

RECREATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Arlington's Recreation Department offered hundreds of programs and facilities rentals for Arlington residents in 2023. 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 four years.

Ed Burns Arena	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Ice Rental Hours	1,379	1,293	1,670	1580
Public Skate - Adult	3,858	479	3,117	4,514
Public Skate - Child/Senior	6,434	714	6,660	10,236
Skate Rentals	3,202	988	2,963	3,874
Skate Sharpening	146	92	95	95
Stick and Puck	1,121	417	790	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 four years.

Season	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Summer	2,214	4,781	5,841	6,732
Fall	1,204	2,088	4,330	3,843
Winter	1,745	1,571	2,470	3,356
Spring	0	2,121	4,202	4,441
Kids Care Memberships	163	124	128	144
Total	5,326	10,685	16,970	18,516

Overall, the participation numbers in recreational programs has fluctuated over the last few years with sharp growth in FY2022 and FY2023.

The access to a primary recreational program space has the biggest potential impact on the Department's ability to increase programming. 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. The Department will be moving to the old Parmenter School which will greatly assist the communities programming needs.

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 FY2023 season.

Reservoir	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Adult Resident	142	48	165	116
Child Resident	126	62	120	73
Senior Citizen	42	86	99	86
Resident Family	178	288	321	310
Total Tags Sold	485	484	754	585
Total Daily Passes	17,590	4,611	11,952	12,763

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 of 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 2023 consisted of:

- Hurd Field
- Parmenter Playground
- Spy Pond Playground
- Bishop School Playground*
- Stratton School Playground*
- Peirce School Playground*
- Hills Hill Mountain Biking Design
- Robbins Farm Playground*
- Athletic Court Needs Assessment
- Parallel Park Design
- Menotomy Rocks Park Picnic and Play Area Design
- Repairs and upgrades to our playgrounds based on annual playground safety inspections.

Projects marked with an asterisk denotes they are funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Without this funding the Town would not have been able to renovate these playgrounds.

2024 Goals

The Department will continue to offer its state licensed afterschool and preschool programs and look to expand programs at our new home at the old Parmenter School. 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 2024 including the completion of Robbins Farm Playground, Parallel Playground, Menotomy Rocks Park Picnic Area and Play Area, and continued playground upgrades.

