

SECTION 5. INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

Arlington's open space offers a diverse combination of historical, natural, and recreational areas. This chapter discusses the most significant publicly and privately owned open space and recreational facilities and provides a listing in table format of other parcels.

A. Brief History of Arlington's Open Space

Arlington's open space is a precious and limited resource that has been difficult to acquire, develop, and maintain. For example, much of the open space inventory along the Mill Brook corridor was reclaimed from abandoned millponds, dumping areas or fallow marshes. The Minuteman Bikeway now rests on what was once a railroad corridor. This rail/trail conversion took almost 20 years to complete after its original conception in the early 1970s and was dedicated in 1992. Today, thousands of people use the bikeway, which connects many of the town's open and historical spaces, for both recreation and commuting. It is

regularly identified as one of the town's favorite open space resources.

Charles Eliot's 1926 Town Plan provided a thoughtful blueprint for preserving open space as a cohesive and important element of the town's layout. Some of Eliot's ideas have lived on in subsequent open space plans, but many of his ideas have not been realized, and some of those opportunities are now lost. Included in his plans was a linear park along Mill Brook and a Town Center Park. Eliot also suggested offering the public complete access to town water bodies. That vision is still pursued by the continued development of regional greenways and improved access to local water bodies.

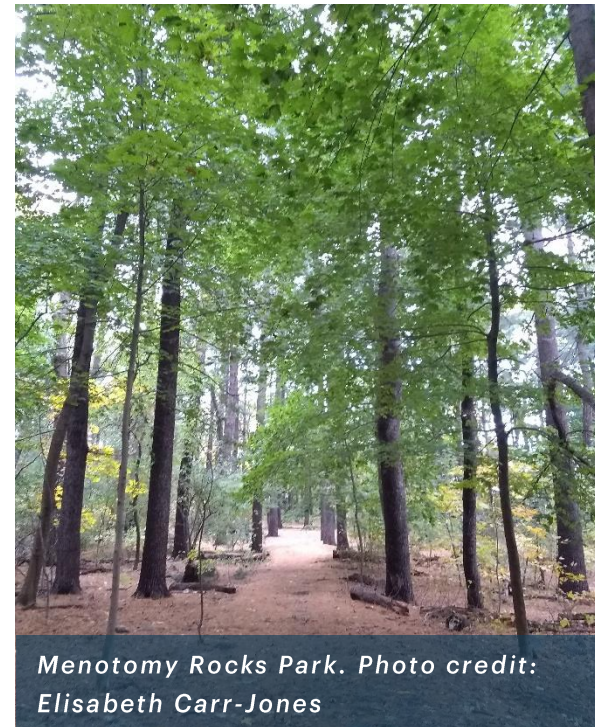
Access to open space has been and will likely continue to be a challenge for the Town of Arlington. As an inner suburb of the Boston/Cambridge metropolitan region, Arlington has been nearly built out for decades with dense residential neighborhoods on small lots that offer residents little private open space. This puts more pressure on the town's existing open space and

recreational areas to meet the needs of residents of all ages and abilities.

Arlington has had no opportunity to avail itself of means designed for legal protections for forestry, agriculture, or horticultural uses (Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B); there are no such properties in the town. State-owned land managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is part of the Alewife Brook Reservation and the Mystic River Reservation. Other DCR parcels in Arlington include the Ed Burns Arena and land around the Medford Boat Club on the Mystic Lakes. The state Department of Public Works and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) also manage a number of parcels, and Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) owns the footpath along the southern edge of Spy Pond.

These state-managed parcels receive protection as Article 97 lands. Article 97 protected lands are those purchased for the purpose of parkland and conservation of open space and are under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department or the Conservation Commission. The protection offered to Article 97 lands is that a two-thirds vote of the local governing body (i.e., Town Meeting) as well as a two-thirds vote of the State legislature is required to transfer them to another purpose. A number of municipal properties also receive this protection.

Arlington's Town-owned open spaces, designated in the Open Space Zoning District, have been placed under the jurisdiction of a Town department or commission most appropriate for the designated use of the land, predominantly the Park and Recreation Commission or the Conservation Commission. They are the stewards of the lands under their jurisdiction, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works which generally performs maintenance on all properties. Any proposed disposition of these properties must be brought before Town Meeting for public hearing and approval.



B. Arlington's Open Space and Recreational Resources

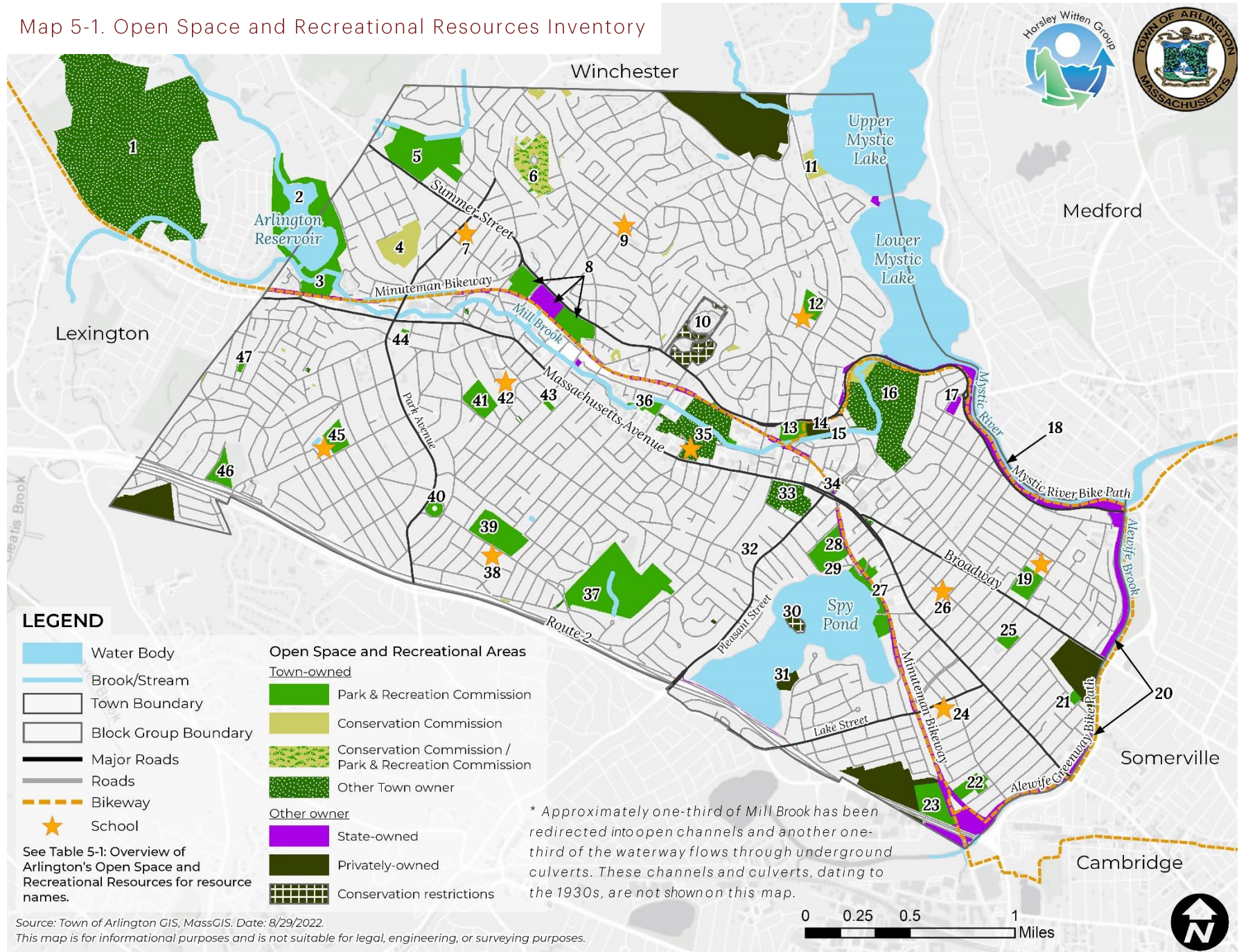
Currently Arlington has more than 550 acres of publicly held open space, which include Arlington's Great Meadows and some of the land surrounding the Arlington Reservoir located in the Town of Lexington. Using the key below, these resources can be located on Map 5-1. An additional 118 acres are privately owned, of

which the Winchester Country Club, Belmont Country Club, Arlington Catholic High School Field, and Kelwyn Manor Playground are the only parcels used for recreation. Arlington has not acquired any new open space or recreational areas in recent years.

Map 5-1 Key

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|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Arlington's Great Meadows | 16. Meadowbrook Park & Mt. Pleasant Cemetery | 31. Kelwyn Manor Park |
| 2. Arlington Reservoir | 17. Parallel Park | 32. Parmenter School Park |
| 3. Hurd/Reservoir Fields | 18. Mystic River Reservation | 33. Civic Block/Town Garden |
| 4. Mount Gilboa | 19. North Union Park/Lussiano Field & Thompson School | 34. Whittemore Park & Uncle Sam Plaza |
| 5. McClennen Park | 20. Alewife Brook Reservation & Greenway | 35. Arlington High School |
| 6. Turkey Hill Reservation | 21. Waldo Park | 36. Wellington Park |
| 7. Peirce School | 22. Magnolia Park & Fields | 37. Menotomy Rocks Park |
| 8. Summer Street Sports Complex, Buck Field, Hill's Hill & Ed Burns Arena | 23. Thorndike Fields | 38. Brackett School |
| 9. Stratton School | 24. Hardy School | 39. Robbins Farm Park |
| 10. Symmes Woods & Parks | 25. Crosby School Park | 40. Park Circle Water Tower |
| 11. Window-On-The-Mystic & Mystic Lakes | 26. Gibbs School | 41. Crusher Lot |
| 12. Bishop School | 27. Spy Pond Park & Scannell Field | 42. Ottoson Middle School |
| 13. Buzzell Fields | 28. Spy Pond Field | 43. Reinhart Park/Cutter School |
| 14. Arlington Catholic Field | 29. Boys & Girls Club | 44. Locke School Playground |
| 15. Cooke's Hollow | 30. Elizabeth Island | 45. Dallin School/Florence Ave. Park |
| | | 46. Poets Corner |
| | | 47. Hibbert Park |

Map 5-1. Open Space and Recreational Resources Inventory



The narratives in this section describe the Town’s open space and recreational areas and other noteworthy open spaces, including a brief history of the parcel and its conservation and/or recreational use. The first section describes four corridors and greenways that span much of the town. The second section includes descriptions and site maps of 20 major open spaces and recreational facilities. The final section presents information on smaller parks, historic landscapes, gardens, and other recreational and natural areas.

Table 5-1 provides an overview of the public resources and active and passive recreational opportunities available at these sites, such as playgrounds, ballfields, or walking trails. All public and private open space and recreation sites in Arlington are listed in Appendix B, detailing inventory requirements outlined in Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services (DCS) Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Workbook (2008). Arlington has no lands designated with an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) or listed as Chapter 61 land.

Table 5-1. Overview of Arlington’s Open Space and Recreational Resources

Map No.*	Resource	Street Location	Bikeway Access	Playing Fields	Play-ground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Woods, Trails	Garden	Picnic Sitting Areas	Other Features
20	Alewife Brook Reservation & Greenway	Mass Ave/ Broadway/ other points	yes					yes		yes	boardwalks
14	Arlington Catholic Field (private)	Summer Street		football; soccer; lacrosse							
1	Arlington's Great Meadows	Mass Ave and Maple Street in Lexington	Yes					yes			boardwalks
35	Arlington High School	Mass Avenue	yes (in 2022-23)	football; baseball; softball/ little league; soccer; lacrosse	yes		yes (2)			yes	track lanes

Map No.*	Resource	Street Location	Bikeway Access	Playing Fields	Play-ground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Woods, Trails	Garden	Picnic Sitting Areas	Other Features
2	Arlington Reservoir	Lowell Street	yes, via Hurd Field	volleyball/ multi-purpose court	yes			yes	yes	yes	Mill Brook Corridor; swimming beach (seasonal)
12	Bishop School	Columbia Road		softball/ little league; soccer	yes		yes		yes	yes	
29	Boys and Girls Club (private)	Pond Lane	yes				yes				indoor gyms; swimming pool
38	Brackett School	Eastern Avenue		multi-purpose	yes (2)		yes		yes	yes	
8	Buck Field	Summer Street Sports Complex	yes	softball/ little league	yes					yes	
13	Buzzell Fields	Summer Street	yes	2 softball/ little league	yes		yes			yes	
33	Civic Block/ Town Garden	Mass Avenue/ Library Way/ Maple Street			yes			yes	yes	yes	
15	Cooke's Hollow	Mystic Street						yes	yes	yes	Mill Brook Corridor; waterfall
25	Crosby School Park	Winter/ Oxford Streets		multi-purpose	yes	yes (4)	yes			yes	
41	Crusher Lot	Gray/Oakland Streets						yes			

Map No.*	Resource	Street Location	Bikeway Access	Playing Fields	Play-ground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Woods, Trails	Garden	Picnic Sitting Areas	Other Features
45	Dallin School/ Florence Avenue Park	Florence Avenue		softball/ little league; soccer/ multi- purpose	yes (2)		yes		yes	yes	seasonal water sprinkler
30	Elizabeth Island	Spy Pond Park						yes		yes	boat landings
26	Gibbs School	Tufts/Foster Streets			yes (2)		yes		yes	yes	
24	Hardy School	Lake Street	yes		yes (2)		yes		yes	yes	
47	Hibbert Park	Hibbert Street			yes					yes	
8	Hill's Hill Field and Woods	Summer Street Sports Complex	yes	soccer				yes			
3	Hurd/ Reservoir Fields	Drake Road	yes	2 softball/ little league; soccer				yes			Mill Brook Corridor
31	Kelwyn Manor Park (private)	Spy Pond Parkway		multi- purpose	yes					yes	seasonal beach
44	Locke School Playground	Davis Road			yes					yes	
22	Magnolia Park and Fields	Herbert Street	yes	soccer; lacrosse	yes		yes		yes	yes	
5	McClennen Park	Summer Street		1 little league; 2 soccer/ mixed use	yes			yes		yes	skateboard ramps; pond

Map No.*	Resource	Street Location	Bikeway Access	Playing Fields	Play-ground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Woods, Trails	Garden	Picnic Sitting Areas	Other Features
16	Meadowbrook Park	Mystic Street/ Mt. Pleasant Cemetery						yes			Mill Brook Corridor; wetlands
37	Menotomy Rocks Park	Jason Street			yes			yes		yes	Hill's Pond
-	Minuteman Bikeway	Town-wide	yes							yes	
4	Mount Gilboa	Crescent Hill Road						yes			Boston vistas
18	Mystic River Reservation	Mystic Valley Parkway	yes in 2023					yes			Mystic Lakes vistas
19	North Union Park/ Lussiano Field	Thompson School/ North Union Street		softball/ little league; soccer/ multi-purpose	yes		yes		yes	yes	spray park
42	Ottoson Middle School	Acton Street		softball/ little league; multi-purpose					yes		
17	Parallel Park	Medford Street			yes		yes			yes	
40	Park Circle Water Tower	Park Avenue									fruit trees
32	Parmenter School Park	Irving Street			yes		yes				
7	Peirce School	Park Avenue Extension			yes (2)		yes		yes	yes	
46	Poets Corner	Dow Avenue		softball/ little league	yes		yes			yes	

Map No.*	Resource	Street Location	Bikeway Access	Playing Fields	Play-ground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Woods, Trails	Garden	Picnic Sitting Areas	Other Features
43	Reinhart Park/ Cutter School	Robbins Road/ School Street			yes					yes	
39	Robbins Farm Park	Eastern Avenue		baseball; soccer/ lacrosse	yes		yes		yes	yes	Boston vistas; sledding hill
27	Scannell Field	Linwood Street / Spy Pond Park	yes	softball/ little league					yes	yes	
28	Spy Pond Field	Pond Lane/ Wellington Street	yes	baseball; softball/ little league; soccer/ lacrosse		yes (5)				yes	Play Fair Arch and Field House
27	Spy Pond Park	Pond Lane	yes		yes			yes	yes	yes	boat ramp; fishing pier
9	Stratton School Pheasant Avenue Park	Mountain Avenue			yes		yes		yes	yes	
8	Summer Street Sports Complex	Summer Street	yes	baseball; field hockey	yes		yes			yes	Ed Burns Arena, ice skating rink
10	Symmes Woods and Parks	Summer Street/ Symmes Road						yes	yes	yes	Boston vistas
23	Thorndike Fields	Margaret Street	yes	3 multi-purpose							off-leash dog park
6	Turkey Hill Reservation	Dodge Street						yes			vistas

Map No.*	Resource	Street Location	Bikeway Access	Playing Fields	Play-ground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Woods, Trails	Garden	Picnic Sitting Areas	Other Features
21	Waldo Park	Waldo Street			yes		yes				
36	Wellington Park	Grove St.	yes		yes	yes (5)		yes		yes	Mill Brook Corridor; climbing wall
34	Whittemore Park	Mass Avenue/ Mystic Street	yes							yes	Dallin Art Museum
11	Window-On-The-Mystic	Mystic Street						yes		yes	views of Mystic Lakes
34	Uncle Sam Plaza	Mass Avenue/ Mystic Street	yes							yes	Visitor Center

* See Map 5-1 and associated key.

1. Corridors and Greenways

Alewife Brook Reservation and Greenway

The 1.4-mile-long section of the Alewife Brook Reservation and Greenway in Arlington runs beside the Alewife Brook on the town's eastern border, parallel to Alewife Brook Parkway. This area is part of the Alewife Brook Reservation, a Massachusetts state park located in Cambridge, Arlington, and Somerville, managed by DCR. The Greenway consists of an accessible pathway and boardwalks over several wetland stretches. Completed in 2013, it starts at the Minuteman Bikeway near Magnolia and Thorndike Fields and the MBTA Alewife T Station, follows the Alewife Brook to

Bicentennial Park at Massachusetts Avenue and then continues to the intersection with the Mystic Valley Parkway near the Medford line. The pathway offers a pleasant walk or bicycle ride, and the brook is accessible by canoe or kayak when the water level is high enough. The Greenway links to the Fresh Pond Pathway and Watertown Greenway along the Charles River. To the north, it links to Medford and the Mystic River Reservation.

Size: 120 acres total with approximately 15 acres in Arlington

Managing Agency/Owner: DCR

Current Use: Transportation/Recreation

Mill Brook Corridor

Mill Brook is formed by the confluence of Munroe and Sickie Brooks (a.k.a. Cataldo Brook), which flow south and east from Lexington and meet next to the Arlington Reservoir. Arlington's Great Meadows in East Lexington is a large wetland that contributes to the source and flow of water in Mill Brook. Munroe Brook was dammed in the early 1870s to form the Arlington Reservoir, and spillways now control the amount of water discharged into Mill Brook.

Mill Brook drops about 140 feet on its way from the Reservoir to Lower Mystic Lake over a distance of about 2.7 miles. Mill Brook flows parallel to Massachusetts Avenue and the Minuteman Bikeway eastward to Arlington Center, where the brook turns northeastward to cross under Mystic Street and flows through Mount Pleasant Cemetery and Meadowbrook Park into Lower Mystic Lake. More than 40% of the brook is culverted and 30% is channelized but exposed. Only a few short sections of the brook are in an open, natural condition.

About 35% of the land within 100 yards of the brook is owned by the Town of Arlington, and these public areas are used primarily for open space and recreational activities (e.g., playing fields, tennis courts, climbing wall, playgrounds, and parks). The areas not owned by the Town are largely industrial and commercial

properties, a few historical sites, and several residential neighborhoods.

The entire brook corridor needs substantial restoration and remediation to improve biodiversity, water quality, drainage, and flood control. The 2010 Mill Brook Linear Park Report examined the brook in seven sections, assessing conditions, challenges, and opportunities related to environmental, recreational, flood control, economic, and transportation issues. In 2019, Arlington completed the Mill Brook Corridor Report, which supplements the 2010 report and outlines new opportunities to create a vision and identity for the corridor. Recommendations of the Corridor Report include improving environmental quality and public access.

Managing Agency/Owner: More than 100 public and private owners/abutters

Current Use: Recreation/Conservation

Minuteman Bikeway

The Minuteman Bikeway, a converted Boston and Maine Railroad corridor, was completed in 1992 after more than 20 years of planning and construction. At just over 10 miles long, it begins at the Arlington/Cambridge border near the Alewife MBTA Station, passes through Arlington and Lexington, and ends near Bedford Center. Each of the three towns is responsible for the section in

its community, and efforts to strengthen regional oversight are ongoing. In 2000 the approximately three-mile section that passes through the entire length of Arlington was renamed the Donald R. Marquis/ Minuteman Bikeway in recognition of the former Town Manager who was a strong supporter and advocate for the creation of the Bikeway.

The Bikeway travels through commercial, industrial, and residential areas and open spaces. In addition to being a popular commuter route, the Bikeway is a linear park that connects significant historical sites and attractions as well as many conservation areas and park lands in Arlington, Lexington, and Bedford.

Volunteers coordinated by the Department of Planning and Community Development and the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee conduct counts of Bikeway users regularly on a weekday and weekend day. Due to the pandemic, the last count was done in 2019. Volunteers tallied 1,037 users on Tuesday, May 14, and 4,865 users on Saturday, May 18, for a total of 5,902. Cyclists made up the majority at 55% of all users, followed by walkers at 29%, joggers at 11%, children in carriers at 3%, and others making up 2%.



Minuteman Bikeway. Photo credit: Wendy Richter

DPW plows the Arlington stretch following winter storms, so it is accessible to bikers and walkers. Severe weather events, including flood damage and microbursts, regularly damage the Bikeway surface, and the DPW has had difficulty keeping up with maintenance of both the surface and vegetated shoulders. Local volunteers help with landscape maintenance of invasive plants and trash clean-ups. Several study projects and grants to improve Bikeway conditions and connections to other trails are being conducted (see Sections 7 and 9).

Size: 30.1 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Towns of Arlington, Lexington, and Bedford/MBTA

Current Use: Transportation/Recreation

Mystic River Reservation

The Mystic River Reservation is a state park and nature preserve managed by DCR encompassing about 330 acres in the communities of Arlington, Winchester, Medford, Somerville, Everett, and Chelsea. The narrow section in Arlington parallels the Mystic River and Parkway starting at the river's intersection with Alewife Brook in northeast Arlington and continuing to the parkway's intersection with Mystic Street. A walking path and/or sidewalk and some benches are available the length of the Arlington section of the reservation.

Following an oil spill in 2013 on the parkway near the intersection with Park Street, Arlington was able to obtain funding for natural resource restoration through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The restoration project, completed in 2019, created a native riverbank (riparian) habitat, added flood storage, improved stormwater quality, and provided opportunities for community participation and educational signage.

Size: Approximately 12 acres in Arlington

Managing Agency/Owner: DCR

Current Use: Transportation/Recreation/Conservation

2. Major Open Spaces and Recreational Resources

The following descriptions of the Town's major open spaces and recreational resources include individual site maps depicting major entrances (E), parking areas (P), and walking trails (dotted lines).

Arlington's Great Meadows

The largest open space resource owned by the Town of Arlington contains approximately 183 acres of land but is located entirely in Lexington as a result of a water supply management system installed during the mid-nineteenth century and later discontinued. The largest part of Arlington's Great Meadows is a flat, marshy plain containing a series of hummocks. Surrounding the plain are wooded uplands braided by walking trails. The Minuteman Bikeway forms the southern border and offers the most direct access to the trails. Other borders are mostly residential and there are only a few access points. Arlington's Great Meadows is included in several of the ACROSS Lexington trail loops.

More than 50% of the site is certified vegetated wetland. The Lexington zoning bylaw protects the wetlands in Arlington's Great Meadows by zoning them as Wetland Protection District. The Lexington Conservation Commission and various resident groups have taken an active role in assuring that the Great

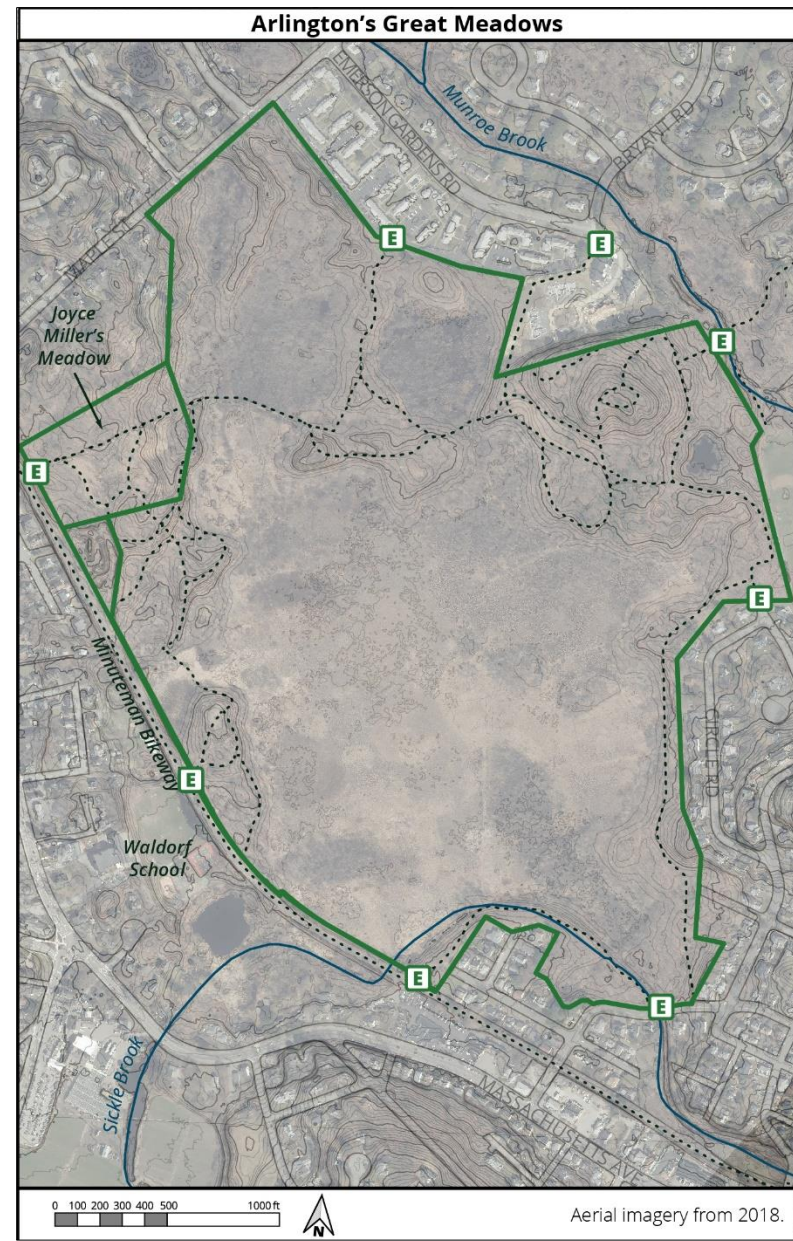
Meadows remain in its natural state. A consultant was hired by the Arlington Conservation Commission in 1999 to prepare an inventory of the natural resources of this area, along with some management recommendations (Clark 2001).

Since publication of that report, an active Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows organization of Arlington and Lexington residents has served as stewards of the property. The group has completed extensive surveying of plants and animals, restored some upland meadow areas, organized annual bird watching and geology walks, improved signage and visitor facilities, and protected the environment in the wettest sections of the Meadows by building a series of boardwalks.

Size: 183.3 acres (entirely in Lexington)

Managing Agency/Owner: Select Board/Department of Public Works/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Conservation/Passive recreation

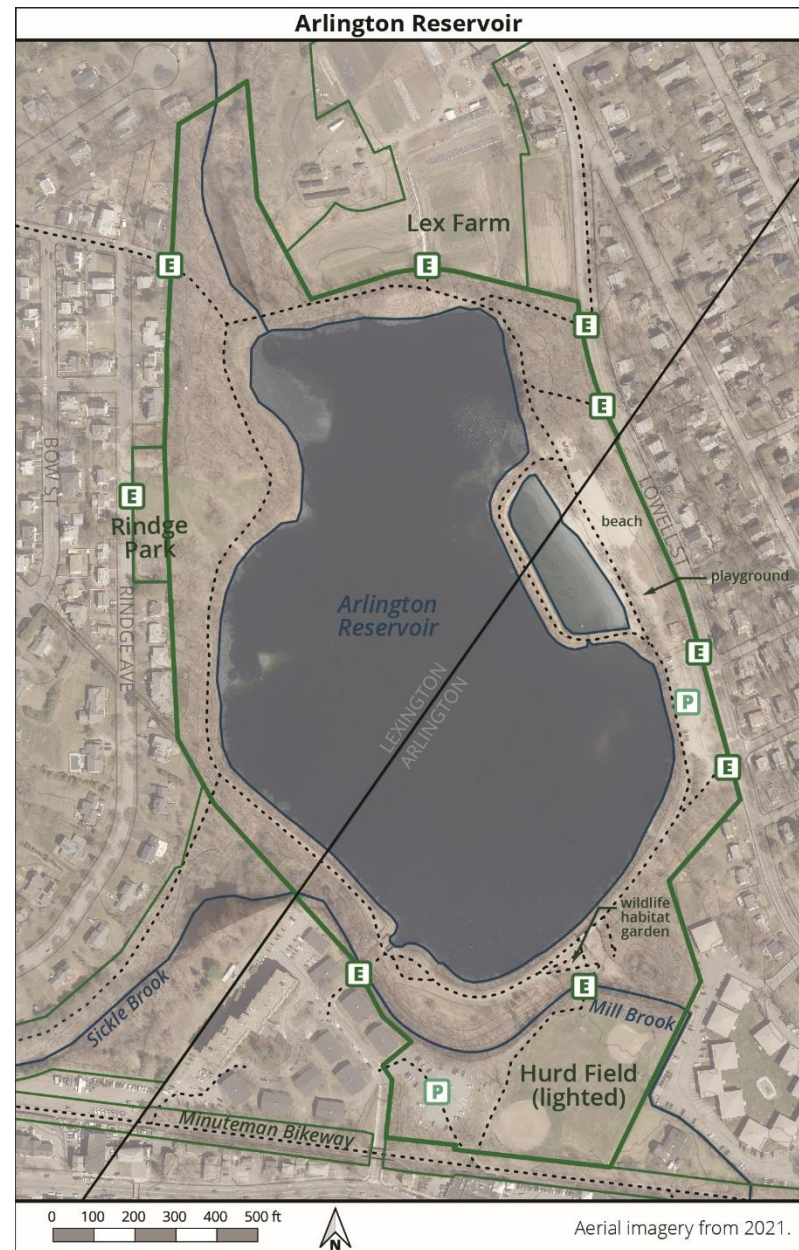


Arlington Reservoir and Hurd/Reservoir Fields

The Arlington Reservoir site incorporates a variety of natural and recreational resources. Created in the early 1870s to supply Arlington’s municipal water system, the Reservoir has not been used for public drinking water since the town joined the MWRA in 1899, yet the name “reservoir” remains in use. The Reservoir and its adjacent land areas are about 65 acres. The water body of about 29 acres is a man-made recreational and flood-control pond on the Arlington/Lexington border in the northwestern section of town. Less than half of the area is in Arlington, yet the Town owns and manages the entire site, as well as part of Munroe Brook, the Reservoir’s primary source whose watershed includes Reed’s Brook. Several Lexington storm drains also send water into this water body.

The Reservoir has a mile-long wooded walking trail around its circumference that is a recreational resource for walking, birding, jogging, and cross-country skiing, and the Arlington High School cross-country team uses the trail for meets and training.

The sandy beach includes a filtered/chlorinated swimming area with a ramp for people with disabilities, a bathhouse, a concession area, and playground. The beach is supervised by certified lifeguards and other Recreation Department staff when open during the



summer months. The Reservoir also provides a diverse habitat for wildlife, and nearly 220 species of birds have been sighted there. A Wildlife Habitat Garden was established in 2010 following repairs to the earthen dam around the Reservoir. It is maintained by the volunteer Reservoir Committee.

In 2017-18, the Town developed a Master Plan for the entire Reservoir area to guide improvements to address water quality, amenities, and accessibility of the property. The beach and the entire Reservoir area are currently being updated in several phases through 2022. Among the improvements are a fully ADA accessible perimeter walking path, playground, fishing docks, benches, a picnic pavilion, and a volleyball/multi-sport court. Significant environmental improvements include removal of invasive vegetation, erosion control of the Reservoir banks with native plantings, and a new porous parking lot.

Hurd and Reservoir fields, adjacent to the Reservoir off Drake Road, offer two softball/youth baseball diamonds. Hurd Field is lighted and used for adult softball play in addition to youth baseball and softball. A Community Preservation Act-funded project is currently underway to redesign and renovate these fields, including to repair safety issues, address ADA guidelines, and provide a safe connection to the nearby Minuteman Bikeway.

Arlington Reservoir

Size: 21.3 acres in Arlington (65 acres total in Arlington and Lexington)

Managing Agency/Owner: Department of Public Works/Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Active and passive recreation/Flood control/Conservation

Hurd and Reservoir Fields

Size: 6.1 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Active and passive recreation/Conservation



Playground at The Res. Photo credit: Ann LeRoyer

Buzzell Fields

Located on Summer St. just beyond the intersection with Mill Street, this former mill pond and later town landfill was redeveloped into a recreation site and dedicated to Navy Lieutenant Richard H. Buzzell, a 1961 graduate of Arlington High School killed on the battlefield during the Vietnam War. The park has two youth baseball/softball fields with outfield lights for night play, a basketball court, picnic tables, and a playground with slides, swings, and a sandbox. On-street parking is available, and the fields are adjacent to the Minuteman Bikeway.

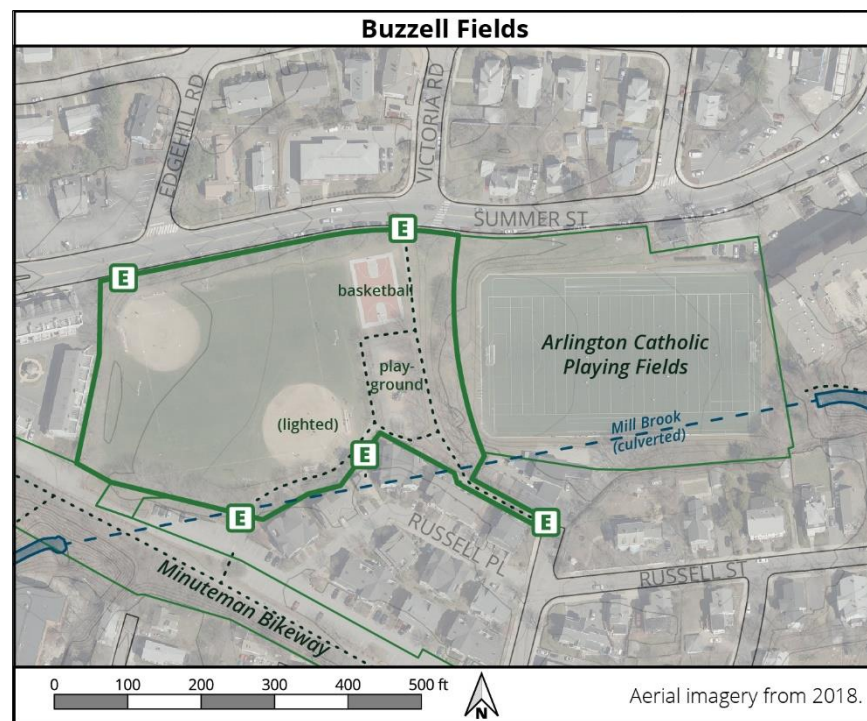
Size: 3.6 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Active recreation

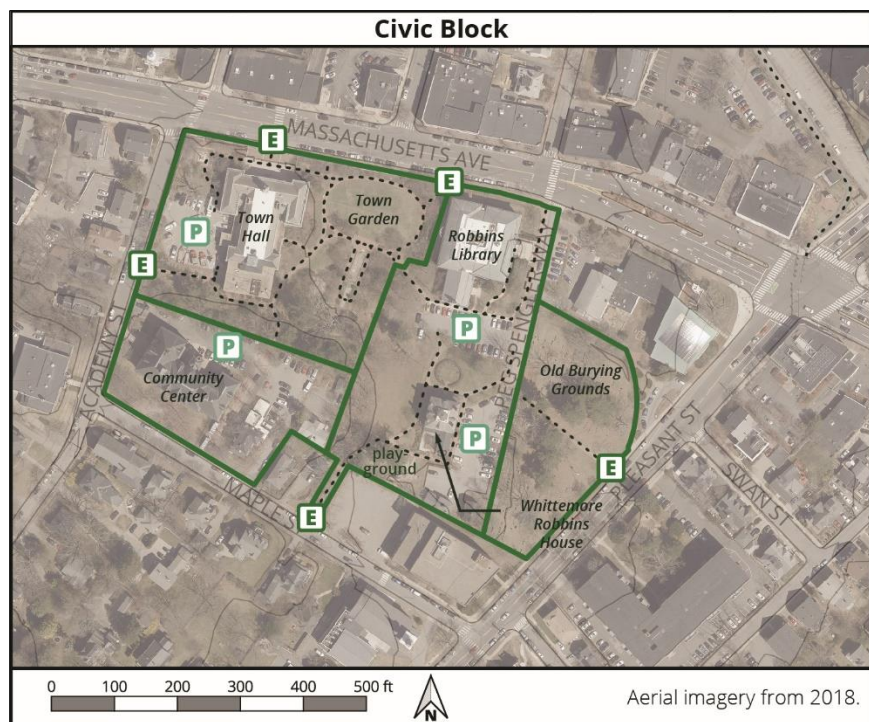


Buzzell Field. Photo credit: Elisabeth Carr-Jones



Civic Block

Located on Massachusetts Avenue in the heart of Arlington Center, the Civic Block contains three of Arlington's most iconic civic institutions: Robbins Memorial Town Hall, the Robbins Library, and the Whittemore-Robbins House. They are interconnected by the landscaped grounds and brick walkways of the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden. The Civic Block represents the generosity of the Robbins family, who donated funds for construction of these impressive landmarks. This historic block also includes the Old



Burying Ground and the Central School/Community Center. All buildings within the Civic Block are designated within the Arlington Center National Register Historic District.

The Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden (1913) was laid out as part of the Town Hall construction project. The original garden design included the Cyrus Dallin sculpture known as "The Menotomy Indian Hunter." In 1939, the Olmsted Brothers reconfigured the garden in a more natural design with a rubble rock base for the

Dallin sculpture, with flowering trees and bushes, winding brick paths, a circular fountain and a pool, and a masonry garden wall surrounding the grounds. Arlington has a preservation master plan for the garden and repairs to the garden's sandstone and limestone wall were completed in 2013 and the reflecting pool and surrounding landscape were restored in 2019 with Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding. Volunteers with the Friends of Robbins Town Gardens and the Arlington Garden Club continue to work on the landscaped plantings. The garden is protected by a preservation restriction and is used for both community and private events.

Size: 2.7 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive recreation/Historic preservation

Cooke's Hollow

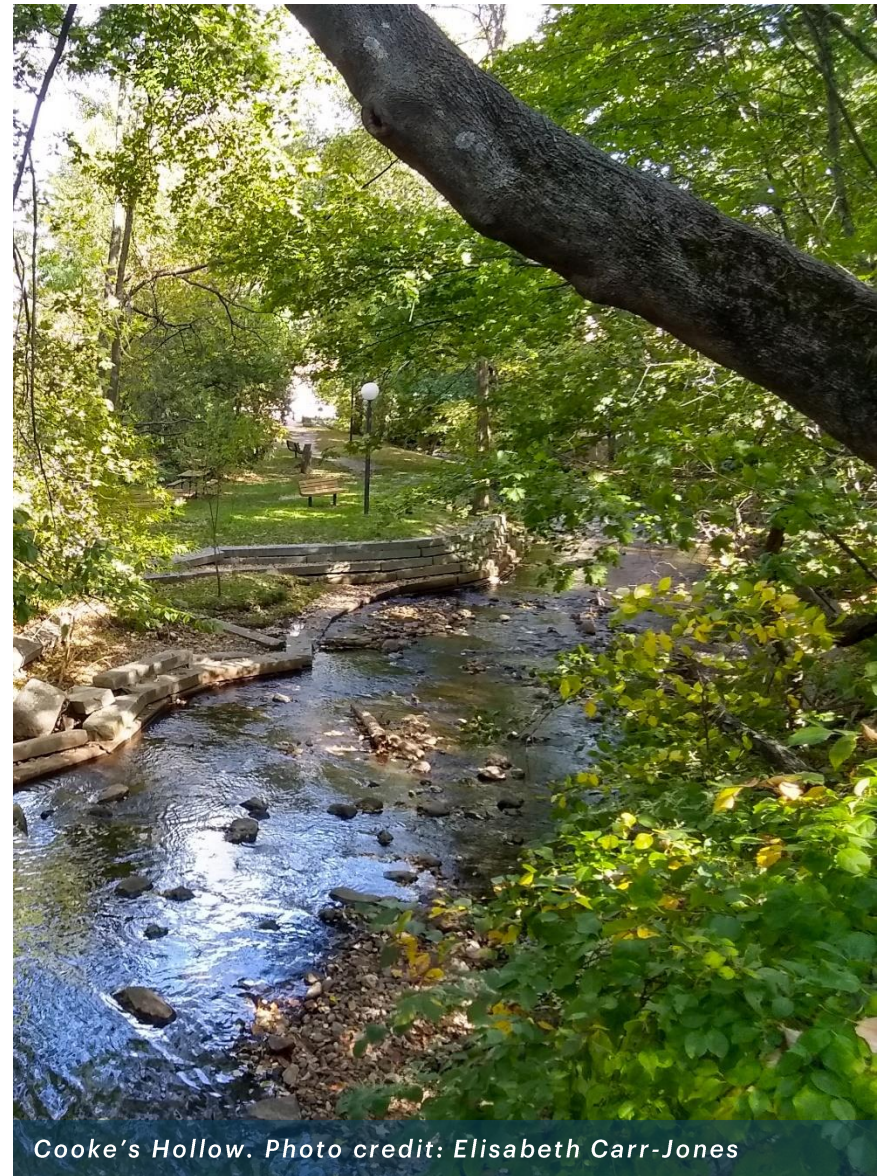
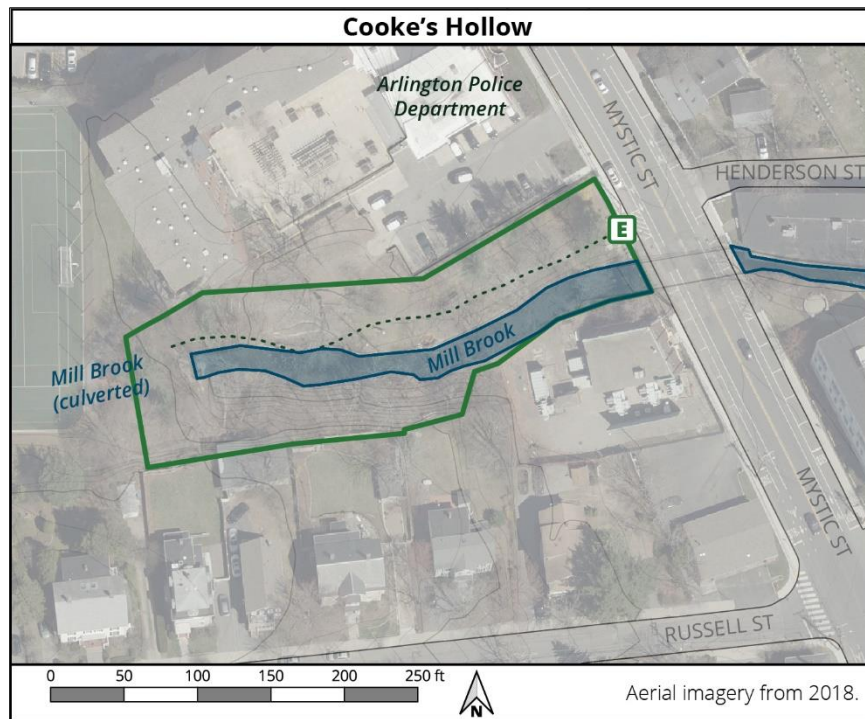
Cooke's Hollow is a long, narrow, partially landscaped area on both sides of Mill Brook near Mystic Street. This small park with the town's only waterfall provides scenic vistas, a short walking path, and benches. Arlington acquired Cooke's Hollow from several sources in 1969, and the Arlington Garden Club was instrumental in developing gardens and public access at the site. The area has deep historical and cultural roots dating back to the 1630s when Captain George Cooke built the first water-powered grist mill in Arlington (then known as

Menotomy and still part of Cambridge). Volunteer stewards have worked to reduce overgrown invasive plants along the brook and have advocated for new benches and other amenities.

Size: .75 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Conservation Commission/
Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive recreation/Conservation



McClennen Park

Before 1959, the area around Reed's Brook was agricultural land, and from 1959 to 1969 Arlington operated a landfill on the site. The Town closed the landfill pursuant to MassDEP policies and regulations while planning for its restoration and reuse. Arlington reacquired this 20-acre site from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in March 1995.

As a result of many studies, the Arlington Redevelopment Board determined that the site was most valuable to the town as open space and recommended

to the 1997 Town Meeting that the land be developed for conservation and recreation use. Town Meeting appropriated \$5.8 million and the area was redeveloped to address the flooding problems, properly close the landfill, and develop new open space uses.

McClennen Park was dedicated on June 3, 2006, in tribute to former Arlington Planning Director Alan McClennen. The result is a wonderful open space with something for everyone to enjoy. The project replaced the storm drain system, created a detention pond and new wetland areas to serve as wildlife habitat, added



layers of clean soil to prevent exposure to landfill materials, and constructed two soccer fields and one baseball field, many walking trails, picnic areas, tot lots, and a skateboard park. The State reconstructed Summer Street, and an off-street parking area was added. Plans are currently being considered to improve the water quality and habitat value of the detention pond, which hosts a variety of birds and other wildlife.

Size: 20.3 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive and active recreation/Conservation

Meadowbrook Park and Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Meadowbrook Park is mostly wetlands, located adjacent to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery at the delta of the Mill Brook where it opens to the Lower Mystic Lake. The Conservation Commission manages environmentally sensitive landscaping to create a better wildlife habitat and make the area more accessible for walking and bird watching. Volunteer land stewards monitor this site, and there have also been some scout projects to improve visitor access. However, the area has deteriorated with many invasive plants, silt, and trash deposits carried down Mill Brook. Renewed consideration is being given



to what can be done to improve the public access and natural aspects of this area.

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, dedicated in 1843, was designed as a garden-style cemetery influenced by Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. The roadways and gentle hillsides offer a pleasant place for walking and contemplation. Markers and monuments honor many of Arlington's noted residents. In 2016 columbarium facilities were added to expand options for local burials as space for traditional plots is now limited.

Meadowbrook Park

Size: 3.3 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Conservation Commission/
Town of Arlington

Current Use: Conservation

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Size: 37 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Cemetery Commission/
Department of Public Works/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Cemetery



Menotomy Rocks Park

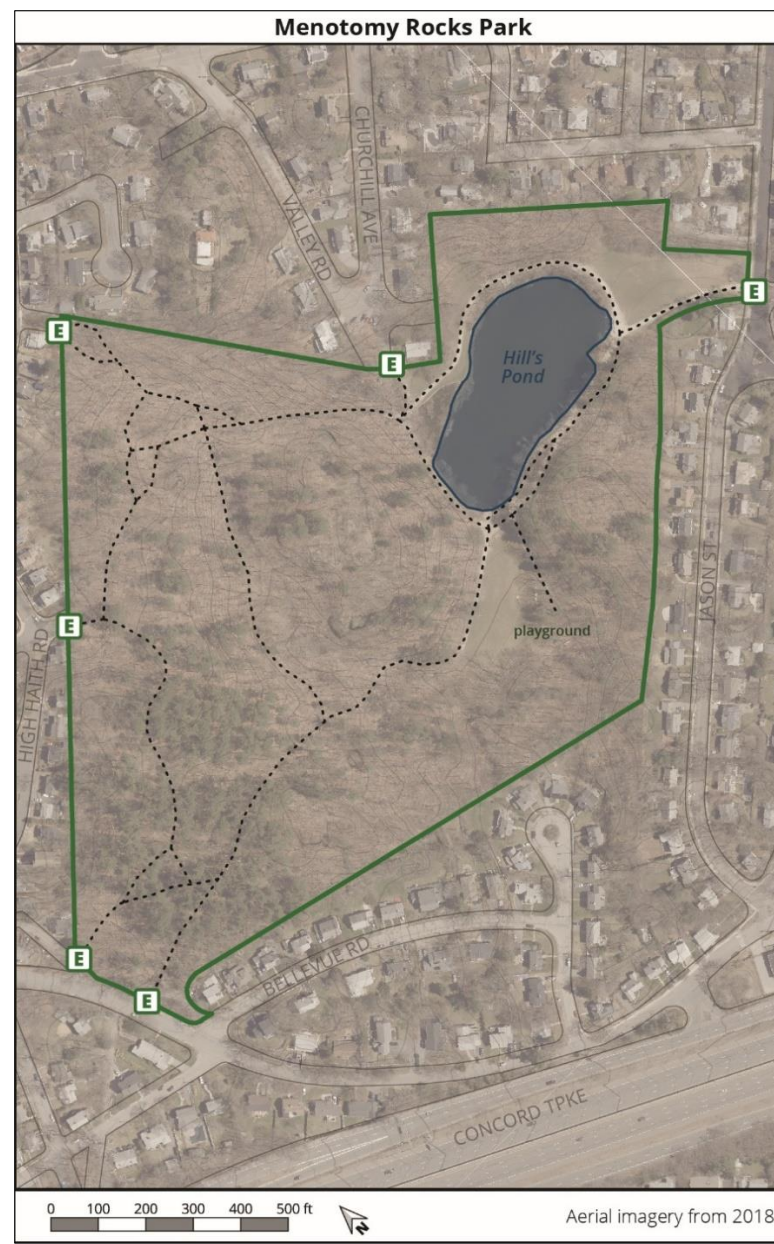
This historic town park, established in 1896, was also known as the “Devil’s Den” to the people of Arlington. The park is a mixture of manmade areas (Hill’s Pond, fields, and playground) and natural features (wooded and rocky sections). The park is used daily for walking, jogging, picnicking, and dog walking, and seasonally for ice skating and fishing.

The Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park was formed in 1993 to assist the town with ongoing stewardship of the park. Working with the Town, the Friends group has enabled a number of improvement projects over the years, including rebuilding the playground in the woods, replacing picnic tables, facilitating a memorial bench program, monitoring the health of Hill’s Pond, rebuilding the pond retaining wall, resurfacing the paths with permeable material to facilitate drainage and installing a pond aeration system. The Friends continue to monitor needs in the park, as well as offer educational and cultural programs.

Size: 35.1 acres

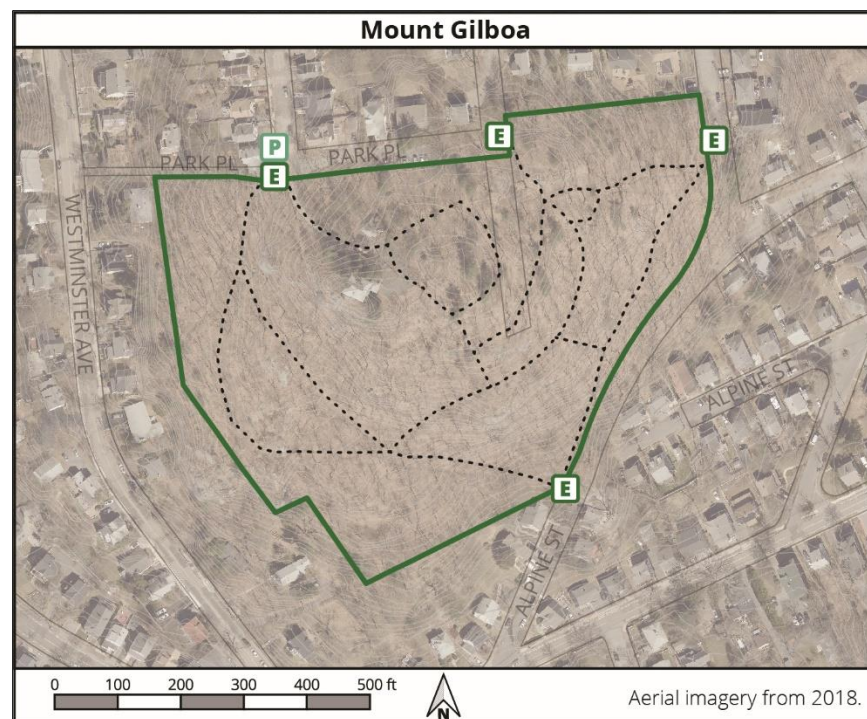
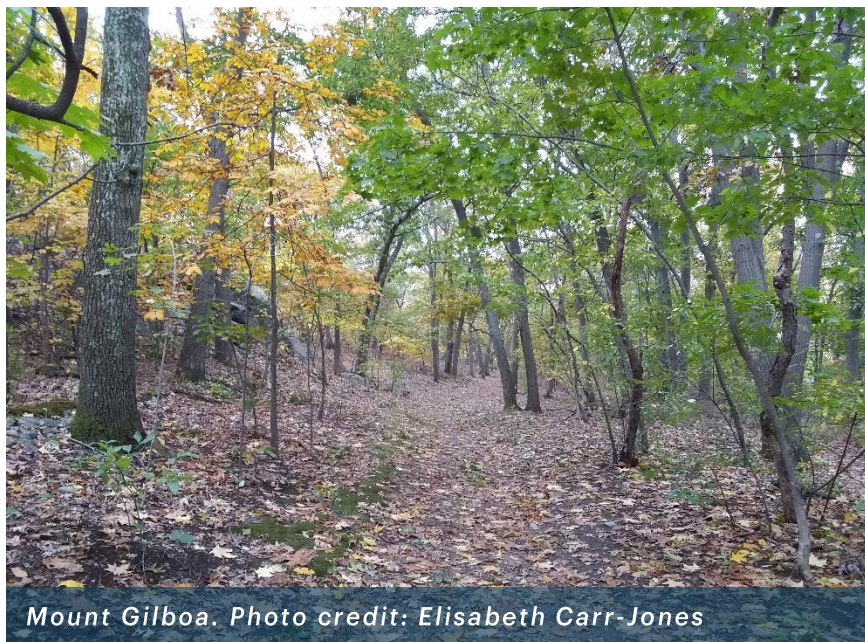
Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Recreation/Conservation



Mount Gilboa

Mount Gilboa is a steep, tree-covered hill with a single house on top. The house belongs to the Conservation Commission and has been rented by the Town. Discussions about the future of the house as a Town-owned asset are underway, including its possible removal to create a vista park or other opportunities that would benefit the community at large. Trails through the surrounding woods are used regularly for walking and bird watching, and they have been cleared and improved by various scout groups. The property is part of the Mount Gilboa Historic District.



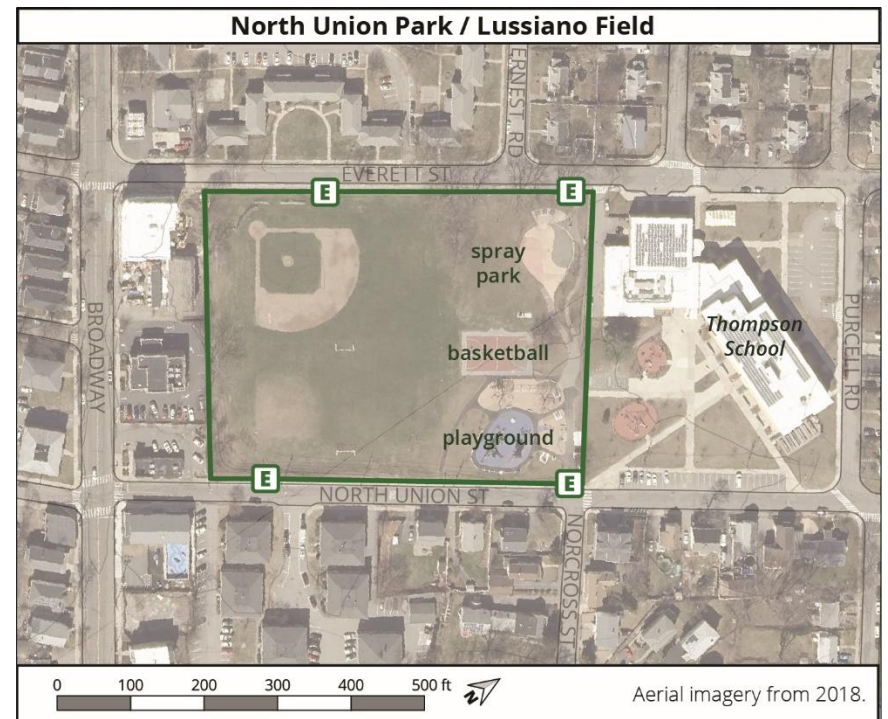
Size: 10.7 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Conservation Commission/
Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive recreation/Conservation

North Union Park / Lussiano Field

Located next to the Thompson School on North Union Street in East Arlington, the area has a playground, basketball court, picnic tables, softball/youth baseball field, baseball field, and multi-purpose field used for soccer. The spray pool has recently been renovated to upgrade all water features and enhance landscaping, access, and amenities. It is generally open from June to August. On-street parking is available. In 2020, the town completed a major renovation of the playground with funding from multiple sources, including CPA funds.



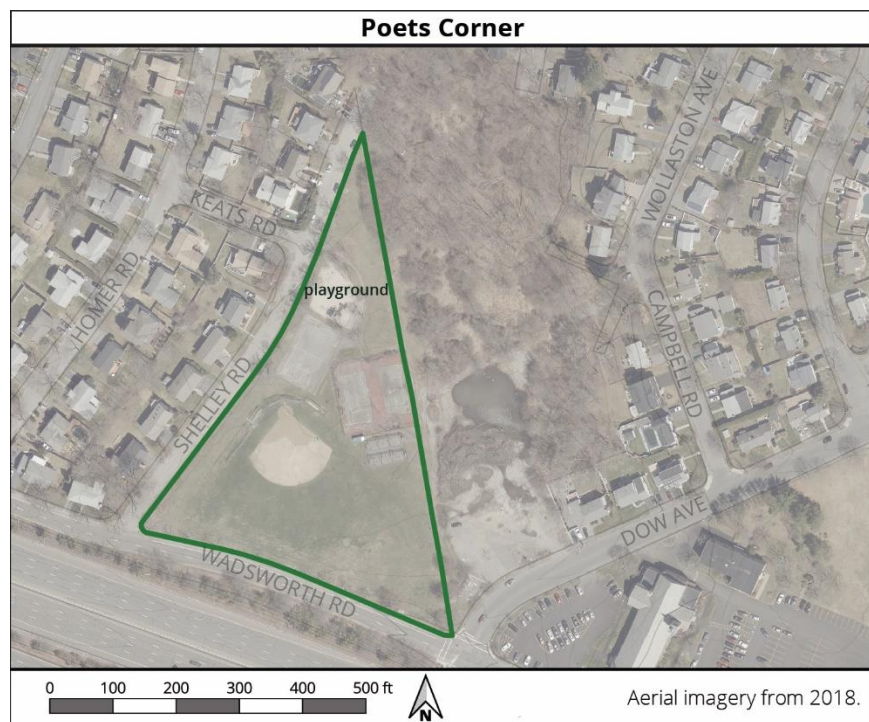
Size: 5.0 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Active and passive recreation

Poets Corner

Poets Corner Park is located in the southwest area of Arlington, off the Route 2 service road at Dow Avenue. The park currently has a playground, softball/little league field, a multi-purpose grassy outfield, basketball courts, and an area of wetlands. Major renovations are anticipated starting in 2022 through an innovative collaboration between the Town, the Archdiocese and the Belmont Hill School.



Size: 3.8 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/ Town of Arlington

Current Use: Recreation

Robbins Farm Park

From 1880 to 1941, at least three generations of the Robbins family farmed this land in Arlington Heights, and historical records cite a Robbins family farming the site during the Revolutionary War. In December 1941, Town Meeting voted to acquire the land for a public park by eminent domain, at a price of \$33,800.

With its spectacular view of the Boston skyline to attract them, residents use the Robbins Farm fields, basketball court, and playground year-round for a wide variety of active and passive recreational activities. Many special events, like the 4th of July celebration and a variety of concerts, are held at the park and sponsored by the Friends of Robbins Park.

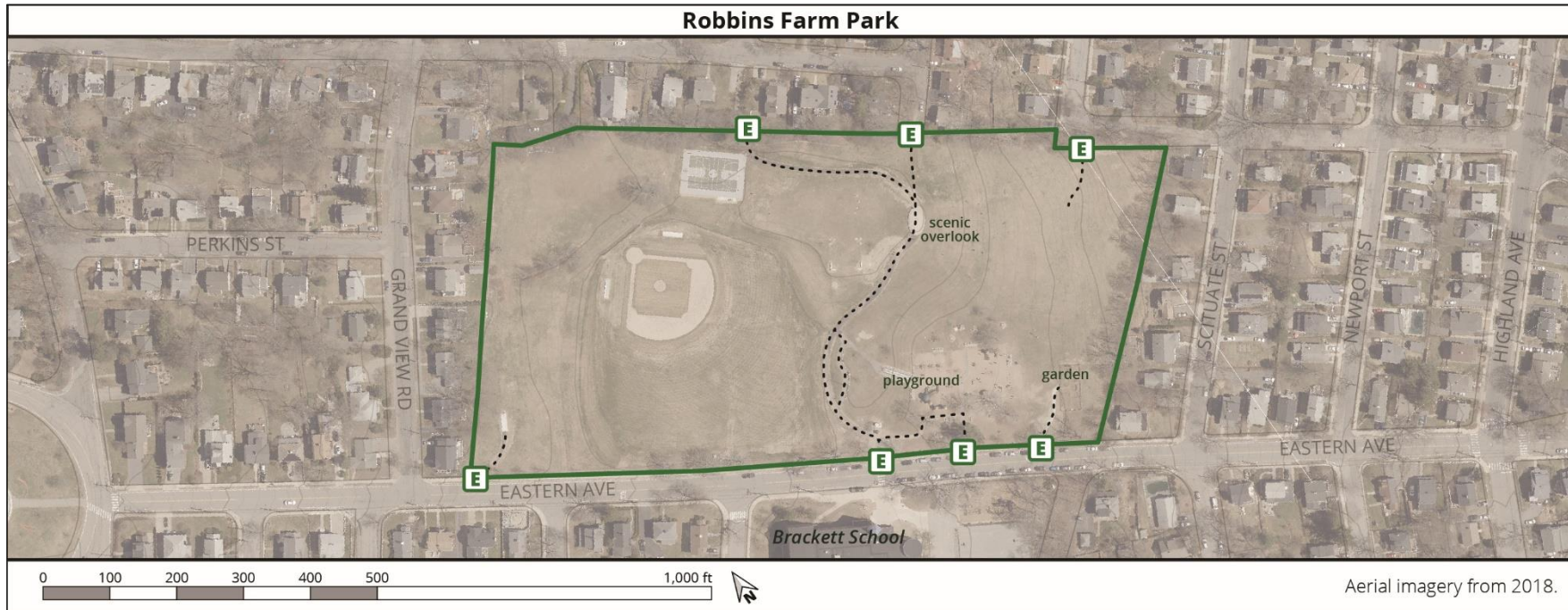
Park improvements began in 2017 and continued into 2019, when Arlington's CPA Committee awarded funds to upgrade and rehabilitate the playing fields and to improve ADA accessibility to many areas of the park, including the community garden and the historic building site and dog statue. See Small Neighborhood Parks and Open Spaces below for more details on the community garden.



Size: 11.1 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive and active recreation

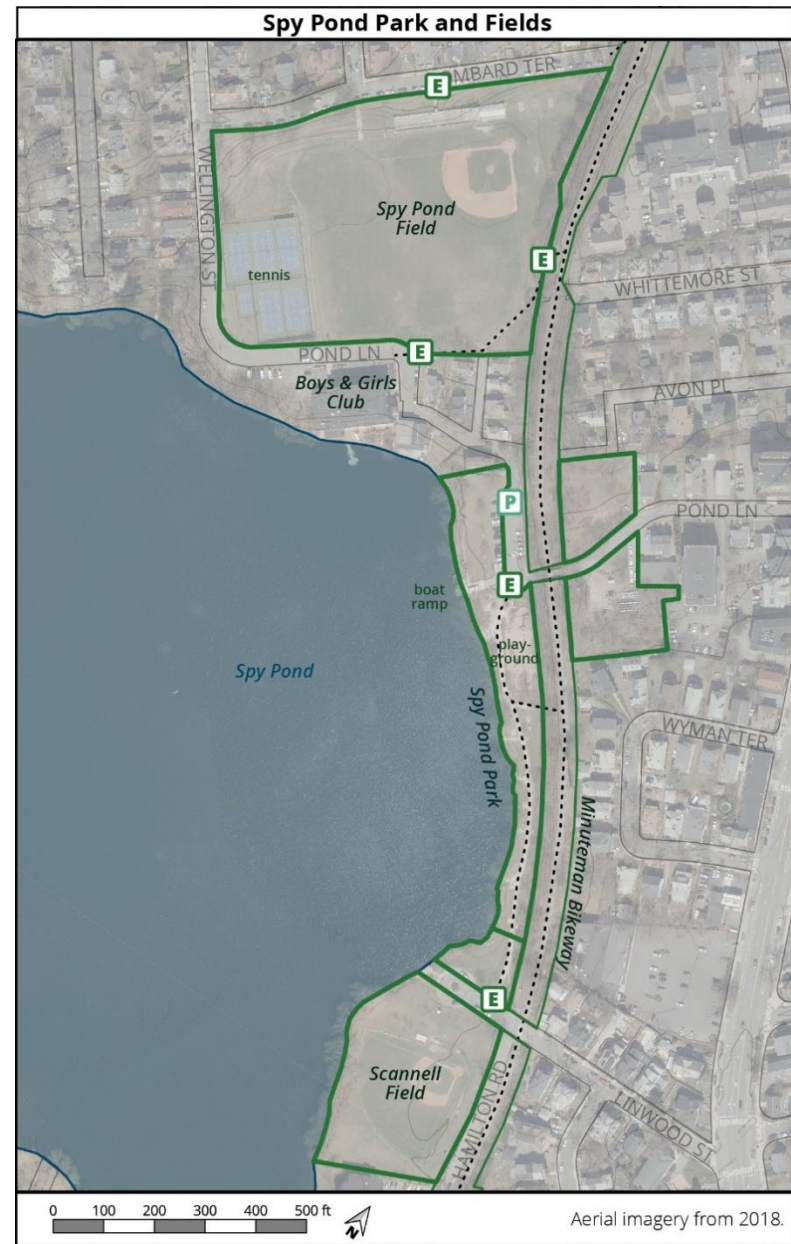


Spy Pond, Spy Pond Park and Fields, Elizabeth Island, and Kelwyn Manor Park

Spy Pond

At 100 acres, Spy Pond is the largest body of water located entirely within Arlington. Spy Pond is near the Town Center, adjacent to Route 2, and close to the Alewife Brook Reservation. Spy Pond is a "Great Pond," meaning it is a naturally occurring body of water 10 acres or greater in size. The pond was formed by a gigantic block of ice that broke away from the glacier leaving a "kettle hole" filled with glacial waters. Today, the source of the water in Spy Pond is precipitation and runoff, primarily stormwater drainage from the surrounding densely populated residential areas: no river or brook feeds it. The Town's Envision Arlington Spy Pond Committee is actively involved in stewardship and planning for pond improvements, including water quality monitoring and weed control treatments.

Historic Spy Pond is a beautiful and precious community resource, although access is limited because much of the shoreline is private residential property. Walking, boating, bird watching, fishing, and ice skating are popular pastimes, but swimming is not permitted because the water quality does not meet state bathing beach standards and no lifeguard services are provided. In recent years, a high school crew team has used the pond as its practice location, and the Recreation



Department offers canoe and kayak rentals to the general public on weekends throughout the summer.

In 2016, a feasibility study and detailed survey was awarded CPA funds to identify shoreline preservation alternatives and options to mitigate erosion on select portions of Town-owned shoreline along the edge of Spy Pond (Spy Pond Park, Scannell Field, Arlington Boys and Girls Club, and Spring Valley Street). The Conservation Commission received CPA funds in 2021 to repave the North Beach boat ramp with porous pavement material.

Spy Pond Park and Fields

The public park includes a playground, public boat ramp, rain garden, walking path, benches, and picnic tables. Friends of Spy Pond Park is an active volunteer organization that oversees stewardship of the park and sponsors regular clean-up projects and special events, including the annual fall Spy Pond Fun Day.

The Town's 2019 playground audit identified Spy Pond Park as a level "Hazard 1" playground, which indicates the playground needs immediate attention for safety reasons. CPA funds were awarded in 2021 to rebuild the playground to be ADA-compliant and meet safety standards.

The recreational facilities at Spy Pond Field (a.k.a. Hornblower Field), located on Pond Lane opposite the

Arlington Boys and Girls Club, include tennis courts (renovated in 2015), a baseball diamond used by the Arlington High School varsity baseball team, and an open multi-purpose field used for high school and youth soccer. The Play Fair Arch, bleachers and field house were originally constructed in 1910 and are in significant disrepair. In 2019 a study was conducted to review the current use and needs of the recreational facility and structure, including the need to make them ADA compliant. Scannell Field at the eastern end of Spy Pond Park has a softball/little league diamond with bleachers.

Size: 100 acres (pond) and 15 acres (park and fields)

Managing Agency/Owner: Department of Public Works/Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Recreation/Conservation

Elizabeth Island

Elizabeth Island, an undeveloped, heavily vegetated island in the middle of Spy Pond, was purchased by the Arlington Land Trust (ALT) in 2010 from a private owner who had announced that it would be put up for sale. The island is now permanently protected and open to the public under a conservation restriction held jointly by the Arlington Conservation Commission and Mass Audubon. ALT is managing the island for passive recreation, with simple wooded trails and landing areas for small boats. The island provides a nesting habitat for

various species of duck, Canada Geese, Mute Swan, and other birds and wildlife. Several properly trained and licensed volunteers search for nests each spring and treat the goose eggs to keep the population under control.

Size: 2 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Arlington Land Trust

Current Use: Conservation



Kelwyn Manor Park

Kelwyn Manor Park along the eastern shore of Spy Pond was set aside by the private Kelwyn Manor Association when the former farmland was developed for housing in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The park contains a

small beach area, a playground, and other facilities. The Association continues to maintain the park with annual cleanups and mowing and uses it for occasional neighborhood events.

Size: 1.8 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Kelwyn Manor Association

Current Use: Recreation

Summer Street Sports Complex

This major multi-sport complex at 422 Summer Street includes the Ed Burns Arena, Summer Street (a.k.a. Kenny) Field, Buck Field, and Hill's Hill Field, and natural wooded areas known as Hill's Hill. The property is located adjacent to the Minuteman Bikeway, and the baseball, field hockey, youth baseball/softball, and multi-use fields are used by local high school and youth sports organizations. Baseball and youth baseball fields are lighted for evening play. The area also includes a multi-generational recreation area with fitness stations, tot play equipment, a bocce court, and basketball court. A completely accessible children's play structure with a zero-entry ramp is a major attraction.

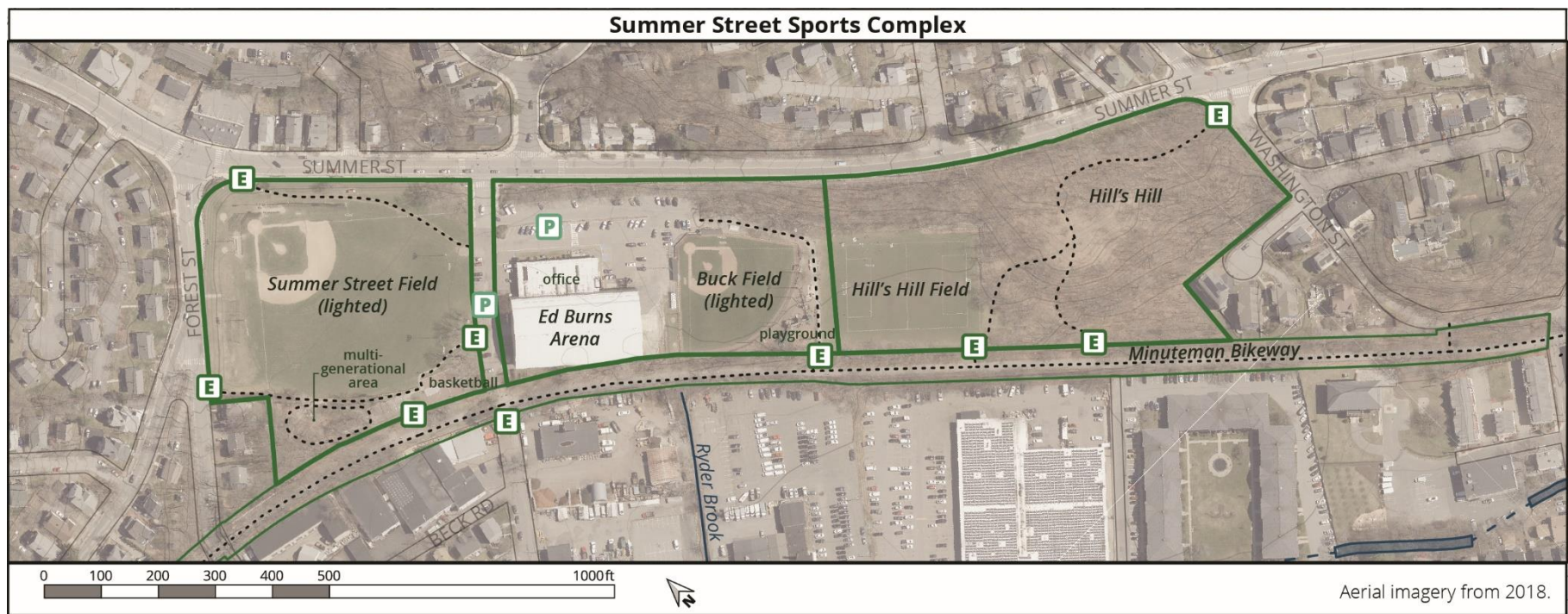
The state-owned Ed Burns Arena also houses the Arlington Recreation Department's headquarters. Built in 1971, the facility originally offered only a seasonal regulation-size ice skating rink. The arena is now a year-round, multi-sport facility with an ice rink that operates

during the fall and winter, and batting cages, indoor soccer programs, and summer camps in the spring and summer. It is used for a variety of special events and serves as home facility for the Arlington Hockey and Figure Skating Association and Arlington High School and Arlington Catholic High School boys and girls hockey teams. Public skating as an activity for both adults and children has grown significantly, and the department offers a variety of instructional programs and special skating events. Skate rentals, sharpening and concessions are also offered.

Size: 12.7 acres (fields) and 2.4 acres (arena and parking)

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington and Department of Conservation and Recreation/Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Current Use: Active and passive recreation



Symmes Woods and Parks

After Symmes Hospital closed in 1999, Arlington voters approved a debt exclusion in 2001 to allow the Town to acquire the entire 18-acre property off Summer Street in order to be able to control its development. After a lengthy public process and delays associated with the 2008 recession, a new owner began construction in the spring of 2012. By 2014 the developer, Arlington 360 LLC, had completed a 164-unit apartment complex and 12 townhouse condominiums. Arlington 360 LLC sold a two-acre portion of the Symmes site halfway up the hill to Shelter/Brightview Arlington for a 90-unit assisted living facility.

The most prominent open space features of the development are two parks and about six acres of woods and buffer zones. The half-acre Hattie Symmes Park at the top of the hill has commanding views of Arlington and Boston to the east. Named for the daughter of Stephen Symmes who founded the hospital, the park features pathways, benches, and extensive landscaping. A second hillside park of almost two acres abuts the upper boundary of the Symmes Woods. It is designed for passive recreation with views of the Boston skyline through the trees. Named for Nora A. Brown, the long-time head of the nurses' facility at the hospital, it contains pervious pathways, mowed strips within an



open meadow area, and landscaped beds, as well as some benches and picnic tables.

Both parks are owned and maintained by Arlington 360 LLC but are open to the public under the same rules and regulations as for other town parks. The Symmes Woods covers the relatively flat area between Summer Street and the assisted living facility.

Management of the parks and woods is governed by a plan agreed to by the developers, the Arlington Redevelopment Board, the Arlington Land Trust, and the Conservation Commission. The parks and woodlands are protected by a conservation restriction and Public Access Easement held by the Arlington Land Trust and Conservation Commission. The conservation restriction, which offers permanent legal protection for the land, was signed off by the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and by the Town of Arlington in 2014. Small property markers designate the conservation restriction boundaries.

Size: 8.7 acres of the total 18-acre site

Managing Agency/Owner: Arlington 360 LLC

Current Use: Conservation/Passive recreation



Thorndike and Magnolia Park and Fields

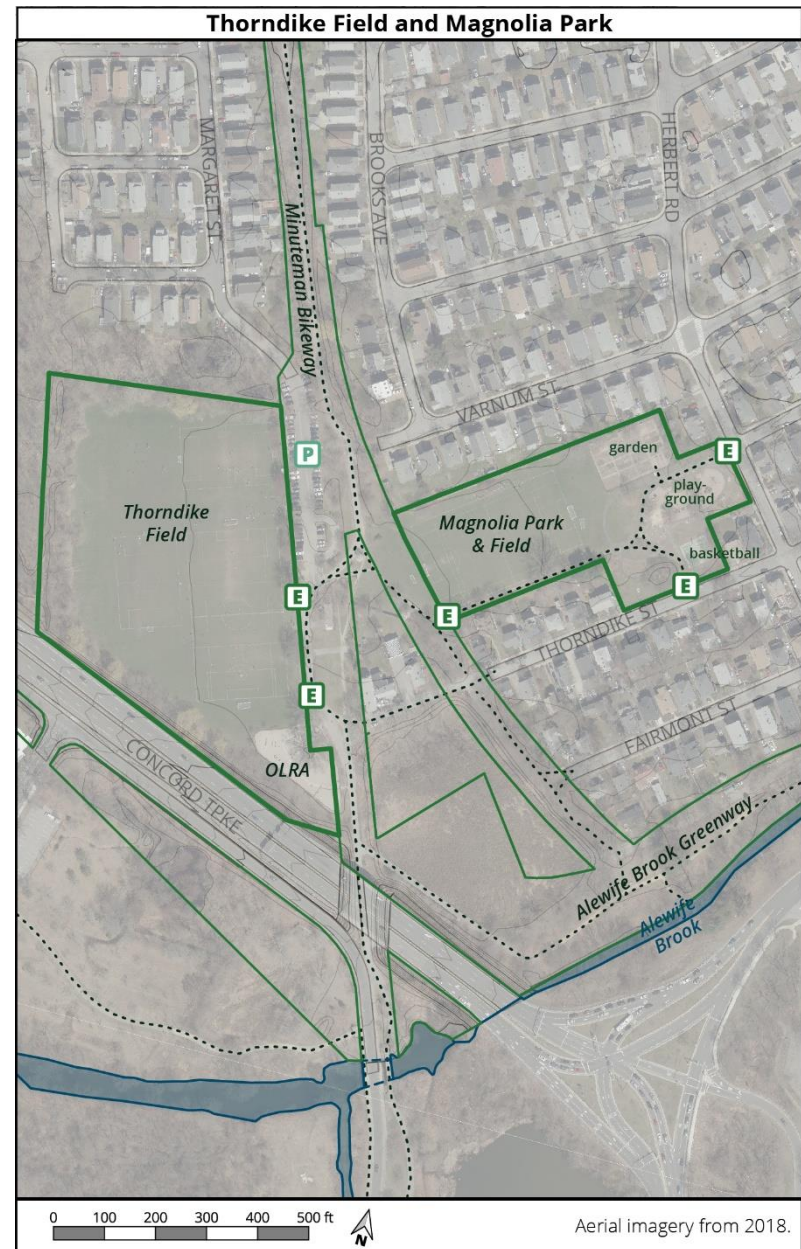
Located in southeastern Arlington close to Route 2 and the Alewife MBTA station in Cambridge, three multi-purpose fields are used for soccer and lacrosse, and a dedicated off-leash dog recreation area (OLRA) was established in 2012 next to the Thorndike fields. In 2017, the facilities at Magnolia Park were renovated to include 54 community garden plots, several playground areas for different ages, a multi-purpose field for soccer and other sports, walking paths, and picnic areas. Both properties have direct access to the Minuteman Bikeway, and a porous pavement parking area next to

Thorndike Field services the entire recreational complex.

Size: 13.3 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Active and passive recreation



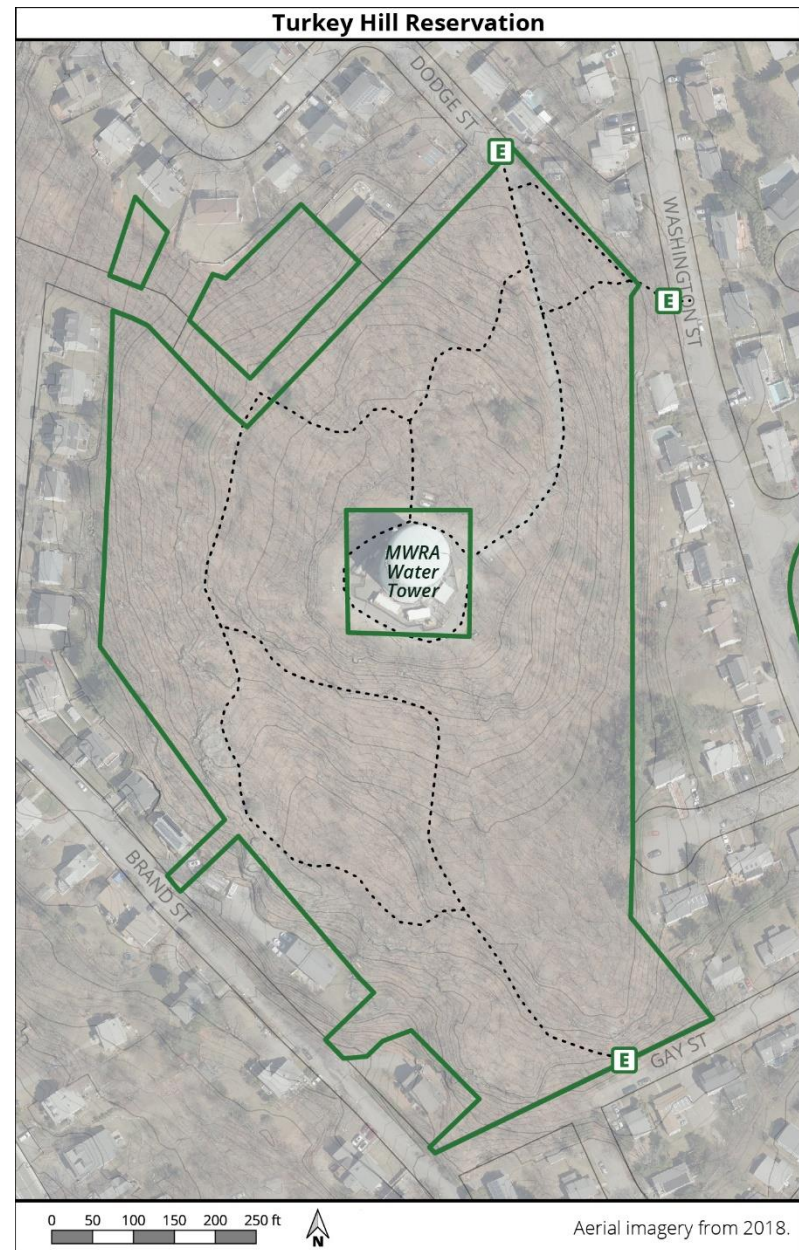
Turkey Hill Reservation

Turkey Hill Reservation contains the Turkey Hill water tower and land immediately surrounding it, which are owned by the MWRA. The Park and Recreation Commission has jurisdiction over most of the land beyond the water tower, and the Conservation Commission oversees several adjacent small parcels. This area is heavily wooded, with many internal trails and foot paths that connect with adjacent roads, including a main access point at Dodge Street. A stewardship group organized through the Conservation Commission Land Stewards Program cares for the site.

Size: 10.7 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission /Conservation Commission/Town of Arlington/MWRA

Current Use: Passive recreation/Conservation



Wellington Park

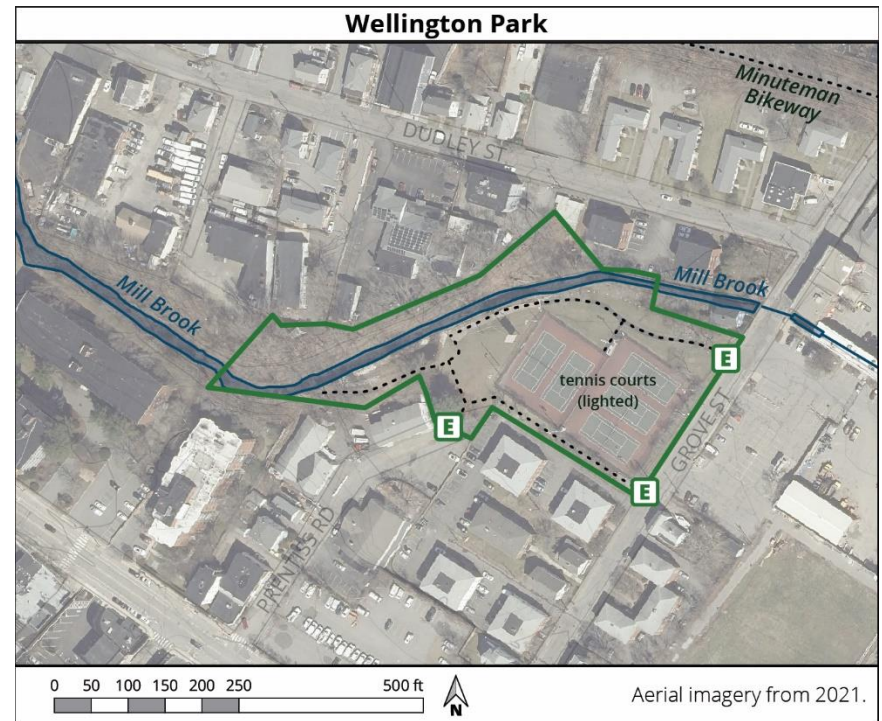
The Ethel Wellington Park is located on Grove St. across from Arlington's Department of Public Works headquarters. The park has five lighted tennis courts, which were last renovated in 2011, and an adventure/ropes course that was installed with funds from a Carol M. White federal physical education grant to help promote health and wellness programs in the community.

Building off the 2019 Mill Brook Corridor Report and other planning efforts related to flooding concerns, the Town has made significant improvements to Wellington Park in conjunction with MyRWA and its Greenways Initiative. The recently completed project includes a boardwalk, natural play area, accessible walkways, benches, educational signage, native plantings, and an engineered retention area for flood control. The work was funded by the CPA Committee, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and other sources.

Size: 3 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Active and passive recreation/Flood control



Whittemore Park and Uncle Sam Plaza

Whittemore Park

Whittemore Park, at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Mystic Street, was created when the Jefferson Cutter House was moved to the site in 1989. The park features a small section of railroad track remaining from a railroad line built in 1846. The site occupies an important crossroads of Arlington's central business district, the Civic Block and its cultural district. The park hosts community and art-related events throughout the year and the parking lot behind the site is used for the

seasonal Farmer’s Market. The Jefferson Cutter House is home to the Cyrus Dallin Art Museum, the Cutter Gallery, and the Arlington Chamber of Commerce offices.

The current Whittemore Park Revitalization Project has two phases which will improve the landscape for passive recreation and civic functions. The planning process concluded in 2018 and Phase 1 renovations to the pathways and landscaping in front of the Cutter House were completed in September 2021. Phase 2 will provide new accessible pathways to the front and rear doors of the Cutter House, improvements to the rear stairway, new garden plantings and fencing. This work will begin in the spring of 2022. This project is supported by CPA, CDBG funds, and Town funding.

Size: .3 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive recreation/Historic preservation

Uncle Sam Plaza

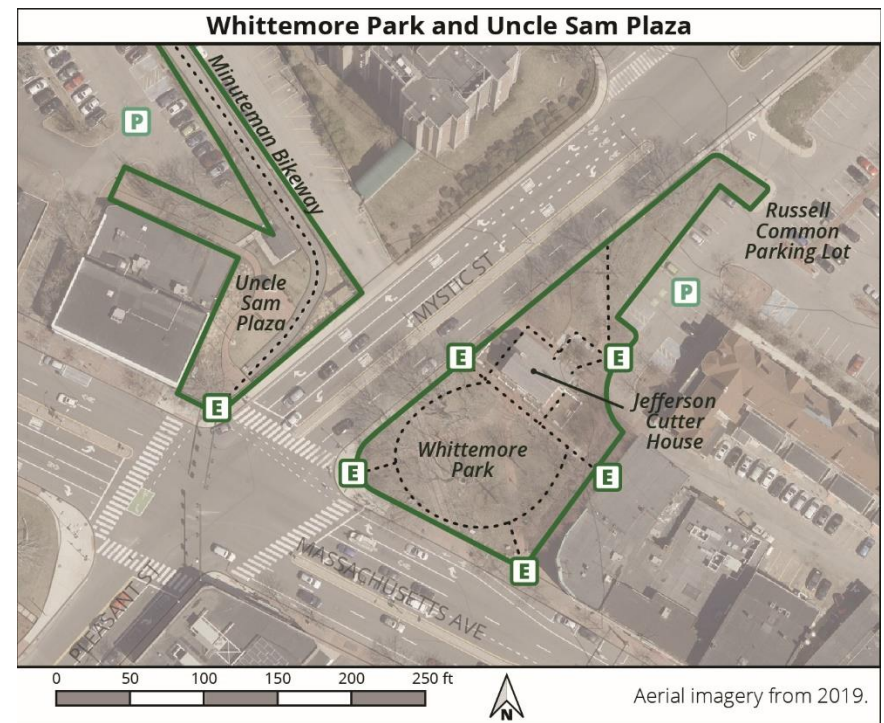
Uncle Sam Plaza is located across Mystic Street from Whittemore Park, complementing the historic and civic park environment in the center of Arlington. The plaza honors Samuel (Uncle Sam) Wilson who was born nearby in 1766 and became famous as the personification of the United States. The monument was constructed in 1976 and restored in 2018. The restoration included treatment

of both the bronze and stone components, as well as the application of protective coatings to the statue. The Minuteman Bikeway traverses the park, and the Arlington Visitor Center is located next to the statue. Numerous music and performance events are held in the park during the summer months.

Size: .25 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive recreation/Historic preservation



Window-On-The Mystic / Mystic Lakes

Window-On-The-Mystic is a three-acre waterfront parcel offering trails and views of the Upper Mystic Lake near the Winchester line. Arlington purchased this parcel in 1975 from private owners, with partial funding from CDBG funds and the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources. Several Eagle Scout projects have made some access improvements to the site.

The Upper and Lower Mystic Lakes are glacial lakes that straddle the boundaries of Arlington, Winchester, and Medford. While there is ample access from the Mystic Valley Parkway along the northern shore in Medford and Winchester, most of the shoreline in Arlington abuts roadways or privately held land with developed house lots. The lakes have become known for seasonal sightings of Bald Eagles, Red-Tailed Hawks, Kestrels, and other raptors, as well as many species of ducks, shorebirds, and other fauna.

Window-On-The-Mystic

Size: 3 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Conservation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Conservation/Passive recreation

Mystic Lakes

Size: 99 acres in Arlington

Managing Agency/Owner: Department of Conservation and Recreation/Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Current Use: Recreation/Conservation



3. Small Neighborhood Parks and Open Spaces

In addition to the larger open spaces, parks, and recreational resources describe above, Arlington has numerous smaller, diverse parks and open spaces distributed throughout town. These spaces provide residents with access to unique opportunities near where they live to take advantage of recreational resources, connect with nature, understand local history, and gather with neighbors. The sites are grouped into several categories: historic landscapes, school facilities and neighborhood parks, community gardens, small conservation areas, and streetscapes.

Historic Landscapes

Arlington's major historic sites are described in Section 4.F Scenic Resources and Unique Environments, but these small, isolated historic sites are also valued as green spaces in their neighborhoods.

The **Foot of the Rocks**, at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Lowell Street, is a small park with markers to commemorate the Colonial Minutemen and British soldiers who fought and died nearby on April 19, 1775, the first day of the Revolutionary War. A granite water trough, now used as a planter, was donated by the Robbins sisters in memory of their brother Olney.

Monument Square, at the intersection of Broadway and Massachusetts Avenue, adjacent to the Central Fire Station, is a small park that hosts a Civil War Monument and Arlington Veterans Roll Call. The annual Veterans Day Parade ends here for a ceremony and placing of wreaths.

Park Circle Water Tower, located 377 feet above sea level next to Park Avenue in Arlington Heights, is owned and managed by the MWRA. The Town owns the 1.8 acres of open space surrounding the tower, which is planted with a variety of fruit trees and other vegetation. The metal water tank was built in 1921 and in 1924 the tank was enclosed by the 80-foot-high ornamental "Greek temple" designed by Arlington architect Frederic F. Low, with funds donated by the Robbins sisters.

Prince Hall Mystic Cemetery on Gardner Street in East Arlington is the site of the only Black Masonic Cemetery in the northeastern United States. Dedicated in 1864, it held members of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM, formed in 1776. Though much of the cemetery has since been developed, a geophysical survey of the site in 1988 found remains of the original gate and an obelisk. This site is part of the town-wide Archeological Reconnaissance Survey to be undertaken in 2022.

School Facilities and Neighborhood Parks

Arlington's public schools host a variety of neighborhood-based recreation opportunities that are open to all ages to enjoy.

Arlington High School on Massachusetts Avenue hosts a full range of sports facilities, including playing fields for football, baseball, soccer, and lacrosse, as well as basketball courts, track lanes, and several indoor gyms. When the new high school buildings and landscaping are completed in 2024, additional passive and active outdoor spaces will be made available.

Bishop School on Columbia Road has basketball courts, a softball/little league field, an open field area, a playground, a fenced school vegetable garden with outdoor classroom seating, and a pollinator garden with nearby picnic benches and outdoor sculptures.

Brackett School on Eastern Avenue has two playgrounds, a basketball area, and a small garden space. It is adjacent to Robbins Farm Park, which offers additional recreational facilities.

Dallin School and adjacent Florence Avenue Park on Florence Avenue have a softball/little league field, multi-purpose/soccer field, two playgrounds, a

basketball practice area, a school garden, and a seasonal water sprinkler.

Gibbs School between Foster and Tufts Streets has two playground areas, a basketball court, and a large school garden area.



Bishop School field. Photo credit: Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Hardy School on Lake Street has two fenced playgrounds, a basketball court, a soccer court, a children's running track, and a small experimental garden.

Ottoson Middle School on Acton Street has a softball field, a multi-use field, and a vegetable garden with a plastic bottle greenhouse.

Peirce School on Park Avenue Extension has a basketball court, two playgrounds, a small school vegetable and herb garden with seating, and an open space with trees.

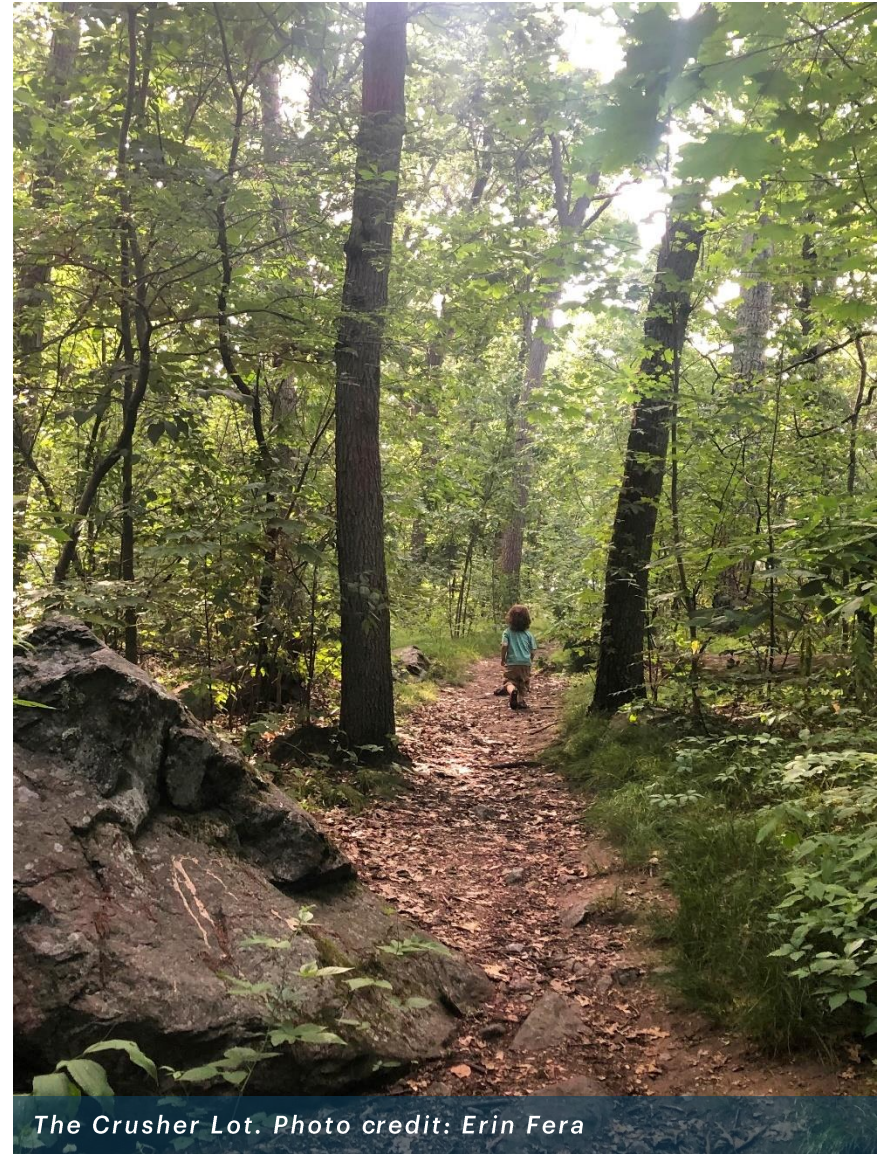
Stratton School and the adjacent Pheasant Avenue Park have a basketball court, paved and green space, some school garden areas, and a playground.

Thompson School has two playgrounds and a fenced school vegetable garden. The school is also adjacent to North Union Street Park and Lussiano Field.

Other open space and recreational resources are located on Town-owned land or are managed by Town departments and commissions.

Crosby School Park is a nearly four-acre property adjacent to the private Lesley Ellis School (previously the Town's Crosby School) between Oxford and Winter Streets. It has open spaces for field sports and a playground, four tennis courts, a tennis backboard, and a basketball court.

The Crusher Lot is a five-acre undeveloped Town property at the corner of Gray Street and Oakland

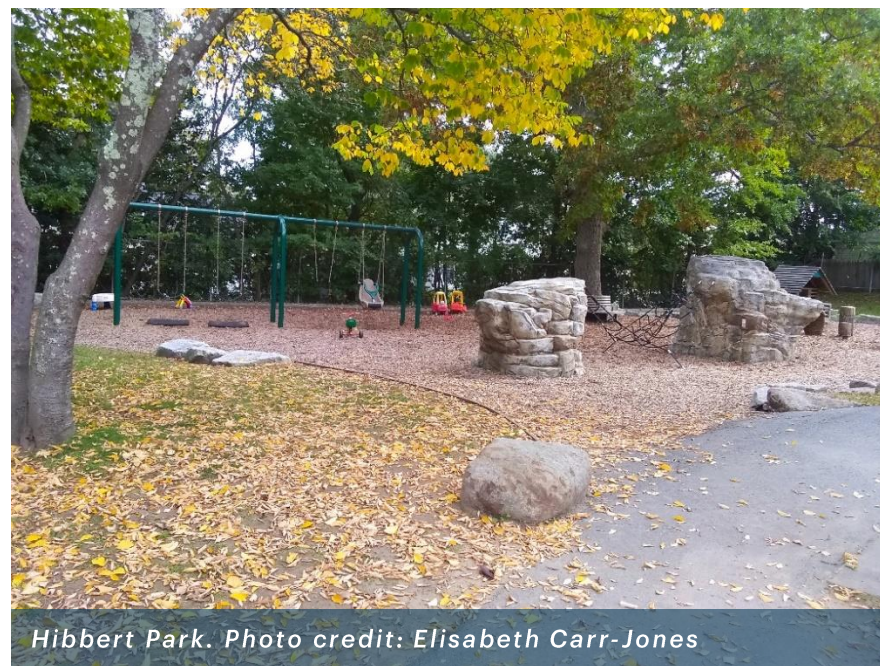


The Crusher Lot. Photo credit: Erin Fera

Avenue, adjacent to the Ottoson Middle School. This site hosts a mature stand of native and non-native trees, other vegetation, and wildlife, including foxes, squirrels, raccoons, owls, turkeys, and woodpeckers. Trails through the woods are used by students and others to get around the neighborhood and for afterschool programs. Historically this parcel was used as a source of gravel for street construction. It became known as the Crusher Lot because of the steam-powered stone crusher located there to create the gravel. The lot is across Oakland Avenue from the former home of Cyrus and Vittoria Dallin, who advocated for having the area preserved as open space after the gravel operation closed and the Junior High School West (now Ottoson Middle School) was built at the bottom of the hillside in 1921.

Hibbert Park is a half-acre property in Arlington Heights between Hibbert Street and Lancaster Road. This intimate neighborhood open space offers naturalistic playground structures nestled into a quiet setting with seating areas and mature trees.

Locke School Playground is a 0.2-acre playground space on Davis Road adjacent to the former Locke School, which is now condominiums. Buffered on one side by trees, it has terraced mulched and paved areas with playground equipment and picnic tables.



Parallel Park, a 1.2-acre parcel at the corner of Medford Street and Mystic Valley Parkway, is owned by DCR and leased to the Town. Flanked by majestic mature trees, this park includes separated playground areas, a basketball court, grassy open space, and shaded areas with benches and picnic tables. The park also provides another green link to the Mystic River Reservation.

Parmenter School Park on the corner of Irving and Academy Streets offers a playground and basketball court next to the Parmenter School, a Town property now rented to private educational organizations. The

playground is scheduled to be renovated and made ADA accessible in 2022-2023.

Reinhart Playground is a half-acre neighborhood park between School Street and Robbins Road adjacent to the former Cutter School, which is now condominiums. It has wooded and open areas with benches. The playground is a memorial to Nicole Reinhart, a cyclist who was killed while participating in the BMC Bike Race in Arlington.

Waldo Park is in East Arlington between Waldo Road and Teel Street, adjacent to St. Paul's Catholic Cemetery. This one-acre landscaped park has playground areas, a basketball court, seating areas, paved pathways, benches, and open green space encircled by trees.

Community Gardens

Community-based gardens sponsored by a variety of Town departments and private groups have become an important part of Arlington's open space fabric.

Arlington Community Orchard was established by HomeHarvest, a local company dedicated to edible landscapes, on land owned by the MWRA off Brattle Court. The orchard features 50+ fruit trees, hundreds of medicinal herbs, edible berries, custom sculptures,



Magnolia Community Garden. Photo credit: Allie Durak

picnic tables, and a social space for workshops and public enjoyment. The company hosts occasional workshops to show the types of regenerative agriculture possible in a public park context.

Magnolia Community Garden was rebuilt as a prominent feature of the Magnolia Park renovations in 2017. Engineered drainage in this flood-prone area further enhanced the 54 highly-sought-after garden allotment plots and related facilities available to Arlington residents through the Recreation Department.

The **colonial kitchen garden at the Jason Russell House** on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and

Jason Street was designed and is maintained by the Arlington Garden Club. This annotated garden displays household culinary and medicinal plants typically found in a colonial kitchen garden in the mid-1700s. The garden area includes two historically accurate apple trees, and the Club uses the garden to educate the public about the uses of a colonial kitchen.

The **Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathways** group is a volunteer coalition of gardeners and native plant enthusiasts who promote and create more pollinator habitats in response to the significant declines in native pollinator species such as bees, butterflies, wasps, and moths. The group is mapping private and public pollinator gardens in the Mystic and Metrowest Charles River watershed communities to show existing resources and identify where more are needed. More than 30 private residential gardens and several Town-owned landscapes are included on the organization's online map.

Robbins Farm Learning Garden in Robbins Farm Park was created as an educational gardening resource for the community and to continue the agricultural tradition of the farm. This cooperative vegetable garden is part of Arlington Recreation and is run by a small active group who maintain the garden, along with informative and educational gardening websites.

The **Wildlife Habitat Garden** at the Arlington Reservoir is planted with native shrubs, grasses and wildflowers that provide shelter and food for a wide variety of wildlife, including rabbits, turtles, toads, birds, butterflies, bees, and dragonflies. Started in 2010 and maintained by the Reservoir Committee of Envision Arlington, the garden represents a collaboration with the Arlington Land Trust, Park and Recreation Commission, Department of Public Works, and residents.

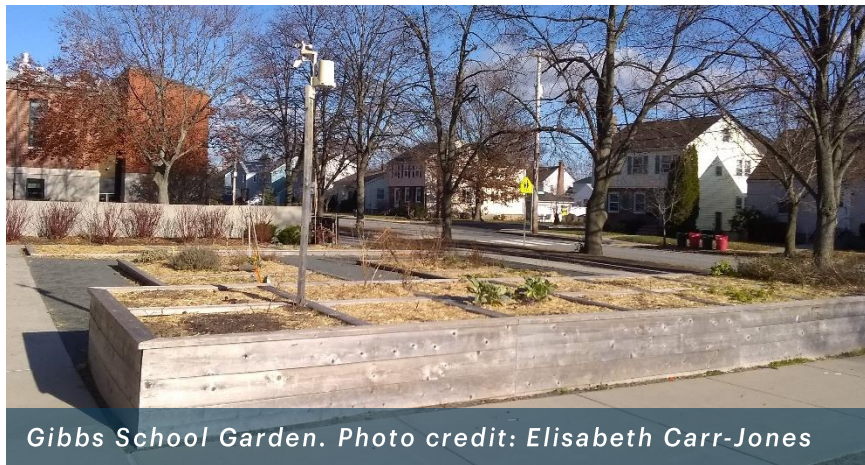


Robbins Farm Learning Garden. Photo credit: Alan Jones

Rain gardens are one of a variety of practices designed to treat polluted stormwater runoff and control localized flooding through ecological landscape design. These gardens have been planted

in or near Spy Pond Park, Wellington Park, Hurd Field, Scannell Field, and the CVS parking lot near the High School. Rain gardens have also been incorporated into several sidewalks in East Arlington through a collaborative project of the Town and MyRWA.

Arlington's neighborhood schools each host educational gardens. Many of these demonstration gardens have specific themes, developed with the guidance and support of the Arlington School Sustainability Coordinator. The gardens are part of a broad environmental and sustainability focus at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, recognized in the Arlington Public Schools receiving the 2018 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Award.



Small Conservation Areas

The Arlington Conservation Commission oversees more than 30 acres of conservation lands, including Mount Gilboa, Turkey Hill, Meadowbrook Park, Window on the Mystic, and Cooke's Hollow, which are described under Major Open Spaces and Recreational Resources above. The following small conservation parcels of less than one acre each are part of the Commission's holdings and/or are monitored by the Arlington Land Stewards program.

- Brattle Street, a U-shaped parcel surrounding 54 Brattle Street.
- Brand Street, including two parcels, left of 72 Brand and right of 36 Brand Street.
- Central Street, on the Adamian property at the end of Central Street.
- Concord Turnpike, between Scituate and Newport Streets, Concord Turnpike and Arlmont Streets.
- Forest Street, opposite the intersection with Dunster Lane at the Winchester town line.
- Hemlock Street, uphill from 5 Hemlock, near Arlington 360.
- Inverness Road, next to 36 Inverness.
- Kilsythe Road, an area landlocked behind 44 and 48 Kilsythe.
- Madison Avenue, adjacent to Mt. Gilboa lands.

- Mohawk Road, including two parcels at the intersection of Washington and Mohawk Streets.
- Park Avenue, at the rear of 53 Park Avenue.
- Philemon Street, on the south side of 32 Philemon St, with access to Whipple Hill lands in Lexington.
- Ridge Street, at the north end of the street.
- Rublee Street, at the intersection of Rublee and Udine, at the entrance to Sutherland Woods in East Lexington.
- Short Street, between 8 Short and 11 West Streets.
- Spring Street, across from 120 Spring Street.
- Stone Road, across from 24 Stone Road.
- Udine Street, on Lexington border.
- Water Street, an area with two benches north of the Minuteman Bikeway next to Buzzell Field.
- Woodside Lane, across from 26, 30, 34 Woodside Lane.

Streetscapes

Arlington hosts a variety of small landscapes and memorial sites throughout its commercial corridors. These spaces create interest and make an area more attractive.

Sidewalk Plazas and Street Parklets: During the COVID-19 pandemic, Arlington's Department of Planning and Community Development coordinated with many restaurants and other business owners to create seasonal outdoor seating options on adjacent sidewalks

and roadways, primarily along Massachusetts Avenue and nearby streets in three business districts. The Medford Street parklet in Arlington Center was installed in fall 2020 and enhanced in 2021 with a MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces grant. This pedestrian-friendly area offers outdoor seating and other furnishings, including an at-grade accessible parklet platform, solar-powered umbrellas featuring LED lights and phone chargers, and seasonal plantings. Because of their popularity, it is anticipated that these spaces will continue after the pandemic.

Traffic Island Gardens and Planters: With town support, the Arlington Garden Club coordinates the adoption of traffic islands and public planters by individual volunteer gardeners and nearby businesses. More than 60 islands and sidewalk planters are adopted and maintained each year. Some of the larger plantings are at Broadway Plaza, the intersection of Jason Street/ Mill Street/Massachusetts Avenue, and the Ridge Street Circle.

Veterans Memorials and Markers: The Town's Department of Veterans' Services documents 24 Memorial Plaques recognizing Arlington veterans on traffic islands and street corners throughout town. An online map designates these locations, as well as notations of three Revolutionary War markers along Massachusetts Avenue.