

Concerns about Mugar and other developments

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To: ConComm <ConComm@town.arlington.ma.us>

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Dear Conservation Commission,

I live on a small parcel near Symmes that has some Wildlands left. We get significant visits from wild creatures who need larger areas of wild spaces to breed and survive. These animals include raccoons, coyotes, red foxes, opossum, groundhogs, too many rabbits, tanagers, grackles, warblers, red headed woodpecker, barred owl, eastern screech owl, squirrels, chipmunks, tiger swallowtails and so much more.

Unfortunately as more and more construction takes place and small intact wood lots are turned into houses or grass, these animals are being displaced. Our little lot is only a pass through, but in order for them to be able to survive in Arlington, they need to have larger intact areas like the Mugar lands, Hills Hill, Symmes woodlot, Great Meadows and other small undeveloped Wildlands. Do what you can to protect our creatures who cannot speak for themselves.

When I first moved to Arlington I would thrill at the mating howls of the coyotes up on the hill every February. For the past few years this has not happened which is an indication that our wild neighbors are not finding the accommodations they need. At least I did wake up to a flock of 10 turkeys yesterday, so I know it is not too late to plan for keeping parcels of wilderness patches throughout Arlington so we don't end up living in a human-only degraded space.

As you are the body that speaks for nature, I support your efforts to find ways that our fellow species can live in and navigate through Arlington. The Mugar appears to be a very important component especially as it is near such heavily developed areas and includes cattail wetlands.

All the best,
Colleen Kirby
Former TMM P15

Sent from my iPhone