

RECREATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

In 2013 the Arlington Recreation Department continued to offer a variety of safe, quality programs and facilities for the residents of the Town of Arlington.

The Ed Burns Arena at the Veterans Memorial Sport Complex had 1,934 hours of ice rentals and our public skating attendance numbers were 4,708 adults and 8,225 youth/seniors, excluding seasonal skate passes.

The Department has been committed to providing quality programs, special events, and improvements to its many facilities. New programs offered in 2013 include: Archery, Saturday Night Lights Flag Football, Lego Classes, Toddler Art Classes, Shine Special Needs Soccer Classes, Volleyball Clinic, Expanded Adult Tennis Lessons, Fit Doggie and Me Training and the ICan Shine Learn to Bike program for youth with special needs. Overall the participation numbers in recreational programs have increased from 5,884 participants in 2012 to 7,089 participants in 2013.

Although the summer started out strong because of higher than normal temperatures the Reservoir Beach numbers remained consistent. A total of 1,480 season passes were sold, which is the higher than previous year.

The North Union Spray Pool located adjacent to the Thompson Elementary School was also enjoyed by residents on a daily basis throughout the summer. The North Union Spray Pool continues to be a free service offered by the Department.

Gibbs Gymnasium continued to house a majority of the recreation indoor programs as well as provide indoor birthday party and gym rental options for the Arlington community. The Department oversees the rental of the facility, which currently includes various youth activities and organizations, adult basketball, and soccer. Gibbs Gym again hosted over 100 birthday parties in 2013.

Arlington Recreation collaborates with various Town organizations and recreation centers to offer Town-wide special events. Such events include the Town Day Road Race, Daddy Daughter Dance, Egg Hunt, Halloween and Special Winter Public Skate. This year we continued to offer the successful Special Needs Skate Program with the Arlington Catholic High School Boys' & Girls' Hockey team and their coaching staff. Arlington Recreation proudly held their Sixth Annual Golf Tournament at Hillview Country Club. The tournament was in honor current Park Commission, Chairperson, Leslie Mayer.

Limited outdoor recreational facilities and playing fields continue to be an important issue facing Arlington Recreation. The Department continues to work with both high schools and the Town's many youth sport associations, the Department is crafting policies and procedures to assist in the scheduling and maintenance of Town playing fields. A field summit was held to review the current scheduling assignments and permitting policies. The Department also works with many of the park abutters, neighbors, and friends' organizations on capital projects, perpetual park concerns and maintenance items.



Veteran's Memorial Rink	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
Ice Rental Hours and Lessons	1,913	2,086	1,859	1,944	1,962	1,934
Stick and Puck & Public Skate Hours	496	552	500	610	622	790
Public Skate #'s-Adult	3,597	3,824	3,979	4,484	4,258	4708
Public Skate Passes #'s-Adult	46	55	58	53	53	31
Public Skate #'s-Child/Sen	8,356	8,597	7,846	8,317	8,411	8,115
Public Skate Passes #'s-Child/Sen	85	92	98	127	79	67
Skate Rentals	2,713	2,597	2,762	3,235	2,959	3,378
Skate Sharpening	932	962	982	1,112	848	691
Skate Sharpening Passes	NA	11	20	15	9	16
Stick and Puck	280	452	557	557	657	1,137

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Season	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
Summer	1,464	1,349	1,634	1,832	1,823	1,165
Fall	913	1,057	920	1,110	1,263	1,862
Winter	764	905	1,506	1,207	2,012	1,236
Spring	544	732	812	772	786	2,826
Total	3,685	4,043	4,872	4,921	5,884	7,089
Reservoir Tags						
Adult Resident	464	352	455	437	437	423
Child Resident	461	346	443	395	395	376
Senior Citizen	67	51	70	71	71	60
Non Resident	31	13	13	24	24	6
Resident Family	358	290	379	340	340	511
Non Resident Family	46	17	34	27	27	30
Resident Family Plus 1	90	59	70	64	64	74
Non Resident Family Plus 1	8	1	3	6	6	0
Total	1,525	1,129	1,467	1,364	1,364	1,480
Reservoir Passes						
Total Daily Passes	4,691	4,482	6,081	4,717	5,730	5,374

*Seasonal fluctuations between FY2012 and FY 2013 are due to a change in reporting software in FY2013.

Arlington Recreation increased the number of participants for its state license to operate an after school program. The Arlington Kid Care program was opened again in September at the Gibbs Gymnasium. There are currently seventy-eight children enrolled in the program. Arlington Recreation will be looking to license its fun school pre-school program. Arlington Recreation began the fun school program for pre-school age youth and had over 40 families participating in the program.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Arlington Recreation continues to manage the capital improvement projects for the Park and Recreation Commission. In 2013 the Florence Avenue Playground was renovated which is adjacent to the Dallin School and the rink purchased a new electric Zamboni.

The Commission began the design process for the renovation of Hibbert Park and the North Union Spray Pool. The Commission also contracted with the Institute of Human Centered Design for an ADA Compliance Study of all properties under their jurisdiction.

2014 Objectives

Arlington Recreation will continue to offer residents quality recreational programming. It is the goal of the Department to increase and improve program offerings every season. The Department will continue to work with users of the Ed Burns arena and Town outdoor playing fields to address the increasing needs of the community. Our financial goal is to continue to be-

come increasingly self-supporting through appropriate fee structuring and program and facility management.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

In 2013 the Park and Recreation Commission worked closely with Arlington's Recreation Director, Joseph Connelly, and various Town of Arlington organizations and volunteers. The focus of the commission was to improve the Town's public recreation facilities and develop policies that address the increased and varied demand for use of Arlington's open spaces and playing fields. The Commission continued improving parks, playing fields, playgrounds, and open spaces as outlined in its Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan, developed new policies to address increased user requirements for open space in Town and participated in a variety of committees working to address open space and recreation issues.

Capital Improvements

The process of identifying and implementing capital improvements to open space areas under the jurisdiction of the Park and Recreation Commission involves establishing a priority of need; application for and approval of funding; coordination with user groups and open space advocates; development of plans and specifications by qualified consultants; selection of contractors through the public bid process and construction of the projects. The length of time for each project var-

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ies, depending on the availability of funds and complexity of the project.

The main project completed this year was the renovation of the Florence Avenue Playground, in the park adjacent to the Dallin School. The new playground area was laid out along the front side of the park and includes play elements and swings for multiple ages. Exciting, unique features introduced to the playground include a zip line and splash pad. A new welcoming entrance and landscaping was incorporated, and the area that formerly had outdated tot play equipment was left as a grassy area for more passive recreation. The design was done by CBA Architects and construction completed by JNJ Sacca in the fall of 2013.

2014 Capital Projects

In 2014 the Commission is looking to complete three major capital efforts – Hibbert Street Park/Playground, North Union Spray Park and an ADA Study of recreation properties.

The renovation of Hibbert Street Park/Playground looks to replace outdated play equipment and improve the layout and entrances of this small neighborhood “pocket park.” The North Union Spray Park project is focused on total replacement of all water play features and the outdated systems for this recreational asset that is heavily used by many in the warm days of summer. Both projects are being designed by teams from Weston and Sampson and will be completed in 2014.

Working with the Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD), the ADA study is focused on surveying the Town’s Park and Recreation sites and programs with the following goals:

- Provide an evaluation for the Town Recreation Department of services and programs to determine compliance with ADA regulations;
- Provide an evaluation of Town Park and Recreation Commission facilities, including buildings, playgrounds, fields and parks;
- Prepare a Self Evaluation and Transition Plan that complies with the current ADA standards;
- Establish a grievance procedure and public notice that conforms to ADA/504 requirements;
- Provide the Town with a cost estimate for remediation work required as a result of the evaluations.

Policies and Other Projects

To ensure park protection and reduce disruption to other public uses, the Commission continues to review, define and update policies for its recreational facilities and programs. Policies and forms to request picnics and special events at Arlington’s parks, the field permit



Spy Pond Park

policy, gifts policy and a Town-wide policy on leaving toys and other items at parks, fields and playground were all reviewed and updated in 2013, and the Commission continued to review, refine and monitor the policies for off-leash dogs in certain select parks during the morning hours and at the Thorndike Off-Leash Recreation Area (OLRA). A Policy Handbook of all existing Park & Recreation Commission policies was also published. In 2014, the Commission expects to finalize a policy related to requests for hanging event informational banners, and plans to create policies related to the temporary and permanent installation of art in parks and a standard for park and field entrance signs.

The Commission also works with the many sports groups, “Friends” organizations, and other Committees and Commissions of the Town with an interest in parks, playgrounds and playing fields. In 2013 field users and “Friends of Parks” members, continued to cite maintenance concerns, especially related to erosion of pathways at Spy Pond Park and other parks. In 2014 the Commission and “Friends of Parks” group are planning a fundraising effort to benefit the parks in Town. A survey of residents about the usage, concerns and suggestions for improvements at the Arlington Reservoir revealed the continuing popularity of the beach for family-oriented activities and year-round use as a passive recreation destination and offered many suggestion for improvements that the Commission plans to prioritize in the coming years. Through the efforts of the Friends of Waldo Park, an installation of public art was completed in 2013, and the Commission will be working with members of the Public Arts Committee to host an Art Rocks Menotomy event in 2014.

Finally, in an effort to continue to improve its service to the public, the Commission began meeting twice per month, participated in a self-assessment of its responsibilities and added two Associate Commission Members. An off-site meeting devoted to setting goals and objectives and refinement of the Commissions roles is being held in 2014.