

Monthly Parks Department update  
August 2016

With the summer heat pushing individuals and families to seek out a cool setting, activities at Sandy Pond Beach continue to flourish. The final sessions of swim lessons were recently completed, with approximately 75 participants this year. The Sandy Pond staff has once again done a wonderful job balancing waterfront safety and congenial interaction with patrons. Several groups have been using the basketball and volleyball courts for weekly sessions, and there have been dozens of birthday parties and other group activities throughout the summer. Sandy Pond Beach will be closing for public swimming on Labor Day, but the park will remain open for other recreational activities.

Soccer registrations are under way, and the various programs will be starting after Labor Day. One major change with all levels of play is that each level will now be grade based, where it was previously based date of birth. This is something that is being done with all soccer programs throughout the state. For younger players, there will still be the U4 and U6 levels, but those from grades one through 12 will be placed at a level based on the grade they will be entering in the fall.

Several projects are under way or recently completed at Pirone Park. New fences have been erected on several of the ballfields and new picnic tables have been added throughout the park. Volunteer groups continue to clear the waterfront area, with plans to install a perimeter path along Grove Pond. We will be working with the DPW over the next month to develop a catch basin at the far side of the main parking lot that will prevent the continuous erosion that occurs after each rainstorm. A new scoreboard will be going up for the full sized baseball field later this fall. WE appreciate all the effort of our volunteer workforce as well as cooperative efforts with various other town departments.

Jeff Thomas  
Ayer Parks Director