

Arlington Reservoir Committee

Envision Arlington Environmental Group

2018 Annual Report

Final Version 1/11/19

2018 was a busy year for the Arlington Reservoir Committee. The Wildlife Habitat Garden had its eighth growing season. The committee had help from many people on public workdays - and from many volunteers at other times as well. The committee welcomes schools, community groups, and others to participate in the committee's growth and evolution.

Water chestnut mechanical harvesting continued in the summer under the management of the Arlington Department of Public Works. In addition, the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) held corporate hand harvesting events in the spring and fall. The committee hopes to increase these volunteer efforts in the future.

In 2017 Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding was obtained for developing a Master Plan for the Arlington Reservoir—the first step of a major capital improvement project. The goal is to assess all aspects of the Reservoir, considering terrestrial and aquatic issues from both environmental and recreational perspectives. This project is being led by the Park and Recreation Commission with participation of the Conservation Commission and the Reservoir Committee. Weston & Sampson, the firm that managed the dam restoration work in 2006, was chosen as the consultant for this work. The Master Plan document has been completed and the project is moving on into the implementation phases.

CPA funding for the phase 1 of the work was approved by Town Meeting in 2018. Most of this phase 1 funding will be for the water treatment system for the beach area, which is old and close to failure. There will also be a pilot trail restoration project of about sixty feet on the dirt path next to LexFarm. Environmental permit documents related to this work are available on the Reservoir website.

The intent for the future phases of the Master Plan is to address some of the broader environmental issues. Additional funding must be found and some grant options are being explored. A full report was released by Weston & Sampson early in 2018. Public documents related to this master planning process can be found at the Reservoir Committee website: <http://arlingtonreservoir.org/reservoir-master-plan/>.

The Arlington Land Trust maintains a stewardship fund for the work of the Reservoir Committee. This has mostly been used for the Wildlife Habitat Garden expenses. In 2018 we had \$400 in donations and no expenses for a year end balance of \$1,655.01. Those wishing to make a tax-deductible donation can make a check out to “ALT Reservoir Fund” and mail it to ALT, Box 492, Arlington, MA 02476.

More information about the committee's activities, along with photos, can be found at the Reservoir Committee website: www.arlingtonreservoir.org, where you can also join the Reservoir email list.

David White for the Reservoir Committee of Envision Arlington



Res Garden Work Day Crew – April 28, 2018
Photo by David White