



Recreation & Parks Department Report June 2014

- Ten (10) groups used the Hughes Center during May for a total of 201 hours. Events included Fitz Girls workouts, Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, Ducks Unlimited Family Night and the Bassmasters tournament registration and social.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in May. The next scheduled meeting is June 10 at noon in the Hughes Community Center.
- The RussVegas Balloon Festival was held May 1 -4 at the soccer complex. The park was packed each day with excited spectators who enjoyed skydiving, hot air balloon rides, and helicopter rides. The citizens of Russellville enjoyed the beautiful balloons as they floated across the sky each morning of the event. This event is scheduled to be an annual event at the soccer complex.
- The Department began selling swim passes and pool parties on May 1. Registration for the Learn to Swim Program also began on that date. Swim lessons will be conducted in three sessions with the first one beginning on June 9. There are spaces available for each session.
- The Department hosted our 23rd annual local Hershey Track and Field Meet on May 3. Twenty-one participants qualified for the Arkansas State Meet to be held in Jacksonville on June 7. Five winners at that meet will be selected for an all expense trip to the National Meet held in Hershey, Pennsylvania this August. The Hershey Company is excited about their new program runjumpthrow that will begin next year. The new program will introduce kids ages 7 through 12 to the basic skills of running, jumping and throwing through track and field. This year will be the final year for the Hershey State and National meets.
- Emily Moore, the children's librarian from the Pope County Library, held a storybook reading at City Park on May 7. Twenty-five kids and fifteen adults gathered under the big tree as Emily read books to them. The children really enjoyed the book about squirrels when they noticed the curious squirrels listening in the big tree. Two of the parents were new to the area and we thank the library for introducing one of our most beautiful parks to them.
- Maintenance worked diligently all month preparing the pool for opening day. The pool was patched, painted and filled. The pool will open for the weekends on May 24 and will open daily beginning June 5 once the school year is completed. Daily hours of operation are 12:30pm to 6:30pm.
- In safety matters, all fire extinguishers in all vehicles, heavy equipment and park buildings were inspected. Self inspection forms for all job worksites and offices were completed for the month of May.
- A staff meeting for all pool employees was held on May 13. The pool manual was reviewed and safety training was conducted during this meeting for all our 2014 pool employees. Nathan Ray will be this season's pool manger and Craig Gunter will be the assistant manager. We are looking at having a great and fun season at the pool and hope everyone will come out and enjoy a little cooling off at the pool.
- The splash pad was opened for the season on May 17. It is located in City Park at 915 East B Street. Hours of operation are 10:00am to 8:00pm, seven days a week. The splash pad offers an excellent way to beat the heat of summer at no cost to our citizens. Thanks again to all involved in the hard work getting the splash pad opened.
- Russellville High School hosted the 6A State Soccer tournament with two days of games scheduled at the soccer complex. The school and volunteers did a great job putting on the tournament and the complex worked out well as second site for games. Congratulations to the Cyclones who won here and won the state tournament in Fayetteville.
- Dalton Huffman, our spring intern, was hired on at full time status for the rest of 2014. Dalton has done a great job as an intern and will be a much needed addition to our staff.

- The City Council updated the ordinances establishing the parks commission, department and director's position. The four ordinances 332, 630, 1190 and 1209 did not supersede each other and some articles contradicted each other. The updated ordinance does not affect any of our current commissioner's positions.
- An inspection of the soccer complex fields was conducted in May and revealed the fields to be in pretty rough shape. We will address several issues immediately and come up with a plan to keep the complex in top notch shape. We ask the public to be patient with us if the fields are temporarily out of service for repairs. Also anyone wishing to donate time, money or equipment for repairs please contact us. Everyone is also welcome to contact us with their concerns about the fields. That could probably go without being mentioned though.
- The gymnasium floor at the Hughes Center was refinished with two new coats of sealer by Lee's Gym Floor Surfacing. The floor looks great, will last longer and is safer for play with better traction. This was a much needed repair and will be well appreciated by the Center users.
- There was a disc golf tournament Memorial Day weekend at the disc golf course at Pleasant View Park. The players enjoyed a nice weekend with good weather for the three day event. Matt Lloyd was the tournament director. We are glad to see the usage at the course continue to be steady and thank all those who help us keep the litter under control and the course in good condition.
- A new metal roof was installed on the building at Harmon Park. The roof at Hickey Park Pavilion 2 will be changed next. We are changing all of our city facilities with shingles roofs to the metal roofs. We feel this will save the City money and create less of a demand for maintenance.
- Vandalism for the month has increased. Hickey Park received the brunt of the vandalism in May. Items were thrown over the fence at the pool. The fence by the parking area for Field 5 had a two foot hole cut in it twice. Within one week of having the fence repaired, vandals cut the hole again. The men's restroom at the park was vandalized on several occasions. Soap dispensers were emptied and poured all over the restroom, the thermostat was dismantled, fireworks were discharged and popcorn was thrown all over the restroom. Vandals burned paper in the sinks and on the baby changing station. We asked that everyone keep any eye out for these vandals so we can put a stop to this unnecessary damage.