



Recreation & Parks Department Report June 2011

- Eleven (11) groups used the Hughes Center during May for a total of 123 hours. Events included an ATU Graphic Design Showcase, Progressive Men's Club festival preparation and meetings for AVSA, pool employees, parks staff, Civil Service Commission, Main Street Downtown Committee and the Police Pension Board.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in May.
- The department had four incidents of vandalism for the month of May. Incidents included property damage at Pleasant View Park and the Russellville ski area, graffiti at Hickey Park and an illegal dumping on Orbit Lane. Illegal dumping at Orbit Lane continues to be a problem.
- The new tractor was delivered and put into service immediately. The extra wide tires and low profile will be a real benefit in wet areas of the parks. We have attached the fifteen foot finish mower to the new tractor. The tractor is also being used to load storm damage in the parks as it does less damage with the wide tires.
- Four bids were submitted for the backhoe. The low bid of \$63,100.00 was submitted by Scott Equipment Company. The backhoe was ordered on the May 23 with an estimated delivery date in August.
- The storm on May 20 caused damage at Hickey Park. The bleachers on Field 1 were blown into the backstop and bent one of the large fence posts. The 12' centerfield fence was also blown down and several of the rails were destroyed. The bleachers on Field 5 were blown to the fence. The tree at Pavilion 2 was blown down and one by the creek was also blown on the ground.
- Clean up continued in May from the April 19 and April 24 storms that damaged our parks. Before we could complete clean up and repairs, we had more damage from the storms in May.
- M.J. Hickey Park Pool was repaired, painted, cleaned and filled for the 2011 opening date of Saturday, May 28. The decks were patched, building cleaned, broken tiles replaced, pool furniture cleaned and placed out on the deck. There are currently no leaks and the pool equipment is all operating correctly and efficiently. We are looking forward to another great summer.
- The life guards and the pool manager were hired for the 2011 season. This year's manager will be Dan Boroughs. The guards are John Ferris, Zachary Whitworth, Ali Rye, Anthony Williams, Cody Henley, Shirley Carr, Zachary Taylor and Caitlin Dellar. We met on May 9 with all the pool employees and conducted training and exchanged all needed information on employment with the City and operations of our pool. All of our new employees seemed well trained, knowledgeable and eager to begin work.
- Tom Daniels of Jack Warner Fireworks and Mack found the best location for the 2011 Fourth of July festivities at Pleasant View Park. The fireworks will be at 9:15pm from the back of the softball complex near the fishing pond. We are again working with the Journey, the Corps of Engineers, Russellville Police Department, Marine Rescue, Russellville Fire Department, Arkansas State Police and the Pope County Ambulance Service to assist us in making sure that this year's family friendly, citywide festivities is fun and safe for all those who celebrate with us.

- The set up work on Capital Project 15, the Hughes Center parking lots, was completed on the May 24. Blackstone did the overlay on May 27. We will have the striping done, purchase and set needed bumper blocks to complete the project. This project really enhances the City Park area and the Hughes Center. With all the repairs to the area we are hoping to increase usage at the Center.
- Additional asphalt was laid at Shiloh Park on the upper lot to add much needed additional parking spaces for the park. We will paint the lines and purchase needed parking blocks to complete the project in June.
- Lighting repair was completed at Hickey Park Field 7 and Pleasant View Field 1. A contactor and breaker were blown out. We feel it was from lightning strikes in the area.
- Mowing has continued to be heavy and we are keeping up when it is dry enough to get off pavement.
- Five of the six heating and air conditioners have been installed at the Hughes Center. The sixth unit was back ordered and will be in the first week of June.