

**Arlington Recreation Seeks Input on Reservoir**  
**(Survey conducted by Recreation Dept. at the beach in 2013)**

<b>1. In which season(s) do you typically use the Res?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Spring	40.9%	308
Summer	78.6%	592
Fall	44.2%	333
Winter	24.0%	181
Don't Use	12.7%	96
<i>answered question</i>		<b>753</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

<b>2. How often do you visit?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Daily	12.4%	93
Weekly	39.7%	299
Monthly	25.2%	190
Yearly	9.4%	71
Don't Use	13.3%	100
<i>answered question</i>		<b>753</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

<b>3. Do you typically visit with other family members and/or friends?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Family	74.2%	489
Friends	41.7%	275
Alone	27.8%	183
Provide ages of visitors		364
<i>answered question</i>		<b>659</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>94</b>

<b>4. Do you usually purchase a season beach tag/pass?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Yes	34.9%	256
No	65.1%	477
<i>answered question</i>		<b>733</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>20</b>

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<b>5. Where do you live?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Arlington Heights	59.8%	437
Arlington Center	15.3%	112
East Arlington	15.2%	111
Other (please specify)	9.7%	71
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>731</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>22</b>

<b>6. What specific improvements would you like to see in the beach area?</b>	
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
	399
<b><i>answered question</i></b>	
<b>399</b>	
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	
<b>354</b>	

**EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS:**

- less goose poop but otherwise, it is great; no goose poop; The goose droppings and feathers need to be cleaned up more often. I'm actually thinking of not buying the pass again, because I really found it unappealing this year and embarrassing when we brought friends to visit for the day; Need to do something about geese problem and cleaning up from them; Control of goose poop; bring in dog team that chases geese and ducks away; Fewer ducks & geese; Watch dog to chase off the water fowl; Chase the geese away; Bring back the fake coyote; Obviously, the goose poop needs to go
- A bit more sandy area; fewer rocks in the sand...just better quality sand; More sand; cleaner sand; new sand; more sand (not dirt) on the beach; cleaner beach and sand; if possible more sand at foot of the trees; Better sifted sand; quality of sand could be much improved
- Improved water quality; Clean Water; Cleaner water; clearer water
- find ways to add shade; More shade trees; More shady spots; More native shade trees; More shaded areas; maybe some built in umbrellas
- Grass in beach area is eroding and getting taken over by sand. Needs to be closed for an extended period, perhaps some topsoil added so it can recover; better care for the trees (the roots are getting messed up) and the grass (maybe some edging along the path?)
- It needs to be deeper at the berm end for improved swimming. Rope off some lanes for lane swimming; Water is too shallow for swimming. It use to be above the "keep off" sign on the white thing in front of the water gate; slightly deeper water; more ability for lap swimming; not deep enough for older kids; Maybe one or two defined lap lanes way out in the deep end near the berm
- It would be great to have real concessions and nicer restroom and changing facilities; Cleaner changing areas and restrooms; i'd like a little café/restaurant selling healthy snacks instead of vending machines selling candy; wish snack bar existed; Better concessions or at least a quarter changer for dollar bills; snack bar that sells ice cream burgers; Accessible public bathroom; nicer bathrooms; A small, outdoor locker area would be good to in order to secure things like phones and car keys; Lockers/secure storage
- The old volleyball net was great--could that be reinstalled?; Add volleyball; Return of volleyball net
- better differentiation between sand area and grass area -- better demarcated. looks sloppy now.
- Recycling bins; Solar-powered trash compactor; More garbage cans; Many more trash receptacles
- More seating / picnic tables; picnic tables; A couple more benches would be nice, places back near the trees; Picnic tables
- the parking lot is awful. no flood control, it's unattractive. it could use some plantings, lines, new surface, or something!; Pave over the parking lot so it wouldn't flood every time there is a rainstorm; Pave or deeply gravel the parking lot! Always muddy or filled with ruts and puddles that create mosquito breeding areas and are messy and unsightly
- clear signage for the far right side--can we swim or not there? is it closed for the birds? can't tell; Display results of water testing daily
- Water slide; Addition of water slide for kids and sprinkler area similar to Bedford; Add elements to attract older kids like a slide into water or diving board; add jump dock, slide or diving board; Add a deep end with a dock for jumping off
- A tarp to mark a walkway to the center of the reservoir from the grass area. Will allow a clean area for parents to walk from/to the water.

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<b>7. ... improvements for the playground area?</b>	
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
	227
<i>answered question</i>	<b>227</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>526</b>

**EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS:**

- fix/replace broken/old play equipment; Upgrade, bring up to code, replace busted and dated equipment; newer equipment; safer, updated playground equipment; Needs to be updated for safety; Most of the equipment is old, broken and rusty; New monkey bars, new swingsets; some updated equipment; playground is something you would expect from a 1950s inner city; more modern equipment; Would like stuff that's safer for toddlers; equipment is really outdated!; Better toddler structure; the black toddler swings turned my child's swimsuit black. Ugh.; really needs some sprucing up...especially on/around the big climbing structure(s). see-saw doesn't work so well. maybe some additional structures; Better monkey bars; Add more climbing structures; more climbing structures would be good - the one that looks like a spider web; More swings; quality physical apparatus for the playground: more swings, lower to the ground, merry-go-round, other "movable parts" on the playground; NEW SWINGSET!; more toddler/younger children playground equipment
- more shade trees; More shade, in the summer it gets too hot for kids to use the play structures; More shade; Shade so slides and equipment doesn't bake in the sun; Possibility of better shade, always too hot to use it during the day; A bit more shade; playground is usually too hot to play on, so maybe plant some trees for eventual shade; Shade for the slide. It gets very hot; More shade
- Clearing some of the vegetation growth from the playground areas; more grass along play area/picnic area; Better landscaping; The wooden encasing around play ground is splintering. Giving splinters to those that touch it to step over or sit on. There is a giant chain attached there that seems unnecessary
- spray pad; Add some kind of low to the ground water feature; spray water
- It would be great to have a few frisbee golf goals; would love a zip line
- bring back the volley ball; Beach volleyball; volley ball net would be good; used to love the volleyball net; miss the volleyball net
- more benches facing the playground; nicer benches and tables; seating; More benches; New bench and picnic table
- It would be great to have a tot lot gated off from the swimming area; Fenced in
- It would be nice if the playground were available without requiring a res pass. It makes it off limits to nearby residents who do not purchase a season pass; odd that the public neighborhood playground area is locked and gated during Beach season. I understand the safety issues with the beach area, but it would be nice if the playground could be accessed separately; keep it open and accessible
- Formal path for easier walking across from the gate to the playground - boardwalk or something
- Having more trash cans for the litter that we pick up.

<b>8. ... improvements for the bath house/restrooms area?</b>	
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
	256
<i>answered question</i>	<b>256</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>497</b>

**EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS:**

- needs to be updated; general improvements for the bath areas, especially outdoor showers that work more consistently and with an even flow of water; made more welcoming, less drab; bathrooms could be painted; Improved space for changing and restrooms; updated bath houses; soap is often out and dispensers broken; bathrooms need total overhaul! they're gross and dated. better changing area too; New bathrooms; Renovated; larger; lighter, brighter, cleaner; better ventilation; Toilets that don't leak; give it a more modern look.. Too much cinderblock; On opening day, it is surprising how it looks dingy and doesn't smell great; painted and updated; Better lighting; Updating. They look the same when I used them as a child over 45 yrs ago; sky lights for natural light; better ventilation; lockers; shower area and toilet; demolish and rebuild. nasty!; better lighting; the whole bath house/restroom could be completely renewed, it is very unappealing; bathrooms desperately need an upgrade; paint the building from the outside
- enclosed shower area that was connected to the changing room would be nice; add dressing/shower area; more private areas for changing; Privacy for showers; If warm water was available that would be really nice for a shower rinse off with younger children; add showers? at least warm water; warm water shower and a sight blocking wall for shower area little privacy for parent with little ones; foot-

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height shower nozzles, changing stalls; Family changing areas for parents with children of opposite sex over age of five or six (or whatever the age cut off is now); larger changing stalls/lockers; Changing table for the little ones!; Family Changing room; , functioning hot/cold showers,

- lower water spout outside to wash off sand on feet; bench near the outdoor showers for putting on shoes; It would be nice if there was a foot shower near the parking lot; A place to wash your feet off; separate foot spray area; A lower shower to just rinse feet off - Something the kids can use; Something to wash your feet off at the entrance gate
- More signage on beach directing folks to use the restrooms
- More chairs or other seating to help with getting younger children dressed -- right now there's nowhere to put anything down or sit, all has to be done standing up in the fairly dirty (particularly floor -- sandy and wet) space; Needs baby changing station, and more counters/places to put clothes, etc. so you don't have to put items on the floor.
- stone/paved (pervious type) path area from bath house/restrooms to parking area; tall bushes screening the showers from the road; planting beds to make it look nicer, less concrete
- Improved facilities, Lockers to leave belongings; Add more drinking water facilities; Water fountain
- Jacuzzi

9. ... improvements in other areas?	
Answer Options	Response Count
	353
<i>answered question</i>	<b>353</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>400</b>

### EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS:

- Some picnic tables closer to the beach, but not on the beach; more picnic tables; more picnic areas/tables; more benches for resting; better seating; some park benches place strategically around the res; Newer & more benches; benches around the trail; Picnic tables; Benches are very rough to sit on more paint doesn't make them smooth; more picnic tables; some benches on the trail around the reservoir; Replacement of rotted benches; a structured shade area with picnic table where people can enjoy in case of rain; repair benches and picnic tables
- parking area more level with less potholes; Parking lot could be fixed up; Parking area could use a nice grading; pave the parking lot; improve the paved area over near the dumpster; Fix pot holes in parking lot, smooth out the surface; Parking is hard to get in the summer; and the lot can be muddy after it rains; improvement of parking lot; less muddy parking lot; parking lot needs work as it fills up with large puddles when it rains; parking is confusing. People park in the middle of the parking lot and can't get my car out. Painted lines in the parking lot would be great; Paved parking lot; a clean, level parking lot and minimize using it as a town dump for trees, snow, and invasive smelly weeds; Increased parking; Parking Lot is in rough shape; Make the parking lot better - more level/even. It gets huge puddles in rain; Parking lot improvements; more parking
- improve grassy area to make it more lush; add trees on grassy area for some additional shade; Planting native trees/shrubs/perennials; flower/plant along the path; A path or boardwalk from the parking area to the beach (and other areas) would help improve the general Res grounds; Improved boardwalk - maybe made out of wood plank; Increase in landscaping around the beach area and removal/pruning of the trees
- Trail on Lexington side needs wood chips or similar to prevent erosion. Getting "rooty" again; a clean walking path around the Res; pruning of trees on walking path; Better walkway around the res; walking path all the way around; make the path around the rez go all the way around for runners; Wood chipping / trail maintenance around the Rez; Finish a crushed stone or cinder circumferential path in Arlington/Lexington. The far side is kind of a drag (mucky) when it's wet; would be great to have a wider trail on the Lexington side of the Res. like the section on the Arlington side on the east end; It would be nice if there was a walking path around the beach that could be used all year seasons; Add mulch or wood chips to the trail/path around the Res to help slow down erosion and tree root damage, as well as make the walking easier; The area could have flowers and shrubs added to enhance the area; a path through the beach area that would allow walkers to circle the entire Res without walking on the sidewalk.; wish the "loop" trail around the res didn't require you to "exit" up to the street to get around the fenced in beach area; clear walking path all the way around - ability to access through fall, winter, spring when beach is closed; walking trail safe for seniors to exercise; tree roots which make walking difficult and the path is not wide enough in some sections for more than one person; Really enjoy the walk around the reservoir but the path is not very walk friendly; access around beach area to allow walkers to by pass the fenced in area; Widen path, cut shrubs in some tight area; fix or prevent further erosion of the woods paths that break through to Lowell Street; would like to be able to walk around the entire Reservoir in the summer without having to buy a pass; like to be able to bike all the way around it; Trail improvements next to Busa farm; boardwalks over tree roots to protect them

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- poison ivy growing into trails; Removal of invasive plants; taking care of the invasive plants in the water and out; Continued work on the water chestnuts; anything anyone can do about the poison ivy; poison ivy removal along the path; poison ivy is unavoidable; Control poison ivy; Too much poison ivy; bittersweet vines are taking over!
- Great area for ice skating when weather allows
- Signs are a little worn out and broken. Directions from the Rail Trail to the Res would be helpful I've had cyclists ask for directions. Would make it more accessible if more clearly marked; Remove graffiti on marker stones; Information on what is available in the area--things to do in the res; CLEAR dog rules posted by the playground; Signs pointing people to the very beautiful native garden; improve signage; Plant identification labels along path; Rehab and improve signage on trail around the Res; path widening along the Lexington side of the res so two people can pass each other; Better signage from Mass Ave and bike trail
- Better lighting in general around the res for walking; add some path lighting
- A snack bar would be very welcome!; snack bar; a real concession with some healthy choices; snack bar would be nice; Manned snack bar; low cost snack bar with healthy foods as well as ice cream; A cafe!; Food stand; real snack area!; a real refreshment stand; snack bar would be awesome; biggest improvement would be a snack bar!
- more area for my dog to play; Off leash times for dogs; make it dog friendly during the off-season; More dog friendly areas during the summer to allow dog owners to still go all the way around the res
- more trash cans spaced around the res; More trash cans along the path; More trash cans during non-summer; more trash barrels year-round; Trash barrels on both sides of parking lot.; If you want people to throw out their trash (or dog poop) then provide trash cans; recycling bin please!
- small tap for rinsing feet/legs near the entrance; somewhere to wash off feet near the exit; would be great to have a faucet to rinse feet/toys near the exit; foot rinse station at the entrance; Water spigot or hose near the exit to clean off feet; an area around the entrance/exit to rinse off sand
- The chain link fence around the reservoir and parking lot is really ugly; Replace the chain link fence with something more attractive; fence to be upgraded to something much nicer. It is falling apart and an eye sore. I would like it to be replaced with something functional and pretty--not just another chain-link fence
- wonderful if part of the swimming area could be dredged so as to create a deeper area; bottom of the res is slimy in spots; Deeper water!; Water seemed very shallow this year; deep so all ages enjoy!
- Boat ramp for canoeing
- I would love to see a basketball court; volleyball/ basketball; would love to see a spray park added; spray park feature somewhere would be awesome

<b>10. Are there any new programs/activities that you would like to see at the Res?</b>	
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
	210
<i>answered question</i>	<b>210</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>543</b>

### EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS:

- fitness activities on beach such as yoga aerobics, meditation; morning yoga; Tai Chi; Bootcamp - outdoor exercise type programs; walking program; tai chi, exercise for seniors, yoga, aquasize; Yoga classes; group fitness activities; Yoga classes on the beach; early morning work-out program on the beach; Fall Yoga; Yoga; beach yoga
- Boating!; canoe racing; Boating (kayak,etc)- not motor; Canoe rental; Kayak rental; Kayaking and/ or canoeing; Sailing or canoeing on the larger portion of the Res; Allow canoeing, kayaking; kayaking; Create a canoe/small boat ramp; kayaking, canoing; Paddleboarding class (not on the beach portion)
- community gatherings; family nights; a movie night; evening concerts; Concerts, picnic rental space; mini farmers market
- Basketball hoops; Some space for water basketball
- Volleyball; Frisbee golf or volleyball; recreational volleyball tournament; permanent volleyball or badminton; family beach volleyball, (organized); Volleyball net; Volleyball; small soccer nets or ping pong tables for more variety in activities; Basketball, volleyball; volleyballs & net, bocce, etc
- Native plant walking tours; Guided nature/bird walks; Any kind of nature, artistic activities for spring and fall; Guided walks; flora and fauna tours; Invasive plant identification sessions; environmental education/nature programs
- I would like to be able to ice skate; ice skating in the winter; Winter skating, please!; Ice skating; Ice skating in the winter; ice skating in winter

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- Birdwatching tour; Bird watching around the Res; nature talks/walks; bird watching
- larger swimming area; swimming area for adults outside the berm
- Dog training; Dog day fair; dog walking community day; Dog hours; dog park; OLRA; dog days, dog training; dog agility course; off-leash summer hours for dogs; dog friendly events; dogs allowed at the res, even during a few hours before and after it closes to help control the geese; Allowing dogs would reduce the goose population; Off-leash dog allowed during the summer to scare away the ducks; Beach days for dogs and their owners
- kid's water polo team; Kids triathlon; Running and swim races
- Haiku writing workshops; Plein air painting class; Arts and crafts; botanical drawing or native plant id workshops
- explore a micro-hydroelectric generator at the dam, to supplement power to the beach facilities.

Please describe any particular concerns that you have about the Res?	
Answer Options	Response Count
	318
<i>answered question</i>	<b>318</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>435</b>

### EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS:

- the plants growing in the water and the poison ivy around the path; Poison Ivy is getting thick in many places; perimeter walk is over-run with invasive plants; green space overrun with exotic plants; A lot of very well established poison ivy; #1 concern - Poison Ivy; invasive bittersweet and poison ivy is getting bad; Invasive plants both aquatic and terrestrial - including poison ivy along the paths
- water quality of swimming area; concerned about the overall degradation of the water filtration equipment. It's all about the water... keeping it clean. Also... it's shallower out in the middle this year... what's up with that? The water staying clean and nice should be the TOP priority; cleanliness of water; water cleanliness; Concerned about water quality; Would love to know how clean the water is; water quality; water quality; water quality (could be posted at beach); wonder about water quality; Cleanliness of water -- how often is it tested and can those results be posted; major concerns about the water quality of the Reservoir; Water quality, cleanliness; biggest concern is water quality; Water quality, with particular concern for goose poop
- Goose droppings; bird poop; lots of geese poop; goose poop; Goose poop!; The mess geese make; Goose poop; get rid of the geese once and for all!
- safety/maintenance of playground equipment; play structures for residents who do not purchase a season pass
- signs posted at the entrances to the larger trail around the res reminding people of the leash regulations.
- Invasive vegetation in the water; worried about how the algae and water weeds are choking the Res; Algae and water plant growth; invasive weeds and the lowering of the water level in the winter; invasive weeds in the non-swimming area; have the invasive water chestnut plants AND spiny fruits better cleaned out of the pond
- most important is the ecological health of the area and wildlife protection and nature appreciation.
- use of parking lot for snow and tree storage -- it creates runoff problems for the water quality and destroys the parking lot surface; using the res parking lot as a snow farm seems like a really BAD idea, considering the amount of chemicals in plowed snow that must have leached into the res water. I know it was a bad winter, but compromising the water quality is never a good idea; when the parking lot at the is used as a holding station for downed trees from storms, the rotting wood smell pervades the neighborhood nearby (the same happens with the removed invasive plant growth that is piled up beneath the bridge); Res parking lot is a garbage dump for the town. I walk there, my dogs walk there, and we have to walk through the garbage dump (or snow dump). Also, if the town really has nowhere else to dump snow, debris, etc, then they should do their best to haul it away in a timely manner
- enhance the relationship to the neighboring farm land. (Is there fertilizer run off effecting water ecosystem?) Removal of dead trees on the path around the res. Erosion.
- Wasps in the sand where kids and parents sit
- mosquito control
- Too much trash around with no signs about littering and no encouragement not to litter with more trash barrels.
- more consistent drawdown to benefit migrating wildlife especially immediately after beach closes.
- make sure that the area is open to dogs and families outside of the swimming season.