

RECREATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Arlington's Recreation Department continued to offer a variety of programs and facilities for the residents in 2018. The Department operates as a self-supporting enterprise in the Town and does not utilize general fund dollars to support the staff, programs, or the Ed Burns Arena.

The Ed Burns Arena had another solid year in 2018. The chart below gives an overview of the usage at the rink for the previous 5 years:



Skating on the rink at Ed Burns Arena.

ED BURNS ARENA	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Ice Rental Hours	2,010	2,055	2,032	1,795*	1,643
Public Skate #'s-Adult	5,023	4,567	4,795	6,288	5,730
Public Skate Passes #'s-Adult	98	116	107	65	55
Public Skate #'s-Child/Sen	8,195	7,091	7,643	4,805	6,623
Public Skate Passes #'s-Child/Sen	174	148	140	109	86
Skate Rentals	3,931	3,621	3,325	3,386	4,106
Skate Sharpening	914	785	845	528	636
Stick and Puck	1,749	1,005	1,377	1,425	1,469

*In FY17 Program Software Changed, ice now tracked by time vs. slot used.

The Department has been committed to providing quality programs and special events. The chart below gives you an overview of the Department's participation numbers for the past 5 years:

Season	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Summer	2,915	2,403	3,806	3,469	3,197
Fall	1,731	1,097	1,370	1,265	1,300
Winter	1,860	2,299	2,333	2,445	2,525
Spring	2,413	1,184	1,529	2,145	2,223
Kids Care Memberships	85	148	163	135	124
Total	9,004	7,131	9,201	9,459	9,369

Overall the participation numbers in recreational programs has fluctuated over the past five years. Over the last three years program numbers have been steady at over 9,000 participants annually. However there will be a number of factors that could impact these numbers moving forward.

The access to a primary recreational program space has the biggest potential impact on the Department's ability to maintain participant numbers. Continued access to school gymnasiums will be critical in the Department's ability to maintain its level of programming. It is important for the Department to continually explore alternative program locations.



North Union Spray Pool



Slide at Robbins Farm Park

RECREATION



Reservoir Beach. Photo: Nancy Campbell

The numbers at the Reservoir bathing beach have fluctuated over the past 5 years. The chart below represents the number of beach goers:

Reservoir Tags	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Adult Resident	426	363	279	215	132
Child Resident	364	374	339	198	153
Senior Citizen	59	74	68	53	56
Non Resident	3	0	0	0	0
Resident Family	470	459	325	272	223
Non Resident Family	0	0	0	0	0
Resident Family Plus 1	109	11	79	66	58
Total Tags Sold	1,431	1,281	1,090	804	622
Total Daily Passes	6,172	9,565	8,806	11,782	9,239

Supply and demand continues to be a challenge with the parks and playing fields in Arlington. The Department works closely with Public Works to try and balance usage with conditions. The number of fields has remained constant over the years, but the influx in the school age population has increased the demand. There is also a growing request for new leagues and pick-up adult usage. The Department will continue to work with the various user groups, friends groups, and residents to seek solutions for these challenges.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Arlington Recreation continues to manage the capital improvement projects for the Park and Recreation Commission. Projects in 2018 consisted of:

- Reservoir Master Plan – Completed
- Reservoir Phase I – Pump House design work completed
- Robbins Farm Project – Completed including, American with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades, field renovations, and historical elements at the site.

2019 Goals

The Department will be working once again with Arlington Public Schools to continue to offer its state licensed afterschool program. The steady growth in the school age population will continue to increase the need for afterschool recreational space, further compounding the challenges in 2019 and beyond. The Department has a number of projects on the books for 2019 including ADA upgrades, completing the Reservoir Pump Building and beginning design work for next phase, North Union Playground Project, and beginning the Indoor Space Feasibility Study. The Department is in the process of requesting funding for additional projects in 2019.