



Parks Commission Recreation - Report 2/12/2025

Dunbar and West Central Community Centers

These centers have accommodated the youth basketball leagues due to renovations. Dunbar also served as a warming center as well as an overnight shelter for the unhoused community. During those evenings West Central continued to host ALL GAMES Mondays – Saturdays. HUGE SHOUT OUT TO THESE COMMUNITY CENTERS!!!

East Little Rock, Southwest & Stephens Community Centers

These centers are still under renovations and will be updated with flooring, lights, painting and an overall brighter and appealing look.

Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center

The 19 fitness classes are performing exceptionally well. One of the fitness classes, senior weights, has seen an increase in the month of January. The class has an average of 33 people. We want to thank Linda King, Fitness Specialist, for her hard work in increasing class participation. The facility has also added body sculpting, a class that uses weights, resistance bands, or bodyweight exercises to work different muscle groups, focusing on building lean muscle and boosting metabolism. The class is on Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 5:00 pm.

MacArthur Museum of Military History

Museum supervisor Stephan McAteer participated in a podcast with Amanda Williams, the director of the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, VA on January 21. The podcast focused on Douglas MacArthur's birth in the Arsenal Building on January 26, 1880, and was used by the Memorial to commemorate the general's birthday. The podcast can be heard at the following link:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1618177/episodes/16478275>

Adult Athletics

Field Rental reservations opened January 15, 2025, for ballfields and court rentals. Interstate Adult softball has begun registration for the spring league began January 15, 2025, for Men, women, coed and church league.

Senior Programs: Active and Aging

**** Yearly Membership \$15.00 if paid January 1 – 31, 2025; Membership February – December \$1.50 per month.** Registration at all sites will be continuous.

First-Tee/Rebsamen Golf

We have encountered a slow commencement to 2025. The severe cold temperatures that impacted the nation necessitated the covering of our greens from January 4 to January 24. This measure was essential to protect the putting greens from potential damage caused by the extreme cold conditions.



Parks Commission – Recreation Report 2/12/2025

Dunbar Community Center

After School Programs

The after-school program at Dunbar Community Center includes our homework and activity program and basketball. Our programs have remained steady in attendance and revenue. Participants in each program receive homework assistance from our dedicated employees and learn the value of each recreational program.

Youth Basketball Program

This month we started playing basketball at our site. All teams are playing well and looking good. We are preparing to finish up the league in the month of February, we have tournaments for all age divisions except pre-k.

Outdoor Youth Programs

Spring programs include middle and high school basketball, baseball, softball, blast ball, kickball and soccer. All have begun registration and will start practicing in March. The leagues and programs begin in April for competition.

Warming Shelter

In addition to being a warming center during the daytime, we served as an overnight shelter on the nights when weather condition we not conducive for people to sleep outdoors. We saw several people in the shelter each night and staff were on hand from various departments to meet the needs of our homeless citizens.

Stephens Community Center

Star Student Program:

The Star Student Afterschool Program is coming along just fine. We have 34 registered participants (68%).

Youth Sports Program

Programs for the Fall are Youth Basketball (5 teams 59 participants) and Cheerleaders (21 participants).

Adult Activities:

The Men's 40 & Over League is right around the corner, we're getting ready for it.

Facility Vacancies:

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

Maintenance:

We are on the Reno stage which is an ongoing process.

West Central Community Center

Youth Sports Program:

West Central has approximately 210 participants. The season has started, and we have games nightly. Referees, bookkeepers and coaches are all helping with the overload of games. We hosted all games due to other centers being renovated and overnight shelter at Dunbar.

Karate/Dance: The Karate and Dance programs have resumed, and participants are paying their monthly dues. Right now, we have approximately 10 in each class.

West Central CC:

Renovations for the baseball field have begun. We are redecorating the gym with park and recreation logos. Human resources had two trainings in the classroom this month.

Rentals:

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

Maintenance:

All requests have been fulfilled. All flowerbeds have been done.

Employment:

We have a concessionaire, activity assistant and evening front desk receptionist to hire. Currently looking at applications.

Southwest Community Center

Youth Programs: The afterschool Star Student Program enrollment numbers remain low, but we hope to see the increase once the afterschool transportation Pilot program has been approved. Our weekly Art program is continuing to grow with a consistent 15-20 participants attending every Wednesday 6:00p.m.

Youth Athletics: We have a total of 7 basketball teams registered in the youth basketball league. Teams practice twice a week at 6pm at Dunbar Community until the renovation is complete at Southwest Community Center. Our cheerleaders continue to shine in the community.

Adult Athletics: We are 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-7pm averaging 25 participants regularly. We now offer low impact senior workout via video in which the numbers have grown to 15 participants aging from 50+.

Special Events: Every Wednesday night is community Art night. After the Art is completed, a display is placed in the lobby for guests and members to observe. The ACT prep classes will start again in March collaborating with Pulaski County Youth Services, we look to serve at least 200 youth during this program. Renovations are going well at the facility.

ELR Community Center

Walk through to look at outside lighting on breezeway and parking lots were done. Renovation is going well. Workers are installing floors in the gym, have installed volleyball holes for the standards, lights, are working on the additional 2 rooms, painting, ceiling tiles & flooring are completed in current rooms. Painting of walls in the gym & hallway is done, and other work will continue until the project is completed. LR Parks Crew took down the playground behind the building (still waiting for removal). The neighborhood meetings have been moved to First Baptist Church located at East Ninth & Calhoun Streets. Maintenance continues to mow, weed eat, and pick up around the entire grounds. Horticulture maintains the hedges and mulched flower islands. Continuing to assist 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 and other areas to do exercises and fitness as the weather permits. They are there 4 to 5 days per week, with about 6 - 8 people. There is still some of 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

**** Yearly Membership \$15.00 if paid January 1 – 31, 2025; Membership February – December \$1.50 per month. Registration at all sites will be continuous.**

The Aging & Active program returned from Christmas break and started to prepare for the upcoming year. During the weather conditions the programs were closed. They are now back in the groove and enjoying the fellowship. Baptist Health Monthly Screening and Outreach, Sage Health, and Oak Street Clinic continues to visit the various sites. Baptist Health continues their outreach at each center monthly. East Little Rock, Dunbar, Southwest, and West Central celebrated January Birthdays in various ways. They all also are continuing their outings, field trips, crafts, such as bottle flowers, jewelry, decorating caps/hats, puzzles, t-shirts, and coloring.

Dunbar Seniors: 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: 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: Bowling, movies, Skip-Bo, Pool Competition, Card Games, Bingo, Bible Study, Chair Exercise, Walking Club, Baptist Health Monthly Screening and Healthy Food Outreach, Arts & Crafts, Table Games, Ring Toss, Pool, Cooking Class, Funday Friday.

West Central Seniors: 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

The TR Division is gearing up for the spring session. Programs include the Branch Out Adult Day Program, Time Out for TR, and Community Outings. The Branch Out group is also training for the Little Rock Marathon. We will be tracking our miles and finish our final mile at the All-Abilities Division race on March 1st at 1:00pm. This group will be continuing their fitness classes at Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center on Thursday, Jan. 30. Next week we will host a Parks Appreciation luncheon at the Ottenheimer TR Center. This event allows the participants of the Branch Out program to interact with all of the parks and recreation staff that attend. This gives staff an opportunity to engage with people with disabilities and it provides an opportunity for the participants to become better acquainted with staff for programming and volunteer purposes. The TR Branch Out program will continue volunteer efforts with the Little Rock Zoo, the Parks and Recreation department, the Under the Stars Special Needs Prom Event, Camp Aldersgate, and the Little Rock Marathon. The registration goal is 18 for Branch Out program. The current enrollment is 19. Registration is currently still open for all programs.

Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics

MEMBERSHIPS

The facility has seen an increase in new memberships for the month of January. We have sold over 300 new memberships for the month of January in 2025 compared to 201 new memberships sold in January 2024.

FITNESS

The 19 fitness classes at Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center are performing exceptionally well. One of the fitness classes, senior weights, has seen an increase in the month of January. The class has an average of 33 people. We want to thank Linda King, Fitness Specialist, for her hard work in increasing class participation. The facility has added another class, body sculpting, a class that uses weights, resistance bands, or bodyweight exercises to work different muscle groups, focusing on building lean muscle and boosting metabolism. The class is on Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 5:00 pm.

AQUATICS

The 6 aquatic classes at Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center are performing exceptionally well.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY

For the month of January, Baptist Health Community Outreach conducted a monthly blood pressure checks for our members and visitors, with a total of 18 individuals taking advantage of these services.

****Started a Commit to Fit 6-Week Challenge.** The event is going well. We had 30 people registered for the activity.

Details: Registration Deadline: Sign up by January 5th

Challenge Duration: January 6th through February 17th

What's Included: Personalized Fitness Assessment & Plan:

Kick things off with a 1:1 fitness assessment with one of our certified personal trainer members, happening January 6th-11th. This includes: A full fitness assessment, Health questionnaire; Goal-setting discussion; and Individualized fitness plan tailored to YOUR needs. Stay on Track for 6 Weeks: Follow your custom fitness plan with classes, activities, and strategies provided by our expert team to ensure success. Reassess & Celebrate Your Progress: At the end of the challenge, Feb. 18-22, we'll reassess your progress and celebrate your first big fitness goal of the year!

****The lifeguard pre-requisite swim test prep course has started this month.** The class is going well. We had 4 people taking the course.

Course Details:

Start Date: January 19th - End Date: March 9th Time: Sundays at 3:00 PM

Registration Opened: December 22nd Cost: \$40

Course Purpose: This 8-week program is designed to prepare participants to successfully complete the Lifeguard Pre-requisite Swim Test at the conclusion of the course. Passing this swim test is mandatory to become eligible to enroll in the American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification Course

The Centre at University Park

The start of a new year for us at The Centre. As we continue to gather up more meetings, trainings etc., we aim to always please and take it to another level. Physically we had a delay with everything due to the beautiful snow we received, that didn't stop us, but it motivated us to be more prepared. As we snow plowed our way back into the facility we kicked the new year off with a p-card training (20). The directors came in ready to learn a new area of work and responsibility. The parks commission (30) came in ready to go over everything they have in store for 2025, which they execute all the time. Therapeutic came in with a wonderful treat of the special premiere of their Christmas program (30). They also received awards for a job well done, NUSA (5) made it happen with the first meeting of the year making sure they have everything they need for another successful year. The Centre is always ready for more and we have just that. We had training with Jennifer Glasgow (15), Work Order (25), and as well as I.T. training (100). We had a wonderful start to our 2025 year and we're ready for bigger and better, we're Thriving in 2025!

Youth Athletics

Youth Basketball Season started this month; the goal was to have at least 350 youth registered. There are 362. Due to renovations games have been played at two locations Dunbar and West Central (Monday – Thursday & Saturday). Several adjustments had to be made also due to the homeless shelter being held at Dunbar, during the extremely cold temperatures and snow. Registration is ongoing for cheerleading. Kudos to all the staff at all centers for continuing to ensure everything is running smoothly.

Adult Athletics

Interstate Park Program

Field Rental reservations are open starting January 15, 2025, for ballfields and court rentals

Adult Softball Program

Interstate Adult softball has begun registration for the spring league began January 15, 2025, for Men, women, coed and church league.

Summer Playground Program

We are preparing for the summer program for 2025 in which registration will start online May 1, 2025

First Tee Golf

We have encountered a slow commencement to 2025 here at First Tee. The severe cold temperatures that impacted the nation necessitated the covering of our greens from January 4 to January 24. This measure was essential to protect the putting greens from potential damage caused by the extreme cold conditions. As we progress into 2025, we have outlined several initiatives for the golf course. Our primary focus will be on the removal of hazardous trees while concurrently enhancing the grounds through the installation of new sod in specific areas. Despite the sluggish start to the year, we are optimistic that weather conditions will improve, and we look forward to a successful golfing season here in Little Rock.

Rebsamen Golf

Greens were covered from January 4 to January 24 earlier than normal. This impacted our revenue but saved our greens from severe cold temperature, snow, and ice. Collaboration with multiple golf groups have begun to start a Rebsamen Golf Association. Looking to hire more staff this year.

Rebsamen Tennis

USTA singles leagues going very strong from December and into late January now due to snow and cold Monday night Rebsamen Singles league continues when the weather is good (10-12 courts each week) and through the winter. Raul and Janan junior development groups going strong and are year-round (January groups slower due to weather). Working on filling out the 2025 tournament and league schedules 45 USTA teams and counting using Rebsamen this spring (by far the most we've ever had) for their home courts. This is more than double the Burns Park total currently. We will have the busiest spring we've ever had!

Museum of Arkansas Military History

Museum attendance for January (through 1/28) was 1,454. 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 visits included 365 walk-in guests and 281 visitors to special events, tours, etc. during the month. In addition to Arkansas, guests came from Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin, as well as from Canada, England, Germany, Japan and Switzerland. The museum's virtual documentaries/interviews received 619 new views during January. Museum staff presented off-site programming to 56 children at Dunbar Community Center and to 69 students at Stephens Community Center in January as part of the museum's After School Program. Another 64 students were reached through the monthly 21st Century Program at J.A. Fair Preparatory Academy. The museum raised \$2,155 in January through donations, including \$1,000 from the Dale and Janice E. Davis Johnston Family Foundation. The museum has a goal of raising at least \$30,000 each year in outside funding. The goal has been met each year since 2017. Gift shop sales for January were \$199.56. *Two Minutes to Midnight and the Architecture of Armageddon*, a traveling exhibit from Exhibits USA and Mid-America Arts Alliance in Kansas City, MO was de-installed on January 9 and shipped to its next venue in Wyoming. The museum is preparing to host another traveling exhibit from Exhibits USA. *War Toys: Ukraine* will open on February 4 and remain through August 11. The exhibit draws attention to individual children and communities affected by war. Children often share their experiences and emotions through indirect methods of communication such as art and play. In the exhibit, internationally recognized photographer Brian McCarty collaborates with children who have been affected by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The museum has received a historical marker commemorating the contributions of African American soldiers in the Civil War. The cost of the marker was funded from a grant from the Arkansas Historical Marker Program as well as a private donor. Staff are working with Parks to schedule the installation of the marker behind the museum. A public unveiling of the signage has been scheduled for February 22. The museum hosted 78 members of the Aesthetic Club's "Founder's Day" celebration on January 28 commemorating the organization's 142nd birthday. The women's organization has been meeting at the Arsenal Building since 1984. Museum supervisor Stephan McAteer participated in a podcast with Amanda Williams, the director of the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, VA on January 21. The podcast focused on Douglas MacArthur's birth in the Arsenal Building on January 26, 1880, and was used by the Memorial to commemorate the general's birthday. The podcast can be heard at the following link:

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After two consecutive record-breaking years for the museum's "Movies at MacArthur" film series, the program launched its 2025 season with a screening of *USO: For the Troops*, on January 21 with 34 in attendance. A flyer for the February movie, *The Search for Kennedy's PT 109*, is out. The museum partnered with Pinnacle Legacy Law to host a seminar on the "VA Aid and Attendance" program on January 15. The program is offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for wartime veterans and their surviving spouses, 65 years and older, to help offset the cost of long-term care for those who need assistance with daily activities.

Programs and Special Events Coming Up in February and March:

February 16 – Vintage Military Gear Show, 1:00 – 5:00 pm

February 18 – Movies at MacArthur, *The Search for Kennedy's PT-109*, 6:30 – 8 pm

February 22 – Installation of U.S.C.T. Historical Marker, 2:00 pm

March 18 – Movies at MacArthur, *The Codebreaker*, 6:30 – 8 pm

March 22 – "On the Road with Mark Christ – Camden Expedition" bus tour, 7 am – 7 pm

March 25 – “An Evening with General Ulysses S. Grant,” featuring Dr. Curt Fields, 7 – 9 pm

March 26 – “An Evening with President Ulysses S. Grant,” featuring Dr. Curt Fields, 7 – 9 pm

Outdoor Recreation

Disc Golf Pop-up events have been scheduled for March-December. Five different city parks will host these events. Conner, Hindman, MacArthur and Allsopp South Parks will each host one. War Memorial will host the other 5. Over 400 people attended the Pop-up events in 2024. The goal is to reach a total attendance of 700 people for the 2025 Pop-up Disc Golf series. An orienteering clinic is scheduled to take place on February 9th at War Memorial. This is a partnership between Outdoor Recreation and ORCA (Orienteering of Central Arkansas). The February clinic is the first of a series of clinics and events for 2025 centered on the skills of orienteering (map and compass/navigation). The date for the 2nd annual Squatch Till You Drop trail running event has been set for Nov. 9th & 10th. The event will take place at Allsopp Park, South. In 2024, 80 participants took part in this event. The goal is to have 120, or more, participants in 2025. The Tuesday evening Winter Wander evening hike series will continue until late February. Attendance has been light, due to cold temps. Going forward, these hikes will take place on Saturdays during daylight hours. A tentative date has been set for a 3v3 basketball tournament to be held at Kanis Park. Those dates are September 13th & 14th. Outdoor Recreation will be represented at the Marathon Expo to promote programs and events within the department. Outdoor Recreation will be a part of the Marathon bike team, providing support for the lead running during that event. Outdoor Recreation's 2025 goal is to offer 100 programs/ events before December 31. Outdoor Recreation's cycling programs will restart in March and run through the end of October.