



Recreation & Parks Department Report March 2010 *md*

- Eight (8) groups used the Hughes Center during February for a total of 198 hours. Events included AARP Tax Assistance and the Chamber of Commerce Monthly Luncheon.
- A safety meeting on workplace stress was conducted by Mark Lawrence of the Arkansas Department of Labor.
- There was snow covering the ground for the first two weeks of February so maintenance work was scheduled mostly indoors and capital projects progressed slowly. There were several snow related problems which included limbs down in parks, grounds saturated, and people thought with snow on the ground that parks were good places to spin donuts.
- Mack attended training at the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association annual conference in Fort Smith on February 8, 9 & 10.
- Twelve softball tournaments have already been scheduled for the 2010 season. Ten of the thirteen weekends of April, May and June are booked. Tournaments include an A.S.A. qualifier on May 15, A.S.A. Youth District on June 12, A.S.A. Youth State on June 26 and the men's U.S.S.S.A. State on July 24.
- The Parks Commission met on February 16. The commission discussed the possibility of adding the 83 acre Dike View recreation area to our parks system. We will look at the requirements from the Corps of Engineers, the cost incurred to meet those requirements, a park plan and the public's input before returning to the commission and making a recommendation to the city council. Blueprints were presented to the commission on the new shop at the soccer complex. The commission agreed to move forward with bidding. The 2010 R.Y.B.A. program agreement was discussed and approved. The new water improvements to Hickey Park were discussed and approved. The disaster relief shelter agreement with the Red Cross was discussed and it was agreed to renew the existing agreement. Updates were presented on the Hickey concession, soccer, Illinois Bayou Park and upcoming events.
- Three incidents of vandalism were reported in February. Incidents included criminal mischief at the Hughes Center and illegal dumping at the Ouita Boat launch area and Confederate Mothers Memorial Park.
- Two new 2" water meters were installed at Hickey Park along with a new fire hydrant. New 4" water pipe was installed and tapped onto the existing 3" water line going to the concession. This should take care of the problem with water volume in the park. A 4" water line will be installed going to Hickey Pool in March.
- Work on improving drainage and erosion control was completed on several ditches at Hickey Park.
- New foul poles were installed and fence work was completed on Field 2 at Hickey Park.
- All the old light pole piers were removed from the park and all needed dirt work was completed to make the area safe.
- Work on the new concession at Hickey Park is nearing completion and should be ready by March 12. The water lines have been re-routed, sewer hooked in, plumbing fixtures installed, window shelves poured, painting completed and heating/air conditioning installed. The electricians are scheduled to begin the installation of the switching gear on March 1. Hopefully, weather permitting and no delays, they should be completed by the March 11.
- The new pavilion at the Russellville Soccer Complex was erected in February. The pavilion should be ready for use in March.
- Russellville High School began their 2010 baseball and softball seasons in February with practices at Hickey Park, when weather permitted.