



**Recreation & Parks
Department Report**
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June 2017

- Thirteen (13) groups used the Hughes Center during May for a total of 112 hours. Events included the Help Network Night with the Hogs, a health fair and a Quiz Bowl fundraiser.
- The Parks Commission met on May 11. Minutes are available for viewing on www.russellvillearkansas.org
- The department had 40 pavilion rentals and 15 practice field reservations in May.
- The Department began selling swim passes and booking pool parties on May 1. Registration for the Learn to Swim Program taught by certified Red Cross instructors also began on that date. Swim lessons will be conducted in three sessions with the first one beginning on June 5. We strongly encourage everyone to learn to swim.
- A staff meeting for all pool employees was held on May 11. The pool manual was reviewed and safety training was conducted during this meeting for the 2017 pool employees. We are looking at having a fun and safe season at the pool and hope everyone will come out and enjoy the pool.
- The splash pad was opened for the season on May 31. It is located in City Park at 915 East B Street. Hours of operation are 10:00am to 8:00pm, seven days a week. The splash pad offers an excellent way to beat the heat of summer at no cost to our citizens. We only ask everyone to help keep the area clean and litter free. We ask if the splash pad is experiencing problems to please call the Hughes Center at 479-968-1272.
- The pool opened for the season on May 27. Maintenance worked diligently all month preparing the pool for opening day. The pool and facilities were patched, painted and cleaned. Many of our staff for 2017 will be returning this year to help keep the pool safe and a fun place to come out and enjoy. We are looking forward to a fun and cool season at the pool. Public swim hours of operation are 12:30pm to 6:30pm.
- 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 May. We continually strive to maintain safe and enjoyable facilities for our employees and the public. We cannot see every problem, all the time so we encourage anyone who sees a safety issue to please take the time to contact us at 479-968-1272.
- Gary Knudsen taught our Red Cross water safety instruction class. The participants learned how to teach swim lessons and will teach classes this season at M.J. Hickey Pool.
- The grand opening of the Russellville Aquatic Center will be held June 29 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. There will be giveaways, a ribbon cutting, tours of the facility and swimming.
- The new LED field lights were installed at the Russellville Soccer Complex. The lights should be a great asset to the City and should help us secure tournaments to the area. It should also assist AVSA in their league scheduling. The funding for the lights are part of a 50/50 matching grant from the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism.
- Work continues on the new Veterans Memorial Park with the installation of the Veterans Memorial walkway. The walkway will include tiles with the names of area veterans. A ceremony on Memorial Day was held at the park to honor area veterans.
- A new pavilion was installed at Pleasant View Park near the front gate. The pavilion will be used to assist in taking entry fees. The pavilion was paid for with help from the A&P Commission.
- Cleanup from the numerous storms will continue for the next few weeks. The storm on May 27 left trees and limbs down in most parks. We ask the public to be patient as we begin this task.