



Recreation & Parks Department Report August 2012

- Eleven (11) groups used the Hughes Center during July for a total of 134 hours. Events included signups for the Senior Softball League, organizational and divisional meetings for the Russellville Recreation and Parks Department's adult softball fall league, a Pope and Yell County Single Parent Scholarship fundraiser and a concert to reward the participants of the Pope County Library summer reading program.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in July. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14 at noon.
- The department had four incidents of vandalism in the month of July. Incidents included property damage at James School Park, illegal dumping at the old fishing derby site in Pleasant View Park and along Pleasant View Road, and the portable toilet was turned over at the skate park.
- There was one softball tournament held at Pleasant View and Shiloh Park on July 7. It was the U.S.S.S.A. Youth Class C State Tournament. There were 56 teams from all over Arkansas participating. The tournament was Friday, Saturday and Sunday and several of our motels were booked up for the weekend.
- Reservations for the month of July included two pavilion reservations, one smoker grill rental and seventeen pool parties. The heat has slowed our pavilion reservations down. We look for this trend to continue in August and September or until the temperature cools.
- Due to the drought and extremely dry conditions, the City's Fourth of July fireworks display was cancelled. The decision, while being hard to make, was in the best interest of the City and a good call on the committee's part. We hope everyone celebrated a great Fourth with family and friends and look forward to next year's display.
- The Sharks swim team hosted their annual swim meet at Hickey Pool on the July 6. There was a large crowd on hand to watch the meet and the swim team did a good job hosting. Congratulations to all the participants for their hard work and sportsmanship.
- Preliminary work is continuing on the splash pad. We are currently getting the needed approval from the Health Department and the paperwork together to get the projected cost together. We hope to have the splash pad in this year at City Park. We know the public will be excited to have this fun addition to our park.
- The quarterly safety inspections on all city parks were completed and all needed repairs made. We make sure we stay in compliance with all of our safety guidelines and maintain a safe work environment for our employees and the park patrons.
- All baseball and softball leagues have ended their summer seasons. The 2012 seasons were very well operated and no valid complaints came across our desk. Those involved in the everyday operations should be commended on a job well done in all the summer leagues.
- With assistance from volunteer Paul Jackson our maintenance crew replaced the bridge boards and made improvements to the dock which included new boards at the Russellville ski area. These two well used park amenities were in need of the repairs and should be safer for park patrons and improve the aesthetics of the area.

- The underbrush was cleared in the ditches along the roadway at Orbit Lane and Pleasant View Road. This will improve the looks of the area and create greater visibility that we hope will deter illegal activities. While cleaning the ditch on Pleasant View, we found three utility trailer loads of old tires someone had dumped in the area. We also hope the clearing of brush will deter this type of activity.
- Work has begun on Capital Project 22 from the sales tax capital program. The project is a 10' asphalt multipurpose trail that will begin at the boat launch area and go south under Pleasant View Road to the edge of the radio control flying field. We hope someday the trail will attach to the trail at Orbit Lane and continue to the trail at Illinois Bayou Park. This is part of the "Russellville Connected" trail system plan.
- Work is continuing at the Illinois Bayou Park trail with assistance from project coordinator Ron Knost and the Pope County 309s. Nine of the twelve culverts have been installed. Clearing, grubbing and excavation continue in preparation for the gravel base. This trail will be the same surface and width as the Bayou Park Trail at the ski area. This is part of the "Russellville Connected" trail system plan.
- We began a watering program for our newly planted young trees due to the drought in the area. We are trying to keep these trees alive while they're getting established. We hope like everyone else there is rain in our future.
- Fall league softball registration was held from July 16 to July 27. We had 26 teams enter for our fall league which will begin play on August 13 and end the second week in October. Good luck to all the teams in our league.
- Registration was held at the Hughes Center for the fall senior softball league. They will have five teams in 2012 and will play on Tuesday nights at Pleasant View Park. Charles Lemley is their league coordinator.
- The church coed league held their registration in July and will begin play on August 13 at Pleasant View Park.
- The park sign at James School Park was damaged when it was struck by a vehicle. Repairs will be forthcoming once all the paperwork is approved.
- The last Learn to Swim session started July 9 with 53 participants. This first year of offering the program, we helped 158 kids improve their swimming skills. We look forward to making improvements in the program for 2013 and providing a better program for the participants next season.
- Storms with much needed rain came through on August 26 and blew several limbs down in three parks. The sign at Washburn Park was also damaged due to the storms. We will begin mowing again as now with the rain we have grass to mow.
- The adult soccer league began their second season play in July. They play on Sundays from 9:00am to 2:00pm on the three large fields.