

## Parks Department Updates

September 2022

The final bids for the remediation had to be in by noon on September 1 and nine contractor submitted bids on time. The range of bids was between \$173K and \$618K. The lowest bid came in from Brighter Horizons Environmental Inc., a local company from Ayer and the contract was officially approved and awarded by the Select Board on September 7. The \$173K was within the range of the \$150K-\$200K that BETA had estimated for remediation and will leave approximately \$645K of allocated funds for the rebuilding process. Brighter Horizons has submitted a timeline for their part of the project. They expect to start work on or about October 12 and hope to be completed with a passed inspection by Mass DEP around November 9. If the remediation goes according to plan, the rebuilding phase should remain on schedule and begin in spring of 2023.

Youth Soccer and Youth Volleyball both got started this month and will have their season run through the end of October. The soccer fields are in pretty rough shape compared to most years due to the drought and inability to water due to the townwide ban. We are doing what we can to keep the fields in playable condition while not entirely restricting play for games and practices. Volleyball has had one of their best seasons so far, buoyed by the addition of a half dozen or so junior coaches from the high school teams. It has always been a big part of Parks Department programs to include junior coaches to give players a balanced mix of adult instruction and thoughts from players close to their age that they can relate more to.

Rehab on the baseball and softball fields has begun. This fall the focus will be on the full sized baseball diamond and the primary game field for softball. Both fields required sod replacement, leveling, and irrigation system maintenance. Most of the sprinkler heads required repositioning, replacement or both. The entire infield of the baseball diamond had to be skinned, leveled, and reseeded. The grass was replanted early enough that we expect it to be fully grown in by the end of fall. All the work should be completed by the end of October, including edging and leveling the clay on all five diamonds so that they can be ready to go at the start of the spring season.

Jeff Thomas  
Ayer Parks Director