



**Date:** 12 July 2009  
**To:** Board of Selectmen  
**From:** R. H. Snow  
**Subject:** Parks & Recreation Monthly Report

### **Moore Park**

The cleanup of the logging operation in the front of the park is almost complete. To the west of the entrance there are three large saw logs left, along with some smaller ones and a small brush pile and on the east side the Moore School Ag Day habitat demonstration project. The wood is all reserved and if the rain has finally stopped, will be soon gone. The effort now is to get the saw logs transported. I need to know when the Road Agent is going to have his backhoe in the park area. Several students created posters for the Ag Day project and I haven't yet been able to schedule them into one of our meetings for a thank-you and photo opportunity. I've seeded the front of the park with red clover, as the first step in improving the tree's environment. I'm still looking for a no-cost source of chips. I'm going to consolidate the brush piles into the habitat demonstration project. Later this year we might chip the remaining brush piles and spread them under the trees. There is one area on the east side of the entrance road near High Street that is being used frequently for parking and is becoming very muddy and rutted. I believe that it's a WiFi hot spot for the libraries computer network.

I spent the month of June on the maintenance program, I've worked out the framework for a maintenance task and schedule document for the park. I've developed a good working relationship with CYAA. The grant for solar hot water heating is in discussion. CYAA has a no-cost water testing capability and the results will be available shortly. Mowing of the ball fields is being done, when and as necessary. All-in-all, the park is looking very good.

The two priorities reported in June have been addressed. The bathrooms are functional and I spent June personally handling the disposal of trash. CYAA has replaced the water lines and will be replacing the windows this month. I have supplies. I installed hand sanitizer dispenser fixtures and hand sanitizer lotion in each bathroom. This seemed a better solution than soap, because no water is necessary to sanitize your hands. I have an exhaust fan to replace the inoperative one. The door closers will be installed when the windows are installed to allow light and ventilation in the bathrooms. I'm still looking for a storage cabinet to keep cleaning supplies in and have asked the Recycling Center staff to keep their eyes open for something that would work. There is room in either (or both) of the bathrooms for them, but we would need a way to close and lock them. The recycling center has loaned us two large paintings from their collection and they have been installed in the bathrooms. They also supplied a small (13 gallon) waste basket for one of the bathrooms.

The public has been very helpful separating recyclables from the trash. Every week I've been sorting recyclables from the trash to see how well the signs worked. I was more than pleased by the general level of public comprehension and compliance. I've added additional containers in the areas that weren't adequately covered and that's working. Trash is ending up in the containers and grounds cleanup requirements are minimal. There is a certain amount of



“lost and found” material that is showing up, clothing and other personal items, and there is no formal way of handling it. I’m also surprised at the significant number of water and juice drink bottles that are being thrown away less than half empty, often almost full, sometimes not even opened.

We lost one park bench last month. It just came apart and was too dangerous to leave out. The pieces are stored behind the bathrooms for now. Other benches are also starting to fall apart. A board on one of the bleachers has also broken and needs to be replaced. We need to look at the budget to allow for a regular program of replacing worn out facilities and equipment on an annual basis.

### **Skateboard Park**

The meeting of the Skateboard Park Users Association was held in June to get the kids using the park more involved in managing the area. There are a number of improvements that will be implemented. I anticipate that others can be accomplished this year, with the help of the town, interested parties and a little luck. We’re going to be removing two of the older pieces of equipment soon, to be replaced by more permanent equipment.

I’ve been monitoring the area around the skateboard park and the kids are policing their own area. There are three trash containers there now, with one being used solely for bottles and cans. Even without paying to get the area cleaned, it’s in decent shape. We need to address the drainage along the road beside the park. It’s draining thru the park, rather than down the road, depositing sand in the park. A relocation of some of the telephone poles should solve some of the problems.

### **Summer Recreation Program**

The program has been scrapped for this year. While there was considerable interest expressed by the public, there were no signups for the program. We’ll be discussing a program for next year with M&C over the summer months. I’m conducting some informal polling to see why it didn’t generate any interest this year.

### **Current Concerns, Issues and Questions**

The two dead trees in the road between the skateboard park and the town office parking lot by the police department remain. I need to work with the road agent to open up the area for parking spaces, something that is sorely needed during events.

We need better parking control barriers in the park. What’s a good source for those short cement saddles that would hold old telephone poles off the ground? What’s a good source for old telephone pole donations?

I’m working with the Old Home Day committee to see what improvements need to be done to the road and other areas to make it safer and more useful for the event.