



LEDYARD PARKS AND RECREATION

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION *Director's Report September 2022*

Please note this update for your review.

1. **Commission Meeting:**

The regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th, 2022, at 7:00 PM, in the Ledyard Senior Center. Please contact the office immediately if you will not be able to attend.

2. **Fields:**

All fields have been overseeded, dethatched, and fertilized. With the recent rain we are seeing the fields bounce back nicely from the drought we have been in.

3. **Erickson Park:**

The walking path has been sprayed with weed killer, next step is to till and possibly bring in stone dust to top off the path. The recent rain washed out the boat launch. Russell recommended talking to Joe at PW to see if he might be able to create a swale that would direct the water runoff to the side of the boat launch preventing a loss of material.

4. **Christy Hill:**

The parking lot lights have been installed. Everything is installed and we are just waiting for Eversource to make the connection.

5. **Irrigation Issues:**

With the recent drought we have identified 2 irrigation issues.

- **Judge Crandall:** Irrigation heads are too low. Water is hitting the grass blades and water is not covering the intended area. This is evident by little green circles surrounded by grass that went dormant during the drought. Working on getting the irrigation company out to look and give an estimate.
- **Depta Field:** We have noticed 2 corners of the field are not getting enough water when there is a slight wind. Mike just spread the remainder of the topsoil and those heads are scheduled to be raised and replaced. To resolve this issue, we will extend those 2 zones adding another head to each corner that would spray back into the field. This will create an overlap ensuring those corners are watered.

6. **New Preschool Playscape:**

The new playscape for the Donahue property is currently at a freight company in Plainfield. Currently coordinating the offloading and installation of the equipment. Installation could start as early as next week! Following the equipment installation, the safety surfacing will be installed.

7. **Playscapes:**

We have started a massive playground overhaul. I have started performing audits on our playscapes to identify everything needed to bring our playscapes into compliance.

- I have started marking out the use proper use zones.
- With the use zones marked out Russel can then put the playground borders in the correct location. In addition, he is replacing rotten sections with new lumber.
- The next step after the borders are corrected is to bring in new wood fiber. Currently getting quotes with hopes of starting to get material to the playscapes as early as next week.

8. **Aljen Playscape Vandalism:**

We had some vandalism at the Aljen playscape. It appears someone tried to cut a section of the slide out with an electric saw. Working on pricing for a replacement slide so the police report can be filed and an insurance claim submitted. Unfortunately, it is one of the older playscapes and the slide ID tag is no longer there. Pictures have been sent to the playground rep who is trying to identify the slide so we can get an estimate for a replacement.

9. **Gales Ferry Community Center Ramp:**

The ramp behind the community center is in bad shape. Russell is going to screw some of the decking back down, so it is usable. However, this is only a temporary fix, and it should be replaced. Possible CIP project for FY23-24.

10. **Parks & Rec Truck:**

Still waiting on pricing under the state contract. Have been told we should have pricing October 18th. Purchasing a truck outside the state contract will cost us an additional \$20-30,000.

11. **Ledyard Transition Academy:**

Meet with the Ledyard Transition Academy regarding possible work. We discussed park maintenance and more specifically spreading of the playground wood chips. This is not only a great opportunity for the kids but also a tremendous help to the department.