

RECREATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Arlington's Recreation Department continued to offer a variety of programs and facilities for the residents in 2019. 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 chart below gives an overview of the usage at the rink for the previous 5 years:



Skating at Ed Burns Arena

Ed Burns Arena	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
Ice Rental Hours	2,055	2,032	1,795*	1,643	1,384
Public Skate - Adult	4,567	4,795	6,288	5,730	4,221
Public Skate - Child/Senior	7,091	7,643	4,805	6,623	7,077
Public Skate Passes - Adult	116	107	65	55	24
Public Skate Passes - Child/Senior	148	140	109	86	61
Skate Rentals	3,621	3,325	3,386	4,106	3,414
Skate Sharpening	785	845	528	636	359
Stick and Puck	1,005	1,377	1,425	1,469	1,102

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	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
Summer	2,403	3,806	3,469	3,197	2,807
Fall	1,097	1,370	1,265	1,300	1,042
Winter	2,299	2,333	2,445	2,525	2,387
Spring	1,184	1,529	2,145	2,223	1,306
Kids Care Memberships	148	163	135	124	169
Total	7,131	9,201	9,459	9,369	7,711

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, cafeterias and classrooms 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.



Rejuvenating grass at the playing field at Robbins Farm Park

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

Reservoir	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY2019
Adult Resident	363	279	215	132	142
Child Resident	374	339	198	153	122
Senior Citizen	74	68	53	56	42
Resident Family	470	404	338	281	217
Total Tags Sold	1,281	1,090	804	622	523
Total Daily Passes	9,565	8,806	11,782	9,239	8,000

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 2019 consisted of:

- Reservoir Phase I of the Arlington Reservoir Master Plan improvements began last fall and included a complete overhaul of the circulation, filtration and disinfection system inside the pump house as well as the piping under the beach to the water. Later phases will include a new playground, a perimeter loop trail around the Res, as well as improvements to the parking lot and a boat ramp.
- Playground Study – The Department hired an outside consulting firm to do an assessment and recommendation report for twenty (20) of our Town-owned playgrounds. Also identified in this report are maintenance needs, short-term retrofits, and surfacing needs.
- North Union/Lussiano Playground

2020 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, as well as the Arlington High School Project further compounding the afterschool, programming and field challenges in 2020 and beyond. The Department has a number of projects on the books for 2020 including ADA upgrades at the Ed Burns Arena, completing the Reservoir Pump Building, and beginning design work for Reservoir Phase II Project, demolition and construction of the North Union Playground Project, and beginning to implement upgrades in regards to the Playground Study.



Phase 1 work at Arlington Reservoir