

Parks Department Updates

November 2023

Much of the work over the last few months have included annual fall cleanup projects and various field maintenance. This often becomes a race against time as the weather turns, but so far we have managed to get most tasks complete. These include leaf removal, limb trimming, brush clearing, structure repairs, field edging and winterization of equipment and three season buildings. We are also prepping for the upcoming winter and having equipment and materials ready for the eventual snowfall. Last winter was relatively light compared to other years, but we always want to be prepared for the worse.

The basketball season has been underway for most levels. The travel 5th-8th grade teams have been formed and were able to complete their preseason workouts to get ready for their first games in December. The Kindergarten-4th grade levels are all underway as well and have a good number of players registered at most levels. The pre-K (miniball) and Unlimited programs won't start until we return from the holiday break in January, which will push our enrollment to over 300 players. The High School gym remains closed, which has hampered the recreational programs considerably in trying to find enough gym space for games and practices. This is compounded by not only losing the High School gym on Saturdays, but also losing the Middle school gym and occasionally the Page Hilltop gym to accommodate school team weeknight sessions that can no longer use the high school. The school has been gracious in working with us to try to get everyone at least some time for practices, and while not ideal, it has worked out so far. It looked like there may be a chance to reopen the HS gym by January, but that appears less likely at this point.

We have been taking orders for those interested in once again help decorate the Pirone Park with snowman and Christmas tree cut outs, and there remains a high demand for them. We expect to put up 60-80 total this year, which does an impressive job in decorating the park for the holiday season. We are grateful to those who have taken the time to decorate these and make our park a festive place for families to take a walk and see the displays.

Jeff Thomas
Ayer Parks Director