



Recreation & Parks Department Report May 2009

- Thirteen (13) groups used the Hughes Center during April for a total of 233 hours. Events included Kiwanis Pancake Day, Arkansas Department of Health Plumbing Inspection Training, A & P Fishing Tournament Registration and the Pope County Employee Health Fair.
- The Parks Commission met on April 8. The meeting was a long one but many items were addressed. The fireworks display was discussed and it was decided to keep it on Saturday, July 4 and not to ask for vehicle donations this year since the Advertising and Promotion Commission made a commitment of \$5,000.00. City Park donations and a donation policy were discussed and will be updated in future meetings. The loaning of tables and chairs from the Hughes Center was discussed and it was decided to stop the practice. It was determined there was a need for a gate, that could be used to regulate the entrance on Orbit Lane. Additional policies to help establish identification and addresses of people who reserve the Hughes Center were presented and added to our policies.
- The department held a staff and safety meeting in April. Mark Lawrence of the Arkansas Department of Labor presented a program on housekeeping in the workplace. The city picnic and participation in the City's relay for life team were discussed. Future equipment shipments and properly checking the bill of lading were discussed. Stopping distance and wearing seat belts were also discussed.
- Four (4) vandalism incidents were recorded in April. The incidents included criminal mischief at Hickey Park, Vick Field and the Russellville Ski Area. At Hickey Park pavilion 2 the barbeque grill was damaged and graffiti was painted on the picnic tables. Vick Field rest rooms were spray painted and someone drove a vehicle all over the ski area tearing up the grounds.
- The Russellville local Hershey's track and field meet was held on Saturday, April 18 at Russellville High School. There were 69 participants.
- The lighting equipment for Shiloh Park and Hickey Park fields 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 arrived on April 20 and 22. The contractor, Ridgeland Electric, began installation on April 20. Hickey Park light poles have been installed on Field 5 and 7 and the A poles on field 4 and the B poles on field 3. Work will continue in May on the installation.
- The dirt work and footings were completed on a portion of Hickey Park field 7. The scoreboard wiring and electrical work were done. The field sign on the top of the scoreboard was installed. The block work on the retaining wall should be completed by May 1. The dugout installation should begin in early May and hopefully the field may be opened in June.
- Work on M. J. Hickey pool continued with preparation for painting, cleaning the building, hanging signs and entry way cleaning and landscaping. Sand for the filters was ordered. Due to keeping the filters backwashed regularly, we were able to use the remaining sand that was in the filters. We will have to add 224 bags of sand but that will be a fifth of the amount budgeted.
- Party in the Park was held on April 25th. This is a joint venture between the Arts Center and the Recreation Department. Party in the Park is a very well attended event at City Park, the Arts Center and the Hughes Center.
- Battle on the Bayou and Rumble on the River softball tournaments was held at Shiloh and Pleasant View Parks in April. The Rumble on the River included 50 teams and hundreds of spectators from around the state.
- The Recreation and Parks Department summer softball league started play with 31 teams in April.
- Arkansas Tech played their spring intramural softball league in April with 40 teams.

- City Park continues to experience heavy use as the public is enjoying the two new play units.
- Mowing in all city parks began in April and with all the rain was fairly heavy.
- A drive gate was installed at the skate park to help regulate late night use of the park. The park gate is locked at 10:30 every night by the police and opened by the department at 7:00 every morning.
- New six foot fence was installed at the entry way to Hickey Park baseball complex along field 3 which replaces the old four foot fence. We hope to replace all four foot fences in the future.
- Four trees were planted at the entry of the Soccer Complex in hopes of controlling illegal parking and provide needed shade.
- Pavilion reservations have increased and this trend is continuing in May. There are six reservations on Saturday, May 16. With the installation of the new play units at City Park, that pavilion has become a favorite to reserve for birthday parties.