

Monthly Parks Department update  
September/October 2018

Several projects at Pirone Park have been completed and/or have made significant progress. The rehab work on the baseball/softball diamonds are complete, and will be in good shape for reopening relatively quickly next spring when teams are clamoring for early starts to their seasons. Two Eagle Scout candidates were able to finish their projects, including Ryan Kilcommins' waterfront benches and Greg Kidder's flower boxes along the entrance way to the park. Matthew Blood is currently working on a beautification project at Sandy Pond, which he expects to complete in late fall or early spring. The Perimeter Path project was put back out to bid and attracted six contractor offers, including two below the allocated budget. If all goes well, we expect construction to begin in early-mid October and possibly conclude prior to December. The Parks Department will be taking on numerous tasks that were originally part of the bidding package, but were taken out as cost cutting measures to attract more favorable bids. We hope to get those complete prior to the start of construction.

Registrations continue to flow in for the recreational basketball program, and planning for the upcoming season is well underway. Commissioner Kevin Williams is this year's chairman for the ASYB committee and will be overseeing much of the preseason activity. There are multiple levels of play ranging from preschool to 8th grade, with something for players of all skill levels. Last year there were over 300 participants between AYB, ASYB and NVUB players, and based on early registration numbers, we expect that number to increase this season. The older competitive levels will once again be merging with the TAP program for some of their games. These were quite successful in their inaugural season last year, and the ASYB Committee is hoping to expand on that in 2018-19.

The fall soccer program is winding down, just in time with the darkness creeping in around 6:00 and making any weeknight practices difficult. The U8 AYS players once again participated in the Pepperell Fall Classic tournament, which is a great opportunity for young players to get their first look at playing teams outside our program. Commissioner Sarah Gibbons has been putting teams together for this for over a decade and we have been well represented each year.

The Commission has been working on updating their five year Capital Plan. Upcoming FY 20 requests will include irrigation at Sandy Pond and funding for paving an extension to the perimeter path on the east side of Pirone Park. New additions for potential projects include a splash park and rehabilitation to the basketball courts.

Jeff Thomas  
Ayer Parks Director