



Recreation & Parks Department Report November 2011

- • Seventeen (17) groups used the Hughes Center during October for a total of 228 hours. Events included Kids Fest, a college fishing tournament registration, five birthday parties, a wedding reception, two baby showers and three business meetings.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in October. The next scheduled meeting is November 8 at noon at the Hughes Center.
- The department had two incidents of vandalism in the month of October. Incidents included graffiti at the Skate Park and destruction of property at City Park.
- M. J. Hickey Pool was winterized for the season. While working on closing out the pool, we found that the pool pump impeller will need to be replaced before next season. The rest of the pool support equipment appears to be in good condition.
- Paul Jackson with the Russellville Ski Club donated his time to paint the concrete courtesy docks and the bridge at the ski area and disc golf area of Pleasant View Park. We appreciate the time Paul contributed doing these projects for us, and it helps us catch up on our other projects.
- The Arkansas Valley Soccer Association held their annual fall tournament at the soccer complex on Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9. This year's tournament included 42 teams from around the state. The tournament went well and the soccer association did a great job. We plan on working with Mark Frost and the soccer association to secure future tournaments for the complex.
- The composite play structure for Hickey Park was installed next to Pavilion 2. We are waiting for the fall zone cushioning which should arrive around the end of November. We plan on having the playground open by December. With the addition of the play unit we plan on the pavilion being reserved and used more in the future. We also feel the baseball league will like the addition for their kids to enjoy.
- KidsFest was held on October 31 at the Hughes Center. There was a great turn out and all who were there seemed to have a good time. The workers, volunteers and our staff enjoyed putting this fun event on for the area kids. Thanks go out to all of our volunteers and sponsors.
- Brite Ideas Inc began installing the Christmas lights for the Winter Wonderland drive through Christmas display at Pleasant View Park. This year's display will be bigger and better with several more light structures and a new design. The display will be open to the public on November 26, December 2-3, 9-10, 16-17 and 23-24 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm.
- A baby changing table was installed in the handicapped restroom at the Hughes Center. This much needed item will be well used by our patrons.
- With the added pedestrian traffic we are anticipating from the installation of the new play unit, a new crosswalk was installed at Hickey Park. The crosswalk is located between the main ball field area to Pavilion 2. This will help direct the pedestrian flow, make drivers more aware of pedestrians and hopefully help us stop illegal parking in the area.
- Trees were pruned and cut, underbrush was cleared and a general clean up was completed on the ditch and field between Hickey Park Field 6 and Russellville High School. The park grounds are now easier to see and will assist us in keeping an eye on patrons and park equipment.
- New benches and picnic tables arrived for City Park, James School Park and Shiloh Park. The new tables and benches are Plastisol coated steel which look better than the wood tables, last longer and require less maintenance. We plan on installing them in November and December.
- Mark Lawrence of the Arkansas Department of Labor conducted a safety meeting for our employees on October 18. The topic was the proper use of chain saws and chain saw safety. In other safety matters, quarterly safety inspections were conducted on all park buildings and a fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Center.
- Department rentals included two softball tournaments, fifteen pavilion rentals and two smoker grill rentals.