

Parks Department Updates

May 2023

May has been a very dry month, which has had positive and negative effects. It has limited the amount of rainouts for youth and adult sporting activities, but it has also put our turf in a dangerous position due to lack of water. We hope this is just a brief phenomenon that will pass and that we get some rain in the coming months before it causes the turf to entirely dry up and the clay infields to become too hard.

Sandy Pond Beach opened for swimming on Memorial Day weekend. There were high numbers of patrons most days, with Sunday's crowd well over 200. The Beach will remain open for swimming on weekends for the first few weeks in June, then open daily starting June 17 until Labor Day. Matt Blood, our new Waterfront Supervisor, has hired five new lifeguards for the upcoming season. We look forward to a fun and safe summer at the beach for all of our Ayer residents and families.

The Memorial Day parade resumed this year for the first time since the COVID epidemic. The crowd was considerably smaller than in previous years, but was likely due to many people not being aware it had returned. The ceremony put on by local veterans and scouts was moving for all in attendance.

The spring volleyball program wrapped up its season this month. It was a challenge for Coach Tavares to find a venue for the program after High School gym was forced to be closed, but she was able to set up two courts outside at Pirone Park that worked well for the one hour sessions. The spring volleyball program is designed mostly to allow players a chance to maintain some of the skills they developed in the fall program, and promote players to want to continue with volleyball when the fall season returns.

Jeff Thomas
Ayer Parks Director