

Arlington Reservoir Committee

Envision Arlington Environmental Group

2019 Annual Report

2019 was a busy year for the Arlington Reservoir Committee. The Wildlife Habitat Garden had its ninth 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 its clean-up projects and other programs.

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.

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. The project has now moved on into the implementation phases.

CPA funding for phase 1 of the Master Plan work was approved by Town Meeting in 2018. Work is underway at the pump house and for piping at the Beach. A pilot trail restoration project on the dirt path next to LexFarm is planned for 2020. The goals for the future phases of the Master Plan are to address some of the broader environmental issues. Additional funding must be found, and grant options are being explored. Public documents related to the Master Plan 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 2019 we had \$200 in donations and expenses of \$188 for a year-end balance of \$1,867. 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



Google at the Arlington Reservoir, removing water chestnut. Photo: MyRWA