



Recreation & Parks Department Report September 2011

- Six (6) groups used the Hughes Center during August for a total of 120 hours. Events included driver license testing, a department safety meeting and a MADD meeting.
- The Parks Commission met on August 9. The first order of business was to establish this year's theme for the Christmas parade. The theme chosen was Christmas Traditions. Everyone can now begin planning their floats for the parade. Russellville High School's tennis team has asked to use the City Park tennis courts until October 15 from 3:00 to 6:00 for practice. The courts at the school are being replaced and are not usable. The commission approved their request. The last item of business was the adoption of a metal detecting policy for the parks. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13 at noon at the Hughes Center.
- In accordance with the department's fire prevention program, a fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Community Center and all of the department's fire extinguishers were inspected.
- Mark Lawrence, from the Arkansas Department of Labor, conducted a safety meeting on August 23. The topics were "Working Outdoors with Power Equipment" and "Heat Stress". IT employees also attended.
- Attendance for the Zumba classes has greatly increased. The instructor credits the Hughes Center marquee information for the increase.
- Department rentals included 15 private pool parties, 6 pavilion rentals, 8 softball practices and 1 smoker grill rental. The heat has slowed the pavilion reservations at all parks.
- The department did not have any incidents of vandalism in the month of August.
- M.J. Hickey Pool was closed for the season on August 15. Due to the Russellville school district's early start, the pool season was a little shorter this year. We are looking at extending hours in 2012.
- Pleasant View Park was the host site for the USSSA Showcase Youth Softball Tournament. The tournament gave area youth the opportunity to play while being observed by college scouts.
- A pre-construction meeting with Arkansas Game and Fish personnel and city officials for the Wildlife Observation Trail Grant project was held at Illinois Bayou Park on August 22. We hope to start construction in late September or October. Construction will include a 4500 foot asphalt trail with four spurs that will run to the lake.
- The roadway and smaller parking lots at Pleasant View Park were asphalted by Blackstone Construction Company on August 5 and August 8. The smaller lots were painted on August 25 which completed capital project number 21.
- Lightning struck the pool on August 11 and blew the Chemtrol chemical controller. Everything was manually operated for the last four days the pool was open. The equipment is being inspected to determine if it has been destroyed or just damaged.
- Lightning damaged the light system at Pleasant View Park on August 12. Damage included two ballasts, two contactors, 30 bulbs and several fuses. The damage is estimated to be just over \$5,000.00. We hope to have the system completely repaired by the end of the month.
- A vehicle drove into the James School Park pavilion causing damage to the beams and rest rooms. We will secure the facility and plan for repairs as soon as possible.

- Shade structures for Hickey Park Field 7 were installed on August 23. This completes capital project number 14.
- A new rolling drive gate was installed at Hickey Park on August 23. The gate replaces the old swing gates that were removed when the road and parking lots were asphalted. This was needed so the park can be secured for the winter season.
- Storm damage in the parks included downed limbs and trees blown over at Illinois Bayou and Pleasant View Parks. The limbs have been cleaned up and the downed trees will be removed in September. The trees are in a low traffic area and do not create a hazard to the public.
- A fire on August 3 at Illinois Bayou Park killed several trees and burned most of the underbrush in the northwest area of the park. The firefighters did a great job keeping the damage to a minimum.
- A new gate for Orbit Lane was built by our maintenance staff and installed on August 29. Orbit Lane will be walk-in access only beginning September 1. We hope to connect Orbit Lane to Illinois Bayou and the Russellville ski area trails in the future.