



Recreation & Parks Department Report March 2011

- Eleven groups used the Hughes Center during February for a total of 219 hours. Events included Arkansas Valley Soccer Association board and coaches meetings, a public hearing on trails, grants and park areas, a Mothers Against Drunk Driving Victims Impact Panel meeting, the International Brotherhood of Magicians and a retirement party for J.L. Martin, Director of Public Works.
- The Parks Commission met on February 8. Topics discussed by the commission included the renovations for the east parking lot at the Hughes Center. They approved moving forward with the project. Mack went over the department's plans to apply for a Wildlife Observation Trail Grant. This is a 100% funded grant through the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. The commission was split between Orbit Lane and Illinois Bayou Park as which site would be best for the first portion of the trail. The pros of both sites were many and it was decided to use Tuesday evening's public hearing for additional input before deciding the location. Our annual Fourth of July fireworks display was discussed and it was decided we would use the fairgrounds in 2011 for the display. A PowerPoint presentation on the department was presented after the commission meeting. It went through all of our general department information including events, locations, programs, partnerships and budgets.
- There was a public meeting held at the Hughes Center on February 8 to discuss recreation, trails and applying for Wildlife Observation Trail Grant. The best location for the placement of the trail was discussed with the general consensus being Illinois Bayou Park. Also, a discussion on the Orbit Lane area and the Shiloh Park area were discussed. The group felt it was in the best interest for the area to convert Orbit Lane to walk-in access only. The meeting was well attended and there were several constructive ideas concerning recreation and facilities.
- Mack attended a joint conference by the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association and Arkansas Festivals and Events Association at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock. Legal issues for athletic complexes as well as many new developments in the parks and recreation field were discussed.
- Mark Lawrence of the Arkansas Department of Labor made a presentation on A.T.V. safety as part of our February 4 staff meeting. We also covered the upcoming spring season schedules, safety and reporting procedures and personnel policy issues.
- The department had ten incidents of vandalism or illegal dumping. They included two incidents of illegal dumping on Orbit Lane and several incidents of driving off road. Many of these areas will need to be leveled and smoothed out before mowing season begins. The new restrooms at Washburn were hit with graffiti and the fence at the disc golf course was cut. Reports also included criminal mischief in City Park and damage to RYBA equipment at Hickey Park.
- The dugouts at Shiloh Park along with the concession building, maintenance/electrical building and the restrooms were painted. This is in keeping with our Clean and Green Russellville campaign.
- Bollards were installed at Hickey Park at Phase III to assist us in traffic control for the safety of our park patrons.
- The brush was cleared at City Park along Prairie Creek between Hartford and Ithaca Streets. This will improve visibility in the park which will add to the safety of park patrons. Hopefully, it will also slow vandalism by making the park more open and visible. This is part of the Clean and Green Russellville campaign.

- Four pin oak trees were planted at the Russellville Soccer Complex. Two were planted near the new pavilion for shade and two near the roadway for shade and to assist us with controlling illegal parking. This is also in keeping with the Clean and Green Russellville campaign.
- The Bourne Learning Trail sponsored by the River Valley United Way was installed at Prairie Creek walking trail in City Park. This is an interactive trail for moms and kids and should be an asset to the park.
- The outfield fence on Field 2 at Hickey Park was replaced with a six foot chain link fence. This will make the park not only look better but safer for the players.
- The first ball game of 2011 was played at Hickey Park on the February 28. Lots of work was done in preparation for the upcoming season. The park is in good condition for so early in the year.
- The restrooms at Hickey Park Phase III were opened for the season in February. The fields in that area and the pavilions are now ready for use.
- Booth's Janitorial Service was hired to clean the Hughes Center. They will begin the week of March 14.
- All Seasons Lawn and Landscaping Company was awarded the mowing for our smaller, non athletic parks. They will begin in April. This is their third year to mow for us and they have done an excellent job for us in the past.