

Parks Department Updates

April 2020

It comes as no surprise that the month of April was an unusual one due to the COVID-19 issues. The town parks remain closed and all recreational programs were put on hold. While we still are holding out hope for some of these to occur, it is looking more likely that the earliest we will be able to get organized youth and adult activities back online will be this summer. For now, we are holding off on registrations for programs until at least June 1, when we hope to have a better understanding of our situation. Decisions on programs such as summer camps, swim lessons, etc. will be made once we get further information.

On a more positive note, the Parks garage and office building remains on schedule and will likely be open for occupancy in early June. Electrical and plumbing work should be complete by mid May, and then mostly finishing work will need to be done. There will likely be a several month transition moving the Parks office from Town Hall to the new facility, but once complete will create a much more efficient location for the staff and free up a much needed office space at Town Hall. The irrigation system at Sandy Pond Beach was also completed, which is an essential part of maintaining the waterfront area with all the high foot traffic that it is exposed to between May and September. While current town ordinances call for restrictions on watering lawns, the beach facility will greatly benefit from this system once it can be utilized. The entire system was installed for under \$10K, about half of the anticipated cost.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director