



Recreation & Parks Department Report January 2013

- Seven (7) groups used the Hughes Center during December for a total of 135 hours. Events included the Junior Cyclone Peewee Football Banquet, the ANO Christmas Party and the River Valley Ducks Unlimited Banquet.
- The Parks Commission met on December 11. The minutes are attached.
- The department had two incidents of vandalism for the month of December. The incidents included a toilet paper dispenser being destroyed at City Park and illegal dumping of couches and yard waste on Orbit Lane in Shiloh Park.
- Trout Day was held on December 1 at Pleasant View Park. This annual event gives area anglers an opportunity to try out their trout fishing skills or be tutored by a member of the Caddis Fly Fishing Club. This event is always well attended and continues to grow each year. A statewide contest with prizes was added this year to encourage family fishing.
- The Russellville Christmas Parade was held downtown on December 6. This year's parade participants shone brightly as they made their way down the parade route. The parade is organized by the Parks Department and receives great volunteer support from all city departments. A special thanks to Kelli Nealy and all the volunteers that make this a great event each year.
- The department solicited bids in December for the operation of the park concessions. The bids were opened on December 11 at City Hall. J & J Food Services was awarded the bid and will continue to operate the concessions at Shiloh Park and Pleasant View Park.
- Mark Lawrence, Arkansas Department of Labor Safety and Health Specialist conducted a safety meeting on December 18 for park employees. The meeting was an annual review of the hazard communication standard. As usual, Mark did an excellent job in his presentation.
- We had a winter storm on December 19 with high winds that caused damage to the Winter Wonderland light display and downed limbs in some of the parks.
- Concrete pads to be used for material storage bins were poured at Hickey Park and Pleasant View Park. The youth baseball association will get the side wall concrete barriers donated for Hickey Park. Both projects were financed through a grant from the Advertising and Promotion Commission.
- Christmas decorations were put up at the Hughes Center and Washburn Park. We utilize the banners and Christmas trees, we refurbished, that were the old downtown decorations.
- Work continued on both the Illinois Bayou Wildlife Observation Trail and the ski area trail at Shiloh Park. Both trails will be open in the spring.
- Mack presented the department report to the City Council in December. That report will be on our website at www.russellvillearkansas.org for future viewing.
- The historic tree park trail at Pleasant View Park was cleared and cleaned of underbrush. We plan to resurface the wood chip trail as soon as the area is dry.