

Monthly Parks Department update

February

The Parks Department was able to meet with the Community Preservation Committee to discuss funding for the proposed perimeter path at Pirone Park. The committee was receptive to the idea and offered suggestions for our application to receive funding, which if approved by their committee would then be subject to a public hearing to discuss the project, followed by seeking approval for the funding at Town Meeting in May. The application has been submitted, along with letters of support from various boards and public officials. The CPC will be setting up the public hearing for some time in March. The Capitol Planning Committee has approved our request to have funding for construction of a new garage and planning and design for the perimeter path put on the ballot for the spring Town Meeting. We appreciate everyone's efforts in assisting us in putting these projects together.

The basketball programs are starting to wind down for the season. The travel teams (grades 5-8) have had some exception success this year, with several teams going undefeated and others showing high levels of competitiveness. We are sending seven teams to Mansfield this month to compete in the Killer B Tournament, the most teams our program has ever been able to put together. The Nashoba Valley Unlimited program just finished up, with its highest number of players participating since its inception nine years ago. What started as a trial program with 15 players has now grown to over 70 participants. We expect the program to continue to grow even larger next year, and are already seeking additional opportunities for gym space to service the needs of the program.

We will be starting some early spring programs next month, including STEM for girls and a racketeering program for 4th-5th graders. We are currently seeking a new coordinator for our youth volleyball program, and hope to have one in place in time to start up in early April. If you know of anyone who has interest in this position, please have them contact the Parks Department and we can discuss what the position entails. We are also looking for volunteers that want to be involved with our Youth Outdoors program, which will begin activities around mid May.

Jeff Thomas
Ayer Parks Director