



**Recreation & Parks
Department Report
August 2023**

- Eight groups used the Hughes Center during the month of July for a total of 173 hours. Events included Friends of the NRA Banquet, Morales Quinceanera and U.S. Navy training.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in July. Minutes from previous meetings are available for viewing at www.russellvillearkansas.org.
- The Department had 25 pavilion rentals in the city parks and 9 practice field reservations for Shiloh Park, Pleasant View Park and Vick Field in July.
- In safety matters, the department performed safety inspections on all fire extinguishers, vehicles, AEDs, offices and park buildings.
- The City of Russellville, in partnership with Main Street Russellville, hosted the third annual Independence Day celebration downtown on July 4. Numerous food trucks gave those attending the event many choices for food and drinks. The event concluded with a great fireworks display presented by Interstate Fireworks. Thanks to the many volunteers from Public Works, Russellville Police Department, Russellville Fire Department and the Parks Department that helped with the event.
- Registration was held for the department's adult fall softball league from July 3 through July 14 and 18 teams signed up for the season. The league will begin in August and run through October with games being played on Tuesday and Thursday nights at Pleasant View Park.
- Animal Control Department Head Mike Vernon conducted an orientation and qualification event for this year's Urban Deer Hunt at the Sheppard Drive soccer fields. He was assisted by Arkansas Game and Fish and the Arkansas State Bowhunters Association. Seventy participants qualified for this season that will run from September 1 to February 29.
- Work on the A.D.A. accessible fishing pier project continued at Pleasant View Park. The pier project includes A.D.A. parking, a concrete sidewalk, 50 foot fishing access and a 10' x 10' pavilion.
- The all-inclusive playground is finished and open to the public. Sidewalks were installed that lead to the playground and splash pad. A ribbon cutting is scheduled at 11:30 a.m. on August 17, 2023.
- Construction on Phase III of the Schoolhouse Trail is finished and the trail is open to the public. The Phase III section starts at Kroger and goes south to West 4th Street and James School Park.
- Construction has begun on the next phase of the Schoolhouse Trail. This phase will run through James School Park to South Glenwood Avenue and over to South El Paso Avenue. This phase is scheduled to open early fall of 2023.
- The maintenance staff have been busy installing park benches, picnic tables and sod around the all-inclusive playground at City Park. The July rain showers have increased mowing in the parks. Sand has been spread at the soccer complex to make the fields level and to fill in any low areas that hold water. Staff continues to cleanup storm damaged trees in the parks.