



Parks Commission Recreation - Report 12/10/2025

ALL Community Centers

Basketball registration is being held and skills & drills, as well as team practicing beginning. Each center held their Thanksgiving events during the week of November 17 - 21, 2025.

Southwest Community Center

Leadership Program Development: We are still exploring an opportunity to host the Boy Scouts of America at our facility as a youth leadership initiative. No meetings have occurred yet, but initial planning remains active.

West Central Community Center

Looking to start a Drivers' licenses renewal program.

Special Events:

Upcoming Special Events held:

- 1) "Kickin' it at Kanis" 3 on 3 basketball tournament and Ward 6 Block Party was held on Saturday, November 1st from 9am-1pm. It was very well attended, and all had a good time. Looking forward to next year.
- 2) Second Annual "Squatch Till You Drop" Trail Run at Kanis Park November 15 and 16, 2025. Cool morning but it was great for the run

Youth Athletics

Basketball registration continues to be open till closure of Dec. 19th. All centers remain open on Active Net. There are currently 170 participants registered as of Nov. 25th.

Therapeutic Recreation

The annual TR Thanksgiving Potluck/Cooking class event will take place on Thursday, November 20th. Each participants brings a recipe and ingredients to complete a dish for the TR Friendsgiving held at the Ottenheimer TR Center. We had approximately 40 guests in attendance. Also, preparations are in progress for this year's TR Christmas Program. It will take place on Thursday, December 18th and will be held at the Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock in partnership with their Embrace Special Needs ministry team.

Museum of Military History

The museum hosted the monthly meeting of Freedom Sings, Arkansas on November 10. The organization pairs songwriters with veterans to relate their wartime experiences through song. The museum was open on Veterans Day, November 11, in honor of the men and women who have served our country. In addition, museum commissioner Dishoungh White presented a program on veterans and military service to 565 students and adults at Davis Elementary School in Bryant. The museum was mentioned in an article on military history museums in conjunction with Veterans Day in the November 11 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The link below will take you to the article.

<https://edition.arkansasonline.com/article/282767772869187>



Parks Commission – Recreation Report

Dunbar Community Center

After School Programs

The 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 have the opportunity to receive instruction from our on-hand instructors and learn the value of each recreational program.

Youth Basketball Program

Practice continued in the month of November, we did not practice over thanksgiving break. We look to have teams in all divisions.

During the thanksgiving break youth attended the community during the day and enjoyed free play in the gym. Staff took down Thanksgiving décor and put up Christmas décor.

Improvements

New floor coverings were delivered for the gym. The rack was assembled and coverings placed on the rack.

Southwest Community Center

Youth Programs: Fall Break Camp took place November 24–28 and welcomed six participants. Although smaller in size, the youth enjoyed a week of structured activities and engagement while out of school. Our Afterschool Transportation Pilot Program concluded on November 3, 2025. While no major highlights or issues emerged, this pilot period will still help us evaluate whether the service should continue or expand. We continue to expand youth enrichment opportunities through our partnership with The Home Teen Youth Center, providing creative and skill-building experiences such as: Dance, Photography, Arts & Crafts, and Skilled Trades

Youth Dance Program: Our Youth Dance Program remains steady with an average of 5–10 participants per session. **Practice Days:** Tuesdays & Thursdays **Time:** 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Fee:** \$10.00 per child monthly. This program continues to be a fun and accessible outlet for youth expression and physical activity.

Leadership Program Development: We are still exploring an opportunity to host the Boy Scouts of America at our facility as a youth leadership initiative. No meetings have occurred yet, but initial planning remains active.

Youth Athletics: Basketball season preparations are well underway. Skillz & Drillz, which ran from October 20 through November 14, saw an average of 30 participants, contributing to a strong anticipated basketball turnout. We are currently on pace to have one team in every age division (4U–12U). Current Basketball Registrations: 16 players, more registrations expected following Skillz & Drillz participation. Practices have started.

Our Cheer Program continues to be a staple of spirit and support, with cheerleaders practicing frequently and preparing to represent the Panthers during the upcoming basketball season.

Adult Athletics & Fitness Programs

Southwest Steppers – Dance Workout: Our adult dance fitness class continues to draw community interest. Attendance averages 8 participants per session. We are **still seeking a volunteer instructor** to assume leadership of this program. Sessions continue to be staff-led every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Low-Impact Senior Workout: This video-based class continues to serve a consistent group of approximately 15 active older adults, offering a safe, low-impact way to stay mobile and connected.

Pickleball Program: We are currently researching the development of a pickleball program for ages 14 and up.

Special Event

Cherokee Village Consulate Outreach

In partnership with Community Programs, we hosted the Cherokee Village consulate this month. Participants were able to: Access tribal resources, Receive information, Obtain identification and documentation. This event was well-received and meaningful to community members seeking cultural and administrative support

November Events & Outreach

Open House Events: Held earlier in November and again on **November 24**.

Turkey Giveaway Partnering with American Steel: held **November 26**.

Looking Ahead: December Events

December 4th- Open House/ SW Panther Basketball Cookout

December 8 – Open House

December 13th- Brunch with Santa

December 1–20 – Letters to Santa Program

December 12 – Lotería Night (6 p.m.)

We will continue to offer festive activities for all ages.

Stephens Community Center

Star Student Afterschool Program

The After-school Program is going well thus far. (68%)

Youth Sports Program

Programs for Youth: Cheerleading (100+%), Youth Basketball registration is ongoing. On November 20, 2025, Star Student Afterschool Participants took cans of goods and volunteered for a little while at Watershed. November 21, 2025, Afterschool participants took snacks home to have for the holiday.

Adult Activities:

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

Facility Vacancies:

3-Activity Assistants, 1-Part-Time Custodian and 1-Full Time Custodian. We have a Programmer on staff. We have help from the CUP while they are under Renovation.

Maintenance:

We are still in the renovation stage, which is an ongoing process. Baseboard Trim in the Gym needs to be replaced. Work Orders placed for Service on the Alarm, (**Done**) Security Panel, (**has a Trouble signal**) Phones Lines (**Are Working, but the 603 line has a lot of static**). Computers at the front counter are not working. Air in the Gym is out (**waiting on a part**). Cabinets are completed. Doorbell has been installed.

Smoke Detectors in the gym need to be replaced. Grass inside the Front and Back Air Units need to be cut.

West Central Community Center

Youth Sports Program:

Basketball camp with Arkansas Lighting. Coat Drive flyer approved. Line Dancing event, and Basketball Registration kick-off.

Other Program:

Drivers' licenses renewal program.

Karate/Dance:

The Karate program is back and has 15 participants. Dance has 10 participants. Both were closed for Thanksgiving week.

West Central CC:

Eastern Seals basketball team comes weekly to practice and have physical education.

Sunshine Homeschool comes on Tuesdays at 1pm to do physical education.

Both Men's and Women's teams of Parkview High School practice at West Central from 2pm-6pm Monday-Thursday.

Rentals:

The center had a total of 15 rentals for the month. These rentals include meetings with human resources and neighborhood association meetings.

Maintenance:

None

Employment:

We have a concessionaire, activity assistant (2) and evening front desk receptionist to hire. Currently looking at applications.

ELR Community Center

I have completed all the training courses required, including monthly safety briefings, cyber security, Workers' Comp and the Reasonable Suspicion Learning Plan. The neighborhood Meeting was held on November 17 with 13 in attendance. The next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2025, has been cancelled per their president. The LRPR department held their work order meetings on November 25, there were about 16 in total for the meeting. Estem High School has been holding drills, shoot around and free-throw shooting. LRPD continues to utilize the back field area for their dog training on Thursdays, with about 14 -17 in attendance, weather permitting. I am still attending various meetings/activities/events as scheduled. Continuing to assist supervisors, help with Aging & Active program as needed and attend various meetings and training courses as scheduled. Individuals are still utilizing the tennis court area for skateboarding (not looking the best). Maintenance continues to mow, weed eat, and pick up around the entire grounds. 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 3 to 5 days per week, with about 6 - 8 people. There is still 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

Baptist Health held their monthly fruit & vegetable outreach at Southwest, East Little Rock, and Dunbar. Dunbar had a speaker to talk on Medicare Benefits, had field trips to Homers Kitchen and Sip & Smile. East Little Rock had Baptist Health Flu Shots on November 2, Speaker on The Brain & The Body, and quarterly birthday Bash at Barn Hills. Southwest held their Thanksgiving dinner on November 21. West

Central had AARP Summit on November 7, hosted a chair volleyball tournament on November 13 & 14, and Thanksgiving at Sweet Pop on November 21. Continued Shout outs to ALL the Senior Staff for their hard work, dedication, and for the care. They were all out for Thanksgiving Break November 24 – 28, 2025.

Dunbar Seniors: Baptist Health Flu Shots, Medicare Benefits, Homers Kitchen, Sip & Smile, Birthday celebrations, Bingo/connect bingo, Walking, Dominoes, Arts & Crafts, Weekly Field Trips, Bible Study, Baptist Health Outreach and Monthly Screenings, painting.

East Little Rock Seniors: Baptist Health Flu Shots, Guest Speakers (The Brain & The Body), Barn Hills Field Trip, nails/Manicure Day, Pampering Day, Birthday Celebrations, Arts & Crafts, Bean Bag Baseball, Line Dancing, Mind Bending, Silver Foxes Dance Class, Senior Chair Fitness, Puzzles, Adult Coloring, Jewelry & T-Shirt Making, and Funtastic Friday.

Southwest Seniors: Baptist Health Flu shots, Baptist Health (Flu Shots) and Speakers/Outreach/Food Day, Birthday Celebrations, Ring Toss, Bingo, Skip-Bo, Card/Table Games, Bible Study, Chair Exercise, bowling, bean bag, Crafts, and Walking Club.

West Central Seniors: Baptist Health (Healthy Living), AARP Summit, Chair volleyball tournament, Quilting, Dance, Table games, Bible Study, Bean Bag Game, Bingo, Pickleball Free play, Chair Volleyball games home/away, Bean Bag Baseball (Badgers/Blazers (League games home/away), and Pickle ball games/Practice (both teams).

Therapeutic Recreation

The Branch Out Volunteer crew will be working in Riverfront park on Thursday, November 6th. Next week's activities include fall crafts, November's TR Baking Challenge: Pumpkin Edition as well as a kickoff for Kindness Day which will begin our 2nd Annual Chloe's Cozy Drive, a blanket drive to benefit the Homeless Services Division of Little Rock to provide blankets to unsheltered citizens. This drive will end on December 18th at the Annual TR Christmas program. The annual TR Thanksgiving Potluck/Cooking class event will take place on Thursday, November 20th. Each participants brings a recipe and ingredients to complete a dish for the TR Friendsgiving held at the Ottenheimer TR Center. We expect approximately 40 guests in attendance. Preparations are in progress for this year's TR Christmas Program. This event will take place on Thursday, December 18th and will once again be held at the Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock in partnership with their Embrace Special Needs ministry team. This event showcases the members of the Branch Out program in a holiday themed play production. The cast will have approximately 20 participants and will include costumes, various sets, and scripted lines. This program offers participants an opportunity to perform for friends and family, showing their acting and performance skills. The therapeutic benefits include promoting self-esteem, memory, cognitive skills, team building and communication.

Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics

MEMBERSHIPS

Added Text Alerts to communicate with members when classes are cancelled, etc. Have over 250 people enrolled in text alerts. **Memberships:** 2024 (to date): 15,109 **2025 (to date, November): 22,897.

Revenue: 2024 (to date): \$376,939.14 **2025 (to date): \$558,063.77

FITNESS PROGRAMS

The facility continues to offer **19 group fitness classes**, all of which maintain high participation rates and positive feedback from members.

Activities: Starting Open Gym Volleyball: TBA, two new fitness classes are to be added this fall.

AQUATICS PROGRAMS

The aquatics program currently offers **6 classes**, which continue to show steady attendance and positive participant feedback. Satisfaction and engagement remain consistently high. Looking to add Aqua Fit.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Baptist Health Community Outreach

Monthly blood pressure screenings were provided in November, with **27 participants** benefiting from this free service.

The Centre at University Park (Currently Under Renovation)

Youth Athletics

Basketball

The 2026 basketball registration continues to be open till closure of Dec. 19th. All centers remain open on Active Net. There are currently 170 participants registered as of Nov. 25th. All centers have access to the flyer and should be posting regularly. All clinics have concluded, and all centers will proceed with holding individual team practices. I am finalizing details with the jersey order and receiving the number of jerseys needed by each center. We are scheduling a training day for referees to be trained and registered through bonfire. The season will commence on January 5th.

Basketball registration numbers by site: Dunbar: 64...Southwest: 17...Stephens: 12...West Central: 77

Cheerleading

The cheer season is ongoing. They will cheer at basketball games and other community functions as scheduled. Registration will remain open.

Adult Athletics

Interstate Park Program

LRKA kickball club started are done using field 1,2 and 3 until the spring. Their last date was November 2,2025

Adult Basketball Program

The 30 and 40 and over basketball league is on hold due to score board issue at east little Rock community Center. We have 6 confirmed teams in each division. Met with Rainey about scoreboard for east little rock replacement of score clock on November 13,2025

Parks Summer Day Camp

Planning has already begun for the summer of 2026 Parks Summer Day Camp supplies will be ordered in the next couple of weeks for the program.

Allsop Park

Field uses for November have first come first serve we have closed reservation until 2026, but fields can still be used .

Kanis Park

Arkansas Baptist college will be utilizing Kanis baseball field until November 15,2025. Also, Philander Smith University requested time for usage.

Rebsamen and First Tee Golf

Continuing to show a rise in play at both courses due to great course conditions and good weather. New Baroness equipment has arrived for both courses. Continuing to show a rise in play at both courses due to great course conditions and good weather. We are collaborating with the Director and Deputy Directors on the bond funding allocated for golf. Repainting of interior will be put to bid during the fall and plan for painting to be underway during late fall or early winter at Rebsamen. We have explored 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. Additionally, in the process of training staff members on the new system.

Rebsamen Tennis

The LED lights are a huge hit and look great! Lots of compliments so far, Musco App also works which helps exact our lighting needs each night. ATA has used our courts on two Sundays for state tournaments (they use Burns Park more since they have more courts there). We are using the dumpster from the University Center since they are under construction for the next year or so. Golf cart is broken and has been picked up and still in North Little Rock to be fixed (waiting to hear). USTA Team Tennis (Tri-level and mixed seasons) finishing up. We had 15 tri-level teams and 60 mixed doubles teams. USTA Team Triple Threat season started in early November and goes through the beginning of the year. USTA Singles leagues began early November as well and goes through mid-January. USTA combo season is started in late August. Over 50 teams are playing at Rebsamen. Season lasts until mid-October; state tournaments were in mid-November. Putting together a grant proposal through the USTA to help with court resurfacing

Museum of Arkansas Military History

Museum attendance for November has been 2,922. This number includes : (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 includes 763 walk-in guests and 878 visitors to special events, meetings, tours, etc. In addition to Arkansas, visitors came from 30 states, including Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming as well as Australia, Brazil, China, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom. Off-site programming reached a total of 905 individuals so far this month, while the museum's virtual programming received 376 new views. Overall attendance for 2025 totals 33,768, which is 98% of the museum's goal. The museum raised \$1,692 in new donations in November bringing its total funding in 2025 to \$52,487. This amount exceeds the annual goal of raising \$30,000 by 75%. The museum anticipates another \$10,000 in sponsorships for the *Thomas Hart Benton* exhibit by the end of the year. Gift shop sales for November were \$888.82 for a total of \$11,534.02 so far this year. With one month remaining, gift shop sales are at 101% of the goal for 2025.

Sixty-one people attended the November "Movies at MacArthur" film *They Drew Fire* on November 18. Attendance for the film program in 2025 totals 592 (2nd best attendance ever). The 2026 movie schedule has been finalized and is attached. Since the program began in 2015, a total of 3,918 people has attended movies and learned more about our state and nation's military history. Museum programmers Shane Lind and David Collins continue weekly Afterschool Programming at Stephens and Dunbar Community Centers, as well as monthly programming to students in the 21st Century program at JA Fair Preparatory Academy. During November, a total of 160 students were reached through programming at the Community Centers in addition to 31 students at J.A. Fair. So far this Fall, a total of 877 students has been reached at the sites: (1) Dunbar Community Center – 437, (2) Stephens Community Center – 319, and (3) J.A. Fair Preparatory Academy – 121.

Thomas Hart Benton, a traveling exhibit from the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington DC, opened to the public on November 7 and will remain on display through July 31, 2026. It features 25 paintings and drawings that depict naval scenes on board the submarine USS *Dorado* and LSTs along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. These artworks were commissioned by Abbott Laboratories and turned over to the Navy after the war. A total of 104 people attended a preview reception for sponsors and special guests on November 6 followed by a presentation by Dr. Joan Stack, curator of collections at the

State Historical Society of Missouri, at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts. The opening of the *Thomas Hart Benton* exhibit received press coverage in the November 6 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The exhibit was also featured in an article by columnist Sean Clancy in the Style section of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* on November 28. A link to the article is included below.

<https://edition.arkansasonline.com/article/282462830226692>

The museum hosted the monthly meeting of Freedom Sings, Arkansas on November 10. The organization pairs songwriters with veterans to relate their wartime experiences through song. The museum was open on Veterans Day, November 11, in honor of the men and women who have served our country. In addition, museum commissioner Dishoungh White presented a program on veterans and military service to 565 students and adults at Davis Elementary School in Bryant. The museum was mentioned in an article on military history museums in conjunction with Veterans Day in the November 11 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The link below will take you to the article.

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The museum participated in the Old State House Museum's Second Friday Art Night on Friday, November 14 from 5:00 - 8:00. The theme for the event was World War I, which museum staff used to promote the *Thomas Hart Benton* exhibit to the approximately 124 people in attendance.

The museum hosted the following school groups/tours in November

- Therapeutic Recreation, November 10 – 17 youth and adults
- Pocahontas High School, November 12 – 27 students
- Crosspoint Academy, November 15 – 20 students
- Boy Scout Troup 380, November 15 – 12 youth
- Greenbrier Middle School 7th grade, November 20 and 21 – 290 students and teachers
- Lonoke High School, November 21 – 39 students and teachers

The museum will host two holiday concerts in December. The 106th Army Band's brass quintet, the Five Star Brass, will perform a holiday concert on Saturday, December 6 at 2 pm. The band is part of the Arkansas Army National Guard. The ensemble performs for a variety of events, including military ceremonies and public celebrations. The second concert, "Jazz, Jingles and Joy," will feature the Jacksonville High School Choir on Saturday, December 13, at 2 pm. Composed of three ensembles—Concert Choir, Treble Choir, and Jazz Band—the students have dedicated countless hours to music-making, with over 18 performances at school, district, and community events, totaling more than 60 hours of performance time. Both performances are free and open to the public.

Programs and Special Events Coming Up December:

December 6 – 106th Army Band Jazz Ensemble at the Arsenal, 2 pm (tentative)

December 13 – Holiday Performance by Jacksonville High School Choir, 1 – 3 pm

December 21 – Holiday Music at the Arsenal Recital, 2 pm

Outdoor Recreation

11/1/25: I worked at the Ward 6 block party/Kickin' it at Kanis event. I helped set up and take down tables and chairs, took part in the pickle ball clinic, provided transport with Parks side-by-side and policing the area for trash and answered visitor questions. Disc golf course project at War Memorial has moved forward with brush clearing. Urban Forestry has begun clearing areas for the installation. Sponsorship opportunities are being pursued, and course layout is being adjusted to accommodate Leland's input. I have coordinated with city Homeless Advocates to provide assistance to members of our unsheltered community in and around War Memorial Park. This is an ongoing situation. (at least once a week). Prep work for the 2nd annual Squatch Till You Drop trail run continued through 11/7, including: course preparation, making finisher medals, coordinating with Sherri to have the Therapeutic Rec population put together the event swag bags, continued PR, ordering t-shirts and socks for swag and for sale, securing port-a-potties and MEMS, reserving the pavilion at Allsopp, finalizing event SOP's,

scheduling the timer service for the 6 hour run and purchasing supplies for the event, partnering with a local business to have the runner packet pick-up at their location. The trail has been marked. The Squatch event had 71 participants registered. 11/4/25: Attended Recreation division staff meeting and Workers Comp training. 11/7/25- Packet pick-up for the Squatch trail run. 4pm-6pm, at Diamond Bear brewery. 11/10&12/25- Clearing the trail markers at Allsopp and policing the trails for trash after the Squatch trail event. Several hundred markers were set out for the event.

I am all caught up on Cyber Security training.

Clean-up from the Squatch trail run has finished. This included: removing all trail markers from the park, policing the trails for trash left by runners, unloading the Parks trailer, washing water coolers, organizing and storing equipment, making any repairs needed to equipment, cleaning Parks trailer. A Post event participant survey for the Squatch trail run was sent out. To date, 25 have replied. Responses have been very positive and have provided useful feedback. I met with reps from Cintas and our Safety Coordinator (Perry) to discuss getting an AED permanently stationed at War Memorial. I have requested to begin the process of taking the CRPC certification course through NRPA. The Outdoor Recreation Facebook page now has 567 followers.