



*Recreation & Parks  
Department Report  
February 2017*

- Eight (8) groups used the Hughes Center during January for a total of 138 hours. Events included the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and an Arkansas River Valley Gun Club party.
- The Parks Commission met on January 12. Minutes are available for viewing on [www.russellvillearkansas.org](http://www.russellvillearkansas.org)
- The AARP began training for the upcoming tax season. They offer tax assistance from January 30 until April 12. February operating hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Last year the volunteer group assisted more than 1700 citizens with their tax returns. This is a wonderful program and a big thank you to all the volunteers for their time.
- Community Service, Inc. began the First Tee Program on January 17. They meet every Tuesday at the Hughes Center from 3:45pm to 5:00pm. Sam Taylor does a great job each year and makes this a fun program for the kids.
- Quarterly safety inspections were conducted by the department. All fire extinguishers, emergency lights and exit lights were working properly. An unannounced fire drill was held in January and no problems were encountered. We continually strive to make sure we provide as safe a work and recreation environment as possible.
- Maintenance staff removed and stored all of the downtown Christmas lights. The displays were beautiful this year and enjoyed by many of our citizens. We are looking forward to improving on the display in 2017.
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission stocked trout in the Pleasant View Park pond on January 17. They continue to stock the pond each year after Trout Day so our residents can trout fish in the River Valley through the winter.
- The soccer lights for the three adult fields at the soccer complex were ordered on January 25. Work will begin in February and should be completed in late March.
- A large strip mine hole was secured and the fence was repaired on the Ouita Coal Company mountain bike trail at Dike View Park. We urge everyone to be careful and observant while using the area.
- The basketball goals at City Park and Crawford Park were repaired this month. They were repainted, new nets and bolts were installed and they were checked to make sure they were all well secured and safe for use by the public.
- Department maintenance picked up limbs, pruned and cleared underbrush in several parks. We are trying to get a clear view through all of our city parks.
- New energy efficient LED light fixtures were installed at Shiloh Park pavilion to enhance the lighting and add security to the area.