

L I T T L E R O C K



Parks & Recreation

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City In A Park Newsletter

August, 2013



Truman Tolefree – Director,
Little Rock Parks & Recreation

Director’s Message

Summer is coming to a close. The kids are getting ready to head back to school.

Little Rock Parks & Recreation has had a busy summer hosting summer programs for nearly 1,300 children, building and renovating facilities to better

serve our patrons and planning for a future that will truly allow Little Rock to become a City in a Park.

The Summer Playground Program, which began 93 years ago in 1921, just completed another eight-week run of providing the children of Little Rock with a safe, fun and educational opportunity to spend their summer.

The 28th Annual Fishing Derby attracted nearly 1,000 children to spend a day in historic MacArthur Park, catch some fish, enjoy the company of other children and have fun outdoors.



I had the honor to serve as a judge in the first-ever “Summer Bash” at the First Security Amphitheater in

Riverfront Park. The Summer Bash featured a talent show for kids taking part in our summer programs and was a rousing success. The young men who

performed “My Girl” as the Junior Temptations were truly outstanding, as were all of the other acts.

Just because these summer programs have ended, it doesn’t mean that we are done. We are about to open the new “Centre at University Park”. Our after-school latchkey program at the community centers will begin with the start of school. Our youth and adult sports continue this fall with football, softball and volleyball. And as always, construction and renovation to our parks and facilities continues year-round.

So come out and visit a park today, enjoy to weather and see what a “City in a Park” is all about.

Stay In Touch With LRPR

Main Office.....	371-4770
Parks Administration.....	371-4470
Public Relations.....	371-4470
Park Operations.....	371-6851
Little Rock Marathon.....	918-5321
Therapeutic Recreation.....	570-1131
Youth Athletics.....	371-6855
Adult Athletics.....	371-6859
Senior Programs.....	371-6854
Summer Playground Program.....	371-6858
Dunbar Community Center.....	376-1084
Stevens Community Center.....	603-9974
Southwest Community Center.....	918-3975
Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatic Center.....	664-6976
MacArthur Museum.....	376-4602
Hindman Golf Course.....	565-6450
War Memorial Golf Course.....	663-0854
Rebsamen Golf Course.....	666-7965
Rebsamen Tennis Center.....	664-0736
Pavilion Reservations.....	371-4770
Ballpark Reservations.....	372-3285

For other information, please visit www.lrpr.org

Rebsamen Golf “Best of” Choice in Little Rock

The Rebsamen Golf Course has been selected the best of Central Arkansas in the annual poll of readers of the Arkansas Times. The golf course beat out the Chenal Country Club, the Country Club of Arkansas and Pleasant Valley Country Club in the voting. Nestled comfortably in a bend of the Arkansas River; this eighteen (18)-hole championship course was designed to accommodate golfers of all levels. Rebsamen’s open fairways and Champion Bermuda greens help frame some of Arkansas' most breathtaking views. A nine (9)-hole executive course provides golfers a shorter playtime and offers Tif-dwarf Bermuda grass greens. The full-service driving range enables golfers to warm up before a round or work on their swing anytime.



Rebsamen Golf Course

LRPR Summer Programs Serve 1,300 Children

Little Rock Parks & Recreation had three programs this summer to serve the youth of Little Rock. The



Summer Laureate Program at Southwest Community Center was a six-week day-camp program

that served 175 children. The Summer Playground Program, an eight-week program serving 1,080 children. The Therapeutic Recreation Summer Day Camp was a six-week therapeutic based program, which served 20 participants, that emphasized fun recreational activities for people with special needs to promote the development of motor skills, social skills, independence and other related areas.

The Summer Laureate Program operates at Southwest Community Center. The Summer Playground Program is located in seven different locations, including Dunbar Community Center, Stephens Community Center and five LRSD locations.

The Therapeutic Recreation Summer Day Camp operates from Fulbright Elementary School.

The Centre at University Park Set To Re-Open



The opening of the newly rebuilt Centre at University Park is expected in fall of 2013. Formerly the Adult Leisure Center, the Centre at University Park will be a modern and useful replacement for the building that burned down in 2009.

The original Center was built in 1991. Fire swept through the building in October of 2009.

The new Centre will be approximately 15,000 square feet, with a larger ball room, meeting rooms, webinar room, pottery and crafts room. The center will cost approximately



\$3,000,000 and will be funded by insurance proceeds and recently passed tax measure. As the new center is prepared to open to the public, a new facility manager has been selected to oversee operations in the building. Shawanda Robinson was selected from a large pool of candidates to manage the building, as well as all of the programs which will be offered.



Robinson has been employed with Little Rock Parks & Recreation since 1999. She previously served the department as a recreation programmer at the Adult Center, working with Therapeutic Recreation, the interim facility manager at the Rebsamen Tennis Center, coordinating volunteers for the department and assisting with a variety of special projects including representing LRPR on the City Picnic Committee and as a member of the non-uniform employee pension board.

28th Annual Fishing Derby Draws Nearly 1,000 Kids to MacArthur Park

The City of Little Rock hosted its 28th Annual Fishing Derby on Thursday, July 18 at MacArthur Park. The Derby, which is also sponsored by the Arkansas Game & Fish



Commission, was open to children ages 6-15 and attracted nearly 900 children from Central Arkansas. The pond at MacArthur Park was stocked with more than 1,000 catfish by AGFC. Among those fish were a limited number of specially-tagged prize fish. Children who caught one of these prize fish were allowed to choose from a selection of prizes provided by Little Rock Parks & Recreation and the AGFC. Logan Berry, a seven-year old girl from Little Rock, and Leo Moriarty, a seven-year old boy from Little Rock, were the first to catch a prize fish and each won a brand new bicycle.

LRPR Graduates 2nd Class of First Responders

The second class of staff members of Little Rock Parks & Recreation has graduated from an Emergency Medical Responders class. In two years, more than 20 staff members have become certified



through the class provided by Kevin Pride, maintenance foreman for Riverfront Park. Pride is also an EMT,

Search & Rescue instructor and an instructor with the Arkansas Fire Academy. In becoming certified, the staff members learn about CPR, scene safety, patient assessment, medical emergencies, trauma emergencies, treatment and transporting patients.

Summer Bash Displays Talents of Youth

Little Rock Parks & Recreation hosted its inaugural “SUMMER BASH” on Monday, July 22 in the Riverfront Park First Security Amphitheater.

This event celebrated the end of the summer for the nearly 1,300 children who participated in summer care programs with LRPR.

A talent show, featuring students from the eight different locations was the feature. The event was hosted by former news anchor and current Little Rock School District spokesperson, Pamela Smith. The judges for the talent show were Mark Edwards, Sports

Director for KTHV Channel 11, Evangeline Parker of Power 92.3 and Truman



Tolefree, Director of Little Rock Parks & Recreation.

An art show, featuring the works of the children also took place.

Three winning groups for the talent show were announced by the judges. Those winners were:

1. **The Junior Temptations from Stephens Community Center** (Bobby Brown, Israel Davidson, Joshua Evans, LaDarius Waits and Curtis White, Jr.)
2. **The Cummings Boys from Dunbar Community Center** (Ramsey and Rattji Cummings)
3. **The Kuties from Romine Elementary** (Vasti Turner, Niya Love, Ariel Bronson, Emani Hughes, Amaaria Fitzgearl, Stephanie Russell and Shanyia Washington)

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Hindman Golf Course Closed For New Greens

The Hindman Golf Course has closed so that the greens could be resurfaced with Champion Dwarf Bermuda. During this resurfacing, work and improvements will also be done to the clubhouse. Work is expected to be completed by Labor Day.

“This is a project that we are very excited about,” said Truman Tolefree, Director of Little Rock Parks & Recreation. “Hindman is a beautiful course, and these new greens are just going to add to the experience for those playing.”

Identified as the most challenging of Little Rock's municipal golf courses, this 103-acre, 18-hole course offers rolling terrain and narrow tree-lined fairways. With its natural setting, Hindman has been certified as an "Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary", featuring a variety of wildlife.

Grant Received For Rock Creek Trail Extension

The Arkansas State Highway Commission has awarded Little Rock Parks & Recreation a \$40,000 grant for a planned extension of the Rock Creek Trail.

“This grant will allow us to extend our already extensive trail system for the citizens of Little Rock,” explained Little Rock Parks & Recreation Director, Truman Tolefree. “With nearly 80 miles of trails around the city, we are providing a very popular avenue for the people of Little Rock to get out and enjoy nature and exercise.”

Currently, Rock Creek Trail is 1.14-mile long and begins at the Bowman Curve Shopping Center and heads west.

The planned extension would add approximately 1,500 feet of asphalt trail through the Rock Creek area which is the wooded area in between the divided lanes of Chenal Parkway.

Future plans call for extending the Rock Creek Trail all the way to Wildwood, and possibly beyond.

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A City In A Park



The Pink Garden was dedicated on July 6, 2013 at Morehart Park in honor and memory of cancer survivors. The garden is sponsored by Friends of Morehart Park and the Home Depot.



Renovations – Dunbar/Interstate Park

Two of the recreation facilities in Little Rock Parks & Recreation have renovation work being done. The Dunbar Community, opened in 1954, is having its shower/locker room areas being completely renovated. Work will include new floors, walls, plumbing fixtures, windows, painting and heating & air being installed.

Interstate Park renovations to the restroom and concession areas were completed in April. New floors were poured in both the restrooms and concessions areas. New lights were installed, plumbing fixtures were changed, all areas were painted and new roofs were installed on both the north and south complexes.

All of these renovations were made possible by the sales tax that the citizens of Little Rock approved in 2011

LRPR & Museum of Discovery Work Together To Show Kids Benefits of Science

Little Rock Parks & Recreation joined with the Museum of Discovery to provide unique opportunities for the participants of the Summer Playground Program.

“We are very excited about this budding partnership with the Museum of Discovery,” said Truman



Tolefree, Director of Little Rock Parks & Recreation. “This is allowing us to provide opportunities to our participants that they would not otherwise have.”

On July 1, through a generous grant from Bank of America, the Museum of Discovery opened its doors for a special day of learning and fun exclusively for the participants in the Summer Playground Program.

The participants were provided with a special scientific program and an opportunity to explore the museum. An opportunity a number of the children had never had before.

Caterpillar has provided a grant that allowed a group of 20 girls from the Teen Camp to participate in a special seven-week course focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. The conclusion of the course was a visit to the Caterpillar production plant in North Little Rock at the end of July.



Calendar

Latchkey After-School Program	August 5
Youth Volleyball Begins	August 5
Youth Football.....	July - August
.....	May 3
Little Rock Marathon Training Program..	August - October
Adult Fall Softball	September 3
12 th Annual Paul & Mary Lewis 2-Person Scramble – Rebsamen Golf Course	September 20
Mud Run.....	October 26
The Color Run.....	November 2

Volunteer Park Rangers Numbers Grow

The LRPR Volunteer Park Ranger program just graduated three more Rangers, with six more waiting on the next training session. There are currently 14 active Rangers covering 11 parks.

The purpose of this program is to recruit individuals, aged eighteen (18) and up, to volunteer and serve as "Goodwill Ambassadors" in parks, as well as to provide information, instruction and assist with routine maintenance. These volunteers will serve as extended "eyes and ears" of the Department and will help staff be more

efficient and customer oriented.

If you are interested in becoming a Park Ranger



visit www.lrpr.org for more information.

Mud Run – Little Rock’s Dirtiest 5k Race Slated For October 26 at Two Rivers Park

The 11th annual Mud Run will be run Saturday, October 26 at Two Rivers Park. The race is set to begin at 9:00 a.m.

Created for those who think a little differently about this runnin' stuff.

The Mud Run is definitely NOT your average 5K. The

Mud Run is for the adventuresome spirit and is a family friendly race.

The only thing serious about this race is the MUD. Participants run, walk, skip, trot, cavort through our 5Kish course, which winds through the scenic trails of Two Rivers Park. Participants must overcome an "obstacle" or two along the way (please see the website for what the definition of an obstacle could be). Then finish with a spectacular frolic through our world-renowned 300-foot mud pit, which is filled with rich Arkansas mud.

To register or find more information, visit www.mudrun.org.

