



## Parks Commission Recreation - Report 8/13/2025

### **LR Parks Summer Day Camp Program**

We have completed our 8 weeks day camp program for 2025. Where we capped off the activities with field trips on July 22, and 23, 2025 at Main Event. This year our enrollment was at max at all locations. Chicot- 150- Dunbar 210- East-100-Romine 150-Stephens -120 and west Central 80. Bringing our total to 810.

### **Youth Athletics**

#### Track and Field

The 2025 track and field meets were July 19<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>. There were 116 participants registered. The track meets were held at Scotts Field.

#### Flag Football

The 2025 flag football season was to commence on August 12<sup>th</sup> but will be moved to Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> due to heat.

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

#### Yoga Night

*Friday, July 18, 2025 | 5:30 PM | 49 Registered Participants*

Yoga Night provided an evening of wellness, mindfulness, and community.

\*Movie at the Pool: Moana 2

*Friday, July 25, 2025 | Gates Open: 7:00 PM, Movie at Sunset | 47 Attendees*

Guests enjoyed a magical evening watching *Moana 2* under the stars. The event featured water games, concessions, and poolside movie viewing. Families floated in the water, creating a memorable experience for all ages.

### **Outdoor Recreation**

Outdoor Recreation provided programming for all 6 Parks Summer Day Camp sites and for the Therapeutic Rec Summer program, 2 separate programs were facilitated for each location. Programs included bike safety, fishing, disc golf and archery. Programs differed based on camper age and ability.

### **Museum of Military History**

Museum programmer Shane Lind has been asked to serve on the 2025 Arkansas Social Studies Targeted Revision Committee. The committee has been tasked to update the 2022 Arkansas Social Studies Standards to align with legislation passed during the 2025 Arkansas General Assembly, which took place this past spring. The committee began with in-person meetings on July 30 and 31 in Little Rock and then collaborated with educators and partners to ensure the state's social studies standards meet current legislative requirements and support effective classroom instruction.



## **Parks Commission – Recreation Report**

### **Dunbar Community Center**

#### **Summer Camp Program**

Dunbar had 200+ participants in the summer camp program this year. Youth spent their days enjoying field trips and free play at the community center. Every Friday we had various activities planned to help young people have as much fun as possible.

#### **Track and Field**

Both track meets were held this month at Scott Field. Our youth participated in every event and had fun. Parents supported all youth and cheered for everyone. Ages ranged from 3-15 and events were 100m, 200m and 400m dash, 4x100m relay and softball toss.

#### **Volleyball Training**

Youth grades 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> were given the chance to improve their skills in our weekly volleyball training. Training was held every Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm-7pm, the last day they showed what they learned by scrimmaging each other. Participation was very good; July was the last month for the training.

#### **Upcoming Fall Programs**

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

### **Stephens Community Center**

#### **Summer Day Camp**

The Summer Day Camp went well. We had 121 participants registered. (100%)

#### **Youth Sports Program**

Programs for Youth Sports, Baseball, T-Ball and Track & Field have all ended and we are gearing up for the next round of sports. (Flag Football, Cheerleading, and Volleyball).

#### **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. We have help from the CUP staff while they are under renovations.

#### **Maintenance:**

We are still in 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, and Computers. Lights are working now. Air in the Gym is out. The water heater is out waiting for a new one.

## **West Central Community Center**

### **Youth Sports Program:**

Youth baseball & tee-ball ended July 3<sup>rd</sup> at Interstate Park. Youth track was a success with West Central having 44 participants. We are now advertising for flag football and volleyball. Currently looking for quality flag football uniforms. Cheer registration is open.

**Karate/Dance:** The Karate program took a break for the month of July and will resume at the beginning of August. Dance has been going strong for the month with 17 participants.

### **West Central CC:**

West Central Sport Complex opened the new 12u baseball field on July 15. This event included the Mayor, Ward 6 Director throwing the first pitch and Parks Directors. Summer program participants came from East Little Rock and West Central. The Arkansas Travelers were our special guests. There was a snow cone truck and food truck vendors. Participants were able to participate in face painting and field games such as home run derby and base running.

\*\*Teen Parks Summer Day Camp was in session at the facility until July 24<sup>th</sup>. It was a great summer with no major issues.

### **Rentals:**

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

### **Maintenance:**

We have a work request in for the air conditioning unit in the gym.

### **Employment:**

We have a concessionaire, activity assistant and evening front desk receptionist to hire. Need new requisitions.

Currently looking at applications.

## **ELR Community Center**

Parks Summer Day Camp ended on Thursday July 24 (FUNDAY CELEBRATION), they had a good time throughout the summer, swimming, skating, movies, Museum, Clinton Library, zoo, bowling, snow cone days, doing puzzles, art, tournaments, art contest, and free play. The youth had a hand sewing class, where they made pillows in various shapes. On the final day the youth had an Awards Program and Pizza Party. They have had various safety drills as well as visits from MEMS, LRPD, and LRFD to bring awareness of their importance to safety. The MacArthur Military Museum visits each Wednesday, and they learn about various branches of the military and do a fun art project. Outdoor Recreation provided the "Backyard Bass", fishing simulation program for the Campers, 26 youth, 3 adults, with Outdoor Recreation Coordinator Mike Simmons...it was well organized and informative. It gave the youth another outlook on a new activity/outdoor sport. The neighborhood Meeting was held on Monday July 14, 2025, there were 6 in attendance next meeting was scheduled for August 11. I am still attending various meetings as scheduled. THANKS to Michael Simmons for enlightening our youth to Outdoor Recreation activities, it was well received and appreciated. Shout Out to ALL the staff that help with the youth Summer Day Camp each day. 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). The AAU football team practices 3 days per week. Maintenance continues to mow, weed eat, and pick up around the entire grounds. 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 15 – 20 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**

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

The Aging & Active program held their Fourth of July activities. Each site had speakers to come from the East Little Rock had a time with their activity “A Walk Down Memory Lane”. Baptist Health. West Central Seniors will participate in the state tournament in August. All sites are preparing for their upcoming activities for the month of August which will include some pampering, dancing, crafts, field trips, and more. 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 July Birthdays in various ways. They are all also continuing their outings, sports competitions, activities such as painting, jewelry, quilting, decorating caps/hats, puzzles, t-shirts, and coloring.

**Dunbar Seniors:** Fourth of July activity, 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:** Walk down Memory Lane, Step Up to Health, Fourth of July activity, Senior Fitness, Care Link workshop, Mind Bending, Silver Foxes Line Dance Class, Crafts, quilting, Puzzles, Adult Coloring, Uno Card Game, Jewelry Making, Nutrition Class and Funday Friday.

**Southwest Seniors:** Fourth of July 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:** CPR Class, Spelling Bee, 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**

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 the fall session for the adult program and with registration beginning on July 30<sup>th</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. Fall session Adult Day Program will run from August 11- December 18. We will once again offer 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! 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 on March 31, 2024. This event will take place on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am at Murray Park and was created in partnership with the Little Rock Marathon team.

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

#### **MEMBERSHIPS**

The Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center saw a significant increase in memberships during July 2025, with 2,264 new memberships sold, up from 1,766 in July 2024—a strong indicator of the facility’s growing appeal and community engagement.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance trends continued to rise, fueled by increased membership sales and diverse programming. The facility recorded over 18,000 total visits in July 2025, a substantial increase from just over 10,000 in

the same period last year. The outdoor pool alone welcomed 2,130 daily visitors in July 2025, compared to 1,267 in July 2024. (Note: This figure excludes monthly membership visits.)

#### REVENUE

Revenue collection saw a marked improvement, totaling \$64,314.25 for July 2025, an increase from \$42,346.00 collected during the same month in 2024.

#### FITNESS PROGRAMS

The center currently offers 19 group fitness classes, all of which continue to perform exceptionally well, maintaining strong participation and positive member feedback.

#### AQUATICS PROGRAMS

The aquatic program includes 6 classes, which have shown consistent attendance. Participant feedback remains positive, indicating continued satisfaction and engagement.

#### SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

##### \*Baptist Health Community Outreach

Monthly blood pressure screenings were offered in July, with 26 participants taking advantage of this free wellness service.

##### \*Yoga Night

*Friday, July 18, 2025 | 5:30 PM | 49 Registered Participants*

Yoga Night provided an evening of wellness, mindfulness, and community. Participants engaged in a variety of yoga poses, enjoyed refreshments, and received a complimentary T-shirt and branded bag. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the event's success in promoting healthy lifestyles.

##### \*Movie at the Pool: Moana 2

*Friday, July 25, 2025 | Gates Open: 7:00 PM, Movie at Sunset | 47 Attendees*

Guests enjoyed a magical evening watching *Moana 2* under the stars. The event featured water games, concessions, and poolside movie viewing. Families floated in the water, creating a memorable experience for all ages.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS – AUGUST 2025

##### \*Aloha to Summer Pool Bash Back to School Bash

*Saturday, August 9, 2025 | Starts at 10:00 AM*

Close out the summer with a tropical celebration featuring:

Free Food, Games & Activities

Free Haircuts (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM)

Open to all ages—fun for the whole family!

##### \*Top Gun Challenge: Weightlifting Competition

*Saturday, August 16, 2025*

Do you have what it takes to lift like a Maverick? Test your strength in this exciting competition. Details coming soon—get ready to dominate the weight room!

#### **The Centre at University Park (Under Renovation)**

#### Youth Athletics

##### Track and Field

The 2025 track and field meets were July 19<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>. There were 116 participants registered. The meets were held at Scotts Field. One incident was reported and documented.

##### Flag Football

The 2025 flag football season was to commence on August 12<sup>th</sup> but will be moved to Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> due to heat. There is currently a total of 58 participants registered. Games will be held during the week

Monday through Thursday. Rules will be sent out on Sept 4<sup>th</sup> and a coaches meeting will be held on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### Cheerleading

The 2025 cheer season will commence on Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is currently a total of 32 participants registered. Registration will remain open throughout the season till teams are filled.

#### Enrollment

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

**Baseball:** Dunbar: 19; Southwest: 31, Stephens: 37; West Central: 162...**Total: 249**

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

**Track and Field:** Dunbar: 34; Southwest: 20; Stephens: 18; West Central: 44...**Total: 116**

**Flag Football:** Dunbar: 15; Southwest: 13; Stephens: 2; West Central: 28...**Total: 58**

**Cheerleading:** Dunbar: 14; Southwest: 6; Stephens: 5; West Central: 7...**Total: 32**

#### Adult Athletics

##### Interstate Park Program

Field usage for Interstate sports complex rental will pick back up in August due to the youth program completed their league at the complex.

##### Adult Softball Program

The professional corporate league which consisted of 15 teams last year, will continue to play at Interstate Sports complex until August 14, 2025.

##### Parks Summer Day Camp

We have completed our 8 weeks day camp program for 2025. Where we capped off the activities with field trips on July 22, and 23, 2025 at Main Event. This year our enrollment was at max at all locations. Chicot- 150- Dunbar 210- East-100-Romine 150-Stephens -120 and west Central 80. Bringing our total to 810.

##### Allsop Park

Field uses for Allsop park are starting to increase again.

##### Rebsamen and First Tee Golf

First Tee started a new online booking platform for customers to conveniently book online without having to call the pro shop. Continuing to show a rise in play due to great course conditions and good weather. The summer camps are in full swing at both courses with over 50 youth. We were successfully able to finish the Aerification of the greens this month. We had Joe Cangelosi, Parks' volunteer photographer, to take some pictures of everything going on with camps and the course. The surveyor has visited First Tee to survey the area where we plan to construct a new covered hitting area on the range and a new cart storage area. At First Tee they have increased rounds played during the 2025 as compared to this time in 2024. Mario Meneses retired this month after over 30 years of service with the city's golf division. We are exploring ways to reduce costs in our contract account for this year. We are actively promoting both golf courses on social media.

At Rebsamen 52 Ladies attended Ladies City Play Day on Wednesdays in July despite the high temperatures. 40 kids in attendance for week 2 of the junior clinic. New lighting was installed in the pro shop, and they are making it brighter. Margaret Leclair has been assisting in concessions operations while our concessions supervisor is off. An additional \$30,000 was given for both concessions' food and merchandise, this should help us stay within our budget.

Both courses have seen an increase in revenue and attendance this year as compared to 2024

### **Rebsamen Tennis**

July is typically a slow month for tennis due to the heat. However, due to our large increase in team tennis teams due to our new lights, we maintained a very busy schedule throughout the month. We have 15+ tri-level teams and 50+ mixed doubles teams playing their seasons here this summer. There was a junior tournament, LR Summer Classic on July 18-20, that saw over 150 players from 8 states come play. It was very hot but our first tournament of the year in which it didn't rain! Raul and Janan's programs are finishing up their summer schedules. The Rebsamen Monday singles league continues each week. Monday "Lasso" men's doubles league on Monday nights continues and runs through October (in its 26<sup>th</sup> year). New adult tournament with all wooden racquets coming up 8/2-8/3 Mixer for the wooden racquets event on Sunday 7/27 with about 20 participants. Creating new red ball lessons and leagues for beginners, new concept and starting strong.

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

Museum attendance for July (through 7/30) was 4044. 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 832 walk-in guests and 273 visitors to special events, tours, etc. during the month. In addition to Arkansas, visitors have come from 28 states, including Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington DC as well as Japan, the Philippines, Poland, and New Zealand. The museum's virtual documentaries/interviews received 314 new views in July. Thus far in 2025 virtual programming has received more than 3,968 views. Off-site programming reached 1,263 children through the Summer Day Camp Programs during July. Additional off-site programming reached 1,235 people through programs at the Clinton Presidential Library on July 4 and July 25. Attendance for the first seven months of 2025 totals 20,786. The museum has raised \$29,378 so far in 2025 through donations and sponsorships, which is 98% of the annual goal of raising \$30,000. Gift shop sales for July were \$1,240 for a total of \$6,807 so far this year. Museum Staff concluded its off-site programming in July to East Little Rock, Stephens and Dunbar Community Centers as well as Romine and Chicot Elementary Schools as part of the Summer Day Camp Program. Museum programmer Shane Lind has been asked to serve on the 2025 Arkansas Social Studies Targeted Revision Committee. The committee has been tasked to update the 2022 Arkansas Social Studies Standards to align with legislation passed during the 2025 Arkansas General Assembly, which took place this past spring. The committee began with in-person meetings on July 30 and 31 in Little Rock and then collaborated with educators and partners to ensure the state's social studies standards meet current legislative requirements and support effective classroom instruction.

### **Special tours hosted at the museum in July included:**

American Exchange Program (adult tour) – 7/8

Junior Park Rangers (youth tour) – 7/9

Summer Day Camp, Stephens Community Center (youth tour) – 7/11

Aesthetic Club Incoming Members (adult tour) – 7/14

Summer Day Camp, Romine Elementary School (youth tour) – 7/18

Parkway Place Church Seniors (adult tour) – 7/24

Union Baptist Church, Pine Bluff (adult tour) – 7/26

First Lutheran Church, Business Women's Club (adult tour) – 7/26

The museum partnered with the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum to kick off its America 250 celebrations on July 4 commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The celebration included free admission at the presidential center all day as well as a Revolutionary battle

reenactment behind the center. The museum joined representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Early "Arkansaw" Reenactors, and other groups to offer activities to the public. Museum programming featured interpretive panels on "Posters on the Homefront – Dog Tags on the Battlefield" and provided miniature copies of selected posters from World Wars I and II along with personalized dog tags. Blue Bell Creameries provided ice cream for the event. Over 1,169 people attended the event. Museum programmer David Collins interacted with approximately 40 teachers attending an "American 250" professional development workshop at the Clinton Presidential Library on July 25. The museum also partnered with the Clinton Presidential Library and Economics Arkansas to host a professional development workshop "Women's Rights are Human Rights" on July 28. Over thirty teachers attended the workshop which included a tour of the museum's World War I gallery, including the exhibit on women's suffrage. 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. Contact the museum director for details. Approximately 30 people attended the monthly "Movies at MacArthur" program on July 15. The film, Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1, dealt with the issue of rising suicide rates among American veterans. The August movie is, Surrender on the USS Missouri. A total of 339 visitors attended one of more of the movie screenings this year. Staff has begun working on the movie schedule for 2026, which will be unveiled at the November movie.

**Programs and Special Events Coming Up August- December:**

August 19 – Movies at MacArthur, Surrender on the USS Missouri, 6:30 – 8 pm  
September 6 – "On the Road with Mark Christ: War in the Delta" bus tour, 7 am – 7 pm  
September 15 – Battle of Inchon 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony, 10:00 am  
September 16 – Movies at MacArthur, Legion of Brothers, 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
October 14 – Aesthetic Club begins new year  
October 11 – 12th Annual Vintage Military Vehicle Show, 9 am – 2 pm  
October 21 – Movies at MacArthur, Black Hawk Down: The Untold Story, 6:30 – 8 pm  
October 24 - 26 – 14th Annual Arkansas Paranormal Expo, 9 am – 5 pm  
October 30 – 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Boo!seum Bash Halloween Event, 5:30 – 8:30 pm  
November 6 – Exhibit Opening Reception, Thomas Hart Benton, 5 – 6:30 pm  
November 18 – Movies at MacArthur, They Drew Fire 6:30 – 8 pm  
December 13 – 106<sup>th</sup> Army Band Jazz Ensemble at the Arsenal, 2:00 pm (tentative)  
December 21 – Holiday Music at the Arsenal Concert, 2:00 pm

**Outdoor Recreation**

Outdoor Recreation provided programming for all 6 Parks Summer Day Camp sites and for the Therapeutic Rec Summer program, 2 separate programs were facilitated for each location. Programs included bike safety, fishing, disc golf and archery. Programs differed based on camper age and ability. Outdoor Recreation was at the grand opening of the West Central baseball field. Duties included bringing the Parks trailer, M.C. for the youth activities and winning the Home Run Derby. Outdoor Recreation has been approved to present at this year's ARPA conference in Oct. Working with a local non-profit, Shawanda Craig and Susie Matheny, Outdoor Recreation has developed a 3-v-3 basketball tournament that will be taking place on September 13<sup>th</sup> at Kanis Park. Group road bike rides started in May and will continue through Oct. The rides are every Wednesday from 6am-8am. They start and end at Murray Park, at the big banana sculpture, these rides were originally scheduled from 6pm-8pm but were moved to the morning due to the heat of the summer. 712/25-Disc Golf Pop-up at War Memorial Park. 9am-3pm. Free Program. 43 adults in attendance. To date, 5-disc golf pop-up events have

happened with a total attendance of 288. Disc golf events are monthly for the remainder of 2025. The goal for 2025 attendance is 700. Custom cycling jerseys have been ordered. These will help promote Little Rock Parks & Recreation and Outdoor Recreation programs. Citizens and Parks staff will have the opportunity to earn a jersey by participating in bike rides. 7/17/25-Outdoor Recreation provided an archery program for Little Rock Community Development's Summer program at Dunbar Middle School. Outdoor Recreation has been taking part in the Big Damn Bridge training rides program. These rides occur every other Saturday, from 7am-11am. I am acting as a representative of Parks in the role of "Ride Shepard" and have been given permission by the event coordinators to promote Parks programs at these rides. Average attendance for each ride is 150. Working with the Parks Director and the Head of Operations, Outdoor Recreation has been working with a private citizen group to formulate a plan to install a disc golf course at War Memorial Park. A course design has been drafted, and site prep plans are the next step. Working with the Parks PR team, a promotional campaign has been created for the November "Squatch Till You Drop" trail running event. Elements include videos, flyers, radio spots on KWCP, flyers and sponsorships from local businesses. To date, Outdoor Recreation has 82 events/programs on the 2025 calendar. The goal is to have at least 100 events offered in 2025. More to come!