

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 chapter 6, to serve as the overall community goals for this 2015-2022 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, represent the entire Arlington community and its commitment to open space and recreation issues.

The Town has also been engaged in developing a Master Plan, which includes many recommendations and implementation actions covering open space, natural resources, historic landscapes, and public facilities including recreation. The OSC has contributed to this broader planning process to ensure that the goals and objectives in both plans are compatible and will reinforce each other. The Arlington Master Plan was adopted by the Arlington Redevelopment Board in February 2015.

B. Goals for 2015–2022

The following five goals and associated objectives guide the 2015-2022 Plan and are based on a review of the Town’s accomplishments in meeting the goals and objectives outlined in the 2007-2014 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 protecting and managing open space and recreation facilities, working collaboratively within the Town and throughout the region to ensure continued protection of our fragile environment, and enhancing public awareness, accessibility, 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. The detailed actions to achieve these goals and objectives are listed in chapter 9, Action Plan.

- Goal 1. Acquire ecologically valuable undeveloped lands or ensure their protection through conservation restrictions or other means.**
- Goal 2. Preserve, maintain, 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, maintain, and enhance the Town’s natural heritage, including watersheds, water bodies, native flora and fauna, and all existing natural areas.
 - 2-b.** Preserve, maintain, and enhance Arlington’s parks, playgrounds, playing fields, and other outdoor recreational facilities.
 - 2-c.** Preserve, maintain, and enhance Arlington’s historic open space sites and cultural landscapes.

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, fund, and manage open space goals and objectives, especially ongoing maintenance of all resources and facilities.

3-b. Work at the regional level to coordinate planning and development initiatives that protect and enhance open spaces and historic landscapes across jurisdictions.

3-c. Engage state officials and state and federal agencies in efforts by the Town to acquire, maintain, and manage the Town's open space and outdoor recreation resources.

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-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.

Goal 5. Use environmentally sustainable planning and engineering approaches for climate change and natural resources management.

5-a. Promote adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its effects

5-b. Improve water resources management, control flooding, and maintain ecological diversity (flora and fauna) in water bodies and wetlands

5-c. Support Arlington's efforts to create a more environmentally sound Town and region.



*Volunteers create a rain garden at Spy Pond Park using native plants.
Courtesy of Friends of Spy Pond Park.*