



## Parks Commission Recreation - Report 8/14/2024

### Athletics Summer Playground Program, Southwest Laureate and West Central Community Centers

Summer Programs are completed July 25, 2024, the Summer Playground Program had 577 kids, Southwest Summer Laureate 150 kids, West Central Program Youth in Action 100 kids, overall, we provided summer programming for 827 kids. The last week consisted of fun-filled activities such as cook-outs, awards ceremonies, snow cones, and some field day events.

### Southwest Community Center

Hosted a Youth Football Camp July 13, 2024, with NFL Cleveland Browns Pierre Strong who was a product of Little Rock Parks & Recreation youth football Southwest Buccaneers along with other players from the Browns team, with 300 youth in attendance.

### All Community Center Locations

Youth Track & Field program had its second Tract meet with an Olympic themed. Over 50 participants were in attendance with their parents, grandparents, uncle, aunts, and siblings cheering in the bleachers. Ages ranged from 3-15 and events were 60m,100m,200m and 400m dash, 4x100m relay and softball toss.

### Rebsamen Golf/First - Tee

On July 6 First Tee held the Clint Carnage Superintendents Revenge Tournament (20 teams) and Rebsamen held The Tyler Williams Junior Championship (82 Juniors).

### Tennis

The new LED lighting has been a big hit for evening participants with lots of compliments. Their USTA Mixed Doubles and Tri-Level season is underway. Paws at the Net tournament was held at the end of June and went well despite the heat.

### Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics

We had swimming lessons with over 150 participants and our daily swim had 100+ people each day. (We also had heat advisory days). Yoga night was a success and looking forward to continuing these types of activities.



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### **Stephens Community Center**

#### **Summer Playground Program:**

The Summer Playground program reached capacity of 120 participants. We had a Great Summer with very few problems and Lots of Fun Activities that included Hat Day, Jersey Day, Scarf & Lip Gloss Day, Friday Club Day with lots of different games to be played.

#### **Youth Sports Program**

Track and Field was Fun but Hot. Registration for All Fall Sports has opened.

#### **Adult Activities:**

Registration is open for our Fall Men 40 & Over League.

#### **Facility Vacancies:**

2-Activity Assistants, and 2-Part-Time Custodian).

#### **Maintenance:**

We are still waiting for start dates on work to be done at the Facility. Gym Floor and the Bleachers replaced. Update to all areas of the Facility. Columns at the front of the building. Signage for outside and building to be painted.

### **Dunbar Community Center**

#### **Summer Playground Program**

Dunbar 200+ participants in the summer playground program this year. Youth spent their days enjoying field trips and free play at the community center. During the last week of the program, we had various activities planned for each day to ensure youth had as much fun as possible.

#### **Track and Field**

The last track meet was held this month at Scott Field. Our youth participated in every event with many winning the event they were in. Parents supported all youth and cheered for everyone. Ages ranged from 3-15 and events were 60m,100m,200m and 400m dash, 4x100m relay and softball toss.

#### **Volleyball Training**

Youth grades 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> boys and girls can improve their skills in our weekly volleyball training. Training is held every Tuesday from 6pm-7pm and 7pm-8pm youth put the skills learned to use by scrimmaging with each other. Participation has been very good; July is the last month for the training.

#### **Basketball official clinic**

This month we offered a clinic every Tuesday night for people who have an interest in becoming a basketball official. General information which included but not limited to hand signals, floor position and reporting fouls. Officials were given information about how to become a certified official should they want to go further in the field.

#### **Upcoming Fall Programs**

We are promoting the programs that take place in the fall. Programs include latchkey, flag football, fall baseball, volleyball, cheerleading and basketball.

**West Central Community Center- Youth Sports Program:** West Central had 7 participants in track this season. We are recruiting and advertising Flag Football, Volleyball, and Cheer.

**Karate/Dance:** The Karate program had 20 participants for the month. Dance had 25 participants. Both are growing every month.

**West Central CC:**

Youth in Action Summer Camp had a visit from the Arkansas Sky Dome Planetarium, Chess Association. They also traveled to MacArthur Museum. They had an end of summer bash at the baseball complex. There was a bounce house, water slide, and a water balloon fight. They were able to tie dye shirts for the event and had grilled hot dogs and burgers. The summer program was utilized by 100 youth and about 80 -85 showing up daily.

**Rentals:**

The center had a total of 5 rentals for the month.

**Maintenance:**

All maintenance requests have been fulfilled. We are following up with maintenance supervisor to repaint the fire lanes.

**Employment:**

We have interviewed for our Recreation Programmer position. We will also be hiring for Evening receptionist and activity assistant.

**Southwest Community Center**

**Youth Programs:** The Summer Laureate program is operating well going into week 6 with over 150 happy campers. Campers have had the opportunity to participate in the Arkansas Game and Fish fishing education class. Beginning at 7:30a.m. Monday through Friday each camper is provided with the opportunity to eat breakfast and at 11:30a.m. they are provided with lunch. Snacks are optional at 3:00p.m., at which each camper provides themselves. At 6:00 p.m. camp is over, and parents are required to check their child out for the day. We have partnerships with the MacArthur Museum, Dee Brown Library, Main Event, Little Rock Zoo and many more.

**Youth Athletics:** Southwest Community Center Youth Track teams are all practicing and preparing for regular track meets and tournaments. The track meet will be held July 13, 2024 at 8:30a.m. Scott Field. Registration for volleyball, flag football, cheerleading and fall baseball is now open. The Southwest Track and Field team had a very successful year ending with 15 members and placing first in several events.

**Adult Athletics:** We are still advertising and looking to host beginner's pickle ball clinics and chair volleyball in the mornings. Dance workout is held every Tuesday and Thursday 6pm-8pm. We now offer low impact senior workout via video in which the numbers have grown to 15 participants with ages from 50+. The men basketball league will potentially be held on Sundays this year. We are now offering lap swim Monday through Friday 6:00a.m.-8:00a.m and water aerobics offered 8:00a.m.-8:45a.m. Tuesdays.

**Special Events:** The first Annual Bike Rodeo was a success held on June 15, 2024. The event was a collaboration with Dee Brown library in which there were over 200 participants and over 70 plus bikes giving away. Midnight basketball is going well, averaging 10-25 participants every Thursday and Friday between the hours of 9:00p.m.-11:00p.m. Family Jeopardy Night is held the last Monday of every month. Paint Night is held every first Wednesday of every Month. Cleveland Browns football camp hosted by Pierre Strong Jr. was held July 13, 2024, from 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. at the Southwest Community multipurpose field hosted over 250 kids. Spanish to English class collaboration with LRSD was held every Tuesday night in which we had in attendance over 50 students each class. Donations from the school district and several other local businesses were given to help feed all participants.

**ELR Community Center**

We were a Summer Playground site, the youth participated in various field trips including Outdoor walking trips to the ELR Park sponsored by the Clinton National Airport, Main Event, swimming, movies, plays at Ron Robinson Theater, and LR zoo. The youth had a blast on the “Last Day Funday” (they were presented awards and had a pizza fest). They enjoyed arts & crafts, table games, and other group activities. Maintenance continues to mow, weed eat, and pick up around the entire grounds. Horticulture maintained the hedges and flower island. Continuing to assist in absence of supervisor and attend various meetings as scheduled, also will help with Aging & Active program as needed. Little Rock Police Department uses the back area/field for their dog training, as needed. AAU football practices on the multi-purpose field weekly. The community groups are still using the outdoor basketball/tennis courts and other areas to do exercises and fitness. They are there 4 to 5 days per week, with about 8 - 10 participants. 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**

Held fourth of July and birthday Celebrations, as well as other activities. They continue to have visits from Baptist and Sage Health and Oak Street Clinic. They also do crafts, such as bottle flowers, jewelry, decorating caps/hats puzzles, and coloring. West Central continues to compete in chair volleyball and bean bag baseball against other sites within the state (looking forward to another championship!).

**Dunbar Seniors:** Senior Circle, Walking, Dominoes and Line Dancing Class, Bean Bag Baseball, Chair Exercise Class, and Baptist Health Outreach Monthly Screenings.

**East Little Rock Seniors:** Mind Bending, Silver Foxes Dance Class, Ceramics, Puzzles, Adult Coloring, Uno Card Game, Jewelry Making, Funtastic Friday, Nutrition Class and Fish Fry Friday.

**Southwest Seniors:** Skip-Bo, Pool Competition, Card Games, Bible Study, Chair Exercise, Walking Club, Guest Speaker from Make A Wish Foundation, Baptist Health Monthly Screening and Healthy Food, Cooking Class, Funday Friday.

**West Central Seniors:** Pickleball, Chair Volleyball vs Hayes Center and Sherwood Stars (both teams), Bean Bag Baseball Practice (both teams) AR Traveler Baseball Game, Let's Do Lunch Outing.

### **Therapeutic Recreation**

With the completion of summer programs, the TR staff will be completing final evaluations for each camper based on assessment and documentation information collected during the summer day camp program. The TR staff is programming fall session for the adult program and will begin registration on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Branch Out fall activities will include volunteer service, community outings, fitness classes, art education, holiday themed events and activities as well as our annual Halloween Dance event, Thanksgiving Potluck/Cooking Class, and the much-anticipated TR Christmas Program. The Fall session Adult Day Program will run from August 12- December 20. The TR Division has announced a new event for Fall of 2024, Logan's Run 2K Event! Logan's Run is a non-competitive event that offers children ages 5-25 with intellectual, developmental, and/or physical disabilities the opportunity to enhance their physical activity while focusing on reaching a goal. This event will include the 2K race as well as Scout's Fun Zone! The Fun Zone will feature various games and activities for families to enjoy. Registered participants will receive a medal and t-shirt on race day! Logan's Run is dedicated to the memory and legacy of Logan Bussard. Logan joined the Little Rock Parks and Recreation team as the Therapeutic Recreation Specialist in 2023. Sadly, Logan passed away on May 31, 2024. This event will take place on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am at Murray Park. This event was created in

partnership with the Little Rock Marathon team. Ashlie Bell has been promoted to the Therapeutic Recreation Specialist position. A requisition has been approved and opened to begin the hiring process for the Therapeutic Recreation Programmer position.

### **Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics**

We had three sessions of swimming lessons with over 150 participants and our daily swim had 100+ people each day. (We also had heat advisory days). We continue to have boot camp style fitness. The public is being informed through Facebook about various classes and events. Evening activities are still going well. Yoga night was a success and looking forward to continuing these types of activities. We were a site for late night basketball. Baptist Health still comes to JDFAC monthly and conduct blood pressure checks for our participants.

### **The Centre at University Park**

The City Board held their monthly meetings. Maintenance continues to work on the outside to keep it beautified and well maintained. Our facility has not slowed down as a booking space for City Of Little Rock related meetings. We are continuing to accommodate other city departments as well in terms of office space, access, and availability. The Centre held 14 Internal CLR meetings, no cancellations for the month of July and the meeting attendance was 452.

### **Youth Athletics**

Youth Track & Field meets were held despite the heat of in the months of June and July they were both well attended with over 50 participants each meet, the July meet was an Olympic theme, and the youth did a parade with flags and received Olympic trinkets. Registration is going on for flag football, cheer, and volleyball and will begin for basketball soon. Kudos to all the staff at all centers for continuing to ensure everything is running smoothly.

### **Adult Athletics**

#### **Interstate Park Program**

Field Rental reservations have begun to be made for the youth football league around the city.

#### **Adult Softball Program**

Interstate hosted the women league which has not been done since the pandemic. It was very successful with 6 women teams competing on Thursday night on field 2 and 3. Bad Girlz took home the league Championship but ended up losing to the Young and the Restless in the tournament championship game.

#### **Summer Playground Program**

Summer playground program ended on July 25,2024. We had a successful year enrolling 577 kids for the summer. We added 3 new field trips which the kids seem to enjoy. Main Event, Top Golf and bowling had really good turnouts

### **First Tee Golf**

It has been an exciting month at First Tee golf course. From us hosting the first annual Clint carnage superintendence revenge tournament on Saturday, July 6 to summer camps going on throughout the week, First Tee is definitely the place to be.

As I mentioned, we had our first annual Clint carnage superintendence revenge tournament on July 6 where our superintendent Clint Sellers set up Golf Course in a unique way to make it very

challenging for the players. This is a fun event that some golf courses do, and we had a great turnout, and everybody had a wonderful time. Thank you to Monica Blake executive Director for the First Tee for putting on such a wonderful event

We are continuing to mow the golf course and work on sand traps that have been washed down from the continuous rain from previous weeks. Also keeping the golf course cut and managing our time around the summer heat which is a top priority for me as general manager.

We recently had two golf carts stolen one night, but we're quickly able to recover them within a few hours thanks to the Apple Air Tags that we had installed on all our golf carts. We are still in need of a camera system to be installed at our facility. This would've definitely helped in capturing actually who took the carts that night.

Revenue continues to be on the rise. We are currently sitting at over \$175,000 in gross revenue which is an increase of 10.17% from this time last year golf cart rentals remain number one selling item with a gross revenue of over \$65,000 currently.

We will be hosting the US kids golf tournament in the next couple months, which brings over 100 golfers from around the state to our facility.

Exciting things continue to go on at First Tee and I'm thrilled to be working with such a wonderful staff.

### **Rebsamen Golf**

The Tyler Williams Junior Golf Championship had 82 Junior Golfers in attendance from all over the state. Our Front Counter Display is a hit with participants being able to see merchandise better.

Wednesday Ladies Day had 60+ ladies for the month. Revenue is up 10% over 2023. The greens were Verti-Cut for the summertime play.

### **Rebsamen Tennis**

New lights are getting great reviews! The best outdoor lights in the area (and probably the state) for tennis. Over 30 teams using Rebsamen as their home courts for USTA mixed and tri-level season, the most we've ever had. Rebsamen Monday league with over 30 players currently. Paws at the Net adult tournament earlier this month, 150 players. Little Rock Summer Junior Classic last weekend in July expecting about 125 players High school tennis is about to start at end of July and runs through early October. A new Assistant Facility Supervisor hired (Andrew Fox), starts August 12.

### **MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History**

1. Museum attendance for July was 2,894. This total includes: (1) On-site visitation, (2) Special events, (3) Virtual Programming through the museum's mini-documentaries and interviews, and (4) off-site programming. On-site visitation included 964 walk-in guests and 351 visitors to special events, meetings, etc. Out-of-state visitors came from 25 states: Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Washington. Visitors also came from Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, and South Korea. Total attendance for the first seven months of 2024 is 26,846 which represents a 9.4% increase over last year.
2. The museum's virtual documentaries/interviews received 466 new views during July for a total of 3,463 views for 2024. The most viewed videos were: (1) The Willys Jeep, (2) The Father of a Legend: General Arthur MacArthur, and (3) African American Soldiers in the Civil War.
3. The museum received over \$1927 in outside donations in July, bringing the total amount raised in 2024 to \$18,935, which is 8% ahead of schedule. The museum seeks to raise \$30,000 in grants, sponsorships and donations each year. Total gift shop sales for July were \$1,366.54.

4. The museum completed its outreach programming to Summer Playground Program students at Stephens, Dunbar, and East Little Rock Community Centers as well as students at Bale and Chicot Elementary Schools. Staff has also presented programming at Southwest and West Central Community Centers as part of their summer youth programs. Total numbers for the outreach sites for June and July include: 354 students at Bale, 336 students at Dunbar, 235 students at East Little Rock, 136 students at Southwest, 404 students at Stephens, 212 students at Chicot, and 96 students at West Central. Total outreach numbers are 1,773 plus an additional 194 students from Bale, Dunbar, Stephens and West Central who visited the MacArthur Museum and the Clinton Presidential Library on field trips. During June and July, museum staff presented off-site programs to the Little Rock School District's Summer Enrichment program, 21st Century program as well as the Summer Playground program. During the two months, 45 programs were given at 12 sites for a total of 2,553 students

5. The Mac Park Group continues to meet each Friday at 8:00 a.m. to work with the Parks Department on improvements to the park. The group partnered with volunteers from the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts and the Bowen Law School on June 28 for a one-hour park clean-up. Twenty-four volunteers picked up 22 bags of litter and debris. The MacArthur Park Group has also launched a design competition for a new shade structure for the MacArthur Unleashed dog park. An article about the competition was in the Sunday, June 30 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. See the link below.

<https://edition.arkansasonline.com/article/283914528067409>

6. Last December the Little Rock Historic District Commission consulted with The Lakota Group to develop a set of new design guidelines for the MacArthur Park Historic District. The first draft of the Design Guidelines is now available for public comment on the project website at <https://macarthurparksdg.com>. Comments can be provided via email at [info@thelakotagroup.com](mailto:info@thelakotagroup.com) or to Hannah Ratzlaff at [hratzlaff@littlerock.gov](mailto:hratzlaff@littlerock.gov), delivered in person or mailed to the Planning & Development Department at 723 W. Markham, or provided in person at the August 7th Historic District Commission public hearing.

7. Attendance for the July 16 "Movies at MacArthur" film *Unforgettable: The Korean War* was 68. Publicity for the movie included: (1) Eric Harrison's "Entertainment" section of the July 14 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and (2) mention in the Mayor's Monday Memo. Attendance for the film program this year is 367 and is on track to exceed last year's record attendance of 517. The next movie, *Waler: Australia's Great War Horse*, is scheduled for August 20. A flyer for the August movie is attached. Special thanks to our corporate sponsor for 2024 – the law firm of Wright, Lindsey, & Jennings – as well as our beverage sponsors – Stone's Throw Brewing and Marty and Tim Heiple. Thanks also to Chip Culpepper and Mark Hinson for designing work on movie flyers each month. The remaining schedule of movies for this year, which runs through November, is available on the museum website at littlerock.gov/macarthur.

8. The museum is partnering with the Clinton Presidential Center and three other local museums on the 2024 Civic Season Challenge, a national effort of "Made by US" to promote awareness of voting rights. The organization strives to provide civics education for young adults and has designated the period from June 14th through August 9th as Civic Season. Each of the participating sites - Historic Arkansas Museum, Old State House Museum, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, and MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History – will have a game card for participants to get stamped when they visit. Those who visit all sites during the period will be eligible for a Civic-Season themed basket as well as free admission to the Clinton Center. The drawing will be held on August 13th.

9. The museum's "On the Road with Mark Christ" bus tour to Civil War sites associated with the Battle of Helena and the Little Rock Campaign is scheduled for Saturday, September 14. The tour will include stops at Freedom Park, New Fort Curtis, the Moore-Hornor Home, Maple Hill

Cemetery, Battery C, and the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, as well as stops at Reed's Bridge Battlefield and Fourche Bayou. A flyer of the event is attached. A tour of sites associated with the Camden Expedition is planned for March 2025.

10. The museum has been approved to host a traveling exhibit from Exhibits USA, a traveling exhibition program managed by the Mid-America Arts Alliance in Kansas City, MO. *Two Minutes to Midnight and the Architecture of Armageddon* examines the atomic age and Cold War through two photographic essays that look at the offensive and defensive implications of nuclear war. The exhibit includes 48 photographic images and will be supplemented by artifacts from the museum's collection. The exhibit will open on September 10 and remain through January 7, 2025.

11. The museum and the park were featured in an on-line tourism site "Only In Your State." The article, "The Perfect Afternoon is Spent at MacArthur Park, One of The Oldest City Parks in Arkansas," contained information on the history of the Arsenal Building and MacArthur Park, as well as photographs of the park's various amenities including the Arkansas Korean War Veterans Memorial, the MacArthur Unlimited Playground, the dog park, walking trails and the pond.

[https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/arkansas/oldest-city-park-ar/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter&utm\\_source=arkansas&utm\\_content=nlbutterB1](https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/arkansas/oldest-city-park-ar/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_source=arkansas&utm_content=nlbutterB1)

12. The museum has finalized plans for its 2025 fundraiser. The event is scheduled for November 6, 2025, and will include a traveling exhibit of six paintings and 19 pencil and ink drawings by the Missouri painter Thomas Hart Benton from the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington DC. A preview reception will be held at the museum followed by a public program at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts by Steve Sitton, the superintendent of the Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site in Kansas City. The exhibit will be on display from November 7, 2025, through July 31, 2026.

### **Outdoor Recreation**

Outdoor Recreation (OR) provided the following programs in July:

Archery for the Summer Playground program Teen campers from Steven's Center on 7/8/24. Met with the NCCC (AmeriCorps) Assistant Director on 7/10/24. The meeting was a debriefing for the most recent team's time with Parks. The team, and the NCCC organization were very pleased with how the round went and are very open to Parks & Recreation hosting more AmeriCorps teams in the future. The program took place at War Memorial Park. Attendance:12. Bike rides along the AR River trail every Wednesday of the month: Monthly attendance-15 adults. Mountain bike rides at Boyle Park on 7/1,15 & 22/24: Monthly attendance: 16 adults. A Pop-up disc golf event at War Memorial on 7/20/24: Attendance 56 adults, 4 youth. Hosted the season opening event for the Central Arkansas NICA teams (Jr High and High School Mt bike racers) at War Memorial office from 6:00pm-8:30pm on 7/11/24. Co-sponsored an AR River Trail bike ride with Spokes Bike Shop on 7/14/24: Attendance 7 adults. Future co-sponsored rides are in the works. Disc Golf class for the Therapeutic Rec's youth program on 7/15/24. Attendance 13 youth, 5 adults. Hosted NICA's practice at War Memorial on 7/18/24 at War Memorial. Rode in 2 Big Dam Bridge 100 training rides as a Parks & Rec representative. Attendance: 120 adults.

Has been involved in the Outdoor Grant meetings for the Rebsamen Archery range project.

### **Total July programs attendance: 248**

As of 7/25/24/ the Little Rock Outdoor Recreation Facebook page has 186 followers, received 170 "Likes", reached 2118 people and generated 714 engagements. The page was created on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **Upcoming Events/Activities:**

Will be assisting with several of the future training rides as a group leader.

Enduro Mountain Bike race at River Mountain on 10/26 &27/24. On-line registration is open and final details are being worked out with the race promoters (Arkansas Enduro Series & The Ozark Foundation).

“Squatch till you drop” trail running event at Allsopp South is continuing to be developed, scheduled for Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 8am-2pm. Registration is set to open on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Set the goal for providing 100+ programs/activities for 2024. As of 725/24 OR has provided 52 programs/activities and has 62 set for the remainder of the year. More will be added.