



ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION
17 Irving Street
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

Natasha Waden
Director of Recreation & Community Services

Telephone:
781-316-3880

COMMISSIONERS

Jen Rothenberg Leslie Mayer Shirley Canniff Phil Lasker Scott Walker Sara Carrier Josh Fenollosa

MEETING NOTICE

The Park and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, November 12, 2024
7:00 PM – Arlington Recreation, 17 Irving Street
4th Floor Main Hall

AGENDA

- 1) Approval of Meeting Minutes 10/22/2024.
- 2) Special Event Request:
 - a) Simpson Wedding Request- Robbins Farm Park
 - b) D. Mark- Geocache placement- Menotomy Rocks Park
 - c) MassDOT- request for easement- Mary Anne Greeley Park
- 3) Director Updates
 - a) Programming- Introduction- Jeff Jamgochian/ New Program Supervisor
 - i) Spring/Summer program updates
 - b) Kid Care- Afterschool program
 - c) Rec/Rink project updates
 - d) Off leash signage at Parks
 - e) Assistant Director of Recreation and Community Services position
 - f) FY26 CPA fund request- McClennan-Skate Park and Community Garden
 - g) Capital Project Updates: Robbins, Hills Hill, Parallel/ Menotomy, Ed Burns Parking, Crosby
- 4) Correspondence Received
 - a) Various individuals- Fishing line/waste concerns
 - b) B. Coogan- Mugar Wetlands and Playing Fields
 - c) E. Crowder- update-- ArMI work at McClennan
- 5) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:
- 6) New Business
 - a) PRC Meeting schedule- remainder of year and proposed 2025
- 7) Public Comment

Wedding & Photography Policy Application

Applicant Name: Thomas Simpson

Address: 89 Paul Revere Road #1

City, State, Zip: Arlington, MA 02476

Phone: 916-599-6895 Cell: 916-599-6895

E-mail trsimpson50@gmail.com

Date Requested: 8/23/25

Location Requested: Robbins Farm Park

Total Number of People: 45

Non-Amplified Music: No music

Event Description: Wedding

The Town of Arlington's beautiful parks and gardens offer space for small weddings and photographs. These and other types of events require a permit issued by the Arlington Recreation Department.

Although weddings and wedding photographs are private affairs, when held in a park couples, attendants, guests, and photographers must strive to conduct their ceremony and photographs in a manner that does not impact or deter the general public's enjoyment of our parks.

This policy is in accordance with Park Commission Rules Regulations. To ensure park protection and little or no park disruption, the Department enforces limit capacity and activities within the following guidelines.

General Guidelines:

Couples must apply for a wedding ceremony or photographs by submitting a Field Request and a cashier's or bank check payable to the Town of Arlington at least 10 business days prior to the event.

Town of Arlington Residents \$ 50.00

Non-Arlington Residents \$100.00

Application fees are non-refundable.

Please see reverse side for permit conditions

A site visit is strongly recommended.

No rehearsals are permitted.

The Department does not offer alternate locations or rain dates to be used in case of bad weather. It is recommended to have a back-up plan.

The wedding party is responsible for cleaning the area used following the wedding ceremony or photographs. Any trash generated by your party must be removed prior to your departure.

Parking is limited at most parks; car-pooling is advised. Illegal parking is subject to tagging and towing at the owners' expense.

No event or directional signs are allowed. It is suggested that you specify the exact location in your invitations and place an attendant at the nearest gate to guide your guests.

Permits will be issued under the following conditions:

- Wedding activities are scheduled between April 1 - December 1
- 60-minute maximum duration.
- Wedding activities are scheduled through the Recreation Department.
- Permit is issued for a maximum of 50 people including the wedding party
- No vehicles permitted or parking on park property.
- No tents, tables, chairs, altars, arbors, decorations, signs, rice, birdseed, confetti, glass, balloons, props, or animals.
- No amplified music or sound.
- No catered food or beverages.
- Cannot restrict other park visitors from the park nor block pathways.
- All trash and debris generated must be removed prior to departure.
- Locations for wedding ceremonies and photographs:
 - Menotomy Rocks Park
 - Spy Pond
 - Robbins Farm

Release/Indemnification of Town

In conjunction with any issued permit, I do hereby waive, relinquish, fully release, discharge and indemnify the Town of Arlington from any and all claims for injuries (personal and otherwise), damage or loss which I may have or which may accrue to me or anyone associated with my activity on account of my permitted use of the Town's parks and gardens.

I have read and understand the permit conditions:

Thomas Simpson _____

11/4/24 _____

Name

Date

policy approved 12/11/2007

Fw: Permission for Geocache at Menotomy Rocks Park

From RecOffice <recoffice@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date Mon 11/4/2024 3:06 PM
To Natasha Waden <nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us>

I think we have done this before at Robbins Farm Park??? The only question I would have is do they maintain it or do they eventually remove it? - Linda

From: dennis mark <demark73@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 3, 2024 7:17 PM
To: Natasha Waden <nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: RecOffice <recoffice@town.arlington.ma.us>
Subject: Re: Permission for Geocache at Menotomy Rocks Park

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Hi Natasha,

I was wondering if you have had a chance to see my email below, and have any feedback on placing a geocache at Menotomy Rocks Park? Or if you aren't the right person, if you can please point me in the right direction?

The [geocaching.com](https://www.geocaching.com) website requires permission from the landowner before registering the geocache for others to find. Any assistance on this would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,
Dennis

On Sat, Oct 19, 2024 at 11:57 AM dennis mark <demark73@gmail.com> wrote:

Natasha,

I'm not sure if you are the right person to contact, and if not hopefully you can point me in the right direction. But I wanted to ask permission to place a geocache container at Menotomy Rocks Park.

This is planned to be an activity for the Girl Scout troop I lead at Dallin School. The girls will help make the geocache, and I have picked a location for them to help hide it. And others can enjoy discovering the geocache using their phone and geocaching app.

This will be a small clear plastic container with a log notebook, and some small toys/souvenirs. This is meant to be a wholesome, family friendly activity. I will place the container in a location that does not adversely impact the environment, and it will be discreetly hidden and not easily visible to anyone that is not specifically looking for it.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Permission from the land owner is required in order to register the cache on [geocaching.com](https://www.geocaching.com) for others to find.

Thank you,
Dennis Mark
617-365-4577

RE: Questions Regarding Mary Anne Greeley Park for Section 4(f)

From Norton, Carleigh S. (DOT) <Carleigh.S.Norton@dot.state.ma.us>

Date Fri 11/1/2024 11:34 AM

To Natasha Waden <nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us>

Cc Freeman, Jonathan E. (DOT) <Jonathan.E.Freeman@dot.state.ma.us>; John Alessi <jalessi@town.arlington.ma.us>; Shrimpton, Jeffrey P. (DOT) <Jeffrey.Shrimpton@dot.state.ma.us>

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Good morning, Natasha,

Thanks for getting back to us so quickly.

Unfortunately, we (namely, myself) currently do not have the capacity to meet on-site to discuss the Section 4(f) implications associated with this project. However, I will do my best to sum everything up within a response:

- **Areas needing to be assessed:** The only publicly owned parcel that requires easements for right-of-way purposes is at 180 Mountain Avenue, also known as the Stratton School. Since there is a park within this parcel (Mary Anne Greeley Park) and this project is being funded using federal aid, MassDOT is required to comply with Section 4(f), which is a law that protects open space and is meant to avoid, minimize, and mitigate against any impacts to the parcel.
- **Type(s) of activity on the property:** . Since the project requires a *temporary* easement on this parcel, work is minor in nature or will be a *de minimis* impact. Per [Federal Highway's Section 4\(f\) Guide](#), for publicly owned public parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges, a *de minimis* impact is one that will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes of the Section 4(f) property. Based on current right-of-way plans, the only activity that will be conducted on this parcel is grading for the existing roadway. Based on my review of the right-of-way plans and Google Maps, the park itself is **not** going to be impacted. The area of impact will occur near Stratton School's driveway. However, since there is a park located within this parcel, MassDOT is required to complete the Section 4(f) process.
- **Expected start/duration:** The project is anticipated to advertise to be constructed in **April 2025**, with construction most likely beginning in the summer, or the following months. I cannot provide a specific timeframe for the start. However, duration of the occupancy will be temporary, i.e., less than the time needed for construction of the project, and there will be no change in ownership of the land. Once grading is completed, there will be no additional work on this parcel.

I hope this clears up some of the questions you had. Like John mentioned, MassDOT is doing its due diligence regarding the Section 4(f) process even though construction **will not take**

place within/on the park itself. I am getting ready to go on leave, but I am available for the rest of today if, like John suggested, you'd like to jump on a quick phone call to discuss this in more detail.

In the meantime, please let me know if there's anything else I can clarify.

Thank you,

Carleigh Norton (she/they)

MassDOT - Highway Division

Environmental Analyst II, MEPA/NEPA

Cell: 978-914-2619

From: Natasha Waden <nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us>

Sent: Friday, November 1, 2024 10:42 AM

To: Norton, Carleigh S. (DOT) <Carleigh.S.Norton@dot.state.ma.us>

Cc: Freeman, Jonathan E. (DOT) <Jonathan.E.Freeman@dot.state.ma.us>; John Alessi <jallessi@town.arlington.ma.us>; Shrimpton, Jeffrey P. (DOT) <Jeffrey.Shrimpton@dot.state.ma.us>

Subject: Re: Questions Regarding Mary Anne Greeley Park for Section 4(f)

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Good Morning Carleigh,

Is it possible to meet someone onsite so that I can get a better understanding of what area(s) need to be accessed, what type of activity and/or equipment will be on this property, and the expected start and duration of this.

Many thanks in advance.

Natasha

Natasha Waden, MPA

Director of Recreation

Town of Arlington

17 Irving Street

Arlington, MA 02476

nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us

781-316-3880

From: Norton, Carleigh S. (DOT) <Carleigh.S.Norton@dot.state.ma.us>

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 10:55 AM

To: Natasha Waden <nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us>

Cc: Freeman, Jonathan E. (DOT) <Jonathan.E.Freeman@dot.state.ma.us>; John Alessi <jallessi@town.arlington.ma.us>; Shrimpton, Jeffrey P. (DOT) <Jeffrey.Shrimpton@dot.state.ma.us>

Subject: RE: Questions Regarding Mary Anne Greeley Park for Section 4(f)

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Good morning, Natasha,

I hope you're well.

Good morning!

My name is Carleigh Norton, and I am the MassDOT environmental reviewer for MassDOT Project No. 609531 – Arlington Stratton SRTS.

Per review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we are required to complete the Section 4(f) process. In short, Section 4(f) refers to the original section within the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which provided for consideration of park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites during transportation project development. Section 4(f) applies to projects that receive funding from or require approval by an agency of the U.S. DOT.

The project, as designed, requires one temporary easement (temporary occupancy) on the parcel know as the Stratton School, which includes Mary Anne Greeley Park. You are the Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ) over this parcel, as you oversee the park. It is required under Section 4(f) that you sign the attached Temporary Occupancy Form to provide concurrence with the outlined criteria.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me and I would be happy to answer them.

Thank you,

Carleigh Norton (she/they)
MassDOT - Highway Division
Environmental Analyst II, MEPA/NEPA
Cell: 978-914-2619

From: John Alessi <jalessi@town.arlington.ma.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 8:45 AM
To: Norton, Carleigh S. (DOT) <Carleigh.S.Norton@dot.state.ma.us>
Cc: Freeman, Jonathan E. (DOT) <Jonathan.E.Freeman@dot.state.ma.us>; Natasha Waden <nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us>
Subject: RE: Questions Regarding Mary Anne Greeley Park for Section 4(f)

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Morning Carleigh,

You can contact our Parks & Recreation Director, Natasha Waden, who is cc'd here. Please do keep me in the loop so that I can chime in about the project if need be.

John

John Alessi | Sr. Transportation Planner | Town of Arlington | 781-316-3093

From: Norton, Carleigh S. (DOT) <Carleigh.S.Norton@dot.state.ma.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 8:37 AM
To: John Alessi <jalessi@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: Freeman, Jonathan E. (DOT) <Jonathan.E.Freeman@dot.state.ma.us>
Subject: Re: Questions Regarding Mary Anne Greeley Park for Section 4(f)

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Good morning John,

Thanks so much for sending those responses! I appreciate the fast response.

Do you know who the contact is within the Parks and Rec department? The property is most definitely protected under Section 4(f), so I will need to send them a form to approve.

Thanks,
Carleigh Norton

From: John Alessi <jalessi@town.arlington.ma.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 8:14:36 AM
To: Norton, Carleigh S. (DOT) <Carleigh.S.Norton@dot.state.ma.us>
Cc: Freeman, Jonathan E. (DOT) <Jonathan.E.Freeman@dot.state.ma.us>
Subject: RE: Questions Regarding Mary Anne Greeley Park for Section 4(f)

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Carleigh,

Answers to your questions below in red. Let me know if you need anything else!

John

John Alessi | Sr. Transportation Planner | Town of Arlington | 781-316-3093

From: Norton, Carleigh S. (DOT) <Carleigh.S.Norton@dot.state.ma.us>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 12:50 PM
To: John Alessi <jalessi@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: Freeman, Jonathan E. (DOT) <Jonathan.E.Freeman@dot.state.ma.us>
Subject: Questions Regarding Mary Anne Greeley Park for Section 4(f)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good morning!

My name is Carleigh Norton, and I am the MassDOT environmental reviewer for MassDOT Project No. 609531 – Arlington Stratton SRTS (Safe Routes to School).

Per review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and in order for a project to be completed, we are required to complete the Section 4(f) process. In short, Section 4(f) refers to the original section within the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which provided for consideration of park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites during transportation project development. Section 4(f) applies to projects that receive funding from or require approval by an agency of the U.S. DOT.

Since this project requires a **temporary easement** on The Arlington Stratton School parcel (180 Mountain Avenue) and contains a park (the Mary Anne Greeley Park), the project must undergo the process for Section 4(f). To make the determination if the school property *is* protected under Section 4(f), I have a few questions I'd like to ask you:

- Is the park (Mary Anne Greeley Park) open to the public?
 - **Yes**
- If so, is the park open to the public **at all hours** (even during school hours)?
 - **Yes, but it closes from dusk till dawn.**
- Does the Arlington Stratton School manage the park or is it managed by the town?
 - **It is managed by the Town's Parks & Recreation Department.**

Your responses will greatly help the Section 4(f) and NEPA process proceed smoothly. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns for me, please let me know and I'd be happy to discuss this further.

Thanks so much,

Carleigh Norton (she/they)

MassDOT - Highway Division

Environmental Analyst II, MEPA/NEPA

Cell: 978-914-2619

fishing gear waste and treble hooks

From Brad Barber <bradb@shore.net>

Date Tue 10/22/2024 7:10 PM

To Natasha Waden <nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us>

 1 attachments (3 MB)

2-trying to free herself.mp4;

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Dear Natasha,

Darcy Thomas sent a note about fishing gear waste. I am co-chair of the Spy Pond Committee.

Fishing gear is a serious problem. A short movie is attached. On May 7, 2022, myself and several others removed a double treble hook lure from a fully grown swan near the corner of Princeton Road and Alfred Street. One end of the lure was hooked into her beak and the other end had several hooks buried into her neck. As a result, she was not able to raise her head. We were able to remove all but one hook. That hook was too deep. It was clipped off and no further troubles were noted.

This summer, friends and I helped a swan tangled with a hook in her foot and line wrapped around her body. She had a cygnet near by. The barb was clipped off, the hook pulled out, and the fishing line removed.

--Brad

Danger of abandoned fishing tackle/gear

From Paula Jordan <paulajordan@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 10/21/2024 8:47 PM

To Natasha Waden <nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us>

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Dear, Ms Waden.

I am writing to express my concern over fishing line abandoned and discarded at Arlington waterways that injure, maim and kill wildlife. They also pose dangers to domestic animals and humans.

As you may know there is a juvenile black crown night heron recovering (still in guarded condition) from being entangled/severely wounded at Spy Pond by abandoned fishing tackle.

I am a naturalist, environmental educator and a volunteer herring counter each year at the Mystic Lake. Folks come from all over to bird during this time and Black Crowned Night Herons are one of the beautiful and important birds ecologically to the area.

We ask that the town place boxes, signs or other more effective means to educate the public about the needless dangers of abandoned fishing gear.

Perhaps there are even places/times where fishing should not be allowed.

There have been other birds and domestic animals injured over the years. Waterway safety for all along with responsible recreation and stewardship is possible. Please take all the comments you might receive regarding this issue and act. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paula Jordan, she/her
31 Cleveland St
Arlington, Ma
781-234-5311



Sent from my iPhone

Fishing line

From Rekha Murthy <rmurthy6@gmail.com>

Date Mon 10/21/2024 4:58 PM

To Natasha Waden <nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us>

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Hello Ms. Waden,

First, welcome to your new role!

A note about discarded fishing line at town parks. I live near Menotomy and walk around the pond several times a week. I have long worried about the discarded line, particularly the hooks. I was focused on the harm to little kids - parents let them approach the water in a couple of areas, without knowing that hooks are regularly found there.

Then, Laura Kiesel of Save Arlington Wildlife alerted her FB followers to the harms to wildlife - in particular a heron who was seriously harmed by a fishing hook. And there have been others.

I hope the Town can take action to protect kids and wildlife, perhaps by posting signs to remind people to clean up their fishing gear, and if that doesn't work, by banning fishing at Town ponds altogether.

Many thanks.
Rekha Murthy
9 Coolidge Rd.

Fw: Mugar Wetlands and The Playing Fields

From RecOffice <recoffice@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date Thu 11/7/2024 9:21 AM
To Natasha Waden <nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us>

From: Brid Coogan <cooganpluck@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 8:59 PM
To: RecOffice <recoffice@town.arlington.ma.us>
Subject: Mugar Wetlands and The Playing Fields

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Community Support Is Essential and We NEED Your Help!

Concerned Neighbors, Friends and Community Members:

Thorndike Place is a proposed 124-unit development with underground parking, plus 6 duplex townhomes, along Dorothy Road in East Arlington. Located on a 17.7-acre site, only 1.5 acres are NOT in the FEMA floodplain. With no Route 2 access, the only egress for this massive complex would be through small neighborhood streets. This project has been before the Arlington Conservation Commission since September 2023 and is now approaching the final hearings. On October 24th, 63 people attended a special hearing to discuss a third-party peer review by GZA (GZA Geo Environmental, Inc.) of the groundwater management plan submitted by the Applicant. Their engineer portrayed GZA's review as confirmation of the methodology, data and conclusions in their groundwater study.

During public comment of the hearing, concerns raised by Arlington Land Trust's consultants prompted the need for GZA to reevaluate their previous review. The hearing has been continued until Thursday, November 21st at 7pm.

We strongly encourage interested parties who appreciate how misguided this project is, to attend this next hearing.

Please register for the hearing via this link: https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqcuqvjgjpHdd98ZwruZj_z3SR6m7Yu6vi

THANK YOU - Strength in numbers!

On behalf of the Coalition to Save the Mugar Wetlands

Brid Coogan
17 Edith St. Arlington

ArMI work at McClennen - Update

From Elaine Crowder <ecrowder@communication-exchange.com>

Date Thu 10/31/2024 1:57 PM

To Natasha Waden <nwaden@town.arlington.ma.us>; David Morgan <dmorgan@town.arlington.ma.us>; Susan Chapnick <schapnick@neh-inc.com>

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Hello Natasha, David, and Susan,

I wanted to provide PRC and ConCom with an update on the invasives control work ArMI (Arlington MA Invasives ArMI) accomplished at McClennen in the past two winters, and the bare-root shrub plantings completed in the Spring of 2024. We are very pleased that all 25 shrubs are thriving as of October 2024!

To summarize:

(See the full report here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/12a2GegyEXa9Ta-aiBiZ7joNS6WAndePc9KQFyVm7_Y/edit?usp=sharing)

If desired, I can send a pdf of this report tomorrow.

Spring 2024: Planted 25 bare-root shrubs from New Hampshire State Forest Tree Nursery - \$48

October 2024 Update: All 25 shrubs survived the July and Aug-Sept droughts with no hand watering! All protective cages remain in place.

Biodiversity Context: Robust biodiversity prevents collapse of ecosystems and our food supply. *Planting natives for biodiversity at McClennen and other Arlington parks is a start toward meeting important state and global biodiversity [targets](#).* Our work addresses the open space biodiversity protections (inspired by UN Global Biodiversity [targets](#)) that over 23 states, including Massachusetts' [5-year strategic plan](#), are creating through legislative action to take effect at the local level. This is the challenging new frontier in Parks management embraced by the National Recreation & Park Association's [Environmental Resilience](#) Pillar (see detail p. 2).

Possible Next Steps: 1) Continue woody invasives control, winter 2024-25; 2) Plant native flowers, grasses, & sedges in the no-mow area surrounding retention pond and other wetlands areas; 3) Remove large "specimen" multiflora rose behind pond (requires DPW assistance) & plant specimen shrub (e.g. high bush blueberry), with educational signage; 4) Continue successful bare root shrub plantings surrounding pond and wetlands. (see detail p. 6)

I am happy to come before each commission to talk about this report and suggested next steps.
Best, Elaine Crowder

ArMI

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Elaine Crowder, Ph. D.
Communication Exchange
781-648-1927