



Parks Commission Recreation - Report 7/9/2025

All Hands-on Deck

The entire Recreation Division came together as ONCE AGAIN and participated in the Third Mobile City Hall event on June 2, 2025, at Second Baptist Church we set up various outdoor games/activities, with a table with giveaways and a chance to spin the wheel on play Plinkco for other small trinkets/prizes.

Southwest Community Center

Hosted the COLR Employees Appreciation Picnic and it was well attended. They enjoyed fellowship, food, swimming, basketball contest, bounce house and dancing. Southwest Community Center will continue to collaborate with Dee Brown Library.

Community Centers

Have Parks Summer Day Camps at their locations, all sites are full and going on various field trips and participating in on-site activities and free play. East Little Rock Community Center participants were taught emergency drills to include fire, lights out, tornado and stranger danger.

Outdoor Recreation

I have worked with the Therapeutic Rec Day Camp at War Memorial doing a disc golf program. Also have programming scheduled for all 6 Parks Summer Day Camp sites. Visited one site already and held a bike safety program for the Romine Parks Day Camp, worked with 22 of their campers. I currently have 2 more visits scheduled for each site. I will add more if schedules allow. Had a fishing with Dunbar Parks Summer Day camp at Boyle Park.

Jim Daily Fitness & Aquatics

The National Swim Lesson Day was held on June 26. This year there were 2 sessions to accommodate more participants and ensure they all received adequate instructions. It was free and open to the public, all the Parks Summer Day Camps participated.

Museum of Military History

The museum will partner with the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum to open its America 250 celebrations on July 4, 2025, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The celebration will include free admission at the presidential center all day followed by a Revolutionary battle reenactment on the east lawn. The event is a presented in partnership with the daughters of the American Revolution, the Early "Arkansaw" Reenactors Association, the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, and Blue Bell Creameries. Blue Bell Creameries will provide ice cream for the event.



Parks Commission – Recreation Report

Dunbar Community Center

Summer Park Day Camp

The program at Dunbar Community Center is going well it includes various field Trips to swimming, movies, skating, and other activities. Our program has remained steady in attendance.

Outdoor Youth Programs

Our outdoor youth programs are going well; we are practicing and playing baseball and T-ball games 2 – 3 times per week.

Indoor Programs

We are holding volleyball camp for youth grades 3 – 8 throughout this month and will continue into next month. Participation is good and well attended.

Meetings

Dunbar participated in the mobile city hall. We shared postcards created to give to the public with information about our center.

Stephens Community Center

Summer Day Camp

The Summer Day Camp is going well. We have 121 participants registered. (100%)

Youth Sports Program

Programs for Youth Sports, Baseball, and T-Ball are in Tournament Play. Track & Field will have their first Meet on July 12, 2025.

Adult Activities:

The Men's 40 & Over League. We are still waiting for the center to open.

Facility Vacancies:

2-Programmer, 3-Activity Assistants, 1-Part-Time Custodian and 1-Full Time Custodian.

Maintenance:

We are on the Reno stage which is an ongoing process. A new fence has been placed around both Air units. Baseboard Trim needs to be done. Work Orders placed for Service on the Alarm, Security Panel, Phones Lines, Computers, Light are working now. Air in the Gym is out.

West Central Community Center

Youth Sports Program:

West Central has 162 participants in the baseball program and 49 participants in the tee-ball programs. We have 19 teams that will compete in the league. There are 48 participants in our track and field program. Looking forward to the grand opening of the new baseball field.

Karate/Dance: The Karate and Dance are continuing, and participants are paying their monthly dues.

West Central CC:

Renovations for the baseball fields are almost complete. There were neighborhood association meetings and community program meetings.

Rentals:

The center had a total of 8 rentals for the month.

Southwest Community Center

Track and Football Registrations are still open. SW Panthers t-ball teams finished their season last week and are planning an end of the season event. 6u SW Panthers baseball team finished their season in the semi-finals. 8u & 12u SW Panther baseball teams have both advanced to the championship! 8u playing 7/2 and 12u playing 7/3. Both teams have demonstrated incredible grit and enthusiasm this season, and it has paid off. 100 registered youth are participating in the SWCC Summer Laureate Program that began 6/9. The camp runs 7:30am-5pm. Feedback on this year's Summer Laureate has been great, campers are thoroughly enjoying the day-to-day activities and field trips. Track practices begin Thursday 6/12 at SWCC gym. They continue to practice on Tuesdays/Thursdays here at SWCC until next week when Scott Field re-opens. Youth Dance Class continues to grow with 11 registrations. Tuesdays/Thursdays 5:15pm-6:15pm. SWCC is offering Youth 3v3 Basketball games on Thursdays and Fridays for ages 8-15. Attendance is still low as most staff are away at baseball games allowing this program less attention to grow. SWCC is offering Adult 3v3 Basketball games on Saturdays for ages 18+. SWCC will begin Pickleball Fundamentals for Adults and Youth on Mondays TBD. Attended a Hindman Neighborhood Association Meeting in attendance with Mayor Scott working on neighborhood collaboration including athletics, activities, and programs. Swim Lessons are open to the public and are very popular in the community – they are already up 20% from last year's numbers.

Special Events: Hosted the COLR Employees Appreciation Picnic and it was well attended. They enjoyed fellowship, food, swimming, basketball contest, bounce house and dancing. Southwest Community Center will continue to collaborate with Dee Brown Library.

ELR Community Center

Parks Summer Day Camp is in full swing. There are 100 youth registered, they are having a blast going to various field trips to on-site activities such as connect 4 tournaments, cheer competition, table games, and funday freeze pop Fridays. The MacArthur Military Museum visits each Wednesday, and they learn about various branches of the military and do a fun art project. They have done 3 emergency drills to be prepared for fires, lights going out, tornadoes and other emergencies. They have daily briefings on their upcoming events/activities. Mobile City Hall event was held at Second Baptist Church on June 2, 2025. The neighborhood association held their meeting for June. Individuals are still utilizing the tennis court area for skateboarding. The AAU football team practices 3 days per week. Maintenance continues to mow, weed eat, and pick up around the entire grounds. Horticulture maintains and mulch the flower islands as needed. Continuing to assist supervisor, help with Active & Aging program and attend various meetings as scheduled. Little Rock Police Department continue to use the back area/field for their dog training, (weather permitting). The community groups are still using the outdoor basketball/tennis courts/area and other areas to do exercises, meet, and fitness as the weather permits. They are there 5 to 6 days per week, with about 12 - 15 people. There is still some use of the field/park...daily/weekends, family gatherings, tennis court (hopefully to be refurbished as multi-use courts) for walking and playing matches, and other activities.

Senior Programs: Active and Aging

**** Membership February – December \$1.50 per month. Registration at all sites will be continuous.**

The Aging & Active program held their Father's Day activities. Each site had speakers to come from the Baptist Health. West Central Seniors hosted a chair volleyball tournament and is planning to participate

in the state tournament. All sites are preparing for their upcoming activities for the month of July which will include some fun fourth of July, and watermelon day. Baptist Health Monthly Screening and Outreach, Archwell Health, Sage Health, and Oak Street Clinic continues to visit the various sites. Baptist Health continues their outreach at each center monthly where they distribute healthy fresh foods. East Little Rock, Dunbar, Southwest, and West Central celebrated June Birthdays in various ways. They are all also continuing their outings, sports competition, field trips, crafts, such as painting, jewelry, quilting, decorating caps/hats, puzzles, t-shirts, and coloring.

Dunbar Seniors: Father's Day activity, potluck, Music, Thursday field trips, Coloring, String Jewelry, Bingo, Senior Circle, Walking, Connect Four, Dominoes and Line Dancing Class, Bean Bag Baseball, Chair Exercise Class, and Baptist Health Outreach Monthly Screenings, Go Fish, Painting, and FUNDAY.

East Little Rock Seniors: Father's Day activity, Senior Fitness, Care Link workshop, Mind Bending, Silver Foxes Line Dance Class, Ceramics, Puzzles, Adult Coloring, Uno Card Game, Jewelry Making, Funtastic Friday, Nutrition Class and Funtastic Friday.

Southwest Seniors: Father's Day activity, Bowling, movies, Skip-Bo, Pool Competition, Card Games, Bingo, Bible Study, Chair Exercise, Walking Club, Baptist Health Speaker, Monthly Screenings and Healthy Food Outreach, Arts & Crafts, Table Games, Ring Toss, Pool, Cooking Class, Funday Friday.

West Central Seniors: Father's Day Brunch, Nursing Facility Outreach, Quilting, iPad class, table games, Pickleball, Chair Volleyball and Bean Bag Baseball games vs. Various Centers (both teams), Bean Bag Baseball Practice (both teams), Bible Study, Birthday Shout Out.

Therapeutic Recreation

TR Youth Summer Day Camp is being held at a Fulbright Elementary; enrollment is full of 21 campers they are just having a extremely fun summer. **Camp dates are** Monday-Friday June 9 -July 18

Time: 8:30 am-3:30 pm

The Therapeutic Recreation Division uses education and recreation services to help people with disabilities develop and enhance their quality of life. This day camp is a therapeutic based program that emphasizes fun recreational activities for people with special needs to promote the development of motor skills, social skills, independence and other related areas. This camp is active and days are filled with games, swimming, community outings, arts and crafts and more.

Each child completes an assessment process and receives an Individual Recreation Plan completed by the TR staff. This plan includes goals for each camper that staff will work on intensively throughout the camp process. Progress notes are completed daily to evaluate each camper's progress.

Activities will include swimming, bowling, arts and crafts, visits to museums, the Little Rock Zoo, rock climbing, archery, canoeing, sports and fitness activities and more.

We are fully staffed for summer programs. Ashlie Sparks will lead the youth program as Camp Director while Sherrie Shinn, TR Coordinator oversees the Adult Summer program. The adult program is held at the Ottenheimer Therapeutic Recreation Center.

When: June 9- July 17 (Monday-Thursday) **Time:** 9:00am-3:30pm

Activities include swimming, arts and crafts, cooking and baking, sports and fitness, etc.

Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics

MEMBERSHIPS/ATTENDANCE

The facility experienced an increase in both memberships and attendance during June 2025.

They both continue to trend upward. The increase in membership sales and programming contributed to the higher foot traffic, larger classes and a demand for more.

FITNESS

The center currently offers 19 fitness classes, all of which are performing exceptionally well and continue to see strong participation.

AQUATICS

There are 8 aquatic classes offered at the facility, with consistent attendance and positive feedback from participants.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The National Swim Lesson Day was held on June 26. This year there were 2 sessions to accommodate more participants and ensure they all received adequate instructions. It was free and open to the public, all of the Parks Summer Day Camps participated.

The Centre at University Park

The month of June we hosted COLR meetings and are preparing the center for the upcoming renovations. As we continue to grow together as a staff we will be helping others at another location during the renovation time. We know what's coming within this facility will be new and better. All items have been stored and awaiting the big start. We will continue to put our best foot forward and keep working on us as we help in another location.

Youth Athletics

Soccer

The 2025 soccer season began on April 12, 2025, with a total of 136 participants. Games are played on Saturdays at Southwest Community Center and West Central Community Center, if played indoors. The league consists of 19 total teams. The season is estimated to end on June 7, rain added days to their playing time.

Co-Ed Baseball/Tee-ball:

The 2025 baseball season began in May with a total of 326 participants. Games are played Monday through Thursdays at Interstate Park. The league consists of 30 teams in total. We are currently in the plat-off games, and the season is estimated to end July 10.

Track and Field

The 2025 track and field meets are scheduled for June 28 and July 12. There are currently 83 participants registered. The meets will be held at Scotts Field they have been approved by the Little Rock School District.

Enrollment

Soccer: Dunbar: 33; Southwest: 27; Stephens: 28; West Central: 48...**Total: 136**

Baseball: Dunbar: 19; Southwest: 31, Stephens: 36; West Central: 162...**Total: 248**

Tee-ball: Dunbar: 10; Southwest: 8; Stephens: 11; West Central: 49; **Total: 78**

Track and Field: Dunbar: 34; Southwest: 11; Stephens: 6; West Central: 32...**Total: 83**

Adult Athletics

Interstate Park Program

Field usage for Interstate sports complex has increased with the Sunday kickball league and Parks & Recreation Youth Baseball/Tee-Ball Leagues are being played here because of the construction of West central complex. There are still other outside teams renting field for their practices.

Adult Softball Program

The professional corporate league which consisted of 15 teams last year, will begin playing the first week of June 2, 2025. Have begun to work on the fall ball and spring league only had 2 teams to sign up. Youth baseball/Tee-ball will play at Interstate this year due to West central being under construction.

Parks Summer Day Camp

Our Parks Summer Day Camp this year dates are June 2, 2025 - July 24, 2025. We have 805 participants.

Allsop Park

The Hillcrest organization rents the fields for their youth baseball league and was done the third week of June, due to the rainy days.

*Allsop Park has 93 reservations for the year as of June 25, 2025

First Tee Golf

June had been quite busy for us here at First Tee. The First Tee summer camps continue to be in full swing here with over 50 youth a day. We had Joe Cangelosi, Parks volunteer photographer, out this month to take some pictures of everything going on with camps and the course. We are exploring a new booking system that will streamline reservations for golfers at our two facilities. This system will fully integrate with Square, which we currently use for our POS system. We plan to go live with the new system on July 1st. Additionally, we have started the process of training staff members on the new system.

First Tee Baseline 2024**: 20,473 rounds/driving range combined

- **First Tee Current 2025 Rounds**: 6,418
- **First Tee Current 2025 Driving Range**: 3,231
- **First Tee of Central Arkansas Attendance**: June total 1,420

I want to give a big shoutout to our maintenance staff, who have been working diligently over the past month to ensure the course is ready for all the events and activities we have planned. Their professionalism and dedication truly shine every day.

a video to promote the golf course across our platforms.

Rebsamen Golf

The Summer Junior Golf clinic started May 27, 2025, it is held weekly, and the youth are learning at an amazing pace. The RWGA (Rebsamen Women's Golf Association) continues to play each Wednesday every month there has been 50+ ladies participating despite having rainy days.

Rebsamen Tennis

LITTLE ROCK OPEN MEN'S PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGER were held MAY 25 - JUNE 1. There were players from several states and countries. Looking forward to it becoming even bigger and better next year. USTA Team Tennis is in full swing with over 50 teams using Rebsamen as their home courts. 1000 player pickleball tournament next fall (they tape the lines on tennis courts), dates confirmed 10/10 – 10/12, 2025. Putting together a grant proposal through the USTA to help with court resurfacing. Team Tennis keeps us very busy at night, all courts full every Mon-Thurs. Mixed Doubles USTA season began this month for the summer. Expecting many teams much like the spring season. Rebsamen Monday singles league continuing but with smaller numbers through team tennis season

Museum of Arkansas Military History

Museum attendance for June was 3,288. This number included: (1) on-site visitation, (2) special events, (3) virtual programming through the museum's mini-documentaries and interviews, and (4) off-site programming and outreach. On-site visitation included 744 walk-in guests and 1,012 visitors to special events, tours, etc. during the month. In addition to Arkansas, guests came from 34 states – Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New

York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin as well as from the Netherlands and South Korea. The museum's virtual documentaries/interviews received 415 new views in June. Thus far in 2025 virtual programming has received more than 3,968 views. Off-site programming reached 1,065 children through the Summer Day Camp Programs at Dunbar, Stephens and East Little Rock Community Centers as well as Chicot and Romine Elementary Schools. Attendance for the first five months of 2025 totals 16,742. The first six months of 2025 the museum has raised \$27,973 through donations and sponsorships, which is 93% of the annual goal of raising \$30,000. Gift shop sales for June were \$1,325 for a total of \$5,567 so far this year. The museum hosted Congressman French Hill's "Send Off to the Cadets" reception on June 7. The annual event offers the Congressman a chance to recognize Arkansans who have been admitted into the various academies of the Armed Services. Over 50 friends and family members of the cadets attended the reception. Due to the weather, the 28th "Stars and Stripes" Celebration by the Little Rock Winds on June 8 was moved to the City Center of Immanuel Baptist Church in West Little Rock instead of MacArthur Park. Approximately 350 people attended the event, which included ice cream from Blue Bell Creameries and American flags from Woodmen Life. Photos of the event are attached. The museum hosted the 106th Army Band of the Arkansas National Guard for a Flag Day concert on June 14. Approximately 50 people attended the outdoor concert on the grounds behind the museum. The museum hosted a reception for attendees at the Arkansas Council for Social Studies on June 16. Approximately 30 teachers attended the event and had the chance to interact with staff and visit museum galleries. The June "Movies at MacArthur" film *The Strange History of Don't Ask, Don't Tell* was viewed by over 30 persons on June 17. For the first six months of 2025 attendance at the monthly program is 312, representing a 4% increase over last year. Museum Program Assistant Shane Lind presented on off-site program to the Saline County Historical Society in Benton on June 12. Over 25 members of the society attended. On June 25 the museum hosted the Korean American Federation of Arkansas's commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Approximately 105 persons attended the ceremony which included a program inside the museum, a video message from Arkansas Governor Sarah Sanders, followed by a wreath laying at the Arkansas Korean War Veterans Memorial by South Korean Deputy Consul General Sejin Park and former Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs Nathaniel Todd. An article on the event appeared in the Thursday, June 26 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* and KATV Channel 7 aired a news segment on it as well.

<https://edition.arkansasonline.com/article/281788520046035>

<https://katv.com/news/local/veterans-in-little-rock-commemorate-korean-war-anniversary-with-wreath-laying-ceremony-katv-news-arkansas-educate-inform-share-community-development-honor>

The museum hosted 39 teachers from across the state attending the Arkansas Civic Education Institute on June 25. The group had a tour of the museum and interacted with staff to learn more about the museum's programs. The museum will partner with the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum to open its America 250 celebrations on July 4, 2025, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The celebration will include free admission at the presidential center all day followed by a Revolutionary battle reenactment on the east lawn. The event is a presented in partnership with the daughters of the American Revolution, the Early "Arkansaw" Reenactors Association, the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, and Blue Bell Creameries. Blue Bell Creameries will provide ice cream for the event. Staff has finalized plans for the fall "On the Road with Mark Christ" bus tour of Arkansas Civil War sites. The tour is scheduled for September 6 and will feature sites in the Arkansas Delta including Lakeport Plantation, the Taylor Log House and Site, Arkansas Post National Memorial, and St. Charles.

Programs and Special Events Coming Up July:

July 4 – America 250 launch in partnership with the Clinton Presidential Library at the Presidential Library, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

July 15 – Movies at MacArthur, *Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1*, 6:30 – 8 pm

July 28 – Teacher Professional Development Workshop, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Outdoor Recreation

Worked at the 30 Crossing Park's Pop-up in The Rock. Brought the Parks trailer, disc golf baskets and discs and information flyers. I will be assisting with the training ride for the BDB100. There has already been 1 ride (6/14/25). The second ride is on 6/28/25. The organizers have agreed to let OR fly the Parks feather banner at the events and put out Parks information flyers. The rides are every other Saturday from June 14th-September 20th with the BDB100 taking place on September 27th. I will be riding the full 100-mile route. I have been doing prep-work for programming with the Parks Summer Day Camp sites. I did a bike safety program for the Romine Day Camp site. I worked with 22 of their campers. Worked with the Therapeutic Rec Day Camp at War Memorial doing a disc golf program. OR have programming scheduled for all 6 Parks Day Camp sites. I currently have 2 visits scheduled for each site. I will add more as schedules allow. Had a fishing with Dunbar Parks Summer Day camp at Boyle Park.

Ongoing Projects:

The rides are every other Saturday from June 14th-September 20th with the BDB100 taking place on September 27th. I will be riding the full 100-mile route.

I have ordered custom cycling jerseys to help promote Little Rock Parks & Recreation and Outdoor Recreation programs. Once purchased, citizens will have the opportunity to earn a jersey by participating in bike rides.

There will be a pop-up disc golf event every month through December. Parks that will be used for these upcoming events include: Hindman, Meriweather and Allsopp South as well as War Memorial. MacArthur and Conner Park hosted previous events.

Upcoming Events/Activities

Archery is being incorporated into the Parks Summer Day Camp program for older campers. Outdoor Recreation will start to offer Beginning Archery programs at various community centers, Rebsamen archery range and various city parks. It will be held at Rebsamen archery range and various city parks.

7/1/25: Fishing with Chicot Parks Summer Day camp at Boyle Park. 9am-11am

7/2/25: AR River Trail bike ride. 6am-7:15am. Free program. I have switched the time of these rides due to excessive afternoon heat.

**There will be a pop-up disc golf event every month through December. Parks that will be used for these upcoming events include: Hindman, Meriweather and Allsopp South as well as War Memorial. MacArthur and Conner Park hosted previous events. The next pop-up will be on 7/12/25 at War Memorial