

Parks Department Updates

March 2021

Spring has sprung early this year, quite a difference from the past few seasons where March and April were mostly raw and frigid. This made getting fields ready for our most active time of year very difficult, especially working the clay for baseball and softball infields, which requires the material to be relatively dry and crumbly before it can be groomed. This is the first March in some time that we were able to do more than just preliminary field maintenance. Most fields are already close to game ready, with much thanks to the efforts of volunteers from Ayer Youth Baseball and Softball who came out for our 21st annual AYBS “work party” to get a bulk of the fieldwork done. We were also able to get a jump on getting the High School fields ready for their first games, which is part of our shared facility use agreement. This has been a fruitful arrangement for both the school and our recreational programs, as it allows more access to gyms and fields with lower costs than can be seen in most surrounding communities.

Planning is underway for the swim season at Sandy Pond. Our application has been submitted to the Nashoba Board of Health, and we are hopeful to be able to open Sandy Pond for swimming on our usual scheduled date of Memorial Day weekend. While the plan we submitted will include some restrictions to ensure proper social distancing and adherence to local and state health regulations, we expect to get back to some degree of normalcy as the season progresses. We will not be able to offer swim lessons to start, but may consider offering some limited classes later in the summer.

Planning is also underway for Summer camps and clinics. We have been working with the ASRHS varsity coaches on setting up clinics for basketball, soccer, football, baseball and softball, and should be opening up registrations for these programs towards the end of April. We are hoping to also be able to offer “mini-camps” for preschool aged kids in both soccer (Little Kickers) and basketball (Miniball), depending on how much health restrictions get lifted as the summer nears.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director