



Parks Commission Recreation - Report 7/10/2024

ALL Community Centers

Are holding their Summer Playground Program. West Central Program is Youth in Action.

Active & Aging

Had a visit from Mr. Nathaniel Hill at East Lr Senior Program, he is the individual the Nathaniel W. Hill Complex is named after.

Southwest Community Center

Will hosted a Bike Rodeo on June 15, 2024, in collaboration with Dee Brown Library and recycled Bikes for kids Non-Profit. There were vendors, prizes, bike helmet and bike giveaways, and over 300 in attendance.

The Centre at University Park

The Centre held 7 Internal CLR meetings along with others for the month of June and the attendance was 570.

All Community Center Locations

Youth soccer and baseball were completed this month and Summer Playground, Summer Laureate, and Youth in Action Programs began. **Stephens** held a pool party at the end of the baseball/t-ball season at Jim Daily outdoor pool.

Rebsamen Golf/First - Tee

On June 17, the United States Golf Association came out with their team to rate the golf course. They rated the Chairman Course which has been previously rated in the past, but for the first time, we were able to rate the Honors Course which is our par three Golf Course mainly used by the kids. First Tee held the Monk Wade Junior Championship. Rebsamen Wednesday Ladies Day had 150+ for the month of June.

Tennis

Held the Little Rock Open Tennis Championship May 26 – June 2, 2024. They also had the grand Re-Opening scheduled for Friday May 24, 2004. Working on a new Rebsamen Tennis logo. New LED lighting installation is complete.

JDF & AC

We held the World's largest swim lesson day on June 20, 2024, and it was very successful. Started swim lessons this month with 127 enrolled. The outdoor swimming pool opened as scheduled May 25, 2024 and has been busy daily.



Parks Commission – Recreation Report 7/10/2024

Stephens Community Center:

Summer Playground Program:

The Summer Playground program reached capacity of 120 participants. Things are going very well.

Youth Sports Program

Our Baseball and T-Ball Teams have finished the season. The 10 U Team placed 4th.

Adult Activities:

The Men's League Tournament finished playing June 3, 2024. 1st Place League AFA and 1st Place Tournament went to Big Doggs. 2nd Place League Big Doggs and 2ND Place Tournament Team GDK.

Facility Vacancies:

We have filled the Programmer position. 2-Activity Assistants, and 2-Part-Time Custodian).

Maintenance:

We are still waiting for start dates on work to be done at the Facility. The air has been out and on and out and back on again.

Gym Floor and the Bleachers replaced.

Update to all areas of the Facility.

Columns at the front of the building.

Signage for outside of

Building to be painted

Dunbar Community Center

Summer Programs

The summer playground program at Dunbar is going really well. The youth are enjoying various field trips throughout the weeks as well as the various activities on site. Field trips include swimming, skating, the movies and a trip to main Event. Youth may attend the playground program Monday –Friday from 7:30am-6:00pm. Breakfast and lunch are provided daily, and snack time is offered with youth bringing their own choice of snack, snack time is at 3:00pm.

Men's Summer League

The Dunbar Men's summer basketball league was set to begin playing on June 5th with the tournament championship game being played at LR Hall in July. However, after pushing the registration date back several times and offering a lower registration fee, we were unsuccessful at getting enough teams signed up to have the league this year.

Youth Sports

Volleyball training is going well and growing steady in attendance. We are open to boys and girl's grades 4th-12th for the training which is held every Thursday at our gym 6:00pm-7:00pm. The court opens for volleyball scrimmage games starting at 7pm. Membership is required to attend either event.

Baseball has ended and 1 track meet was held this month. Youth had fun in baseball and at the track meet.

Practice continues with track in preparation for the next meet.

West Central Community Center:

Youth Sports Program:

West Central had 238 participants in baseball this season. Playoffs was held this month.

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

West Central CC:

Our Youth In Action Program began on June 3 we are averaging 80 - 90 participants per day. Jr Hoops Basketball went well and we are planning 3 X 3 league.

Rentals:

The center had a total of 4 rentals for the month.

Maintenance:

All maintenance requests have been fulfilled.

Employment:

We have hired one new staff this month and the SYE youth workers are a big help..

Southwest Community Center

SWLR Bike Rodeo was a huge success with over 300 in attendance. Our Summer Laureate Program is going well, we have 150 campers. Girls in Stem Camp was held this month with 23 participants. We are still in partnership with Dee Brown Library Summer Reading Program.

Outdoor Recreation

SWLR Bike Rodeo in collaboration with Dee Brown Library and Recycled Bikes for Kids Non-Profit, gave out 100 bikes and helmets, safety checks, prizes, and more. Several vendors were there. The AGFC Fishing Education Course was confirmed for our Summer Campers. Several fishing trips to Hindman Park will be taken.

Youth Athletics

The NFL Cleveland Brown Football Clinic will be held here on July 13, and there are over 300 participants expected. Southwest Community Center Youth Soccer, T-Ball, Baseball season ended this month. The youth Cheerleading registration remains open as we begin to prepare for various performances in the fall. Southwest Panthers dance team practice on Mondays 6:00pm-8:00pm. We participated in the track meet and faired good. Looking forward to the upcoming seasons.

Adult Athletics: Southwest Community Center is still looking to host a Women basketball league in the coming months. The league will consist of 10 teams. We are still advertising and looking to host beginner's pickle ball clinics and chair volleyball in the mornings.

ELR Community Center:

We are a Summer Playground site, we participated in the World's Largest Swim Lesson Day on June 20, 2024, at JDF& A Center Outdoor Field and all is going well, the youth are having a blast going on field trips, arts & crafts, table games, and other group activities. Commercial air has worked on A/C in the gymnasium. (parts are ordered). Maintenance continues to mow, weed eat, and pick up around the entire grounds. Continuing to assist in absence of supervisor and attend various meetings as scheduled, also will help with Aging & Active program as needed. Nathaniel Hills did another interview with CHI St. Vincent's, spoke to our youth and took a photo with them. 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 5 to 6 days per week, with about 8 - 10 participants. 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:

Held Father's Day, Juneteenth Celebrations, and June birthday activity, they continue to have visits from Baptist and Sage Health and Oak Street Clinic. They are also making bejeweled caps at East Little Rock.

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

Summer programs are running smoothly. Next week the youth campers will be visiting the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, swimming at the Southwest Community Center, bowling, and a day of games and activities at the Ottenheimer TR Center. The Adult Summer Program will be enjoying "Fourth of July Week" with a variety of activities to include crafts, swimming, and games. We will be having a 4th of July Celebration on July 3rd with both youth and adult programs at the Ottenheimer TR Center. This will include our annual cookout and water gun wars! This is always a much-anticipated event for our campers and adult group!

Both programs are at capacity.

The Therapeutic Recreation Specialist position is open, and we are currently reviewing candidates.

JDF & A

We are a site for late night basketball. The pool is up and running. We held the World's largest swim lesson day on June 20, 2024, and it was very successful. Started swim lessons this month with 127 enrolled. Job openings for lifeguard positions were posted and ongoing. 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 meeting. Maintenance continues to work on the outside to beautify the Centre. No complaints. Our facility is still constantly being requested for meeting space and is being utilized regularly. We are continuing to accommodate other city departments on meeting space, access, and availability. The Centre held 7 Internal CLR meetings, 2 cancellations for the month of June and the attendance was 570.

Youth Athletics

Youth Soccer and baseball completed season play, weather hampered playing days. Jr. Hoops were also completed. Track & Field registration in going on and the first meet was held June 15, 2024, and others are planned for the upcoming months. 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 restarted back up at Interstate.

Adult Softball Program

Interstate is hosting the women's summer softball league, and it is going well with only two weeks of league play before we start our single elimination tournament on July 18, 2024

Summer Playground Program

Summer playground program started June 10, 2024; everything is going well. We have a total of 566 kids enrolled in the program at 6 locations. The locations are Bale, Chicot, Dunbar, East Little Rock, Hall, and Stephens community Center.

First Tee Golf

June days on the course at First Tee:

Well, this month has been active. Along with dealing with the heat, we have seen several new faces come through our facility. Brittany Nichols Park's Marketing and Social Media Coordinator along with Courtney Perry Park's Safety Coordinator, came out early this month and took some updated photos and drone videos of the golf course. These photos can be used for marketing and projects that the parts department is working on. On June 10 and 11th, we were able to do a successful aerification of the greens which is done twice a year. Aeration physically removes excess thatch and replaces it with sand to firm up the surface for a quicker and smoother green. This is a must-do on the green twice a year to not only keep the quality of the golf course in playable condition but also prevent it from any kind of contamination.

On June 17, the United States Golf Association came out with their team to rate the golf course. They rated the Chairman Course which has been previously rated in the past, but for the first time, we were able to rate the Honors Course which is our par three Golf Course mainly used by the kids. Course rating measures the relative difficulty of a golf course. The higher the course rating, the more difficult the golf course. This is important for golfers also to choose what tee to hit from when they play. The smaller course is going to be great not only for regular play on the golf course but also for the First Tee classes and matches that are played on that course throughout the season. Hoping to get the report back within a couple of months.

Summer camp is in full swing with the First Tee Of Central Arkansas staff, which brings many kids to our facility for five days out of the week.

We have been fortunate this month, not to have much rain which should show in our end-of-the-month revenue considering we have been mostly able to rent out every day.

As I stated in the last Parks Commission report, I am continuing to investigate doing a monthly pass that would include a golf cart for not only single individuals but also families. With Square, it can be set up to automatically withdraw out of people's bank accounts with their authorization. Hopefully, will have this up and running, pending approval by the end of this year.

I can say that June has been quite a busy month at First Tee and like I always say if you have not been out here to play the golf course or hit a bucket of balls stop by and visit us soon.

Rebsamen Golf

The aeration was done this month. Women on Wednesday is held each week. Revenue is up 10% over 2023. The greens were cut and prepared for the summertime play. Repairs for drain issues were done.

Rebsamen Tennis

Held the Little Rock Open Tennis Championship May 26 – June 2, 2024. There were 60 participants, the wild card play in had 28 participants, that was from 18 different countries. The Southern 16's were held on June 6 – 11. Continuing to work on a new Rebsamen Tennis logo. The new have gotten lots of great compliments. Working on getting the Rebsamen Facebook page updated. Had weekend event/tournament every weekend in June.

Raul Bermudez 25 participants Jr Programs, 15-20 adults

Janan Batchelor 40 participants Jr Programs, 10-15 adults

Brian Boland 10 participants Jr Programs

MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History

1. Museum attendance for June was 2,254 (through June 25). 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 approximately 700 walk-in guests and 475 visitors to special events. Total attendance for the first six months of 2024 is 23,216 which represents a 5% increase over last year.
2. The museum's virtual documentaries/interviews received 406 new views during June for a total of 2,867 views for 2024. The most viewed videos were: (1) *The Willys Jeep*, (2) *The Father of a Legend: General Arthur MacArthur*, (3) an interview with Amanda Williams, executive director of the MacArthur Memorial, and (4) *African American Soldiers in the Civil War*. The Reading Brigade's on-line programming concluded its 2023/2024 season and will take a summer break before being offered to teachers next fall.
3. The museum received \$2,070 in outside donations in June, including a \$1,000 contribution from Global Ties Arkansas. The museum worked with Global Ties Arkansas last March to host a traveling exhibit on the museum's front lawn March 13 - April 10 as well as to host its opening reception on March 26. Thus far in 2024 the museum has raised \$17,000 which is 13% above the museum's fundraising goal of \$15,000 for the period.
4. The museum is participating in the Little Rock School District's Summer School Enrichment program for rising 2nd and rising 3rd grade students during June. This is the second year the museum has worked with the Clinton Presidential Center and the LRSD on the program. Thus far, staff has presented programming to 95 students at Fulbright Elementary, 52 students at Martin Luther King Elementary, and 39 students at Wakefield Elementary, as well as field trips to 131 students from Fulbright and 129 students from Wakefield. Students from King Elementary will tour the museum on June 28 to wrap up the program.
5. The museum is presenting off-site 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 is also presenting programming at Southwest and West Central Community Centers as part of their summer youth programs. Field trips to the museum and the Clinton Presidential Center are planned for July 12 and July 19. So far this summer, staff has presented programming to 76 students at Dunbar, 39 students at East Little Rock, 189 students at Stephens, 58 students at Chicot, 26 students at Southwest, and 70 students at Bale for a total of 458 students.
6. Museum staff completed its outreach to the 21st Century Program students at Chicot Elementary this month with two special programs on June 20 and June 27. The museum partnered with the City of Little Rock and the Little Rock School District to offer instruction for both their 21st Century Programs during the fall and spring semesters.
7. Attendance for the June 18 "Movies at MacArthur" film *The Berlin Airlift* was 99, which was the second highest attendance in the program's history. Publicity for the movie included: (1) Eric Harrison's "Entertainment" section of the June 16 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and (2) mention in the Mayor's Monday Memo. Attendance for the film program this year is 299 and is on track to exceed last year's record attendance of 517. The next movie, *Unforgettable: The Korean War*, is scheduled for July 16. A flyer is attached. Movies are shown the third Tuesday of each month from January – November and always include free admission, popcorn and beverages. The movie program is sponsored in 2024 by the law firm of Wright, Lindsey, and Jennings. Additional partners are Arkansas PBS, Marty and Tim Heiple, Stone's Throw Brewery, and the World War II Foundation.
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 during 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 has received approval from the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington DC to host a traveling exhibit on Thomas Hart Benton on November 6, 2025 - July 31, 2026. The exhibit will be part of the museum's next fundraiser.
10. The Flag Day concert scheduled for June 9 with the Little Rock Wind Symphony was cancelled due to stormy weather. The ice cream and the miniature American flags donated by sponsors Bluebell Creameries and Woodmen Life were donated to the community center for use in their summer programming (ice cream) or will be used by museum staff in their educational outreach (flags).
11. Upcoming special events in July include: (1) Movies at MacArthur, *Unforgettable: The Korean War*, on July 16 at 6:30 p.m. .

Outdoor Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department was awarded an AmeriCorps, NCCC team. This was the second team awarded to Parks this year. A full report on this current team's contributions to the department will be submitted in June. This is a summation of the jobs AmeriCorps has completed: The team has assisted with maintenance at the following parks: Interstate, Conner, War Memorial, River Mountain, River Front, Boyle, Allsopp North, Rebsamen, Murray, William E. Clark Wetlands, McArthur and Otter Creek. They assisted with weed eating, picking up trash, brush clearing, painting and trail work. The team also assisted with set-up/clean-up for Employee Appreciation events and the Arts Festival. Initial conversations have begun with AmeriCorps/NCCC's Assistant Director of Programming to discuss how Little Rock Parks & Rec could possibly develop a MOU/MOA with AmeriCorps NCCC for future projects and team assignments. Mountain bike rides at Boyle Park are being offered each Mondays at 6pm. Attendance has ranged from just a few riders to more than a dozen. Road bike rides on the Arkansas River Trail (meeting at Murray Park) are being offered each Wednesday at 6pm. Attendance has ranged from 1 rider to 5 riders. The "Walk in the Park" program is being offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 12pm at War Memorial, Murray and Allsopp North Parks. Attendance has ranged from 2 to 6 participants. Contact has been made with Lauren Marshall, a programmer at the Wit Stevens Nature Center, about using AR Game & Fish archery equipment for the Summer Playground program and having Lauren do programs for the campers. Meetings have occurred with Dustin Slaughter, a bike race promoter, and Brannon Husten, of the Ozark Foundation, about a bike race at River Mt Park in Oct. This will be the second year in a row this race will occur. Preliminary goals have been set for marketing and trail maintenance. Follow-up meetings are set for July and August. Meetings have occurred with the Head of Operations, the office Parks Design and Outdoor Recreation to discuss and plan the Rebsamen Archery Range renovation project. Site visits have occurred, and preliminary designs are in the works. Weekly update meetings are set. Preliminary plans are set for a trail running event in Allsopp South on November 16th. The event will be a 6-hour trail running challenge with a Sasquatch theme. The event will be called "Squatch 'till you Drop". All Commission members are invited to attend. A "Pop-up" disc golf event is set for June 8th from 8am-3pm at War Memorial. The event is free and will be held monthly through November 2024. Plans have been set for the Bike Rodeo to be held at the Southwest Community Center on June 15th. Outdoor Recreation will lead group rides and teach bike safety. The event is being offered in collaboration with the 501C3 Recycled Bike for Kids and the Dee Brown library. Plans have been discussed to expand Outdoor Recreation's digital footprint by establishing a dedicated Facebook/Instagram account. Preliminary discussions have occurred with Rock City Rental to establish a MOU to have rental bikes available for Outdoor Recreation programs (road rides and trail rides). Plans are being finalized for Outdoor Recreation to provide programming for the Summer Playground Program, Therapeutic Recreation's summer program and West Central's summer program.