

Parks Department Updates

October 2023

Six bids were submitted for the playground project, and it was awarded to Cella Construction Company by the Ayer Select Board on October 17. Discussions are currently underway between officials from the Parks Department, DPW, BETA Inc and Cella Construction to set up a timetable for the work to be done. BETA has informed us that the equipment ordered in July is still back ordered and will not be arriving until March. Cella Construction will be starting as soon as the equipment arrives and the weather conditions are warm enough to allow surface materials to be installed. This will push up the timeline for the project's completion to be closer to May/June.

The Parks Department, volunteers and other Town of Ayer departments have begun work on the nature base play area that will be situated between the main playground and Grove Pond. The materials for this will be primarily wood that came from trees that had to be removed during the remediation phase of the project. Brad Spinney, an Ayer resident, has graciously volunteered much of his time to milling timber pieces down to create boards and beams that can be used to create the material. Students from Groton School have assisted Parks Department personnel in water sealing the boards, and work will begin over the next few weeks to get as many pieces in place prior to the ground freezing over.

The AYS and ASYS soccer programs have closed their fall seasons with great success, as has the Ayer Youth Volleyball program. Highlights for AYS included the annual "glow ball" night, where light up cones, balls and glow sticks are used to illuminate the field for one of the final sessions. This has the dual purpose of finding a way to have a weeknight session in late October when the skies darken around 5:30, and giving the players an exciting opportunity to play a game in such fun conditions. The AYV group were able to play a scrimmage match with the High School Junior Varsity team, which was a thrill for them and gave them a look at what the next level of play will be for many of them.

The Field 1 rehab project was completed, as was the work done on the remaining ballfield diamonds. All five will be in good shape for when the snow melts and play resumes in the spring. This work is critical to have done in the fall in order to maximize the chance of getting fields ready in time for the brief window that spring baseball and softball have to get in a full season in.

Jeff Thomas
Ayer Parks Director