



Recreation & Parks Department Report November 2013

- Thirteen (13) groups used the Hughes Center during October for a total of 212 hours. Events included Early Care Education classes, 206 FA Army National Guard Reunion, Ladies Night Out, Bassmaster Banquet and KidsFest.
- The Parks Commission met on October 8. The minutes from the meeting are attached.
- The department had 21 pavilion reservations for the month of October. The government shutdown which closed Corps of Engineers facilities sent groups scrambling for a place to hold their planned events.
- Universal Fire Industries performed an annual inspection of all of the department's fire extinguishers. In other safety matters, the department performed inspections on vehicles, jobsites, offices and all park buildings.
- A safety meeting for the department employees was held on October 3. The topic was hazard communication.
- Work on the new Wildlife Observation Trail included rip rap, trail stabilization, trees and bushes were planted, beautification of the area and the Wildlife Observation sign was installed. Two culverts were extended due to safety concerns.
- The Wildlife Observation Trail was completed and opened for use. Please go out and hike the new trail. A special thanks to everyone involved for their hard work and dedication to this wonderful addition to the City's trail system. A dedication and ribbon cutting is schedule for November 7 at 10:00am.
- The Boys & Girls Club began their flag football league play at Vick Field. This year they have 11 teams participating. Games are played on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- The softball season wrapped up play in October at Pleasant View Park and Shiloh Park. A fall USSSA State tournament was played on October 5. The department has already secured tournaments for next year.
- KidsFest was held on October 31 at the Hughes Center. It was again a great success and a good time was had by all. Thanks to the Arkansas Tech Recreation Programming Class, Russellville Fire Department, Russellville Police Department, Pope County EMS, Pope County OEM, Suddenlink, U.S. Forest Service, Friendship Community Care and the River Valley Arts Center. We are already looking forward to next year's event.
- Bank stabilization work was done on the Illinois Bayou North Trail at Pleasant View Park. We replaced rip rap that has been thrown into the lake by vandals and some fishermen.
- The splash pad was closed and winterized for the season. The first year was good with heavy use for most of the season. The equipment has been placed in storage and the area locked for safety.
- The Department received funding from the Advertising and Promotion Commission in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the 2014 budget.
- The Welcome to Russellville sign at Washburn Park was completed with flags raised and illuminated. Thanks go out to Leadership Russellville for the donation of the new sign. Russellville city flags have been ordered and will be added to the third flagpole once they arrive.