

Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2029 APPENDICES



Draft
June 17, 2022

APPENDIX A

Public Engagement



Open Space Committee

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update June 10, 2021 Workshop Summary

Executive Summary

On June 10, 2021 the Open Space Committee held a virtual public workshop to collect feedback for the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) update. The workshop was attended by 47 community members and was facilitated by the Open Space Committee with help from the Department of Planning and Community Development, the Park & Recreation Commission, the Recreation Department, and technical consultant Horsley Witten.

The workshop started with a presentation on what an OSRP is, why it is important, the State requirements of an OSRP, Arlington's current OSRP, and accomplishments of the current plan. Meeting participants were then placed into breakout rooms to discuss open space and recreation in more detail. There were eight (8) breakout groups, four (4) focused on recreation and the other four (4) focused on open space. During the breakout groups, participants discussed:

- 1) What is the Town doing well to meet community open space and recreation needs?
- 2) What could the Town do better and how?
- 3) What are missing open space and recreation opportunities?

After the breakout room discussions, all participants rejoined the main meeting room for a report out and information about future OSRP update public engagement opportunities.

The main themes highlighted by workshop participants include:

Recreation

- The Recreation Department and Park & Recreation Commission do an excellent job of providing recreational programming and identifying park renovation opportunities
- Arlington has a good variety of playgrounds and playing fields
- Need for better park and playground maintenance
- Concern that if Arlington grows in population, there are no new spaces for recreational amenities
- Need for better coordination between Recreation-owned and School-owned properties for consistency of rules and maintenance

- Need for more flexible park space for unstructured recreation (e.g. not team sports), community events, and economic development – such as festivals, movie nights, workout classes, chamber of commerce events, etc.
- Limited indoor recreation opportunities (e.g. pool)
- Need for including arts in recreational amenities – design art into parks and have space for art creation in parks
- Need for better park signage
- Need for a community center

Open Space

- Arlington has a good variety of open spaces, many of which are connected by the bikeway
- Need for better open space maintenance, particularly invasive species management
- Concern of climate change threats to open spaces, importance of urban tree canopy
- Opportunity for more pocket parks and activating open public space
- Need for educational signage in open spaces
- Arlington should assess opportunities for acquiring more open space land
- Need for better management of stewardship activities
- Need for more native plantings and pollinator pathways
- Concern that private green space is shrinking

Please refer to Appendix A (Workshop Notes) for more information on the topics discussed at the workshop.

Appendix A. Workshop Notes

Recreation Notes

Question 1 – What is the Town doing well? What do you like?

- When they do a project, they do a really good job; some cool things - Magnolia, Res, Spy
- Activities perspective robust and do great job, great staff, wonderful department; kids aged out; curious about overlaps between private organizations and town programs (sports and arts); Rec dept fabulous; used parks more when had a dog; like the Res
- Interesting to see amount of planning going into programs
- Move in 2001, near Res - wildlife is amazing, excited to see the upgrade; love living on bike trail; love Arlington is redoing playgrounds; Schwaab Mill also a gold mine
- Sat in on PRC meeting; impressed with planning; doing an amazing job identifying constituencies and balancing the needs
- Spy Pond & Mystic great for kayaking
- Easy access to bike path
- Lussiano Playground – space, design, equipment, listened to Town and neighbors on design
- The number of different types of playing fields
- Outdoor rink at Poets
- Tennis Courts
- Open Spaces such as Robbins, Menotomy, Spy
- Number of neighborhood playgrounds
- Playground proximity to field complexes
- As cyclist, very fortunate to have access to great bike path. Maintenance is good. Vacancies along path that have never been utilized. Beer garden 2 years ago was great to get people in community setting.
- Town has done impressive job getting youth on fields playing sports, active, engaged with community. Believes there is an increase in demand. Believes does good job maintained. Intersection to open space and art programs in town. Along bike path and others. Giving people things to see and adventure. Helps make individuals feel involved.
- Civic block is a great location. Full of young people talking it was great. Town does great job with various aspects. The bike path is great but believes more can be done. Art near spy pond is so much fun. Loves seeing the wildlife. Would like to see more destinations and points of interest along bike path.
- Loves the bike path, playgrounds, and res.

Question 2 – What can the Town do better?

- Concerned about Japanese knotweed on bike trail; really needs to be worked on the shoulder as a safety and tick concern
- No plan for maintenance (facilities dept for school is major improvement); need plan for maintenance!; serious lack of oversight; Waldo needs to be seeded
- Set aside money for maintenance through endowment or some way of setting aside maintenance funding
- Losing big spaces to housing; worry that Arlington down the road hasn't set aside land for recreation space (recreation center reference); took 18 months to find a relocation space for children's theater when kicked out of Gibb's; partnerships between churches and recreation for smoke detectors/accessibility

- Ongoing frustration - dogs not leashed and people not respectful; Arlington/Lexington confusion at the Res over rules
- Poet's Corner seems like an embarrassment; great resource
- School and Rec properties need to have a consolidation of responsibilities
- Some place could be maintained better. Places mentioned Menotomy Rock Park "can look shabby", places along bike path, trash, etc. People are well behaved on bike path, but sometimes can be rude/not paying attention. Different types of users on. Issue of maintenance.
- Different groups involved with Recreation, would love to see youth sports groups involved in helping maintain or volunteer. High school students volunteer requirements. Friends of Spy Pond Park rely on this. Would like to see more sports teams dedicated to helping give back. More community gardens in town. Pandemic increased interest. In between active and passive recreation. May not have kids going to playground or involved in other recreation activities. Looking for more community garden spaces in town. More sports fields, specifically for kids just trying to recreate. Just a place to play on their own. At hardy, all blacktop or playground. No real place to kick around a soccer ball. Bike space access to recreational spaces. More connections.
- Lives near Spy Pond on loop of Belmont line. Trying to walk into Arlington Center or getting to the bike path is very difficult. Has expressed this to DOT. Lake Street. More inclined with (3) year old to go to Belmont than Arlington Center due to access. Better access. Individuals on Belmont/Arlington line more inclined to go to Belmont sense access. Would like to see more community events in parks. Small musical festivals and other events. Has seen the climate change over the last 10 years. Post pandemic, believes should have more events to bring community together. Fantastic properties need better use for events.
- With toddler, loves playgrounds. In terms of maintenance, sees bolts missing. Important bolts where child could fall. Have seen issues at both Hills Hill and McClennen. Wants to keep kids safe. Have noticed a variety of invasive knot weed and poison ivy. Knot weed is all over Arlington Heights, Bike Path, encroaching more and more on Reservoir. Trash in parks. Damper on visiting and play. Clean up parks and playgrounds. Locke Park is great little park but seriously in need of TLC. So little but people don't notice it. Trash there and no sand in sandbox. Enrolled in first recreation class, kid's sports class this summer. Toddler class fills up so quickly. Noon is not a good time for toddler programs.
- If a park is left to die, it becomes a place for behavior we don't want to see. Wants to see more event not just by Recreation, but just more accepting by Town. Use of Town spaces by business owners and chamber of commerce. Traditionally, use of Town spaces very prohibited.

Question 3 – What more could we do to meet community needs?

- A consolidation of discussion about how to design playgrounds for different; removal of seesaws/merry-go-rounds/and swings
- Artists spaces in parks for sale of wares
- Pickle ball courts and ping pong are needed; pianos outdoors; ping pong outdoors
- Pool and indoor recreation space other than schools
- Need to redefine what recreation is to include the arts
- Indoor recreational opportunities (like old tots and twos at Gibbs)
- Scheduling of property next to school sites – school dominate and not fair to those residents who home school, or send children to private
- Improve access to the bike path
- Cultural recreational community art space (gazebo, amphitheater, community space)
- Lack of field availability
- More picnic tables

- Additional spray park
- Areas for marginalized population
- The area around the sports complex and area across from it. Can see something great. Perhaps a swimming pool. Very interested in arts community. Site behind arena a great place for recreational opportunity.
- Signage. Started walking at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. History about cemetery. More communication and education components in Town Parks. Ice industry on Spy Pond.
- Swimming pool. Loves the beach but it is different from swimming pool. Lexington or Belmont does not let in. Willing to pay. Be nice to have own pool. Outdoor pool.
- Nature!

Open Space Notes

Question 1 – What is the Town doing well? What do you like?

- Playgrounds and variety of open spaces, bike path
- Linkage of arts and culture with open spaces – good efforts so far, and people seem to appreciate what has been done, but can do much more; (Q2/3 -- more funds and commitment to planning arts in park redesigns from the beginning of the process, not as an afterthought)
- Native plantings and pollinator-friendly gardens, rain gardens, etc. BUT DPW/School custodians often mow or damage these areas – need better education of maintenance staff for schools and parks
- School-Town coordination is good, but needs more emphasis (speaker is on Thompson Green Team)
- Large OS/rec areas are multi-functional for ages, activities, but smaller areas are more challenging – need different activities for different ages, especially older children/teens
- Get more imaginative in redesigning playgrounds and parks – i.e., Magnolia Park is good; more flexible, artful play structures (i.e., plans for Wellington Park, Reservoir mentioned)
- More outdoor rooms/spaces/covered areas for public art and gathering spaces for performance activities for all ages besides the Bikeway, which has done quite a lot
- likes art on the bike path, painted signal boxes in town
- likes the attention given to cyclists and the bike path in town
- likes the Tree Warden, the town's Forester and Arlington's tree canopy
- likes the bike path, the trees (especially all the new trees being planted) and the money being spent on open spaces
- likes Recycling Coordinator Charlotte Milan, School Sustainability Coordinator Rachel Oliveri and environmental programming at the schools
- Accessibility to open space -getting state funding and dense town limited land opportunities
- Menotomy Rocks Park great resource – could use more maintenance
- OS key threat of climate change
- Town clearing of “dead falls” in Menotomy
- “Friends of MR” put bubblers in pond
- stocked with fish
- Bike Path- connects to other parks
- Cooke's Hollow needs repair
- Maintenance -groups/garden clubs contribute to care
- Town keeps investing in open spaces

- open space management through CPA has enhanced the ability of the town to fund maintenance of recreation. Wonders whether there is much budget funding aside from that.
- CPA has been valuable for funding including Wellington, Spy Pond
- "Benefit from neglect" - e.g. Cooke's hollow was somewhat forgotten, so not completely renovated - restored metal frames from 70s instead of replacing. - cooler there in the shade.

Question 2 – What can the Town do better?

- Maintenance !! especially in high-use areas and schools
- There's a disconnect between good initial designs and planning but poor maintenance afterwards, especially control of invasive plant species
- Better irrigation and general care practices for new trees and native plants in parks and along roadways, including better quality trees and appropriate species to begin with – need better education and follow-up with nearby residents and Town maintenance staff
- Expand shady, cool corridors with more trees on streets and pathways connecting open spaces and business districts – climate change mitigation for heat islands
- Integrate public art into street and park designs from the beginning of the planning process – need more funds, perhaps a 1% for arts program for all park/rec/streetscape redesign projects and improvements; include artists on planning teams for new projects; create destinations through art and performance
- Invest more in plantings, passive recreation activities rather than so much emphasis on playing fields and sports-oriented activities at schools and public parks/open spaces
- Better coordination between residents and Town on maintenance -- (example given of a residents group who cleaned up trash at Hill's Hill, but then could not get DPW to pick up the bags, etc. -- got the run-around between DPW, Rec Dept, others in Town)
- Better signage and wayfinding with consistent graphics town wide
- Better and more consistent standards for outdoor furniture and infrastructure – benches, lighting, paving of walkways, etc. (use the same vendor/type of materials for more consistency, identity, branding across all parks)
- Better amenities at parks – sidewalks and pathways, ADA accessibility, restrooms, shaded benches, covered areas for picnics, etc.
- Maximize usage in all seasons through varied programs for all ages – not just sports – such as birdwatching, other naturalist programs
- would like to see pocket parks on small un-buildable lots in Town, rather than increased residential density, believes that would be better solution for the climate and neighborhoods
- would like to see expanded dog-walking hours in all Arlington's parks, would like to see Hill's Hill have more curb appeal as a park, as well as removal of invasives, broken glass and trash
- at Mystic Lake and River: would like to see more-engineered pathways (like at Spy Pond), stabilization of erosion along the water's edge, access points for pedestrians and boats, and informational signage for invasives
- would like to see fewer invasive plants, more native plant materials and more community gardens (like Robbins Farm Garden), would like to see more programs set up for high school students to do work in town parks
- thinks this meeting is a great start, but doesn't know what the Town's mission is with respect to open space; has found the Reservoir project difficult to understand without experience reading architectural drawings, would like for public projects to be more accessible to the general public
- would like to see a centralized, user-friendly plan for the parks; is concerned about bike trails at Hill's Hill and other parks; considers Arlington's tree canopy to be an important asset, especially the older trees; is upset that mature trees were removed in Whittemore Park; would like to see

more organized clean-ups of the parks; would like to see high school students and adults working together, and to bring back Town-wide clean-up days

- Better links between open spaces from the bike path & Mass Ave.
- Signage to and from the bike path
- Invite people from the bike path to commercial zones
- Concern about increase in paving and increase in density (zoning concerns)
- Environmental stewardship - increase green space
- Clarification: Open Space Committee doesn't make policies
- Many areas of responsibility with few resources. Need natural resource manager with a staff. If not have financial resources, create a contingency of people. Need someone on staff to organize volunteers.
- Invasive plants – open spaces need to be maintained
- Overlap between organizations in town. Would like to see more coordinated efforts between the ARB, zoning, open/green space in response to climate change issues
- Trees as resource
- Tree Survey – street trees, why not in conservation areas or private ways?
- State reforestation bill – hope town will apply for funding
- “I-naturalist”, to photo trees for a data base, citizen science, engage students, get more people involved
- Transfer fee is being used for affordable housing, Could some of this be for land management?
- Better invasive plant control on public lands.
- Maybe an in-house specialist to manage and provide training.
- Perhaps information sheets about invasive plants etc.
- More cleanup activities - esp. Hills Hill
- Need to be more proactive
- Signage about planting beds.
- Overall better ongoing maintenance. The fields get cared for but not much else.
- Invasive plants - volunteers can't keep up with it - town wide attack on invasive plants. Someone who oversees it on a town - level
- All the town does is mow lawn, collect garbage and maintain/renovate
- Concern over invasive insects - Spotted lantern fly - emerald ash borer
- Direct some operating budget to maintenance
- Could use Primer in identifying beneficial trees so they don't get lost in removal of vegetation along pond, banks, etc.

Question 3 – New opportunities and issues for the Town to incorporate in planning?

- Focus on multipurpose, flexible public spaces within parks/open spaces; complement natural areas with public gathering opportunities (example: Linwood Circle in Spy Pond Park – now mostly car parking, but it could be repurposed as a performance space for artist/craft fairs, music, etc.)
- Consider streets as open space, green corridors – expand them with more native vegetation, trees for shade, bike/walking safety, signage, art/sculpture, benches/seating options
- Identify and prioritize some areas that should be left alone as "rustic" natural areas (i.e., Crusher lot, Hill's Hill, Mt. Gilboa, other small conservation pockets)
- Also prioritize areas for a more appropriate and more formal landscaping (i.e., Town Hall Gardens) and an increased range of activities, such as Spy Pond Park, Menotomy Rocks, Reservoir, etc.

- Continue to inventory and analyze open spaces to be sure both types of rustic and active spaces are available and accessible in all parts of town and all neighborhoods
- Acquisition opportunities ?? Status of Mugar land
- Convert some "developed" land into open space, such as vacant and underutilized parcels in commercial and industrial spaces; also, add rain gardens or islands to shrink large roadways and intersections
- Label storm drains (boy scout project ?) to prevent pollution, inappropriate disposal of all kinds of stuff
- Work with Mass Housing on more landscape improvements in Arl. Housing Authority properties (i.e., current \$500,000 grant for landscape work at Drake Village, including some public art)
- Better coordination, expansion of educational outreach to residents for neighborhood stewardship projects, native plants, control of invasives, etc.
- since COVID, people have a renewed interest in nature, which may be permanent
- high school students have complained about trees being cut down in town and decisions to install astro-turf fields; fears the Crusher Lot is in danger of being taken over for school expansion
- feel town-wide events for open spaces would draw people in; and consistent wayfinding and identification of open spaces (including signage about invasives and natives) would foster a stewardship culture in town
- the town could bring people together by planning events around the open spaces to build advocacy and provide opportunities for people to meet their neighbors
- there should be more communication, transparency, use of social media to encourage cooperation; the community is interested in more open space and involvement with stewardship
- would like to see better signage and information available on, and in, all of Arlington's parks
- bemoaned decline of local newspaper, leaving social media as primary vehicle for communication in town
- believes signage is very important, it also connects places to history, believes that Lexington does this well and could provide a model
- would like a consistent identity of open space materials in town; would like to see events posted in Town Notices and on sign boards at the parks
- even homemade signs in open spaces can work to get the word out
- Fostering a stewardship culture in the community
- Protecting and optimizing our open spaces and trees
- Pulling our neighborhoods and age communities together
- Promoting transparency and public participation in projects
- Providing consistent town-wide information and signage
- Removing invasive plant species
- Reestablishing native plants and pollinator environments
- Making our open spaces more accessible for all visitors
- Patches of woods on private ways – concern they will not remain green
- Note that needs change over time (ie pandemic) & missed opportunities
- Interest in vegetable/community gardens
- Zoning for roof top gardens. Increased building potential in industrial zone, could include roof top gardens as open space
- Recreation field user fees – could increase, on a sliding scale?
- Rec vs DPW maintenance. Park & rec programs come 1st, then physical facilities

- Protection of natural wooded areas on private property - tree cover/conservation
- Hills Hill mountain bike trails –engage responsibly “with privilege comes responsibility” and vis-a-versa.
- Open space for teens to hang out especially early teens – (too old for playgrounds) Community center?
- Bike path maintenance “Adopt – a – stretch” along the path to remove invasives.
- Wooded area cleaned up– example of a neighborhood effort with kids – wrote up a news letter about it. Contributes to a community spirit
- Friends groups organize clean-ups and community projects
- Identify open spaces in town are “at risk” of development: wooded or natural properties visible in neighborhoods; area at Great Meadows “at-risk” of development?
- Traffic Island rotary by mystic valley parkway - small island - needs love and invasives removed/replanted with natives
- Islands in arlington compared to somerville are hit or miss because of volunteer coverage. Arlington could take advantage of islands.
- Spy pond bears a lot of the burden of use. Try to get more people to the smaller pocket parks.

Report Out Notes

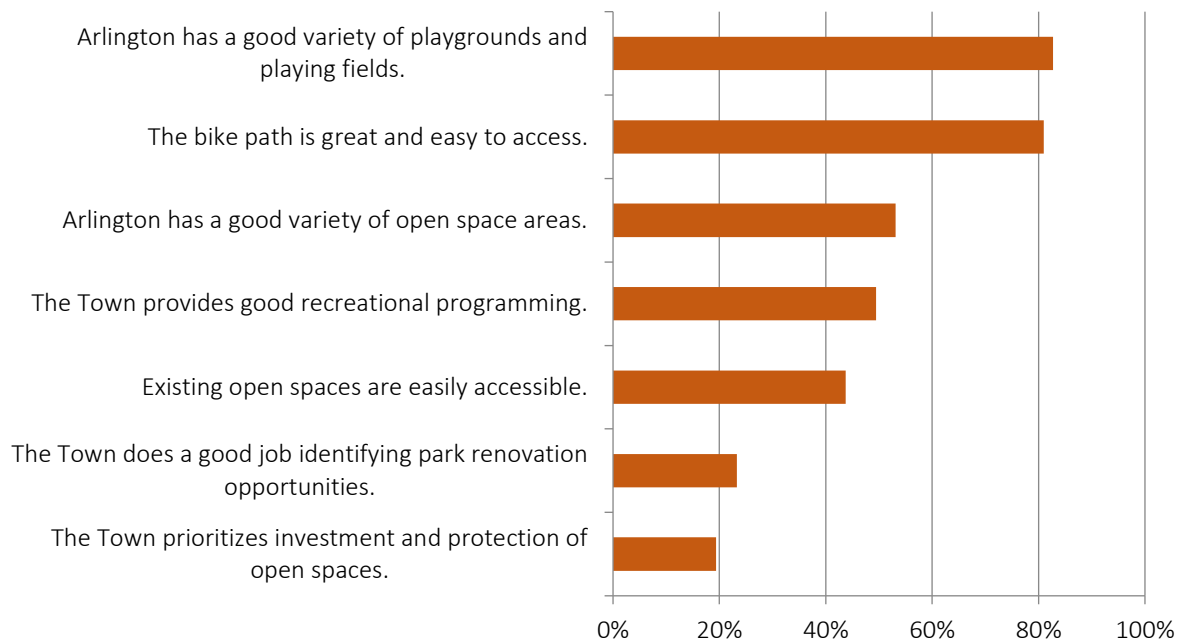
- Like the Res, Mt Gilboa, bikeway, Recreation Dept & PRC
- Work on maintenance and continued funding for recreational assets
- Limited indoor recreation opportunities, challenges due to School Department ownership of spaces
- How should recreation be defined in Arlington? Inclusion of arts and economic development
- Lack of performance space and cultural gathering programming
- Would like more activities and equipment for older kids and teens, beyond organized sports
- Would like more programming and community events (concert, music, movies, art festivals) throughout the week
- Need for a pavilion
- Would like playground to have lighting so that they can be used for longer hours
- Better coordination of volunteer clean-ups
- Better park branding through signage, consistent signage with information about park history
- Would like an outdoor swimming pool
- Signage along bikeway that identifies nearby parks
- Stewardship issues
- Invasive issues on public and private property
- Great volunteer initiatives for open space maintenance and invasive management with help of schools and teachers
- Need for town-wide invasive management plan
- Maintenance challenges and issues funding maintenance
- Would like more beautification of traffic islands
- Better public education and awareness
- Access issue around Spy Pond – no single connection/pathway
- Native species replacement
- Need to encourage a culture of appreciation and stewardship – blend stewardship and community building
- Concerns about losing open space

- Good variety of places and spaces, good accessibility
- Opportunity to use streets and paths to build open space corridors – extension of open space for shade, pollinator gardens, programming
- Design art into open spaces, would like more dedicated resources for art in open spaces
- Flexible open space designs to encourage multiple uses
- Determine opportunities to acquire new land
- Lacks center for art and cultural performances. Place to showcase diverse community for all ages
- More community events in park spaces. Keeping spaces program opened longer and more days of week
- Folks worried about losing open space. Hope this plan makes statement on what we have, what we want going forward
- Art integrated into design and culture of spaces when design. Bring in at beginning of process.

Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey

The Arlington Open Space Committee (OSC) distributed a community survey as a follow up to its public workshop held on June 10, 2021. The purpose of the survey was to confirm the perspectives expressed by attendees of the workshop and identify new themes and ideas from residents who could not attend. The survey was available from June 30 to October 4, 2021. It was promoted by the Town through its website and social media outlets. The OSC members also took an active role in promoting the survey through their networks with community groups and organizations. OSC members also staffed listening posts at the Town's open space and recreational areas from July through September, distributing flyers and postcards with the information about the survey. Lawn signs were also set up throughout town with the OSC website. A total of 1,057 participated.

What is the Town doing well to meet community open space and recreation needs?
Check all that you agree with or add your own. (1,031 answered)



Do you disagree with any of these? Please explain. (366 provided explanation)

Top responses were focused on the bike path, playgrounds/playing fields, and investments and protection of open space.

Bike Path: Many respondents felt the bike path is too crowded and dangerous for walkers. Some suggested widening the path to separate walkers and cyclists, using better signage about safety, and more lighting. The bike path also has limited access points, concentrated at where the path crosses a

street. More access points and ones that are ADA accessible are needed. Specific areas in need of improvement were:

- Brattle Street
- Near Park Avenue
- At Arlington Center/near the High School
- Bow Street
- Near “The Bike Shop”
- Ryder Street
- At Arlington Heights/Gold’s Gym/The Res/TJ’s
- Grove Street
- Mass Ave at Kickstand Café

New suggested access points to the bike path were:

- At Margaret Street instead of going through the Thorndike Field parking lot
- Between Mirak and Brattle Streets

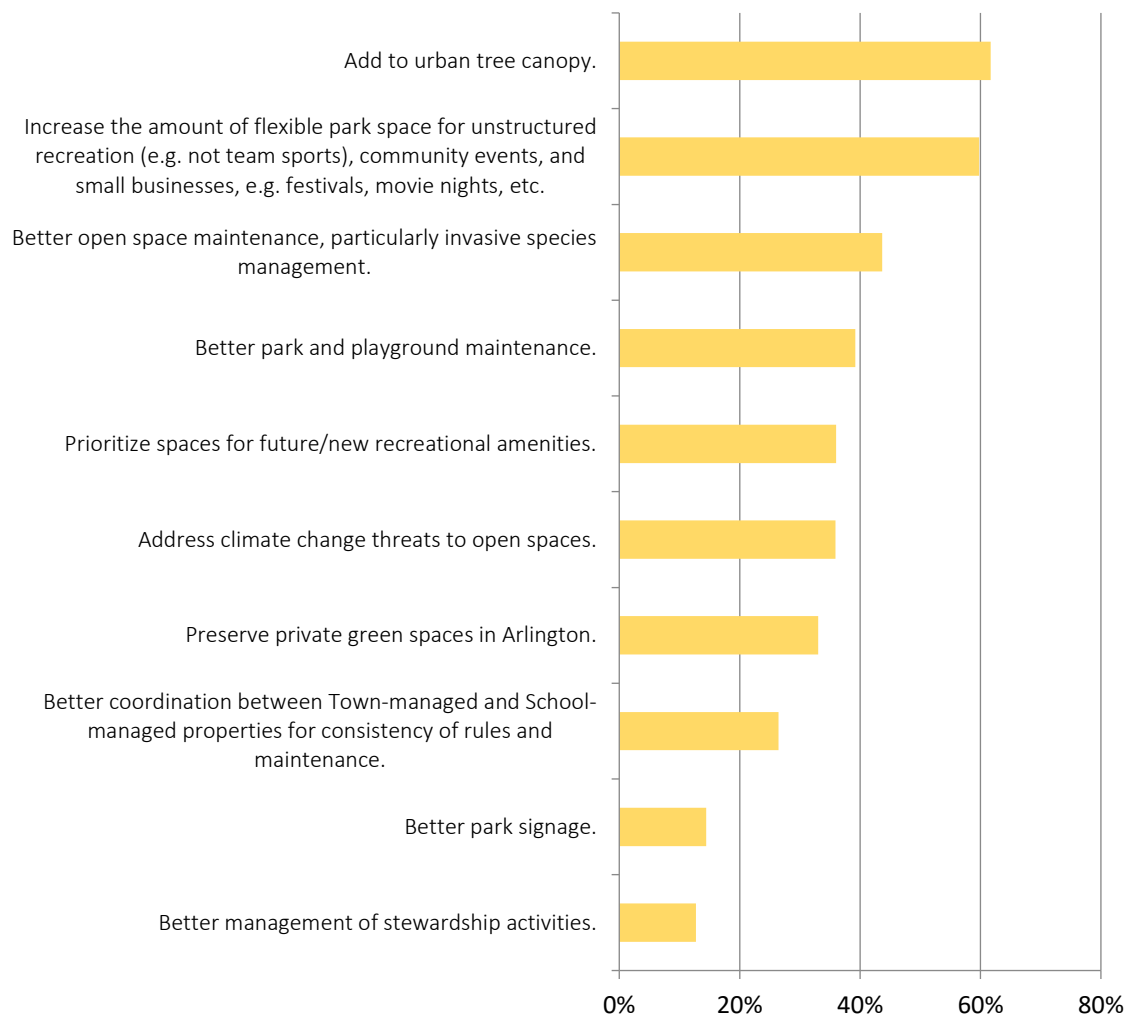
The steps accessing the bike path are not well maintained and are difficult to use for some. More direct, safer connections between neighborhoods to the bike path are needed. Respondents also noted that the bike path needs more maintenance, including addressing pavement condition (potholes) and invasive species.

Playgrounds and Playing Fields: Respondents commented that some areas of Arlington do not have easy access to parks in general. Several responses noted that playgrounds need to be updated before they are in major disrepair and cannot be used because of safety concerns. Of note were Menotomy Rocks, Bracket, Robbins Farm, Peirce, Poet’s Corner, Sutherland Woods, and Cutter School playgrounds. More playgrounds are needed with accessible equipment and structures for children with disabilities and special needs, including better-designed playgrounds to accommodate these needs. Shade should also be incorporated into playground design. Some comment that there is a lack of play spaces for older children.

Many responded that there is a need for more diverse playing fields. The interest in soccer and lacrosse continues to grow and the popularity of baseball and softball is declining. They suggested changing field uses to reflect this trend. Others commented that existing fields are allocated for organized team sports, leaving limited space for unorganized activities such as frisbee or “pickup” games. Others commented that many fields need drainage improvements and new turf, such as Hill’s Hill, Crosby, Peirce, and Ottoson soccer fields. Related, volleyball fields and outdoor exercise/fitness parks were popular recommendations for new field uses.

Investment and Protection of Open Space: Some respondents felt the Town does not prioritize investing in open spaces for protection. The Mugar property was cited as an example. Some asked how the Town does its prioritization for these types of investments. Comments also noted that most open spaces are programmed, have facilities, or are formally designed, with a few exceptions. There are also comments on the need to make investments in the maintenance and upkeep of existing open spaces including invasive species management and litter clean up. The Town relies heavily on “friends” groups for these efforts.

What more can the Town do to meet community open space and recreation needs?
Check all that you agree with or add your own. (1,005 answered)



Do you disagree with any of these? Please explain. (104 provided explanation)

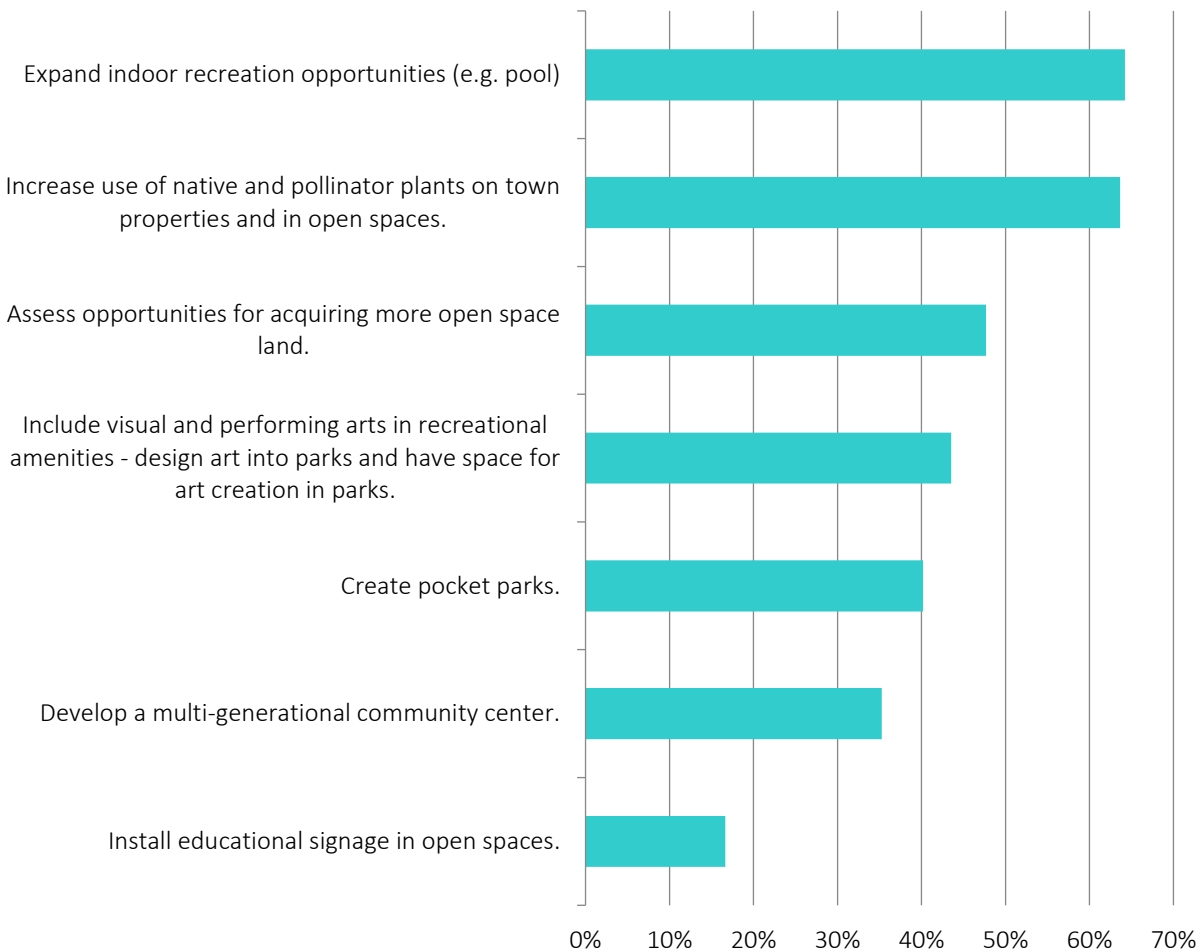
Top responses focused on preserving private green space, adding to the Town’s tree canopy, and better park and playground maintenance.

Preserving Private Green Space: Many respondents were unsure what “private green spaces” referred to and asked for clarity. There were concerns that it was not the Town’s role to manage private land.

Adding to the Town’s Tree Canopy: Respondents indicated they felt the Town was doing a good job in protecting trees and comments focused on how to build on those efforts. Suggestions were maintenance of newly planted trees and incentives that encourage developers and property owners to preserve mature trees.

Better Park and Playground Maintenance: Many respondents felt the Town does a good job at maintenance, but recognized resources are limited to address continued upkeep. Comments pointed out the need for invasive species management, litter and trash, and dog waste not picked up.

What are new opportunities to meet community open space and recreation needs?
Check all that you agree with or add your own. (1,015 answered)



Do you disagree with any of these? Please explain. (110 provided explanation)

Top responses focused on indoor recreation opportunities and a community pool, educational signage at open spaces, and incorporating visual and performing arts in recreational areas.

Indoor Recreation Opportunities/Pool: While some responded that an indoor pool would be a great amenity, some felt that it is an unnecessary expense to build and then manage the facility with limited financial resources. Some suggest investing in the pool at the Boys and Girls Club. This should be a lower priority compared to other environmental initiatives.

Educational Signage at Open Spaces: Respondents felt that signage takes away from the experience in nature and eventually becomes outdated. Existing signs are not maintained and defaced with graffiti.

Those in favor of signage in open spaces suggest using scout groups, local schools, and volunteers to develop and install.

Incorporating Visual and Performing Arts in Recreational Amenities: Similar to comments on educational signage, respondents were concerned about the impact on natural areas and one's experience in these places. Suggestions preferred focusing on certain outdoor areas for art installations and performances.

[Is there anything else about Arlington's open space and recreation areas you would like to tell us? \(391 provided further comments\)](#)

Respondents emphasized the need for an indoor and/or outdoor community pool or aquatic facility.

Respondents emphasized the Town needs to do a better job of managing its existing open space and recreational areas. They are concerned when playgrounds are closed for long periods of time or remain in disrepair. Athletic fields need better maintenance practices to address high usage. Invasive species are a problem at most parks and open spaces. Respondents also noted the need to keep parks clean of trash and litter and to provide more trash and recycling receptacles at high use parks.

Respondents emphasized the need to enhance and maintain the Town's natural features. Examples include continued preservation and expansion of the Town's tree canopy, use of "green infrastructure" to manage stormwater and address the impacts of climate change, use of native plantings that are low maintenance at Town properties, and leaving more areas in their natural state.

Respondents like the Town's dog park and some advocated for additional spaces to allow dogs off leash. Comments also asked for more enforcement of leash requirements in Town parks. There were also comments that dog owners do not clean up after their pets and encouraged more dog waste bag receptacles and trash bins on the bike path and at parks.

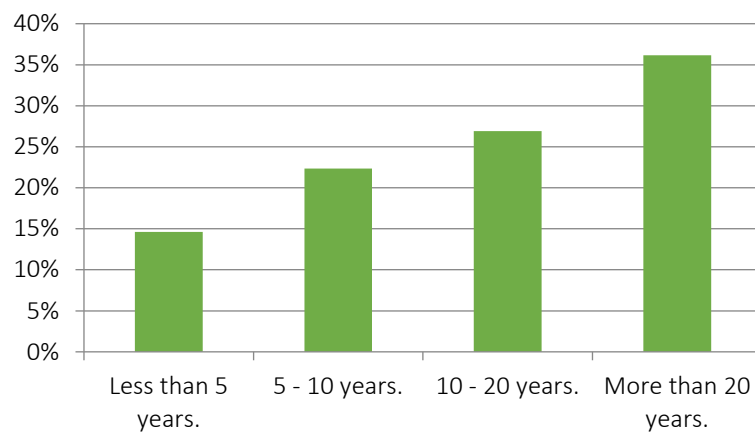
Who Took the Survey

Respondents were asked to provide information about themselves. This helps understand parts of the community we are reaching and where we need to reach out in other ways. Where appropriate, comparison to the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Five-Year Estimates (2015-2019) or the 2020 Census if available for the Town are provided, to show how representative the survey respondents are to the Town as a whole.

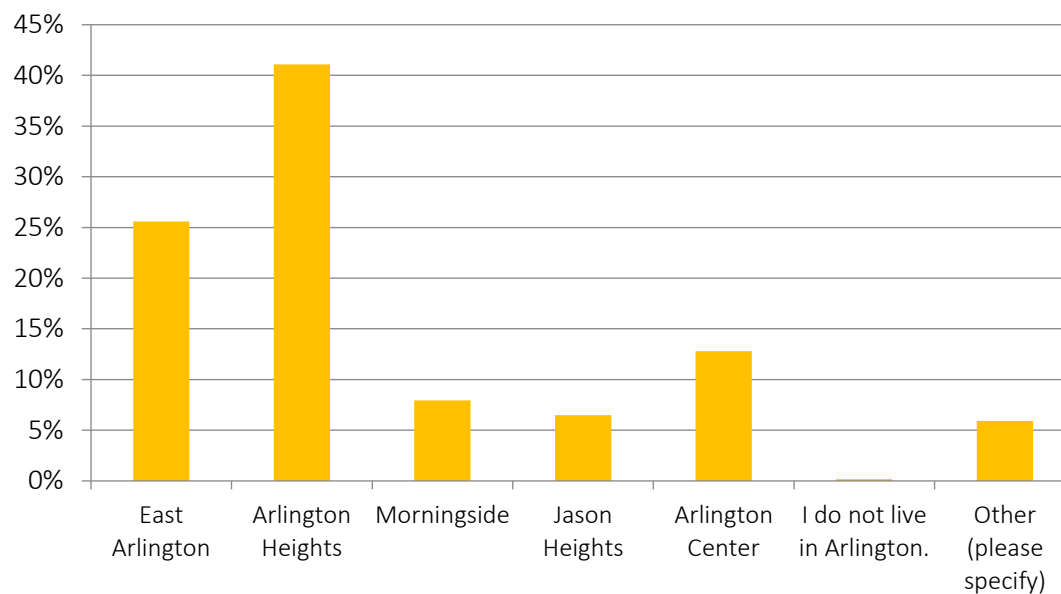
Do you live in Arlington? (1,038 responses)

Yes: 1,034 No, but I visit many of its open space and recreation areas.: 4

If you live in Arlington, for how long? (1,034 responses)



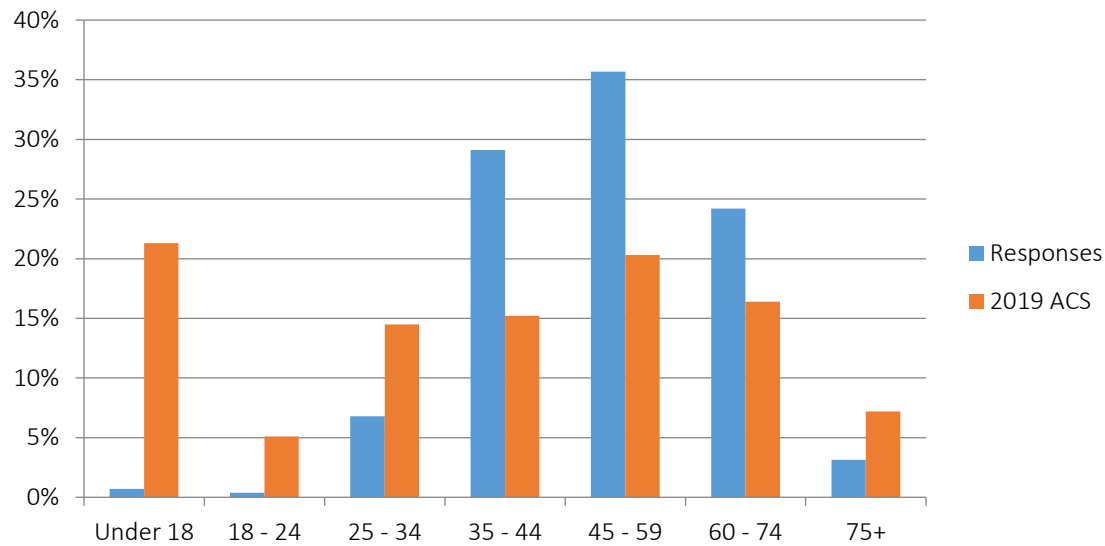
Where do you live in Arlington? (1,034 responses)



“Other” responses:

- Near the Highland Fire Station
- near Arlington 360
- Turkey Hill
- near ice rink
- Turkey Hill
- Near AHS
- Turkey Hill
- Near Bishop school
- near Brackett School
- No Name--just off Highland Ave up the hill
- Turkey Hill aka Sunnyside
- Turkey Hill area, off of Washington
- Brattle Sq.
- Mystic Lakes
- Turkey Hill
- Turkey Hill
- Near bishop
- Mill Street
- Turkey Hill
- Peirce neighborhood
- Amsden Street -- I don't know what these classifications of neighborhoods mean or which one I am in.
- I live in "the Gap" of the Arlington Cultural District between E Arlington and the Center, by Gibbs School, and visit Spy Pond Park daily
- near Farm
- Off Highland
- Up the Highland Ave hill. No name neighborhood
- Mt. Gilboa. west Arlington N. of Mass Ave. is not generally considered the heights.
- Mount gilboa
- (I lived in EAST Arlington for many years!)
- Mass ave near Lex line
- I am familiar with all of Arlington
- Turkey Hill area
- Turkey Hill
- Turkey Hill
- Near Bishop school, of Mystic street
- Mystic Lake
- Turkey Hill
- Near high school,
- "Lower Turkey Hill" aka Skunk Hollow
- Mt Pleasant Area
- Turkey hill
- Brattle squate
- near Robbins Farm- not sure if this is Arlington Heights or not
- Stratton Area
- Arlington. Your choices do not include all.
- Turkey Hill
- The no-name land between the Center and the Heights.
- Arlington
- Turkey Hill
- Stowecroft Road
- near DPW
- Turkey Hill
- Turkey Hill
- Brattle Sq.
- Turkey Hill
- Bishop
- Between the Center and Heights
- Mystic lake area
- Arlmont/East Arlington on the Belmont Line Mt Gilboa
- I live in East Arlington, but I chose Other so I could comment: However, this survey makes the same mistake that other Town surveys have made in categorizing neighborhoods. You list 3 different neighborhoods west of Mass Ave & north of Pleasant St. and lump the others into either East Arlington or Arlington Center. Not a good representation for a variety of reasons, including that "East Arlington" is much denser than anywhere else. number of people in a neighborhood should be taken into account when making any plans.

How old are you? (1,017 responses)



Do you have children under the age of 18 in your home? (1,017 responses)

Yes: 53% No: 47%

What is your gender? (998 responses)

Answer Choices	Survey Responses	2019 ACS
Male	33%	46.4%
Female	65%	53.6%
Non-binary	1%	Not asked

Which of the following best describes you? Check all that apply. (975 responses)

Note that in the survey, a respondent could check more than one answer. For the U.S. Census, only one answer could be selected.

Answer Choices	Survey Responses
White or Caucasian	91.4%
Black or African American	0.7%
Hispanic or Latino	2.2%
Asian or Asian American	5.7%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.2%
Another race	2.3%
Multi-racial or Biracial	2.4%

Race/Ethnicity	2020 Census
One Race	92.4%
White	76.2%
Black or African American	2.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%
Asian	12.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Some other race	1.5%
Two or more races	7.6%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	4.6%

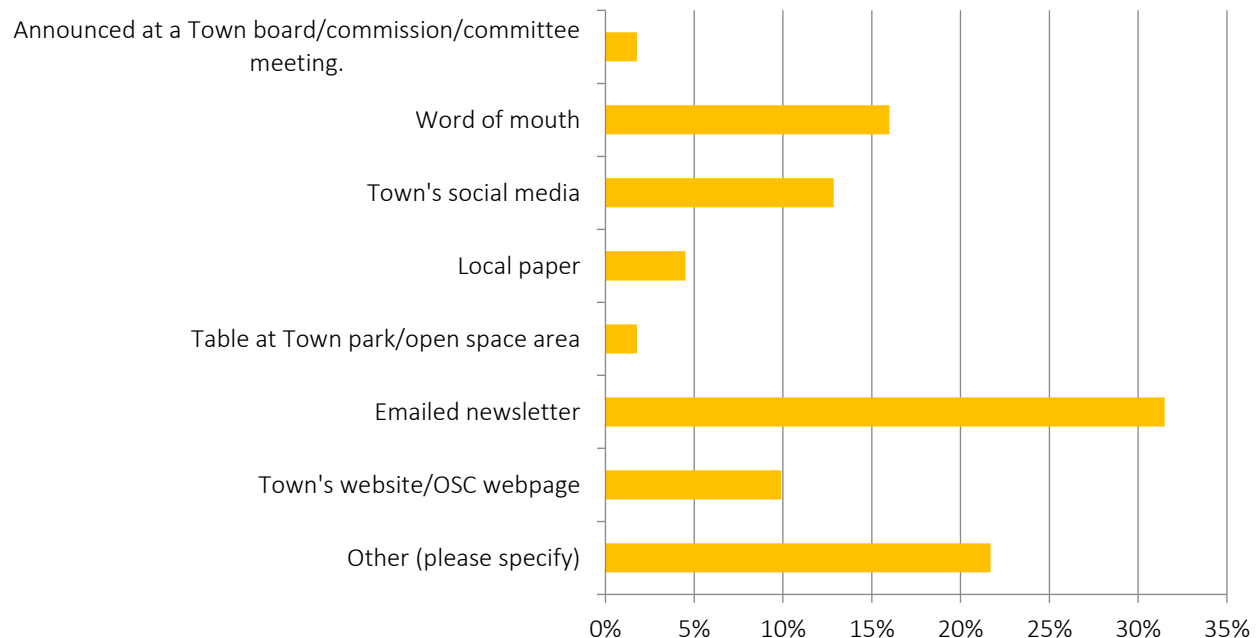
What was your total household income in 2020? (838 responses)

Note that the ACS had more income categories than the survey.

Answer Choices	Survey Responses	2019 ACS
Under \$15,000	1%	6%
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	2%	See below
Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	3%	See below
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	7%	12%
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	8%	12%
Between \$100,000 and \$149,999	19%	19%
Between \$150,000 and \$199,999	20%	13%
Over \$200,000	40%	22%

Income Range	2019 ACS
Between 15,000-24,999	5%
Between 25,000-34,999	5%
Between 35,000-49,999	6%

How did you hear about this survey? (1,019 responses)



"Other" responses:

- Arlington list
- Shared by friend
- Friend
- Facebook
- Facebook
- Facebook group
- yourarlington.com
- Arlington List
- Arlington List

- Yourarlington.com
- Arl List
- Arlington List (the email list, not the Facebook group by the same name)
- Arlington list
- YourArlington
- Don't recall first time I heard. But A reminder on AList email prompted me
- Arlington List
- A-List
- Arlington List
- email from a friend
- Your Arlington, and Arlington List
- Arlington email list
- Arlington List (email)
- Poster at park
- Arlington List
- Friend
- Email list
- Bob Sprague's
- Arlington list
- NextDoor
- Arlington List - Bob Sprague's e-newspaper
- Your Arlington
- arlington list
- Ran into an osc member who told me about it
- Arlington List email
- Via email and at Spy Pond Fun Day
- someone put a notice on Next Door and today a small sign on side of bike path no one notices
- Town email
- Nextdoor.com
- Next Door
- Nextdoor
- nextdoor app
- On iNaturalist, posted by the Arlington Ma Invasives (ArMI) project.
- EALS emails
- son of Bryan
- attended an online open-space forum
- A sign stuck into the ground on the side of the bike path. The QR code was helpful to make it quick and easy to get to the survey.
- Spy Pond Fun Day
- Fun day festival
- Arlington parents fb post
- YourArlington.com
- a volunteer passed out a flyer while I was walking in Robbins Farm Park the other day
- Facebook
- Arlington Gardening FB group
- Facebook
- Precinct Town Mtg Member emailed
- gardening page on FB
- town resident posted on Arlington gardeners Facebook page
- Friend forward
- Facebook
- Facebook post
- Facebook
- Arlington Politics Facebook group
- Facebook
- FB garden group
- The Arlington List facebook pg
- Facebook
- The Arlington List Facebook group
- Facebook
- Neighbor sent it
- Mentioned by town official.
- Town email
- Town Notices
- Town email
- Town Email
- town email news/notices
- Asked directly by a town employee to complete it
- Town notices
- Email from Planning Dept.
- Zero Waste Arlington
- Email to Zero Waste committee
- The ZWA mailing list
- Open space committee
- Facebook
- Farmer's market
- Facebook
- table at farmers' market
- Town e-mail
- yourarlington.com
- Your Arlington
- YourArlington
- Arlington List
- Neighborhood email list
- Yourarlington.com
- Your arlington
- The Arlington Email List
- Arlington list serve
- Your Arlington, Bob Sprague
- arlington mailing list
- Social media
- Facebook
- farmers' market and arlington list
- Google News
- Arlington List
- Facebook
- the Arlington List
- Email from a friend
- YourArlington online news site
- Town Email List, Arlington Email List
- YourArlington
- Email from the Pool committee, and a resident that posted about it on Arlington List
- SM post by YOU Arlington
- Many of above.
- Arlington list
- Facebook group
- A-Pool
- A-Pool
- YourArlington
- Neighborhood group list
- A-Pool
- Email from David White
- My town meeting member sent it to me.
- Hidden, found by chance
- flyer handed to me at me at Menotomy Ricks
- Email from Ann LeRoyer
- Friend emailed me
- ABAC list
- Arlington Patch
- I have belong to Arlington Land Trust, MyWRA as well as the Arlington Historical Society.
- Menotomy Birds list-serv
- email list
- Sustainable Arlington list
- Ann LeRoyer
- Arlington bird group
- Ann LeRoyer's e-mail message
- Subscribed to the Arlington up emma
- News aggregator (news.google.com) focus on Arlington
- google news
- Town of Arlington email
- Email from town
- Farmer's Market
- We need more signage about stuff like this in the parks!!!
- Patch
- Arlington patch website
- During disability committee meeting
- Town notice

- Arlington parents Facebook page
- Are land trust email
- Land Trust
- Friend
- email
- Arlington parents Facebook page
- Facebook post
- Facebook
- Facebook - local group
- Arlington Parents on FB
- Yard sign
- Menotomy bird club email
- Town Email
- Listserve
- Town notices email listserv
- Arlington fights racism shared it email in my inm-box
- Emails from town
- Social media
- Handed postcard at Res
- Friend
- A dog
- facebook
- Facebook page
- Pierce School Facebook
- Neighbor shared on social media
- facebook
- Facebook
- Facebook
- gmail group
- Facebook
- <https://www.yourarlington.com/easyblog/entry/31-recreation/3036-pool-080321>
- Your Arlington and A-list
- Arlington List
- Facebook
- Arlington List email version
- Arlington social media group
- Your Arlington
- Facebook (via yourarlington.com)
- Your Arlington
- Your arlington
- Local email listserve
- Jeremy Gregory of A-Pool email
- Handout at magnolia park
- table at the farmer's market
- I think it was in an email (I'm subscribed to both Arlington List and to the Arlington announcements/emergency notifications so not sure which)
- I don't remember but likely email
- At magnolia concert
- Group Facebook page & Bob Sprague
- Town Emails
- Word of email
- Town alerts
- Arlington Gardeners - Facebook page
- Carrier Moonbat.
- Table at farmer's market
- Flier on a fence
- Facebook
- facebook
- Facebook, A-dog page
- Facebook Arlington List
- Arlington list
- Facebook
- A list
- Friend's social media
- Facebook
- facebook
- Facebook
- Facebook post
- social media
- Linked on Facebook group
- Neighborhood social media
- Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park FB page
- Resident posted on FB
- via town contact
- YourArlington website
- Facebook post

Responses to Open-Ended Questions

What is the Town doing well to meet community open space and recreation needs? Check all that you agree with or add your own. Do you disagree with any of these? Please explain. (366 provided explanation)

- could use more open space and fewer tear down McMansions being approved
- I see proof of the assertions, but I do see a lot of building going on. Couldn't some of that land have been bought by the town to keep us from the glut of apartment buildings?
- Re: the bike path. I was injured in January 2020 while walking on the bike path. I was knocked over by a very young rider who was frightened by oncoming bicyclists and cycled into me, ahead of him. I spoke to the city about it but given COVID-19 thought there were other town priorities. I had been told there were considerations such as widening the path, having different times for walkers (me) and bikers, etc. I would like to safely walk on the bike path and ask for current consideration of the problem and notice of any actions, etc.
- I wish that the town prioritized recreational spaces that aren't for team sports. Like individual exercise, cycling, and mountain biking. Also, I would like to better access onto the bike path.
- The bike path and other open space areas are too crowded. Town does not prioritize open space. Too much of what is open space is redeveloped by landscape architects which leads to the loss of trees and bushes. New "plantings" will take 30 or more years to make any environmental impact.
- Don't have detailed knowledge of how much the town prioritizes open spaces. Also, there are limited open spaces to work with, so 'variety' is a qualified response - variety given the options.
- No parking - Window on the Mystic. No new open space has been added in years. Off-leash dogs are a problem everywhere, esp. Menotomy Rocks.
- We need more dog parks and deliberate pollinator gardens.
- We need more dog parks PLEASE!!! We have only one in town and it's hard to get to, especially around rush hour. Please make space for pollinator gardens!!
- Can't speak to what town is doing.
- Not disagree, but I don't know enough about the ones I didn't check.
- Many of the open spaces are already at or over capacity. This is especially true of the bike path. Considering how overbuilt the Town already is, and considering the fact that the Town government (Planning Dept., Selectboard, Town Manager, Redevelopment Board, etc.) is intent on radically increasing population density, the existing open spaces are inadequate to the needs of Town residents.
- No
- Regrettably too little investment in areas such as Cookes Hollow (of considerable local environmental and historical value) and benches/tables in places like Menotomy Rocks Park, where they are literally falling apart and consequently anything but inviting to sit on
- I'm just not sure about "investment and protection" of open spaces. It seems it would be good to maintain playgrounds as they age, instead of allowing them to fall apart and need complete replacement. Also, I like to have quiet places to walk, and don't appreciate how the new mountain biking craze has led to cutting down of trees and digging of holes to build jumps for mountain bike

enthusiasts to use at high speeds. I think Arlington's Open Spaces are not large enough to accommodate both quiet and fast-paced outdoor activities. And there seem to be no rules, or rules aren't respected.

- Need more emphasis on adult entertainment, not just kids.
- No. But I'm not informed enough to answer.
- As far as recreational programming, good as far as it goes for young people, but sparse for adults. What about horseback riding? Croquet? Ping Pong, Badminton, Adult women's soft ball, soccer, etc. whiffle ball, horse shoes, tree climbing, swings for adults (stress reducing) 'soft hiking' Reservoir Beach open sooner, close later...what happened to wind surfing on Spy Pond? More places to fly kites! Outside dancing...
- Most of the open spaces are playing fields and playgrounds. How about more woods or other natural areas.
- We need more facilities/space for recreation activities.
- More parking is often needed near these spaces and others. Town windfall from US covid relief could have gone to building a parking structure.
- The Town does a terrible job of maintaining open space, fallen trees,, rubbish etc. are allowed to collect for many years, paths are ill-maintained - some almost impassable.. We have far too little open space for our population, and while the Planning Dept. pushes for more density,, in recent years no effort has been made to increase it.
- Bike path is great but would benefit from easier access
- Some of the playgrounds look a little worn; I realise time and budget are limited. The timing of the school playground inspections was really unfortunate.
- Yes. The bike path is too crowded. It would benefit from adding a walking lane, wherever possible (I realize this is not possible in some spots), and clear signage for lanes to walk vs. ride. The Town's priority for investing/prioritizing open spaces is questionable. The Mugar property is an example. The Town should buy it and turn it into usable open space.
- The town could do much more to "prioritize investment and protection of open spaces." There could be more tree and invasive management, upkeep of benches and lighting and keeping broken things repaired, flood control management on more of the Mill Brook. My example is Mill Brook at Cookes Hollow. Cookes Hollow looks abandoned, Cook's Hollow is a hidden gem, historical, and should be restored to the award winning condition it was in 1974. Some of the only care to the Park is by private citizens: Boy Scouts and Cookes Hollow volunteers. And also should incorporate some of the same storm water control features of Wellington Park. And rebuild the banks.
- It would be great to have better access to the Res from Mass Ave. For instance, there could be painted foot prints from Mass Ave to the Res and also some signs.
- Recreational programming lacking and doesn't seem important. Reservoir beach could be great but managed poorly and so dirty much of the time. I feel like the town prioritizes helping developers make money and circumvent town ordinances and everything else like open space gets far less attention. access to existing open spaces is not bad but could definitely be improved. The Rocks Park, window to the mystic and Cooke's hollow are three places that could be improved for instance.
- 1) The playgrounds are fine. 2) The playing fields are all geared toward soccer and baseball. There aren't any plain open spaces where people can play frisbee, for ex., or bring some bocce balls. They are all just for established team sports. 3) The bike path is not easy to access in certain spots. The main points of access are where it crosses a road. 4) From what I have seen over the years, the town

hasn't prioritized protecting the remaining open spaces at all. 5) There is not a good variety of open spaces. They're pretty much all for sports and playgrounds. The Town Gardens, Spy Pond and Robbins Farm are the only exceptions. It would be nice to have larger open spaces where there can be places to gather for arts and music purposes.

- There is a demonstrated lack of maintenance at parks and pocket parks, lack of thoughtful maintenance. Just mowing can at times be counterproductive when a growth of native wildflowers would be beneficial. Trees need more attention. Cull Norway and Ailanthus saplings and replace with native trees particularly along bike trail. Please. A Japanese Knotweed protocol is needed: a SWAT team of sorts to eradicate small patches and a list of problem areas. Please stop removing public benches and picnic tables to address youth issues. Please stop cutting trees to address youth or other types of vagrancy. i.e., edge of Buzzell Field and parklet between bike trail and Mill Street. Bike path has lots of poison ivy and knotweed in certain places.
- I feel like we do not have a lot of larger open space. Wild areas.
- Most of them actually. In particular Arlington seems to not care about protecting open spaces that are not already formally designated as parkland.
- The town relies too much on volunteers to tackle the invasive plants seen on the bike path.
- Arlington has a lot of opportunities for very young kids to recreate (1-12 years) but there are very few spaces for the middle and high school kids to be outside, enjoying physical activities outside of organized sports. And a lot of our fields are in disrepair.
- I disagree with most of them. For instance, the Bike Path does not have enough access points.
- I'm not sure I'd say that the Town prioritizes investment and protection of open spaces. But they may not have the resources.
- It would be nice to have some more connections from the bike path to the street in the areas where the bike path is elevated. There are some places where a set of stairs to get down to the street would be helpful.
- I don't know enough about the Town's investment in parks and open spaces to comment. I applaud investment, but disagree with some aspects of chosen designs; specifically, anything that results in the loss of trees.
- There are not enough swimming opportunities in Arlington, especially year-round and for adult swim (laps, water running, etc.). The recreational programming is not large enough to meet demand (youth swimming, youth tennis for example). Playground repairs could/should be quicker. Access to the bike path at Brattle St and near/ish Park Ave could be improved.
- The communication over the inspection and closure of most of the playgrounds has been lacking. When will all the closed playgrounds be fixed?
- Renovation spending is based more on politics than need. That is why so much is spent on Robbins Farm Park as compared to say Lussiano Field
- Bike path is good, but access is hidden/not easily found. Weed control along edges is infrequent and iffy (poison ivy, Japanese knotweed, etc.). Recreational programming for seniors and older adults is too limited. Look at the catalog. More yoga, tai chi, pickle ball, strength training, gentle aerobics should be listed in the program and offered much more frequently. There needs to be a public swimming pool. It should have more hours for open swim/ lap swimming available to adults. It should be housed in a public rec center with other programming. There should be signs leading to open spaces, with the names of playing fields and playgrounds easily seen. Hill's pond is not at Hill's Hill, etc. Very confusing. Playground at "Poet's Corner" is a mystery to many. Where is Whipple Hill?

Turkey Hill? What are the woods by the old Symmes Hospital called, and where do the public trails start? Etc.

- I don't think the Town invests enough in its parks, fields, playgrounds and open spaces. Can't rely on just CPA funds.
- Bike path needs better access and management
- The town's recreational programming is OK but surrounding towns have more programs of interest to my family
- The recent playground assessment was done at a tough time when kids were going back to school, seemingly without any real plan to fix any of the playgrounds that were identified as problematic. We are left with a bunch of playground with caution tape and no plan to fix them.
- The bike path...the entire town can benefit with better connections to the Minuteman Bike path.
- We need more maintenance on parks. There is such heavy use of our parks
- Playgrounds are often in disrepair. So many of the school playgrounds were closed down right before school started this year due to safety concerns and, at least at the Stratton school, no progress had been made on repairing the playgrounds. It's been a month! Who knows when/if the playground will be reopened.
- bike path access could be improved near the high school and at Bow Street and near "The Bike Stop" area.
- I don't think the town prioritizes investment and protection of open spaces. The decisions I've seen over 30 years generally show an inclination to build and pave instead of protecting open spaces, setbacks, and realistically honoring flood zones.
- Access and parking at Thorndike field for kids practices is sometimes hard and not adequate.
- Sometimes it is hard to access the bike path. And I wish it wasn't so overgrown with knotweed. The variety of parks is good --- amazing even. And the renovation of Robbins park was good, but I wish it hadn't shut down the safest sledding hill. I'm looking forward to the mill stream improvements.
- Too many of the "open spaces" are really athletic/playground focused. We could use some more woods. And it would be great to clean up the Mill Brook and turn it into a stream that could be accessed, waded in and played in. It's a garbage dump currently. Also more spaces like the town orchard. Would be great to have a big community garden (a la Fenway)
- Not nearly enough green space, many playgrounds outdated and not fenced so not usable by younger kids. Rec programs always super full! Too many off leash dogs.
- No
- Bike path is great but access can be poor (e.g. Washington St.)
- We need more diverse use and/or acquisition of open spaces. More urban agriculture and public art. More interesting landscape forms and amenities to attract all generations. More special events (music performances, family picnics, food truck festivals, carnivals, organized clean-ups, etc.)
- Recreational programming for adults and seniors is lacking.
- The bike path could use more signage such as asking cyclists to slowdown in dense areas such as Arlington Heights, Arlington Center, and Spy Pond. Reminders could also be put in place to remind groups of pedestrians not to spread out along both lanes but to step to the right or to walk in groups of no more than 2 (otherwise it creates a dangerous situation because it's hard to see around them)
- i am unaware of arlington's recreational programming. how is this information disseminated?

- Yes, most. The open spaces are not diverse. They are either playgrounds and soccer and baseball fields or wooded walking paths with no benches. We need more diverse spaces, spaces to gather, have festivals or markets, places for people to play other sports such as tennis, pickle ball, bocce, and more places for dogs, AND SWIMMING!
- some of the fields are in weird places
- The town apparently prioritizes recreation spending over over investing in and protecting open spaces. For example, some of the worst infestations of invasive plants can be found adjoining town property along the bike path (DPW, High School, Ryder St.). The town has offered invasive seminars to volunteers, but has not invested in training DPW weeders to identify and pay particular attention to invasive removal The Land Stewart program for conservation property needs revitalizing and re-visioning priorities toward upgrading native plant diversity/invasive removal in addition to trash pickup.
- The town does not prioritize open space. Instead it encourages building on every available square foot of land.
- The bike path is great but access could be greatly improved. Most of the access points I use are through private parking lots or quiet side streets that become obstructed by vehicles from local commercial businesses.
- There is often a lot of trash on the ground at the playgrounds and parks we frequent (namely buzzel field and buck field near the hockey arena), every day there is trash in the ground (mostly Dunkin Donuts trash), maybe having trash cans with lids would help that some, but also people are just littering, not sure what exactly to do about that (shame signage about littering??) but wanted to mention it here on the survey bc our toddler often picks up garbage and tries to eat it, it drives us crazy.
- The bike path could have better access routes. I've had to bushwhack a couple of times to get on it (sometimes with a bike). The same is true about our open spaces. The Great Meadows is easy to get to but others are tricky to access.
- Too much is spent on team sports. Put more funds into sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, trees, etc.
- I don't think we have much open space in town, but that's just a result of geography
- Bike path is not accessible in Arlington Heights. I am not aware of recreational programming. Parks need greater attention - more trees, more landscaping, and better maintenance.
- There are a number of small open spaces along the public streets that the town does not do a good job of maintaining. One in particular is a small piece of land near downing square, next to the snow blower repair place. It is covered with knotweed and the snow blower company has broken lawnmowers and snowblowers parked on the Town owned land. How can the Town improve maintenance and control of those small open spaces to beautify the Town?
- Playground equipment could be better updated - Menotomy Rocks, Brackett, Robbins Farm, Cutter School playgrounds are all run down with lots of broken equipment
- A lot of the towns parks are older and falling into disrepair.
- the space at the bottom of Symm's Hill is now inaccessible because of the trees that fell on the Summer St and side walks were placed there and never removed, so it's hard to go in there and walk.
- communication about renovation opportunities is not strong
- Park renovations are very delayed. Equipment is broken and unsafe. Capital plan needs to include more regular playground replacement.
- n/a

- While it might be true that Arlington provides good recreational programming, I haven't a clue what it might be. Communication is part of good programming.
- the access to the bike path from Ryder st is often blocked by trucks from the landscaping company next to the path
- Bikeway is poorly maintained and unmarked.
- I wish there was more open spaces. I appreciate the recent improvements at the REZ and other spots - thank you CPA.
- No
- I don't see enough "protection of open spaces.", specifically countering the damage that mountain bikers are doing to some of the woodlands.
- Need examples to back up "the town prioritizes open space". Thus is not aparant
- Monotomy Rocks Park is too small for a mountain bike trail
- The town does not have a lot of open space.. it needs to do more.
- I'm glad that the Res is finally being renovated, but it had been a very long time. I would like to see the weeds removed more often.
- Would be hard to address all the conflicting interests concerning public spaces. Arlington is a densely populated town with limited opportunity to add to the existing open space.
- Open space areas are too limited. We need to acquire more conservation land.
- We have lot of park and play ground but we are missing outdoor Volleyvall courts on the ground. McLennan or Robbins park have enough space for such court.
- The town has NOT invested in keeping Spy Pond Fird safe and useable. The crumbling old stadium seating is dangerous and not maintained at all. There has been no maintenance in the 40+ years I've been seeing that structure disintegrating. Are we waiting for someone to be hurt or worse? Or is there just no interest in investing in the maintenance of this town asset? Very disappointing.
- I disagree with all of the above. The Town has done a LOUSY job of recognizing or understanding, among other things, what works well for use allocation(s) for given pieces of land, private, public, commercial, residential, green space, athletic fields, parks... One of the worst examples is the former single bit of green ""alleviation"" of the Massachusetts Ave. continuous ""strip"" that is now becoming a ""big box"" high school that did not need to be if the Town had thought about a school ""campus"" and taken an area that had been, e.g. a Buick dealership. We have all been on the area of Longwood Ave in Boston that is just a big street and ""two walls."" So much for Boston. Arlington doesn't need that kind of raw imposition.
- Bike path maintenance needs improvement
- The ones I did not check.
- Re renovation. The plan to close down portions of all of the parks the weekend school started feels like very poor planning. Is there a long range plan and funding allocation for renovating parks?
- I feel like the town could have more recreational programming. For example, the beer garden on Saturdays has been lovely, it is too bad it is just 1 day a week and just for 1 month. There should be more outdoor activities like that.
- Accessible play grounds are a need in Arlington. Accessible play grounds include play grounds with proper fencing to prevent elopement (for example, when a child with autism has a tendency to "bolt").
- i only checked what applies to our family/what programs we actively follow.

- I think that Arlington prioritizes cars (parking and driving) over everything else, but I think playgrounds and the bike path are a close second.
- yes see above. too many new buildings right up to the street, no grass, nothing.
- The Town needs to do a much better job with invasive species control and other park maintenance. McClellan Park is a prime example of this as invasives are out of control.
- The bike path is not great. It has become extremely dangerous for pedestrians. Bikes have bike lanes on the roads so why do they need to race along the path when racing along the roads is appropriate. Put in the occasional speed bump and that will help slow down cyclists.
- Don't disagree just unaware of how the town prioritize investments and protection of open spaces, the open spaces of Arlington are one of the best things about Arlington and should absolutely be protected if not expanded.
- Bike path is great but it should be reserved for cyclists. Cyclists are not allowed on sidewalks and are not safe on the streets.
- I don't believe that the majority of playgrounds have accessible equipment and play structures for people with disabilities or are accessible for people with disabilities
- no
- The town should be working harder to maintain existing spaces and fix old ones. We also need all trash cans covered to reduce the rat issue.
- I am not sure there is a variety of open spaces. All I can think of are parks and fields.
- I think the maintenance of athletic fields and accompanying structures across the town could be improved. The mildest of rain fall causes pooling on baseball fields and renders them unusable. Many soccer fields, particularly those in our k-8 schools would benefit from professional overhaul to improve drainage, and promote and maintain grass growth.
- yes
- Many open spaces are not accessible bc of the lack of enforcement of leash laws. Adults and children alike cannot enjoy most of the open spaces bc they are approach and sometimes attacked by off-leash dogs not under control outside of off-leash hours or at locations that don't even have off-leash hours. It's an absolute scourge on the town (and I used to be in favor of off-leash hours).
- (1) For recreational programming, sometimes it fills up too quickly. Hard to get a spot for ""hot"" activities. (like tennis, swimming, ...) (2) The playground (Bishop) closest to me is currently missing play structures. The old one was hauled away recently and there is no replacement.
- Resources are spread too thin with regards to playgrounds. I'd rather see fewer better playgrounds. I know that's probably hard to do politically...
- The larger Peirce playground needs complete renovation, especially as parts of it are condemned right now, and grades 1 -5 rely on that as their only playground.
- Playgrounds are not well maintained.
- Multiple playgrounds around town are not in great shape especially for the amount of children in Arlington. On top of that with the last 18 months (and for however long in the future) the use of outdoor space is of high priority. We just moved from near Parallel Park to near Bishop with two very young kids and really believe Bishop needs to be prioritized for outdoor play. It's vital to kids well being to have opportunities to be outside and use their body.
- The things I didn't check off were simply because I don't have experience with them yet

- We are very concerned that the "big" playground at Peirce is not usable. Our daughter broke her arm in a fall off of the big slide two years ago, so it's always been unsafe, but now it's literally unusable (with orange fencing wrapped around certain features). Eighty percent of the students at Peirce use the big playground, plus the after school program and the community at large, and repairing/replacing the structure should be a priority.
- I don't agree with the idea that the town does a good job of identifying and renovating park/playground spaces. I feel a lot more investment could be put there in a town that is so full of families and young kids, especially now that playing outside is often the only thing you can do safely with kids during the pandemic.
- Maybe inspecting the playgrounds to close many of them right before the first day of school wasn't the best timing.
- While the Town does a great job of slotting playground renovations in the capital plan, it doesn't do much in the way of outreach or connection to the players on the ground, in terms of renovation. E.g., the capital planning committee and / or any renovation groups working for Parks and Recs should *go* and *talk*, proactively, with schools to see what the playground needs are, esp. if owned by the Town and on school property.
- I'm not sure the Town keeps up with playground renovation.
- Need a town pool!!! More access points for bikes/strollers on bike path needed. Better maintenance on playground / parks so they don't get taken down / closed. More outdoor rec classes / opportunities for kids.
- Neighborhood parks, such as Parallel Park are neglected. Cordoning-off the park's play structures during the height of summer was a terrible decision. Deciding to push the renovation of Parallel Park to 2026 is criminal.
- On pg 18 of the 23 page slide show from June 10, 2021 that references Studies, Reports and Plans, I do not see the analysis that was performed by Laura Fuller and reviewed by Dean Carmen that indicates that while Arlington youth participating in organized soccer number approximately 2200, and those participating in organized baseball or softball number less than 700, the facilities that are available to each of these groups is Inversely proportioned. It's an open secret that the Parks & Rec Commission has long-favored underused baseball fields to highly-utilized soccer fields. So, I ask, was this analysis ever sought out? I know that the information has been presented to Parks & Rec. In the same vein, on page 14 of the same slide presentation, the use of the phrases ""ballfields"" and ""multi-use fields"" is disingenuous and , in my opinion, intended to again obfuscate this issue. ""Ballfields"" are ""baseball fields"" and ""multi-use"" fields are ""soccer fields (with occasional use for lacrosse)."" Here's my larger question: If 1200+ Arlington families want more soccer facilities (turf, especially) but the Arlington Soccer Club doesn't want to fight for them, does the town then assume that additional soccer facilities are not needed? If so, that is, in my opinion, an inappropriate assumption for the town to be making.
- I wish existing open spaces could be found and accessed more easily. I don't know how or where to access the bike path, playgrounds, or fields or what open spaces currently exist, how to find them, whether there's parking, etc. Where can I get that info?
- Although I really like the bike path, it can be difficult to walk on with so many bikers on it.
- The sewer overflow in east Arlington by rt 16 makes me disagree with the idea that the town protects all open spaces. It's raw sewage. Please.
- I do wish there were more open spaces with more seating opportunities.

- There needs to be a way to access the bike path from Margaret Street without going through the Thorndike field parking lot. It is dangerous for children to cut through the parking lot to access bike path.
- Some open spaces need better accessibility for those with disabilities.
- Arlington does not have a public pool. The upkeep of some of the public parks are better than others. Access to the bike path could be considerably improved in the Heights.
- No, just don't have enough information on some
- Some Bike Path access points are dangerously in need of repair, such as the Brattle Street access point's road leading up to the bike path. No stroller, bike, or even small children's feet/let's can handle the insane potholes.
- Accessibility and/or variety of open spaces: Open spaces should be more dog-friendly or there should spaces where that are more specifically dog supporting (Thorndike is too small/crowded and not easily accessible).
- They are under-resourced in most cases. What is done is done well enough. Bike path access is far from optimal, e.g., at Hurd field (in progress?) and at Brattle St., where the private way is very potholed and the stairs seldom shoveled. In many cases, deferred maintenance of greenery is regrettable.
- Cannot speak to the renovation opportunities
- I don't disagree per se, but I don't know enough about #2 and #3 to evaluate
- Many playgrounds are neglected and in need of updates/renovations
- Need More places to access bike path and better access points
- I have no idea if town prioritizes open spaces.
- The bike path should make sure that speeding bikers travel on Mass Ave. It feels dangerous to be walking or biking slowly on the bike path.
- Bike path needs more ADA accessible points of entry.
- I wish the bike path had more access points, especially between Mirak and Brattle Street.
- I don't know enough about recreation programs and playground/playing field maintenance to accurately answer. The bike path is great but access needs to be improved.
- Bike paths through Arlington are not great and not easy to access. While the Minuteman path is fine where it doesn't share the road, bike paths along many other roadways in Arlington are treacherous. Drivers regularly flout the 25 mph speed limit, with no observable enforcement. The bike lanes shared with cars along Mass Ave and other places feel dangerous and an impediment to transportation in any form other than by automobile.
- I do not agree that the town prioritizes investment and renovation. The Bishop playground is boarded up, and there is caution tape all over Parallel Park. This is unacceptable. We need to allocate some capital funding for "break fix"/urgent repairs.
- While there are lots of good spaces, they are not in good condition.
- The reservoir is overpriced and closes way too early every summer. Town should make better use of this resource!!!
- The bike path could be so much nicer if Maintained.
- What does the Town do to provide recreational programming for adults? I've lived here 25 years and never noticed anything. We get a flyer about recreational programming for children, but as we don't

have kids, this doesn't apply to us. We'd love to see some stuff for people our age (50s). Teach us how to play soccer!

- In general, the town needs to continue to improve its physical accessibility. This is understandable in natural settings.
- No
- Bike path can be a VERY dicey experience, IT IS A PATH NOT a RACEWAY!!!
- 1. The use of the term "open spaces" instead of green spaces prioritizes expanses of lawn over trees and meadows. 2. If the Town prioritized investment and protection of green spaces, it would not have prioritized open lawn over shade trees in the small park in front of the Cyrus Dallin Museum. I know the argument that some of the trees were diseased: that was not true of all of them. I know the argument that the town wants to create an accessible path where the trees were: I have friends with disabilities who insist that an accessible path could have been created without the destruction of trees. But the Town has repeatedly stated that it wants to turn this into an "open space." 3. If the Town prioritized investment and protection of green spaces, the SB would have passed Beth Melofchik's Warrant Article asking that Arlington's tree canopy be designated a public health resource. 4. If the Town prioritized investment and protection of open spaces, the Redevelopment Board would not favor zoning changes that reduce or eliminate setbacks.
- The bike path is great but should be widened slightly and painted so one half is for bikers and the other foot traffic.
- Some playgrounds are very old and parks minimally maintained
- It would be great if there were some public tennis courts in East ARLington as well as consider having a public pool like all of the surrounding towns.
- Some renovation opportunities seem to be missed - a major one is Poet's Corner - this would be a great park/playground if it was kept up, but it is hard to get to due to lack of maintenance of paths (some of this might be due to the land/parking lot owned by St. Camillus?), the playground could use some updating and repair, and the fields are underused. There is also a wetland space that could be lovely if paths etc. were added.
- Terrible on park renovation and many playgrounds need repair. One at poets is dangerous
- Parks need renovation. Redoing lines in parking lots and trimming back trees etc.
- Sections of the bike path need to be replaced due to drainage issues and roots.
- The Town officials care more about hot-air posturing, pushing their own disgraceful politics, their fraudulent appearances, empty lip service - and ultimately, revenue, to pay for their own indulgent excesses, than it cares about open parks that real people can actually use - all while the roads and infrastructure are a shameful rat-infested ghetto, and while the schools lay crumbling for decades so the Town officials and their union friends can justify tearing them down and replacing them with expensive eyesores - all to put our money in their own pockets. The Town doesn't care about Arlingtonians. The parks and open spaces are entirely too restrictive: No feeding ducks. No walking on grass. No cooking. No swimming. No skating. No sledding. No boating. No ball playing. No dogs. No nothing. Stay home. What are people allowed to do in these parks? They're devoid of people most of the time. Preference is always given to exclusive organized - paid - team sports. That's not fair, when very few residents play team sports, but all taxpayers pay for the parks. I don't personally know anyone who cares about how pretty the grass is, or invasive species, or any of that nonsense. All kids and adults should be able to freely use our parks at any time, day or night, for any normal purpose. Those parks are ours. We are the Town of Arlington. The bike path should be returned to the MBTA

for commuter trains. And bring back the Rec. Dept.'s potholders, gimp and Nok-Hockey. Provide recreational activities to kids that are entirely free of charge so all children - rich or poor - can freely participate. Provide opportunities for kids to play outdoors again without their mommies and daddies looming over them.

- Conservation areas like Window on the Mystic have no parking and/or little signage. Open space takes a back seat to playing fields and is concentrated in only a few parts of town.
- Open spaces are not always easily accessible unless you can walk to them. It can be very hard to find parking nearby. Also the recreational programming seems focused on children,
- Slots in recreation fill up. Too fast for kids.
- Spy pond area desperately needs more parking. Perhaps add a splash park at Robbins? Maybe a covered area? Like beaver creek park in Belmont...
- Variety of playgrounds. Most are for under 6 year olds and no outdoor spaces are teen specific.
- Bike path gets too crowded.
- I don't think that the open spaces are very accessible at all for those of us who don't have cars. The bike path is also nice, but it is not relaxing to walk it.
- I am unaware of programming. The res renovation is not good. The bike bike path is difficult to access in many places...Arlington heights near Golds Gym.
- Accessible is mixed.
- I don't have enough info to have any opinion on some of them.
- As much as I love the bike path, it's frustrating to see so many people, especially walkers, with their disregard to others. Either on a bike or as a runner, it becomes challenging to pass groups of walkers hogging the path. I would love to see more paths with better signage on how to use the paths that will ensure safe passage for all users. I would also like to see more off leash dog parks for our 4 legged companions.
- Town lets parks get pretty run down.
- No
- As an able-bodied individual, I'm not sure how accessible these spaces are to other people who might require different access.
- Not sure about prioritizing of open space investment. Understand that there are competing priorities for funding.
- I haven't really found any of them true compared to other areas I've lived. Overall, I'd rate Arlington with a C or D in regards to open space and recreation.
- The bike path needs better signage and much more direct access points. Most access paths are behind private buildings, thru parking lots. Not at all conducive for small children or anybody with a stroller or mobility issues. Some hidden access points (including golds gym) are all overgrown with weeds.
- poorly lit bike path from alewife to lake street - challenging for commuters in the winter when dark early
- I believe Arlington can and should better prioritize cultivation of park and open spaces. I believe these spaces should be made more welcoming and appealing through landscaping efforts that support native biodiversity including copious shade trees and plants.
- We need more open space and to stop building so many huge apartment complexes.
- I think we have to many soccer fields/ baseball fields.

- As we age and face inclement weather the multiuse minuteman trail is a deist. It is not meant to be a bicyclist through way.
- The town has some good programs but upkeep of them fields could be better and then bilke path is a whole different question, that needs a lot work!
- Arlington is a very dense community so it's hard to have enough open spaces. We need to do more to preserve and protect the open land that we have.
- Arlington has never spent and CPA money to acquire open space; the legislative intention of CPA. Eric Helmuth and Town Meeting voted against a resolution directing CPA money to buy the Mugar open space, so really, the town has little credibility on this issue. Thankfully, long term residents parents and grandparents set aside Arlington's parks.
- The playground equipment isn't outdated
- The ""bike"" path should be a multiuser path, not prioritizing bikes as the name suggests, especially since the Mass Ave changes that include bike lanes. Wish the Res beach could be open more during the renovations. Seems like it's been closed even when there have been long periods of inactivity.
- I think we need more cemetery space. And a pool.
- Many playgrounds are not well maintained and some are even lawsuits waiting to happen.
- Yes. Arlington does not have enough open space. To close the park area in front of the Cutter house in the middle of a pandemic and hot summer is bad planning. Do not remove those mature trees! Also trees throughout town are part of effective open space. The town should work more effectively to prevent utilities from maiming trees along the roads.
- I think Arlington should do more to prioritize the conservation and protection of the scant amount of open space we currently have, and actively invest in more open space. Further, the town needs more trees on residential streets in all neighborhoods.
- Open space is quite limited compared to nearby towns. Open space is mostly man made playing fields and parks with very little natural open space and conservation area.
- Hard to evaluate some
- Parking at a number of fields is very difficult and can cause issues with neighbors etc
- Arlington should invest to make spy pond swimmable... and maybe a beach
- Money could be better spent on road repairs
- The bike path is not easy to access if you live 1/2 mile or greater from the path
- I love Arlington's open recreational spaces but fear losing them to increasing development. These areas have always been important, but the pandemic has made that even more true.
- #4. The bike path IS great but not always easy to access. Desperately need better/safer connections in Arlington Heights and Arlington Center. In the Heights, The connection at the Res/TJ's is poor and requires cycling over the ball field. The one at Park is strange and requires traversing the Gold Gym parking lot. The one at Schwamb Mill is great but still requires unsafe crossing at Mass Ave and Lowell (let's not talk about Forest/Landscaping cutthrough!) In Arlington Center, there's not access anywhere near the High School to the east or west, for quite a long stretch. The Town has done next to nothing to make the Mill Brook Corridor into a greenway. This is shocking! Wellington Park is a baby step. We need to ""daylight"" this area in Arlington Heights and connect everything to Cooke's Hollow.
- It seems that there is a lack of investment and priority in maintaining and renovating parks, fields and playgrounds. There is also seems to be some disconnect between "school" and "park" property, even though for residents and users this is not a real distinction. These parks and open spaces also need

many more trees, and we should be planting them in anticipation of existing trees eventually needing to be removed (so in those situations we are not starting from scratch). Our parks are such a good and important amenity for the town, and we should be taking better care of them, and renovating them on a more consistent schedule.

- Bike Path is great but I wish it were easier to access and treated as having more priority with respect to cars, especially in the Center.
- I don't think there is a good variety of open spaces. There are playgrounds (for little kids), playing fields (for bigger kids) and some nice walking spaces. But other things are missing (see below).
- Would love to see more trees planted any where the town is able. With all the development pushing out trees on private lots, it is even more important that they fill all the public spaces.
- The bike path is great but bicyclists and skaters who travel at high rates of speed make it dangerous
- The town and its residents never prioritized investing in and protecting the MUGAR property from development. Had there been the will it could have been taken by eminent domain.
- Some open space areas really need some trail maintenance and clean-up (Turkey Hill, Hills Hill, etc). Recently some youth built a WONDERFUL mountain bike path in the Hills Hill woods (which are usually filled with trash, broken glass & drinking). Such a great productive & caring use of an abused area, and the town put up angry signs forbidding this trail building. A huge missed opportunity! Similarly, the Crusher Lot could be turned into a productive recreational area.
- I am not sure the town prioritizes investment and protection of open spaces or that it identifies park renovation opportunities. Some concerns for me are the green space off of Washington and Mountain, as well as Turkey Hill and the tower. Those spaces are not well taken care of, entrances are not well marked, invasive species are taking over. Also, there is only one playground in the Heights serving the area near Ottoson and it is minimally maintained.
- No
- The town seems to be encouraging development on open spaces and allowing developers to claim balcony spaces and the bike path as open space. Pavement and concrete are not open space.
- Many playgrounds are aging and have not been updated/maintained.
- Since senior center closed, yoga has stopped. Not even outdoor yoga during pandemic.
- Cuts down too many trees.
- All except the recreational programming could use improvement. The bike path is not walkable due to high speed bikes. Open spaces are minimal. Dense housing plans will eliminate open spaces. Menotomy Rocks Park is not difficult to use for families with children due to dogs off lease. Parks should have a variety of recreational facilities.
- Bike Path access needs to be improved. Especially with signage and bikeable access instead of steps (ie at park ave and brattle st)
- Just don't know town priorities
- Bike path IS great, but I would not say it is "easy to access". I live in the Heights, and always have to go out of my way to get on the path, the "secret" entry points are terrible (MAJOR, very dangerous, potholes- coming on to Brattle St) for example
- does NOT prioritize protection of open spaces ie Mugar woods is NOT being protected.
- Make more parking available everywhere, especially along the Avenue, that's what arlington lacks everywhere
- I would like to see developing new and protecting existing open spaces be given more priority.

- We do not have a great variety of playgrounds and playing fields. It would be nice to see some more communal exercise/weight lifting type areas (like the small one we have by the bike path & the rec) and also some volleyball fields. I also think accessibility could be better for the spaces we do have. It would be nice for clearly demarcated/ designated dog parks and also areas for adults and seniors to utilize. Open green areas with more benches and picnic tables-- maybe some chess tables etc for seniors to use. It would be nice to build a community pool in our town as well.
- Bike path is great, but can have easier/better access and connections.
- There are insufficient soccer fields for the number of kids who currently play soccer. Also, we would love to see more areas and times for dogs to be off-leash, given the number of pandemic puppies!
- The bike path has some hard access points that could be greatly improved, such as near Park Ave, Grove Street, and Ryder Street (dangerous with vehicles near there)
- I don't believe the Town prioritizes protection of open space as much as it prioritizes housing density.
- Yes. Spy Pond Park is one of the most neglected parks in surrounding towns and cities.
- Town needs to stop degradation of woodlands and permit a variety of uses everywhere.
- Very limited parking or alternate access around some green spaces - eg. Menotomy Rocks, Spy Pond
- No.
- Too much emphasis on playgrounds and athletic fields while open spaces such as Cooke's Hollow languish.
- The bike path is not easy to access at all compared to what it could and should be.
- I agree that the town identifies parks that need renovation, unfortunately I see that they just rebuild what was there with regard to athletic fields. I don't see any effort to determine what the town actually needs. Over the past 10-20 years the participation rate in sports has changed. Interest in sports like football and softball have declined, while lacrosse, soccer and ultimate frisbee numbers have grown dramatically. But we rebuild the same athletic fields when there is a renovation. There is no analysis of what we actually need. There was a survey conducted by Parks and Recreation conducted a few years ago, but it was a disaster and after spending a good chunk of money on it the consultants report was ignored. It is also not clear to me that we have sufficient capital expenditure to maintain all of the parks we have. We either need to allocate more capital, or reduce the number of parks we have. That way we could avoid the situation where parks fall into serious disrepair, such as what happened with the playground at Thompson a few years back.
- 1. The Town overemphasizes playing fields and needs more (a) community gardens; (b) water-based recreational facilities on its great ponds; and (c) conservation land/wildlife habitat. Lacking an outdoor municipal swimming pool, the Town should facilitate open water swimming in one of the Mystic Lakes and/or Spy Pond. 2. If the Town "prioritized" investment and protection of open spaces, it would have acquired the Mugar wetlands by now.
- Accessibility is an issue due to off leash dogs
- Could use a public swimming pool, preferably indoors so that swimming is possible irrespective of the fluctuations in weather.
- Some of the town playgrounds could use some repair and this has been the case for multiple years with no repairs made. Picnic tables at Menotomy Rocks for example.
- Could use more and varied recreational programming
- I don't disagree with any of the statements. However, there are several statements where I don't feel I know enough to say "agree" or "disagree"

- There seem to be more playgrounds than needed and not enough money to maintain them at the proper level. Consolidation seems appropriate. The town prioritizes space for legacy activities like baseball that are played by only (a declining number of) boys, at the detriment of women athletics and fast growing sports like ultimate disc and lacrosse.
- It seems the town has a greater investment on baseball fields than soccer tho I think more kids participate in soccer
- I think there could be a greater variety of wild/native habitat like Menotomy Rock park, and community agriculture like the Community Orchard
- The town has left so much of the care of our parks to the Friends groups, which, while not a bad thing, they are not professionals. Where is the guidance and care for a place like Menotomy Rocks, for example, are we sure the pond is being well taken care of? What about potential fire hazards? It is imperative that the town do better.
- No
- I am concerned about Park renovations, particularly playgrounds. The Bishop School playground (small playground) was on a renovation list for completion in 2016, then there were some changes in financial priorities along with staff changes, and now the issues with that playground are not being addressed. Why? I'm also concerned about the number of baseball and softball fields in relationship to the population that uses them. Why is there a new baseball field at Robbins Farm Park that only the Babe Ruth League can use? Didn't town tax dollars pay for the field, or at least its maintenance?
- I love the bike path, but it is often over-crowded and feels dangerous because of different types of users going at very different speeds (i.e. kids learning to bike, parents with strollers, cyclists, walkers, runners, etc.). It would be wonderful to widen the path to have a bike lane and a walk/run lane.
- Park renovations/maintenance not adequate. McLennen Park is overrun by invasive species. The Wright Street entrance located at the base of Huntington Rd is overrun with plants and poison ivy, and the small area to the right as you're headed into the park from Wright St is flooded and still contains trash from when the house in the park was relocated (metal, etc.). Walkways at the park are eroding, and areas that were promised to remain "conservation" lands are regularly mowed. The areas on the hillside behind the soccer field are overrun by phragmites that have overtaken the original native plantings. Many trees/branches have died and haven't been removed.
- Not sure
- The town needs to invest much more in our open spaces.
- Not enough playgrounds that are leveled for older kids to play at, also would like more nature inspired play space
- The bike path is actually tough to access from the heights and a little too busy for little ones
- I feel that the town could do a better job of maintaining existing parks, particularly play structure maintenance and field surfaces for baseball and softball.
- I don't know about recreational programming, one way or the other. That is why I left it blank. I wish we could do more to protect open spaces.
- While it seems like there is decent investment, there are many areas that feel like they could be either updated (e.g. the stands by spy pond field) or improved (more off-road bike paths).
- the town could do more recreational planning, and more variety of open spaces. First of all, we need a town pool or two (indoor and outdoor). Relying on the aging and overused Boys and Girls Club pool is ridiculous.
- Yes

- I don't disagree, but I'm not familiar enough with 2 of them to make an assessment.
- I don't disagree with any of them. The Town has so many priorities, though, and I am not sure investment of open spaces rises to the top, nor should it necessarily.
- Menotomy Rocks Park playground could use an overhaul
- 1) Pool is needed! I grew up with public pools in Arlington VA and it was a great resource for teaching many kids to swim and for gathering. 2) the spectator amenities are bad. Few places with benches or stands. Gross port a potties. 3) outdated playground equipment (see Poet's corner) 4) Not enough turf fields for soccer and other sports 5) worries about losing the field space behind Stop and shop 6) rec Dept camps / personnel are often not responsive
- The town should have a community pool like Belmont and the surrounding towns
- No
- For statement #3 above, my only experience is that some dangerously dilapidated playground equipment stayed in place for several months at Robbins Farm Park. It has since been removed, but I am disappointed that it took so long given that so many young children + babies play there daily.
- I am concerned about the Mugar development near Rt 2 and the possibility of flooding in the area. This open space needs to be protected.
- Arlington needs to convert some of it's baseball fields to soccer fields to accommodate the significantly higher field sport population.
- I don't think the town does a good enough job protecting open spaces and sometimes park and rec seems more focused on profit (like with mountain biking) than preservation.
- Bike path is not easy to access from south of Mass Ave. Town has a good variety of open spaces but they are not evenly distributed across town, causing inequitable access from different neighborhoods.
- Recreational programming is good for kids; there isn't much for adults.
- Town does not properly maintain parks--e.g., look at the number of non-working water fountains. Investment is slanted to wealthier parts of town--e.g. Robbins and Menotomy Rocks parks.
- I think the town could do better at making open spaces more accessible to all--some places considered open are actually playing fields for organized sports. The town should also make public space available for kids music classes (why is Super Soccer Stars ok, but Music Together not ok for parks? and other activities to support children being able to have outdoor programming.
- Better access to the bike path is needed, as well as designated walking areas (keep to the right) and signage (slow down zones for high pedestrian areas on the path).
- We need a pool and community building for seniors.
- No
- More playgrounds and more access points to the bike path would be good. Not a lot of easy access north of Jason St. and a pool! Every town has a pool except Arlington!
- I think the town needs to do a better job maintaining the fields. The new baseball field at Robbins is filled with dogs in the morning digging up the lawns. I wish there are designated areas for dog owners.
- The variety of open space areas is not "good". The vast majority of the open space is used for sports fields. The town is also not very good at the upkeep of the open spaces other than the fields. Upkeep of open spaces such as the Robbins Library Gardens seem to fall to "friends" groups, while town

workers are always deployed to care for soccer and baseball fields. We need more space for arts, festivals, music, etc.

- Rec programming that is accessible and/ or adaptive for disabled kids is basically non-existent in Arlington. Given that inequity, I can't say that the town has good recreational programming.
- No I just don't utilize them to know what condition they are in.
- no
- I think investment is happening more recently (thinking about the reservoir project) but it has felt like there's been a large gap in park investment leading up to now.
- The town prioritizes athletics and children's recreation (and dogs). It does a poor job of providing space and programming for adults and seniors.
- Bike path is not accessible except at a few locations. Pave and create paths to the bike path; make it more accessible to people coming from the other side of Mass Ave (e.g., signage, crosswalks).
- Too much development is ruining Arlington's green spaces. Tree canopy is vanishing, and planting little trees instead that die is not working. In both cases, the green space and the trees are simply priceless and irreplaceable. When we moved here, Arlington was a great combo of small town with access to nearby cities. Every year, Arlington is becoming more like a city, more like Somerville or Cambridge. That is unnecessary and short-sighted.
- I think Arlington is doing a fantastic job of preserving space. I would love when the town puts in a new park to make sure that it is handicap accessible. My daughter wears left braces and some of the newer playground have extra tall steps making it so she can't navigate the part with out an adult being right there, which is frustrating for her. It's really a simple matter of making sure the steps up aren't super tall. A few inches makes a huge difference. It would be awesome if people were mindful of this in the future. Even better I have been to new parks with my kids where it is all handicap accessible. There are ramps that lead to ever part of the play structure (steps up too on the sides of the ramp). This will help foster inclusion and all allow all kids to play together. Ramps are the best. It's not only for kids but also for parents who have mobility difficulties. Thanks for listening.
- Hills Hill, Crosby, Pierce (under construction I know) and Ottoson soccer fields could use some love. baseball fields are immaculate, which I get, it's well funded but with so many kids playing soccer, really, can we get those crap fields some service (and this is coming from a baseball family by the way!) Also, Arlington is SO LACKING in adaptive programming for special needs (downs, autism, ADHD/behavioral). Aside of the adaptive swim lessons at ABGC that were thankfully started up a year ago or so, there is NOTHING. We have to go to surrounding towns. Arlington would do REALLY well to bring in adaptive programming, there is DEFINITELY a market. Park Renovations - these only happen when residents pipe up and even then there is a LOT of resistance from the 'old skool'. I heard at a meeting about the Lussiano re-do, selectmen were VERY prickly, in a 'we lived with old structures, why do you need a new one??' kind of way - very resistant. Thank goodness for that amazing group of parents who worked so hard to push it through!
- Too many 3rd party low quality programs
- Development is taking over open spaces. There are no requirements to plant trees all my streets so there is loss of shade and canopy.
- need to protect any open space and parkland!
- I don't believe the outdoor space surrounding the Arlington Reservoir was protected well because during the beginning of its renovations many big trees were removed and it seemed a bit unnecessary to increase the accessibility.

- The bike path is great, but I do wish it was easier to access on bike from more locations.
- Yes, Arlington recreation options are great for younger kids, but the teen programming for HS is sorely lacking!
- Crosby Park has needed a renovation for some time
- Maintenance & beautification lacking
- - We need more recreational programming for teenagers. There are very few options for kids in 9th grade and older. - The Minuteman trail needs better connections to residential streets. They are typically unmarked and hard to find if you don't know the area well. We should also do more to link the MM Trail to bike paths in other communities.
- Yes. The bike path needs to be expanded to have a separate walking lane so that bikers and walkers are not jostling each other. It is currently unsafe and reduces the enjoyment for both bikers and walkers.
- I'm not sure about recreational programming. I'd love to see guided family nature walks and things like that.
- I don't disagree, I feel ambivalent about the ones I did not check.
- Open spaces are not easily accessible- primarily the bike path from the high school to Brattle St. I think access from the high school will be a huge positive!
- Some of the playgrounds need updating/redoing!
- The town does not prioritize protection of open space, as shown by the AHS rebuild that has engulfed the entire front green, as well as other newly approved projects that are allowed to minimize or eliminate existing green space and deviate from existing bylaws.
- I don't use most of the parks and don't know about town priorities
- The bike path isn't all that easy to access.
- 1) I think the town does a good job with programming, with one important exception: there are no adaptive sports/recreation programs, especially for kids. 2) I want more ramps to access the bike path (Grove St, Brattle St, for instance) 3) We need HP spot(s) for Menotomy Rocks, and maybe other places
- More emphasis on natural settings where possible. The jury is still out on the current renovations at the Reservoir. It's turning into a regular park and less natural. I think it will be very nice. Just less natural, if that makes sense.
- The bike path is not easily accessible in Arlington Heights on bikes. There are few entrances to it, other than at crossroads.
- I just don't know much about some of them
- No
- Bike path is great but needs better access at places
- The town does not prioritize protection and investment of open space, very unfortunately. Open space needs to grow not shrink! It is difficult to find a list of public open spaces and parks, the resources at each and hours.
- I believe the town does a poor job re recreational programming. In terms of park renovations, perhaps B. It seems like neighboring communities do a much better build more creative and interesting playgrounds. But I appreciate the work that's gone into the park alongside Spy Pond, the Robbins Park near Town Hall, and the current work around the town reservoir.
- The three things I left unchecked are because I don't have an opinion about them. I just don't know.

- We are so lucky to have the playgrounds we have in Arlington but they differ in how well they are maintained and the quality of them. For example, the playground near us (at the Bishop school) has a bridge that has been broken for months now, leaving the structure mostly unavailable to play with leaving us to seek out playgrounds that are further away. Also, many of the paths going down to the playgrounds in town are covered in weeds or other obstructions, making it difficult to access by wheelchair, walker or stroller.
- Parks like Poet's Corner have been untouched for 20+ yrs while Robbins have been done multiple times
- I think there are some areas in Arlington without convenient access to a playground - or to playgrounds designed for younger children/toddlers. There needs to be more transitional spaces for older kids including basketball courts, volleyball spaces and other places where folks can gather and convene.
- Bike path crossing at Mass Ave near Kickstand cafe is terrifying. a bridge/underpass would be a much better solution.
- parking at the Arlington Res. is poor
- Parks get more attention when they have "Friends of" who advocate. Compare Robbins to, say, McClennen.
- I think there is an under-investment in facilities given the affluence of the town. Specifically, the lack of bathrooms at any of the parks and playgrounds. Also, summer facilities - splash parks that open later than surrounding towns / agencies, no pool, etc.
- I think more recreation and family events should be planned. And we need a pool!
- Bike path access is sort of variable. Open space isn't super-well-publicized. Turkey Hill is a great example!
- We need more good recreational programming. Compared to other towns Arlington does not have very good recreational plans at all. The town recreational plans are also very expensive compared to other towns . This should be a priority.
- I forget what it's called, but the small lot at the bottom of the old Symme's Hospital Hill has been overrun with branches and trees since a wind storm during the Covid. We used to walk in there, but now find access to be too difficult.
- I am not convinced that the town prioritizes "investment and protection of open spaces", given the stupid house building on Westminster street (formerly a lot contiguous with Mt. Gilboa conservation area) and the destruction of forested area at the Res
- I think that the Town could devote more resources - funding - to park upgrades and maintenance.
- It would be nice to have a few more hiking and/or biking areas. Or convert unsightly or unused spaces for recreation.
- I don't think the town prioritizes investment of open spaces. More investment is needed to preserve what little we have.
- No.
- I think the Town does a pretty good job, given a limited budget.
- The town has easements (through ARB Special permits) that could create linked walking routes but no one know they're allowed to walk there; they aren't mapped or signed. Also Town Meeting voted maybe 20+ years ago to create a bike way access point, over land the Town owns, from a side street in the center, off Mass Ave but has never implemented it. Also, a great asset would be a walk/access easements linking the sites of the five former mill ponds in Arlington. The Old Schwamb Mill hosted

such a guided walk about six years ago and it was fascinating. I would like to see Arlington create/map more walking routes that incorporate its open spaces.

- Arlington does not have a good variety of open spaces. There's no splash pad/park in the summertime, no public pools, few bike racks, few public restrooms along the Minuteman Bikeway, & no amenities (shops, restaurants, etc along the bikeway to attract residents to local businesses.
- "The town does not prioritize investment and protection of natural areas, at least when it comes to maintenance. The town is good at spending capital funds on big planting projects, but those projects don't get maintained properly and the money is wasted.
- Also the bike path is great, but access west of the center is lousy. "
- I'd like to see more small open spaces throughout town, including in residential areas. With benches and more creative features to support our need to congregate outdoors.
- While the Minuteman bikeway is a wonderful resource, and generally well maintained and has seen improvements in Arlington Center and Lake Street, it is still inadequate in terms of overall cycling infrastructure -- and isn't solely a recreational path. The Alewife Greenway bicycle path is unpaved and as a result the surface regularly washes away after significant rainfall. The transitions between sections of the Alewife Greenway path are quite difficult to navigate by bike because you need to thread your way down narrow sidewalks or stop and lift your bike over a curb in order to get to those sections. Japanese Knotweed is a real problem along both the Minuteman and the Alewife Greenway. It grows into the path, obstructing the view of both the Alewife brook and oncoming bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The stairs on Lussiano Field are in dangerous disrepair, and far too steep for anyone but strong, healthy teenagers and adults to navigate safely.
- Bike path is supposed to be for all recreation, but is not watched over for safety of people on bikes vs pedestrians. Too much rec programming for kids, nothing for adults, walking, etc.
- Many playgrounds are old and in disrepair
- a lot of parks (playgrounds for children) need to be renovated with shade in mind, especially given climate change. the bike path is usually crowded with invasive plants along the sides.
- I feel like the parks nearly central locations are not inviting (the park between Town Hall and the Library for example feels like you are not really welcome, not enough seating, etc.) and the parks near me are not well maintained (I was excited to use the boule pit near the ice rink only to find it completely grown over and unmaintained, for example). It also seems we have great resources like our ponds but we are not making them welcoming. For example, there is not a welcoming shoreline at Spy Pond that makes me ever want to stay there and enjoy say with a picnic, which seems like such a missed opportunity (the play area is nice but otherwise seating and shore space is so limited. The trails around the reservoir are poorly maintained (maybe more community volunteer activities for upkeep would be good?). I wish there were more community garden plots as well.
- Investment and protection: mediocre. Natural resources of natural areas need identification/inventory . Plans, contractors, residents can then coexist/enhance our natural resources, without damaging them. Currently, for example, tree protection during renovation is hit or miss, despite construction guidelines available via DPW, lack of coordination with DPW natural resources professionals when planning, operating, maintaining in Arlington open spaces. Currently it's hit or miss (ie. School Custodian staff (incorrectly as they have not been trained) prune critical trees surrounding school buildings (Thompson a recent example)). School tree growth, survival has a telling history of Arlington's rec/school/ open space/DPW uncoordinated and not communicated mgmt. - Spy Pond restoration. Lack of communication with DPW natural resource staff to coordinate

adjacent mgmt/planning of natural resources. Could save \$, result in more landscape level water mgmt. - Building in heat zones, where natural areas are adjacent. Coordination with natural resources professionals in the DPW can inform and result in cooling impacts, enhance storm water mgmt, clean nearby air.

- Recreational programming can fill up quickly, limiting opportunities. There is also a lack of programming around swimming.
- There is limited space for natural spaces. More could be done with ""pocket"" areas and corridors as natural settings.
- I believe maintenance of the parks and recreational areas could be improved. More attention to trash pickup and grass cutting would be a start.
- Bike path needs lighting to serve vital recreation and transportation needs. Existing open spaces need continuous smooth/wide paved sidewalks and pathways.
- I'm not familiar with all the issues.
- I don't think that the bike path is particularly easy to access. It's great, yes, but many areas of it feel like a limited-access highway.
- Good access to the bike path means protected lanes from neighborhoods to the Minuteman and we don't even have bike lanes or sharrows in most cases.
- The town did not provide good recreational programming for Seniors during the pandemic. For example, outdoor yoga, or indoor yoga for masked, vaccinated Seniors.
- these are all outdoor spaces. also how about a communal public garden.
- Need improved access to bike path in certain areas.
- Park planning should include small spray pads at every park, like Cambridge. Spy pond playground needs an overhaul. Town should invest in town pool, ideally outdoors, but possibly indoors with glass retracting walls/cielings. Town should have a swim team, a summer swim team.
- Bike path and open space is not easily accessible
- Some of the parks are a bit run down.
- The bike path is terrifying as a walker. Bikers act like it's the tour de France. I avoid it entirely for my own safety.
- The playgrounds need to be cleaner and inviting as well as their surroundings.
- Bike path access is an issue. Many of the safe access points near me are in busy commercial areas (parking lot, landscaping company parking area)
- There are not enough turf fields in town. Other towns have 3-4 whereas Arlington only has the high school field.
- Bike paths and open spaces are difficult to access because of all the car traffic that you have to cross to get to them. Playgrounds are not renovated often enough.
- Bike path could use more access points. I had heard there would be an at-grade access added to the new housing complex at Park Ave. and Lowell St. but that was removed. It's disappointing given there's only stairs there now.
- I don't disagree with any of these.
- Access to the bike path is difficult or dangerous for small children. Arlington Center Safe Travel is a failure for children and novice bikers.
- Some parks feel less accessible to people from outside the immediate neighborhood— Waldo is an example, and even monotony rocks.

- Town needs an indoor pool.
- Bike path not easy to access legally near Arlington heights business district.
- Some of the playgrounds can use updated- in particular, the playground for Sutherland woods is just a huge waste. Who made th decision to get that equipment? That's a huge space and that equipment is too limited. I think you can add way more to that playground. Also you got rid of the baby swings so my 19 month old can not use the swings there :(
- I don't think the issue is whether the town does a good job of identifying park renovation opportunities, it's more a matter of acting on them and making use of them accessible in a cooperative environment to organizations who'd like to produce community events.

What more can the Town do to meet community open space and recreation needs?
Check all that you agree with or add your own. Do you disagree with any of these?
Please explain. (104 provided explanation)

- Stop permitting expensive housing projects in industrial areas; they just make the area hotter. Stop permitting McMansions; they chew up green space.
- No mention of preserving trees in statement on climate change. Urban trees are most important in slowing down climate change. Unfortunately they are being cut down on the open spaces in town.
- Unsure of the number of private green spaces that exist to be possibly preserved. Definitely agree that zoning should preserve existing green (and development should be done on brownfield sites).
- We need more dog parks PLEASE!!! We have only one in town and it's hard to get to, especially around rush hour. Please make space for pollinator gardens!!
- See answer #2.
- No
- No
- Good as they are.
- I don't know what "prioritize spaces for future/new recreational amenities" means. How do you prioritize a space? are old amenities de-prioritized ? or their spaces? lost here...
- Not sure if agree with the private spaces, except to have an application process for mature trees on private land that owners take down without regard to public health needs.
- No but festivals, movies nights etc...just don't seem as important as the other things.
- What is meant by preserving private green space? The Dept of Children and Families in a Mirak property on Mystic needs more trees, it screams for more trees. Who needs a golf tee on Mystic? Or a lawn with lawn chemicals flowing down hill into Mill Brook? Stewards are great, recognition maybe not sure they need management.
- Yes, The town should not be giving away its public park spaces to private entities, such as beer companies and cafes as it has done with Kickstand Cafe
- only that if adding to the urban tree canopy it should not be with norway maples and other invasive species
- Town does a decent job of maintenance, but resources are limited.
- Trees Trees Trees. Every day I walk around the neighborhood the town is cutting more trees, at exactly the wrong time. And we do not need any more recreational spaces (if that means playing fields)
- No

- I do not see the green area at Mountain and Washington St. on the map. This area could be developed to provide a path for children who attend Stratton and live on the other side of Mohawk.
- The new highschool project was a ridiculous waste of space, it could be much more efficient and did not need to take over the lawn. The town lost it's only opportunity to have a public area for markets, festivals and concerts. All it needed was a renovation to support those uses.
- Re: park maintenance - I'm not sure all playgrounds are regularly inspected for safety maintenance - the Ed Burns tot lot has dangerous metal spikes and edges emerging from aluminum borders! -- Re: "better signage" - I'm not sure what this means - to what end and for what purpose? Educational signage that points out nice native plant areas and educates about invasive ID/removal would be good. -- Re "better management of stewardship activities" - simply hiring one person and expecting stewardship to happen is perhaps not the best solution- top-down management may not be the proper model - it can stifle initiative; an asynchronous crowd-sourcing model might get better results, since Arlington residents care and might be more willing to help out on their own time-frame than in organized activities.
- I read a note about a local business who had challenges with getting access to public space for her fitness classes despite ongoing issues with COVID safety. Given how often I see plentiful and attractive outdoor space going unused (Robbins Farm fields, gardens near Town Hall/Robbins Library) and given our recurring budget issues it may be a good opportunity to expand the public/private partnership, ease the approval process, and market this space to businesses. This could expand the use and awareness of these spaces, increase town revenue, and perhaps provide some publicity for local businesses.
- I'm not sure why the town would be involved in preserving private green spaces.
- No. All are important.
- No
- Yes. I disagree. How do you say "Cyanobacteria in Hill's Pond" in your language?
- Not the town's job to preserve private green spaces in town.
- The town allows too much tree removal, and they need to do more tree planting *and* watering. There are lots of trees planted in front of rental properties that never get watered and die.
- for example, we have Meadowbrook Field in the cemetery. It's a dump. literally because junk floats down the river. Also it's not accessible. A simple boardwalk or trail can be put in. Don't allow dogs, bikes, food, keep it maintained. More places like that are needed, we really have none. Also the cemetery itself should be considered open space. Instead of unceremoniously throwing bird watchers out, they should be welcomed as long as they are not interfering with burials, mourners etc. Look at Mount Auburn, Forest Hills, Mt Feake etc
- Am unaware of most of the above. For recreation needs is there a way to have fields that are multi-use for youth sports - but not turf? For example, a soccer field was lost due to the high school renovation, many kids play soccer, yet a baseball field was developed at Robbins Farm, while Thorndike, which is beautiful, is not in good shape.
- no
- Urban tree canopy is great when overhead lines support it, but planting trees under fiber and electrical lines is literally just growing maintenance problems for 20+ years down the road.
- yes
- The larger Peirce playground needs complete renovation, especially as parts of it are condemned right now, and grades 1 -5 rely on that as their only playground.

- We do not need to focus on tree canopy any more. Arlington has enough trees. Focus on activities that matter to residents such as cultural festivals, concerts, food trucks.
- When we look at urban canopy we need to think about solar power and plant trees that won't get too tall.
- I don't know what #2 refers to. I've been involved with Friends of Spy Pond Park, and think they are conscientious about things like stewardship and invasives education and management. What does it mean that the Town would manage private green spaces -- regulate what developers can do to existing green areas?
- All playgrounds I have been to are very well maintained. Nice work!
- We do a good job with urban tree canopy. This Dept works well with town residents.
- I'm not sure what "preserve private green spaces" refers to.
- No
- There is too much sameness to Arlington's parks. Why not something that is not geared toward athleticism and children? Why not a formal garden? Someplace with food trucks and scenic, peaceful places to sit and eat.
- There's not much additional space available in town, so got to do what we can with what we have. Town does a pretty good job.
- Some signage is good. A lot of signage is not good.
- I agree there needs to be better maintenance and better coordination with the schools. Bishop Playground is boarded up. The problem is the school can't do anything because they don't own the playground, and the town has a long list of projects covering 26 parks and playgrounds. Therefore it gets lost. School playgrounds should fall under the schools so that any problems are addressed in a timely fashion. We need to allocate capital funds for "break fix"/urgent repairs, and if things are broken then it should go to the top of the list ahead of other town projects.
- No
- Large fields should NOT be allowed to be use during or just after heavy rain!! It RUINS them!!
- I'm concerned by what is meant by ""flexible park space."" It sounds like an argument for more unrelieved stretches of lawn.
- Not sure what private green spaces are
- I agree with one point, but no others. What's to explain? Climate change threats to open spaces? Who wrote this absurd survey? Cut the grass when needed, check periodically for widow-maker branches and dead trees, but other than that, leave the damn parks alone and stop wasting our money turning open fields into off-limits showplaces that are admired for their invasive-specieslessness by approximately 48 crazy people. Instead, Town officials should find something that's actually important to do, and make themselves useful, for a change.
- I don't believe that we need more rules on what people can do with private property.
- I do not know what these items actually are in relation to park space
- Park signage pretty good as is
- Not sure about preserving private green spaces. If they're private, that's the responsibility of the owners, no?
- Get rid of the Japanese Knotweed!!!!'
- No
- Not a one! Do it all 😊

- Town does a pretty good job, EXCEPT for the beautiful open space around the Park Ave water tower? Why do you continually allow construction equipment to be stored on this green space? This lovely park has been very poorly managed by the Town.
- Climate cannot be managed at the small scale.
- Stop trying to restrict children from parks; restrict team sports comes from childless activists.
- I think the list tells a miss in thinking. It's mostly about playing fields, and parks. We're really short on natural spaces and wild environments like conservation land.
- There needs to be a greater emphasis on property owners eliminating invasives by education and support.
- These survey questions are indicative of a sham.
- No
- This survey comes to me the day I find out Black Crow Yoga is effectively shut down. Why can't local yoga studios have outdoor classes?? It is important for the health and community of our town, and for local business owners who keep getting destroyed by this pandemic. I can't believe this situation, there is enough green space for local businesses to use!!!
- Don't understand the importance of private green spaces
- No.
- With the AHS planning to have multiple turf fields available, it is critical that the town gets better at managing that space. These fields are million dollar investments but there does not seem to be a good system to manage them. They are not scheduled very efficiently, and they are not managed operationally very efficiently. I have been to the Medford High school turf field and if you get within 20ft of that field with a cup of coffee there is someone that stops you and explains the rules, nothing but water near the field. At Peirce field you see people with dogs at games (even though the rules prohibit it), kids riding bikes on the track, etc.
- Any increase in community events or usage by small businesses (e.g., exercise classes and outdoor entertainment) must take into account residential neighbors' need for quiet.
- Keep the tennis courts open through November (at least during the weekends) because it doesn't get too cold to stop playing tennis till then. Winter feels less boring and tennis lovers can stay active for much longer.
- I think the town is doing a good job adding trees!
- Nope, these all seem like great ideas
- I think all open spaces need better maintenance and access. Yes, invasive species management is important, but let's focus on collecting the trash and minimizing rats in town. Let's do better to keep dogs out of school fields. Do we need more dog parks in the neighborhoods? Please look into that. It's disgusting to have kids run in fields that dogs run in and owners don't clean up after.
- No
- Please actively stop activities that damage open spaces and avoid conflicts of interest. For instance, having the president of the NE Mt Biking association help to make rules about open spaces seems in direct conflict with stewardship of these open spaces and responses to climate change.
- I agree with all of the above- maybe the town already is doing some of these- so left blank those I have no knowledge about
- Why would there be any role for the town to support private green spaces with public money?
- No

- I think the town could do a better job with trash and there could be more public trash cans placed around Arlington.
- Signage is expensive and mainly pointless in a geographically small community like Arlington. I'd rather see that money put into poison ivy control!
- more open space and mature trees
- No
- I don't disagree with any of these. I do think we need more incentives for the Town to preserve and enhance the tree canopy, particularly with native species, and to encourage developers and even private property owners to preserve mature native trees.
- no personal knowledge
- Many parks are fairly well maintained, but there's always room for improvement. Certain parks/bike path do have huge amounts of invasive species.
- We have plenty of signs. No more, please. No one reads them anyway.
- It's really not all about specific human use. We need to be in-volved in the town's role in the health of planet-wide systems. "What's best for all" is not synonymous with "What I want for me and mine"
- Yes,. Preserve public and private open space and parks. Increase both, not decrease.
- Don't disagree, I do worry about invasive species getting ahead of parks and rec.
- "Preserve private green spaces" is unclear
- Street trees are a significant issue in town. I know, probably an issue for a different committee. Walk through Arlington Center - there are tree pits that have been empty for 20 years.
- No.
- Flexible program space is a nice idea as long as it doesn't add paving.
- Please no more festivals/movie nights/music/loud activities with amplified sound in parks!! I am begging you. Our parks are mostly in residential areas, leaving people who can't cope with the noise (due to, for example, a sensory-related disability - which I have) nowhere to go. Those kinds of activities should be in central areas where people who want them can seek them out, not forced onto neighborhood residents who don't have a choice. This is an inclusion and equity issue.
- I don't know what the climate change threats are specifically to open spaces? But the climate crisis are a top priority.
- The urban tree canopy doesn't need MORE trees so much as the existing Norway Maples, of which many are at the end of their lifespan, need to be more aggressively replaced with more appropriate, varied native species. These Norway Maples can't withstand storms and high winds, bringing down power lines or causing property damage. Every year several come down in my immediate neighborhood, and property owners aren't allowed to hire a tree service (or DIY) clean up dead or diseased limbs. We don't have a choice but to let these trees fall apart in an uncontrolled manner because they are not maintained and are not appropriate trees for the local climate.
- There are way too many recreational areas that there isn't enough parking for. This includes soccer fields and Hills Pond.
- the town preserve private open space? By what legal right?
- Maybe we could have someone versed on invasives to help people identify plants to remove from property
- Workout classes should not be scheduled at the same times that families access park. Aka: Magnolia tends to be much busiest after work, classes should not be scheduled then.

- With regard to private spaces - the town already has significant control and should not give itself more control over private property.
- I really don't think signage is a good use of money. Most neighborhood parks are visible to people familiar with the area and I'd imagine enough folks use the internet at this point to discover other park/recreation opportunities.
- I don't disagree with any of these.
- I'm not sure what you mean "preserve private green space." Purchase of Development rights sounds good, otherwise I don't support public investment in private space.
- too much trash in the streets.

What are new opportunities to meet community open space and recreation needs? Check all that you agree with or add your own. Do you disagree with any of these? Please explain. (110 provided explanation)

- There's one pool - at the Boys and Girls Club. We don't need to spend millions more on another; there are other necessities that the town should be spending on, not "nice-to-haves", for example, affordable housing, doing a better job of luring business than our Economic Planning and Development Dept. has done. And skip the "multi-generational community center" and other grand visions that are unnecessary, impractical, and expensive. In short, stop behaving like we're a wealthy town with plenty of money and start behaving like a town that has to watch its budget - carefully.
- We do not need more indoor recreation.
- Use/renovate existing town owned spaces/buildings for things that would happen in a community center.
- See answer #2.
- No
- Too much signage can take away from nature. I'm not against signage that is tastefully done, at entrances.
- From prior comment
- All good ideas, I'm sure there would be some Federal funding , say from EPA? More educational opportunities to create awareness of reality of Global warming and how it impacts our environments RIGHT NOW< not just in future!
- Good as they are. Maybe buy Mugar properties rather than block private ownership rights.
- I know a pool is popular (and I love to swim) but it is a huge financial drain on resources for both the building and upkeep. Unless there is a private donation and a substantial endowment for a pool, I would think it's not prudent.
- no
- In lieu of pocket parks, I'd like to see more pocket spaces used as open space/tree canopy.
- A pool is not a priority. Parks and Rec may want to be more amenable to art as recently at Menotomy Rocks Park. Former Senior Center on Maple Ave is the Community Center isn't it?
- Arlington has spent a comparatively high amount on signage that isn't particularly useful. If future signage is needed, I hope it will be useful and done economically.
- It's sad that a town like Arl. does not have a well-maintained public pool complex.
- Yes. No pool. There is too much art cluttering up the parks already, and creating dangerous distractions. (Public spaces are not a studio for mediocre local artists.)

- Keep natural spaces natural. Educational signage, if any, only in parking areas. Keep the woods and visual arts OUT of parks. NO MORE WORDS, for more peaceful enjoyment of nature. Designate certain areas outdoors, if necessary, for theater and dance/music performances, but keep them in public playing fields, not in the wooded areas and along the bike path.
- please STOP with the "art" along bike path etc. it is an intrusion.
- Please remove art in parks periodically, especially trees with clothing on; its ok for a while but should not be present at all times
- Educational signage is a great idea, but it could be done by scout groups, school classes or volunteer organizations. I don't think the town needs to provide it - only broad oversight/approval structures. Pocket parks are also a great idea, but I think they could be encouraged without the town creating them.
- No
- Indoor and Outdoor pool - the town should look at income producing amenities such as facilities like this....<https://www.debaalje.de/>
- I would like to emphasize the need for periodic assessment of open space, to identify the assets and areas in need of remediation. Volunteers could help reduce the cost of such a process by photographing plantlife in open spaces. Let's maximize the resources we already have. Let's not limit assessment only to evaluation for possible new town properties. Here's one land stewardship action we might take: before any open naturalized space is repurposed for tree- and habitat-destroying recreational purposes require that a habitat assessment be performed so that the valuable resource areas be preserved and seriously degraded areas (lots of invasive trees and plants) be considered for repurposing if desired.
- I'm concerned about the return on investment for a public pool. There's a variety of existing options in the area for people looking for lessons or free swim so given what (I'm assuming) is a high cost it seems like a very concentrated investment for the impact.
- Reduce grass and sports fields in favor of more trees and accessible open space, passive recreation.
- I think a public pool is a very low priority right now.
- As a part of the renovation of the Reservoir area, wild black raspberries have been plowed out. Plant more in some of these areas, such as at intersection area near brook entrance.
- No.
- It should be a top priority to provide a pool and community center.
- Except for the one I checked, the others seem very low priorities considering finances, or even unnecessary.
- (1) We are the only town without a pool! (2) All the "art" and educational stuff that gets put into parks is outdated and falling apart within a few years. (3) Why is there no access to the high school from the bike path? (3) We need to focus on traffic calming, sidewalks, and improved street crossings to enable easy access to our parks and to encourage people to walk and bike to get to them.
- Unaware what pocket parks are. Strongly in support of a pool, bit prefer indoor and outdoor pool side by side
- We have a senior center already. If you want to create a mixed age one then please use that building we don't have a space for it to go anywhere else
- no
- yes

- A pool would be amazing, but it's a pipe dream I'll never believe in for lack of space and lack of funds (sans a private endowment).
- While I like the idea of pocket parks, Arlington can't support the maintenance for their current parks. Menotomy Rocks park is a jewel of a property, but their playground is embarrassingly poor.
- I think some Friends and school groups already engage in activities like #5 and 7
- Acquire land only if there is a Funchal commitment by the Town to improve and maintain the open space.
- We already do include native pollinator plants in areas. We could do more of this.
- No
- I suspect that an additional indoor pool would be too expensive for Arlington. Concerning signs, the first step would be repairing those on the Minuteman.
- I don't think more open space needs to be acquired unless there are plans to add amenities (e.g., parks, pool, etc.). Arlington has a lot of undeveloped open space already, there is no need for more.
- I like some educational signage, but it often wears out and looks tired.
- No
- Boys & Girls club has a pool...invest in it!
- No need for art creation
- The definition of "open space" is "space that is open". That means space should be empty. That's what space is. Space should be uncluttered with the Town's always lame and unattractive attempts at "improvements". Feel free to take this comment to the DPW's paint-sign shop and have it rendered as "educational signage" for the Town officials' offices.
- No community center - seems like a waste of money.
- Educational signage is an odd idea. Maybe at school park properties but for public space, rather spend money on structures or greenery.
- I don't think we need more educational signage
- I would love a pool or a community center but where would space and MONEY come from?
- I regret voting to approve a fund for the arts and regret every penny the town has sunk into funding terrible art and poetry. I'd pay to paint over some of the trash that's been inflicted on us, and would prefer to keep it out of our parks and open spaces.
- It's hard to think about indoor community centers and even some outdoor activities after so much time in pandemic-mode. Given the uncertainties due to variants, it might be worth focusing on projects that are friendly to social distancing in the short term.
- No but I would be cautious with the educational signage to make certain it is purely educational. And not political. Also need more for teens.
- I do not disagree with any item such as a community center or signage, but it would be great to direct resources towards the Yes, we need a pool. My priority is the Bike Path and Mill Brook Corridor.
- I am not sure what is meant by "educational signage"
- Pocket parks would be used by dog owners as their dogs' bathrooms.
- I don't know what a pocket park is?
- No
- We do not need a multigeneration community center. We need to maintain a dedicated senior/elders center.

- Pool maintenance is very expensive and not worth it for tax payers because only a small number of people will use it.
- There are a lot of opportunities for native/pollinator plants in existing strips of grass. Planting native/pollinator plants saves fuel (doesn't need to be mowed) and water (after native plants are established, watering isn't needed), and provides a beautiful and beneficial ecosystem.
- A pool would be a wonderful asset for the Town but I cannot imagine how we could fund its construction and ongoing maintenance.
- All of these questions are push questions. Survey is biased
- Don't just have space for art creation, but also for performance.
- No.
- Some current parks and conservation land require more attention. The reservoir is a gift start.
- Any plan for performing arts or increased nighttime use should protect neighborhoods from obtrusive sounds and artificial light. Public art projects should include contingency plan or process for later removal, cleanup and restoration.
- I'd rather see resources spent on natural outdoor spaces than a pool
- I don't know the feasibility of getting more land, but I think stewarding the land we have well is a great idea
- It would be wonderful to have an indoor community pool!
- We need an outdoor pool with integrated kid pool/splash pad and swim team options. Belmont, Lincoln, Bedford, and Lexington all have nice facilities and opportunities for this
- -I do not think a pool is a good use of resources. -I think that art creation in parks is already possible and happening without further management efforts from the town. -I think pocket parks might not be a good balance of effort vs. results.
- Signage seems like a waste of \$. No one reads them and they get defaced.
- I disagree with the concept of pocket parks. Creating more smaller parks will detract from enhancing the unused open land in existing parks
- I'm not sure what a "multi-generational community center" would entail.
- Arlington should NOT acquire a pool either indoors or out.
- I would be happy to see any pool or water park options, indoor and outdoor.
- Add native pollinators along bike path
- No to the signage. They always end up fading and looking crappy after a few years, and they are just inviting graffiti opportunities. Pocket parks are useless. Too small and they take away resources from usable space.
- This town is on a spending spree. Close to 2M for Whittemore Park, another 1.5M for Hurd Field. Enough. These are all great amenities, no question, but these are the kinds of spending a wealthy town can indulge in. We've got a Rolls Royce of a HS, revised parks, and property taxes soaring. We need to prioritize affordable housing above all.
- The town does not need more buildings taking up what little open space that we have.
- I'm not a fan of a town pool.
- I think an indoor pool is unnecessary, an additional expense for tax payers. We already have the B&G Club pool and there are other pools in the local area we can use.
- The BAGC has a pool. There are two public pools at the border of Arlington (Alewife and Dilboy). We don't need a pool, particularly a residents-only pool. It's a waste of money. It's exclusionary.

- See Above
- No
- I would prefer not to have art in parks. It's fine to have art shows, but when I go for a walk in the woods, for example, I prefer not to have things hung or wrapped around the trees. In terms of pocket parks, please consider making sure they have at least one specimen tree and native plantings.
- no personal knowledge
- multi-get community center is unnecessarily ambitious
- I can't imagine Arlington having enough money for a multi-generational community center. I would rather see improvements in accessibility in the Robbins Library, for instance. Pocket parks always seem great, until they are neglected, and then they are depressing.
- I question acquisition of open land if it is for use limited to humans. We are part of the world and not its only inhabitants.
- See above.
- To me, a pool is appealing but a poor use of limited resources.
- I really would like green space to be preserved as green space. I don't mind art in parks but not for instance in the wooded paths of Menotomy Rocks park. We have very little green space and should preserve it. It's very important. Please keep public art out of green space, leave it more man made spaces. we need our tree canopies and wooded areas.
- I am NOT in favor of a community pool given the very large expense involved in building, maintaining, and staffing it.
- Community center: disagree because we already have the one on Academy Street and the Boys and Girls Club (which ironically blocks and obscures one of Arlington's best open space assets); signage- can be over done, careful to avoid sign clutter detracting from natural settings; Acquiring more open space land: we should have taken the Mugar land by eminent domain ourselves and built aff 2-family units on the upland on established streets. Agree with encouraging art-making in the parks, but not art installations or artwork unless on the order of the dog at Robbins Farm, which has a connection to the history of the site, helping us to interpret and learn Arlington's land heritage..
- We have enough art in town and not enough green space. The priority in this process should be conservation, not art.
- While a town pool would be nice, we already have the boys and girls club, and the environmental initiatives listed above would be a much higher priority to me
- Educational signage can be good but can also be an eyesore that clutters the view and reduces the enjoyment of natural spaces. Please be thoughtful and create evergreen content if you pursue more signage.
- Expanding indoor rec opportunities, especially an indoor pool, is a terrible idea. It is prohibitively expensive to build and maintain (I know this because the previous city I lived in build an indoor municipal pool, and it only served a very, very small number of residents). It also contributes to climate change because of high energy usage.
- Concerned about turning all wild spaces (unkempt) into beautiful people places but destroying necessary breeding habitat for birds and mammals.
- The focus of the Senior Center should be seniors. Other generations have plenty of community engagement opportunities: The Boys and Girls club, the elks, the vets buildings, the high school, and other schools as well.
- Arlington doesn't need an indoor pool.

- I do not think that a pool is a good use of space resources- both space and money.
- Acquiring more space makes it seem like the town is going to take space by eminent domain. The town is overreaching.
- Educational signage usually wears out and is unreadable after a few years. I suggest rotating/incorporating that with art installations instead.
- please clean up the overgrowth and trash in the town!
- Pocket Parks?

Is there anything else about Arlington's open space and recreation areas you would like to tell us? (391 provided further comments)

- Arlington can barely manage the open space and recreation areas that it has. Do a better job of managing what we have; don't spend on more. In short, quality, not quantity.
- I want to see mountain biking trails and features. I really want a pump track in town. I also want more opportunities for Arlington's teenagers to engage with the natural world.
- Preserve our tree canopy.
- Preservation is key in this very built-up community. Once it's gone, it's very hard to restore open space. Survey: it would have been nice to be able to mark things as high/middle/low priority.
- Need more dog parks!
- We need more dog parks PLEASE!!! We have only one in town and it's hard to get to, especially around rush hour.
- Arlington is fortunate to have parks like Menotomy and Robbins, which any town in the Boston region would envy. Please help maintain their bench/table infrastructure and tree canopies so that they are even more welcoming and user-friendly in the future
- Community harsh doubt bike path, more removal of invasives. More along the river banks, mutts beautification in town that is not big plastic barriers. Our town looks worn out, other town centers look pretty and inviting with flowers and benches, inviting spaces. I like the outdoor eating and would like to see that stay post covid.
- Not enough concern about rats, and what kind of poison is used...not enough concern about mosquito breeding wet places, picnic table on Lex. line not maintained well enough to use it! moss, dirt, wood rot, etc. also more benches along bike path for those of us who have to stop and rest and enjoy the view...hiring the goats to do the grass mowing, using animal fertilizer and compost on public landscaped land...
- Ignore all the dreamers wanting to spend others' money.
- require rather than minimize open space (not including rooftops & balconies) in any new construction. Use FAR criteria to limit mega houses on mini lots
- Undeveloped outdoor spaces are owned by the town but become neglected and full of trash. These spaces are valuable for everyone and the town should have more presence in them maybe by providing a small amount of amenities -- a bench, welcoming and pleasant signage, some gardening or plantings, to demonstrate that they are not abandoned lots that anyone can vandalize without repercussion. Neighbors are willing to help maintain and plan for these spaces but the awareness and connection and support from the town is lacking. The town shows a greater interest in spending money on specific sports for the few than it does on the minimal investment needed to preserve open space for walking and quiet non-sports recreation/enjoyment of the outdoors for everyone.

- It'd be great to have a solution about teen drinking trash in Turkey Hill and Hill's Hill. It's pretty extreme at the former; I stay away from the latter by now. (not sure what the Rec Dept can do though)
- Very happy about walking maps, must include safety measures for pedestrians and bicyclists. Bike lane the entire length of Mass Ave as other towns have that connect to ours. Also keeps bikes off of sidewalks
- Arlington needs to do much more to address climate change. Two specific actions are needed: 1) Preserve healthy trees in both Town-owned areas (i.e., Wittemore Park) and in private development (i.e., the Conservation Commission has approved developers taking down beautiful, healthy trees). 2) Acquire the Mugar property and turn it into open space.
- I love Menotomy Rocks Park and also the Res and Cooke's Hollow! Thanks for your efforts.
- The new massive houses in neighborhoods and newer, larger buildings on main streets are blocking the natural light and sky and breezes and giving Arlington more of a city feel and I don't think it is change for the better. I think town leaders see tax revenue and developer friends and often do not do what is right for the town itself. Remember what happened with the leaf blower ban some years ago?? That should kinda tell you how things often work behind closed doors. Good luck getting more open space and tree cover in town!! I hope the plan succeeds.
- Please educate and inform before cutting native saplings. Replant if unwanted in a particular site. Am tired of seeing chopped in half Aspen, Cottonwood and Catalpa saplings. Educate the volunteers please. Why is there an over abundance of Asian Lilac trees in Town Garden? 30 at last count.
- routine maintenance is a must
- Love seeing the broad support of mountain bike trails - the initial plan can act as a template to help roll out into other areas in Arlington - expanding on the use of areas that can offer more advanced skills/trails based on terrain. Continue to nurture the mountain bike trails to provide space for a variety of skill sets.
- It's wonderful to see what's happening with the Res renovation and the proposed bike park. The spaces we do have now are often neglected. The crusher lot is totally ignored (it's full of broken glass and oftentimes beer cans.) With so little open space in town, that area should be maximized for use of middle and high school kids who are too old for playground. What an addition that could be right next to the Ottoson!
- The Rec Commission needs to become more diverse.
- Supporting the Town's tree canopy and trying to add more trees in creative ways would be wonderful. Also, I really appreciate the town's dog park - thank you!
- We need serious maintenance for mature trees. Arlington needs trees, trees, trees and more trees. W/out trees Arlington is Somerville. I think people might move here because it's a bit leafier, but then they and the town cut down the trees that made it a desirable place to be.
- Just want to emphasize my vote for the indoor rec opportunities like a pool, and indoor soccer.
- You need to keep your focus on parks and recreation. Not all the other uses various political factions want for the town's public spaces, such as art display and business/non-profit use.
- Make better use of the space around the Park Ave. water tower. Open spaces are beautiful.
- It is great. Please keep up the good work :)
- Swimming pool please!

- It would be great to have a website where one could see what spaces were reserved (e.g., for a sporting match) easily when. Creating wouldn't be hard, but it would have to be accurately maintained.
- We are really fortunate to live in a town with such great open space and recreational areas. I would love to see more community events sponsored by the town or chamber of commerce in the open space and recreation areas. Neighboring towns have weekly band concerts, street festivals, etc. I'd love to see more of the wonderful things you're already doing – the beer garden, the women's market (really wonderful!), farmer's market, etc.
- We need to preserve and expand trees for many reasons (birds and wildlife; carbon capture; temperature control; noise pollution; beauty)! We have a community that values education so let's build on that for deeper education and appreciation of natural beauty and less 'developed' spaces.
- We need more sidewalks! There are so many places in town that have inadequate or missing sidewalks. For example, there is no sidewalk on Spring St heading up to Brackett Elementary which is SO dangerous for children and families walking to school, especially on a hill that lacks visibility. Also walking with a stroller is near impossible on common streets like Jason Street or Gray Street where there are huge roots in the sidewalk and require going into the street to get around - this would be a huge negative factor for wheelchair users too.
- Poets field and playground are in awful condition.
- town garden is a disgrace barren no flowers. used to be well taken care of. wsy back. 70's water in statue pool. fountains working by town hall entrance. public works known for sloppy unprofessional work-all this with huge taxes. basically no one in charge with any creativity or aesthetics plsza by shattucks a joke. a stem business with few clients. big space. and a too small kiosk empty. could be a bike path. hot. cold drinks etc.
- Keep planting trees chosen for ability to handle suburban air (methane leaks) and long-term viability amidst global warming trends. Carefully cull undergrowth to prevent fires while supporting diverse plant assemblages. Add more field areas that are allowed to grow for a full season - only mowed after frost (like the hill at McClennan Field is managed).
- Would like to see more activities for adults and recreational programs
- The areas are great. We live near Menotomy Rocks Park and have heard that the playground there will be demolished. If so, please create a new playground there! Many families in the area heavily utilize that playground and it provides a huge benefit to the area!
- Sections of parks just for dogs and owners to be. Pandemic pups are everywhere. I would appreciate this as an owner and to encourage use for more dog time and as a park user when one doesn't not want to be inundated with dogs. Obviously, we can't say no dogs allowed at all, but having another dog park or more cordoned off dog would be good.
- I value and use several parks, the bike path, and green buffers like the Mugar land. I don't want to see more buildings taking up what little we have left and worsening basement flooding in my neighborhood (East Arl).
- Please add more tennis courts. Can we install new tennis courts at the Poets corner where the old tennis courts used to be? Thanks
- If there were more waste bins this could help keep parks cleaner. Special pet waste bins might be a step in environmental friendly disposal of dog waste. Composting can be done.
- I think I covered it already. TOO MANY playing fields. Not enough places to just enjoy being in trees or gardens

- Thanks for asking for input!
- Please please help with the off leash dogs. They make most spaces unusable. Police do not ever ticket or even keep records when called about a violation so dog owners will keep doing it.
- Thanks to all of the volunteers on this committee!
- have you considered a mailer to be sent to residents of the community informing them of the various green spaces in town and what recreational programs are available?
- Other than the playground at Stratton, there is no park in the Turkey Hill / Stratton area for young children during school hours.
- please add more baby bucket swings to all parks... multiple parks don't have any
- The town needs to get serious about it's master plan and hiring a professional to make recommendations. The fact that the highschool green space was given up so easily is evidence that we can't leave decisions that last generations to a superintendent or a board of towns people who have no professional background in urban planning.
- I like the dog off leash hours. Great idea. Nice job on res renovations!
- One of the things I enjoy most about living in Arlington is the presence of small wooded areas located in practically any direction for variety in daily walks. I think creating pocket parks is a great way to encourage neighborhoods to adopt open spaces. People seem to care most about things closest to home in their usual walking routes. A neighborhood might nominate a space for a pocket park - and pledge to help maintain the area (volunteer labor) in exchange for having funds budgeted for annual clean-up/weeding supplies. It's important for the Town to show support of such efforts by periodically allocating Town resources to more extensive habitat upgrades involving heavy equipment and more muscle power. One way to begin might be to create a Town-wide open-space clean up day (both invasives and trash removal), during which town employees (all departments) and commissioners work side by side with community volunteers.
- Change the priority of the town from housing to open space.
- Trash!! Maybe better trash cans with lids could help?? Or fines to businesses who's trash gets picked up there (eg dunkin dinuts trash is everywhere)
- Do not include so much public art... gets in the way. Clean up Spy Pond, hire lifeguards there and allow swimming.
- I find it very well maintained and appreciate Arlington making efforts to keep and maintain it.
- I appreciate all the hard work that goes into our local recreation opportunities! Would love to see more outdoor fitness options and an easier process for providing outdoor exercise classes.
- The largest piece of underutilized land in Arlington is Mt. Pleasant cemetery, the town should seriously consider a plan to close it and reintern those laid there.
- Increase the tree canopy. More green infrastructure for storm water management, pollinators, and aesthetics.
- Thanks for your good work!
- Particularly for Robbins Farm Park, if you could provide more seating options/benches around the park, and maybe more tree cover would be nice. Also, are there free workout sessions, like weekly yoga in the park, available for Arlington residents? I would be interested in free community workout sessions, especially outdoor ones in the summertime. When I lived in Somerville/Boston, there were such activities available to its residents.
- Try to buy vacant land so developers don't get it, to preserve open space and create pocket parks

- Lots of bike traffic/walking traffic on bike path, sidewalks...if you provide it they will use it
- There is a neglected field at the end of Pond Lane on the right hand side before the bike path. It is overgrown with invasive species and seems like it would be a great opportunity to "re-meadow" (not sure that's a word.)
- No.
- Tree management should be very different for open spaces vs. public developed spaces and street trees. Manage open spaces as natural parkland, focused on appropriate diversity and healthy ecosystems. Manage public spaces and street trees for beauty, property value, aesthetics, town character..
- I enjoyed the exhibit in Monotomy Rocks Park of work of Nilou Mochhala. It was fun to visit with friends.
- The basketball court by Ed Burns arena could use repairs — there are several areas that are tripping and rolled ankle hazards, and pools with water after rain. The playground area near the court could also benefit from new fixtures (though the other playground on the other side of the rink is great, so that may not be necessary) or be used for other purposes.
- In general, I prefer undeveloped woodlands and open areas to structured fields and playgrounds.
- Would reiterate that Arlington's management and decision making regarding its green resources should be combined into one overseeing body. Silos for planning and management miss the opportunity to provide efficient care at scale, from a landscape view. One hand doesn't know what the other hand is doing when each open/green space is managed with blinders on
- We've lost four trees in Hardy School playground alone in the past year and a half. They've been "replaced" by very young trees, which will take years to replace the shade and CO2 sequestration of the adult trees we lost. The Town should step up its game when it comes to caring for established trees. I think that a program that educates our schoolchildren about tree stewardship and deputizes them to take care of the trees (in addition to Town staff pruning and watering as needed) would be an invaluable component of the Town's strategy to preserve our tree canopy. Children who don't know better can kill a tree by playing with its bark and branches, but I believe if they are taught what that play does to the tree, most of them will take better care of the trees at schools and playgrounds.
- Maintain what we have and add more open space
- Town has done a good job maintaining fields with proper maintenance.
- Preserve the Mugar Wetlands to avoid major flooding problems in the area.
- Arlington needs a pool! Both for individuals, families and school sports. Boys and girls club pool is old, too small and needs major upgrades of its decrepit condition
- The "old" Arlington was a "dry Town" and the members of the Irish American Club emerged onto Mass. Ave after they had toasted each other and their lives. Luckily, there was some money around, but not too much. The "new" Arlington plays with lots of money, does much bureaucratizing, plays politics, has nearly no native "sense" and does not enjoy thinking. Not actually a set of welcome developments. And not a great recipe.
- We really have a beautiful town. Thanks for all you do!
- Thank you for conducting this survey. I would only add that I hope maintenance and rebuilding of town own playgrounds located at schools will be prioritized. These spaces are enjoyed by students and community members. The playground at the Peirce school is in need of a rebuild.

- Please prioritize our playgrounds, particularly those at our schools. They bring so much joy and activity to so many and the one at Bishop School, for example, is painfully missed! Kids are standing around instead of moving during these valuable and brief 20 minute recess breaks they get.
- Please replace the Bishop school playground! The current Bishop play areas have become overcrowded since the playground was dismantled right before the start of school.
- I am so excited about all the improvements around the reservoir! We loved the movie at Robbins Farm earlier this month.
- Playground maintenance could be improved. Buzzell and Monotony Rocks don't look like they've seen fresh mulch in a couple of years
- As a resident and small business owner I have loved doing outdoor fitness during the pandemic and I, as well as other residents, would love for this to continue. It not only feels COVID safe but is more fun and enjoyable than working out inside. It is fun because the Arlington parks are so beautiful and pleasant to be in :) Please consider making this possible for local businesses and gyms! Thank you!
- It would be great to have recycling bins at open space areas, in particular, those with picnic tables (like near Spy Pond)
- yes don't let another inch of it get destroyed. just look at the front green of AHS.... so sad. what a disgrace.
- The town needs more programming that draws people to open spaces. The recent success of the Jason Russell house beer garden clearly indicates that there's a strong appetite for family friendly events that let people gather and mingle outdoors with food, beverage and live music.
- I would love to see the Boys and Girls Club expanded to include a cafe with deck seating on the pond, private event space upstairs with views and expanded boat rentals. Revenue generated could help support the Boys and Girls club and other youth programs and provide jobs for youth. I am imagining the boathouse in Central Park, NYC. I also see Linwood Circle on the pond as a public plaza, rather than a parking circle. Parking can go on the left, and the plaza with seating and performance space would be beautifully set right on the pond.
- Big vote for increasing the tree canopy, and continuing to protect and/or acquire more open space land.
- Bike path is great but it should be reserved for cyclists. Cyclists are not allowed on sidewalks and are not safe on the streets.
- It would be great if you had places for teenagers to hang out so that they didn't have to hang out and drink in the parks and the basketball court and the alpaca property. They need things to do and places to go instead
- "Open space" should include setbacks and rules around how much space a building can take up given the size of the lot. These monstrous houses being built on small plots of land are destroying the feel of our neighborhoods.
- no
- It would be really great to increase indoor recreational space. The only indoor space open to all is the library.
- As empty nest seniors, we have little knowledge of youth programs etc. We just appreciate a pleasant place to walk.
- The need for more wood chips should be evaluated and taken care of more frequently. All of the parks with wood chips in East Arlington have needed more wood chip cover for at least a month.
- Enforce no littering in parks, and too many people fishing, and smoking in parks.

- As a parent, I'm pretty upset by the sudden closure of the majority of the playgrounds, some for potentially a long time. I understand the deeper root causes for this, and I'd like to see better capital planning for this capital equipment, including a plan and budgeting for preventative maintenance. I'm sure this requires coordination and communication between departments, but does not the enormous aggregate capital equipment investment demand this? On a yearly basis, you could surely get a cadre of parent volunteers (do you know how many Quality Engineers live in town?!?) to informally assess each playground according to a specific set of attributes. It might not be identical to hiring it out to a company, but it would be frequent and allow for small, less expensive fixes, and professional assessments could still be performed at regular intervals.
- Could you add a replacement play structure in Bishop Playground? Our kids are missing the slides and monkey bars ..
- The play structures at many of the parks could use an upgrade. Look at Lincoln park in Somerville for inspiration.
- Please fix the playgrounds! It's so challenging that safety checks were done right before the start of school at a time kids need outdoor recreation more than ever.
- Don't make every park everything to everyone, there does not need to be a playground at every park.
- Desperately need a new play structure at Bishop school. This is such a loss for all neighborhood kids including those too young to attend school yet.
- The larger Peirce playground needs complete renovation, especially as parts of it are condemned right now, and grades 1 -5 rely on that as their only playground.
- The existing playgrounds are in serious need of repair. The playgrounds at Bishop, Peirce, and Stratton are basically unusable. This is an unacceptable situation for our school kids.
- I am particularly concerned with the maintenance of town run playgrounds, and the recent loss of so many due to safety concerns. The timing of the recent closures coinciding with the beginning of a school year where we are still hoping to get kids outside as much as possible due to Covid is unfortunate. I don't believe that putting up caution tape is likely to keep people from using the playgrounds, despite real safety concerns. I completely understand the town has limited resources, but I am hoping we can increase the priority given to these spaces so that the issues are dealt with earlier rather than later.
- I think having some more splash pads would be great. Just listened to an NPR piece about cities and towns adding splash pads to communities as a way to help families during climate change with heat. Heat is so dangerous and providing more opportunities for people to cool off is going to be important.
- Please build a new Peirce School big playground
- The big playground at Peirce is in real need of renovation. There have been a number of injuries on the "zip line" and there is just not enough to do for a school that is increasing in size year after year. I know that the kindergarten playground was just redone, which is wonderful, but it has made the bi playground look so much worse in comparison!
- The playground used by the majority of Peirce students gr 2-8 has been in sad shape for a while!
- As noted above, proactive outreach to PTOs, principals, etc. for town-owned playground and rec spaces is important.
- It would help to publish a schedule of maintenance for open space, playground, and recreation areas, and to indicate how the Town is balancing needs in different areas of Arlington -- being sure to consider citizens and neighborhoods that are under-resourced.

- Bishop community severely lacking in playgrounds!!
- Land is at a premium. Allocating more land for open space would be fantastic, but should be done in concert with allowing denser housing town-wide, either by amending zoning definitions or rezoning.
- It would be great to have access to indoor and outdoor swimming areas, which don't charge an admission fee.
- Yes, please do not eliminate any of the current spaces. If anything, find new ways to add to them. Do not sell out public outdoor space in exchange for incentives from developers to build new construction in these spaces. Thanks.
- Many large downed limbs in parks/playgrounds near where I live after storms suggest an increased need for arboreal management. Remember the woman seriously injured a few years ago when a decaying tree fell on her in Spy Pond park? Another catastrophe like this one could happen at Brackett, Robbins or Menotomy if trees are not appropriately managed.
- I love the art exhibitions in the Minute Man and I think should be done in more areas
- The overflowing sewage situation makes the bike paths along rt16 unusable during most of the spring and summer due to smell. I know there's drama with Cambridge over that area but leaving it unresolved hurts residents and seasonal tourists of both Cambridge and Arlington.
- Focus on connecting bike routes both within Arlington and other towns. Also focus on the use of cemeteries as public space for walking.
- I would certainly love more swimming opportunities. The arlington boys and girls club is great, but as a homeschooled minor it seems like a wasted opportunity that I can't go swim there during the day unless I'm an adult.
- I live here in Arlington, but I work in Concord with The Umbrella Arts Center, in collaboration with organizations like Minute Man National Historical Park, The Old Manse, Trustees, Concord Land Conservation Trust, OARS, and several environmental and municipal groups throughout Battle Road and Metrowest. Each of those can be more or less conservative and conservationist, but all benefit from community engagement through historical, cultural and public arts events. The Umbrella's Artwalk in CLCT lands townwide, annual Art Ramble public sculpture exhibition in Hapgood Wright Town Forest, and Go Out Doors installations on Metrowest rail trails; the three-decades old Musketaquid Earth Day Parade & Festival and the Summer Solstice Riverfest at The Trustees' Old Manse; MMNHP's Arts in the Parks; all of these create opportunities for exciting new recreational and educational engagements with new audiences in historically valuable Open Spaces.
- A second pool would be great. We may have to lose some open space to add one. Pools can be expensive.
- More focus on native plants and climate-friendly open space. More pocket parks!
- Maintenance of equipment and field should be priority along with removing the invasive species in our waterways.
- Thank you for continuously thinking about and addressing this important topic. One of the many reasons I'm grateful to live here.
- There is considerable cycling along Mystic Valley Pkwy from Summer St to Mystic and on to Shannon Beach. While long range improvements are planned, hazard removal along the road edges should be a priority. Also, frost heaves everywhere should be flagged with orange paint.
- I would like to see more attention to the impact of residential development on neighborhood green space and private gardens. Large houses cause significant impacts on green space through increased shade (altering what can grow and thrive on neighboring properties) and alteration of water run-off

(lack of free ground space to absorb rain and water). I would like to see construction permits take these issues into account in a more serious and strict way.

- More garbage cans and garbage removal needed. Park grass is not well maintained (Hurd Field).
- There are many parks for intramural and organized sports, please do not add lights, bleachers, or other features that would cause them to disturb abutters.
- Many playgrounds could stand to be updated; the playground at Menotomy is particularly run down and in need of attention.
- Improve McClennan. Could remove the mound between the soccer fields to provide a third field. Drainage needs looking at, as does the leveling. Would be great to have additional turf fields.
- I wish we had a real woods to walk thru. Also it would be nice if we could wade in the Mill Brook
- More (or any!) garbage cans and recycle bins would be highly appreciated (especially for dog owners)
- Our ponds are precious resources; let's save them and, at the same time, keep us and our pets safe!
- The Woodside Lane open land area desperately needs maintenance for basic cleanup and to remove invasive species. This area has potential as a usable green space but is not maintained at all by the city. Many trees in the zone appear to be in poor health.
- Some small parks are not under ANYONE's jurisdiction in Arlington, and as I understand it, they are meant to be 'unimproved'. This means DPW will not take care of dead or fallen trees, and if they do, it's often poorly performed. I understand this policy for larger parks or conservation land, but I think small parks should be well-maintained.
- Open space in the form of large yards and undeveloped private property is important for so many reasons: wildlife habitat, rain sinks, tree cover, the visual pleasure that they offer to the passerby. We are moving toward a densely built town with strictly designated "open space" scattered here and there--not what I hope to see for our town. Sometimes the best thing humans can do is just leave things alone.
- 1. Would love to see an OSC statement against use of rodenticide. Raptors and other unintended animal victims are being killed by rat poison, right here in our open spaces. Perhaps an educational session on other ways to deal with rats? 2. Also, education on co-habiting with other beings - it seems that some people are not used to living with nature. I hear constant expressions of fear of rats, coyotes, turkeys, mice, chipmunks, squirrels, raccoons - their presence should be valued and respected
- I would love to see a pool in Arlington that can be accessed by all ages!
- The long term capital plan should be widely shared and regularly updated with resident input. Everyone should know the timeline of projects. We also need to allocate greater funding for "break fix"/urgent repairs, as shown by the boarded up Bishop Playground and caution tape at Parallel Park. Thank you.
- Not sure if the "Window to the Mystic Lake" is conservation land or recreational land, but it is wonderful and worth better tree maintenance. Also, people use it to swim and access the lake--maybe this should be addressed rather than overlooked?
- Please build a pool!
- The open space on the north side of Spy Pond is a jewel. I am so grateful that the town spent money on improvements there maybe ten years ago. (I remember that it was just before Nate Levenson, MBA, lost the town a good deal of money by engaging in criminal behavior towards his employees in the school system.) Those improvements have made the park a wonderful place to spend time. If I had to name one favorite thing about living in Arlington, Spy Pond would be it.

- Bike path can be a hazardous place at night..police it! LOTS of trash there!..especially in East Arlington areas.
- Limit non-Arlington groups use of fields/open spaces."
- It would be great to get more weight based athletic equipment around and fun paths. Menotomy used to have some but they've faded away.
- 1) Please put dog waste containers in All open spaces and along the bike path,that will help with people who complain about poop bags being on the floor or on their trash barrels. 2) it would be nice if there was lights on the bike path as winter approaches & gets dark at 4pm. They could be the solar ones so you don't have to pay for electricity its a one time investment. 3)parallel park on Medford street could use some updating. 4) create another dog park in the heights area. 5) more off lease hours available, currently the off lease hours are 7-9 am. But it would be nice if there was more off lease hours after 4pm 6) more trash barrels accessible for people, between mass Ave there is one in the center, one by stop & shop & one by a andrinas pizza then the next is by park street. 7) it would be nice if we had a outdoor community pool.
- Another dog park would be nice.
- Better roads would be appreciated. There are many 'private roads' that are used by many people to access their roads and are in horrible condition.
- An initiative to develop a free-range playground (just one example: <http://www.freerangeplayground.org/>) with recycled and reused materials would be amazing - this could be coupled with community programming as well. More unstructured/understructured space for our kids to explore and be kids! A multi-generational community center would also be great - this might also support the creation of more streamlined and structured afterschool programs that are linked closely with the school system and programming based out of such a center.
- This survey attempts to cover too much at once and asks very little relative to open space that I care about, which is why I did not answer more. I am interested in open space natural areas - and I mean natural areas that are not manicured and chemically treated, but consciously improve habitat and can serve as examples of how we can contribute to an urban forest. In terms of development, there is a tension in this survey between high and low environmental impact, and given the opportunities we have for natural areas to improve quality of life on many levels, I found it confusing to consider an indoor pool or community center as part of open space planning. Lastly, I would like my town to have walking trails/paths where one is not in danger of being hit by a bike.
- There sure is, but I'm trying to be polite.
- Please allow dogs off leash in fenced in areas like tennis courts when not in use by people. Perhaps early morning hours only? Please also tell residents not to put up no dog signs on town land. I've seen this twice now, on that strip of land between street and sidewalk.
- More open spaces for off leash recreation. Limiting to dog parks and certain spaces doesn't allow for ease of use, convenience or flexibility. I shouldn't have to drive to the other side of town to get my dog some play/exercise, whereas the dog park doesn't meet our needs.
- The bike path is fantastic, and I would like to see more dedicated bike paths that are separate from roadways
- Enforce dog leash rules in parks
- Open up more slots, sports for the kids fill up way too fast, I literally had to sign up in Watertown and Acton this summer. How about a fund carousel somewhere in town?
- We need more shade

- Broken record but no space for teens. My son is 13 and I literally tell him to be on best behavior around fragile parents with kids under 5. Tall kids make the parents at these parks with youngish play structures nervous. Really no place for teens to just be in a safe, public space.
- There are a lot of invasive species including poison ivy at the Res and on the bike path.
- One of the main reasons we like Arlington so much is because of the parks and open spaces! Great job!
- It would be great if there were people who could clean up glass, vapes, marijuana etc. from the green spaces. Of course ideally people should be responsible and not leave those where they could harm people and dogs, but unfortunately that's not the case. I don't know if this would be a big volunteer effort or if somehow people could be paid.
- I love Arlington and appreciate efforts to make it an even better place to live. Thank you!
- More dog parks dog access. Easier access to bike path, ramp entrances etc like in Lexington. No fast pitch softball next to bike trail. I have seen a lot of close calls and my wife was hit while jogging
- Rez beach should stay open later in the day so that working people can use it.
- An additional dog park on the Heights side of town.
- Please be more proactive caring for trees! While I understand that diseased trees have to be cut, please try to avoid clear cutting (like in front of Dallin Museum)
- I'm disappointed that the town has not pushed to acquire the Mugar property. It is the only way to prevent further flooding of the Thorndike fields and the surrounding properties.
- Do NOT expand dog parks and unleashed hours any further.
- Greater opportunities for outdoor dining are really nice. Would also enjoy community projects such as planting trees. Greater communication about invasive plants and wildlife care could be nice (ex why it's bad for the ducks when you feed them bread crumbs).
- Would be good to maintain the boardwalks and paths in the Great Meadows.
- I would love to see more shade at all fields. Our son plays baseball and there is minimal shade for the players when they're on the bench there are no sheltered dugouts at any baseball field —all the benches are exposed to the sun and with climate change and the extreme temperatures shade is critical.
- I hope for improved maintenance and beautification through small plantings along Mass Ave in key areas such as the Center, Brattle Square, and Arlington Heights Center. Also believe strategic plantings and signage could help better draw people in to the various sites and spaces we have to offer including the reflecting pool near the library, Jason Russell House, and the Cyrus Dallin Museum (which I'm aware is already being rehabbed).
- Please, please do a better job managing the Park Circle water tower open space.
- Friends groups seem to be vital to the adequate maintenance of parks. I've lived next to McClennen since it was in the process of being built but haven't had the wherewithal to spearhead a friend's group that might help advocate for/ volunteer for maintenance projects. How might the town help to facilitate or support the creation of such a group? Also: I would love to see the Poet' Corner area improved.
- You have the wrong people with the same, old, tired but expensive ideas.
- The light at the bike path and Lake Street is an amazing addition. I would like to see more signage about speeds on the bike path and encouragement for cyclists to follow the stop signs, especially at Spy Pond. As a parent to young children, the parks and playgrounds are used heavily. If there was some sort of system to keep them maintained and current, that would be appreciated. Finally, would

love to have an outdoor pool option that is open from Memorial Day to after Labor Day (mid-late September). It's hard when the nearby outdoor pools/Reservoir close mid-August.

- Evening off leash areas for dogs, please! More education about wildlife and the way our urban/human environment impacts animals and birds. Alternatives to the poisons that are killing our wildlife!! Incentives and education for those who feel the need to use them - especially the owners and managers of commercial properties and apartment buildings. So important!
- We need more green space. Better tree canopy Relying on abutters to ask for trees is not the most effective way to replace them as the original street trees are failing and being removed.
- Engage neighbors more and support them to care for open spaces. Also engage coaches and teams to care for fields they use and respect for the neighborhoods around those fields. Leaving trash and illegal parking does not have to happen.
- As stated above, I feel Arlington could / should do more to invest and conserve the open space that is currently available, and also to purchase and set aside more open space to curb development.
- Please do not allow the soccer club to take over any baseball fields. They are occupied from April through August while soccer fields sit idle most of the summer.
- Critical issues is to prevent further loss of semi natural spaces. Example is the land behind Ottoson and of course Mugar.
- Better enforcement of on leash rules especially at Menotomy rock parks. I have quit calling- gave up- but it's bad there in the afternoon/evening. And I am a dog owner- i just don't like loose dogs running up to us.
- Off leash parks
- Seem like there is a greater need for playground maintenance and periodic replacement. Feels like many playgrounds in Arlington are "aged" with decaying structures that get removed rather than fixed, and it'd be nice to have a greater plan for their redesign to meet the needs of families with young children. Looking at you, Robbins Farm Park, Menotomy Rocks Park.
- Enforcement of off leash dogs in all of the open spaces.
- I am concerned that many talk about taking away baseball and softball fields for soccer fields. The soccer fans do not have any concern for others than their own. Many of their kids that play soccer at a young age do not continue with the sport in their teens. Also The soccer fields do not get much use all summer. Baseball goes all summer long with summer leagues and gives the kids something to do. Especially the teens. Please consider this.
- Connecting open spaces makes for a great walk with the family!
- We often visit the Cooke's Hollow park, which seems to have a problem with invasive species (Japanese knotweed). A bit of signage explaining to people what they can do to help would allow community participation in remedying the issue
- Arlington has an incredibly special mix of open and recreational spaces. We particularly enjoy the area around McClennan and the Res. Great way to combine multi-generational activities.
- We spend countless hours in Arlington's open space and recreation areas, and have for the decade we've lived here - they are really important for the town and we should do everything we can to make them great and take care of them.
- The wall from the Library to Town Hall that separates what is now an almost invisible and unuseable open space from the sidewalk at Mass Ave should be redesigned to make that space more inviting and useable.

- I am repeating here what I said for the bike path crossing in the center of town (question 1 — Other) Crossing pattern is confusing for bikers. It could have been made simpler. Especially when returning from Lexington and having the place yourself in a green box. The triple set of lights (Medford street, Swan place, Mystic street) could be made less painful by having the light synchronized.
- In general, the open spaces are designed for kids. The only place I can think of that has park benches that are not facing a playground or playing field is Spy Pond. It would be nice to have quiet places where an adult could meet friends without being in the shadow of a playground.
- Remember that Arlington just declared a climate emergency! That should be at the forefront of all activities.
- Adding pickleball courts would be a great addition for seniors.
- Suggest adding community gardens, basketball court in Heights.
- The Thorndike dog park is great. So are the 6-9am off-leash hours at Menotomy and other parks. It would be great to add some evening off-leash hours as well. A fully fenced park with shade and water (for instance, part of Menotomy) would be especially wonderful.
- I would like to see a beautiful, well-marked and maintained path through the green area off of Washington and Mountain so that children going to Stratton can avoid going on Washington, where there is no sidewalk and one could argue very poor visibility as one goes up the hill.
- 1. Al fresco dining- let's make every accommodation for PLEASANT outdoor dining"- very European and I'm hearing a lot of desire for it (Think Moody Street in Waltham- or better). 2. Do not cave to the "affordable housing" and urbanization pressures. We are already tops in the state on those metrics so let's lean in to natural spaces which is what draws people here anyway. If we overshoot then people won't want to move here because it won't be pleasant.
- Many playgrounds are aging and have not been updated/maintained. I hope that this will be a priority in the new plan.
- Keep knocking down the illegally built mountain bike paths. They are destructive to the environment and a danger to walkers and children using the space.
- When new buildings and schools are built with new plantings there should be a plan and funding to maintain the landscaping for these new buildings.
- I find the town still too cautious and slow moving on innovative uses of public spaces. I dearly miss our beer garden at Whittaker. I miss outdoor yoga. There are two chairs out at the lawn behind the library and I have no idea if this was a private citizen's initiative or the Town's- but the Town should certainly just put a few more of these plastic adirondack chairs around in the green spaces so we can socialize!!!
- Please do not tear down Menotomy park playground.
- Maybe an open air theater area for shows and concerts
- I think the Town should buy the Mugar Woods
- The bike path no longer feels a leisurely recreational space it is more a route for cyclists to commute. It would be nice to have more walking paths that would be safer for kids and families to use. We love the idea of traversing the boundaries/edge of Arlington in one safely demarcated path as well.
- consider bicycle pump track (like the one in Allston); perhaps near McClennan.
- I've definitely noticed some waste and litter issues at parks. Especially near Spy Pond. The trash containers are filled to overflowing on nice days, and it would be worth increasing trash pickup frequency on those occasions. More concerning is the amount of waste from recreational fishing, I've encountered a lot of tangled fishing wire and several loose fish hooks. I had to help untangle a duck

from fishing line, and a friend is still trying to help get a hook out of a duck's wing. I'm worried the next creature we'll need to get a hook out of will be a small child.

- The skate park is in poor condition and dangerous for younger children.
- Any chance of acquiring land on the Arlington side of Mystic lake? Any space where a public pool could be built? Any chance of making a portion of Spy Pond open for swimming? (I like swimming)
- It would be wonderful to create opportunities for kids with disabilities to participate more in town sports or create recreational programming with that specifically in mind. I'd like to see things added to our parks that would encourage tweens and teens to get physical activity, like larger climbers, ramps, shared sporting equipment, etc. in particular in the Arlington Heights area where it's harder for these kids to get around via bike or walking.
- The sky also counts as "open space" - stepbacks are important for buildings over 3 stories tall.
- I would love a dog park further West in town
- Provide more opportunities for outdoor workout classes and children classes
- Stop the signage.
- No, comments above covered my few comments for improvement on a really good program.
- More open space performances would be fantastic. I also would really like to have a local pool instead of having to travel into Medford or Cambridge.
- Better athletic field maintenance. There are fields around us that get very high use, such as Elm Bank Fields in Wellesley and Progin Park run by Mass Youth Soccer. Despite their constant use the grass fields always look great. So it can be done. Maybe we need to consult with the groups that maintain these fields to understand what we could do better. More access to lighted fields, and improved quality of lighting on existing fields. This would increase the field capacity by allowing youth sports to run double practice sessions on week nights. It would be nice to see an analysis of how money is spent to maintain athletic fields in town, and understand if it is balanced between the different types of playing fields. I live near Bishop Field and DPW works on the softball field, raking and maintaining the infield, almost every day during the season. The only thing I see done to the rectangular based fields (lacrosse, soccer, ultimate) is the fields are mowed. Are there equitable resources invested in maintaining the different types of fields?
- More recreational programs for adults. Most programs are for seniors during the day, It would be great to have affordable ongoing programs/groups on weekends or early evenings (~6pm) for working people to build community connections.
- Town policy should favor increased populations of predator species -- especially raptors, but also coyote, foxes, fisher, even bobcat -- until populations of Eastern cottontail rabbit, Norway rat, and Canada goose are reduced.
- More areas should be available for use during covid for art, music, and recreation programs (private programs as well as public!) into the fall. The pandemic is not over and local businesses need continued access to public outdoor spaces!
- The Robbins playground is due for an upgrade and also more community garden space is needed.
- Why is there a parking lot in front of Kickstand? This would be a superb plaza for eating, gathering, beer garden, etc. There's the big lot across the street so this a waste of space and an eyesore.
- Arlington really needs a town/school by pool. The only pool in town is at the ABGC, and this is over scheduled. A new indoor pool can be used by AHS and the community.
- Covid is far from over and it has taught us the importance of prioritizing being outdoors. PLEASE do not expire the allowance for outdoor classes (ie, yoga studios, children's music, art classes etc.). The

community needs outdoor classes through late fall. The local businesses also depend on this option for survival right now

- I am sad to see the park at 60 and Mass Ave undergoing renovation, I liked it as it was. But, I have no idea what it's going to be, so here's hoping it keeps the same spirit!
- I'd like to see a managed volunteer program along the bike path. Also more adopt an island or parklet areas. It seems some of the road islands are not being kept up (ie Pleasant St at route 2)
- Yes! First would be more support/resources connected to cleaning contaminated soils and reducing the use of pesticides or other lawn products which may damage the soil. The reason I say this is because I would love to grow food in my yard, but am currently unable due given the contaminants. The other idea would be to create community food forests like the Arlington Community Orchard. Spy pond field has lots of unutilized areas along the slope that could work for layering native and food producing trees and plants. There are already a couple of mulberry trees on the edges of the field and along the bike path. The first step in this would be using plants like sunflowers to clean the soil if it is contaminated (phytoremediation). Then building soil health with native plants like lupins, and finally adding food producing crops. The design and care of the forest could also act as an educational opportunity for lower income families to learn about growing their own food, and could also produce food that might be harvested by members of the community who are looking for affordable fresh produce. Overall, there could be opportunities in the town to incorporate edible plants into the tree canopy and public parks. If we are going to grow plants, might as well grow food!
- I appreciate the hard work of the Park & Recreation Committee.
- Yes to public pool
- Would love to see more funds and opportunities for public art and other performing arts in open spaces.
- It's time for a community in Arlington. Our swimmers should have multiple opportunities to swim in a town of this size, and there is no reason that a pool can't be in a multi-generational community center or a public school.
- It would be good to have all of the green spaces adequately managed from the start. When McLennen Park was created, there was still an area (the wooded area near the Wright St/Huntington Rd entrance) that was full of phragmites. I spoke with the woman from the consulting firm as she was doing the final check-off list at that time drawing her attention to the numerous invasive species still in that section. Now, the entire park is overrun with them, and most of the native plantings obliterated. If adequate funding and attention had been paid at the outset, this could have been avoided. It will cost more to undo all of this than had it been properly considered at the start.
- There needs to be a community center, a place where kids can gather for indoor and outdoor play. Not the ABGC, mostly for younger kids, or Fidelity, but a rec center where kids and teens can gather for organized play and/or not organized gathering. Where do our teens go? Literally nowhere. To the movies? THIS IS IMPERATIVE. It's embarrassing that a town like Arlington has nothing like this. Use some space near the rink. I know dozens of people who have worked on this over the years. Why does it never manifest? We worry about drugs. Yes, b/c there is NOTHING/NO PLACE for tween/teenage kids to gather besides a park, most of which have no bathrooms or even water fountains, or cover from the rain. One table, at some. None at others. Painfully sad. Whats worse is that this survey barely addresses that. How is it not on your radar? We need a pool, and a rec center. Arlington is supposedly all about kids, but it's not really.

- Arlington needs a decent indoor pool. It is an amenity that would be used by all residents, from swimming lessons for kids, a location for teams to practice and senior exercise classes. It could also be rented out. Much town \$\$ should be targeted to an amenity that can benefit all.
- I would fully support an aquatic facility and would happily help with consulting on facility structure and design, coaching, lessons, lifeguards, startup
- Outdoor pool please!!!!!!
- Outdoor pool is a game. Changer. Indoor pools, while year round, are not social spaces and get very grungy over time.
- The lower field at Ottoson is in severe need of repair and overhaul.
- Integrating green space with the Arts (Sculpture park, pavilion/outdoor class room) or History walks or Literature, -English picnic place with readings or sketching walking minstrels or poets ,pavilion with a stone fire to change your skates or put on your X-skis
- A public pool would be wonderful! I also notice that our local playground (Magnolia Park) is not well-maintained. It is in dire need of a refresh on sand and wood chips. I think the low level of wood chips is a safety issue (it provides a cushion when kids jump or fall off the play structures).
- Consider development of turf fields to allow access to Rec space for organized sports more consistently with changing weather patterns. Development of a town pool.
- Pool Pool Pool Pool Pool
- Thank you to the committee members for your dedication to Arlington. The reservoir recreation area improvements are making great progress.
- I would really like to see an outdoor pool. Many communities in our area have outdoor pools, Arlington should too.
- An indoor and an outdoor pool
- Arlington has so much going for it as evidenced by the dramatic increase in real estate and the burgeoning of families moving here and the related overcrowding of public schools. It really is such a special place. Please keep up the amazing work. Can't wait to see what's next...
- Yes to public pools!
- A lot of programming is for kids. Or seniors. We need to have some for other segments too
- More soccer fields! Including lighted fields and a turf field.
- An outdoor pool!!
- Park maintenance and invasive species management are both very important.
- Outdoor pool!
- I would definitely like to see more indoor spaces available for sports, specifically an indoor pool and basketball court.
- Arlington needs a pool already. Yes, we have the Res, but let's face it. That's for children age 6 and under to wade in. Lexington and Lincoln and Belmont and Waltham and Somerville all have pools. It is a huge disappointment summer after summer to have no pool to join and spend our summer days at. BUILD A POOL!!!!
- We need a pool!
- Outdoor community pool
- I am concerned about conflicts of interest that do not best serve the town on Park and Rec. I would like to see more management by Open Space committee and conservation commission and less by Park and Rec who I don't believe represent the town's priorities as a whole well.

- A town pool should really be a priority!
- Would love to see some of the many baseball fields be able to be used by other sports. Like spy pond and buzzed.
- It would be nice to have more parks that are usable for adults - not playgrounds or fields. Parks with natural landscaping, benches to sit on, etc. It would be wonderful to have these in residential neighborhoods.
- is there anyone who coordinates town needs that are beyond the current budget with community service opportunities? teachers like real world connections and local project opportunities if there is someone to point the way or help, and high school kids are more capable than we give them credit for being and need community service points- it's just a questions of making connections. Just thinking... P.S. written as an elementary school teacher who is open to projects like tree identification, signage, weed pulling, etc with a class at some point
- A pool would add to the recreational space in Arlington. Not only would it increase our property values, but would even provide a safe space for our teens, increased job opportunities for young adults, promote family time and health, etc.
- Stop Select Board from appropriating public open spaces for private businesses--e.g. Kickstand Cafe takeover of pocket park in front of it, past beer garden at park in front of Whittemore Park
- Would LOVE an outdoor pool....but that might be too wishful thinking.
- I would love to see more walking paths around bodies of water (Spy Pond, Mystic Lakes. These are public amenities. Also, there should be more public pools and water play opportunities for children that are easily accessible to all and not require a membership or excessive fees for families to use. Even public wading pools would be beneficial. The Res is expensive for what it is (\$24 for a family of 4 to use for a day, or a 2mo long season pass is overpriced).
- Please please please have a pool! And affordable swimming lessons for kids particularly on weekends or evenings.
- Have stone chess and checker tables, a bocce court, gazebo for performances, pickle ball courts, and a kite festival with a kite-making workshop before. Set up a kite contest with other towns= teach aerodynamics.
- town pool please!!!!
- We need a pool! Belmont pool is so expensive, Lexington doesn't allow non-residents. I would have moved to either of those towns if I could have because they have better facilities. A pool is an important resource for families in the summer
- This town needs a pool so badly. The only pool in this town is the Arlington Boys and Girls Club - it would be an excellent addition for all ages in our community.
- Open space isn't only about sports.
- Adaptive, accessible Rec programming.
- Arlington should have a public pool the only pool kids have and can utilize is the boys and girls club indoors . Surrounding areas have lots of pools to choice from.
- I do not support a town pool
- No, no, 1,000 times no to a pool.
- It would be great if Arlington could find space for an outdoor public pool similar to Dilboy or McCrehhan Memorial.
- Arlington needs a pool!

- Alewife Brook needs significant rehabilitation. I would also like to see more diverse open spaces, e.g. parks with more tree cover and fewer fields, especially in east Arlington.
- Would like to see more water fountains (great example Fresh Pond in Cambridge has water fountains for people + dogs).
- I've been waiting 40 years for an outdoor pool. I see this as a priority for the whole town.
- A pool would be great.
- An outdoor pool or pool that can be covered with a bubble in the winter would be great.
- Some school-based playgrounds are literally boarded up (Bishop) and replacement is scheduled for several years away. Schools seem to be hands-off about these even though their students are using these parks daily. Also, allowing educational/community-based businesses like children's music classes to use park areas, especially in light of COVID, should be encouraged
- Why have so much space, money, effort for hockey? I know Arlington used to be a "hockey town" but given the changing demographics, needs an indoor pool (including warmer pool for senior citizens, rehabbing, etc.) much more than a second hockey rink. Hockey appeals to a narrower segment of people than an indoor water facility.
- I really think what would be cool is to create a small walking/ running concrete path around all the elementary schools. For example, at Dallin there is a bath that goes 3/4th around. If one side was added the whole community benefits. Kids can run the bath before after/ during school or during physical education or for a running club. Parents can push a stroller and get a walk in during their kids soccer practice. It would be great opportunity to get people out walking together or to create a 1K race. I've seen this done in other towns and it really ups people's physical activity levels. Lastly, I would like to advocate for a memorial bench program. Where people could buy a plaque that goes on a bench. It will help pay for part of the bench/ up keep and it will also help remember some awesome people. Overall I'm super happy with the parks in Arlington. Keep it up. And thanks for offering this forum.
- It would be nice if some of the larger ones, say, Thorndike and McClennen, had better facilities. Those porta-potties leave something to be desired. A lot of soccer games tend to get cancelled because of grass fields, but mixed on need for turf. Poet's Corner seems like an obvious spot for improvement, below grade conditions obviously being an issue. Does North Union really need to be maintained as a baseball field? Making that all grass would seem more flexible. And less prone to ponding. Some kids call that infield "the Caribbean" or something like that.
- Need an outdoor multi-court basketball location in town, AHS rebuild removed only multi-court option. Winchester/Lexington/Cambridge all have multiple locations with multi-courts, keep our kids engaged and safe
- I wish there was better upkeep of playground equipment i.e broken swings. Also, a public pool is a must since the high school will not be adding a pool.
- A pool and multi-use recreational facility would be a great addition and provide tremendous benefit to the town
- more mature trees and open space
- There need to be clear rules around off-leash dogs and enforcement of those rules. The dogs should not be interfering with the use of the space by children and non-pet owners. And we need a newer pool or a second pool!
- No

- Usage of open spaces. Could for profit orgs utilize the town's open spaces / parks for a fee? ESP for under 12 kids programs. Where are the kids supposed to go for private classes, that the town doesn't offer, when the weather is good enough to be outside and not on zoom?
- Please strongly consider indoor recreation, including aquatics, to support public health and safety.
- Town should prioritize a pool including diving boards so Ahs can have swim and dive teams.
- We need a pool!!
- I think an indoor pool that could be used by ALL members of the community would be a great asset to the town. Also, more indoor basketball space, the only space that is accessible is through private entities. We need a community center for kids that is more available for them.
- I would love an outdoor pool, though a new indoor facility would also be wonderful.
- When is the skateboard park at McLennen going to finally be updated? Its one of the most outdated user-unfriendly skateparks I've encountered.
- When considering a pool, balance pubic and private investment against all else the town budget supports.
- I strongly support a public indoor pool for town residents.
- See comment to Q.5. There is a need for Arlington to address open space and recreation needs for older adults (an increasing population and a vital part of our community) and for persons with physical disabilities. This is one reason why I strongly recommend Arlington building an indoor pool.
- We are desperate for a larger pool to accommodate the kids, students, adults, and seniors in this town!
- Outdoor pool
- An indoor multi-generational community center recreational space with an indoor swimming pool would provide more opportunities in the winter months for the community.
- We need another pool!!! Having only 1 pool In town indoor or outioor is such a shame given how much it could provide for children and adult swimming lessons/competitive/ recreational as well as for the elderly
- We would love a pool in Arlington!
- I would really, really like to have a pool that is accessible at multiple times of the day, is clean and well-maintained, and affordable. Thank you.
- Adding covered picnic tables to some parks would be nice.
- We need a newer, bigger pool. The pool at the B&GC is oversubscribed and way too small for a real swim team. There aren't enough lanes. Swimming is a life skill - swim team is a fantastic sport - and getting pool time at other locations is also nearly impossible.
- The town would greatly benefit from a community pool. Families are continuously using facilities outside of town to meet this need.
- While I would love to see more parks and open space, I want to emphasize the need to better maintain existing parks and coordinate between school and town-managed parks within school playgrounds. Trash, invasive species, and broken or removed playground equipment has been a constant problem in our 15 years here, and it feels like it takes an act of Congress to get things patched or fixed at Peirce or McClennan, to be specific.
- The town needs a pool. Ideally indoor.
- My family and I have benefitted by the wide variety of Arlington's open spaces and programming over the years--thank you. But as someone with mobility issues, here are some of my dreams for

recreation spaces: 1) a very secure place to leave my recumbent trike next to the bike path (with parking!) 2) a way to safely connect from the Minuteman trail to other bike trails 3) an adaptive kayaking program every so often, so that I can enjoy being on the water at Spy Pond and the Res with help from the Rec staff 4) a ADA trail at Great Meadows (or other open spaces).

- I walk at the Res almost every day, all year round. I really appreciate the work underway there now. In a couple years, it will look great.
- More resources are needed to maintain parks and open spaces, especially after capital projects are completed. Capital projects would last longer if maintained and should not be used to make up for lack of maintenance.
- Personally, I think we should be moving away from the love affair with organized sports and dedicating so much space to them, moving towards creating more natural spaces, food forests, and places that people can care for them . . .
- There is massive abuse of off-leash dog rules all across town. I can't access neighborhood parks without seeing violators. More enforcement and signage needed to protect small children and park users from this HUGE problem
- Similar to expanding commercial locations, this is a challenge since Arlington is highly built up. Aggressively planting trees in public locations such as the main parking area in the center of town would help. Promoting public/private tree planting programs would make these spaces more pleasant, user-friendly and help address climate change (for example the large, bare, hot parking lots for Walgreens, Stop and Shop, Whole Foods, Mirak.)
- No more playgrounds.
- I think this town needs a community center (Cambridge has a great one by Fresh Pond), an affordable outdoor swimming pool (like Dilboy in Somerville), and Poets Corner is an absolute eyesore that needs to be fixed and much better utilized.
- Unleashed dogs are a common occurrence in open spaces. This is not good.
- There aren't any pools so adding one would be great.
- We have some great resources in Arlington. I'd love to see them become among the best in the region. Right now we are very much middle of the pack.
- Skate park could use freshening up - there are some not-great cracks in the concrete (I have addressed this in a DPW ticket and they are working on it). Improvement at Res of water quality is notable and MUCH appreciated! More active opportunities for teens not on sports teams would be appreciated.
- Arlington is a very densely populated town. We need to expand our open space at every opportunity.
- Open space in Arlington is deeply entwined with housing and zoning. There's opportunity: denser housing could free up some land for green space while also making living here more affordable by increasing the # of units. Tying development of denser housing to commitments for more green space could alleviate fears of denser housing resulting in a concrete jungle. There's also tension: we need a better commercial-industrial tax base for revenue, but that requires land that can be zoned appropriately, which has to come from somewhere. But if we can manage it, the increased revenue can help support our open space and recreation.
- It would be nice to have flowers where possible in open spaces.
- I'm glad the work in Whittemore Park on Grove St is being finished. The area where water is stagnant needs to be addressed. It seems to be, to me a breeding area for mosquito larvae.

- Please enforce the leash law (with more than just Diane). Too many parks with dogs running free past off leash hours. I don't mind extending off leash hours but I would love for it for the rules to be respected and enforced.
- see notes above
- I think that Arlington would benefit from more open spaces with a large number of trees. There aren't many places to take a walk amidst trees in East Arlington.
- Would like to see grounds maintenance transition away from fossil-fuel machinery; don't know what chemicals are used in lawn care on Town properties - where can we learn this?
- Arlington is doing a great job :)
- Arlington has wonderful parks. Maintenance is the most pressing issue.
- Turkey Hill could use some trails improvement. Hills Hill is even less loved.
- We have invested in a high school (good) and now DPW (expensive for the return). We need more investment in open spaces.
- I hope the Mugar property can be protected and opened to the public. I also hope that the Town can put permanent protection on the Great Meadows property it owns in Lexington.
- We love the access to so many parks in the area! We are really grateful to Arlington for making it a priority to have spaces for families in town. We would always support an expansion or improvement of these spaces!
- I am interested in seeing if there is a view from Turkey Hill but can't find info on visiting.
- Improve bike path access (example: dangerously pot-holed access point at Brattle Street).
- Bird friendly!
- Hire someone who is knowledgeable about plants (not just heavy equipment) to guide maintenance! For example, McClennen Park, created less than 20 years ago, now has a huge population of phragmites, an invasive plant that is extremely difficult to get rid of. If it had been caught when the population was small, it would have been cheap and easy to deal with and the original planting would have been preserved. But because the town doesn't have someone skilled who knows what to look for, it has spread the the point that it would be a huge expensive project to remove, if it even happens at all. The money spent on the original planting was wasted through lack of proper maintenance. This repeats all over town. Hiring someone who knows plants would SAVE money.
- What we have is pretty good, but I'd like to see more native plantings, better playgrounds - more modern, more flexible, better maintained. More pocket parks interspersed in residential areas as a refuge for birds, trees, and people. I'd like more wild areas, and more creative public spaces - tables, chairs, stages, shelters, ways for people to congregate safely outside without having to find a seat at a cafe. Better bathrooms.
- I would like to see outdoor concerts more often. I know Robbins park hosts them and the library has too. Lexington has a great gazebo and park for concerts. Is this something Arlington can do?
- It's one of the best features of the town, particularly in East Arlington!
- Please add more trees, and more funding to support green spaces and adding more sustainable trees/plant life that will thrive here.
- Doing great! Expand successful. I'd like to see team sport opportunities for adults too.
- Please actually enforce the leash rules. Off-leash dogs outside permissible hours are a near-constant presence.
- Would like to see walks like ACROSSLexington, but I don't think those places exist in Arlington.

- Shade!! Shade everywhere. It's hard to use the playgrounds during the summer.
- I'd love to see more pedestrian shopping/eating destination that is closed to cars at certain times - with outdoor family game space (e.g, corn hold, ping pong). Belmont center, Brookline and moody street Waltham are good examples. Also Burlington VT.
- Please focus on creating shade and cooling opportunities as a climate-change resiliency and equity measure. We will be experiencing more and more heat index days and the most marginalized populations will be most impacted. Public outdoor cooling is just one tool for addressing this whether it's water features in parks (for kids and adults: see Kenny Park in Somerville which has a water feature both kids and adults feel welcome to use) or shaded areas with sufficient and appealing seating or temporary summertime water bottle filling stations. A public outdoor pool would be amazing but cost may prevent that, so figuring out how to make our ponds more accessible and usable may also be good. Thank you for the survey and your efforts.
- It would be great if we had more outdoor community events (e.g. beer garden, outdoor movies and concerts, bringing back town day). Would also be nice to make the farmers market more of a community event with music and a more accessible day (like Saturday).
- McClennen park skate park sign is in disrepair/hard to read. Please repair this and other park signs around town.
- Please add more lights and water fountains to bike path
- More adult swimming times and spaces would be great!
- I enjoy all the park & recreational areas that are walkable. I prefer to walk to a park then to drive to it.
- The rains will keep coming with climate change so we need to preserve swamplands to mitigate that threat
- I really see an opportunity for the town at the property on the other side of the bike path from the skating rink. A community arts and recreation facility with a pool would be a great amenity and enhance the experience along the bike path, as well.
- I've lived across the street from North Union Park for two years, and only discovered that it had an online calendar of events last month.
- From what I am able to observe Arlington appears to have an excellent recreation director right now - do take full advantage of his knowledge and enthusiasm for recreation.
- Control unleashed dogs better
- In the Thorndike Place/Mugar wetlands ZBA meetings there have been proposals from Mugar to "give" the town the rest of their land that isn't developed. This obviously brings with it concerns about cost, clean up, maintenance, etc. But if the town IS to acquire that property it would be wonderful to have turned into some type of conservation/recreation land, similar to what was done at Alewife Brook Reservation with boardwalks, ponds, storm water management, etc. It would do a lot for the environment and community at the same time, and turn it into a much healthier space than what the current abandoned property is.
- Invasive species are out of control in McClennen Park and other areas. Regarding the urban tree canopy, can we please restrict the ability of developers to chop down trees on properties they acquire for development? Smaller homes are being replaced with McMansions, which is bad enough, but can we at least keep some of the trees on these properties?
- Town needs to mulch playgrounds more often.
- Please more community gardening spaces! These can either be vegetable gardens or just pocket spaces for private citizens to plant/maintain decorative gardens.

- PLEASE add more trash cans near Mystic River and perhaps dog waste bags — many people seem to either not pick up the waste or they leave a bag of it on the trail — there are no garbage cans near Mystic River path. Also stricter enforcement & signs to deter off-leash dogs. They are a menace for others (even if their dog is “friendly” or “harmless”) and it’s dangerous for the dog especially near busy streets. Thank you.
- See notes above. Additionally: love all the public art that’s been incorporated into the parks already, let’s keep up that great work.
- Arlington really needs a town operated Swimming pool. Surrounding towns have lots of options, but limited to people out of town. Arlington is in need of a pool for all ages.
- Police off leash dogs!
- More events, beer gardens, etc.
- Trash disposals need to have better signage. Is there a reason as to why there's no recycling bins available? Regular trash and recycling could be next to each other with proper labelling and a list of items that goes in the recycling.
- More bicycle infrastructure on busy roads as they are re-paved. Even if just sharrows, but bike lanes when width permits. For example, there are places on Summer St by McClennan park that don't have parking but also aren't marked for bicycle lanes. Adding this during re-paving would be ideal.
- If there’s concern about maintaining the existing (or hopefully expanded) open space and recreation areas I’d be interested in volunteering to help. The only obstacle to this is I’m not sure how to “adopt” a park, what I’d be permitted to do, how the town could support us, etc. We’re happy to be more involved than just taking surveys!
- Pool!!
- Don't count roof gardens as fulfilling open space requirements (unless they're publicly accessible) because they didn't have as much public visibility / benefit as ground level open space. Remove parking and driving lanes to create bike lanes and more pedestrian-friendly greener streetscapes.
- I think that the most important thing to do is to ensure that natural spaces are being preserved. Even if natural spaces are being used by the public, it is important that they are maintained and not destroyed.
- I've recently used other towns' (Peabody and Burlington) Frisbee Golf courses, and have really enjoyed the activity! They also seem to attract folks from outside the town because there aren't a lot of decent courses in the area. I would love it if there was a course in Arlington and I could imagine a lot of interest from others.
- It would be great to shift the frame a little more toward open space as habitat, not only recreation for people — this will become more and more important with climate change and more housing — and also means that planning should take connectivity among spaces into account.
- Bike path corridor could be a huge untapped commercial development space with cafes , outdoor music venues and beer garden type establishments.
- There is a significant population of dog-owners in Arlington that are underserved by the town.
- please clean up all of the overgrowth and trash!
- We would love a public pool.
- A possible location for an indoor pool is adjacent to the Park Circle Water Tower. The lawn around the Water Tower is really not used for much. Making Park Circle one-way would provide space for parking. Conveniently, there is already a bus stop at Park Circle. The facility could be three levels, with pool, gym, and roof-top splash park/picnic area, taking advantage of the beautiful view.

- Current policy regarding community gardens favors the lucky few who won the lottery once and then keep renewing. The town allows these individuals to renew year after year, while the waiting list only grows. A term limit should be set so there is no longer a class of people who disproportionately benefit from Arlington's public spaces.
- More parks and open space! These parks and open spaces are my favorite thing about Arlington. Keep it up!!!
- I wish Arlington had a wheelchair accessible playground. A lot of the playgrounds have wood chips which make them less accessible. I have yet to find a play structure in Arlington that a wheelchair or walker could access. A playground like this would also be great for younger toddlers or children with physical delays.

Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan

Public Workshop #2

On December 8, 2021, the Open Space Committee held a virtual public workshop to collect feedback for the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) update. The primary purpose of the workshop was to review the goals of the 2015 OSRP and see if they were still relevant to meet the needs of the Town, discuss any revisions or updates to the goals, and brainstorm priority actions to meet these goals. The workshop was attended by approximately 30 community members and was facilitated by the Open Space Committee with help from the Department of Planning and Community Development, the Park & Recreation Commission, the Recreation Department, and technical consultant Horsley Witten.

The following provides an overview of the discussions had in small groups.

Goal 1: Conservation and Preservation

- Participants agreed that Arlington is already very built out, and spaces that aren't already protected must be few and far between.
- Residents love the little pocket parks, small patches of natural land. Want to protect the trees and improve grown environments in these types of patches of natural lands. Don't necessarily need to convert these areas into more manicured parks.
 - Ex. Crusher Lot. Currently under jurisdiction of Parks/Rec. Can appear to be nothing other than just a lot... but that's the beauty of it!
 - There's a tendency with parks to redo and groom everything. We shouldn't be doing that everywhere (more disturber soil, etc.)
- How to engage private landowners? There are many houses that have lots of open space on the parcel. Could Arlington create a program to offer people the opportunity to conserve ("perpetual caretakers of land"). Maybe a tax offset on condition to maintain as open space?
- Also interested in "reclaiming" existing parks.
 - Ex. Concern part of Robbins Farm Park into natural meadow space; return manicured areas into more natural areas.
 - Wendy Richter, OSC → "neck-down areas," reclaiming paved areas as a natural space. Fairly small-scale, but does green up what was a larger paved area.
 - Paper Streets.
- Other specific areas for new conservation might include:
 - Mugar property
 - Parcels along Mill Brook
 - Hook's Hollow
 - Spy Pond Pkwy at Spy Pond Lane
 - Pond Lane at Spy Pond

Goal 2: Maintenance and Enhancement

- Make spaces look less forgotten and more loved. Consider small interventions: signage (name, responsible department, etc.), educational signage (history of place, ecological info, etc.). Maybe educational kiosks?
- Would like a study to look at replacing temporary porta-potty installations (replace with composing facilities if possible!). Need to inventory/understand feasibility. Porta-potties are not appealing to see at a facility, and they don't always look well-maintained!
 - Ex. Providence Farm Park
- Just in general, get the sense that maintenance is a challenge from a cost standpoint for the Town.
 - Ballfield at Pottacks Corner near Lexington seem "utterly forgotten". Not even sure that those are used.
- Invasive species in many facilities → could be a lot more investment to address (question is whether the Town can afford it). There are many Friends Of groups that work on invasives. State representative also involved, recent public hearing at state legislature.
 - Neighboring municipalities could be more helpful with this!
- Stratton playground? Distressed to see that it's not open. Definitely should be open right now! OSC → word on the street is it will not be open until next fall at the earliest.
- Robbins Farm Park → more trash barrels needed. Big Belly there hardly ever works- if Town offers amenities, they need to make they're operational.
- Planting more pollinator species around town.
- Don't have so much lawn in park spaces, plant more trees. Improve these lands as habitat, not just recreation for people.
- • Need adequate staff and volunteers to maintain parks and open space.

Goal 3: Local and Regional Coordination and Communication

- Combined Sewer Overflows are a regional problem. Cambridge and Somerville CSOs go into the river, affect Arlington's resources.
 - There will be ARPA funds that the Town may use on this. SaveTheAlewife.org and MyWA—two organizations to engage with on water quality issues.
 - Perennial issue → Arlington is hilly, stormwater runoff ends up doing significant damage to Spy Pond (uphill use of pesticides/herbicides/fertilizers/etc.).
 - Envision Arlington Spy Pond does an annual awareness event to engage residents in the area and provide information about Spy Pond water quality issue.
 - Near Spring Street. Lots of flooding. Who can help? Would be great to use natural solutions to mitigate.
 - Also issue near Robbins Farm Park.
 - Storm events end up with lots of gravel/sand in runoff.
- Invasives as a regional problem. Lexington side of Arlington Reservoir, problem with controlling water chestnuts and invasives.
- Friends Of groups... do they feel like the Town is responsive to their input and contribution? Seem like a great resource, but is the Town using them well?

- OSC says we definitely rely on them!
- Without specifics... there have been some conflicts between different departments/organizations about facilities management/best practices. Need to keep lines of communication transparent and friendly to ensure we're all moving in the right direction together.
- Dog parks are needed, the current one is not very accessible. Could there be opportunities for a contained space at existing parks?
- There is a need for more seating at playgrounds not for children.
- Continue to make playgrounds and parks accessible for people with disabilities, to be more inclusive.
- Coordinate with local schools, Boy Scout troops, and others to volunteer with maintenance and help support Town staff. Local students have a community service requirement – connect with Arlington Schools to encourage students to spend their time serving local parks and open space. Arlington School's Sustainability Coordinator is a great resource for this.
- Use the local cable station to communicate about park and open space volunteer opportunities and good stewardship practices.
- There used to be a Stewardship Program in the town. The new Conservation Agent is hoping to restart it in the spring.
- Make information about different Town boards and committees more easily accessible to the public. Perhaps have a summary sheet of different committees and "Friends of" groups so that people know how to get involved and what different groups are doing. Now, all this information is on the Town's website, but people have to go hunting for it. Perhaps the OSC can serve as a coordinating body for communication with the public about different ways they can get involved. Compile a list of "Friends of" groups, and explain how new ones can be started.
-

Goal 4: Public Awareness and Access

- One resident lives near Gray Street, often bikes down to Bikeway. No way to get onto Brattle Street and onto Bikeway with recumbent bike. Access issue for anyone that's not able-bodied. More consideration to physical accessibility along Minuteman Bikeway.
 - Between downtown and Arlington Heights, not many areas to get onto Bikeway safely (difficult with children). Also difficult to get onto Robbins Farms.
- Residents note that they're very happy about the Res redo—it's wonderful!
- Robbins Farms Garden → got CPA grant to make changes to make it more accessible/ADA compliant. Actively trying to diversify garden users. Would love more input.
 - Opportunity to work with Disability Commission
- Robbins Farm Park → wheelchair accessible parking is not available/easy to use. Hard to access (on a hill, might be a site-specific issue that may have a hard time accommodating wheelchair accessible parking). Should try to explore possibility.
- All gardens need to be accessible. One resident works on the Town Hall Garden, needs improvements (level paving, etc.)
- The library is a great partner for programming and awareness.
- Increasing adopt a park opportunities to get more businesses and neighborhood groups involved.

- Safety along streets for walking and biking is a concern, particularly near Thorndike field and access to the bike path at the end of Varnum Street. Lighting is needed in these areas.
- Events at parks can bring awareness to them and bring community together, like concerts with local musicians, book club meetings, garden clubs, etc.
- Incorporate care of nature into school curriculum - schedule school time in community gardens, etc.
- Educate the public about small things they can do every day to be better stewards of our open space.
- Identify neighborhood block leaders who can serve as sources of information for their neighbors on parks and open space.
- Use signage to inform the public about environmental stewardship (informational signage on pollinators, no dumping into storm drains, etc.). Make signage accessible in different languages, braille, etc.
- Spread information through neighborhood newsletters and community boards.

Goal 5: Sustainability and Resilience

- Asphalt seas on some of these intersections! Some drainage problems caused by impervious surfaces (Appleton/Wachusett). Awful lot of pavement. Next time the road is repaved, would be good to think about improving drainage through natural solutions!
 - How can Town better coordinate internally between departments to ensure that GSI/stormwater improvements are logically timed with re-paving projects?
- Curbside bioswales in East Marylton (?) Could be used at facilities! Already lots of GSI at town facilities (east Arlington park, a few intersections in east Arlington). Bioswale talk for Mystic Pollinator Pathway. Other communities are interested in following that model.
 - Adopt a policy, make it required to consider stormwater/GSI?
 - Wendy = whenever parking lots are redone, put infiltration system underneath.
 - Re-look at town ordinances → how strict/proactive are we doing about stormwater management policies?
- There is a lot of enthusiasm to plant trees, but there needs to be more emphasis on long-term maintenance, including those trees that need to be replaced.
- Build more green infrastructure – have our parks and open space double as stormwater management.
- Green the parking lots that serve our parks and open space. Reduce impervious surfaces and plant rain gardens, bioswales, etc.
- Have the Town lead by example. Use sustainable practices on public lands and then talk about it! Most land in the Town is privately owned. Help change the behaviors of private property owners.
- Look for grants and other incentives for private property owners to be more environmentally friendly. Reduce pervious surfaces, plant trees, etc.

Other Thoughts

- Circling back to signage: Value of signage → so much that could be done at signage and public education, especially at public open spaces. Using them as demonstrations for what homeowners could do at their own property. Want more and more homeowners to learn what to do to support the local ecosystem, support natural systems.
- Have the Town do demonstration gardens

- Ex. Demonstration shade garden. Many homeowners cut down trees to allow for sun exposure. Can we show people they don't need to do that to have a good garden?
 - Demonstration gardens also add visual interest at town facilities; could do different types/sizes/etc.
- Pull in public awareness/education component → make an interactive GIS map for people to view and explore other parts of Town with GSI installations.

APPENDIX B

Open Space and Recreational Resources Inventory

Property: Name of the open space site.

Acres: Details the site's acreage.

Location: Names the major street(s) nearest the parcel.

Manager/Owner: Names the agency (or agencies) charged with managing the property and the owner of the property.

Current Use: Lists the most common or major uses of the site and special features and facilities.

Condition: Provides a general description of the maintenance/usability of the site

Public Access: Describes general accessibility factors, use of fees, etc.

ADA Self-Evaluation: Refers to the appendices where ADA-related information is explained.

2019 ADA Self Evaluation Notes: Transition Plan notes from the Town's most recent ADA evaluation

2021 Field and Playground Feasibility Study: If the site was included in the study.

2021 Field and Playground Feasibility Study Notes Regarding ADA: Notes from the study regarding needed ADA improvements

Recreation Potential: Recreational uses at the site or potential uses

Zoning: Indicates how the site is currently zoned by the Town.

Protection Status: Protected in perpetuity, limited protection, none

Grants/Deed Restrictions: Lists any grants received for purchase or improvement of site, as well as Art. 97 protection or conservation restrictions.

Structures: Identifies buildings and other structures on the site.

Water Resources: Notes the water bodies on the site.

Environmental Challenges: Identifies key challenges on the site.

Comments/Proposed Renovations/Recreation Potential: Includes additional information about the site, such as any changes in status currently underway and proposed capital improvements, the names of active volunteer citizens groups, and opportunities or potential changes that could be considered on the site.

Property Name (Public)	Acres	Location	Manager/Owner	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	Recreation Potential
Alewife Brook Reservation and Greenway, and Mystic River Reservation	32.1	Alewife Brook and Mystic Valley Parkways	Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) / Comm. Of Mass.	Passive Recreation/ Conservation; State reservations along waterways with some walking/biking trails, boardwalks, open space and landscaped areas, benches	Fair to Good in different areas	Walking and biking trails along the brook and river; Parking at various locations	New and improved walking and biking trails
Arlington High School	20.8	Mass. Ave.	School Dept./ Town of Arlington	Education/ Recreation; turf field, six-lane track; several playing fields to be reconfigured as part of High School rebuild, 2020-2024	Good	Parking	Sports fields
Arlington Reservoir	21.3 in Arlington (66 total; 44.7 in Lexington)	Lowell St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Dept. of Public Works/ Town of Arlington	Conservation/ Flood Control/ Recreation; Year-round use of perimeter walking trail; seasonal use of swimming and beach area; Wildlife Habitat Garden; viewing/fishing overlook; playground	Good - sanded beach, parking area, walking trail	Parking; accessible tot lot; learn to swim programs; parking; site access; pathways; entrance, stairs, doors, restrooms	Beach, walking trails, playground, picnic area, ball court
Arlington's Great Meadows	183.3	Mass. Ave. and Maple St. in Lexington	Select Board/ Dept. of Public Works/ Town of Arlington	Conservation/ Passive Recreation; Undeveloped wetlands and natural open space; Walking and biking trails on uplands and boardwalks	Good	Adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway; walking entrances from several streets in Lexington	Walking and biking trails
Bishop School Playground / Field	5.7	Stowecroft Rd.	Park and Recreation Comm. / Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education; Softball/little league field, open field area used for soccer, hardtop basketball area, and a playground.	Good	Parking, site access, pathways	Sports fields, playground
Brackett School	3.1	Eastern Ave.	School Dept./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education; Playground and hardtop basketball area.	Good	Parking	Courts, playground
Brattle Street	0.54	Brattle St.	Conservation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Conservation; Undeveloped wooded area	Good	Very limited access	None
Buzzell Fields	3.6	Summer St.	Park and Recreation Comm. / Town of Arlington	Recreation; Two little league/softball fields, a playground, picnic tables, basketball court and access to bike path.	Good	Drop-off, on-street parking; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	Baseball, softball, playground, picnic tables, basketball court, bike path.
Cooke’s Hollow	0.75	Mystic St.	Conservation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Passive Recreation; Historic park adjacent to Mill Brook and waterfall; benches; trail	Fair-small natural open area, steep slopes	Street parking; flat unpaved footpath	Walking trails
Crosby School and Playground	3.8	Oxford St. and Winter St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ ARB/ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education; Green space used for soccer, playground, basketball court and four tennis courts.	Good	Parking, site access, path	Soccer fields, playground, tennis courts
Crusher Lot and Ottoson Field	6	Gray St., Alton St.	Park and Recreation Comm., School Dept. / Town of Arlington	Passive and Active Recreation; Unimproved wooded area with rough footpaths in the Crusher Lot; softball/little league field and practice areas on school grounds	Fair	Parking, site access, paths	Walking trails (Crusher Lot); softball, baseball fields (school fields)
Cutter School / Reinhart Playground	0.5	School and Robbins Sts.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Playground and sitting area	Good	Parking, site access, pathway	Playground
Dallin School Playground / Florence Field	5.3	Florence Ave.	Park and Recreation Comm./ School Dept./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education; Little league/softball field, a large open green space for soccer/lacrosse, two playgrounds, seasonal spray park, a small basketball area	Good	Parking, site access, paths	Multiuse fields, basketball, baseball, softball, playground
Ed Burns Arena	2.4	Summer St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington/ DCR/ Comm. of Mass.	Recreation; An indoor ice facility, regulation size rink, spectator seating for 1,085 people, complete snack bar and vending machines, skate rentals and sharpening. Also used in summer for day camp activities.	Poor	Parking, ramps, site access, path, stairs; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	Ice rink
Forest St. Conservation	1	Forest St.	Conservation Commission/ Town of Arlington	Conservation; Wetland covered with vegetation	Good	Very limited access	None
Gibbs School	2.7	Foster and Tufts Sts.	ARB / Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Two playgrounds available to the public (after 6pm and on weekdays) and basketball court/multi-use area; indoor gym.	Good	Parking, site access, path of travel; entrances, stairs, doors, restroom, floors, fountains, switches	Playground, indoor basketball, multiuse area
Hardy School	2.5	Lake St.	School Dept./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education; Playgrounds, basketball and sitting areas	Good	Parking	Playground
Hibbert St. Playground	0.5	Hibbert St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Playground and sitting areas	Fair	Parking, site access, paths	Playground
Hurd / Reservoir Fields	6.1	Drake Rd.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Two softball/little league fields, large open field used for soccer, access to bike path and the Reservoir.	Fair	Pervious parking, site access, paths; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	Softball, baseball, multiuse field, bike path
Jefferson Cutter House and Whittemore Park	0.3	Whittemore Park, Mass. Ave.	ARB/Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Cultural/ Historic House; Shaded park with benches; brick sidewalks; site of art exhibits and festivals	Excellent	Parking nearby; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	Walking paths
Locke School Playground	0.2	Davis Rd.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Playground and sitting area	Excellent	Parking, site access	Playground

Property Name (Public)	Acres	Location	Manager/Owner	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	Recreation Potential
Magnolia Park and Field	3.3	Magnolia St. and Herbert St	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Playground, basketball court, large open field used for soccer and lacrosse, community gardens area, and access to the bike path.	Good	Parking and ramps; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	Basketball, multiuse field, bike path
Mass. DPW site (Route 2)	1.1	Sylvia St.	DPW/ Comm. of Mass.	Infrastructure	Good	N/A	None
McClennen Park	20.3	Summer St.	Park and Recreation Comm. / Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Conservation/ Flood Control ; Playground, skate boarding ramps, walking trail, two soccer fields, one little league field. Retention pond, wetlands and brook.	Good	Parking, ramps, pathways	Playground, skate park, walking trails, soccer, baseball
Meadowbrook Park	3.3	Mystic St.	Conservation Commission/ Town of Arlington	Conservation; Wetlands area with limited rough walking trails.	Fair-Good natural open space	Accessible from Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	Walking trails
Medford Boat Club	1	Robinhood Rd.	DCR /Comm. of Mass.	Recreation; Waterfront on Mystic Lakes around private boat club.	Good	Street parking, grassy area along lake shore	Boating
Menotomy Rocks Park	35.1	Jason St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Conservation; Two open green spaces, a picnic area, playground, walking trails and seasonal pond fishing or ice skating.	Good	Street parking, pathways, benches and tables; some rough, hilly trails	Playground, fishing, ice skating
Minuteman Bikeway	30.1		Towns of Arlington, Lexington, Bedford/ MBTA	Recreation/ Transportation; Well-established commuter and recreational bicycle and multi-use path	Very Good	Parking on adjacent streets or in town lots; flat, paved surface with many ramps	Bike path
Monument Park	0.4	Mass. Ave./ Broadway	Town of Arlington	Historic war memorial with landscaping	Very Good	Street parking	None
Mt. Gilboa	10.7	Crescent Hill Ave.	Conservation Commission / Town of Arlington	Conservation/ Passive Recreation; Steep, rocky forested area with walking trails	Good	Street parking	Walking trails
Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	58.9	Medford St.	Cemetery Comm./ DPW/ Town of Arlington	Cemetery; Historic cemetery in a landscaped, park-like setting	Good	Street parking	Walking
MWRA Pump Station	4.1	Brattle St.	MWRA/ Comm. of Mass.	MWRA Infrastructure; adjacent community orchard operated under lease arrangement by HomeHarvest	Good	Only allowed to the orchard area	Limited walking in orchard area
North Union Park/ Lussiano Field	5	North Union St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Playground, basketball court, picnic tables, one softball/little league field, one baseball field, and a big open field used for soccer. Seasonal spray pool.	Good	Street or school lot parking; drop-off, site access, paths	Playground, basketball, softball, baseball, multiuse field
Parallel Park	1.2	Medford St.	Park and Recreation Comm./Town of Arlington / Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) / Comm. Of Mass.	Recreation; Playground, basketball court and open space; benches	Good	Street parking; drop-off and site access	Playground, basketball
Park Circle Water Tower	1.8	Park Circle	Park and Recreation Comm. Town of Arlington / MWRA/ Comm. of Mass.	Passive Recreation; Grassy and landscaped area surrounding water tower	Good	Street parking, pathways	Limited informal use, walking
Parmenter School	1.2	Irving St.	Park and Recreation Comm. / ARB/ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education; Playground and basketball court; benches.	Good	Street parking, site access, pathways	Playground, basketball
Peirce School	2.3	Park Ave. Ext.	School Dept. / Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education; Playgrounds, basketball court, and green space with benches.	Good	Street parking	Playground, basketball
Poets Corner	3.8	Wollaston Ave.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Playground, softball/little league field, basketball courts	Fair	Parking, site access, paths	Playground, basketball, softball, baseball
Ridge St. Conservation	0.6	Ridge St.	Conservation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Conservation; Undeveloped open space	Good	Limited access	None
Robbins Farm Park	11.1	Eastern Ave.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Baseball diamond, large green space area used for soccer, a playground, summertime movies in the park, a 4th of July celebration and other activities; educational garden	Good-Excellent	Parking, site access	Baseball, multiuse field
Spy Pond Park, Spy Pond and Scannell Fields	15.0; Spy Pond water surface; (100)	Pond Lane, Wellington St., Linwood St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Dept. Public Works/ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Conservation; Park: playground, boat ramp and access to the bike path; Spy Pond Field: baseball diamond, little league field, stands to watch athletic activities, a large open field used for soccer, and five tennis courts.; Scannell Field: softball/little league field, and stands to watch athletic activities.	Park- excellent; Playing fields- good; ; Playground- good	Parking, site access, slopes, paths, viewing stands; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	Playground, boating, softball, baseball, multiuse field, tennis
Stratton School / Greeley Playground/ Pheasant Ave. Park	4.1	Pheasant Ave.	Park and Recreation Comm./ School Dept./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education; Playground, hard surface for basketball, open green space	Fair	Parking, site access, paths	Playground, basketball

Property Name (Public)	Acres	Location	Manager/Owner	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	Recreation Potential
Summer Street Sports Complex	12.7 (playing fields and play grounds)	Summer St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington (land)/ DCR/Comm. of Mass (building)	Recreation; Hill's Hill: hilly wooded area with walking trails; open field for various youth sports or activities, and ADA accessible playground;; Buck Field: softball/little league field with bleachers;; Summer St. Park/Field: playground; multigenerational activity area with benches, tables, and bocce courts; basketball court; baseball diamond; and a large open field used for field hockey, Frisbee, etc.	Good – fields and playgrounds	Parking, slopes, ramps, site access, paths; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway and Ed Burns Arena	Walking trails, softball, baseball, playground, bocce, basketball, multiuse field
Thorndike Field	10	Thorndike St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Large fields for soccer and lacrosse; off-leash dog park; access to bike path	Good	Parking, ramps, site access; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	Multiuse field, bike path
Thorndike St. Wetlands	1.7	Thorndike St.	DCR/ Comm. of Mass.	Conservation; Natural open space and wetlands	Fair	Limited access; Alewife Brook Greenway boardwalk traverses the wetlands	None
Town Hall Civic Block	2.7	Mass. Ave./ Academy St.	Town of Arlington	Multiple historic and civic buildings; formal landscaped gardens with water fountain, pool, benches; playground; grassy open spaces	Good		Playground, walking trails
Turkey Hill	10.7	Brand St.	Park and Recreation and Conservation Comm./ MWRA	Passive recreation/ Conservation; Rough trails on rocky, hilly terrain	Fair	Street parking; paved road for walking only	Walking trails
Uncle Sam Park & Monument	0.2	Mass. Ave./ Mystic St.	Select Board/ Town of Arlington	Monument to Uncle Sam (born in Arlington) and small park near Town center	Good		None
Waldo Park / Playground	1	Teel St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Playground, basketball court and open space. Public art/sculpture.	Excellent	Street parking; drop-off and site access	Playground, basketball
Wellington Park	3	Grove St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation; Five lighted tennis courts, adventure course, and open space with benches abutting Mill Brook.	Good	Street parking, site access, pathway along the brook	Tennis, adventure course
Window on the Mystic	3	Mystic St.	Conservation Commission / Town of Arlington	Conservation; Steep terrain with pathways and some built-in steps leading down to Upper Mystic Lake; bench on the shorefront	Good - natural open space	Limited access, steep steps	Walking trails
Woodside Lane Conservation Land	0.6	Woodside Lane	Conservation Comm / Town of Arlington	Conservation; Undeveloped woods on steep, rocky parcel	Good	Very limited access	None

Property Name (Public)	Zoning	Protection Status	Grants/ Deed Restrictions	Structures	Water Resources	Environmental Challenges	Comments/ Proposed Renovations
Alewife Brook Reservation and Greenway, and Mystic River Reservation	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97		Alewife Brook ; Mystic Lakes; Mystic River	Water quality impaired; CSO overflows; Invasive aquatic plants	See Section 5 text; DCR Alewife Reservation and Mystic River Master Plans are in place
Arlington High School	R1	Limited		School buildings, service shed, bleachers, press box, concession stand, scoreboard	Mill Brook culverted under the school grounds and football field;	Invasive plants	High School is being rebuilt with proposed connection to Minuteman bikeway by 2024.
Arlington Reservoir	OS	In perpetuity	LWCF	Maintenance building, snack bar, restrooms	Freshwater reservoir; Mill Brook, Munroe Brook	Water quality not swimmable; Invasive aquatic plants; Invasive terrestrial plants along shoreline;	Reservoir Master Plan renovations to be completed in 2022; See Section 5 text; Envision Arlington Reservoir Committee; Aquatic weed harvesting done almost annually
Arlington's Great Meadows	RM, RO, WPD	In perpetuity	Urban Self-Help; Art. 97		Over half the area is wetland and flood plains; source of Arlington Reservoir/Mill Brook	Invasive plants: Japanese Knotweed, garlic mustard, phragmites	See Section 5 text; Protected wetlands per Town of Lexington Zoning Bylaws; Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Bishop School Playground / Field	R1 / OS	In perpetuity	LWCF	School			
Brackett School	R1	Limited		School			
Brattle Street	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97			Invasive plants;	Also referred to as "U-shaped parcel"
Buzzell Fields	OS	In perpetuity	CDBG; LWCF; Art. 97		Mill Brook culverted below ground;	Flooding	See Section 5 text
Cooke’s Hollow	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97		Mill Brook open; waterfall	Erosion and invasive plants;	See Section 5 text
Crosby School and Playground	R1	In perpetuity	LWCF	School (now privately owned); Tennis Courts			
Crusher Lot and Ottoson Field	R1/OS	In perpetuity	Crusher Lot - Art. 97	Ottoson Middle School		Invasive plants	Potential to clean up the woods and improve walking paths in the Crusher Lot
Cutter School / Reinhart Playground	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97	Former school, now condos			Adjoining condominiums in former school
Dallin School Playground / Florence Field	R1/OS	In perpetuity	CDBG for Tot Lot; LWCF	School			
Ed Burns Arena	R1	In perpetuity	Art. 97	Indoor skating rink (owned by state)			See Section 5 text; Adjacent to Summer Street Sports Complex
Forest St. Conservation	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97			Invasive plants	
Gibbs School	R1	Limited		Renovated school building for all 6th graders			
Hardy School	R1	Limited	CDBG	School			
Hibbert St. Playground	OS	In perpetuity	LWCF; Art. 97; CDBG			Invasive plants	
Hurd / Reservoir Fields	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97		Mill Brook borders the fields	Bank erosion; Flooding; Invasive plants	See Section 5 text; Borders Mill Brook and Arlington Reservoir
Jefferson Cutter House and Whittemore Park	B3	In perpetuity	CDBG; Art. 97	Jefferson Cutter House (historic protection)			See Section 5 text; Dallin Museum; Chamber of Commerce office; Gallery
Locke School Playground	OS	Limited	CDBG				Adjoining condominiums in former school

Property Name (Public)	Zoning	Protection Status	Grants/ Deed Restrictions	Structures	Water Resources	Environmental Challenges	Comments/ Proposed Renovations
Magnolia Park and Field	OS	In perpetuity	CDBG; LWCF; Art. 97		Alewife Brook floodplain	Flooding	See Section 5 text
Mass. DPW site (Route 2)	R1	Unknown		Maintenance Bldg.			
McClennen Park	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97	Skateboard Park	Detention pond for Reeds Brook	Invasive plants	See Section 5 text
Meadowbrook Park	OS	In perpetuity	CDBG; Art. 97		Mouth of Mill Brook; Floodplain	Invasive plants, flooding	See Section 5 text; Adjacent to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Medford Boat Club	R0	In perpetuity	Art. 97	Boathouse (private)	Mystic Lakes are swimmable	Aquatic invasive plants	
Menotomy Rocks Park	OS	In perpetuity	LWCF; Hill's Pond-Clean Lakes and Ponds; CDBG; Art. 97		Hills Pond	Invasive aquatic plants and land plants	See Section 5 text
Minuteman Bikeway	OS	Limited	Self-Help; Urban Self-Help; LWCF		Portions adjacent to Mill Brook and No-name Brook	Invasive plants along many parts of the path	See Section 5 text; Former Bedford Branch of Boston & Maine RR; runs full length of the town from Cambridge to Lexington; Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee
Monument Park	R1	Limited		War Monument			Adjoining Central Fire Station
Mt. Gilboa	OS	In perpetuity	LWCF; Art. 97; Historic District	Single-family house (unused in 2022)		Trail erosion; Some invasive plants	See Section 5 text
Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	R1	Limited		Maintenance buildings, Chapel	Mill Brook runs through center of area	Invasive plants	See Section 5 text; Limited burial space remaining; columbarium and green burial areas planned
MWRA Pump Station	I	Unknown		Pump Station	Adjacent to Mill Brook		Community orchard managed by HomeHarvest
North Union Park/ Lussiano Field	R1/OS	In perpetuity	CDBG; LWCF; Art. 97 - North Union Playground	Thompson School; Spray park	Manmade water park		See Section 5 text
Parallel Park	OS	In perpetuity	CDBG; LWCF; Art. 97				
Park Circle Water Tower	R1	Limited		MWRA Water Tower			
Parmenter School	R1	Limited		School (leased)			
Peirce School	R1	Limited		School			
Poets Corner	OS	In perpetuity	CDBG; LWCF; Art. 97		Adjacent wetland area;	Invasive plants	See Section 5 text
Ridge St. Conservation	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97			Invasive plants	
Robbins Farm Park	OS	In perpetuity	LWCF; Art. 97				See Section 5 text; Friends of Robbins Farm Park; ; Cooperative community garden
Spy Pond Park, Spy Pond and Scannell Fields	OS	In perpetuity	CDBG; LWCF; DEM Lakes and Ponds Restoration; Art. 97	Tennis Courts; seat walls; playground equipment; bleachers at Spy Pond (Hornblower) Field and Scannell (Santini) Field	Spy Pond	Water quality;; Invasive aquatic and shoreline plants; endangered sedge	See Section 5 text; Friends of Spy Pond Park; Vision 2020 Spy Pond Committee; ; Tennis court renovations in 2015
Stratton School / Greeley Playground/ Pheasant Ave. Park	R1/OS	In perpetuity	LWCF; Greeley Field-Art. 97	School			Friends of Greeley Park at Stratton

Property Name (Public)	Zoning	Protection Status	Grants/ Deed Restrictions	Structures	Water Resources	Environmental Challenges	Comments/ Proposed Renovations
Summer Street Sports Complex	OS	In perpetuity	LWCF; Art. 97	Indoor skating rink (owned by state)		Invasive plants	See Section 5 text
Thorndike Field	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97		Alewife area floodplain;	Invasive plants, flooding	See Section 5 text
Thorndike St. Wetlands	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97		Wetlands	Invasive plants, flooding	
Town Hall Civic Block	R1	Unknown	Mass. Preservation Projects Fund	Town Hall, Central School, Whittemore-Robbins House, Memorial Gardens, Robbins Library, Old Burying Ground			See Section 5 text; Friends of Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden
Turkey Hill	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97	Water Tower- MWRA		Invasive plants	See Section 5 text; Turkey Hill Land Stewards
Uncle Sam Park & Monument	B5	Unknown		Monument and Visitor Center			See Section 5 text
Waldo Park / Playground	OS	In perpetuity	CDBG; LWCF; Art. 97				Friends of Waldo Park
Wellington Park	OS	In perpetuity	LWCF; CDBG; Art. 97; Carol White PEP grant	Tennis Courts (lighted). Project Adventure challenge course	Adjacent to Mill Brook	Invasive plants	See Section 5 text
Window on the Mystic	OS	In perpetuity	CDBG; Self-Help; Art. 97		Upper Mystic Lake	Invasive plants	See Section 5 text
Woodside Lane Conservation Land	OS	In perpetuity	Art. 97			Invasive plants	

PRIVATE SPACES AND FACILITIES

Property Name (Private)	Acres	Location	Manager/Owner	Current Use	Condition
Arlington 360 LLC and BrightView Assisted Living	8.7	Symmes Rd.	Arlington 360 LLC	Residential/ Assisted Living/ Conservation	N/A
Arlington Catholic High School Field	2.3	Summer St.	Roman Catholic Archdio-cese of Boston	Recreation	N/A
Armenian Cultural Institute	1.9	441 Mystic St.	Armenian Cultural Institute	Private/ Cultural	N/A
Belmont Country Club	11.2	Kent Lane off Brewster Rd.	Belmont Country Club, Inc.	Recreation	N/A
Boston Gas Co.	2.3	307 Washington St.	Boston Gas Co.	Private Utility	N/A
Elizabeth Island	2	Spy Pond	Arlington Land Trust	Conservation	N/A
Jason Russell House	0.6	Mass. Ave./ Jason St.	Arlington Historical Society	Historical house and gardens	N/A
Kelwyn Manor Park	1.8	Spy Pond Pkwy.	Kelwyn Manor Associa-tion	Recreation	N/A
Mugar Land	17.4	Concord Turnpike (Route 2)	Y & M Trust	Private-Undeveloped	N/A
Poets Corner	6.5	Wollaston Ave. and Kipling Road	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston	Parking/ Wetland area	N/A
Prince Hall Cemetery	0.2	Gardner St.	Masonic Grand Lodge, Corp.	Cemetery/ Historical	N/A
St. Paul's Cemetery	14.9	Broadway at Route 16	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston	Cemetery	N/A
Winchester Country Club	48	468 Mystic St.	Winchester Country Club	Recreation	N/A

Public Access	Zoning	Protection Status/ Grants/ Deed Restriction	Structures	Water Resources	Environmental Challenges	Comments/ Proposed Renovations/ Recreational Potential
Limited	MU	Conservation restriction held by Arlington Land Trust and Arlington Conservation Commission	Residential development and assisted living facility		Invasive plants; Erosion	Open space acres are accessible to the public under CR. Site has 18 acres total
Limited	R1			Mill Brook in culvert under the field.	Invasive plants	Fencing prevents access between adjacent public open space
Limited	RO		Meeting Center	Lower Mystic Lake	Invasive plants	
Limited	R1					
None	R1					
Small boats - access from Spy Pond Park	R1	Conservation Restriction held by Mass Audubon and Arlington Conservation Commission		Spy Pond	Invasive plants; Erosion	
Limited	R2	Located in Jason-Gray Historic District;	House and Museum			
Limited	R1		Playground	Spy Pond	Invasive plants	
None	PUD			Alewife floodplain	Flooding; Invasive plants	40B Housing proposed in 2015; unresolved
	R1			Wetland	Invasive plants	
Yes	R1					
Yes	R1		Chapel, Maintenance	Alewife Brook		
Limited	RO		Clubhouse, Maintenance	Upper Mystic Lake		

APPENDIX C

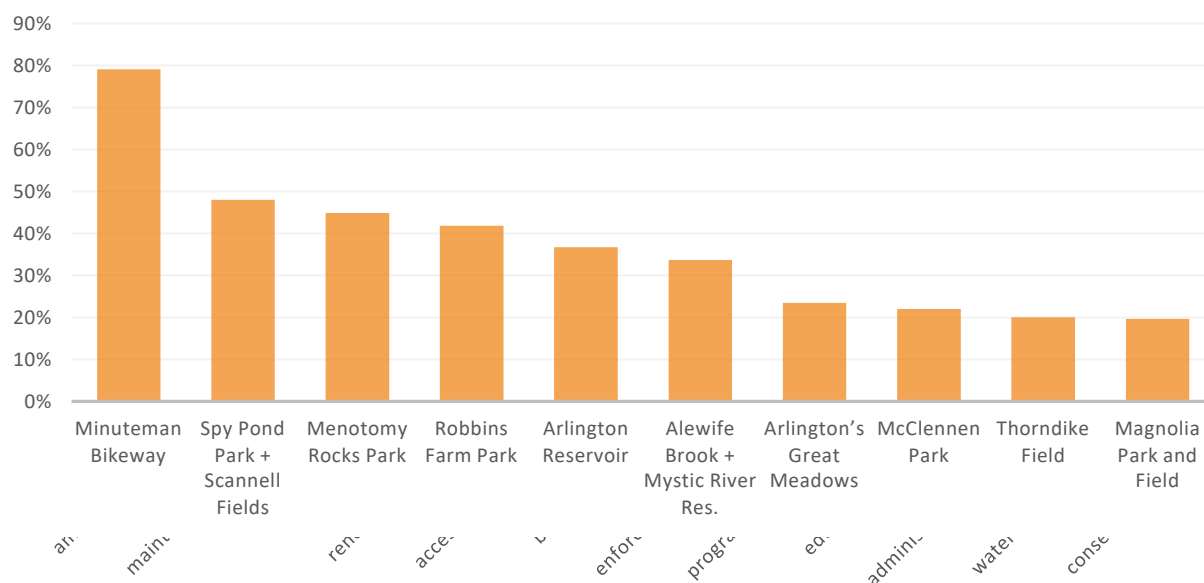
2020 Envision Arlington Annual Survey Summary

Open Space and Parks • 2020 Town Survey Topic Summary

The Open Space Committee applied for FY2021 funding from the Community Preservation Act Committee to update the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), which expires in 2022. OSRPs need to be updated regularly in order for communities to remain eligible for State and Federal open space and recreation grants. Through the plan update process, Arlington will engage its residents to better understand its open space and recreation needs. To inform the update process, the town survey asked questions about residents' priorities for existing and future open spaces and parks.

In this topic area of the survey, respondents were first asked what parks and open spaces they visited most frequently, and were provided with a list of all parks and open spaces in town (see Appendix ___ for full question text). The top ten locations are shown in the graph below; notably, the Minuteman Bikeway is visited by more than 79% of respondents, and surpassed all other locations by a minimum of 30 points. The top ten list also represents Arlington's largest parks and open spaces in land area, while the locations that received the fewest votes are conservation lands and smaller neighborhood parks.

Top 10 Parks and Open Spaces Visited



When asked for suggestions for how to improve the Town's parks and open spaces, 28% of respondents suggested improving or expanding available amenities, and 21% noted that maintenance should be improved or continued. Approximately 63% of those who took the survey did not answer this question, and 11% of those who did noted that they did not have suggestions for improvements.

A visiting Arlington's parks and open spaces, and of those who answered, 30% said they experienced no barriers. The most commonly cited barriers included availability of restrooms, accessible walking paths or sidewalks, others allowing their dogs to run off-leash, a lack of parks that allowed off-leash dogs, finding nearby parking (for cars or bicycles), time, and weather. A number of respondents indicated that

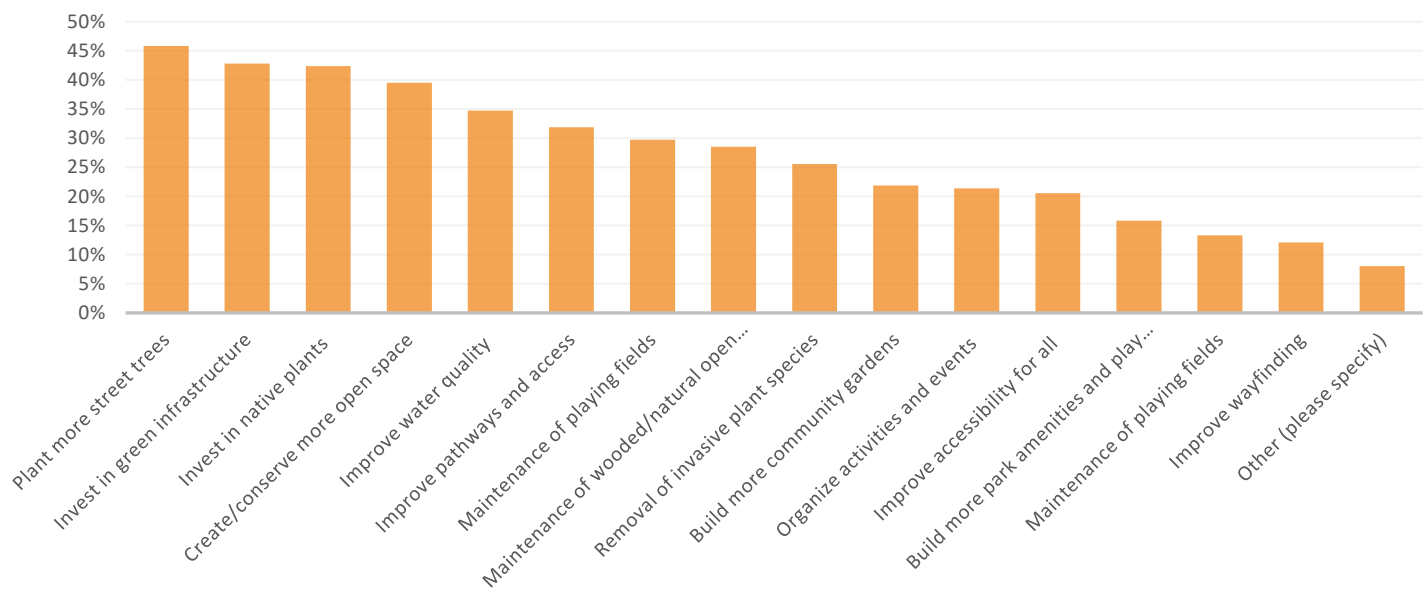
until taking the survey they were unaware that Arlington had so many parks and open spaces, and expressed interested in exploring more areas.

"I am surprised at the length of this list! I'm not sure that I know where all of these parks are... Some kind of more user-friendly resource online would be great."

The final question in this topic area asked about respondents' top priorities for investment in Arlington's parks and open spaces. In general, respondents prioritized planting more trees (46%) and native plants (42%), adding more green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and porous pavement, in town (43%), and conserving or creating open space (40%). Respondents also stressed the importance of maintaining existing parks and open spaces in town. One respondent noted,

"I found it almost impossible to limit myself to four choices about how to improve parks and outdoor spaces. Almost everything you listed seemed important!"

Top Priorities for Investment in Parks & Open Spaces



The Open Space Committee will use the results from the town survey to identify opportunities for public outreach for the OSRP update. Arlington has a variety of open space and recreational assets in town, and will work closely with the Park and Recreation Commission to ensure a comprehensive engagement process.

APPENDIX D

ADA Self Evaluation (Pending)

APPENDIX E

Letters of Support (Pending)