

# RECREATION

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

In 2014 the Arlington Recreation Department continued to offer a variety of safe, quality programs and facilities for the residents of the Town of Arlington. The Ed Burns Arena at the Veterans Memorial Sport Complex had 2,010 hours of ice rentals and our public skating attendance numbers were 5,023 adults and 8,195 youth/seniors, excluding seasonal skate passes.

The Department has been committed to providing quality programs, special events, and improvements to its many facilities. New programs offered in 2014 include: A Family Fitness Expo, Flag Football, Fall Lacrosse, Middle School Field Hockey, Expanded Travel Basketball Grades, Futsal League, Outdoor Summer Concerts and Performances at the Reservoir Beach, and various spring leagues at the Ed Burns Arena.

Overall the participation numbers in recreational programs have increased from 7,131 participants in 2013 to 9,004 participants in 2014. A total of 1,431 season passes were sold, which is approximately the same number of passes that were sold last year.

The North Union Spray Pool located adjacent to the Thompson Elementary School was renovated and was closed most of the 2014 season. The facility did open in August and was kept open with limited hours throughout the early fall season.

Gibbs Gymnasium continued to house a majority of the recreation indoor programs as well as provide indoor birthday parties and gym rental options for the Arlington community. The Department oversees the rental of the facility, which currently includes various youth activities and organizations, adult basketball, and soccer. Gibbs Gymnasium again hosted over 100 birthday parties during the year.

Arlington Recreation collaborates with various Town organizations to offer Town-wide special events. Such events include the Town Day Road Race, Daddy Daughter Dance, Egg Hunt, Halloween and Special

Winter Public Skate. Two new events this past year included the first department sponsored Art in the Park event at Menotomy Rocks Park and assisting the Arlington Park Alliance with their Moonlight Beach party fundraiser at Reservoir Beach. This year we continued to offer the successful Special Needs Skate Program with the Arlington Catholic High School Boys' & Girls' Hockey team and their coaching staff. Arlington Recreation proudly held their Seventh Annual Golf Tournament at the Sandy Burr Country Club. The tournament was in honor of former Arlington Hockey Club President and Vice President, Cindy Curran, and Jim Carney.

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



<b>Veteran's Memorial Rink</b>	<b>FY2009</b>	<b>FY2010</b>	<b>FY2011</b>	<b>FY2012</b>	<b>FY2013</b>	<b>FY2014</b>
Ice Rental Hours and Lessons	2,086	1,859	1,944	1,962	1,934	2,010
Stick and Puck & Public Skate Hours	552	500	610	622	790	748
Public Skate #'s-Adult	3,824	3,979	4,484	4,258	4708	5,023
Public Skate Passes #'s-Adult	55	58	53	53	31	98
Public Skate #'s-Child/Sen	8,597	7,846	8,317	8,411	8,115	8,195
Public Skate Passes #'s-Child/Sen	92	98	127	79	67	174
Skate Rentals	2,597	2,762	3,235	2,959	3,378	3,931
Skate Sharpening	962	982	1,112	848	691	914
Skate Sharpening Passes	11	20	15	9	16	3
Stick and Puck	452	557	557	657	1,137	1,749

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Season	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Summer	1,349	1,634	1,832	1,823	1,165	2,915
Fall	1,057	920	1,110	1,263	1,862	1,731
Winter	905	1,506	1,207	2,012	1,236	1,860
Spring	732	812	772	786	2,826	2,413
Kids Care Membership	0	0	0	0	42	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,043</b>	<b>4,872</b>	<b>4,921</b>	<b>5,884</b>	<b>7,089</b>	<b>9,004</b>
<b>Reservoir Tags</b>						
Adult Resident	352	455	437	437	423	426
Child Resident	346	443	395	395	376	364
Senior Citizen	51	70	71	71	60	59
Non Resident	13	13	24	24	6	3
Resident Family	290	379	340	340	511	470
Non Resident Family	17	34	27	27	30	0
Resident Family Plus 1	59	70	64	64	74	109
Non Resident Family Plus 1	1	3	6	6	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,431</b>
<b>Reservoir Passes</b>						
<b>Total Daily Passes</b>	<b>4,482</b>	<b>6,081</b>	<b>4,717</b>	<b>5,730</b>	<b>5,374</b>	<b>6,172</b>

\*Seasonal fluctuations between FY2012 and FY 2013 are due to a change in reporting software in FY2013.

Arlington Recreation increased its state license and now operates a licensed pre-school program. The Arlington Kid Care program was opened again in September at the Gibbs Gymnasium. There are currently seventy-eight children enrolled in the afterschool program and twenty students enrolled in the pre-school program.

### Parks and Recreation Commission

Arlington Recreation continues to manage the capital improvement projects for the Park and Recreation Commission. In 2014 the Hibbert Park Playground and the North Union Spray Pool were renovated. The Commission also completed an ADA self assessment of all properties under their jurisdiction.

### 2014 Objectives

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

## PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

In 2014 the Park and Recreation Commission worked closely with Arlington's Recreation Director, Joseph Connelly, and various Town of Arlington organizations and volunteers. The focus of the commission was to improve the Town's public recreation facilities and develop policies that address the increased and varied demand for use of Arlington's open spaces and playing fields. The Commission continued improving parks, playing fields, playgrounds, and open spaces as outlined in its Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan. The Commission also developed new policies to address increased user requirements for open space in Town and participated in a variety of committees, working to address open space and recreation issues.

### Capital Improvements

The process of identifying and implementing capital improvements to areas under the jurisdiction of the Park and Recreation Commission involves establishing a priority of need; application for and approval of funding; coordination with user groups and open space advocates; development of plans and specifications by qualified consultants; selection of contractors through the public bid process and construction of the projects. The length of time for each project varies, depending on the availability of funds and complexity of the project.

The main projects completed this year were the renovations to the North Union Spray Park and the Hib-

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bert Street Park/Playground. The North Union Spray Park project focused on total replacement of all water play features and the outdated electrical and plumbing systems for a recreational asset that is heavily used by many in the warm days of summer. New picnic tables, benches, landscaping and an ADA compliant pathway were included. For the renovation of Hibbert Street Park/Playground, outdated play equipment was replaced with elements to serve a variety of ages, while a grassy area for free play and other passive recreation uses was added. The layout and entrances of this small neighborhood “pocket park” were also improved. The design for both locations was done by Weston and Sampson with strong neighborhood input, and construction was completed by JNJ Sacca in the summer.

Also in 2014, an ADA study was completed by the Institute for Human Center Design (IHCD), focused on surveying the Town’s Park and Recreation sites and programs with the following goals achieved:

Provided an evaluation for the Town Recreation Department of services and programs to determine compliance with ADA regulations;

- Provided an evaluation of Town Park and Recreation Commission facilities, including buildings, playgrounds, fields and parks.
- Prepared a Self Evaluation and Transition Plan that complies with the current ADA standards.
- Identified a grievance procedure and public notice that conforms to ADA/504 requirements.
- Provided the Town with preliminary cost estimates for remediation work required as a result of the evaluations.

The study provides a plan for upgrading recreation properties and programs to be in compliance with the latest ADA standards.

## 2015 Capital Projects

In 2015 the Commission is looking to complete the renovation of the Spy Pond Tennis Courts. The project will include the complete replacement of the aging courts with the possible addition of one court to facilitate tournament play. Landscaping, site furnishings, and ADA requirements will be considered and a request for recommendations on traffic and parking improvements in the area has been made to the Town’s Transportation Advisory Committee. Safety improvements at Summer Street and Buck Baseball fields are planned to increase protection from stray balls for neighbors, motorists and other park users, and ADA improvements will begin to be addressed.

## Policies and Other Projects

To ensure park protection and reduce disruption to other public uses, the Commission continues to re-

view, define, and update policies for its recreational facilities and programs. Policies and forms to request picnics and special events at Arlington’s parks, the field permit policy, gifts policy, community gardens rules, and a town-wide policy on leaving toys and other items at parks, fields and playground are available on-line and at the Recreation Department offices. The Commission is currently working on formalizing a Rink Permitting Policy to ensure fairness in scheduling and a broader understanding of the Town’s obligations to the State’s Department of Conservation and Recreation.



The Commission also works with the many sports groups, “Friends” organizations, and other local Committees and Commissions with an interest in parks, playgrounds and playing fields. Again in 2014 field users and members of various “Friends” groups continued to cite maintenance concerns, especially related to erosion of pathways at Spy Pond Park and other parks. An initial fundraising event was held at the Reservoir to benefit all parks in Town. The Commission worked with members of the Public Arts Committee to host the “Art Rocks Menotomy” event and is collaborating with APAC to create a process and policy around the display of more public art in the parks and planning for an event at Spy Pond Park.

Finally, an off-site meeting devoted to setting goals and objectives and a refinement of the Commissions roles was held. For 2015, these goals include:

- Developing a joint vision with the Department of Public Works on parks, playgrounds, and fields and establishing closer relationships with other groups and organizations in the Town.
- Establishing a maintenance fund and policy on how the fund is used.
- Fostering preservation and beautification projects.
- Identifying needs and priorities within our parks and playgrounds and updating the Capital Plan with changes in priorities and funding.
- Ensuring policies remain current to accommodate changing community needs.