

Parks Dept. June Monthly Report

Camps have been at the forefront of activity for the Parks Department over the last month. We have been hosting clinics and camps for basketball, softball, baseball, and soccer over the last five weeks, many of which were offered to residents at little or no cost. We would like to greatly thank all the volunteers who put in their time to make these come together. This included dozens of junior coaches, many of whom had participated in these programs themselves when they were younger and have come back to give their assistance.

Activity at Sandy Pond is also in full swing, including swim lessons in both the mornings and evenings and for the ACP groups that are coming regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are also the very popular Mommy, Daddy & Me sessions ongoing on Saturday mornings for children under four and their parents, a great way for toddlers to get some fun and confidence in the water. Unfortunately, the water level in the pond remains low, which has truncated the overall swimming area and made diving at the far dock prohibited. The volleyball and basketball courts continue to get lots of action through the day. We will be tilling out the sand court and playground area every two weeks to keep it from getting too compacted.

Youth baseball, basketball and softball teams are in the midst of their summer sessions at Pirone Park. The reconditions basketball courts are getting a lot of activity, particularly for the ASYB summer league teams. The U10, U12 and U15 and U19 summer baseball teams are still going strong, and the first annual Edward Ernst Softball Tournament is in the books, with the Ayer 16U girls winning this year's championship.

The July 4 celebration brought in what may be a record crowd to Pirone Park, which was still standing after the dust settled Sunday morning. The July 4 committee and DPW did a nice job getting most of the debris picked up, but it will take some time for some of the turf to recover after some much foot and vehicle traffic. We will be aerating and reseeding the affected areas as activities start to wind down toward the end of July.

We have had several acts of vandalism recently, as well as a few isolated issues of misbehavior at both Pirone and Sandy Pond. The APD has been very responsive and will be monitoring the areas more aggressively, particularly after closing hours. We have been in contact with Chief Murray and TA Robert Pontbriand to seek out options to deter this kind of behavior and maintain the parks' safe and family friendly environment. Overall, we have had relatively few incidents over the last few years and would like to do what we can to keep it that way.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan is continuing to be finalized, which the Parks Department has an integral part in. We will also be working with other departments in the formation of the town's Comprehensive Plan, which will include many components of the OSRP. Completion of these plans will not only provide the town with potential resources through grants and other programs, they will also act as a ten year blueprint for goals and ambitions that we hope to accomplish during that time