

Parks Department Updates
January 2023

It has been a very mild winter so far, which has made snow removal on the Park's driveways and paths a relatively easy task so far. The Parks Department made a commitment during the winter of 2020-21 to try to keep the walking paths clear as much as possible during winter seasons to give Ayer citizens more opportunities for outdoor activities. This was initially an answer to COVID and how it limited everyone's ability to find activities that were not outdoors, but after seeing how popular the perimeter paths were in winter, the Parks Commission wants to continue with keeping them open. There have been a few storms this year with heavy snow that made clearing a bit of a challenge, but never to a point it couldn't be done.

Registration has already begun for spring season youth activities. This includes soccer for ages PreK-12th grade, and baseball and softball for players 5-15 years old. Information on programs and how to sign up is available on the Parks Department website. Youth Volleyball and Gagaball will be returning as well, and registration for those programs will be a bit later in the spring. Summer camps will also be opening for registration at the end of March.

The remediation work on the playground at Pirone Park is almost complete. There was a need for an additional soil sample in one area, and that has now been cleared as acceptable by MassDEP. Brighter Horizons just needs to level out the area to make it safe for public entry and preparation for the upcoming build of the new playground. Plans are currently being worked on by BETA Inc. and should be complete by April.

Jeff Thomas
Ayer Parks Director