Most of these hazardous waste sites involve release of petroleum products into soil or groundwater, and none of the sites is located near wetlands or other environmental resources. Furthermore, because the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) provides Arlington's drinking water, little threat to public drinking water exists.

Solid Waste

Arlington has an extensive curbside-recycling program carried out under a contract with WM (Waste Management), which also trucks the Town's solid waste (trash) to a waste-to-energy facility in North Andover.



A visual definition of nonpoint pollution

Environmental Problems at Open Space Sites

Two open space and recreational sites were known to contain hazardous waste contaminants in the soil and/or groundwater: the former Reed's Brook site and an Arlington High School athletic field site. Reed's Brook, a Town landfill from 1959 to 1969, has undergone a Comprehensive Site Assessment as part of a closure process and was redeveloped and dedicated as McClennen Park in June 2006. The Arlington High School fields were investigated under DEP governance because of the chromium and manufactured gas products discovered in the soil. The Town reached an agreement with Massachusetts Electric and Honeywell for remediation of the site. Remediation began in 2004 and the fields were completed and have been in use since 2006.

In a "due diligence" review for the Town purchase of the Lahey Clinic/Health South Symmes Hospital site in 2002, the Town of Arlington was alerted to the presence of two hazardous waste areas on the property. One site is the result of oil storage leakage, and the second site is contaminated with elevator oil. The property was sold by the Town to E.A. Fish Company in June 2007, and the new owners will perform the remediation. A portion of the planned housing and medical use redevelopment site will be set aside as open space and recreational areas with a conservation restriction held by the Town and the Arlington Land Trust.

Arlington's Water Resources

All of the water bodies in Arlington (particularly Spy Pond, Arlington Reservoir, Mystic Lake, Mill Brook, and Alewife Brook) face the threat of nonpoint pollution from roadway, house, business, and storm water runoff. Nonpoint pollution is pollution that is not traceable to a structure. For instance, a pipe that might dump volumes of pollution into the water body at one "point" would be traceable. Non-point pollution travels through runoff or sheets of rainwater that travel across the land. For example, Spy Pond receives roadway runoff from Route 2, and Arlington Reservoir receives pesticide and fertilizer runoff from nearby lands. Refer to Section 7 of this Plan regarding Water Resource Protection Needs for more details on the specific problems faced by each of Arlington's water resources.

