



Recreation & Parks
Department Report
February 2024

- Ten groups used the Hughes Center during the month of January for a total of 157 hours. Events included an Arkansas Blood Institute blood drive, the annual Progressive Men's Club Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, a first responder appreciation luncheon sponsored by Carol Collins, scout meetings and two baby showers.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in January. Minutes from previous meetings are available for viewing at www.russellvillearkansas.org.
- Quarterly safety inspections were conducted by the department. All fire extinguishers, vehicles, heavy equipment, emergency lights and exit lights were inspected to ensure that they work properly. An unannounced fire drill was held at the Hughes Community Center in January and no problems were encountered. Regular inspections protect workers from accidents and injuries by making sure the equipment is safe to use. Moreover, the safety inspection procedure also increases awareness in our employees and reminds them to be mindful of potential hazards.
- New fencing was installed on Fields 2, 3 & 4 at M.J. Hickey Park. Pitching mounds and bases were also installed. Outfield windscreens will be placed on the outfield fences in the coming weeks.
- The backstop fencing was removed from the four fields at Pleasant View Park. It will be replaced with new netting. The netting will give the fields a new modern look and will be cheaper to replace in the future.
- Maintenance staff removed the Christmas decorations and lights from downtown Russellville and put them in storage until next year.
- Outfield dirt work continues at M.J. Hickey Park and Pleasant View Park in preparation for the upcoming season. Pitching mounds and bases have been installed, grass seed planted and sod has been ordered. New signage was installed throughout both parks.
- Maintenance staff continues to prepare equipment and parks for the upcoming spring. They have mulched leaves, trimmed trees, cleaned flowerbeds, and replaced lights, trash cans and trash can lids. They continue to clean and prepare the park pavilions for use. New toilets and sinks have been installed in various parks.
- Athletic Director Matt Gray is working hard on getting tournaments booked for 2024. Currently he has booked sixteen tournaments. He is also working to improve our natural turf by treating it for weeds, sodding over the heavily used areas, overseeding outfields and leveling up low areas for safer playing surfaces.