



6 - Community Goals

Environment

Culture

Recreation

6. Community Goals

A. Description of Process

Arlington's open space and recreational goals for the community are derived from the open space and recreational needs and desires of the Town's many constituencies. For this Plan, the Open Space Committee reviewed all previous goals and actions and prepared an extensive list of accomplishments, incorporating feedback and reports from many individuals and organizations. The progress made by the Town over the past five years serves to demonstrate and reinforce its commitment to these goals.

The 1996 and 2002 Plans, as well as this current Plan for 2007-2012 accept and support two overarching community goals (Environment, Culture and Recreation) of Arlington's Vision 2020, which Town Meeting has adopted and which Town decision-making bodies must consider in their policymaking. Furthermore, because Arlington's Vision 2020 has won numerous awards for its community planning and is composed of elected and appointed Town officials and community members, the committee believes Vision 2020 goals best represent Arlington's community and its commitment to open space and recreation issues.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Community Goals

Adopted from Arlington's Vision 2020 and the Town's bylaws, the following two statements now also serve as Arlington's open space and recreation community goals:

1. **Environment:** We value the physical beauty and natural habitats of our Town - parks, ponds, and wetlands, dramatic vistas and tree-lined streets - as they contribute to the well being of our community. Recognizing the fragility of our natural resources, we must ensure that Arlington's residential areas, commercial centers and infrastructure are developed in harmony with environmental concerns. We will be known for our commitment to the preservation of Arlington's beauty, limited open space and resources, as well as our place in the regional and global community.
2. **Culture and Recreation:** We value the many opportunities to meet, play, and grow in Arlington while treasuring and preserving our unique historical resources. Our social, cultural, artistic, historic, athletic, recreational, and other community groups strengthen Town life. We will be known for the breadth and richness of our resources and activities available to Arlington citizens.

The fulfillment of the above community goals will make Arlington a more desirable and pleasant Town to live in and visit. Further, by bringing these community goals to fruition, Arlington's community may acquire a greater sense of awareness of and appreciation for the Town's open space.

Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee



McClennen Park reopened in June 2006



Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee

7 - Analysis of Needs

7. Analysis of Needs

The Open Space Committee generated this Analysis of Needs by reviewing the 2007 census survey conducted by Vision 2020, assessing the input from the two public forums held in February and June 2007, and other research into Arlington's resource, community, and management needs. This analysis summarizes the major open space issues and concerns facing the Town in 2007 and in the future.

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

The Open Space Committee continues to address the following five general areas of concern as outlined in the 2002 Plan:

- ☞ Regional resource protection needs
- ☞ Historical resource protection needs
- ☞ Water resource protection needs
- ☞ Fisheries and wildlife protection needs
- ☞ Vegetation protection needs.

It is understood that these areas of need have broad overlap; however, the OSC presents each specific resource protection need under the area of concern in which it best fits.

Regional Resource Protection Needs

Successful implementation of a good open space plan for Arlington requires cooperation with nearby communities and resource-oriented organizations in the region. The Town's specific regional resource protection needs include the following:

A regional natural resources review is required to protect virtually all of Arlington's natural open spaces. Examination of their total ecological requirements and the effects of local perturbations on the health of regional resources is an ongoing need. Four recent or proposed developments in the vicinity of Alewife Reservation in East Arlington offer an example of why regional coordination is so important. The possible development of the Mugar site and the Belmont Uplands combined with the recent Cambridge Storm Drain enhancement and modification of the Arthur D. Little property would seriously impact the fragile ecology and flooding problems in that region, which involves the towns of Arlington and Belmont and the city of Cambridge.

Additional networking and regional planning are needed to maximize the design, use, and maintenance of regional recreational resources, such as bicycle and pedestrian paths, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife corridors, and historical sites, especially those relating to the Revolutionary War.

The annual spring migrations of the Alewife and Blueback Herring (via the Mystic River and Alewife Brook) that spawn in Little Pond and the Mystic Lakes have decreased significantly since colonial times. Only wide-scale cooperation among communities, towns, and state agencies can mitigate the physical barriers that now exist. Substantial reduction of water pollution in Boston Harbor and throughout the Mystic River region and its tributaries will also be necessary before the migrations of pollution-sensitive fishes will be restored.

Many of the historical sites in Arlington (together with their associated open spaces) reveal their full significance only when presented in the context of their relationship to historical sites in other communities. For example, the open space around the Jason Russell House derives much of its significance from the regional battle fought there in April 1775. Arlington could best present the significance of this battle if all the communities along the Revolutionary War battle route from Boston to Concord coordinate their presentations of this historic story. Further, Arlington needs a better connection to the Minuteman National Historic Park so that the Town can fully avail itself of all potential

Successful implementation of a good open space plan for
Arlington requires cooperation with nearby communities and
resource-oriented organizations in the region.

assistance and guidance the National Park Service may offer. Arlington is included in the National Park Service interpretive mandate for the Minuteman National Historic Park.

Historical Resource Protection Needs

Arlington citizens have shown a renewed respect and reverence for the Town's historical facilities and spaces. This attitude is most obviously displayed through the major investment in renovations and relandscaping by the Town in the central historic "civic block." This work has included renovations to the interior of Town Hall, restoration of the Cyrus E. Dallin Flag Pole and sculpture next to Town Hall, restoration of the Dallin "Menotomy Indian Hunter" sculpture, reflecting pool and gardens in the Winfield Robbins Memorial Gardens, renovation and expansion of the Robbins Memorial Library, and renovation of the Whittemore Robbins House.

To continue the protection of these historic and related open space resources, the Town needs to implement the final phases of the relandscaping and restoration plans for the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden. A management plan for maintenance of those gardens and the gardens around the Whittemore Robbins House was developed by OSC and relevant stakeholders in 2006.

Another historically significant area needing attention is Cooke's Hollow along Mill Brook near Mystic Street, which is under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission and is tended by members of the Arlington Garden Club.

Some other resource protection needs that relate to Arlington's historical roots are as follows:

- ☞ Arlington needs to investigate, preserve, and protect sites of historical significance. For example, during the end of the nineteenth century, one of Arlington's social centers was the Boat House at the foot of Spring Valley on Spy Pond. Its building and pier burned down in 1904. One of the secret powder houses sought by the British troops in 1775 had been located on this same site. Although the area is now mostly privately owned, there is still some open space that provides an excellent "window" on Spy Pond; a simple plaque or marker could identify the historical significance of the area.
- ☞ Arlington needs to engage the National Park Service in more projects that would protect and enhance Arlington's heritage. As mentioned, the National Park Service includes Arlington in its interpretative mandate for the Minuteman National Historic Park. A stronger affiliation with the National Park Service is also a recommendation of the Arlington Business Community Study, which the Arlington Redevelopment Board released in December 1995.
- ☞ Arlington also needs to strengthen its relationship with Massachusetts Historic Commission and Historic Massachusetts, two state agencies that focus on historic sites and properties. In a related effort to enhance historical connections, Arlington town officials and concerned citizens participated in a meeting in 2006 with staff of the Freedom's Way Heritage Landscapes project to identify priority areas of natural and cultural significance in Arlington. This kind of work needs to continue.
- ☞ Efforts to create a Mill Brook Linear Park from the Arlington Reservoir to Meadowbrook Park and the Lower Mystic Lake are currently under discussion. In the mid-1630s, Captain Cooke's gristmill was built near Mystic Street at the location that is now Cooke's Hollow Park. This was the first water-powered gristmill in the United States. Many other mills were built along the brook during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. One that survives is the Old Schwamb Mill on Mill Lane, which continues as a museum with demonstrations of the historic manufacture of oval wood frames. Many other buildings of historical and architectural significance exist in the Mill Brook Valley, and some are on the National Historic Register. Enhancement of this historic corridor would reinvigorate understanding of this heritage and access to this unique natural and historic resource in the middle of Town.
- ☞ During the latter half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, more than half of Arlington's land area was devoted to vegetable farming. Private and community vegetable gardens are still popular; however, this gardening tradition is in need of revitalization and expansion as the Town considers alternative uses of open space.

Water Resource Protection Needs

All of the water bodies in Arlington face the threat of nonpoint pollution within their contributing watersheds due to runoff from roadways, houses, and businesses, accelerating the process of eutrophication. In particular, the following water bodies face specific problems:

- ☞ Spy Pond receives runoff from Route 2 and the surrounding area via more than 40 storm drains that bring in excess phosphorus from lawn fertilizer and large amounts of road salt and sand. A sandbar which threatens to choke off a corner of the pond has built up from a 54" drain from Route 2. Efforts to get Mass Highway to remove it have so far been unsuccessful. A Lake and Pond Watershed Restoration grant from Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for the period 2001-2004 for storm-water management and Town funds for weed treatment have been used to restore the pond to recreational usability.
- ☞ Arlington Reservoir faces nonpoint pollution problems from pesticides and fertilizers from a nearby farm and surrounding homes. The major aquatic weed problem in the Reservoir is the water chestnut, which colonizes in shallow zones. It has been controlled by manual and mechanical harvesting during the summer. Reservoir management is sometimes difficult because the Reservoir is located in both Arlington and Lexington. A joint-town management plan would allow for more effective monitoring of the Reservoir. Efforts to improve water quality in the beach area through treatment and removal of nuisance waterfowl have been successful and must be continued.
- ☞ The Mystic Lakes have suffered from the nonpoint runoff from the Mystic Valley Parkway and lawn and yard maintenance. Aquatic weeds such as milfoil have proven both a hazard to human safety and a contribution to the eutrophication of the water body. The Mystic Boat Club in Winchester has successfully applied aquatic pesticides to control weeds in its area of the Upper Mystic Lake. An excellent Aquatic Vegetation Survey of Upper Mystic Lake was published in December 2006 by the Department of Conservation and Recreation; it was prepared by Aquatic Control Technology, Inc., pond and lake management specialists.
- ☞ Mill Brook runs the length of the Town (starting at the Reservoir and ending at the Lower Mystic Lake) and faces pollution assaults all along its route via nonpoint sources and storm drains. Culverting and physical barriers make Mill Brook, especially upstream of Cooke's Hollow, an untenable habitat for fish and native aquatic mammals. An effort to revitalize this natural resource

and formalize a Mill Brook Linear Park is underway.

- ☞ Alewife Brook is one of the most polluted water bodies in Town, and has seven active combined sewer overflows along its shores, five from Cambridge, one from Somerville, and one from the MWRA system. Currently, an official Tri-Community committee is studying this problem. Construction to separate some of the combined drains in Cambridge in recent years has alleviated but not solved the problem. DCR's Alewife Master Plan also addresses water quality and hydrology issues.
- ☞ Hill's Pond, originally created for Farmer Hill's cows, is a scenic pond in Menotomy Rocks Park that supports fish and other pond life. The Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park played an important part in helping the Town drain, dredge, and redesign the pond in the mid-1990s. The project won an award for technical merit from the North American Lakes Management Society. The Town should continue to follow recommended management guidelines to ensure a viable pond ecosystem. The Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park treat the invasive pond vegetation annually. The Town's capital project underway in 2007 includes aerators to improve the pond's water quality, and regrading and edging to help with erosion and run-off problems.

Fisheries and Wildlife Protection Needs

Arlington has breeding, migrating, or wintering populations of invertebrates, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals that require open space. To sustain these populations the Town should, among other things, consider the following:

- ☞ Effect of commercial or residential development adjacent to open space
- ☞ Effect of an increase in active recreational uses in open space
- ☞ Effect of new or increased level of pollution in the Town's waters

Vegetation Protection Needs

- ☞ Wetlands - The vegetation in wetlands is in need of protection. For instance, the amount of water in Great Meadows' wetlands is substantially less now than in 1920. Construction of new buildings and streets around the periphery has affected its hydrology. This change in water amount is likely affecting vegetation, although we have no specific vegetation data available from 1920 with which to compare.
- ☞ Commercial landscaping - Although the Environmental Design Review zoning bylaw of Arlington includes requirements for landscaping of new commercial developments (discussed in Section 4), no provision exists

for protecting wildlife habitat, except through the Wetlands Protection Act. Vegetation is usually selected on the basis of cost, appearance, and durability; there is little regard for the effect on birds and other wildlife native to the area.

- ☞ Native vegetation - Native vegetation is losing ground to invasive, exotic species, both in wetlands (e.g., Phragmites and Lythrum Salicaria invasions) and uplands (e.g. Polygonum cuspidatum, Celastrus orbiculatus). Environmentally safe and appropriate noxious weed control efforts are badly needed on a Town-wide level.

B. Summary of Community Needs

The Open Space Committee generated the following community needs analysis from:

- ☞ Park and Recreation Commission Report (April 2007)
- ☞ Review of community feedback on the 2007 survey by Vision 2020, the two 2007 public forums, and through ongoing meetings and reports
- ☞ Analysis of accomplishments since publication of the Arlington 2002 Open Space Plan (Section 2)
- ☞ Analysis of Sections 2 through 5 of this 2007 Plan
- ☞ Natural Open Space Needs

Several surveys conducted by the Open Space Committee over recent years and by Vision 2020 in 2007 indicate strong interest in natural open space areas for passive recreation, including walking, bird watching and quiet contemplation (See Appendix B). These needs for peaceful public places to walk and relax are currently met at such areas as Menotomy Rocks Park, the path around the Arlington Reservoir, in Arlington's Great Meadows in Lexington, and in

The Park and Recreation Commission has evaluated the number of playing fields needed and recommends a total of 28 fields.

McClennen Park, Hill's Hill, and the Crusher Lot near Ottoson School. Access to Spy Pond is limited to a few public areas, and many residents favor a walking trail around the entire pond. The Mugar site and Elizabeth Island offer hope for additional conservation and passive recreation spaces in the future, if they can be acquired for such use.

Park and Recreation Needs

The same surveys noted above indicate important needs and concerns about active outdoor recreational facilities. According to the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC), many of Arlington's playing fields are designated for multi-sport use. During the busy spring, summer, and fall sports seasons, most of these fields are in constant use by high school teams, organized youth sports leagues, and the public. Sports participation has increased in recent years, which creates further field availability and maintenance problems. For example, Arlington's Soccer Club program now serves over 1,500 children. The addition of youth lacrosse has also increased demand for the soccer/utility fields, and the addition of a Little League softball program and summer leagues has increased demand for baseball fields. See Appendix I for the most recent PRC 10-year plan.

Arlington's Playing Fields

As a result of Arlington's limited field space and continuing high youth and adult participation in recreational sports, most playing fields are heavily used throughout the year. The Park and Recreation Commission regularly documents the number of Arlington's playing fields and the number of sports teams that play on those fields.

The Park and Recreation Commission indicates the need for field upgrading and much better and more consistent field maintenance so that fields stay in the proper condition for use, thereby saving the time and money otherwise needed for serious field renovation. Continuing to encourage appropriate use and enforcement of Town bylaws is also essential to helping maintain playing fields. The addition of two multi-use fields and one Little League field at McClennen Park and the completion of the Arlington High School W.A. Peirce Field complex renovation will allow the PRC to periodically rest some fields and reduce overall wear and tear, as recommended in a plan prepared by the Field Maintenance and User Fee Study Committee (see Appendix C). It is also recommended that the PRC continue to upgrade facilities for tennis, basketball, and children's playgrounds.

Ideal Number of Playing Fields

The Park and Recreation Commission has evaluated the number of playing fields needed and recommends a total of 28 fields. The following narrations, prepared by the PRC, explain the status and need for additional playing fields:

Baseball Fields

Arlington has a sufficient number of major league baseball fields. Five Major League diamonds are situated in different areas of the Town, and afford maximum formal and informal use. Each field accommodates another sport during the non-baseball season. Three of the baseball fields (North Union, Robbins Farm and W.A. Peirce) are somewhat limited to use by younger players because of their short outfields. PRC recommends that one of these shorter fields be expanded to accommodate older players who need a full-size field.

Little League/Softball

Fifteen fields with 60-foot base paths are scattered throughout Arlington. Softball and Little League fields have somewhat different configurations, as Little League fields have a pitcher's mound and softball fields do not. While a new Little League baseball field was added at McClennen Park and the addition of lights at Buck Field has increased its available playing time, the PRC recommends adding one field dedicated to softball, which is growing in popularity.

Soccer (100 yards plus) and Soccer (40 X 60 yards)

Of the fourteen soccer fields, five are located in one area (the Magnolia/Thorndike complex in East Arlington) and cannot be used simultaneously. Soccer continues to be the largest youth sport in Arlington. Two multi-use fields have been created at McClennen Park and a multi-sport practice field was added during the renovation of the W.A. Peirce Field complex at Arlington High School. The main playing field at that complex is a multi-sport field that was renovated to state-of-the-art condition with field turf. This surface allows for consistent playability with minimal maintenance. The High School has priority of use of this field, however it is strongly recommended that this community asset continue to be accessible to community soccer, football, lacrosse, and field hockey programs.

Football

The only football field in Arlington is located at Arlington High School (W.A. Peirce Field). Nine teams (including Arlington High School, Arlington Catholic High School, and Pop Warner teams) use this field. A multi-sport practice field at W.A. Peirce Field and a multi-use field with goal posts at McClennen Park have increased the available inventory of football practice fields.

Field Hockey

The Park and Recreation Commission manages one field hockey field, which is located in the outfield of the Summer Street baseball field. Since the renovation at W.A. Peirce Field, many games have been relocated to that turf field, which should continue to be the case.



Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee

Seen here, the only football field in Arlington at Arlington High School

Lacrosse

Arlington has witnessed a surge in participation in the sport of lacrosse. Several boys and girls teams have formed at the high school and youth levels. The fields needed for play are shared with soccer, but both sports cannot be played simultaneously on adjoining fields. This places additional scheduling and maintenance demands on the existing fields. An additional field turf surface would solve this problem.

Field Development Solutions

- ☞ McClennen Park (formerly Reeds Brook) - The redevelopment of this site added two multi-use fields (soccer/lacrosse/football/field hockey) and one Little League baseball field to Arlington's inventory.
- ☞ W.A. Peirce Field (Arlington High School Complex) - The renovation and remediation of this athletic complex resulted in the development of a multi-sport field (turf field), a new track, renovated softball and baseball fields, a new multi-sport practice field, and renovated lighted basketball courts. The

work was completed in 2006 and the grass fields were opened for use in the spring of 2007.

- ☞ Thorndike Field - The renovation of Thorndike Field created an additional full-sized soccer field (100 yards plus) and two youth-sized soccer fields. The renovation also included removing the existing two adult softball fields.
- ☞ Buck Field - Lights were added to through the efforts and funding of the Little League to allow for extended playing time. The work was completed in 2006.

Department of Public Works' Needs

Arlington's Department of Public Works (DPW) needs work yard space for collecting, storing, and distributing certain kinds of materials, such as tree parts and other organic refuse and street sweepings. Former sites next to Meadowbrook Park and the Arlington Reservoir are no longer being used because of their locations near wetlands and wildlife habitats and because of their potential to limit public enjoyment and use of two key parcels of open space. The DPW yard on Grove Street now receives some of this material.

Without appropriate storage and work space for these operations, the DPW cannot make cost effective use of staff and equipment or take advantage of changeable market conditions. These operations may even increase in the future, since a major factor in improving water quality and maintaining healthy habitats in developed, urban areas is more frequent, year-round street sweeping and cleaning of catch basins, which in turn may create problems with contamination of nearby wetlands and waterways.

SCORP

In 2000, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts produced a document called the *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*, which looks at open space and recreation from a regional perspective. The purpose of the plan is to help direct the best investment of funds and effort towards protecting and enhancing recreation resources.

Arlington is located in the Metropolitan Boston Region of the SCORP, the most urbanized and densely populated of all seven SCORP regions. With the population density at such high levels, land available for open space and recreation is more limited than in other parts of Massachusetts. However, with 26 percent of total land area reserved for open space and recreation, this highly

Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee



McClennen Park now has two multi-use fields

urbanized region ranks third out of the other SCORP regions for land which is thus designated. Water bodies also represent important open space areas, such as the Charles, Neponset, and Mystic Rivers, and the entire coastline of Massachusetts Bay.

The most popular activities in this region's open space areas include walking, sightseeing, birdwatching, and swimming; following these are golfing, picnicking, playground activity, sunbathing, fishing, and both road and mountain biking. The Town of Arlington is able to provide opportunities for many of these pastimes, particularly walking and biking along the Minuteman Bikeway and birdwatching at the Arlington Reservoir. There are also numerous cultural and historical opportunities, both in Arlington and in the greater Metropolitan Boston region. Regionally, high levels of activity are reported for basketball and baseball while less interest is demonstrated in boating activities as compared with other regions of the state.

It was indicated that the most pressing need among the region's residents is improved access for people with disabilities. This includes a range of groups, from people with mental disabilities to the elderly. As such, open space planning in Arlington should reflect the needs of this population and provide passive recreation activities for their enjoyment. Area residents also voiced the opinion that maintenance and restoration of existing facilities should be improved, and public transportation access to open space areas should be increased. In addition, the majority of residents supported the acquisition of new facilities for further open space and recreational opportunities.

In this region, the highest level of dissatisfaction fell in the wetland category, which is somewhat surprising as wetlands are both abundant and attractive in this region. The coastal beaches also received a high dissatisfaction rating, most likely a result of heavy use and less than adequate maintenance. Residents also specify a need for more walking, road biking, and swimming facilities, closely followed by tennis and basketball courts.



Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee

The Minuteman Bikeway

C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

The main management needs Arlington faces today relate to how the Town manages its open spaces and recreational facilities. In particular, the Town needs to:

- ☞ Increase funding and staffing for management, maintenance, and upgrading of open spaces;
- ☞ Implement existing management plans developed by the Open Space Committee in 2005-2006 for each major open space and recreational site in conjunction with the responsible Town departments and commissions, and volunteer groups;
- ☞ Implement playing field rotation and maintenance recommendations of the Field User Maintenance and Fee Study Committee and create sustainable DPW playing field maintenance schedules; and
- ☞ Empower the Open Space Committee to facilitate, help implement, update and advance the goals of this Open Space Plan.

Town Open Space Management

Most communities in Massachusetts have struggled with fewer revenue dollars since the passage of Proposition 2½, a statewide referendum voted nearly 30 years ago that limited the amount of revenue a community could collect through property tax. Arlington is no exception. All public services suffer as communities prioritize their allocation of revenues. Parks, playgrounds, and other open spaces suffer as maintenance dollars are cut and personnel are reduced.

Until 1992-1993 park and recreation facilities were the responsibility of the Department of Properties and Natural Resources, which was headed by one of seven department heads reporting to the Town Manager. Normal attrition, a hiring freeze, an early retirement program, and a reorganization of management structure resulted in a consolidation of Public Works, Properties and Natural Resources, and Engineering into one Department of Public Works with several divisions. This consolidation marked an important change in the way the Town managed its open spaces and recreation facilities.

While this new arrangement may increase efficiency, it fails to recognize the importance of public properties and open spaces as a separate management entity. The Town does not have one staff member whose sole duty is maintaining public properties; rather this responsibility is scattered across three departments:

Arlington needs an overall open space management plan that will make use of existing Town management structures and resources.

Recreation (recreational programming and limited facilities management for the Sports Center/Rink, Gibbs Gym, and Reservoir Beach); Public Works (maintenance); and Town Manager (management). Some coordination is established as both the Recreation and Public Works directors report to the Town Manager.

Because the Department of Public Works oversees the maintenance of most of Arlington's open spaces, as well as its major responsibilities for water, sewer, highway and public building maintenance, open space budget needs are often weighed internally against other departmental needs and do not emerge in public debate as a separate interest. A dedicated natural resources manager with a trained staff and an established budget is needed to oversee and coordinate capital planning and maintenance for the Town's natural open spaces.

A high level of open space interest and commitment is shown by citizens who serve on the Open Space Committee, Park and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, and many other neighborhood and Friends groups. This interest indicates the potential for expanded citizen support for park, playground, and other open space revitalization.

Need for Overall Open Space Management Plan

Arlington needs an overall open space management plan that will make use of existing Town management structures and resources. This management plan would provide a roadmap for those in charge of a particular open space. It would make clear the lines of responsibilities and it would provide a way to implement many of the goals of this Open Space Plan. It would also be a tool for increased public support in making our parks and open spaces the best that they can be, and insuring that every part of the Town, and every major segment of the population, gets the most up-to-date and suitable facilities possible.

As part of reviewing the existing Town management and structure, a new overall open space management plan may make recommendations for change. For example, there is a need for open space and recreation interests to be a stronger part of the existing budget process. One way to do this is to have a member with open space knowledge on the Capital Planning Committee to advocate for a long-range capital planning budget for open space and recreation facilities. As various Town survey results have indicated, the majority of respondents have said they would support the upgrading of recreation and open space lands. Some of the financing could be arranged through usual government financing mechanisms and some through special programs such as grants or enterprise accounts.

The Park and Recreation Commission maintains an ongoing 10-year capital plan. However, a stronger commitment is needed by the Town to fund the project requirements at appropriate levels or identify additional funding sources to accomplish the proposed improvements to parks, playgrounds, and playing fields under PRC jurisdiction.

Need for a Management Plan for Each Major Open Space and Recreation Site

In addition to an overall open space management plan, each major open space and recreation site needs an individual management plan. The Open Space Committee developed plans for 12 key sites during 2005 and 2006, in conjunction with the relevant Town departments and commissions, and volunteer groups.

- ☞ Arlington's Great Meadows (located in Lexington)
- ☞ Arlington Reservoir
- ☞ McClennen Park
- ☞ Meadowbrook Park
- ☞ Menotomy Rocks Park
- ☞ Minuteman Bikeway - Arlington portion
- ☞ Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
- ☞ Robbins Farm Park
- ☞ Spy Pond Park
- ☞ Route 2 path along Spy Pond
- ☞ Town Hall Gardens
- ☞ Old Burying Ground

Information in these plans is arranged under the following headings (see also Appendix J for a sample site management plan for the Reservoir):

Base Information

1. Location, boundaries and acreage (including site map with features and facilities)
2. Site history
3. Current uses (primary and secondary)
4. Current ownership
5. Management entity
6. Reporting entities and other contacts
7. Financial support
8. Protection status
9. Site rules
10. Friends and other volunteer groups
11. Handicapped accessibility
12. Natural resources
13. Outstanding issues (prioritized)

Each open space management plan provides the following base information as a service to the general public as well as a repository of information on the site.

Management Guidelines

1. Maintenance schedule
2. Maintenance standards
3. Long-term landscaping and maintenance plans
4. Usage and restrictions

Capital Improvements Information

1. Capital improvements (description of past and current projects)
2. Proposed capital improvements (description of recommended and proposed changes, timelines, estimated costs, etc.)
3. Evaluation of capital improvements

Appendices

1. GIS map of the site
2. Maintenance plan if available from other source
3. Other items relevant to the site (e.g., plant or bird lists, beach report for the Reservoir, etc.)

Uses of Site Management Plan

The purpose of the individual site management plans is to think through ways to improve a site's management and to bring ideas for improved management to the site's decision makers. The management plan is a vehicle for improving the operations and appearance of our parks and open spaces. The management plan will also bring attention to needs that are often long-standing and allow the Town to respond to needs in an organized and systematic way. It can also be a tool for lobbying for Town resources and outside funds to implement improvements.

The site management plans that have been written to date need to be reviewed at least every few years to keep them up-to-date with recent improvements and to document new problems. A management plan should be written for those major open spaces and playing fields that do not yet have one.

Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee



Robbins Farm Park is one of the 12 key sites in Arlington that has its own management plan



Upgrades to Arlington Reservoir



Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee

Buck Field

8 - Goals and Objectives

8. Goals and Objectives

A. Introduction

The Open Space Committee decided to accept and reinforce its commitment to previous Open Space and Recreation Plans by using the Vision 2020 goal statements on environmental and cultural and recreational concerns, cited in Section 6, to serve as the community goals for this 2007 Plan as well. The Committee believes these two Vision 2020 goals, which Town Meeting has adopted and which Town decision-making bodies must consider in their policy making, best represent the entire Arlington community and its commitment to open space and recreation issues.

B. Goals for 2007 - 2012

The following four goals guide the 2007 Plan and are based on a review of the Town's accomplishments in meeting the goals and objectives outlined in the 2002 Plan. These new goals build on and go beyond the previous set of goals to provide a continuing mandate for the Town to pursue a coordinated and focused plan for acquiring and managing open space and outdoor recreation facilities, working collaboratively within the Town and throughout the region to ensure continued protection of our fragile environment, and enhancing public awareness, acces-

sibility, and stewardship of the existing open space resources in Arlington. The fulfillment of these goals will make Arlington a more desirable and pleasant community to live in and to visit. Further, by accomplishing the specific actions associated with these goals, the entire community will acquire a greater sense of awareness of and appreciation for Arlington's valuable open space and recreational resources.

1. Acquire undeveloped lands for permanent protection as open space in neighborhoods throughout the Town.
2. Preserve, protect, and enhance existing open spaces, including watersheds, water bodies, and natural areas; parks, playgrounds and outdoor recreational facilities; and historic sites and cultural landscapes.
3. Coordinate and strengthen local and regional planning and management of open spaces in conjunction with various Town departments, commissions, and volunteer groups, and work closely with nearby towns and regional entities and with state and federal officials and agencies.
4. Increase public awareness, accessibility, and community stewardship of the Town's open spaces and recreational facilities.

Goals and Objectives

The following list presents Arlington's four open space goals with their more specific objectives. The detailed actions to achieve these goals and objectives are listed in Section 9, Five-Year Action Plan.

1. Acquire undeveloped lands for permanent protection as open space in neighborhoods throughout the Town.
2. Preserve, protect, and enhance existing open spaces, including watersheds, water bodies, and natural areas; parks, playgrounds, and outdoor recreational facilities; and historic sites and cultural landscapes.
 - ⇒ 2-a. Preserve, protect, and enhance the Town's natural heritage, including watersheds, water bodies, native flora and fauna, and all existing natural areas.
 - ⇒ 2-b. Preserve, protect, and enhance Arlington's parks, playgrounds, playing fields, and other outdoor recreation spaces.
 - ⇒ 2-c. Preserve, protect, and enhance Arlington's historic open space sites and cultural landscapes.

Acquire

Preserve

Protect

Enhance

Coordinate

3. Coordinate and strengthen local and regional planning and management of open spaces in conjunction with various Town departments, commissions and volunteer groups; and work closely with nearby towns and regional entities and with state and federal officials and agencies.
 - 3-a. Work within the Town of Arlington to better coordinate and manage open space goals and objectives.
 - 3-b. Work at the regional level to coordinate planning and development initiatives that protect and enhance open space across jurisdictions.
 - 3-c. Engage state officials and state and federal agencies in efforts by the Town to acquire, maintain and manage open space and outdoor recreation resources.

4. Increase public awareness, accessibility, and community stewardship of the Town's open spaces and recreational facilities.
 - 4-a. Support volunteer groups for major open spaces and key neighborhood parks.
 - 4-b. Increase public awareness and educate Town residents about open space and recreational resources.
 - 4-c. Provide greater use of and improved access to key water bodies, natural areas and recreational facilities.
 - 4-d. Support Arlington's efforts for a more environmentally sound Town and region.



Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee

9 - Five-Year Action Plan

9

Town Of Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan Action Plan Update, 2007-2014

Introduction

This updated Seven-Year Action Plan (2007-2014) for the Town of Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan of 2007-2012 seeks to translate the goals and objectives of the existing Plan into concrete actions. It intends to deliver on the promises expressed throughout this process, with a program of tangible steps for the Town to take over the next five years (2010-2014) and to account for the actions begun or completed during 2008 and 2009.

These actions are targeted to address the physical and organizational issues confronting the Town, as described and analyzed in Section 7. This action plan strives to examine various needs and visions realistically in light of current economic conditions, while maintaining a focus on the substantive issues of open space and recreation preservation, acquisition, enhancement, management, and maintenance.

Some of these actions are already in the planning process; others are ongoing but need additional support. While all actions listed are recognized as important, two areas in particular rise to the top as being absolutely essential for any future progress toward meeting the goals of this Plan:

- Encourage continued support from Town staff, commissions, and boards for the principle that open space and recreation are central and lasting priorities for Arlington. While it is understood that there are competing needs in the Town, all groups must abide by the central tenet that these issues are extremely important to the residents of Arlington. Where open space and recreational resources are concerned, the goals and policies of this Plan and the committee members and staff of the Town must be consulted.
- Secure additional sources of funding, staffing, and other support for the maintenance and enhancement of all parks, playgrounds, playing fields, and natural open spaces. Additionally, there is strong interest among community residents in obtaining additional open space resources such as Elizabeth Island and the Mugar parcel. Funds to achieve these goals are scarce and the Town must be creative in how funds are raised. Private groups such as the Arlington Land Trust and many Friends groups are actively engaged in efforts to raise private funds and to obtain grants for such acquisition and maintenance goals.

■ Open Space and Recreation Priorities

The five priorities listed below are specific, timely, and attainable objectives that are embedded in the overall set of goals and objectives presented in this updated Seven-Year Action Plan. They hold equal importance and represent the concerns shared by Town residents for acquiring, maintaining, raising funds for, and working collaboratively to preserve, protect, and enhance open space resources and recreational facilities in our densely developed Town.

1. Land Acquisition

Actively pursue initiatives already in place to acquire Elizabeth Island and the Mugar land as protected open space and be prepared to acquire other land parcels, including wetlands or undeveloped land that may be lost as open space if the Town and/or a private land trust are not able to acquire them. A particular new focus is developing opportunities for public access to properties adjacent to the Mill Brook corridor.

2. Management of Town Open Spaces

Continue to encourage Town departments, Town and regional commissions, and volunteer Friends groups to work collaboratively to better coordinate, manage, and raise funds to implement these open space goals and objectives. Special efforts are needed to establish a budget item to hire a natural resources professional to advocate for and oversee planning, management, and fundraising for Arlington's open space resources.

3. Additional Funding for Capital Improvements and Ongoing Park Maintenance

Explore multiple public and private avenues for raising funds for capital improvement plans and maintenance of Town-owned parks and playgrounds. Some alternatives are to revisit Town approval of the statewide Community Preservation Act, to apply for state and/or federal grants, and to establish public-private partnerships for specific sites. Some projects in line for capital improvements through 2014 are Summer Street, Hibbert Street, and Florence Avenue playgrounds; Wellington and Spy Pond tennis courts; North Union spray pool; Robbins Farm playing fields; and Wellington Park.

4. Public Participation and Stewardship

Increase public awareness, education, accessibility, and community stewardship of the Town's open spaces through a variety of participatory education programs and volunteer activities, such as the Land Stewards Program, to better monitor and improve open space and recreational facilities. We also want to make better use of the Town Web site, e-mail lists, community access TV, and other resources to define and enhance channels of communication. Volunteers are also updating the book, *Walking the Open Spaces of Arlington*, and it will be reprinted with Town and donated funds.

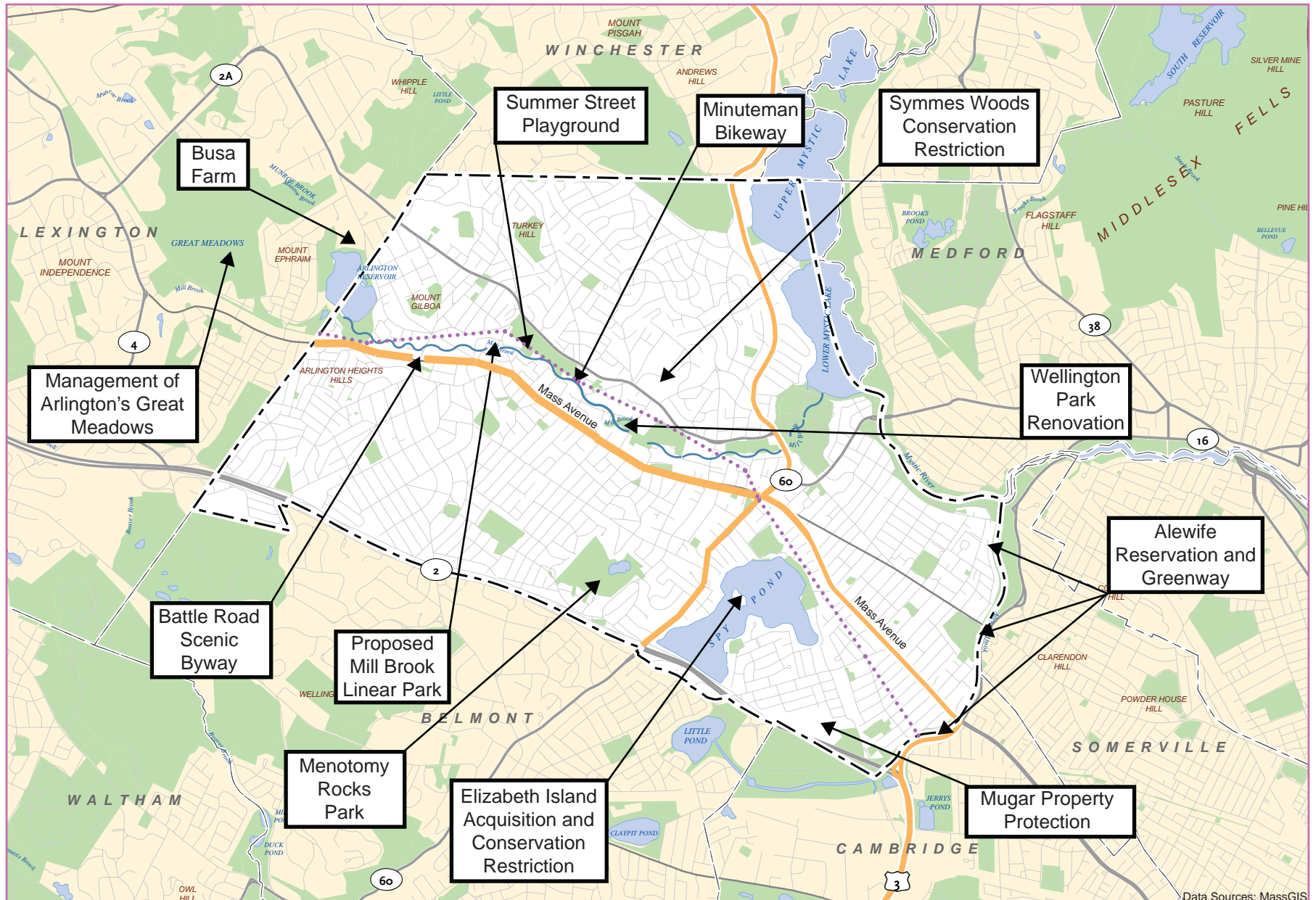
5. Conservation Restrictions

Work with the Arlington Land Trust and other groups or individuals to negotiate permanent conservation restrictions on undeveloped privately owned property that could be developed under current zoning regulations, in order to protect irreplaceable open spaces of all sizes in this already densely developed residential community.

Table 9.1 - Action Plan Responsible Parties Acronym Key

Acronym	Full Name	Acronym	Full Name
ABAC	Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee	HCA	Housing Corporation of Arlington
ACC	Arlington Conservation Commission	HDC	Historic Districts Commission
AHA	Arlington Housing Authority	HS	Historical Society
ALT	Arlington Land Trust	MAPC	Metropolitan Area Planning Council (regional)
ARB	Arlington Redevelopment Board	MyRWA	Mystic River Watershed Association
BOS	Board of Selectmen	OSC	Open Space Committee
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant	PARC	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (state)
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation (state)	PRC	Park and Recreation Commission
DPW	Department of Public Works	SA	Sustainable Arlington
FoAGM	Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows	TAC	Transportation Advisory Commission
HC	Historic Commission	ZBA	Zoning Board of Appeals

Map 9 - Arlington Action Plan Focus Locations



Data Sources: MassGIS

LEGEND

 Town Bounds

 Protected and Recreation Open Space



Goals & Objectives	Actions	Parties	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Funding
Goal 1: Acquire undeveloped lands for permanent protection as open space in neighborhoods throughout the Town.										
	1-1. Identify undeveloped parcels and buildable lots of all sizes that should be considered for open space protection especially those adjacent to existing open spaces, parks, and waterways, such as along Mill Brook, Spy Pond, Mystic Lakes, and the Marquis/Minuteman Bikeway.	OSC, ALT, ARB, Friends groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	PARC, private funding, Town budget and capital funds
	1-2. Work with the Arlington Land Trust, other groups, and landowners to negotiate acquisitions or conservation restrictions on undeveloped privately owned property that could be developed under current zoning regulations, including Elizabeth Island and the Mugar property, in order to protect sensitive and irreplaceable open spaces of all sizes and to enhance local neighborhoods.	OSC, ALT, Friends groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	PARC, private funding, Town budget and capital funds
	1-3. Support the Arlington Land Trust and Conservation Commission as future co-holders of a conservation restriction on the open space at the Symmes site, and support a new Friends group to help oversee the designated natural resources on that property.	OSC, ALT, ACC	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	
Goal 2: Preserve, protect, and enhance existing open spaces, including watersheds, water bodies, and natural areas; parks, playgrounds, and outdoor recreational facilities; and historic sites and cultural landscapes.										
2-a. Preserve, protect, and enhance the Town's natural heritage, including watersheds, water bodies, native flora and fauna, and all existing natural areas.	2-a-1. Implement stewardship and management plans for major water bodies and natural areas, with public and private support to preserve and protect habitats for flora and fauna (including Arlington Reservoir, Arlington's Great Meadows, McClennen Park, Spy Pond, Meadowbrook Park, and Menotomy Rocks). Update the plans regularly.	OSC, PRC, ACC, DPW, MyRWA, Friends groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-a-2. Identify and undertake additional management plan for other areas, such as Mt. Gilboa, the Crusher Lot, and Hill's Hill.	OSC, PRC, ACC, DPW, Friends groups	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-a-3. Pursue options to ensure that Great Meadows (Arlington-owned land in Lexington) is permanently protected as natural open space.	OSC, FoAGM, Arlington and Lexington BOS	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	

Goals & Objectives	Actions	Parties	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Funding
	2-a-4. Support FoAGM's efforts to restore upland meadows and other habitats.	OSC, FoAGM, Mass Audubon			X	X	X	X	X	
	2-a-5. Continue to enforce the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act and Wetlands Protection Act to prevent further culverting of Mill Brook, enhance its open sections, and promote daylighting.	ACC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-a-6. Protect and enhance the physical and ecological integrity of the existing Mill Brook corridor starting at the Reservoir, through Arlington neighborhoods, Meadowbrook Park, into the Lower Mystic Lake; pursue opportunities to expand and enhance public access to Mill Brook and encourage daylighting where feasible.	OSC, ACC, PRC, ARB, Friends and stewardship groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-a-7. Develop a planning document for a Mill Brook Linear Park and pursue opportunities to expand and enhance public access to Mill Brook, by linking existing and new open spaces.	OSC, ARB, ACC, PRC	NA	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-a-8. Enforce zoning and maintenance along Arlington's stretch of the Marquis/Minuteman Bikeway, and support the addition of public amenities and site improvements for users.	ARB, ABAC, Building Insp., DPW	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-a-9. Continue to encourage use of native vegetation appropriate for an urban environment in Town-sponsored and private landscaping projects along the Mass. Ave. corridor and other commercial streets, as outlined in the Arlington Business Community (ABC) Study, and along the Bikeway.	OSC, DPW, Tree Comm., ACC, PRC, ABAC, ARB, Friends groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-a-10. Support volunteer efforts to enhance neighborhood streetscapes through maintenance and plantings of native trees and shrubs.	OSC, Friends groups, DPW, ACC, PRC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-a-11. Encourage Town-managed tree planting to a level of one new tree for every one removed on public streets, parks, and playgrounds; work to make this official town policy.	OSC, BOS, Tree Comm., PRC, DPW	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-a-12. Work to eliminate invasive plants on Town properties, such as phragmites (especially in Spy Pond), Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, black swallowwort, and bittersweet.	OSC, PRC, DPW, ACC, Friends groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	

Goals & Objectives	Actions	Parties	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Funding
2-b. Preserve, protect, and enhance Arlington's parks, playgrounds, playing fields, and other outdoor recreation spaces.	2-b-1. Continue to upgrade the physical condition of playing fields and other recreational facilities, in line with user needs and recommendations in the Pine and Swallow Report (1997) and Field User Maintenance Report (2005) (See Appendix C of the 2007-2012 Plan).	PRC, Recreation Dept., School Dept., sports user groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	PARC, Town capital funds, CDBG
	2-b-2. Support public/private partnerships and other funding initiatives necessary to meet heavy demands on playing fields throughout the Town.	PRC, School Dept., sports user groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-b-3. Encourage the involvement and coordination of youth groups, sports teams, and other users in maintaining playing fields.	PRC, DPW, Recreation Dept, teams, youth groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-b-4. Implement infrastructure and management plans for major parks and conservation areas on a rotating basis, according to PRC guidelines and OSC site management plans.	PRC, OSC, ACC, DPW	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	PARC, Town capital funds
	2-b-5. Increase efforts towards park maintenance, with a focus on long-term fundraising strategies	Friends groups, PRC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	2-b-6. Introduce educational signage and other amenities at parks (such as water fountains, benches, bulletin boards, toilets, bike racks).	PRC, DPW	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	PARC, Town capital funds
	2-b-7. Pursue new recreational opportunities based on community preferences.	PRC, Recreation Dept.	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	PARC, Town capital funds, CDBG
2-c. Preserve, protect, and enhance Arlington's historic open space sites and cultural landscapes.	2-c-1. Identify significant sites in conjunction with the Arlington Land Trust, Historic Commission, and other groups, and work with current owners to consider conservation and historic preservation restrictions or other actions to properly maintain those properties.	ALT, HC, HS, HDC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	MAPC Battle Road Scenic Byways Program
	2-c-2. Continue to upgrade and expand interpretive programs, signage and other materials that integrate the historical, environmental, geographical and ecological resources of the Town and region with tourism and economic development goals.	OSC, HC, HS, HDC, ARB	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	MAPC Battle Road Scenic Byways Program
	2-c-3. Develop and implement interpretive programs encompassing the historic Mill Brook corridor, including Arlington's Great Meadows, Arlington Reservoir, the former mill ponds, Spy Pond, and the entire Alewife/Mystic Watershed.	Volunteer groups, HC, HS, FoAGM, DCR, MyRWA	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	MAPC Battle Road Scenic Byways Program

Goals & Objectives	Actions	Parties	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Funding
Goal 3: Coordinate and strengthen local and regional planning and management of open spaces in conjunction with various Town departments, commissions and volunteer groups, and work closely with nearby towns and regional entities and with state and federal officials and agencies.										
3-a. Work within the Town of Arlington to better coordinate and manage open space goals and objectives.	3-a-1. Maintain and strengthen the Open Space Committee to oversee the Open Space Plan and to advocate actively for its goals, objectives, and priorities, including its site management plans.	OSC, BOS, DPW, ACC, PRC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	3-a-2. Develop and implement a pilot Green Dog program to create off-leash activity areas.	PRC, BOS, ACC, Town Meeting, Friends groups	C	C	X	X	X	NA	NA	Town capital funds, public and private sources
	3-a-3. Participate in Cemetery Expansion Study Committee (CESC) to explore additional burial options, in particular at Cooke's Hollow..	OSC, CESC, Cemetery Comm., BOS, DPW, ACC	C	C	X	X	X	NA	NA	
	3-a-4. Continue to work with Town bodies to clarify and enforce Town policies on proper uses of public open spaces and treatment of those who violate regulations.	OSC, BOS, ARB, ZBA, ACC, PRC, DPW, School Comm., Police Dept.	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	3-a-5. Explore the feasibility and advantage of hiring a natural resources professional to oversee the planning, management, funding, and maintenance of Arlington's open spaces.	OSC, DPW, PRC	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	
	3-a-6. Continue to consider ecological impacts in management plans for major open space and outdoor recreation sites.	OSC, BOS, ACC, PRC, DPW, School Dept.	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	3-a-7. Continue to develop open space and recreation capital improvements plans outlining short-term and long-term fiscal needs to manage and maintain parks, playgrounds, and playing fields using various and innovative fundraising mechanisms.	OSC, PRC, School Dept., DPW, ACC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	PARC, CDBG, public/private sources
	3-a-8. Expand electronic communications and update GIS and related tools regularly in order to monitor potential real estate transactions that could impact Town goals to preserve and enhance open spaces, including small lots.	OSC, ALT, Planning Dept., DPW	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	

Goals & Objectives	Actions	Parties	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Funding
	3-a-9. Collaborate with Planning Department and Redevelopment Board on appropriate actions related to planning, development, and open space uses around Town.	OSC, Planning Dept., ARB	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	3-a-10. Work with Town departments and private groups on collaborative planning to increase access to affordable housing in conjunction with open space.	OSC, ALT, PRC, BOS, DPW, HCA, AHA	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
3-b. Work at the regional level to coordinate planning and development initiatives that protect and enhance open space across jurisdictions.	3-b-1. Coordinate regional open space planning through increased collaboration with organizations such as Mystic River Watershed Association; Alewife Coalition; Friends of Alewife Reservation; the Tri-Community Group (Arlington, Somerville, Cambridge); and Tri-Community Bikeway Group (Arlington, Lexington, Bedford).	OSC, BOS, MAPC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	3-b-2. Continue to work closely with nearby towns on shared open space and recreational resources, such as the Alewife Reservation region (Belmont, Somerville, and Cambridge); Mystic Lakes/River region (Medford and Winchester); and Arlington's Great Meadows, Reservoir, Busa Farm, and McClennen Park areas (Lexington).	OSC, BOS, ACC, PRC, and other Towns' officials	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	3-b-3. Establish better connections with Minuteman National Historic Park, Heritage Way communities, and other entities so that the Town can maximize the visibility of its historic role in the region and enhance tourism.	OSC, HC, BOS, ARB, Planning Dept.	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	MAPC Battle Road Scenic Byways Program
3-c. Engage state officials and state and federal agencies in efforts to acquire, maintain, and manage the Town's open space and recreation resources.	3-c-1. Continue to work with state legislators to support and promote state policies that favor protection of and funding for open space.	OSC, BOS, PRC, DPW, ACC, ALT	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	3-c-2. Support efforts to address CSO pollution and flooding problems and to improve public access to areas bordering Alewife Brook and other state-owned water bodies along Arlington's borders with Cambridge, Somerville, and Belmont.	OSC, BOS, ACC, DCR	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	

Goals & Objectives	Actions	Parties	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Funding
	3-c-3. Research and pursue options to adopt the Community Preservation Act to raise funds for acquisition of open spaces, conservation of current open spaces, development of affordable housing and historic preservation projects on or adjacent to existing open spaces, including parks and playgrounds.	OSC, BOS, PRC, ALT, ACC, HC, Planning Dept., Town Meeting	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	
Goal 4: Increase public awareness, accessibility, and community stewardship of the Town's open spaces and recreational facilities										
4-a. Support volunteer groups for major open spaces and recreational facilities.	4-a-1. Continue to support existing Friends and volunteer groups, and encourage the formation of new groups for open space and recreation sites.	OSC, PRC, ACC, DPW, ALT, Friends groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-a-2. Develop a safe use program for the Minuteman Bikeway.	OSC, ABAC, PRC	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	
4-b. Increase public awareness and educate Town residents about open space and recreational resources.	4-b-1. Encourage residents to participate actively in various Town committees and citizen groups to be well informed about local resources and to participate in opportunities for open space advocacy.	OSC, BOS, PRC, ACC, ALT, volunteer groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-b-2. Prepare handouts, educational materials, and other resources, and present open meetings about open space issues and concerns to encourage greater citizen participation.	OSC, ALT, ACC, PRC, ABAC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-b-3. Update and reprint the book, <i>Walking the Open Spaces of Arlington</i> .	OSC, ACC	NA	NA	X	X	NA	NA	NA	ACC funds, public and private sources
	4-b4. Encourage regular nature walks and environmental education programs for all ages (such as birding, canoeing/kayaking, and cleanup campaigns).	OSC, PRC, ACC, School Dept, PTOs, Recreation Dept.	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-b-5. Work with local youth groups, churches, schools, and other organizations to promote awareness about the Town's open spaces and participation in open space and recreational activities.	OSC and others as listed above	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-b-6. Educate landowners of small and large lots about the benefits of conservation restrictions for themselves and the community at large.	OSC, ALT, ACC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	

Goals & Objectives	Actions	Parties	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Funding
	4-b-7. Continue to support the "adopt an island" garden program and other activities to enhance streetscapes throughout the Town.	OSC, DPW	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-b-8. Continue to sponsor an annual Town Day booth for information sharing, education, and advocacy about open space issues.	OSC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-b-9. Continue to use the local and regional media to promote and inform residents about open space and recreational activities and special events i.e., Arlington Cable Access, Arlington Advocate, Town Email list, Town Website.	OSC, PRC, ACC, volunteer groups	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
4-c. Provide greater use of and improved access to key water bodies, natural areas, and recreational facilities.	4-c-1. Review accessibility concerns at all Town open space, recreational, and historic sites and incorporate improvements into their management plans.	Disability Comm., DPW, PRC, HC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-c-2. Increase the diversity of recreational options to reflect Arlington's changing demographics.	OSC, PRC, School Dept, Council on Aging, Senior Center	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-c-3. Investigate ways to improve public access to pathways along Alewife Brook, Lower Mystic Lake, and the Mystic Valley Parkway, including the Alewife Greenway path.	OSC, DCR	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	DCR
	4-c-4. Pursue initiatives to improve public access to pathways along Mill Brook and around Spy Pond.	OSC, ALT, PRC, ACC	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-c-5. Investigate opportunities for additional outdoor swimming facilities.	PRC, Recreation Dept.	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	PARC
4-d. Support Arlington's efforts for a more environmentally sound Town and region.	4-d-1. Link Town concerns about open space with larger global concerns about air quality, energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and sustainability issues in general.	OSC, BOS, DPW, SA	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-d-2. Encourage public transportation, shared cars (i.e., ZipCar), carpooling, walking, and bicycle commuting as alternatives to automobile use.	OSC, BOS, ABAC, SA, TAC, Walking in Arlington, Safe Routes to School	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	
	4-d-3. Establish more community gardens, and encourage container gardening, farmer's markets, and other local food resources.	PRC, DPW, Garden Club	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	