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Robbins Farm Almanac . . . the newsletter of the Friends of Robbins Farm Park
With Your Support -- New Slides are On The Way!

By Barry Russell

As you will undoubtedly notice, the two, 50-foot-long hill slides in the playground area of the park have disappeared! FORFP board members had been discussing ways to make repairs since last season, but the slides rapidly became too damaged to repair over the winter. This spring, after consulting with several landscape professionals, Town officials decided that the slides and their support structures had to be removed for safety reasons.

Now there is a hole where one of the best features of the park used to be, and we need your help. The Town of Arlington does not have the funds to replace the slides without additional financial support. Preliminary estimates by equipment vendors show that this custom installation will be expensive! Knowing that there are many friends of this beautiful park and playground, the Friends of Robbins Farm Park has decided to launch a fundraising campaign to ensure that the missing slides are replaced soon with safer, more durable

new slides.

Bids for new slides cannot be accepted until the start of the Town's fiscal year on July 1, 2011, but fundraising can begin now!

On Monday, May 9 at 6:30 pm the Arlington Park and Recreation Commission will hold a public meeting at the Senior Center. Landscape architect Andrew Leonard will present his plan and a preliminary budget. Please come to this meeting if you have thoughts to contribute or would like more information.

Please be on the lookout for a letter or e-mail from us and consider sending in a tax-deductible donation by check. You can also make a credit card donation on our website at www.robbsfarmpark.org. Board member Barry Russell has agreed to chair the fundraising committee for the slide, and if you would like to be part of the process by volunteering that would be very much appreciated as well. Please contact her at 617-256-1032 or at dgbyruss@rcn.com to join the fundraising committee. Or write to us at slide@robbsfarmpark.org.

See page 2 for a donation form.

Park and Playground Update

This past winter, the FORFP Board said "farewell" to long-time hard working board member Jen Rothenberg and wished her well in her work on the Park and Recreation Commission.

Three new red maple trees have been supplied by the Town of Arlington for FORFP volunteers to plant and water in the lower playground area. These maples will provide shade near the picnic tables. They will be sited carefully to avoid blocking the view.

Photo (left) red maple tree

The Robbins Farm Garden project has once again been approved by the Park and Recreation Commission, the administrator of the program. Last year's pilot program was successful, and this year the garden has expanded in size to about 30' x 68'. The garden will be open to visitors and will be a learning opportunity for those who visit in person or online at www.robbsfarmgarden.org. Here you can learn the names of the seeds used, the planting schedules, and other useful information. One of the garden's missions is to engage the children, so drop by with your family and see what's sprouting.



FORFP reaffirms recently mandated dog rules and regulations



At a recent board of directors meeting of the Friends of Robbins Farm Park, we discussed the issue of having certain park areas open to dog owners who wish to allow their animals off leash, at specific times of day.

We believe the merits of Warrant Article 36 of the 2010 Town Meeting and the recently mandated rules and regulations allowing for off-leash dogs in the park are proper and reasonable. The Board agreed to fully support these mandates and will endeavor to promote them to users of the park. We believe they are written to consider the concerns of all park users and the neighborhood surrounding the park. These thoughts were communicated via letter to the Board of Selectmen.

The off-leash program is one of a variety of public uses that we feel is in alignment with our mission: to encourage the enhancement, use and preservation of Robbins Farm Park. We recognize that the park should be available for multiple uses and that users should be respectful of all our neighbors.

The Park and Recreation Commission has developed a brochure so that everyone is made aware of the new regulations, which you can find at: www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/Dogs/off-leash_Dog.pdf

Hours for Off-Leash Dogs at Robbins Farm Park

6-9:00am Mon-Fri (7/1-8/31);

6-7:30am Mon-Fri (9/1-6/30)

8:30-9:00am Mon-Fri (9/1-6/30)

6-8:30am Sat & Sun (4/1-6/30 & 9/1-11/15)

6-9:00am Sat & Sun (11/16-3/31 & 7/1-8/31)

Notes: If field is in use for school dept. activity, off-leash activity is allowed behind backstop only. Fields are generally closed to all users in wet weather. To be alerted via e-mail of when parks and fields are closed, subscribe to the Field Conditions Notification e-mail list at www.arlingtonma.gov/subscriber.

SAVE OUR SLIDES! Donation Form

Please cut out and complete this form and mail it along with your donation to:

**Friends of Robbins Farm Park
P.O. Box 750013
Arlington, MA 02475**

I am making a contribution to be used for replacing the hillside slide at Robbins Farm Park

\$20 _____ \$30 _____ \$50 _____ other _____

Make checks payable to FORFP

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

I would like to help with the fundraising campaign – please contact me!

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. FORFP is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

Spring Season—a full line-up of events

By Christian Klein, Events Coordinator

With any luck, winter is finally giving way to spring. The bulbs we planted in the fall are popping up all over the park. With the change in seasons comes summer event planning time! I have been meeting with a few board community members to review our program and determine what we should change for this year. I look forward to seeing all our members and neighbors at our various events over the summer. The full schedule is printed in a tear-away list in this newsletter, but let me leave you with a little taste.

Our Annual Spring Cleaning / Kite Day double-header is at the end of April. Come to the park in the morning to help pave the way towards summer, and get a free kite to decorate and fly in the afternoon. Participants of all ages are very welcome; bring a kite and have fun.

The summer season really gets into gear with the Annual July Fourth Celebration from Robbins Farm! We'll have all your favorites: the John Penny Band, the concert from Boston, and, of course, the fireworks from the Esplanade. Grab your friends and come join the fun!

We are working out the details, but we are hopeful that we will have two or even three concerts at the park this summer.

Shakespeare returns to Robbins Farm this August, with a new troupe and production. This event is cosponsored with the Arlington Center for the Arts and the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park. Please keep an eye out for your invitation to a special fundraising party. Our Movie Night is at the end of August, and I welcome all recommendations.

Boston Baseball Night will be at the end of September, featuring our favorite rivalry. Field Day comes in October, when we host a carnival for all ages by the playground. There will be games, puzzles, food, and all manner of festivities. We wrap up the season with our Fall Cleanup, when we plant the bulbs for next year's beautiful spring flowers.

I am confident it will be a great summer, but it will only happen if we come together as a community to make it happen. Every one of us on the board is a volunteer, and we need all of you to be a volunteer as well. Whether you would like to help with fundraising, planning, advertising, set-up, staffing, clean-up, or any of the other jobs that go into a successful event, we need whatever time you can offer.

Please write to volunteers@robbinsfarmpark.org and let us know that you want to be a part of a summer of stellar events at Robbins Farm Park!



THIS SATURDAY 4/30/11
Spring Clean-Up & Kite Day
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Kite flying in the
afternoon 1:00 to 3:00

Confirm times and dates at
www.robbinsfarmpark.org

Cut out and post on your refrigerator!



- | DATE: | EVENT: |
|----------------|---|
| April 30 (Sat) | Spring Clean-Up & Kite Day
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Kite flying in the afternoon
1:00 to 3:00
Bring rakes, shovels, gloves! |
| June 2 (Thur) | Shakespeare Fundraiser
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Details to follow |
| July 4 (Mon) | Independence Day Celebration
with the spectacular Boston
fireworks on the big screen and
live performance by the John
Penny Band—starts 6:00 pm |
| July 14 (Thur) | Harvard Alumni Jazz Band
6:30 p.m. |
| Aug 7 (Sun) | 5:00 p.m. Shakespeare in the
Park "Measure for Measure"
presented by the New England
Shakespeare Company |
| Aug 13 (Sat) | Rockin' Robbins 6:30 pm
(TO BE CONFIRMED) |
| Aug 27 (Sat) | Saturday Night Flicks — 6:30
A family movie night out,
title to be announced |
| Sept 17 (Sat) | Arlington Town Day
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Visit the FORFP Booth for info,
hats, books, and t-shirts |
| Sept 23 (Fri) | Baseball Night!!
6:30 p.m. Picnic
7:05 p.m. Game Time
An annual event
featuring your favorite
teams on the big screen |
| Oct 22 (Sat) | Field Day—an Annual Tradition!
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. |
| Nov 5 (Sat) | Fall Clean-up and Bulb Planting
9:00 a.m. |





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*Robbins Farm Almanac . . . the newsletter of the
Friends of Robbins Farm Park, Inc.*

e-mail: friends@robbinsfarmpark.org

website: www.robbinsfarmpark.org

Trash! New Carry In, Carry Out Policy at Robbins Farm

Trash barrels! That's where the juice and pizza boxes, empty water bottles, and all manner of waste generated by humans (and the occasional four-legged friend) end up at the park.

Then: It was considered good citizenship to take an extra few steps to locate a trash barrel and pitch the trash, rather than litter. Kids generally learned this "lesson" at home and school.

Now: Consider it your civic duty to "take it with you." The Town's park maintenance budget is severely curtailed, and it is a labor-intense chore to individually tip and replace each barrel. So the Town will not be collecting trash in the off season, and pickups may be less frequent in the summer months. Be prepared, bring a plastic bag, and adopt the new way of "carry in, carry out" at the Park.

This helps keep our park beautiful, clean, and litter free, whatever the season!

Robbins Farm Almanac is a biannual newsletter published by the Friends of Robbins Farm Park. It is also posted on our website in color. We welcome and encourage your suggestions. Please write or e-mail to the attention of the editor. If you would like to become a member, write or e-mail the membership secretary at friends@robbinsfarmpark.org -Judy Leich, Newsletter Editor

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Marlene Rockmore, Vice-President
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Don Kalischer, Membership Sec'y.
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The Friends of Robbins Farm Park, Inc. is a community organization formed to promote the beautification, restoration, improvement and maintenance of Robbins Farm Park in Arlington Heights, Massachusetts.

FORFP is a charitable, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

We sponsor and promote cultural, educational, recreational and other community activities throughout the year. We invite active membership in the organization and seek to represent the Robbins Farm Park community.

Monthly meetings of the Friends of Robbins Farm Park are typically held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Jefferson-Cutter House in Arlington Center. Anyone may attend. Check the web site as occasionally the meeting place changes.

Don't forget to renew your membership to keep receiving the Almanac. Our spring issue contains the Summer Events Calendar.

www.robbinsfarmpark.org