

The Ayer Parks Department has been busy this spring, as is always the case with all the youth sports teams and recreation groups using the Pirone fields. Most of them are wrapping up their season, including end of year events for Ayer Youth Baseball & Softball, Ayer Youth Soccer and Nashoba Valley Unlimited this past Saturday. Ayer Youth Volleyball wrapped up their season a few weeks ago, with another successful season put together by Heather Houde overseeing that program.

Sandy Pond Beach opened to the public for weekend use starting May 23 and has had a good amount of activity during the hot stretches we had during early June. We opened full time June 20 and will remain open to the public for swimming from 12:00-7:00 each day until Labor Day. The Nashoba Board of Health has been taking weekly water samples for testing and so far all levels are well below any levels for concern. We will be putting together a working group of various department heads to discuss parking issues at Sandy Pond and seek potential solutions to help alleviate the congestion that annually occurs during heavy usage hours.

Sign ups for the various camps and activities being offered through the Parks Department are filling up quickly. The baseball camp is full, and the basketball clinics are near their limit. The Miniballers program will be back this summer for kids age 4-7 with forms being released to sign up later this week. There is still room for signups in the Challenger Soccer camp and Panthers Basketball camps being offered in July. Sign ups for swim lessons, which start July 6, are coming in fast as well, including the Mommy/Daddy and Me classes for children age 6 months-3 years old. Our newest program, Youth Outdoors (YO!), is currently being organized and information on that should be out before the end of June. This will be an event based program for kids and families of varying age groups. This may include day hikes, overnight campouts or even backpack excursions for those looking for something more advanced. Like all Parks Department programs, this will be self-funded and volunteer based, so we will be looking for people who are interested in offering ideas or want to participate.

We are continuing working on various projects at Pirone Park and Sandy Pond Beach. We just finished reconditioning and repainting the basketball courts, and they are attracting a lot of activity. Volunteer work groups have been assisting in keeping the waterfront vegetation from over growth as well as helping with other maintenance projects as needed. We currently have four Eagle Scout candidates doing their own individual projects for enhancing the grounds at Pirone, and all hope to complete them before the fall. The new scoreboard was erected for the softball field, and we hope to get funds for a third for the Babe Ruth field in the near future. The Commissioners will be getting together for a walk through at Pirone on July 11 at 9:00 AM to discuss plans for putting in a perimeter path around the park and the best possible means of doing so.

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