



Recreation & Parks
Department Report
September 2023

- Eleven groups used the Hughes Center during the month of August for a total of 184 hours. Events included a distribution of school supplies by Main Street Mission, the annual Dollar General Holiday Meeting and several baby showers, birthday parties, scout meetings and club meetings.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in August. Minutes from previous meetings are available for viewing at www.russellvillearkansas.org.
- The Department had 21 pavilion rentals in the city parks and 16 practice field reservations for Shiloh Park, Pleasant View Park and Vick Field in August. The total rental of pavilions for this summer was 104 compared to 53 for last summer.
- As part of the Department's safety plan, all fire extinguishers and AEDs were inspected and a fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Center. An additional four AEDs have been added to park buildings. They are located at M.J. Hickey Pool, Shiloh Park, Pleasant View Park and the soccer complex.
- Pleasant View Park was the host site for one tournament in August. The tournament brought seventeen teams to Russellville.
- A ribbon cutting for the new all-inclusive playground and splash pad at City Park was held on August 17. Four hundred snow cones and two hundred hot dogs, along with chips, cookies and drinks, were enjoyed by the many citizens that attended the event.
- Arkansas Valley Soccer Association registered for their fall league in August. The season will begin in September and run through the first week of November. Practices will be held during the week and games will be played on Saturdays. AVSA has 615 youth participants and 500 adult participants registered for the season. This is a record enrollment for the Arkansas Valley Soccer Association. Additional soccer fields will be needed in the near future.
- Preparation began for the installation of turf at M.J. Hickey Park. Work included removing or relocating infield sprinklers, repairing outfield sprinklers and removing pitching mounds and bases. Dirt work will begin on September 5 on Fields 2, 3, 4 and 7.
- A baseball and softball player development camp sponsored by the Russellville Youth Baseball Association was held at M.J. Hickey Park on August 19. The camp was ran by former Arkansas Razorback players Blaine and Rachel Knight. Topics covered were defense, offense, speed and agility, base running, pitching, catching and mental toughness. The camp concluded with an enthusiastic game of wiffle ball!
- After a successful career with the parks department and a brief retirement, Henry Hankins has rejoined the parks staff as a part-time Hughes Center building attendant. We are so glad to welcome him back.