

MINUTES
PARKS & TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 21, 2025, 5:00 P.M
111 Opera Street, Suite A

1) Roll Call of Committee Members

Committee Members present: Rick Dwyer, Robert Reddish, Kyle Clem, Larry Williams, Thomas Myers, and Jessica Mansilla. Excused: Jerry Rephan. P&T staff present: Anthony Whittington, Hannah Rice, and Kathleen Fason.

2) Approval of the Agenda

Larry made a motion to approve the August 21, 2025 agenda. Robert seconded. Motion carried unanimously

3) Approval of the Minutes

Kyle made a motion to approve the corrected July 17, 2025 minutes. Larry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Introduction of Guests:

5) New Business

- a. JWWWTH Update & Dedication Date:** Anthony shared that the dedication for the final section of the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail will be held on Friday, October 10, 2025, at 2:00 PM. He also shared that the kayak launch and map review went well. He and Hannah explained what they saw along the waterway and how much of it is residential. Hannah shared her idea of a youth 'I Spy' type of route in the initial bay area where they will be able to find and identify native and invasive species.
- b. Parks Amenities Checklist Review:** Kathleen had shared a spreadsheet of all parks and their amenities with the committee after last month's meeting. Rick took that and broke it into individual sheets of each park. He passed them around to share with other members who are willing to walk through a park and identify any obvious issues with equipment, placement of the amenities and accuracy of the list. Rick stated that he had already been to Entergy and Hollywood Parks and shared that there is a dead tree across the trail at Hollywood Park.
- c. HSCGT/Stokes Creek – Hannah (Special Events):** Hannah went over various events she has planned during the next few months. The Fall Tikes, Trikes, and Trails will be on Saturday, September 27, 10 AM-12 PM and A Keep Arkansas Beautiful Cleanup will be on Saturday, October 11, 9 AM-12 PM.
- d. Wade Street Park Update:** Anthony went over the list of upgrades requested by the Hot Springs Difference Makers last year. The restrooms have been updated with all new stainless-steel amenities, new doors, and a baby changing station, new swing sets have been installed, and six new basketball goals have been installed. Additional electrical outlets will be installed soon, and we are working on getting the parking lot restriped. Other requested upgrades are outside the scope of our department but have been shared with city management.

- e. **Valley Street Skate Park Repairs:** Anthony explained that the skatepark is 11 years old and heavily used. Roots left over from the trees that were removed are rotting and causing destabilization on the south side of the park. He met with Jeremy, Arkansas Ramp Company, at the park recently to discuss repairs to the slab. We currently have funding to make the repairs.
- f. **David Watkins Park Splash Pad Bid:** Anthony went over elements and plans for the splash pad. It will use city water and be a touch system. The bid was over budget and Anthony explained ways that is being addressed to reduce costs before putting out for rebid.
- g. **Sport Rec Tennis Courts Update:** Anthony shared Sport Recreation Director, Adam Ussery's report. The front 4 tennis courts at Kimery Park and the 2 tennis courts at Family Park will be completely resurfaced and restriped to accommodate both tennis and pickleball. Also, new LED lighting will be installed at the soccer fields at Kimery Park and Linden Park. All of these upgrades will be completed by Spring 2026, barring any unforeseen weather issues.

6) Parks & Trails Director Reports, Announcements, & Items for Discussion

- Anthony stated that cameras installed at four locations last year have been successfully assisting Parks & Trails with security issues. He hopes to have additional cameras installed next year.
- Anthony shared that due to the positive results seen at Linden Park's newest playground, he is asking for funding to put turf safety bases under the rail rider at Family Park and at Wade Street Park in 2026.

7) Parks & Trails Advisory Committee Reports, Announcements, & Items for Discussion

- Larry shared that when he was young and growing up in Hot Springs, there was no Parks & Recreation Department of any kind. Traffic Services took care of maintaining a few parks in town and LOOK AT IT NOW! He said he feels we have an excellent parks system in Hot Springs and maintaining it is vital.
- Rick shared that the KSU TAB and Laneshift public survey will expire tomorrow, August 22, 2025. He encouraged everyone to go and fill it out. Hannah shared about the walking tour that she and others attended recently.
- Tom stated that we need a more noticeable HSPD presence on the greenway trail.
- Tom inquired about who does the mowing of the public ROW at Lakeland (HS Marina) near causeway. He said people try to fish there but the grass is too high.
- Kyle inquired whether the city had any plans to expand Parks and Recreation to include aquatics in the future. Anthony answered that there are no plans for that at this time.

8) Adjournment:

The Parks and Trails Advisory Committee will hold their next regular meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.