

# Arlington's Plan for Integrating Nature & Community



01.12.25

Friends of Spy Pond Park Annual Meeting

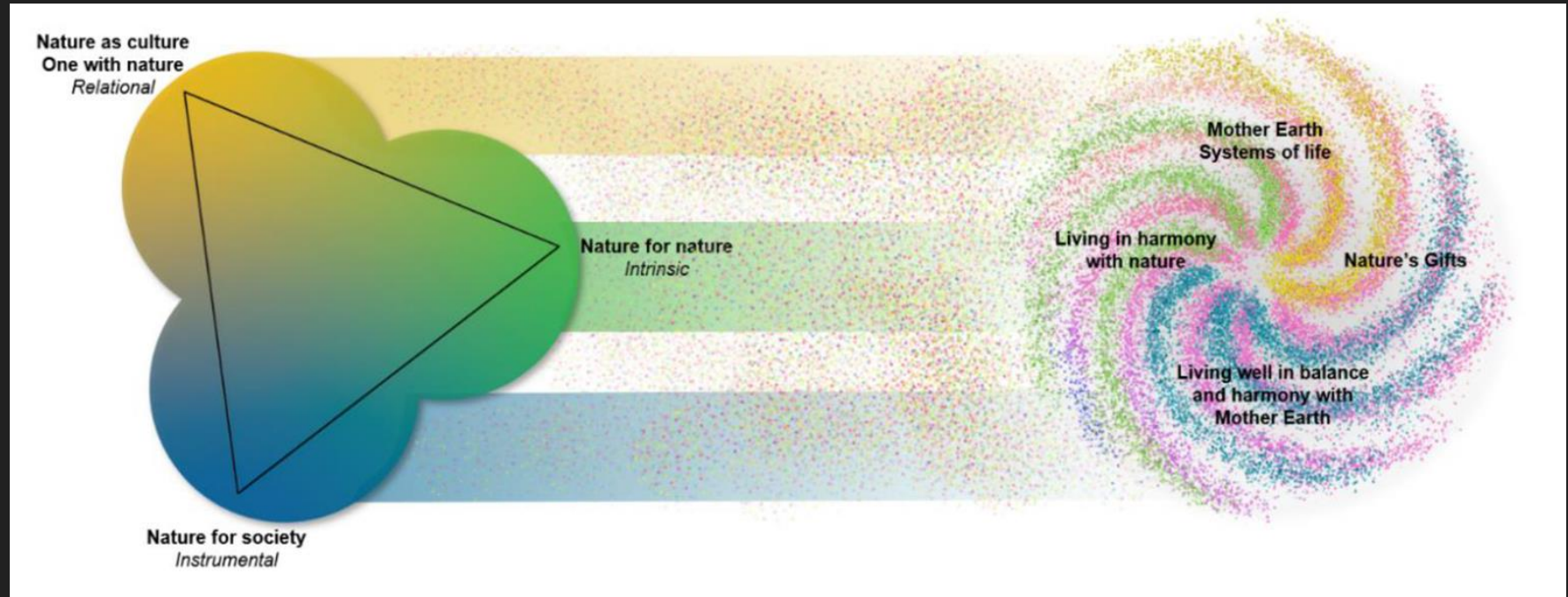
David Morgan – Environmental Planner, Town of Arlington  
Kate Davies – Lecturer, Tufts University  
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# Arlington Nature Futures: A pilot project to develop strategies that make space for people *and* nature

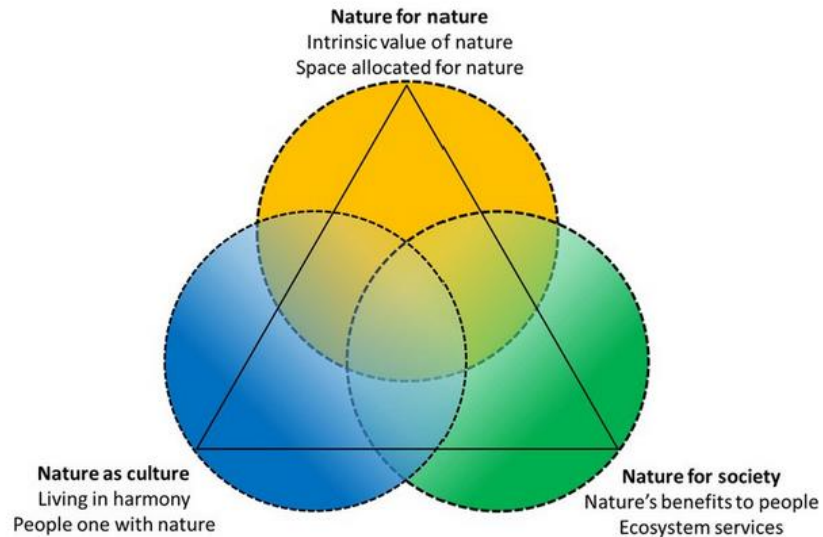
- Understand the range of human-nature relationships valued in Arlington
- Test a new tool for scenario and model development
- Develop scenarios and models that can guide decision making and improve conditions for people and nature
- Identify potential value trade-offs, conflicts, and areas of agreement



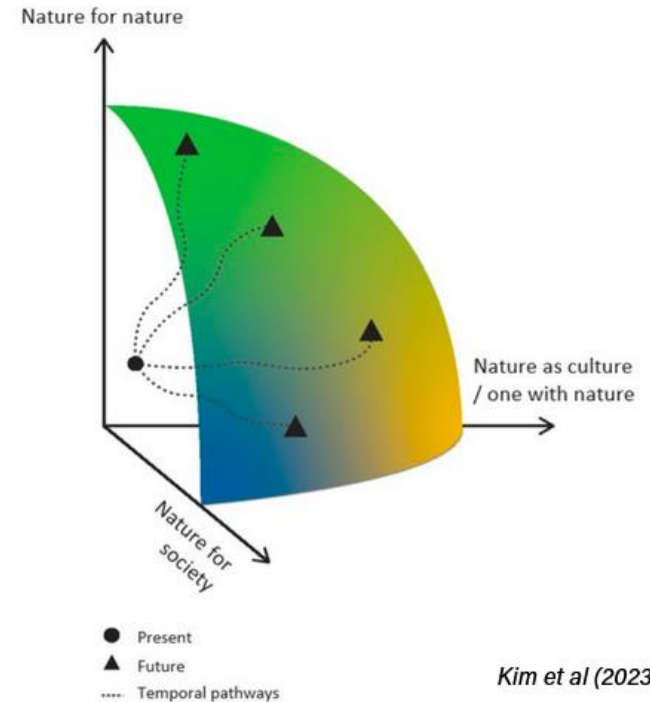
# IPBES & the Nature Futures Framework (NFF)



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*Pereira et al. (2020)*



*Kim et al (2023)*

# Methods

Creating trusted ANF-Town and ANF-Community relations

BioBlitz, Focus Groups, and **Survey Tool**

Qualitative and Quantitative Data

ChatGPT

rStudio

# Some Qualitative Survey Results

## Nature for Nature

- Value native plants, preservation, pollinator health
- Concern for development

## Nature for Society

- Value shade and heat control, space to exercise
- Concern for safety: water quality, traffic concerns, and exposure to heat

## Nature for Culture

- Value socializing, communal activities, and memories of place
- Concerns about loneliness

## Gender

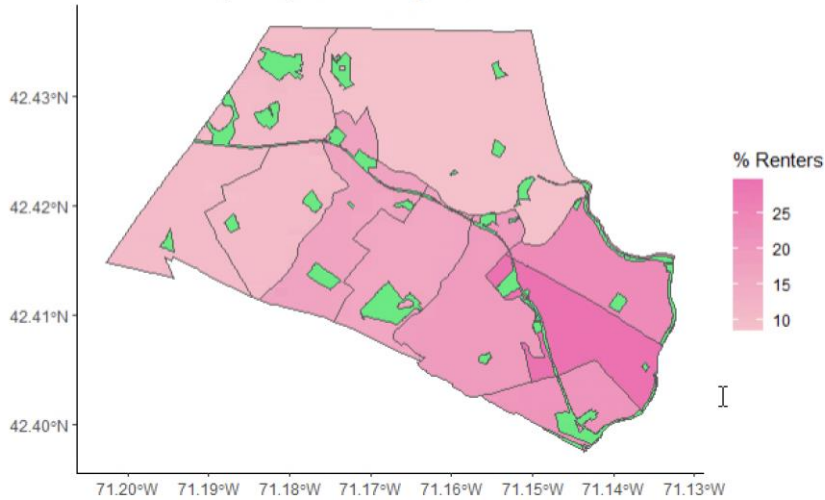
## Residency

## Race

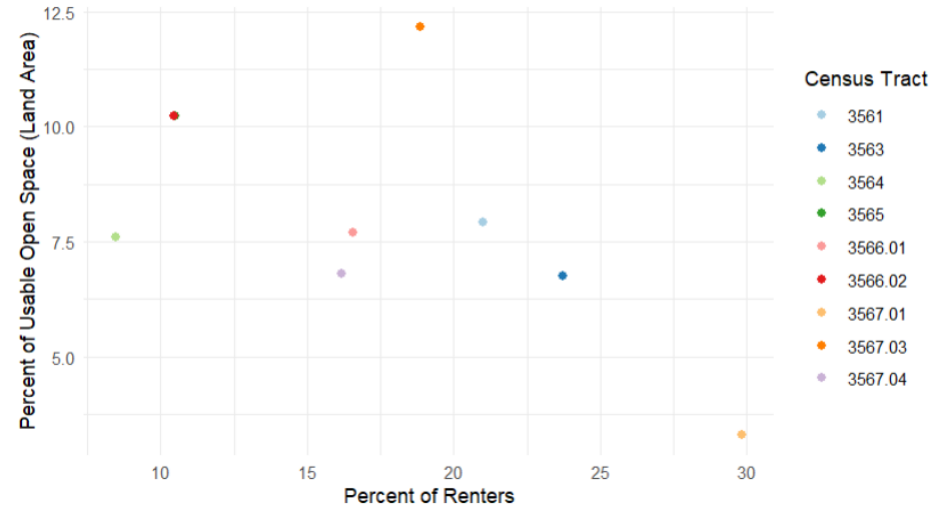
- Renters are less satisfied than homeowners
- Their living situation was sometimes named as a barrier
- Homeowners are more bothered by development

# Some Quantitative Survey Results

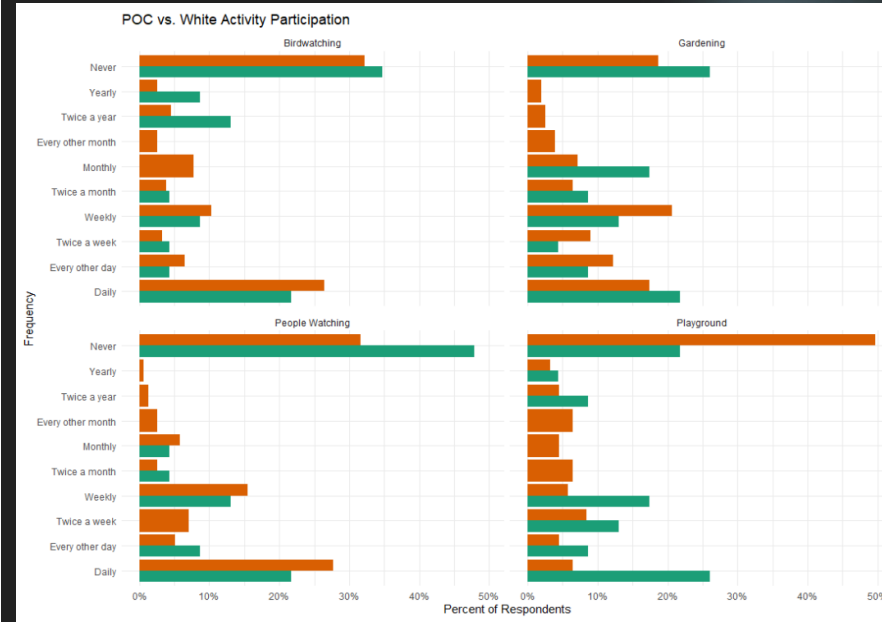
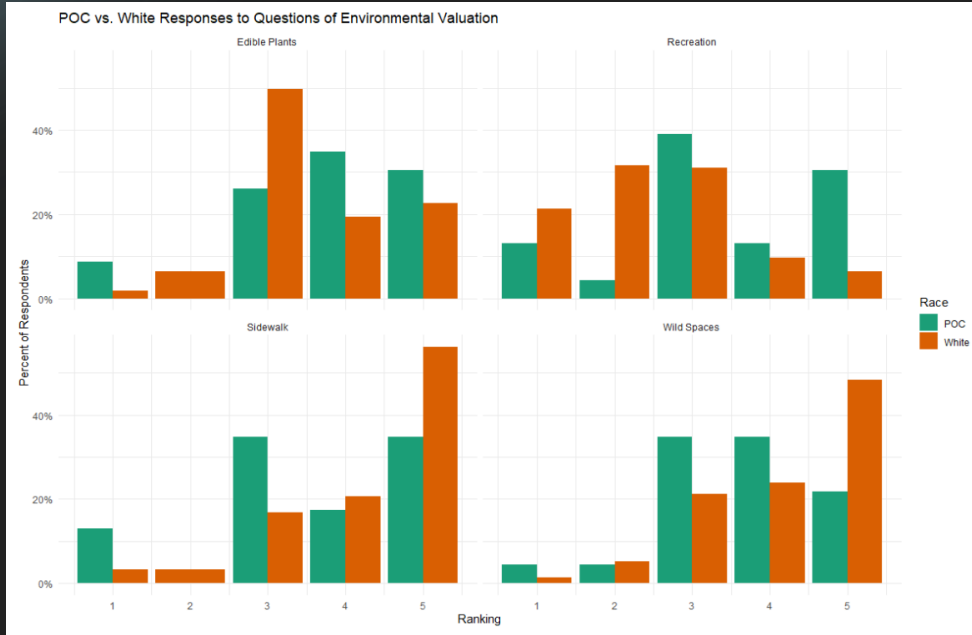
Renter Density by Census Tract Overlaid with Usable Open Space in Arlington, MA



Relationship between Percent Open Space and Percent Renters by Census Tract in Arlington, MA



# Some (more) Quantitative Survey Results





# Some recommendations (so far)

| ST1   | ST2   | MT3  | LT4   | LT5  |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Organize and sponsor nature based clubs for socializing and education | Create a rental and storage system for recreational equipment like bikes, kayaks, and canoes. | Improve water quality in town water bodies | Expand mixed used paths in manicured and non manicured spaces to promote safer walking and biking | Develop new infrastructure to sustainable standards while minimizing open space disruption |



# Going forward

- Connect to a more diverse group of participants
- Organize workshops to bring a range of groups together to discuss possible areas of agreement and conflict
- Develop models and scenarios targeted towards town planning needs
- Share findings in ways that are accessible

Special thanks to Camille Smolkin for her work on the survey!

Questions, comments, or for more information:

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<https://sites.google.com/tufts.edu/arlington-nature-futures/home>