



**Date:** 10 May 2010

**To:** Board of Selectmen

**From:** R. H. Snow

**Subject:** Parks, Other Culture & Recreation Monthly Report

### **Moore Park**

Moore Park continues to see constant and enthusiastic use by significant numbers of patrons. Families, with children of all ages; sharing the opportunity to gather together and enjoy the weather and meet and greet each other after a long winter. Organized sports have started up and the local teams from Moore School, Jesse Remington Academy and the CYAA are making good use of our ball fields.

There were several work days with volunteers, including the CYAA, the Candia Community Women's Club, the Moore School girl's softball team and both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, helping cleanup and maintain the park since the last report. A local resident has also spruced up the basketball park backboards and nets, as well as the court and immediate surrounding area, as a volunteer effort. These efforts come free of labor costs and cost less than \$100 for the materials. I've removed the basketball court's picnic bench, which has been in disrepair and was coming apart this year. I'm in the process of rebuilding it.

I participated with the Girl Scouts during their recent work session to restore the park benches in the pavilion. Mrs. Patrick's Brownie Troop has adopted the playground as their service project for this year. They also generated some slick signage to reinforce the recycling signs posted over the trash cans in the pavilion, for the benefit of those that are unable to read. Great Job, ladies! I have a number of photos of their work that I will be using for publicity, if I can borrow some equipment from the school and/or the library to show them.

The Boy Scout Pack & Troop has been working to pick up and pile the brush in the front part of the park and have completed the initial cleanup effort. Routine cleanup will continue during the year. The small mountain of wood chips has been moved around and pretty much spread out, protecting the trees in the front of the park and filling in the low and seasonal wet spots that get high traffic use. Thanks to the scouts and the CCWC for helping! I'm still looking for brush to chip to use under the pine trees in the front of the park, so let me know about sources that can be arranged. I'm going to continue publicizing the "Save the Trees" campaign and putting up some signage and parking barriers to encourage people not to park their vehicles under the trees in the front of the park. That area was seeded to red clover last year, with no noticeable success. This year, we'll try white clover and see how that works. Some concern was raised about the possibility of mosquitoes in our parks. I'll be contacting the mosquito control company for advice and suggestions for prevention and testing in the areas around Moore Park and the Pond Park.

Regular park maintenance activities are continuing and, now that a contract has been approved, the upgrade of the fencing around the playground area is in process, using some old fencing from other areas of the park and adding some new fencing, to improve the security for the children using the area,. 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. 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. Repair of other picnic benches and the bleachers is also a priority, within the budget.



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 the repair of a piece of equipment is in-process. I'm awaiting quotes for replacement of missing and broken hardware and repair of some surface and structural damage to the equipment. Improving the surface in the playground now appears to be a significant task. The height of the protective surfaces around the equipment is more than several inches less than required.

The bathrooms continue to be worked on, with repairs scheduled and additional work that needs to be done. A water test is necessary and has been agreed to by the board. I will be working with the Building Inspector to get the test done as soon as possible, to ensure that any corrective action necessary is done before the summer recreation program starts.

### **Skateboard Park**

I'll be scheduling another meeting of the skateboard park users association this month. I've received information from the park sponsors about the replacement of the remaining wooden structures with permanent concrete structures. The drainage issues have been started to be resolved with some wood chips. Telephone poles are going to be moved into place as parking barriers and drainage channelization devices.

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**

The contracts with M&C and the CYAA for the summer recreation program have been signed. The CYAA contract is limited to the use of their facilities during inclement weather. Their rates were offered at a steep discount for the summer recreation program.

### **Old Home Day Celebration**

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

### **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. I'm working with the Road Agent to finish improving the area.



We still need better parking control barriers in the park. I priced out short cement saddles that would hold old telephone poles off the ground. Way too much cost. Over \$400 each, although I could get some of the cement parking barriers cheaper. I've identified a possible contact for telephone poles. Getting some of them and spiking them into the ground with rebar appears to be a cost-efficient alternative. 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'm 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. The road agent and I are working together on this effort.

### **Town Beautification Project**

Publicity is going out about the contest and integrating it into the Old Home Day event. I'll be working with the Candia Garden Club and the Old Home Day committee, as well as the Road Agent to coordinate our efforts.

### **Moore School Agricultural Day**

Agricultural Day had beautiful weather last week and the pond park was filled with unique events and inquiring minds. A great time was had by all, with the support of the local community, volunteers and the school staff.