



Recreation & Parks Department Report June 2015

- Ten (10) groups used the Hughes Center during May for a total of 232 hours. Events included the River Valley Senior Network Health Fair, Ducks Unlimited Family Night and the Pope County Library System Book Sale and Summer Reading Kickoff Event.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in May. The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, June 9 at noon at the Hughes Center.
- The department had 30 pavilion reservations in May. Two youth softball tournaments with 38 teams participating were held at Pleasant View Park in May. The park and city were full of softball players, coaches and parents enjoying all Russellville has to offer.
- The Department began selling swim passes and booking pool parties on May 1. Registration for the Learn to Swim Program also began on that date. Swim lessons will be conducted in three sessions with the first one beginning on June 8. There are spaces available for each session. Our swim lessons are sanctioned by the American Red Cross.
- The RussVegas Balloon Festival was held May 2 at the soccer complex. Area residents enjoyed skydiving, hot air balloon rides, concessions, games, music groups and helicopter rides at the event. We are already making plans for Balloon Fest 2016.
- A staff meeting for all pool employees was held on May 11. The pool manual was reviewed and safety training was conducted during this meeting for the 2015 pool employees. We are looking at having a fun and safe season at the pool and hope everyone will come out and enjoy the pool.
- In safety matters, all fire extinguishers in all vehicles, heavy equipment and park buildings were inspected. Self inspection forms for all job worksites and offices were completed for the month of May.
- The splash pad was opened for the season on May 18. It is located in City Park at 915 East B Street. Hours of operation are 10:00am to 8:00pm, seven days a week. The splash pad offers an excellent way to beat the heat of summer at no cost to our citizens.
- The pool opened for the weekends on May 23 and will open daily beginning June 4 once the school year is completed. Public swim hours of operation are 12:30pm to 6:30pm. Maintenance worked diligently all month preparing the pool for opening day. The pool and facilities were patched, painted and cleaned.
- The rubber fall zone cushion at the composite play structures at City Park, Veterans Park and Shiloh Park were repaired. The repairs were made to keep our units safe as part of our park system plan.
- Storms caused damage to trees and electric poles in City Park. A large tree by the tennis courts was blown across a power pole knocking down electric lines. Trees were uprooted at the competition ski area and limbs were down at Illinois Bayou Park and Washburn Park. All were cleaned and repaired in a quick time.
- Trees were planted and mulch placed at Washburn Park by Vicki Hall of the Master Gardeners Club. The new area that was planted looks good and will help with erosion and reduce mowing in a hard to mow area.
- Infield dirt work was started at M.J. Hickey Park by the Assistant Parks Director Terry Thomas. Work included cutting lips off the infield and adding dirt to low areas to level up fields. The work will continue once the baseball season ends.
- Two trails were completed in May and opened for use to the public. They were at Orbit Lane and the Ouita Coal Company mountain bike trail.