

Parks Department Updates

September 2023

The bid package for the new playground was put out and bids are due in on October 11 at 1:00. We are hoping that this will be a competitive process that attracts enough contractors to push the winning bid down as low as possible. While we have a working budget of close to \$1.5M to work with, our desire is to try to keep expenses well under that if possible.

The soccer season is going well so far for both the ASYS U10-U18 competitive divisions and the AYS U4-U10 in-town divisions. This was the first year since COVID that we were able to put together a tournament team at the U8 level to play in the Pepperell Fall Classic, which parents and players are very excited about. Another exciting development was that due to high registration numbers we were able to create both a boys and girls U8 division, which has been beneficial to both groups. We also are fortunate to have a high number of volunteer coaches at each level, which has allowed us to create more teams and give players better instruction.

We have started the work on the Field 1 Rehab. This has not been done in full since 2005, and will greatly improve play on the field by leveling the surface and creating ideal edge lines. This involves skinning the infield and surrounding area, leveling clay and loam to create a planar surface, reseeding and edging, and resetting the bases and mounds as needed. This should be completed by the end of October, and will also include field work on the remaining four infields.

We were able to work with the ASRSD to confirm that they will be able to secure enough gym time at the schools for the AYB and ASYB basketball programs to have a season this year. This was in question due to the closure of the ASRHS gym since February and no clear answer as to when it will reopen. The high school teams will need to utilize the other three region's gyms for foreseeable future, so that left few options for outside groups to find gym time. While all of the programs' levels will need to modify their formats to meet this need, there will be a means to create a season for the 400+ players that enroll in AYB and ASYB basketball each season.

Jeff Thomas
Ayer Parks Director