



Recreation & Parks Department Report October 2010

- Ten (10) groups used the Hughes Center during September for a total of 152 hours. Events included the Senior Health Expo and the Arkansas Department of Health Plumbing Recertification.
- The Parks Commission met on September 14. Following are agenda items discussed at the meeting.
 - Phoenix Avenue to Parkway Trail**-The commission voted during the July meeting to apply for a Transportation Enhancement Program Grant for Phase I of the Trail Master Plan. Permission was not granted from all affected landowners by the grant deadline of August 25. The commissioners were shown an amended map of Phase I which shows the trail tying to Parkway Avenue instead of El Paso Avenue running along Glenwood Avenue.
 - Sign Policy for the Hughes Center**-With the recent addition of the new sign in front of the Hughes Center, there is a need to develop policies for its use. The commissioners were given copies of a proposed policy. The policy states that department needs will take priority, and event information will be placed on the sign no more than one week prior to an event. Also, no business or political advertising will be allowed. The commission passed these new policies.
 - Dike View Recreation Area**-Approximately four years ago, development began on what is now called "Illinois Bayou Park". Plans included the expansion of our Lake Dardanelle lease adding the 81 acres adjacent to the park. The commissioners were given a diagram of the area commonly referred to as Dike View Recreation Area. Trails will be developed if the land is added to our lease with the Corps of Engineers. A public meeting is planned to receive input from the community.
 - Capital Projects**-The commissioners were given a status report on the capital improvement projects. A PowerPoint presentation was used to show pictures of each project. Initial plans included projects being completed by the end of 2010; however some projects may have to be carried over into 2011. These projects are all parking lot construction or overlay projects.
 - Orbit Lane**-Illegal dumping continues to be a problem on Orbit Lane. Pictures depicting numerous incidents were shown to the commissioners. In addition, safety is a concern due to the narrowness of the road and its proximity to the water. Future plans include development of a trail in this area. A public meeting is planned to discuss making Orbit Lane walk-in access only beginning at the flying field gate.
 - Christmas Parade Categories**-The fee to enter a float in the Russellville Christmas Parade is \$25.00. Non-float commercial entries are \$100.00. Bands, non-profit organizations, horses, royalty, and antique cars are no charge. There is currently no fee set for politicians entering the parade. The commission passed charging politicians the commercial entry fee rate.
- There were five incidents of vandalism reported in September. Incidents included theft of property and criminal mischief at City Park, graffiti and property damage at Hickey Park and an illegal dumping on Orbit Lane.
- There were 14 pavilion reservations in the month of September. Most reservations are for birthday parties, but we do have several family reunions, class reunions, youth group recruiting events or community festivals.
- During Public Lands Day on September 25, sixty members of the Dover Youth Fishing Club cleaned up Orbit Lane, the Ski Area, Disc Golf course and Pleasant View Road. They picked up numerous piles of trash and brush and 75 bags of litter. They also cleaned the shoreline using their boats. All of the volunteers did an excellent job and deserve a pat on the back for giving up their Saturday morning to help us clean up the city parks.
- Work is continuing on the rest rooms at Washburn Park. The building is up and in the dry with doors attached. The painting is complete and fascia and soffit are up. The building should be completed in October.
- Youth soccer began their fall league play on Thursday, September 16. They began play with 534 kids, 50 more than in 2010. They play on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The soccer association has been busy helping us improve the facility by doing a lot of grounds work and park improvements.

- Punt, Pass and Kick was held on the September 18 at Vick Field. There were 61 kids who participated in this year's event. The winners will go to sectionals held October 2 in Little Rock. The winners from there will advance to the regionals held at a Tennessee Titans football game in November.
- The Boys and Girls Club began their 2010 flag football league on the September 18 with a jamboree at Vick Field. They will play on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The league runs until October 25.
- A solar powered night watcher security light was installed at Illinois Bayou Park at the boat launch area. The light will be monitored over the next year for light output and duration. We may look at installing more solar lights in the future depending on its durability.
- A new video projector and screen were purchased and a lap top computer was acquired from the I.T. department making Power Point presentations possible for groups at the Hughes Center. The screen was installed on the east wall in the board room.
- The Sequoyah restroom building was coated with block sealer. This procedure helps us with cleanup in the event graffiti is painted on the building. We plan to spray all of our outdoor block buildings by years end.
- The parking lots at the Russellville Soccer Complex were restriped and all the handicapped parking spaces, speed humps and direction arrows were also painted.