

Wildlife Habitat Garden



The habitat garden is planted with native shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers to provide shelter and food for a wide variety of wildlife, including rabbits, turtles, toads, birds, butterflies, bees, dragonflies and many other creatures.

The garden was started in 2011 and is maintained by the Reservoir Committee, a part of Envision Arlington. To learn more about the committee and its projects and activities, visit the website at arlingtonreservoir.org/

Financial donations to support this work at the Res can be made through the Arlington Land Trust, PO Box 492, Arlington, MA 02476, or through the website at arlingtonlandtrust.org/

Birding at the Res

The Res is a popular birding area, especially during the spring and fall migration seasons when many species of songbirds, ducks, and shorebirds are abundant and easily seen. The Menotomy Bird Club offers guided walks and other programs. For more information, visit mrines.com/menotomy/

Reservoir Beach

Located on Lowell Street in Arlington Heights, the Reservoir Beach features a swimming area with filtered/chlorinated water, an accessible ramp, bathhouses, picnic areas, a concession stand, and a playground. The beach is supervised by certified lifeguards and other beach staff while open from mid-June through late August. Boston.com has listed Arlington's Reservoir Beach among the top 10 swimming holes in the state.



Anyone over one year of age is charged admission to the beach area. Daily passes and individual and family season passes are available. For more information, visit the Arlington Recreation Department website at arlingtonrec.com/info/

In 2017 the Town began a multi-year master plan process to evaluate and then implement a number of improvements to the recreational and environmental conditions at the Res. Substantial funding for this work is from the Community Preservation Act. The work started in 2019 and will continue over several years.

Town of Arlington: arlingtonma.gov/

May 2020

Arlington Reservoir



Arlington Reservoir (the Res) was constructed in the 1870s as part of the municipal water supply system, but has served since the late 1890s only as a recreational area for walking, swimming, fishing, and boating. A perimeter path of about a mile is enjoyed by walkers, joggers, and bird watchers throughout the year.

The total area of the Res and its shoreline is about 65 acres. Although all of the Res and adjacent land is owned by the Town of Arlington, about half of it is located in Lexington. The Res is part of the extensive watershed that connects Arlington's Great Meadows in East Lexington to the Mystic Lakes and Mystic River via Mill Brook.

Parking is available in the lots on Lowell Street and at Hurd Field. The Res is accessible by walking or bicycle via an informal pathway through Hurd Field from the Minuteman Bikeway and Mass Ave behind Trader Joe's and Walgreens.

Open Spaces of Arlington

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- 
 Accessible
- 
 Bicycle Parking
- 
 Fishing
- 
 Picnicking
- 
 Play-ground
- 
 Playing Field
- 
 Swimming
- 
 Trails
- 
 Wildlife Viewing











Arlington Reservoir

The "Res" is a man-made reservoir and was built as part of Arlington's water supply system in the late 19th century, but that use was soon discontinued when Arlington joined the metropolitan system. The Res is fed by Munroe Brook, which enters from Lexington in the northwest, and it feeds Mill Brook, which runs through Arlington Heights parallel to the Minuteman Bikeway.

Even though about half of the Res is located in Lexington, the Town of Arlington owns all of the water and surrounding shore area. The fenced Beach area along Lowell Street is a popular summer swimming area with lifeguards and treated water.

A perimeter path of about 0.9 miles circles the Res and is a regular stroll for many walkers. While taking this walk, stop at the Wildlife Habitat Garden adjacent to the overflow spillway to enjoy many attractive native plants. The water area is a habitat for several types of fish and some very large snapping turtles. The Res is also a hot birding spot in the spring and fall and nearly 150 species of birds have been spotted here.

 Bench	 Playground	 Trail	 Beach	 Open Space Property
 Bridge	 Scenic viewpoint	 ACROSS Lexington Trail	 Water	 Building
 Parking	 Wildlife Habitat Garden	 Trail Connection	 Wetland	 Stream
 Picture post	 Contour (10ft)	 Town Boundary	 Wooded	
		 Driveway		

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

