David White, Precinct 21

I am submitting as supplemental material for Article 76, Water Bodies Fund Allocation, the Water Bodies Annual Report for 2025.

The annual reports and other materials since 2015 are available on the Town website at: https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/boards-and-committees/conservation-commission/projects

2025 WATER BODIES ASSESSMENT AND REPORT

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Snow on Ice at Spy Pond - December 2025 (photo by B. Eykamp)

Final Draft - 2/12/26

Table of Contents

2025 OVERVIEW

The Arlington Conservation Commission (ACC), through its Water Bodies Working Group (WBWG), continued the assessment and selective treatment of water bodies in the Town of Arlington, which include five lakes and ponds and nine streams. A majority of these are negatively impacted by polluted runoff and stormwater discharges due to the highly urban nature of Arlington and surrounding towns. Most of these water bodies also have excessive aquatic invasive plants that degrade water quality and ecological integrity, impede recreational use, and degrade aesthetics. In determining which water bodies could benefit from management measures using Town funding, the WBWG considered the following factors:

1. Water bodies that are in generally good shape, do not need much help, or whose issues are being addressed by other agencies or funding sources, e.g., Upper & Lower Mystic Lakes and Mystic River
2. Water bodies with some issues that could benefit from directed intervention, e.g. Spy Pond, Arlington Reservoir, Hills Pond, McClennen Park Detention Ponds (Reeds Brook)
3. Water bodies that are in poor shape with many issues that need major efforts and additional funding to improve, e.g. Mill Brook and Alewife Brook.

Although chemical treatment of several water bodies is often necessary to control aquatic invasives and harmful algal blooms, the WBWG is focused on obtaining the appropriate data to develop comprehensive proactive management plans for Spy Pond, Arlington Reservoir, Hills Pond, and the McClennen pond. Our goal is to develop management plans where chemical use is only one step in concert with strategies to reduce nutrient inputs to the water bodies, remove and manage the spread of aquatic invasives through non-chemical means, and investigate opportunities to restore native aquatic plant communities.

Also a number of water bodies in Arlington (Spy Pond, Hills Pond, Mill Brook, Alewife Brook and the Mystic Lakes) are considered impaired by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) and are included in the town's Stormwater Management Plan managed by the Arlington Department of Public Works (DPW). The focus of that program is to reduce nutrient loadings that can detrimentally affect water quality. There are a number of ongoing projects to reduce the nutrients impacting those resources.

Excessive nutrients are the primary cause of poor water body health. They lead to excessive algal growth, harmful cyanobacterial blooms, and reduced oxygen content for aquatic life. The primary nutrient of concern in urban areas is Phosphorus, generally associated with stormwater runoff.

WORKING GROUP GOALS

The focus of the Water Bodies Working Group is to identify management objectives for Arlington's water bodies. We have structured this in three levels as a) public goals, b) management goals, and c) specific management actions for each water body. We discuss later in this report the specific action recommendations for each water body.

A) Overall Public Goals

1. Open water environment for general enjoyment, boating, and fishing
2. Healthy aquatic habitats for native vegetation and organisms including fish and wildlife

B) Management Goals

1. Control of invasive aquatic plants and harmful algae
2. Control/management of excessive nutrients
3. Minimizing the use of chemicals harmful to native plants and wildlife

C) Management Actions

1. Regular monitoring of conditions
2. Specific goals to be determined for each water body

Based on the 2024 experiences, the WBWG identified the following priority locations for 2025:

- **Arlington Reservoir**
- **Hill's Pond**
- **Mill Brook**
- **McClennen Park Detention Ponds**
- **Spy Pond**
- **Alewife Brook**
- **Mystic River**

ARLINGTON RESERVOIR

Arlington Reservoir is a Town-owned water body on the Arlington-Lexington border. The total surrounding land and reservoir area owned by Arlington is about 65 acres and the water body itself is about 28 acres. The major ongoing problem is with invasive water chestnut plants that form dense, impenetrable mats at the water's surface, which impair public use and water quality. These plants have been harvested to some degree every summer for many years.

Mechanical water chestnut harvesting was carried out for three weeks during the summer of 2025 by the contractor New England Aquatics. This work covered nearly all of the Reservoir except for some shallow northern areas near LexFarm. The quantity of plant material harvested was 101 tons. This is less than the 135 tons harvested last year though the harvesting was carried out for an additional week, i.e. three vs. two. This quantifies the reduction in plant abundance observed in 2025 compared to 2024, and indicates a reduction in the water chestnut seed bank. With continuing harvesting efforts the plant seed bank and plant growth should decline over time as it has on the Mystic River.

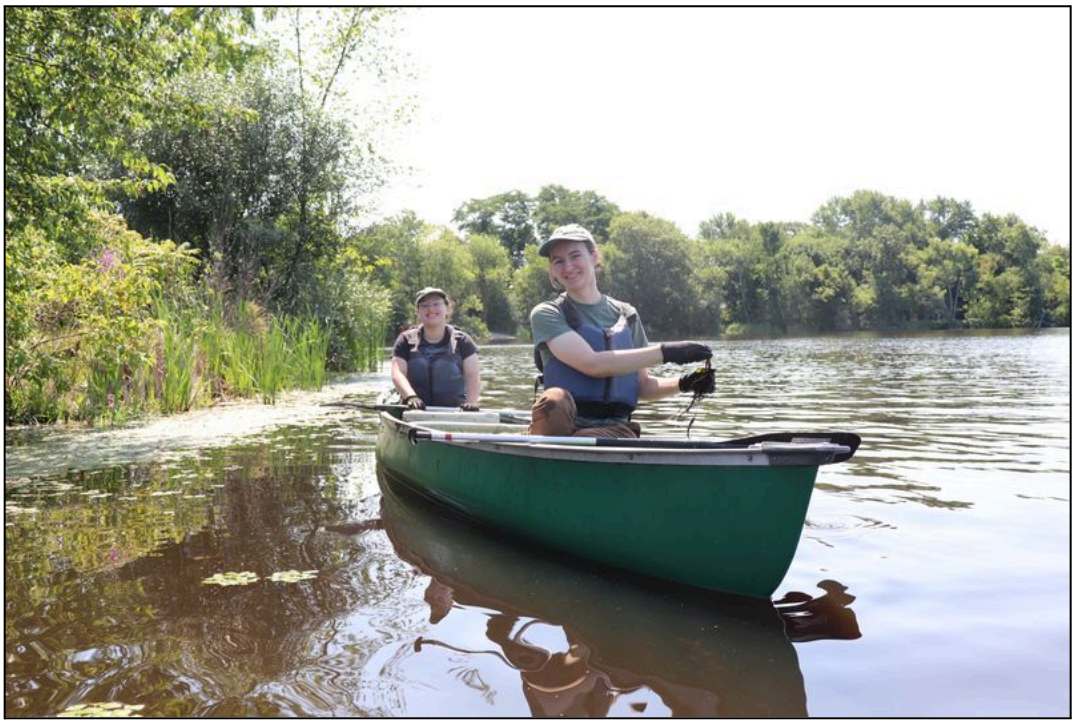
After mechanical harvesting, new water chestnut plants appeared on the surface as they grew up from seeds on the bottom. This occurs each year. As more plants are mechanically and hand harvested before they drop their seeds, the plant seed bank will shrink. Then, year-after-year, we will require less mechanical and hand harvesting. Another advantage of harvesting the water chestnuts is that it removes nutrients from the Reservoir, Mill Brook, and the Mystic Lake.

Volunteers organized by the Reservoir Committee and the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) continued hand-harvesting throughout the summer of 2025 from canoes. Altogether there were 9 harvesting events with about 160 volunteers who collected over 800 baskets of plants . This is about half as much as was harvested last year indicating a decline in the plant growth. The combination of mechanical and volunteer hand harvesting seems to be working to reduce water chestnut infestation. We plan to schedule more mechanical harvesting and hand harvesting in 2026 and hope to see a further reduction in water chestnuts.

Controlling water chestnuts is a long term process because these are annual plants which grow each year from seeds in the sediments. However those seeds can remain viable for many years. Therefore, it is important to remove as much of the new seed producing growth as possible each year. If only a partial job is done then one can keep harvesting similar volumes of new plants indefinitely. It's worth noting here that MyRWA has been harvesting water chestnut plants on the Mystic River for years and have now reached the point where fewer volunteers are needed. This means more volunteers are available now for the Reservoir.

Patrick Herron, the Director of Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), which has been harvesting water chestnut plants in the Mystic River for many years, has said that half measures are useless as many new plants keep coming back. If you can do near 100% cleanup then you can bring the work and the costs way down in a few years. The costs then continue to decline as the seed bank in the sediment may continue to yield new plants for as many as the next 15 years. This is illustrated by the decline in the Mystic River water chestnut harvesting.

Water Chestnuts are not the only threat to the Res. This year we also had a water quality assessment carried out for the Res. It's not great news, but neither is it a disaster. Phosphorus is quite high, resulting in eutrophication, and exposing us to risk of harmful algal blooms. The water chestnut harvesting is likely keeping Phosphorous levels in check, but once the harvesting is reduced we may have other problems including other invasive plants and algae blooms. We are considering further evaluations, including sediment analysis and more water quality monitoring. We might want to consider a treatment regime like we've done at Hills Pond or get more ambitious and think about restoring some aquatic vegetation.



Volunteers hand harvesting water chestnuts at the Reservoir - August 2, 2025

Our recommendation is for continued mechanical harvesting of the water chestnuts at the Reservoir, to be supplemented by volunteer efforts. We have actually seen a significant decline in the harvest volumes this year.

We also recommend a monitoring program for the Reservoir (as we have now for Spy Pond and Hill's Pond). This will allow us to better understand the current invasive plant and water quality status and plan future actions. The Reservoir, despite invasive plants, continues to be a healthy environment for fish, turtles, muskrats and many birds. It is also a popular birding spot in Arlington with the most observed species in town.

<u>Reservoir Recommendations/Priorities for 2026</u>

- Arrange for timely and complete mechanical harvesting of water chestnuts and continue to support the volunteer hand harvesting efforts.
- Institute a water quality and invasive plant monitoring program for the Reservoir.

HILL'S POND

Water & Wetland was contracted to manage Hill's Pond in the heavily used Menotomy Rocks Park, which suffers from water quality and invasive plant problems. A major contributor to the problems is phosphorus nutrients from runoff with fertilizers and animal waste. Actions were taken this year to measure and control those nutrients. The maintenance regime was moderately successful through the summer months. A harmful algae bloom happened at the end of September and was quickly eradicated by cooler temperatures and did not require chemical treatment. The WBWG will continue to have the pond regularly tested for harmful algae to help prevent closures in 2026.

The Conservation Commission recommends continuing aeration, strictly limiting polluting activities near the pond or in areas that drain into the pond, maintaining a no-mow vegetated buffer strip around the pond four to ten feet wide of grass or natural vegetation, and low-dose chemical treatments with aquatic herbicides to control algae and other detrimental water plants. Monthly site visits with proactive treatments through the summer of 2025 proved successful in reducing invasives.

Also of concern at Hills Pond (and elsewhere) is the injury of wildlife by discarded fishing line and gear. The Conservation Commission has been working with others to help remediate the problem.

Hill's Pond Recommendations/Priorities for 2026

- Monitor and investigate options to maintain a healthier water body. This will include maintenance of the four aeration pumps and establishment of a no-mow buffer strip around the pond.
- Consider possible measures to reduce phosphorus nutrient levels.
- Update permitting for next three years of treatment.
- Regularly test for the presence of cyanobacteria.

MILL BROOK

Mill Brook's water quality grade moved down from a D+ in 2023 to a D in 2024 (EPA/MyRWA Water Quality Report: https://mysticriver.org/epa-grade/[1]). The grade has stayed in the D+ to C- range for the last decade. Mill Brook's poor water quality grade is basically due to stormwater runoff; however, the possibility of illicit discharges are also being investigated by the Department of Public Works (DPW). Where not channelized, the brook and its adjacent shore provide valuable wildlife habitat and opportunities for nature views.

Work at Wellington Park to create more flood storage and improve the habitat value in Mill Brook was completed in 2022. Maintenance of this area is however an ongoing concern. Future projects that will improve Mill Brook's resource area values include a redesign of Cooke's Hollow, and possible bank and channel restoration work adjacent to the Reservoir and Hurd Field.

[1] The EPA water quality grades are based solely on coliform bacteria exceedance frequency and do not consider other water quality factors.

The Water Bodies Working Group released a survey to collect name suggestions for No Name Brook, a brook that runs along the Minuteman Bikeway in the Heights and connects to Mill Brook. This waterway was likely constructed or rechanneled as a drainage ditch for the railroad. Over 500 name suggestions were submitted, and the Water Bodies Working Group narrowed down the list to a few options. The Conservation Commission ultimately voted for Menotomy Brook as the new name for No Name Brook and recommended the name change to the Select Board.

A Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant was awarded in 2024 for two feasibility studies and preliminary design concepts for Mill Brook and Menotomy (formerly No Name) Brook, which runs alongside the Minuteman Bikeway. The specific location for the CPA project is in the upper reach of the brook near Arlington Reservoir. The principal goal was to identify and design bank stabilization interventions using green infrastructure, which will improve habitat, water quality, and climate resilience. The Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, and Department of Planning and Community Development hired Hatch consulting engineers to perform the preliminary analysis, looking at options for managing stormwater and flooding as well as improving the brooks' natural features. A public forum was held in September to share the findings of the study. Some of the possibilities mentioned in the report include bank stabilization, invasive plant control, creation of flood water storage areas, and flow improvement.

A 40B project permitted in 2023 at 1021-1025 Massachusetts Avenue began work in 2025 and will create an urban forest within the riverfront area of Mill Brook to enhance the riparian habitat adjacent to the brook at this location.

<u>Mill Brook Recommendations/Priorities for 2026</u>

- Pursue restoration of Mill Brook between the Reservoir and Hurd Field with CPA funds.
- Continue to support the redesign of Cooke's Hollow.
- Pursue funding for Meadowbrook Park redesign.
- Evaluate ways to minimize stormwater runoff contaminants.

McCLENNEN PARK DETENTION PONDS ON REEDS BROOK

The Department of Planning and Community Development completed a survey of the McClennen Park detention pond that addressed how the pond's original goals to improve water quality and mitigate downstream flooding are being accomplished. In September 2025, the Department hosted a public forum to discuss these findings and proposals for improvements.

The Assessment Report, prepared by Weston and Sampson, found that the detention pond was designed as a stormwater structure to reduce downstream flooding, with a design depth of only three feet, but in the twenty years since it was built, the pond has accumulated a foot or more of fine sediments. The pond is still fulfilling its purpose of managing stormwater despite the sediments. However, the secondary outlet that lowers the water level after a storm is clogged and does not drain properly. The Assessment Report recommended installing sediment control structures on the incoming storm drains, allowing the ongoing water flow to flush out the sediments once they stop accumulating in the pond.

Water levels in the pond have been observed not to decrease after storm events as they should. In November 2025, the pond level was still observed to be high, indicating that the secondary outlet was still not functioning correctly. The high water level has killed the trees that once grew on the internal berm. The Water Bodies Working Group discussed contacting DPW to request repair to the secondary outlet, and contacting the neighbors to find out what their thoughts and priorities are for the pond.

The report did not find the detention basin to be responsible for local flooding issues, which are more likely associated with high groundwater levels. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has been engaged in finding solutions. 'No Mow Area' signs were created for the vegetated buffer area surrounding the detention pond.

<u>McClennen Recommendations/Priorities for 2026</u>

- Install sediment control structures on incoming storm drains to the detention pond to address sedimentation issues and follow up on DPW maintenance activities.
- Work with DPW to unclog the secondary outlet to allow for proper drainage after storm events.
- Seek opinions from neighbors on priorities for the detention pond.
- Continue supporting volunteer groups for invasive plant control and to enhance native vegetation and habitat.

SPY POND

Spy Pond is a 103 acre kettle hole pond in East Arlington with two basins and a 40 acre littoral zone. Its northeastern shore features Spy Pond Park, Boys and Girls Club, and Scannell Field. Spy Pond is a popular destination for walking, birding, picnics, fishing, boating, rowing, and sailing. It is one of Arlington's most heavily used open spaces for recreation. Left untreated, invasive plants and algae impair recreational use.

Spy Pond has a 100-year history of excessive algae and invasive aquatic plants. The land surrounding the pond now is mostly managed landscape where once it was farms. Runoff from this land combined with stormwater outlets and thick sediment beds contributes to nutrient loading and low oxygen levels.

From a water body management perspective there are many issues associated with Spy Pond.

1. **Invasive Aquatic Plants**
   The invasive plants of current concern are curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, and brittle naiad. These plants can cover the water surface and impair aquatic activities. Early proactive treatment is best (April-May for pondweed and milfoil, June-July for brittle naiad). In past years treatment has happened late and damaged native plants.
2. **Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB)**
   Excessive nutrients and other factors can result in harmful algae blooms (HAB) that close the pond to public use. Algae needs regular monitoring and timely treatment.
3. **Excessive nutrients**
   The pond has excessive nutrients - especially phosphorus from decayed plant material in the sediments and stormwater runoff. Proactive control of rooted invasive plants reduces the chance of them becoming established. Chemical control with alum that binds to the nutrients and settles to the bottom has been used in the past. A wetland area is an alternative approach but there are few locations along the shore for such a feature.
4. **Lack of native aquatic plants**
   The combination of invasive plants and the chemical herbicide treatments has pretty much eliminated native aquatic plants. We are looking into restocking with native plants from other sources.
5. **Protected species along the shore**
   An endangered plant species, Engelmann's flatsedge, grows along the shore of the pond. Special precautions and a plant survey are conducted before using herbicide on aquatic plants. This is an additional requirement and cost for pond management.
6. **Shoreline problems**
   There are both shoreline erosion problems and invasive plants growing along the shore. The most troublesome plants are phragmites, common buckthorn, purple loosestrife, and oriental bittersweet which, unless controlled, will expand to cover more of the shoreline. Phragmites have been treated this year by Essex Horticulture.

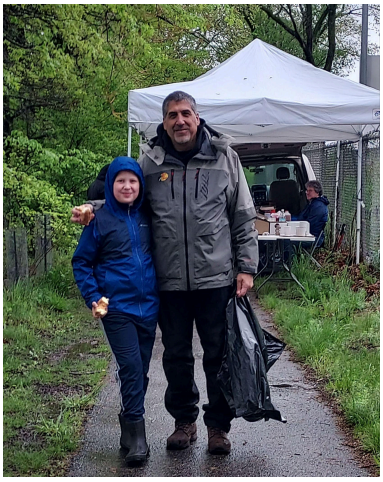
All of these factors complicate and increase the expense of managing Spy Pond.

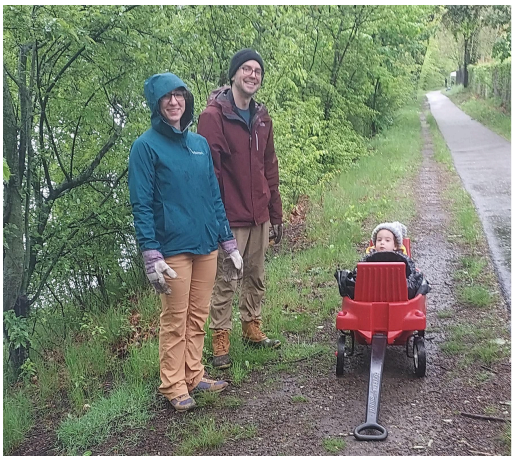
<u>Recent Activities</u>

For the first time in several years, Spy Pond had a foot of snow-covered ice from mid-January into February. Eagles feasted on gizzard shad, a fairly recent arrival to Spy Pond. Fishing line remains an issue. In early November a screech owl was rescued by Belmont Animal Control and Arlington DPW after hanging upside down above Spy Pond. Fortunately the owl was treated by Tufts Wildlife Clinic and released to the Alewife Reservation. We cleared the shoreline of fishing line and lures. Sadly the male swan who made Spy Pond his home for many years has moved on. The new pair of swans will hopefully return next year.

In May, Water and Wetland and SWCA Environmental treated Spy Pond for curlyleaf pondweed. In September, Essex Horticultural treated two stands of phragmites, the remnants of two acres of phragmites from 2009.

Friends of Spy Pond had well received tables at Ecofest and Arlington Town Day. Budding liminologists at Fun Day for Spy Pond Park how rake toss gives you eyes underwater. They found a narrow band of native thinleaf pondweed (*P. pusilus*) growing offshore of north beach near the boat ramp.





Many volunteers joined us for Trails Day 2025 despite the chilly and wet weather. Though bedraggled four hours later, everyone was pleased with the cleanup of the Rt. 2 path.

Friends of Spy Pond Park (FSPP)

Since 2020, to reduce stormwater runoff into Spy Pond and stabilize the shoreline, one hundred+ FSPP volunteers have planted 43 shrubs and several flowering plants. This year, they planted two Fragrant Sumac in Bed 8, behind the stone wall and two Christmas Ferns in Bed 2. The shrubs have a better survival rate because their woody stems hold up better through the winter.

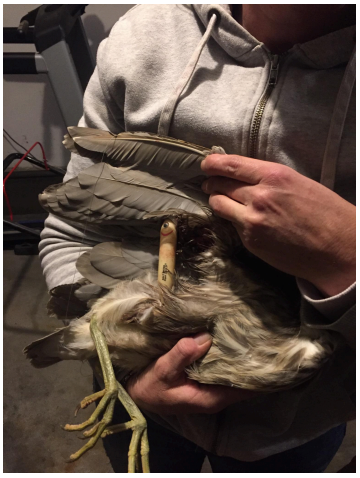
An agreement with a landscaping? contractor fell through, so FSPP will plant more in 2026. Most plantings over the last 5 years are doing well. For details see Spy Pond Park Shoreline Plantings 2020-2025. In addition, an ambitious volunteer planted many native flowering plant seeds in the planting beds. We look forward to seeing what new flowers bloom in spring and summer 2026.

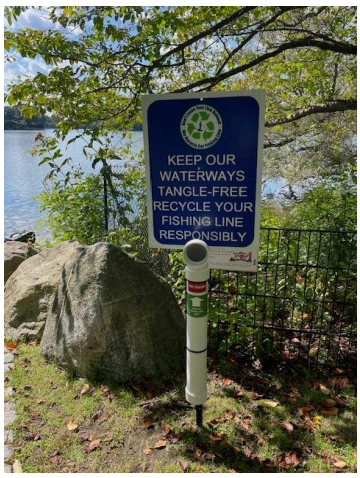
This year, April through October, approximately 75 volunteers worked hard to remove approximately 80% of the pervasive invasive plants. They dug out several invasive saplings, mostly mulberry, false indigo, and a

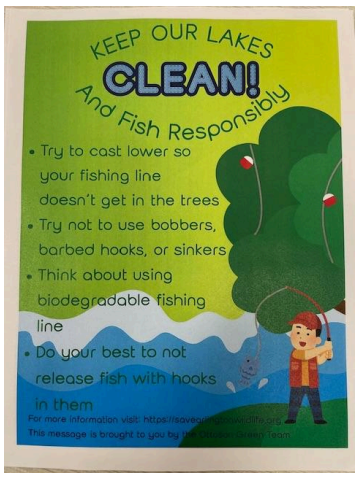
buckthorn. There was an abundance of invasive vines in almost all the beds to remove. Some of the vines were smothering plants - both invasive and native plants. This year, the most pervasive vine in the Park was Japanese Honeysuckle (JH) that twists its way around plants and begins to strangle them.

The FSPP Stewardship Team was involved in other activities. They also groomed the park and playground, keeping them litter free April-November, limiting pond pollution. It has been a challenge to keep leaves from decaying at the edge of Linwood Beach and mixing with miscellaneous debris. To educate the public, FSPP published 3 newsletters, distributing them online and in Arlington libraries. With Fun Day (supported by 35+ volunteers for 500 participants), newsletters, and numerous activities, FSPP encourages families to understand the importance of respecting the environment and enjoying nature around Spy Pond. At the end of the Fun Day festival, a first-time volunteer said, ***"This is the kind of event that gives me hope for the human race!"*** Yes, a community coming together to show kids a good time, in a well-cared-for natural environment, with live musicians and with lots of volunteers and parents helping children connect with nature and crafts… What could be better?

FSPP advocated for fishing line dispensers that the DPW installed. However, they were subsequently vandalized and have to be reinstalled. Discarded fishing line remains a problem to wildlife in Spy Pond and other Arlington waterbodies. The Ottoson School Green Team has posted flyers on our bulletin boards to address this issue.







At FSPP Annual Meetings, David Morgan has and will discuss above issues presenting us in '25 &'26.

<u>Spy Pond Recommendations/Priorities for 2026</u>

- Maintain the pathway between Route 2 and Spy Pond.
- A 2026 treatment plan with proactive treatment of invasives – curlyleaf pondweed late April or early May and brittle naiad early July.
- Monitor Spy Pond for fishing line in trees, water chestnuts, and before potential problems.
- Restore native aquatic plants to Spy Pond.
- Assist the Arlington Historical Society with a coring study of Spy Pond sediments.
- Monitor leaf and debris accumulation at the water's edge of Spy Pond Park.
- Work with Friends of Spy Pond Park, DPW, and Town's Environmental Planner and Conservation

Agent to augment volunteer involvement in Spy Pond Park to remove invasive growth and restore native vegetation.

- Work with the Town to maintain fishing line dispensers, educate anglers and the public about the life-threatening results of fishing line and hook entanglements on water birds and other wildlife, and disseminate recommendations of plantings along the shoreline to combat erosion.
- Monitor maintenance of the catchbasins and rain gardens in Spy Pond Park and near Spy Pond that collect and filter stormwater runoff.

ALEWIFE BROOK

This stream runs along the eastern border of Arlington in the DCR Alewife Greenway Reservation. The greenway includes pedestrian and bicycle paths from the Alewife T station in Cambridge up to the Mystic River in Medford. The greenway includes many native plants and provides a wildlife corridor and habitat, but also has many invasive plants as well. The EPA Water Quality Grade of Alewife Brook in 2023 remained at a D level for the last decade (https://mysticriver.org/epa-grade/).

However the EPA Water Quality Grade does not represent the most significant problem which are sewage discharges from the Combined Sewer Outlets (CSO). These CSOs release untreated sewage into the brook from Cambridge and Somerville in moderate to large storm events. Other contributing factors are contamination from the upstream Little River and the collected sediments in the brook itself.

A big problem are flood events when sewage contaminated water overtops the banks and flows onto adjacent land. Approximately 5,000 people live in the 100 year floodplain. This is a problem which requires a regional solution involving the adjacent towns and the state. A local activist group **Save the Alewife Brook** (StAB) was formed in 2021 to address these issues https://savethealewifebrook.org/. The Arlington Select Board has been active in pushing for solutions.

The parties responsible for the CSOs along the Alewife Brook are the Cities of Cambridge and Somerville, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Arlington has a totally separated sewer system and thus no CSOs. These parties are involved in a regulatory process with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) to develop a new Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) for Alewife Brook. It is expected that this will result in water quality improvements and hopefully the closure or treatment of the remaining CSOs. The public is encouraged to participate in this process. Information can be found at the MWRA https://www.mwra.com/03sewer/html/sewcso.htm , Cambridge https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/publicworks/cityprojects/2022/updatedcombinedseweroverflowcsocontrolplan and Somerville https://www.somervillema.gov/cso websites.

Alewife Brook Recommendations/Priorities for 2026

- Implement additional green stormwater structures in East Arlington with the assistance of a $40,000 earmark grant from DCR. (See also the Mystic River section below.)
- Work with DPW in implementing additional measures to improve stormwater runoff.
- Support efforts for a new CSO Long Term Control plan that eliminates untreated CSO discharges into the brook.

MYSTIC RIVER

On-the-ground improvements to the Mystic River water quality are led primarily by the Mystic River Watershed Association and other volunteer groups. The EPA water quality grading of "B" for the Mystic River in 2024 was the same as for the prior year (https://www.epa.gov/mysticriver/mystic-river-watershed-report-cards). The grades are calculated based solely on the percentage of days that bacteria levels at each of the sampling sites meet Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) water quality standards for swimming and boating. The freshwater portion of the Mystic River was in compliance with DEP standards 78.6% of the time in 2024.

Over the years, Arlington's DPW has taken a watershed approach to improve contributing stormwater quality by installing green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and infiltration trenches. Rain gardens and infiltration trenches have been constructed in East Arlington to filter pollutants out of stormwater before its discharge to the Mystic River and Alewife Brook.

This work is managed by the DPW and has in past years been funded through Section 604b Water Quality Management Grants and Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), as well as Coastal Pollutant Remediation Grants from the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). Since 2018, the DPW has installed ninety-seven (97) infiltration trenches which are shown in the following graphic. To date, nearly all trenches have been installed in East Arlington due to the optimal soil conditions present in that section of Town. These efforts led the Town of Arlington to be recognized in May 2023 as the winner of the "2022 New England Stormy Award" by the New England Stormwater Collaborative.

Mystic River Recommendations/Priorities for 2026

- Continue to support DPW in implementing measures to improve stormwater runoff, which has a significant impact on water quality in these locations.
- Work with the Mystic to Minuteman Bikeway team to identify improvements, such as outfall restorations, that can improve water quality in the Mystic River and serve as mitigation for work along the River.

CONCLUSIONS

The Water Bodies Working Group has collected information for all the water bodies evaluated in support of this report. All water body recommendations for actions and funding will be reviewed on an annual basis.

It has been challenging to manage our town water bodies in times of extreme weather and we have increasingly been faced with harmful algal blooms (Hills Pond), flooding, and the impact of CSOs (Alewife Brook). The WBWG is focused on continued monitoring and improvement of aquatic management to minimize these negative effects and improve these water bodies for the enjoyment of the community and the health of the environment.

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in caring for Arlington's water bodies including the Spy Pond Committee, Friends of Spy Pond Park, Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park, the Reservoir Committee, the Department of Public Works, the Park and Recreation Commission, the Mystic River Watershed Association, and many others.

NEXT STEPS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The individual actions and priorities are described above in the sections for each water body.

FUNDING

This work is made possible by the Water Bodies Fund which is supported by the Town, plus other sources, as listed for each water body. Detailed financial information is found in the budget which is submitted to the Finance Committee and the Town Meeting each year.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Water Bodies Working Group of the Arlington Conservation Commission:

Beverly Cadorette, Spy Pond Committee
Michelle Durocher, Town Meeting liaison for McClennen Park Ponds
David Kaplan, Conservation Commissioner
Ellen Reed, Friends of Menotomy Rocks
Kylee Foley, Health Department
Carolyn White, Finance Committee
David White, Conservation Commissioner, Reservoir Committee
David Morgan, Conservation Agent

The WBWG thanks the members of the WBWG for preparing this report, with additional contributions from Brad Barber, Karen Grossman, and Susan Chapnick. Also thanks the Arlington Conservation Commission for overseeing our work.