

LITTLE ROCK



Parks & Recreation

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"A City In A Park"

War Memorial Park Natural Play Area and Pavilion Opens Friday, May 25, 2012

The renovated War Memorial Park Natural Play Area and Pavilion was dedicated on Wednesday, May 23. The play area features a swing set and an open lawn designed to accommodate individual and family passive recreational activities.

"This is another milestone in positioning our park system as one of the best in the country" said Truman Tolefree, Director of Little Rock Parks and Recreation. "It took thousands of staff hours, and I'm glad to be here to witness a dream become a reality".

A master plan for War Memorial Park was created by H3 Studios, of St. Louis, MO, in 2007. The plan called for walking trails, park entrance improvements, increased green space for passive recreation, a new playground and improvements to Coleman Creek.



WAR MEMORIAL PARK

NATURAL PLAY AREA & PAVILION



The new War Memorial Park Natural Play Area and Pavilion – Pictured is Little Rock City Manager Bruce Moore, Little Rock Parks & Recreation Director Truman Tolefree and the staff of Little Rock Parks & Recreation responsible for the construction of the play area

Funding for the \$1.225 million transformation came from the refinancing of a 1998 Parks and Recreation Revenue Bonds.

Construction on the War Memorial Natural Play Area and Pavilion by Little Rock Parks & Recreation staff was started in the spring of 2011.

The play area was designed to serve as a tribute to the many beautiful features of the Arkansas outdoors. The boulders, which are a predominant feature of the design, are all native to the state of Arkansas. The spray pad resembles actual features of waterways in the Natural State, including creeks, rivers and waterfalls.

The new play area is designed to have outdoor rooms – each with its own unique characteristics that heighten experiences of children and adults alike. Additionally, a range of climbing skill levels is woven into the native stone walls – with some areas that will be attractive to professional rock climbers.

There are numerous slides that penetrate throughout the boulders reaching the spray pad at the bottom. Grottos, caves and rock crannies are laced with water spray, mist and fog that provide a distinctive play experience and relief from the heat. A custom 10-foot climbing net allows you to climb to the top of the boulders to reach the slides.



The newly renovated pavilion and restroom is also nestled nearby to take advantage of views of Coleman Creek, the golf course as well as the natural play area. This facility accommodates special events and is available for rental.

To reserve the pavilion, call the Little Rock Parks & Recreation office at 501-371-4770. Reserving is for pavilion only and not the playground.

Media coverage of the grand opening of the War Memorial Natural Play Area & Pavilion

Little Rock Family - <http://www.inarkansas.com/article/family/31547/video-new-playground-other-improvements-unveiled-at-little-rocks-war-memorial-park>

KARK Channel 4 - http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=543772