



*Recreation & Parks
Department Report
April 2018*

- Seven (7) groups used the Hughes Center during March for a total of 228 hours. Events included Fit Girlz aerobic workouts, the First Tee after school program and tax assistance by the AARP.
- For the month of March there were 18 parties held at the Aquatic Center for a total of 39 hours. The Mount Magazine School District brought 120 students over a 4 hour period for an Accelerated Reader reward trip. During the month we had 24 Water Aerobics classes, 12 Boot Camp classes, and 4 Kayak Rolling classes for a total of 40 hours. The US Swim team and the Special Olympics practiced a total of 44 hours. Also, the Aquatic Center hosted the Easter Aqua Egg Hunt for 2.5 hours with 300 participants and a Movie Day for 288 participants.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in March. The next meeting is scheduled for April 12 at noon in the Hughes Community Center.
- The fire extinguishers in all department buildings and vehicles were inspected. We continue to do everything possible to maintain a safe work environment and safe parks. We ask the public to call us if they see anything they feel is not safe in one of our parks.
- The Arkansas Valley Soccer Association began their spring season on March 10 at the Russellville Soccer Complex with 821 players. Games are played on Saturdays.
- The Department registered teams for the summer softball league at Pleasant View Park. This year there are 27 teams that will play games on Wednesday and Thursday nights.
- The Boys and Girls Club youth softball teams began practicing at Pleasant View Park preparing for their upcoming youth softball season.
- Clean up and preparations were made for the beginning of the pool repair and setup. The pool will open Memorial Day weekend.
- All park restrooms and pavilions are open for the season. Pavilion rentals have increased in March.
- The Russellville Youth Baseball Association began practicing in March at M.J. Hickey Park and Vick Field for this year's summer baseball league. The league will begin play on April 2 and for the third season in a row the number of registered participants has increased. This year there are 435 kids participating in the league. RYBA continues hosting Fun Day Sundays from 2pm to 4pm every week at M.J. Hickey Park. Anyone interested in coming out to enjoy the sport of baseball is welcomed.
- Members of the Pope County Master Gardeners have been working hard mulching and weeding all of the flowerbeds at Washburn Park.
- The boat dock at Illinois Bayou Park was completely resurfaced with composite deck boards.
- The maintenance crew has worked diligently to clean up and organize all of the department's shops and storage areas. This will make their jobs safer, more organized and save time too.