

Arlington Conservation News

Spring 2018

Arlington Conservation Commission

The Great Arlington Clean-Up



Every year the Town hosts an annual Spring clean-up day. This year Arlington is collaborating with 100 communities across the state through Keep Massachusetts Beautiful (KMB) in the Great Massachusetts Clean-Up. Arlington will host 2 clean-up sites. Come out on Earth Day and help us clean up the Symmes Woods AND Mill Brook at Wellington Park. Gloves and trash bags for litter removal will be provided. Come for as little or as much of the time as you want. The Symmes Woods site will be overseen by our Conservation Agent and the Wellington Park site will be managed by the Mystic River Waterfront Association. Land Stewards are encouraged to attend the Symmes Woods site where we will be removing Norway Maple saplings in accordance with the Symmes Wood Management Plan developed by the Arlington Land Trust. For more information visit: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/18277/18?curdate=4-22-2018&curm=4&cury=2018>

Spy Pond Shoreline CPA Project

The Commission is managing the Spy Pond Shoreline Stabilization Project, funded by Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. The project will preserve shoreline habitat and improve water quality while addressing erosion. Phase 2 of the project is currently underway at the following four portions of the public shoreline:

- Spy Pond Park
- Arlington Boys and Girls Club
- Scannell Field
- Spring Valley Street

A public meeting was held on November 14, 2017 to present and gain feedback on the 30% Design Concept. The Conservation Commission also held a public info session at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 7, 2017. The final design presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2018 from 7:00-8:30pm in the Mural Room of the Senior Center. Construction documents and permitting will be carried out over the summer in hopes of started construction early next Spring.

Mystic Riverfront Restoration Project



Almost 5 years ago on May 31, 2013, a 10,000 gallon tanker filled with red-dyed diesel fuel overturned at the rotary at the intersection of Mystic Valley Parkway and Medford Street in Arlington, immediately adjacent to the Mystic River. All but about 400 gallons of fuel spilled from the tanker onto the roadway, where it flowed into catch basins and then directly into the Mystic River.

During cleanup and assessment activities, the Arlington Conservation Commission actively participated in site inspections with MassDEP, reviewed environmental reports, and approved the final cleanup.

The **Mystic Riverfront Restoration Project**, funded by a Natural Resource Defense (NRD) grant to the Town of Arlington, began on November 2, 2017. The project will create a native riverbank (riparian) habitat and mini-park area and improve storm water quality at the broken concrete outfall located along the Mystic River at the end of Park Street in the area that was directly impacted by the spill (see photo). The 1st Public Meeting was held June 2017.

The project is currently ongoing. Removal of the damaged headwall, replacement of the drainage pipe, and construction of a new outfall has already been completed. The 2nd Public Meeting is planned for late Spring of 2018 at which point we will determine dates for additional planting efforts and community involvement. Stay tuned for announcements!

Snow Disposal Guidance



Mill Brook



Segregated Wetlands

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's *Snow Disposal Guidelines* offers guidance on the proper way to dispose of snow near environmental resources. Snow disposal into a wetland, riverfront, pond, lake, stream, or floodway can have insurmountable consequences on the ecology of these resources. For this reason, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations and the Town Bylaw prohibit the dumping of snow in an environmental resource area.

Plowed snow is often contaminated by road salt, sand, litter, and automotive pollutants. As snow melts, these contaminants are transported into surface water or through the soil where they may eventually reach the groundwater. Road salt and other pollutants can contaminate water supplies and are toxic to aquatic life at certain levels. Sand washed into water bodies can create sand bars or fill in wetlands and ponds, impacting aquatic life, causing flooding, and affecting our use of these resources. To read more about this issue, visit the MassDEP site: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/snow-disposal-guidance>.

To locate environmental resources in Arlington, view the interactive [Wetland and Floodplain map](#).

If you have questions about safe removal/disposal techniques please [contact the Conservation Commission](#).

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Ecofest:
Saturday, March 24, 2018, 10:00 am-2:00 pm in Town Hall
- ◆ Spy Pond Final Public Meeting:
Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 7:00-8:30 pm in the Mural Room of the Senior Center
- ◆ Mill Brook Public Meeting #2:
Drop-in and on-site walking tour
Saturday, April 14, 2018, 10:00am-2:00pm at Wellington Park
- ◆ The Great Arlington Clean-Up: Sunday, April 22, 2018 (Earth Day), 1:30-3:30 pm at Symmes Woods
- ◆ May is American Wetlands Month!
- ◆ DCR Weed Watchers Training:
Thursday, June 14, 2018 6:00-8:00 pm in the Mural Room of the Senior Center. Limited space, RSVPs required.

14th Annual Spy Pond Trails Day

Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 9 AM - 1 PM

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Meet your neighbors, make an impact, try something new, and learn valuable tips for maintaining your own property. Tasks will include vegetation pruning, bagging litter, controlling invasive plants, and maintaining access trails to the pond. Come for as little or as much time as you like. Equipment and snacks provided. Hosted by the Spy Pond Environment Task Group (volunteers working in partnership with the town), the Boy Scouts, the Belmont/Arlington Crew, and the Appalachian Mountain Club. Participants should bring sturdy footwear, work clothes, a hat, sunscreen, and rain gear. Liability waivers will be available and must be signed by all participants (under 18 need approval from—and are preferably accompanied by—a parent or guardian). The Task Group will be working along the path that parallels Route 2, between Lake St. and Pleasant St. Parking is recommended at: take exit 60 off Rt. 2, head towards Mass. Ave. (N) on Lake St., first left onto Colonial Drive, left onto Roanoke, left and park along Spy Pond Parkway. For more info, contact Brad Barber, Co-Chair of the Spy Pond Committee at (781) 641-2506 or bradb@shore.net.

Other Conservation Questions?

Please contact Lela Shepherd, Environmental Planner / Conservation Agent at lshepherd@town.arlington.ma.us.

Or call the Conservation Office at 781-316-3012
Located in Town Hall, Arlington, MA