

## Parks Department Updates

March 2023

With the completion of the remediation phase of the playground rehabilitation project, we are now focusing on the rebuilding phase. We are working with BETA Inc. on developing plans for the new structures and are putting together funding proposals to present at Town Meeting in April. Ideally we will get approval for the funds and be able to solicit contractors immediately after to set up the new construction. The plans call for several climbing structures, swings, ziplines and an additional natural-based play area. If all goes according to plan, we hope to have construction complete to be able to open the playground this fall.

We have had an opportunity to do some early work on getting the parks ready for spring activities. Many of the groups and individuals who use Pirone Park want to get out on the fields as quickly as possible, but we try to encourage limited use in these early spring months to allow the turf to dry out and new grass roots to fully develop. We did some major field rehab on several of the ballfields this fall and the new turf is very vulnerable while it is getting established. Fortunately the early spring weather will help move that process along.

Registration is underway for our spring activities and summer sports clinics. This spring volleyball and soccer is being offered directly through the Parks Department, and baseball and softball is being managed through AYBS. The Parks Department and AYBS have worked well together for over 20 years to offer programs and fields for hundreds of ball players each year, and we look forward to this year's collaboration.

Jeff Thomas  
Ayer Parks Director