



## ***Recreation & Parks Department Report September 2012***

- Nine (9) groups used the Hughes Center during August for a total of 144 hours. Events included the Community Choir summer concert, Big Brothers and Big Sisters Parents Night Out fundraiser and birthday parties for the Duncan and McNack families.
- The Parks Commission met on August 14. The minutes are attached.
- The department had one incident of vandalism in the month of August. A section of the fall zone surfacing at the play structure designed for 5 to 12 year olds was pulled up and scattered in City Park.
- Reservations for the month of August included one pavilion reservation, one smoker grill rental and 19 pool parties.
- The Dwight Mission boat launch area was added to Russellville's park system in August. The area was slated for closing by the Corps of Engineers until the City requested the area be added. The area will be utilized during the many fishing tournaments held on Lake Dardanelle each year.
- The diorama, "Little People of Ozarks" created by Alice Spurgeon Echols in 1969, that is encased in the Hughes Center lobby was removed, cleaned and repaired by the River Valley Arts Center. Special thanks to Betty LaGrone for her help. The diorama was a gift from AP & L, Millard-Henry Clinic, Peoples Bank and Edward Payson Washburn's relatives.
- The department opened bids for a pre-cast double vault restroom for Illinois Bayou Park on August 16. CXT, Inc. an L.B. Foster Company submitted the low bid. The rest room was ordered and should arrive in 90 days. The restroom will be a much needed improvement to Illinois Bayou Park.
- In-depth park inspections were conducted in August at all of the City's parks. Work began immediately after the inspections on playground repair and the pruning of trees. Several repairs were made and replacement parts ordered to keep our playgrounds safe for our park patrons. Extensive pruning and tree removal was done at City Park, Washburn Park, Circle Drive Park, Sequoyah Park, James School Park, Illinois Bayou Park and the disc golf area. Many of the trees were a safety concern and several had damaged limbs.
- In other safety matters, all of the department's fire extinguishers were inspected and a fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Community Center. All park employees received training on hot weather safety by Rick Borroughs from the Arkansas Department of Labor.
- Paul Jackson replaced the side boards and added bumpers to the two docks at the Russellville water ski area. The docks were painted with warning signs and cleaned.
- The playground fall zone area at Pleasant View Park was repaired. The poured in place rubber is separating and will require replacing in the future. We have found that the fall zone panels seem to hold up better than the poured in place rubber.
- With the return of the rains we began mowing grass again. The mowing is probably going to remain on an elevated level as the rain and high temperatures create perfect growing conditions.

- Work on the Illinois Bayou Park Trail continued. All the culverts are in, rip rap is in place and the side trail work has begun. Gravel will be set in September. Currently plans to have the trail open are slated for next year. The trail work may put a strain on our fuel budget as we have exceeded our projected commitment on equipment use for the project.
- M.J. Hickey Pool was cleaned and winterized for the season. All furniture and pool amenities were cleaned, repaired or removed for later repair and the building secured. The 2012 season went well with few complaints and lots of pool patrons enjoying their visit to our pool. We look forward to another great year in 2013.
- The City accepted the bid and signed the contract with E.T.C. Engineers from Little Rock to assist us in the development of an aquatic center for Russellville. We have met with the group and the process has begun. We hope to have a plan in October to review and begin getting public feedback.
- The barbed wire was replaced around the bull pen at Hickey Park. We hope this will deter any unsavory behavior and break-ins at the area.
- The eight foot fence in front of the dugouts on Field 3 at Pleasant View Park was replaced. We plan on replacing the dugout fences on the other three fields later.
- The Arkansas Department of Health passed the plans for the splash pad at City Park. We have ordered the additional equipment and are currently working on the bid package for the construction. We hope to open the splash pad for the community in the spring.
- The gravel for the ski area trail was hauled in and spread. Dozer work was started on the south side of Pleasant View road and rip rap under the bridge was completed. We hope to have this project completed in the upcoming months.