

## Parks Department Updates

October 2021

The Kiddie Junction Rehab project is gaining momentum. The Parks Commission has secured the services of the BETA group to put together a remediation design and cost estimate for the project. They have also put together a subcommittee to help oversee this project which will consist of the Parks Director, DPW Director, Town Manager, two Parks Commissioners and two citizens with municipal project experience. Proposals for funding the project have been presented to both the CPC Committee and Capital Planning Committee, both of whom have shown strong initial support. Our next steps will be to get a preliminary cost estimate for both ends of the project (remediation and replacement) by December so we can give those numbers to the boards overseeing funding, and for the subcommittee and BETA to develop a design/concept for what will be installed after remediation.

The basketball program is underway, with lots of preseason activity ongoing. Registration is now closed, and the current number of players is comparable to what levels were at our last season two years ago. As always, finding enough volunteers to act as coaches and organizers is a challenge, but so far it looks like we will have a good number to work with all levels Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The greatest concern was with the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade boys group, which ballooned to 45 players and only two volunteers offering to coach, but that number has now grown to twelve, so they should be in great shape.

The soccer season has come to a close, with mixed success at different levels. The U4-U8 levels had a great season, with a healthy number of registrants at each level. The most memorable parts of the season included having only one bad weather day, and reviving the traditional final practice session for the U8 players at night with glow sticks and balls. The U10-U18 levels had a few difficulties early on with trying to reboot the travel program, but seemed to do better as the season wore on and should be in fine shape for the spring season ahead.

After a slow start, we were able to get a fair number of participants to put together scarecrows to display around the perimeter path at Pirone. Some were quite creative and will remain up through the month of November.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director