

## PROJECT GOALS

This master planning process represents an amazing opportunity for the Arlington Reservoir neighborhood, larger surrounding community and the town. There is so much to **CELEBRATE** about this amazing landscape and so much to build upon. The opportunity for this place to perform at an extremely high recreational level and to return tremendous benefit to the surrounding population is immense.

The master planning process therefore should **CELEBRATE** the richness of this stunning and dramatic landscape and the site's legacy as a noted physical form that previously provided utilitarian value to citizenry. This next phase of master planning must be incredibly serious, diligent and focused on forging an intelligent, deliberate and well-supported plan that establishes a realistic framework for achieving incredible enhancement to one of Arlington's most unique and important neighborhood public open space assets.

There is a great starting point for the establishment of project goals, and that includes the review, discussion and confirmation of goals that have been stated during the strong and significant prior planning effort. We see goals as being related to the actual execution of the master planning process and also related to the specific enhancement and management of the Arlington Reservoir property and landscape itself.



**Arlington Reservoir Beach Area**

We offer the summary below:

### Project Goals | Master Planning Process

Basic goals for conducting the master planning process include the following:

- Carefully review, evaluate, process and confirm/validate the extensive prior planning concepts completed by various stakeholder groups including the Mystic River Watershed Coalition.
- Undertake a robust public engagement process in order to solicit new public input. Develop strong presentations and project illustrations that help foster dialogue and build consensus.
- Establish a compelling preliminary and final master plan, to be validated, refined and endorsed through public dialogue.
- Establish a final preferred plan that is reflective of the physical capacity of the property and the town's ability to operate and



**Current  
Signage**

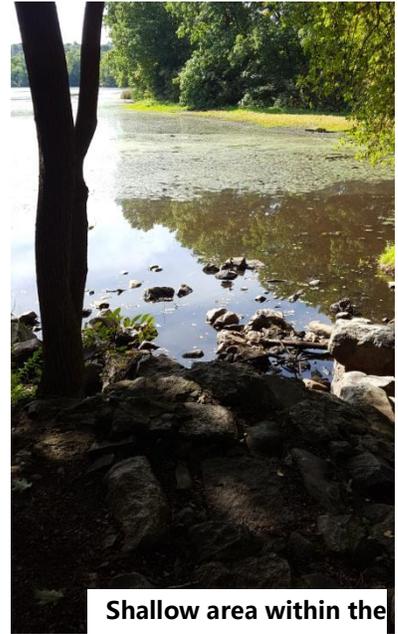
manage the property going forward.

- Establish a final preferred plan that also works to meet town-wide needs and surrounding neighborhood needs.
- Establish a strong and achievable implementation and funding strategy with prioritized phases of improvement.

### Project Goals | Actual Site Enhancements

Basic goals for achieving meaningful improvements within the Arlington Reservoir landscape include the following:

- Establish a methodology for enhancing the perimeter path that forms the top of the dam structure. This is the site's most obvious current asset. Determine pathway surfacing, pathway edge treatments, details for improved access onto the pathway and establish a palette of site furnishings (interpretive signage, benches, etc.) that are keeping with the essence of the property.
- Recognize the unique historical and cultural aspects of the property through a compelling interpretive information strategy.
- Consider development of a naturalized playground environment that encourages creative play and the intellectual and physical development of children by making great use of the site's unique configuration and topography.
- Inspired by great views and the richness of materials that prevail throughout the property, establish a meaningful art installation program.
- Explore meaningful improvements to the park edge and to the surrounding streets that helps to facilitate access, visibility, and site aesthetics in a way that is respectful to surrounding residents.
- Along the perimeter pathway, penetrate the vegetated edge with stone steps and create a stronger connection between park patron and the reservoir for fishing and quiet contemplation.



Shallow area within the

Res

### Project Goals | Resource Area Evaluation

Basic goals for achieving meaningful improvements along and within the resource areas associated with the Arlington Reservoir include the following:

- Water Quality Sampling: The project team will conduct two rounds of water quality sampling within the reservoir as well as from the inflow from Munroe Brook and the two Lexington storm drain outlets. Sampling and assessment activities will include measuring water clarity (Secchi depth), salinity, conductivity, pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen using instruments on site and collecting samples to be analyzed for ammonium nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, total phosphorus, dissolved total phosphorus, total kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), and turbidity at each location.
- Aquatic Habitat and Plant Community Survey: This task will include conducting an aquatic vegetation survey. The goal of the survey is to develop a meaningful picture of the aquatic plant community in the reservoir. The aquatic vegetation surveys will be conducted consistent with the needs expressed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in its guidance for aquatic vegetation control projects. This survey will give the Town an understanding of the following:

- Macrophyte community composition, including type of species and dominant species
  - Vegetative cover
  - Vegetation biomass based on growth density and height in the water column
  - Identification of invasive species and noxious weeds and control options
- **Buffer and Bordering Vegetated Wetland Survey:** The project team will conduct an indepth survey and evaluation of the areas bordering the reservoir. This will include all banks, bordering vegetated wetlands and other naturally vegetated areas along the reservoir and walking paths. The purpose of this survey is to first identify and mark all wetland areas located adjacent to the reservoir, develop an inventory of plant species (upland and wetland species), identify locations of invasive species, and locate all access points and erosional features adjacent to the reservoir. Recommendations to correct issues identified during the survey will then be developed, including:
    - Recommendations to stabilize erosional features utilizing bio-stabilization techniques,
    - Locating areas that would benefit from protective plantings to discourage access,
    - Locating appropriate access points to the reservoir for fishing or boating,
    - Recommendations to protect and identify bordering vegetated wetland areas,
    - Recommendations for removal or management of invasive species and improve habitat,
    - Recommendations to improve pathways as they pertain to impacts to the natural environment.

## PROJECT PHILOSOPHY & APPROACH

Our project team lives for the chance to engage the public on projects like this. Our desire to help coordinate a meaningful and rewarding master planning process with our partners from Arlington Parks and Recreation and other stakeholder groups is what motivates us and what keeps us focused on practicing landscape architecture in a way that enhances public parks and open spaces throughout the metropolitan area and in Arlington.

At the outset of the project, we foresee a kick-off meeting with the town and other designated stakeholders to identify all project goals and objectives, the appropriate approach to public outreach, identification of additional stakeholders and timeline for accomplishing various milestones.

In addition to Arlington Parks and Recreation, stakeholders are likely to include:

- Other town departments including DPW and Engineering
- Participants of prior planning efforts MyWRA
- Neighborhood residents
- Other community groups
- Nearby schools and senior center representatives

Through our collective experience, we have decades of knowledge that allows us to be agile and responsive for projects such as this. We work hard to develop a sound project



**Image of participants at a recent public engagement session led by Weston & Sampson**



**Interpretive signage developed by Weston & Sampson and incorporated along the Boston HarborWalk**

approach and we celebrate the unpredictability of each and every project. We have completed dozens of successful master planning efforts and have worked with a full cross section of communities, including Arlington.