



Recreation & Parks Department Report December 2013

- Seven (7) groups used the Hughes Center during November for a total of 136 hours. Events included the PACA Arts & Crafts Show, the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours and the West Central River Valley Community Concert.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in November. The Commission meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon in the Hughes Community Center. The public is invited to attend the meetings.
- Activity in the parks has slowed down due to the cooler weather. Old Man Winter is expected early this year so several of the parks have been winterized.
- In safety matters, the department performed inspections on fire extinguishers, jobsites and offices. A fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Community Center.
- The Arkansas Valley Soccer Association concluded their fall season on November 2. Their season begins again in the spring.
- Adult soccer completed their league play at the soccer complex in November. This year completes the league's twelfth year of play at the complex. Fourteen teams participated in their fall league.
- A ribbon cutting and dedication for the Wildlife Observation Trail in Illinois Bayou Park was held on November 7. The Department would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce, Kirsten Bartlow and James Rodgers of the Arkansas Game and Fish for their help with the dedication. The trail is three quarters of a mile to the end with several spurs that lead down to Lake Dardanelle. Benches have been installed at the end of each spur. Signs featuring different wildlife and habitat are scattered throughout the trail. Austin Neuffer and his Boy Scout troop worked on the unimproved natural trail that follows closer to the shore line at the park. That trail is coming along nicely and offers a different experience for park patrons.
- Pleasant View Park was the host site for a benefit 5K Color Run and an ATU softball camp. The set up for Winter Wonderland light display began in November. The display will begin on December 11 and run through December 22. We hope everyone will drive through the wonderful display and create a family Christmas memory.
- New mowing equipment was purchased in November. A much needed Bush Hog batwing finish mower and a Grasshopper zero turn commercial riding mower with a Buffalo Turbine blower attachment will be greatly utilized by the department. The blower was used this week to clean the trail at the soccer complex. A job that would have taken two men four hours to use hand blowers was done in 30 minutes.
- A Christmas Parade meeting was held on November 6 at the Hughes Center. All aspects of the planning of the parade were worked out. The float that carries Santa Claus and his sleigh is being designed and built currently at our North Pole mower shop. The parade is scheduled for Thursday, December 5 at 6:30pm. The parade route is from West 10th Street and South Arkansas Avenue, turning left onto West Main Street to South El Paso Avenue. We hope to see everyone out at the parade to welcome in the Christmas season. We also want to thank all of the participants and volunteers that make our Russellville Christmas parade the best in the state.
- A meeting with ETC engineers was held to discuss the time line for the project and begin development of the new aquatics center. A presentation will be made at the January commission meeting.
- Work has begun on the Orbit Lane Trail with clearing and grubbing. The weather may shut that project down until summer due to the wet conditions. The project is part of a grant from the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department.