



**City of Smithville, Missouri
Parks and Recreation Committee
October 16, 2025
6:00 PM
Smithville City Hall Board Room**

Anyone who wishes to view the meeting may do so in real-time as it will be streamed live on the City's [YouTube Channel](#).

Public Comment can be made in person or via Zoom, if by Zoom please email your request to the City Clerk at ldrummond@smithvillemo.org prior to the meeting to be sent the meeting Zoom link.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2025, Parks and Recreation Committee**
- 3. Staff Report**
- 4. Community Awards Banquet**
- 5. Senior Center Building Name Discussion**
- 6. Smith's Fork Park Engineering and Design Discussion**
- 7. Adjourn**

City of Smithville, Missouri
Parks and Recreation Committee
April 24, 2025
6:00 PM
Smithville City Hall Board Room

1. Call to Order

Hailey called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Parks and Recreation Committee members present were Jeremiah Bloemker, Hailey Kellerstrass, Alderman Shipley, and Ben McClanahan. Staff present were Matt Denton.

2. Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2025, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Hailey made a motion to approve the minutes. Kyle seconded. Voice vote, all ayes

3. Staff Report

Emerald Ridge Park:

The third time is a charm! The ribbon cutting took place on Sunday April 6, 2025. We had a good turn out from the neighborhood, Parks and Recreation Committee and Board of Alderman.

Emerald Ridge parks is an updated neighborhood park that is now open and ready to serve over five surrounding neighborhoods. Designed with inclusivity and fun in mind, the park features the Volo Smart Play structure for ages 5–12, one of only two in Missouri, the first fully built in the state. With 20 connected activities, the Volo structure encourages creativity, movement, and exploration. Younger children have their own dedicated play structure designed for ages 2–5. Additional park features include a basketball court, shaded shelter, walking path, multiple swings, sensory play, and the We-Go-Swing—only the second of its kind in Missouri—designed for children who use wheelchairs. With ADA access, the park focuses on play for all abilities and ages.

Community Awards Banquet:

On February 27, 2025, starting at 5:30 PM. The Parks and Recreation Legacy Fund, in collaboration with the City of Smithville, partnered with the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce to host an enchanting evening, "Night at the CMAs," at the White Iron Ridge. This gala dinner honored exceptional citizens and dedicated volunteers within our community while raising crucial funds for the Parks and Recreation Legacy Fund and Smithville Chamber of Commerce.

We had a record night by raising \$32,315.87. \$16,157.94 was donated to the Smithville Legacy Fund for the future Heritage Park project.

Campground:

On April 1, 2025, Smith's Fork Campground was opened for the 2025 season. On Opening day we brought in 207 reservations for \$32,640. We are excited for another season after coming off a great 2024 season at 42% occupancy rate. This was our best occupancy percentage since reporting started in 2018.

Diamond Crest Parks and OK Railroad Trail Update:

The parking lot engineering is nearing completion, and by the time we have this meeting, we hope staff has approved the plans and cost proposal. If all goes according to plan, staff intends to present the information to the Board of Aldermen on May 6, 2025. Once approved, the developers plan to start on the project quickly.

Ok Railroad Trail is nearing the bidding process. Staff is waiting for final plan approval from DNR. Once approval is received, we will post the project for bidding. The goal is to have it completed and ready for opening by the end of June, if not sooner.

Recreation Report:

Sports

- Youth soccer league is in their 6th week of games, only one week left!
- Baseball and softball games begin Monday, April 28
- T-ball league started Friday, April 18 – they have two practices followed by four games
- Fall sports online registration will open July 1
 - o Youth Soccer, T-Ball, Youth Volleyball, Little Kickers Soccer Clinic

Youth Sports Registrations												
	<i>Spring Soccer</i>	<i>Spring Soccer Clinic</i>	<i>Spring T-Ball</i>	<i>Spring Baseball</i>	<i>Spring Softball</i>	<i>Fall Soccer</i>	<i>Fall Soccer Clinic</i>	<i>Fall T-Ball</i>	<i>Fall Volleyball</i>	<i>Winter Basketball</i>	<i>Winter Basketball Clinic</i>	Total Participants
2021	180	40	140	105	71	178	32	68	49	132	New in 2024	1,005
2022	221	71	152	116	89	169	40	61	54	135	New in 2024	1,110
2023	228	50	139	109	77	195	32	87	53	150	New in 2024	1,120
2024	262	40	140	91	81	230	50	107	46	154	40	1,241
2025	302	30	136	92	107						44	711

Facilities

2025 Facility Rentals						
	Park Shelters	Senior Center	Baseball Fields	Soccer Fields	Scout Areas	Total Rentals
January	0	5	0	0	0	5
February	0	5	0	0	0	5
March	2	6	19	0	2	29

Events & Programs

2025 Program & Event Registrations		
January 3	Puzzle Palooza	10 - Full
January 7	Adult Pick Up Basketball	5
January 21	Adult Pick Up Basketball	5
February 5, 12, 19, 26	Mad Scientist Club	13 - Full
February 7	Valentine Cookie Decorating	9
February 18	Adult Pick Up Basketball	5
March 5, 12, 19, 26	Gardening Club	12 - Full
March 7, 14, 21, 28	Pickleball Lessons	11
April 2, 9, 16, 23	Nature Club	12 - Full
April 4, 11, 18, 25	Pickleball Lessons	14
April 11	Adult Egg Hunt	100 - Full
April 22	Earth Day	40
April 12, 19, 26	Beginner 5K Training	2
Total Participants		238

4. Public Facility Use Policy and Park Rules and Regulations Review

Administration is requiring all departments to review their policies and procedures outlined in the City Policy Manual. The Parks and Recreation Department has the Public Facility Use Policy and Park Rules Regulations.

The Facility Use Policy governs use of public facilities pursuant to Section 105.030 of the Municipal Code. The purpose of this policy is to provide access fairly and reasonably to City facilities for the Smithville community. It is the goal of the City to balance the needs of users to reserve facilities for exclusive use, and the needs and expectations of residents so they will have access to City facilities for their use. The primary purpose of public parks is for the use and enjoyment of City residents. Uses which will substantially impair the rights of the public in general to use public facilities in favor of specific individuals or groups should not be permitted.

Park Rules and Regulations cover a range of activities, including opening hours, pet restrictions, permitted and prohibited items, special event permits, and general conduct guidelines. Smithville Park Rules and Regulations were last updated in November 2022.

The committee reviewed the documents and provided feedback or suggested any changes they would like to see. The City Policy Manual will be presented to the Board of Aldermen at a future date in FY25.

5. Public Comment

No Public Comment

6. New Business

No new business was brought to the floor

7. Adjourn

Hailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM. Kyle seconded the motion.

Voice Vote, All ayes

	STAFF REPORT
Date:	October 16, 2025
Prepared By:	Matt Denton, Parks and Recreation
Subject:	Staff Update

Diamond Crest Parking Lot and Trail Update:

During construction of the Splash Pad Parking Lot, contractors encountered unexpected soil and compaction issues that required additional excavation. As a result, the splash pad water line, restroom electrical, and drainage system had to be lowered by about a foot. A new vault pit was also installed to allow for future maintenance, and existing electrical lines for the splash pad were rerouted. Once that work was completed, the Public Works Department set the gravel base in-house to help reduce costs before Hoy Excavation returned to place the second layer ahead of asphalt paving.

Public Works finished their portion of the work, after which Hoy Excavation allowed the site to dry and settle. When they returned, testing showed the area was still not meeting compaction requirements, and they did not feel confident moving forward with the asphalt.

Public Works and I have been working closely with Hoy Excavation to evaluate the full scope of the issue. We have worked out a solution and hope to complete the project before winter weather sets in.

The splash pad will closed, Tuesday after Labor Day weekend to allow the area to dry up and allow crews to work.

OK Railroad Trail is out for bid!!

Haunted Campground

Reservations for the Smithville Haunted Campground opened on August 1 and sold out in less than eight minutes. The event is scheduled for October 18, 2025. The Committee is currently finalizing vendor registrations and securing event sponsors.

Staffing Changes

On August 15, Mark Fairchild completed his last day with the Parks Maintenance Division after more than 2.5 years of dedicated service. Mark was an outstanding employee, and he will be greatly missed. The park maintenance worker position will be posted on October 18, 2025.

In the FY26 budget, the Board of Alderman is working to approve a Parks and Facilities Manager that will be supervised by the Parks and Recreation Director and the position will oversee the Park Maintenance Division.

Community Awards Banquet

The Smithville Community Awards Banquet is scheduled for February 26, 2026. Once again, the Parks and Recreation Legacy Fund, in collaboration with the City of Smithville, is partnering with the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce to host "A Night of Enchanted Honors" at the White Iron Ridge. This gala dinner honors exceptional citizens and dedicated volunteers within our community while raising crucial funds for the Parks and Recreation Legacy Fund and the Smithville Chamber of Commerce.

Senior Center:

The Smithville Senior Center has been having a great summer. Amy has been putting together great events and programs to keep the seniors busy. The fitness classes Monday-Friday mornings are being well received, and more and more are starting to attend Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please see the numbers Amy Reported for Q2 (April-June):

The senior center was open for 62 service days in the reporting period. 1,130 meals were served in the reporting period, up from 680 in Q1. We welcomed a total of 69 new clients in Q2, more than doubling from 28 in Q1.

Average number of unduplicated individuals participating daily:

April -- 36 (51 on M/W/F)

May -- 36 (47 on M/W/F)

June -- 35 (47 on M/W/F)

* Note that the lower number of participants on Tuesdays and Thursdays results in a lower overall average. Numbers are broken out for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for a more complete representation of attendance.

Total number of special activities/programs conducted monthly (not including lunch and open tables for cards/games):

April -- 48

May -- 48

June -- 44

Total: 140

Recreation Report:

Sports

- **Youth Soccer**
 - o Practices started 8/25; Games started 9/20
 - o 17 total teams
 - o 7th/8th grade division did not make, not enough players registered – this is common for fall
- **Youth Volleyball**
 - o Practice started 8/25; Games begin 9/17
 - o 8 Smithville teams | 3 Platte City teams | 4 Kearney teams
 - o Registration filled up before the deadline for the first time. We are also utilizing all the practice and game time space the school has allowed us, therefore we are maxed out with volleyball this year and cannot accept any more registrations or teams
- **Youth T-ball**
 - o Practice started 9/5; Games started 9/19
 - o Last game of the season is 10/10
- **Winter sports online registration are open! Deadlines approaching soon..**
 - o *Youth Basketball, Little Hoopsters Basketball Clinic*
- **Spring sports online registration will open January 1**
 - o *Youth Soccer, Little Kickers Soccer Clinic, Youth Baseball, Youth Softball, Youth T-ball*

Youth Sports Registrations												
	Spring Soccer	Spring Soccer Clinic	Spring T-Ball	Spring Baseball	Spring Softball	Fall Soccer	Fall Soccer Clinic	Fall T-Ball	Fall Volleyball	Winter Basketball	Winter Basketball Clinic	Total Participants
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2025	302	30	136	92	107	178	32	90	62		44	1,041

Facilities

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January	0	5	0	0	0	5
February	0	5	0	0	0	5
March	2	6	19	0	2	29
April	8	11	19	0	3	41
May	27	8	8	0	1	44
June	15	2	7	0	4	28
July	7	2	15	0	0	24
August	8	5	32	0	1	
September	13	6	23	0	1	

Events & Programs

2025 Program & Event Registrations		
January 3	Puzzle Palooza	10 - Full
January 7	Adult Pick Up Basketball	5
January 21	Adult Pick Up Basketball	5
February 5, 12, 19, 26	Mad Scientist Club	13 - Full
February 7	Valentine Cookie Decorating	9
February 18	Adult Pick Up Basketball	5
March 5, 12, 19, 26	Gardening Club	12 - Full
March 7, 14, 21, 28	Pickleball Lessons	11
April 2, 9, 16, 23	Nature Club	12 - Full
April 4, 11, 18, 25	Pickleball Lessons	14
April 11	Adult Egg Hunt	100 - Full
April 22	Earth Day	40
April 12, 19, 26	Beginner 5K Training	2
May 2, 9, 16, 23	May Pickleball Lessons	15
May 14	SPR at Farmers' Market	X
May 28	SPR at Farmers' Market	X
June 2-6	Challenger Soccer Camp	40
June 18	Learn to Kayak Clinic	25 - Full
June 20	Pickleball Tournament	6 Teams
July 4	Smithville Fireworks Show	1,000
July 9	SPR at Farmers' Market	X
July 28-31	Play It Again Sports Baseball Camp	30
July Mondays	Books & Bites	100
July Tuesdays	Sunset Yoga	100
July Wednesdays	Mini Makers	120
July Thursdays	Rockin Thursdays	x
July Fridays	Basics of Pickleball Clinic	40 - Full
September 7	Symphony in the Park	50
September 27	Fishing with a Firefighter	20
October 4	Howl-O-Ween	100
Total Participants		1,884

Marketing

SPONSORSHIPS: Sponsorship opportunities are here! Smithvillemo.org/sponsorship – see brochure!

O Current pledge sponsors:

- GT Tow (Smithville's Haunted Campground Presenting Sponsor \$2,000)
 - Alliance Medicare Advisors (Monthly Newsletter Sponsor \$300 for Sept-Nov)
 - Oakhill Day School (Skeleton Sponsor HC \$250)
 - Warrior Lawn Care (Skeleton Sponsor HC \$250)
 - Murphy's Mobile Manicures (Skeleton Sponsor HC \$250)
 - All the Things Candy Co. (Candy Sponsor HC \$100)
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- **NEW WEBSITE:** We have a new website! Check out our new home at **smithvillemo.org/parksandrec** – the City of Smithville has launched a brand-new, user-friendly website ---and Smithville Parks and Recreation is now part of it! All City departments are now housed under one convenient site, making it easier than ever to stay connected and find what you need.

 - **NEWSLETTER:** Sign up for our monthly newsletter! Never miss a deadline again – get all the latest of programs, events, and important dates. We only send one email a month, right at the beginning! Subscribe at smithvillemo.org/parksandrec - just click “SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER” on our home page and enter your email!

FALL & WINTER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025



SEPT 2 SPLASH PAD CLOSES FOR THE SEASON

SEPT 7 KC SYMPHONY IN THE PARK

SEPT 13 COMMUNITY IN ACTION 5K & FUN RUN

SEPT 27 FISHING WITH A FIREFIGHTER

OCT 4 HOWL-O-WEEN

OCT 7, 14, 21, 28 SUNSET YOGA

OCT 7, 14, 21, 28 LITTLE LEAVES PLAY DATE

OCT 18 SMITHVILLE'S HAUNTED CAMPGROUND

NOV 7 BRUSHES & BITES

NOV 14 PUZZLE PALOOZA

NOV 22-23 SMITH'S FORK PARK CLOSED

DEC 5 CANDY CANE QUEST

DEC 8-26 HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!



SMITHVILLEMO.ORG/PARKSANDREC

Community Awards Banquet

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Following last year's event, the Banquet Committee and staff agreed it was important for the Parks and Recreation Committee to play a more active role, as the banquet directly supports a major Parks and Recreation project. After discussion, it was decided that the Committee will assist with the Silent Auction. Hailey, who has supported this portion of the event for the past three years, will be working with you the day before and on the day of the event to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Attendance at this event is highly encouraged. If you are unable to attend, please let me know as soon as possible.

Senior Center Building Name

The Smithville Senior Center has been located west of City Hall since its opening in 2013. Until 2019, the facility was used exclusively for senior services. That year, the Board of Aldermen directed the Parks and Recreation Department to begin managing community rentals of the space when not in use by seniors. In 2023, our department entered into a new agreement with the Senior Board outlining how we would continue offering senior services while also providing greater support in daily operations, managing the senior services grant, and expanding community rental opportunities and programs. That winter, significant upgrades were made to the interior to create a more welcoming space for both seniors and community members.

In 2024, staff worked with Clay County Senior Services to add a part-time senior services position under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Director. Since then, the senior program has grown while our Recreation team has also expanded use of the facility for rentals, events, and programs.

Through conferences and discussions with other departments, we are seeing a generational shift in senior center attendance. Today, senior centers are more often utilized by older age groups, while those in their 60s and 70s may be hesitant to participate. Research shows there is a stigma around the word “Senior,” and that removing it from building names and advertisements can help attract a broader audience.

With that in mind, staff is seeking direction on a potential name change to make the facility more inviting to both the 60+ community and the general public for events and programs.

Staff is recommending renaming the facility the “**Smithville Activity Center.**”

If you have additional name suggestions, please bring them to the committee for discussion.

Smith's Fork Park Engineering and Design

In 2020, the Parks and Stormwater Sales Tax was approved by voters, and in 2021 the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Board of Aldermen. This plan provides a ten-year roadmap for meeting community needs with the new funding source. One of the major projects identified in the plan is the restructuring of Smith's Fork Park and the athletic fields.

Currently, three ballfields are located at Heritage Park and two at Smith's Fork Park. The long-term vision is to develop Heritage Park into more of a community hub and extension of the downtown. To make that transition while still offering programs and rentals, the restructuring of the Smith's Fork Park athletic fields must occur first. When the Master Plan was adopted in 2021, the estimated cost for this project was just under \$3 million. Through inflation and supply cost we are estimating this cost has increased significantly.

To help fund the project, staff planned to set aside \$300,000 annually from the newly approved sales tax. Following this plan, the fund should have close to \$2 million available by 2027 to launch the project.

In May 2025, staff recommended to the Board of Aldermen that engineering be moved up to 2026. Beginning the design phase earlier would allow for committee and community feedback while also providing updated cost estimates. The Board has since recommended that engineering be included in the 2026 Parks and Stormwater Sales Tax budget.

If the final budget is approved on October 21, staff will begin preparing a scope of work to either issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) or partner directly with a firm under a design-build approach. More discussion with the Board of Aldermen is to come on November 4.

Leading up to this October meeting, staff ask the Committee to review the [Master Plan](#) and research ballfield complexes to bring forward ideas and discussion points that will help staff in developing the project scope. Some ideas and discussions would be, Turf Fields, Parking, Shade, Seating and Lighting. Staff would like to go around the room and note some of the ideas for discussion.