



Recreation & Parks Department Report February 2013

- Six (6) groups used the Hughes Center during January for a total of 182 hours. Events included the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration presented on January 19 by the Progressive Men's Club, an AVSA meeting, AARP tax assistance training and the New Life Church.
- The Parks Commission met on January 8. The minutes are attached.
- The Russellville High School baseball and softball teams began practice in January at Hickey Park on Field 1 and Field 6. The lights and restrooms were made available on January 24 at the complex.
- Quarterly safety inspections were conducted on the park buildings and vehicles. All fire extinguishers, emergency lights, exit lights, weather radios, eyewash stations and grinders were inspected. One emergency light had a battery replaced. In other safety matters, a fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Center and the offices and jobsites were inspected.
- Due to the heavy rains on January 12, routine maintenance on the wildlife observation trail at Illinois Bayou Park was needed and made around each of the culverts along the trail. Rip rap and gravel was replaced or added. Several parks had washed out areas that will need fixed. The newly cleaned ditch at Hickey Park withheld the water flow with little or no damage. Thanks to Public Works for the great job.
- The bridge work at Hickey Park continues with an anticipated completion date in late February or early March. This will be an attractive addition to the park and will add to the area we are developing as a spectator sitting area.
- An inventory of all of the parks shops was completed. Several outdated pieces and parts of equipment and supplies were discarded. Updates and repairs to equipment will be made according to priority and need.
- Twelve of the gymnasium lights were replaced as several were out or weak. We also worked on several projects on the gym walls that were up high.
- The Historic Tree Park and trail were cleaned and cleared of underbrush and low tree limbs. The public has asked us to make the area safer by improving visibility. We removed several dead trees, pruned low limbs, filled holes and leveled grounds. The trail bark will be rejuvenated later.
- Training began for the AARP volunteers who provide tax assistance at the Hughes Center. Led by O.D. Smith and John Bartlett, this group helps many people file their income tax returns each year. This year they will begin on February 4. Hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Thursday in February.
- Two youth fast pitch softball tournaments were secured in January. The tournaments will be played on April 22 and May 11. This year fifteen tournaments have been scheduled for the fields at Pleasant View Park and Shiloh Park.
- The department had one incident of vandalism for the month of January. Graffiti was discovered and removed from the Phase III pavilion at Hickey Park.