

Arlington Open Space Management Plan

1. Site Identification

- 1.1 Site name: **Arlington Reservoir**
- 1.2 Plan developed by: DEWhite Date: 4/18/04
- 1.3 Plan approved by: Date:
- 1.4 Notes:

2. Base Information

2.1 Location

Northwest corner of Arlington off Lowell Street on the Lexington border. Adjacent to Mill Brook and Hurd Field and Drake Village

2.2 Boundaries

See Appendix A. Note that about half of the area is in Lexington. The total area is about 65 acres, with 28 acres being under water when the reservoir is full. 21 acres in Arlington. Land along Res ~xx feet and along Monroe Brook (attach plan)

2.3 Ownership

Town of Arlington.

2.4 Site history

The area was purchased and developed for water supply purposes in the late 19'th century. See: <http://www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/ResHistory.html>

2.5 Major Uses

Swimming at the beach; passive recreation (walking, bird watching) along the perimeter; wildlife habitat in the water, shore and adjacent wooded areas; flood control

2.6 Management Entity

DPW has primary responsibility. Parks & Rec manage the swimming beach.

2.7 Financial

Maintenance comes primarily from the DPW budget. The swimming beach activities are supported through the Recreation program via user fees. How much else does P&R support?

2.8 Reporting Entities

The primary responsible department is DPW. Park & Rec are responsible for the swimming beach. Environmental issues can be brought to the Conservation Commission.

Arlington Open Space Management Plan

2.9 Protection Status

Land is owned by the Town of Arlington. There are no explicit restrictions currently established. State and local bylaws protect the water and bordering areas.

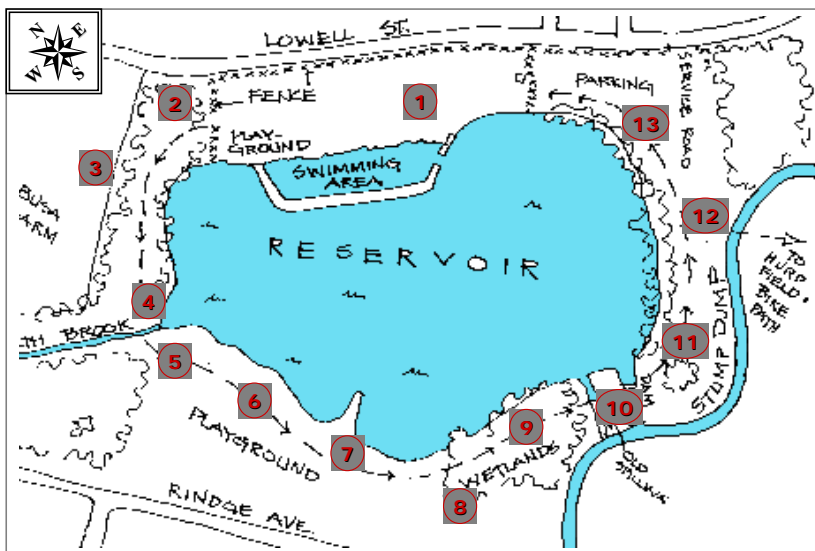
2.10 Site Rules

General town bylaws apply to the site. Park & Rec has established rules for the beach use.

2.11 Friends Groups

There is a Reservoir subcommittee of Vision 2020. There is a website <http://www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/> with minutes from that group and many other materials related to the Res.

2.12 Site map



See Res Tour Book: <http://www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/resources.htm>

2.13 Handicapped-accessibility

There is handicapped parking, and an access ramp and handrail at the beach leading into the swimming area. The path around the Res is level, but broken and uneven in spots.

2.14 Natural Resources

The water area when the Res is at normal high elevation is 28 acres. Parts of Mill and Munroe Brooks are within the Res boundaries, and there are some wetland areas along those brooks. When the water level is lowered in the Fall, the exposed mud flats are a prime water bird area. The seasonal water level changes provides a unique habitat for migrating birds and also affects the nature of the vegetative growth.

Birding: <http://www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/BAB1.htm>

Natural History: <http://www.arlington2020.org/environment/nature.html>

2.15 Outstanding Issues

Dam repair and removal of vegetation. { para for each }

Arlington Open Space Management Plan

Geese control for the beach area.
Aquatic plant growth
Year around walking access.
Abutter encroachment issues.
Development of adjacent land, e.g Busa Farm.

2.16 Other Base Information

None ?

3. Management Guidelines

3.1 Maintenance Schedule

Beach area: ???

Other areas: Water level is lowered in the Fall and raised in the Spring before the beach season.
Who does mowing, trash collection, ... ?

3.2 Maintenance Standards

Not known. Encourage Nest Management Practices

3.3 Long Term Maintenance Plans

Not known – One needs to come out of the current dam rehabilitation project !

3.4 Usage & Restrictions

General restrictions regarding town land. General Arlington Bylaws apply on the SE half, Lexington Bylaws on the NW half. Beach area is fenced and restricted to supervised swimming during the Summer season. Passive recreation for the other areas: walking, jogging, bird watching.

3.5 Other Management Matters

None ?

Arlington Open Space Management Plan

3. Capital Improvements

3.1 Under Consideration

The earthen dam is considered a hazard because of the trees growing on it. DPW is developing a plan to rebuild the berm, dam gate and spillway while keeping most of the trees.

3.2 Planned Improvements

Money is allocated in the capital budget for the dam work. More details forthcoming later.

3.3 Evaluation of Planned Improvements.

To be completed later.

Appendices:

Assessor maps from Arlington & Lexington.

Dam Renovation Plans (when available)

Dam Maintenance Plans (when available)