

American Woodcock



Woodcocks are plump, ground-dwelling birds with handsome markings of earth tones and what seems like an impossibly long beak. Typical of prey species, its eyes are located at the sides of its head so that it can see 360 degrees around even when its bill is deep in the mud. Its appearance alone makes it an endearing and charismatic creature.

The woodcocks' courting ritual is one of the joys and mysteries of spring. At dusk and again at dawn beginning in March, the male spirals up 200 feet above the ground with his wings creating a twittering sound on the ascent. He then zig-zags back down to the breeding ground making a "peent" sound. All is quiet for a few minutes until he flies up again, repeating the whole dance sometimes for half an hour or more.

Please do not disturb, or let your dogs disturb, their nesting area (marked on the map) from mid-March through July. Thank you.

FRIENDS
OF



ARLINGTON'S
GREAT MEADOWS

The work of the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows (FoAGM) focuses on three main areas:

- Organize educational and recreational activities such as nature walks and field trips.
- Work on issues such as trail signage, removal of invasive plants, enhancing wildlife habitat, and improving trails.
- Investigate the legal and zoning issues associated with this land, and consider how best to protect it.

Website: www.FoAGM.org

Email: info@FoAGM.org

We welcome your participation!

Those wishing to make a tax-deductible donation can make a check out to "ALT FoAGM Fund" and mail it to FoAGM, Box 492, Arlington, MA 02476.

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Arlington's Great Meadows



➤ Arlington's Great Meadows (AGM) is a 183-acre parcel of land located in east Lexington and is the largest area of undeveloped open space in the Arlington/Lexington area.

➤ AGM has long served as a public open space and offers opportunity for outdoor recreational activities. The Minuteman Bikeway on its southern border provides access at several locations. In addition the ACROSS trails provide connections to other areas such as Whipple Hill and the Arlington Reservoir.

➤ AGM provides a home for local wildlife. To date, 56 species of birds have been found nesting in Great Meadows, 12 species of amphibians and reptiles live there, and over 250 species of plants grow in the wet marsh and uplands.

➤ AGM is a valuable resource for learning about nature and the environment. Students from Arlington and Lexington schools have come on field trips to this area. FoAGM and other groups organize nature walks here as well.

Arlington's Great Meadows

PO Box 492 • Arlington, MA 02476 • info@foagm.org • www.foagm.org



Arlington's Great Meadows is a 183-acre parcel of natural open space owned by Arlington and located in east Lexington. It is the largest piece of undeveloped land in the Arlington / Lexington region. Once a glacial lake, it is now a wet meadow surrounded by uplands created by glacial outwash. Great Meadows was purchased by Arlington in 1871 to serve as a supplementary water storage area, but was only briefly used for that purpose. Part of the Mystic River watershed, it remains a valuable buffer against neighborhood flooding.

Arlington's Great Meadows has long served as public open space and is a popular recreational spot, particularly since the opening of the Minuteman Bikeway on its southern border. It also provides a home for local wildlife. To date, 56 species of birds have been found nesting in Great Meadows, 12 species of amphibians and reptiles live there, and 251 species of plants grow in the wet meadow and uplands.

Legend

