

Parks Department Updates

December 2022

The AYB, ASYB and NVUB Basketball programs are now all fully up and running. There are currently nearly 500 participants in these programs, quite a number for town our size and getting close to our pre-COVID levels. The AYB program services players from Pre-K through 4th grade and offers a fun and instructive way for players to learn to play basketball. The Ayer/Shirley combined ASYB program is a competitive travel level for players in 5th-8th grade that joins with the TAP league for their games, culminating with a championship round of playoffs in February. The NVUB is a program specifically for youth and adult players who prefer an alternative and less structured basketball program, and is in its 15th season, once again overseen by the Bremer family.

The Parks Commission has been working on the upcoming FY24 budget and request for funding for projects. For this upcoming Town Meeting, the Parks Department will be putting in requests for funding for a study to rehab the Sandy Pond beach house and bathrooms, and for additional funds for the rebuilding of the playground once the remediation work is complete. For the playground project there is currently about \$550K in the budget after remediation and design work, and with costs continuing to soar, the original estimates for a desired replacement playground have almost doubled. This will require additional funding for the structures and pour-in-place surfacing, which we hope to get support from the various committees that oversee funding requests and the voters at Town Meeting in the spring. For the rehab study, we are looking to get a professional opinion on the best course of action to take to get the current building up to code and ADA accessible and a cost estimate to do so.

The Parks Department will be looking to hire a part-time administrative assistant and will be advertising the position and accepting applications through January. This will be a ten-hour/week position that will offer much needed administrative help to our department.

Jeff Thomas
Ayer Parks Director