

Parks Department Updates

September 2020

COVID-19 continues to limit activities and planning for the Parks Department and other recreational groups that use APD facilities. Use of the perimeter path is the one exception, with 100 people or more using the path daily for leisure walks or exercise. Many path users incorporate it as part of their walk from other locations, such as local neighborhoods, downtown or the Rail Trail. The DPW will be putting together a project this fall that will be building a new sidewalk along School Street that will end with a connecting walkway to the Pirone path, which will be a fine enhancement. They will also be construction of a rain garden that will help with water retention from the storm water torrents that rush down School street and flood the pathway and field 6 dugout.

A new backstop was completed on Field 6, which is the final one that needed replacement of the five ballfields at Pirone Park. This is the culmination of a ten year plan to replace the fencing at the Pirone ballfields, some that were originally erected over 60 years ago. The funding for these replacements and additional fencing enhancements has all been paid for through funds generated through sign revenue and cost Ayer residents zero tax dollars. This last one was the most difficult due to the initial quoted cost being \$25K, but we were able to negotiate that down to less than half of that and be able to get it done without resorting to other Parks Dept. funding. We will also be doing quite a bit of fieldwork on the infields this fall with the hope that usage will be allowed to resume for youth and adult sports next spring.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director