



**Recreation & Parks** *mcw*  
**Department Report**  
**November 2017**

- Fourteen (14) groups used the Hughes Center during October for a total of 164 hours. Events included a City Employee Appreciation Luncheon, Arkansas Rehab Services, US Forestry Employee Appreciation Day and a Community Band Concert.
- The Aquatic Center had 6 regular party rentals this month for a total of 12 hours. There were also 5 private parties for a total of 16 hours. There were 3 Water Aerobic Classes each week for a total of 20 classes. The Water Aerobics classes utilized therapy pool 20 hours during this month. We added two Aqua Boot Camp that meets twice a week each for a total of 10 hours. We also added two Aqua Zumba classes twice a week and those classes have met for a total of 24 hours. There has been 10 swim lessons this month for a total of 10 hours. The Cyclone Dive and Swim Team began utilizing the competition pool for swim practices on Oct. 11 and have had 16 practices this month for a total of 32 hours. The US Swim Team began practicing the 2nd week in October as well and has practiced 14 times for a total of 28 hours. Special Olympics swim team has practiced 4 times this month for a total of 4 hours. The RussVegas Kids Triathlon also used the facility for an event for 4 hours.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in October. The next schedule meeting is on November 9 at noon in the Hughes Community Center. The public is invited to attend. Citizens wishing to place an item on the agenda are asked to contact us two weeks prior to the meeting.
- The department had 16 pavilion reservations in the month of October.
- In safety matters, the department performed inspections on all fire extinguishers, vehicles, jobsites, offices and all park buildings. A fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Center. All first aid kits were inspected and restocked.
- A staff meeting was held to discuss winter park projects, holidays, staff vacations, cleanliness and safety in vehicle storage, shop cleanliness and employee leave policies.
- Park employees attended the annual safety review of hazard communication on October 3 at City Hall.
- Community in Unity was held in James Park on October 6 and October 7. The annual event featured fun and games for the community. The group thanks all who have supported the event each year.
- The softball season wrapped up play in October at Pleasant View Park. Congratulations to this year's winners Fletcher Oil, Wes Potter Inc., Pro Team Realty, Bad Company, Danville Medical and Kicking Bases. We appreciate each team that played in our league and hope to see you back in the spring.
- A fall USSSA state tournament was played at Pleasant View Park on October 7 with 32 teams participating. This was a great turnout for this time of the year.
- The splash pad was closed on October 2 and winterized for the season. The equipment has been placed in storage and the area locked for safety. The splash pad continues to be very popular.
- The Russellville Youth Baseball Association (R.Y.B.A.) completed their fall league play in October. There were 14 teams participating this fall. Special thanks to Bryan Van Es, Eric Groff and the RYBA board members who did any excellent job operating the summer and fall baseball seasons.

- KidsFest was held on October 31 at the Hughes Center. This year was busier and the games were a huge success. Thanks to the Arkansas Tech Recreation Programming Class, Russellville Fire Department, Pope County EMS, Pope County OEM, Bikers Against Child Abuse, River Valley Arts Center, Arkansas Game and Fish, Russellville Police Department, Arkansas Alliance of Bloodhound Search Specialist and the Arkansas State Police.
- We are currently pruning trees at all of our city parks to help with future growth and with our mowing of the parks.
- RussVegas tailgate was held on October 7 at Pleasant View Park ski and disc golf areas. The event included a triathlon, boat races, games, vendors, activities for kids and tailgating. A large screen television was provided to watch the Arkansas Razorback and South Carolina Gamecocks game. This is an annual community event that we hope will continue to grow.
- The Master Gardeners refurbished one of the two entry way gardens at Washburn Park with plants that attract pollinating bees and butterflies. They also planted and mulched the entryway by the parking lot of Veterans Memorial Park.
- Work on Phase II of Veterans Memorial Park's memorial walkway was stopped until the plans for Phase III are completed. Those plans will be ready soon and sent to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for approval.
- There will be a memorial tree planting at Veterans Memorial Park at 10:00am on Saturday, November 11 which is Veterans Day. The public is invited to attend. The tree is being provided by the Arkansas Historical Commission and the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The tree is a World War I centennial memorial tree.