



Recreation & Parks Department Report July 2015

- Ten (10) groups used the Hughes Center during June for a total of 153 hours. Events included the Friends of the NRA Banquet, Urban Deer Hunting training class and a visit by our friends the Bike and Build group.
- The Parks Commission met on June 9. Minutes available online at www.russellvillearkansas.org.
- The department had 29 pavilion reservations and 13 pool party reservations in June.
- The Department welcomed Rodger Magness, Alex Garza and Gus Shields as part-time summer employees. They provide much needed help during our busy season.
- The tunnel to the slide on the City Park play structure for 5 – 12 year olds was cracked and had to be replaced. The unit's warranty covered the pieces and they were replaced as soon as they arrived. The unit is one of our most popular and very well used.
- The annual children's fishing derby was held on June 13 with 70 young fishermen participating. Congratulations to Maizie Wilson who won overall heaviest fish and the 4 - 6 age group, Presleigh Montgomery tie for heaviest fish in the 7 – 9 age group and heaviest stringer, Garrett Wilson tie for heaviest fish in 7 – 9 age group and Melanie Millsap who won the 10 – 12 age group. This is one of our favorite events we offer to area youth as everyone has such a good time.
- Four softball tournaments were held in June at Pleasant View Park and Shiloh Park. The tournaments include two team benefit tournaments with 59 teams participating, the ASA Youth District tournament (45 teams) and the ASA Youth State tournament (33 teams). The City was crowded with coaches, ball players and their parents everywhere you went on those weekends.
- 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 June.
- Bike and Build passed through our City again this year raising funds for Habitat for Humanity. The group stayed at the Hughes Center the night of June 19 before continuing their ride. Thanks goes out to Spence Roberts at Italian Gardens and McDonalds for providing dinner and breakfast. Also thanks to Jeff Priore the local sponsor. We look forward to seeing the Bike and Build folks again next year.
- Two sessions of the Department's Learn to Swim Program were held in June with 76 kids participating. There is one more session scheduled for July. Gary Knudsen, Danya Johnson and all the instructors are doing a great job helping area youth learn to swim. We strongly recommend that everyone learns how to swim in the River Valley.
- The main intake pipe at Hickey Pool broke and was replaced on June 17. The job was a major repair and took three employees and a plumber from Burton Pools to replace.
- The Russellville Youth Baseball Association hosted the USSSA 9AA State Tournament on June 26 – 28 at M.J. Hickey Park. There were 23 teams from all over the state in Russellville participating in the tournament.

- The Russellville Boys & Girls Club swim team “The Sharks” hosted a swim meet on June 26 at M.J. Hickey Pool. Teams from Russellville, Alma, Clarksville, Scott County and Paris participated. Storms ended the meet early this year and no makeup date was set. The Sharks swim team is for kids ages 5 to 18 and who are able to swim unassisted for 25 yards. Anyone that is interested in joining should call the Boys & Girls Club.
- Members of the Parks Commission and the AVSA youth soccer board met on the June 30 at the Hughes Center to discuss how to provide water for the soccer complex. Their recommendation will be given to the Council in July.
- Ribbon cutting ceremonies for the new trails at Orbit Lane and Illinois Bayou Park were held on June 30. The extension of the Illinois Bayou north trail now creates a 1.1 mile trail or 2.2 miles there and back. The Ouita Coal Company Mountain bike trail is a 10.5 mile loop beginning at the upper parking lot at Illinois Bayou Park and going east between the lake and I-40 through Dike View Park. Both trails are two of the most beautiful trails in Russellville. A big thank you goes out to everyone who has helped with the two trails.
- The turf plan continued with aeration of the soccer complex and the delivery of sand and dirt for top dressing. We will finish the top dressing later in July.
- The River Valley Disc Golf Association hosted the Arkansas Amateur Championships with 63 players participating at the Russellville Disc Golf course and Old Post Road Park. The group will host the National Player Championships on July 11 and July 12. Please come out and watch some of the best players in the nation compete.
- The Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Club held a field day operation at Washburn Park on June 27 and June 28. To prepare in case of a catastrophic event, the group participates in a 24 hour emergency preparedness event where equipment is set up and the group communicates with people across the nation and the world. Judge Jim Ed Gibson came out and took a tour of the operation. Pope County OEM is a strong supporter of this event.