



Recreation & Parks
Department Report
December 2017

- Nine (9) groups used the Hughes Center during November for a total of 140 hours. Events included the PACA Arts and Crafts Sale, a Diabetes Awareness Health Fair and the Trout Day Clinic.
- In November the Russellville Aquatic Center had six regular party rentals for a total of 12 hours and four private parties for a total of 12 hours. There were three Water Aerobic Classes for three weeks for a total of 18 classes. The Water Aerobics classes utilized the therapy pool 18 hours in November. We had two Aqua Boot Camps that met for two weeks each for a total of 4 hours and Aqua Zumba classes twice a week for three weeks for a total of 12 hours. There were ten swim lessons for a total of 10 hours. The Cyclone Dive and Swim Team had 19 practices for a total of 38 hours. The US Swim Team practiced 16 times for a total of 32 hours. Special Olympics swim team practiced 8 times for a total of 8 hours. The Russellville Swim Team hosted a swim meet on November 17 and utilized the facility for 7 1/2 hours. Arkansas Tech Student Services rented the facility on November 30 for a "Dive in Movie" for 3 hours.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in November. The next schedule meeting is on December 14 at noon in the Hughes Community Center. The public is invited to attend.
- The annual inspection of the Department's fire extinguishers was conducted by Universal Fire. All of the extinguishers were tested, tagged and replaced as needed. We currently have 54 fire extinguishers throughout our park system.
- The Department conducted meetings in November to organize the annual Christmas Parade. The parade is Thursday, December 7 at 6:30pm. The event brings the City together to kick off the holiday season. We love seeing the joy on children's faces when Santa Claus arrives on the fire truck.
- The Hughes Center Christmas decorations were put up in preparation for the season and the Christmas parties to be held at the Hughes Center.
- Maintenance worked many hours to decorate the Russellville downtown area for the holidays. The snowflakes were placed on the light poles and the lights from Winter Wonderland were installed in the area. We invite the public to come downtown and visit with the local proprietors and enjoy the holiday atmosphere.
- The annual PACA arts and crafts show was held on November 3 & 4 and was well attended. There was a wide variety of things to purchase and it was a good opportunity to pick up a Christmas present and visit with the vendors.
- The River Valley Veteran Coalition held a ceremony to plant the Pope County World War I Centennial Memorial tree on Veterans Day at the new Veterans Memorial Park. The public was invited to attend.
- The Trout Day Clinic was held on November 28 at 6:00pm at the Hughes Center. The clinic is presented by Arkansas Game and Fish, Caddis Fly Fishing Club and our department. It is held in conjunction with Trout Day that will be held on December 2 at Pleasant View Park. The clinic teaches kids about trout and how to catch them. This year's clinic was well attended by the public.

- The Prairie Creek Trail from North Glenwood to the ATU campus and the Aquatic Center was completed and dedicated on November 14 at 4:00pm. There was a large crowd in attendance as Mayor Randy Horton and ATU President Robin Bowen cut the ribbon.
- Parks maintenance personnel winterized park restrooms that require winterizing with the exception of James School Park. It will be winterized in December after a scheduled community event.
- The bridge at the Russellville ski area and disc golf received new decking. There was a total of 120 boards replaced and others that were in good condition was flipped over and secured. They will be treated with a water repellent once they have cured.
- Arkansas Tech Greek Life volunteered to help clean and repair parks for a Greek service day. Three groups of 40 were available to work in our parks. There were several parks and projects worked on by the group. We appreciate all the participants and look forward to working with them in the future.
- The Master Gardeners prepared a garden site for planting poppies at Veterans Memorial Park located at 965 Lakefront Drive. The poppy garden will be along the front of the parking lot. The group also cleaned and planted plants at the entryway of Washburn Park at 1185 Lakefront Drive.
- The floors and trim baseboards at the Russellville Aquatic Center were repaired and refinished. Several other repairs were also completed. The public continues to use and enjoy the facility and has expressed their delight with the new center.
- The Arkansas and Russellville flags at Washburn Park were removed and the ropes cut by someone on the third weekend in November while at half-staff. The flags and ropes will be replaced before the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day which is December 7.