

**From:** Ann LeRoyer <annleroyer12@gmail.com>  
rzsembly@town.arlington.ma.us, KLau@town.arlington.ma.us, EBenson@town.arlington.ma.us,  
**To:** sreivilak@town.arlington.ma.us, mtintocalis@town.arlington.ma.us, Kelly Lynema <klynema@town.arlington.ma.us>,  
David Morgan <dmorgan@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Date:** 06/23/2022 03:18 PM  
**Subject:** Open Space and Recreation Plan Review and Letter of Support

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Dear Members of the Redevelopment Board,

I am pleased to send you this link to the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan for 2022-2029, with a request that you review the document and provide us with your comments and a letter of support by July 22.

You can read the Plan and the Appendices here: [https://bit.ly/Arlington\\_OSRP](https://bit.ly/Arlington_OSRP)

As you may know, since the Town's first Plan was prepared in 1996 the Redevelopment Board has reviewed and adopted these plans several times, and we have always appreciated your feedback and support for our committee's work. The Town's current plan was approved in 2015 for seven years by the state Division of Conservation Services in the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs – the state agency that sets the guidelines for open space plans and must approve and authorize the plans.

The Open Space Committee, along with staff in the Department of Planning and Community Development, began work on this updated version of the Plan several years ago. The first step was to prepare an application for funding support from the Community Preservation Act Committee, which was recommended by the Select Board and approved by Town Meeting in 2020. The grant for \$35,000 allowed us to hire Horsley Witten Group to provide technical support and participatory planning expertise for the extensive updating process.

During 2020 and 2021, we held several remote public forums, met with Town staff and other committee members, held listening sessions at parks and other locations around town, and conducted an online survey that was completed by more than 1,000 residents. The comments, recommendations, concerns, and new ideas gathered from these outreach efforts informed the needs analysis and the goals and objectives outlined in the Action Plan sections that describe the community and its open spaces.

On behalf of the committee, I want to thank you again for your past support of our work, and for the efforts of everyone in town who works together to implement these goals and objectives.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if you would like me and other committee members to attend a future meeting of the Redevelopment Board to discuss the Plan. After we finalize this draft in late July and receive the official state approval, we will print a small number of copies for Town offices, and the entire Plan will be posted on the Town website.

We also request that the Board formally adopt the Plan so that it becomes Town policy, like the Master Plan and the recently completed Housing Plan.

Thank you again for taking some time to review this draft Plan and providing us with a letter of support that we can forward to the state.

Ann LeRoyer, Chair  
Open Space Committee