



Recreation & Parks
Department Report
February 2026

- Throughout January, the Hughes Center welcomed twelve different groups, totaling 160 hours of use. Activities ranged from Scouting America meetings and Fit Girlz workouts to the Progressive Men's Club annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, U.S. Forest Service Employee Appreciation Day, and a Pottsville High School dance.
- The department conducted its quarterly safety inspections, which included fire extinguishers, AEDs, vehicles, heavy equipment, emergency lights, and exit lights to ensure all equipment was functioning properly. An unannounced fire drill was also held at the Hughes Community Center in January. Regular safety inspections help protect employees from accidents and injuries by ensuring equipment is safe to use. Additionally, the inspection process increases employee awareness and reinforces the importance of being mindful of potential hazards.
- Maintenance staff removed the Christmas decorations and lights from downtown Russellville and stored them for use next year.
- Athletic Director Matt Gray is working hard on getting softball and baseball tournaments booked for 2026. Currently he has booked nineteen tournaments for Pleasant View Park and M.J. Hickey Park.
- Maintenance staff began preparing for spring by mulching leaves, cleaning parks, trimming trees, repairing bathrooms and preparing their equipment for the upcoming mowing season.
- Turf installation on the two fields at Shiloh Park continued in January. Once completed, the City will have ten turf fields and be better positioned to attract larger tournaments to the area.
- Construction on the bathrooms at Harmon Park continued throughout January. Park usage has increased significantly with the addition of the new beginner skater area. The bathroom project is expected to be completed in March.
- The turf soccer field at the Russellville Soccer Complex has been completed and is a great addition to the facility. Other improvements include new epoxy flooring in the restrooms.
- A pickleball clinic for kids was held in the Hughes Community Center on January 10 with fourteen kids participating. An outdoor clinic is scheduled for February 28 at the Russellville Soccer Complex pickleball courts. Parents or legal guardians can register their kids at <https://secure.rec1.com/AR/russellville-recreation-parks/catalog>
- Recreation Program Manager Mariah Jeffcoat is busy planning the upcoming youth baseball and softball program. The public is encouraged to follow the department's social media for updates on an exciting youth summer camp she is planning.