

## Parks Department Updates

November 2021

We finished up most of our fall projects this month, including closing the ballfields, removing leaves and pine needles, winterizing our three season buildings and performing maintenance on all our power equipment. We also erected our skating rink with hopes of a cooler winter than in previous years. Last year we were able to get in a fair number of skateable days, but we are hoping to get a lot more this year. It is considerably easier to do surface maintenance on the rink now that we have a running water source next to it, but it only works if the ice freezes enough to skate on. As of early December, it resemble a wading pool more than anything, but that can change in the blink of an eye if a sustained cold front comes in.

The Kiddie Junction Rehab project continues to move forward. The engineering firm BETA is preparing to run a new set of soil samples at the playground to determine the levels of arsenic in the soil that will require remediation. Testing was done in 2006, but it is important to get a new set of data to ensure whatever remediation is needed is done correctly. We are hoping to get results in over the next couple week in order to come up with a cost estimate for the Capital Planning and CPC Committees. We are also looking for grants or other fundings sources and will need to know the remediation and replacement costs before properly pursuing them.

The basketball program has begun with games for the older 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade travel levels and workouts for the K-4<sup>th</sup> grade levels. The Unlimited and Miniball programs will begin after the start of the new year. The obvious challenges for this season will be coping with COVID conditions, both currently and potentially. The ASRSD has been fantastic in their support of our program and are helping us to find ways to keep all our participants as safe as possible. We will be following all school protocols regarding health standards and precautions, with hopes we can get through a full season without interruption.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director