

RECREATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Arlington's Recreation Department offered hundreds of programs and facilities rentals for Arlington residents in 2022. 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 7-years, please note that the FY2021 season was impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic which is reflected in lower than usual numbers.

Ed Burns Arena	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Ice Rental Hours	2,032	1,795	1,643	1,559	1,379	1,293	1,670
Public Skate - Adult	4,795	6,288	5,730	4,581	3,858	479	3,117
Public Skate - Child/Senior	7,643	4,805	6,623	6,732	6,434	714	6,660
Skate Rentals	3,325	3,386	4,106	3,405	3,202	988	2,963
Skate Sharpening	845	528	636	352	146	92	95
Stick and Puck	1,377	1,425	1,469	1,102	1,121	417	790

The Department has been committed to providing quality affordable programs and community wide special events. The chart below gives an overview of the program attendance for the previous 7-years, please note that the FY2021 season was impacted due to the pandemic which is reflected in lower than usual numbers.

Season	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Summer	3,806	3,469	3,197	2,807	2,214	4,781	5,841
Fall	1,370	1,265	1,300	1,042	1,204	2,088	4,330
Winter	2,333	2,445	2,525	2,387	1,745	1,571	2,470
Spring	1,529	2,145	2,223	1,306	0	2,121	4,202
Kids Care Memberships	163	135	124	169	163	124	128
Total	9,201	9,459	9,369	7,711	5,326	10,685	16,970

Overall, the participation numbers in recreational programs has fluctuated over the last few years with a major drop in FY2020 but a strong rebound in FY2021 and sharp growth in FY2022.

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 recreational programming and licensed early education and care programs. It is important for the Department to continually explore alternative program locations.

The numbers at the Reservoir Beach have fluctuated over the last several years and the beach did not open during the Summer of 2020 and numbers were impacted by the ongoing construction project in the Summer of 2021. With the opening of the renovated Reservoir Beach in FY2022 we saw a large increase in season passes and beach attendance. The chart below represents the number of annual beach goers through the FY2022 season:

Reservoir	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Adult Resident	279	215	132	142	142	48	165
Child Resident	339	198	153	126	126	62	120
Senior Citizen	68	53	56	42	42	86	99
Resident Family	404	338	892	712	178	310	321
Total Tags Sold	1,090	804	1,523	1,217	485	506	754
Total Daily Passes	8,806	11,782	9,239	9,775	17,590	4,611	15,308

The Recreation Department works closely with Public Works to try and balance field usage with field conditions. The number of fields has remained constant over the years, but the influx in the school age population has increased the demand on field space. The Department will continue to work with the Park Commission, various user groups, friends groups, and residents to seek solutions for these challenges.

RECREATION

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Arlington Recreation continues to manage the capital improvement projects for the Park and Recreation Commission. Projects in 2022 consisted of:

- ADA Lift for Ed Burns Arena Bleachers
- Reservoir Phase II
- Hurd Field
- Parmenter Playground
- Spy Pond Playground
- Bishop School Playground
- Stratton School Playground
- Peirce School Playground
- Hills Hill Mountain Biking Feasibility Study
- Robbins Farm Playground Design
- Repairs and upgrades to our playgrounds based on findings in the 2019 playground audit and 2022 playground safety inspections.

2023 Goals

The Department will continue to offer its state licensed afterschool and preschool programs and continue to look for a permanent home for these programs. The Department will also be adding new programs and outdoor facilities to keep up with the increased demand of the sport of pickle ball. This includes a need assessment of all outdoor play court spaces. The Department will also be implementing a number of recommendations from Tufts University School of Occupational Therapy for inclusion-based programming.

The Department has a number of projects scheduled for 2023 including the Robbins Farm Playground, Completion of the Hurd Field Renovation, and continued playground upgrades in response to the 2019 playground audit and 2022 safety inspections.



Clockwise left to right; Fresh sod applied at Hurd Field, completed renovations at Bishop Playground, and Arlington's Park & Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Recreation Department, Select Board, and the public celebrates the grand re-opening of Arlington Reservoir.