

FORM A
TOWN OF AYER CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST FORM

Parks

FISCAL YEAR: 2022

Please list each capital request on this form with a dollar amount and in the appropriate year. Then complete a Form B for each request appearing on this sheet.

	Item Requested	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
	Basketball Court Rehab			\$80,000		
	Spalsh Park				\$50,000	
	Sandy Pond Beachhouse Rehab					\$300,000
	Access Road/Parking Lot Paving			\$50,000		
	Remediation of Kiddie Junction		\$350,000			
	Sandy Pond Beachhouse Rehab Study				\$25,000	
	Yearly Totals	\$0	\$350,000	\$130,000	\$75,000	\$300,000

Department Head Signature: _____

Date: _____

FORM B
TOWN OF AYER CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST BACKUP DOCUMENTATION

DEPARTMENT:

FISCAL YEAR: 2022

Please provide written explanation and justification and any appropriate backup materials that would be necessary to understand and consider this request.

Fiscal Year of Request: 2023

Item or Project: Remediation of Kiddie Junction

Explanation of Request: Kiddie Junction is a well used playground area at the center of Pirone Park. It was constructed in 1989 as a community project and is a popular location for residents as well as those from out of town. Unfortunately, an EPA study conducted in 2006 found that the wood that the structure is predominately made of contains arsenic, which had leached into the soil. Further research called for by the Parks Department found that the amount of arsenic in the soil was considered "elevated" by EPA standards, but not enough to warrant closing the facility from public use. Concern remains due to potential for continued leeching that would push the arsenic levels beyond elevated, as well as the inevitable deterioration of the wooden structure itself. Also at issue is the disposal of the contaminated soil and wood, which is considered "toxic waste" and requires specific and somewhat costly methods for removal.

Cost Justification: According to the study, removal of the current structure needs to be done professionally by qualified technicians. Replacement structures ideally would be of similar size and scope of the existing one, as well as some enhancements.

Benefit to the Town: As one of the centerpieces of Pirone Park and a social commonplace for families in town, maintaining a play structure of this stature is of paramount importance. There are limited other playground options in town.

Alternative: As for the removal of the current structure, few alternatives exist due to the restrictive nature of disposing of the current materials. Smaller modular structures could be installed in sections to defray costs over time.

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DEPARTMENT: Parks

FISCAL YEAR: 2022

Please provide written explanation and justification and any appropriate backup materials that would be necessary to understand and consider this request.

Fiscal Year of Request: 2024

Item or Project: Basketball Court Rehab

Explanation of Request: The two basketball courts at Pirone Park, which were paved circa 1995, are in need of repair due to the pavement developing cracks and sinkholes. Estimates to repair this require removal of the existing pavement and replacing it with new material. Ideally this would be a paving material more conducive to sports activities than traditional parking lot pavement, which was used in the original design. Additionally, a perimeter fence would keep balls that exit the court from going into the woods or the adjacent road.

Cost Justification: The courts had been resurfaced in 2015, including sealcoating and adding pavement to the sinkhole areas, which was a stopgap solution at best. This procedure would need to be repeated every few years to maintain a bare minimal of safety for public use of the courts. The lack of a fence also presents a safety issue, particularly for younger players.

Benefit to the Town: The basketball courts are regularly used by residents on a daily basis for three seasons of the year. Youth teams have no other guaranteed space to practice due to restrictions at the school gyms. The new courts would add tremendously to the aesthetics of the park, which is a benefit to all home owners' property values.

Alternative: Paving with an inferior, less costly material would save money but would not offer the same benefits as the type of paving used at Sandy Pond and most other recently constructed courts in the area. Continuing to sealcoat and fill in cracks and sinkholes would be a temporary fix, but at some point the courts will need to either be rehabbed or abandoned.

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FISCAL YEAR: 2022

Please provide written explanation and justification and any appropriate backup materials that would be necessary to understand and consider this request.

Fiscal Year of Request: 2024

Item or Project: Access Road/Parking Lot Paving

Explanation of Request: The west section of Pirone Park has a dirt road that gives access to the basketball courts, ball fields, overflow parking, and the only public boat launch to Grove Pond. This road annual develops ruts and potholes that make access to these points difficult, if not near impossible for certain vehicles until repairs are made. We would like to get this road paved as well as paving an area for overflow parking.

Cost Justification: Repairs to the road need to be done annually just to make it passable. This requires labor and resources form the Parks Department and DPW. Patrons have reported bottoming out with their vehicles.

Benefit to the Town: Residents would benefit greatly by having an access to the points listed above without having concern of traversing a dusty and potentially damaging road. It would also create a better overall appearance for the park.

Alternative: Continue with annual repairs to the road. The DPW has been very generous with offering their resources, but are also often limited on when they are available to assist with this, particularly in the spring when the frost heaves have done the most damage and the highway department is at their busiest.

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Please provide written explanation and justification and any appropriate backup materials that would be necessary to understand and consider this request.

Fiscal Year of Request: FY25

Item or Project: Remediation of Sandy Pond Beach House Feasibility Study

Explanation of Request: Sandy Pond Beachhouse is the main building at the town beach and serves as a base for the lifeguards, the concession stand, as well as toilets and changing areas for the public. It has served the town well for many decades, but the building is now outdated and does not comply with ADA standards or various other codes. The bathroom fixtures, plumbing, wiring and much of the interior are all in need of repairs or updates.

Cost Justification: A feasibility study is the first step to be done to examine the scope of the work and estimate the total cost of updating the building.

Benefit to the Town: Sandy Pond Beach is a cornerstone for recreational activity during the summer months in Ayer. Recent gate attendance records show about 10,000 visits to the facility annually.

Alternative: Continue using the building as is, trying to upgrade where possible. This has limitations, as the building was constructed prior to ADA compliance standards and cannot be altered to meet all requirements.

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Please provide written explanation and justification and any appropriate backup materials that would be necessary to understand and consider this request.

Fiscal Year of Request: 2025

Item or Project: Splash Park

Explanation of Request: We have received numerous requests from the public to explore the creation of a splash park in one or more locations in town. These are generally very popular with young families in warm summer days and offer an additional option for a cooling recreational experience beyond swimming in the local ponds.

Cost Justification: These can be constructed with varying degrees of cost, and can be tailored to an acceptable budget in most cases.

Benefit to the Town: These structures are becoming more common in various municipal settings and would offer the town an additional recreational resource, which is an enhancement to both ambiance and property value.

Alternative: Continue with Sandy Pond Beach as the sole source for municipally offered aquatic recreation.

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