



**Date:** 12 April 2010  
**To:** Board of Selectmen  
**From:** R. H. Snow  
**Subject:** Parks & Recreation Monthly Report

### **Moore Park**

With the early warm weather we've experienced this year, Moore Park has seen an early and enthusiastic use by significant numbers of patrons. There was a particularly satisfying day for me in mid-March when Spring suddenly sprung and the playground just filled up with children of all ages; families enjoying the opportunity to gather together and enjoy the weather and meet and greet each other after a long winter.

There have been a number of volunteers offering help with the park this year, including the CYAA, the Moore School athletic department and both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. A local resident has also volunteered to spruce up the basketball park backboards and nets, as well as the court and immediate surrounding area. I authorized the expenditure of P&R funds of NTE \$100 for the effort. I've removed the court's picnic bench, which has been in disrepair and was coming apart this year and I am in the process of restoring it.

I participated with the Moore School softball team during their work session to get the field ready for their season. CYAA held their April 10<sup>th</sup> Field Day at the park, sprucing up the fields and surrounding areas. The water has been turned on in the Doucette Field House. The annual Easter Egg Hunt went off without a hitch and it was another marvelous opportunity to see the coming together of the children and their families in a community event. I have a number of photos of the event that I will be putting into a presentation format for public viewing. Unfortunately, the town doesn't have the A/V equipment necessary to allow me to bring it to the board for a viewing, but perhaps I can borrow some equipment from the school and/or the library and do that at a later date.

Regular park maintenance activities have commenced and, now that the budget has been formalized, allocation of the available funds is being reviewed. I've prepared and will be advertising an RFQ for the upgrade of the fencing around the playground area, to improve the security of the children using the area, using the old fencing from other areas of the park and adding some new fencing. The necessary funds will come from the line used last year to open and close the bathrooms during the summer. I'll be doing that task as a volunteer effort this year. Repair of the picnic benches and the bleachers is also a priority, within the budget.

The Boy Scout Pack & Troop has been working to pick up and pile the brush in the front part of the park and that work will continue in the next few weeks. The road agent has provided a good supply of wood chips for spreading in that area after the brush is picked up. Thanks, Dennis, good job! My intent is to chip anything and everything that I can to use under the pine trees in the front of the park, so you may be seeing some brush piles until that can be arranged. I'm going to be publicizing the "Save the Trees" campaign and putting up some signage to encourage people not to park their vehicles under the trees in the front of the park.

The Old Home Day Committee has started meeting and I will be attending their meetings to coordinate with them on the event. I am considering the possibility of getting a sign for the park honoring, in some fashion, the donation of the property by Henry W. Moore. Old Home Day would be an opportune time to dedicate the sign.



Word has reached me that there are some concerns about the condition of the park. If anyone has any questions or concerns about the park, have them contact me. There are plenty of opportunities for more volunteers.

The town meeting supported the funding of an increased playground maintenance fund, allowing us to address some of the issues with the equipment and/or the surface. I've contacted the firm that supplied the playground equipment and supervised the installation. I will be meeting with a representative on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month to discuss the repair of a piece of equipment and the options for installing a sand pile and improving the surface in the playground..

I will be reviewing the status of the bathrooms with the CYAA and working with them to complete the repairs scheduled and any additional work that needs to be done. A water test is necessary and has been agreed to by the board. It is suggested that the test be done as soon as possible, to ensure that any corrective action necessary is done before we get into the busy season.

Repairs are planned, in conjunction with the CYAA, for the bleachers and I will be repairing and or replacing our supply of picnic benches. The picnic benches in the woods across from the town offices are going to be moved to the park. That site hasn't been maintained and isn't being used.

### **Skateboard Park**

I'll be scheduling another meeting of the skateboard park users association this month. I've talked to the park sponsors about the replace or repair of the remaining wooden structures. The park has significant drainage issues, with a drainage swale directing runoff down the middle of the park. This results in the deposit of sand and silt on the skating surface, an undesirable effect. It's amazing the number and diversity of young people and families that use the skateboard park. On any given day, you're as likely to see preschool children riding their bikes while their parents watch as you are to see teenagers doing tricks.

### **Summer Recreation Program**

Next year's program was advertised in December, with M&C as the contract agent, as a fully user funded program. There continues to be limited reaction to the program from the public. The contract language has been reviewed, the dates changed to reflect the current year and both the M&C and the CYAA contracts are ready for the board's signature. The CYAA contract is limited to the use of their facilities during inclement weather. The rates are being offered at a steep discount for the summer recreation program.

### **Continuing Concerns, Issues and Questions**

The parking area between the skateboard park and the town office parking lot by the police department was further improved last year by the Road Agent, opening up the area for parking spaces, something that continues to be sorely needed during events. The improvement



of the area was part of a long term plan. We need to complete the rest of the plan, whatever it is.

We still 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? Thanks to the storm last month and the crews that were replacing broken telephone poles, I've identified a contact for donations. The road agent has leveled off the roadways and now we need to move some of the ones we have around to more clearly define the traveled way and to better control parking, erosion and off-road damage.

I will be investigating the use of the federally funded volunteer youth services for this summer. There is a significant amount of work necessary to clean up outside of the ball field area fences, including the area adjacent to the brook. I will be working with the road agent on this effort.