

Parks Department Updates

November 2022

Outdoor fall activities have come to an end, including ASYS and AYS soccer. This was a nice bounce-back season for our soccer programs, with enrollment almost back to pre-COVID levels. We are very grateful to our many volunteers who coached and helped organize these games and sessions. Enrollment for the 2023 spring season is already underway.

The Parks Department is once again setting up for the holidays with a program for families and individuals to decorate Christmas trees and snowmen that will be displayed around the perimeter path at Pirone Park. This was originally set up in 2020 as one of the few activities we could put together during the height of the COVID crisis, but it has become so popular that we will be continuing with it for seasons to come. The 4' high wooden cutouts can be decorated in any way desired, and some of our participants have been extremely creative! There are currently about 50 on display throughout the park.

Remediation on the playground is continuing and is near complete. After the removal of the structure and the top layer of soil, testing was done and concluded that most of the area was cleared, but a small section would require more excavation. We are hopeful the next round of testing will yield a good result that will allow us to move forward with the rebuilding of the playground.

Work was completed on the field rehabs for fields 2 and 6. The grass came in nicely and should be ready for play at the season's start in April. In spring 2023 we will be doing some basic maintenance on Fields 1, 3, and 5 to start the season, then doing some renovations on each through the summer and fall. The AYBS group has told us they anticipate substantial growth in their program and will be using all fields extensively in the upcoming spring season, which is great news but will make it difficult to schedule maintenance projects until the season is complete.

Jeff Thomas
Ayer Parks Director