



Recreation & Parks Department Report August 2013

- Eight (8) groups used the Hughes Center during July for a total of 150 hours. Events included signups for the senior softball league, RRPD softball meetings, the Pope County Library Summer Reading Program Kinder Concert, OSHA classes for the Manhattan Road and Bridge Company and a shrimp and catfish dinner fundraiser for the Pope/Yell County Single Parent Scholarship.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in July. The next scheduled meeting will be held on August 13 at noon in the Hughes Center.
- The department had 9 pavilion reservations, 19 pool party reservations and 7 practice field reservations for the month of July.
- The Boys and Girls Club Sharks swim team held their annual swim meet on the July 12. The crowds were good and the swim team represented Russellville well. The pool was also utilized for near drowning training by the Arkansas National Guard in July.
- The Learn to Swim program completed their third and final session in July. Participation in the program increased from last year with 171 kids receiving swimming instructions.
- The USSSA C Youth state tournament was held July 5 – 7 at Pleasant View Park, Shiloh Park, Clarksville and Pottsville. There were 80 plus teams making this our largest tournament of the year. The USSSA Rec Youth state tournament followed it the following weekend with 24 teams participating. The park was also utilized by the ATU softball coach who held an “ATU Exposure” camp for her players.
- The Fourth of July fireworks display was held at 9:15 at Old Post Park. This year’s display was packed with spectators who were treated to a fine fireworks show. Special thanks to the Kiwanis for providing concessions for the show.
- Signups were held for the department’s adult fall softball league. We had twenty-eight teams sign up for our fall season. Games will be played on Tuesday and Thursday nights at Pleasant View Park.
- The Illinois Bayou North Trail was dedicated on July 2. This trail runs from the boat launch area at the Russellville Ski Area under Pleasant View Road to the south where it will connect with the Orbit Lane Trail. The department has received funding from the Arkansas Highway Department to construct the Orbit Lane section next year
- Work continued on the splash pad. We changed the filter system to a sand filter and added a strainer. We are hoping this will help keep the splash pad safe and operating more efficiently.
- City Park continues to be an enjoyable site for our community to visit. Usage remains very high and the added amenities over the years seem to be paying off. We have received many compliments from daily users.
- The heating and air conditioning units on the west end of the gymnasium were replaced with two new fifteen ton units. Beavers Electric received the bid to replace the two units.
- Someone has decided they needed one of the barbeque grills previously located at Illinois Bayou Park. We replaced the grill that was removed with hopes it will remain there for use by the public.
- More dumping has occurred at Orbit Lane on the Corps property. The Corps has requested we relocate a gate to the entryway of the road off Pleasant View Road.
- Due to the rain in the month of July, our mowing has increased quite a bit. We are glad to see the rain and the parks look better with green grass and plush foliage. We ask everyone to be aware of our mowers while in use at parks.