



**City of Smithville, Missouri
Parks and Recreation Committee
May 28, 2026
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 bschuerger@smithvillemo.org prior to the meeting to be sent the meeting Zoom link.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2026, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting**
- 3. Staff Report**
- 4. Park Naming Discussion for Current "Diamond Crest Park"**
- 5. Public Comment**
- 6. Adjourn**

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1. Call to Order

Hailey called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Parks and Recreation Committee members present were Jeremiah Bloemker, Hailey Kellerstrass, Shaunna Houghton, Mayor Boley, Kyle Squires, Leeah Stone and Ben McClanahan. Staff present were Alex Threlkeld and Cassidy Childerson.

2. Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2026, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

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

3. Staff Report

	STAFF REPORT
Date:	April 23, 2026
Prepared By:	Matt Denton, Parks and Recreation
Subject:	Staff Update

Community Awards Banquet:

The Smithville Community Awards Banquet was held on February 26, 2026. The Parks and Recreation Legacy Fund, in collaboration with the City of Smithville, partnered with the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce to host "A Night of Enchanted Honors" at White Iron Ridge. This gala dinner celebrates outstanding citizens and dedicated volunteers in our community while raising vital funds for both the Parks and Recreation Legacy Fund and the Smithville Chamber of Commerce.

This is the fourth annual Community Awards Banquet, and this year we attracted more sponsors than in previous years. We raised approximately \$32,510. This amount will be split evenly between the Chamber and the Legacy Fund. Over the four years, the Legacy Fund has raised a total of \$56,539, which is dedicated to helping cover the costs for the stage at Heritage Park in the near future.

Owners Representative Update for Smith's Fork Park Project

On April 9, staff invited two Owner Representative Firms to interview to assist the City with the Smith's Fork Park Project, based in part on the direction provided by the Board of Aldermen. We were seeking a firm who will serve as the City's advocate and technical resource throughout the project planning and construction phases. This firm will provide independent expertise in areas such as project development, cost estimating, scheduling, constructability, risk management, contractor selection, alternative delivery methods, and RFQ processes, all while ensuring fiscal accountability and safeguarding the City's interests.

Facility Rentals

2026						
	Park Shelters	Senior Center	Baseball Fields	Soccer Fields	Scout Areas	Total Rentals
January	0	1	0	0	0	1
February	0	3	5	0	1	9
March	0	10	35	0	1	46

Events & Programs

2026 Program & Event Registrations		
February 13	Be Mine, Galentine	13
March 28	Let's Learn Mahjong Workshop	16 FULL
April 13	Adult Egg Hunt	70
May 1, 8, 15, 22	Pickleball Lessons – May session	16 FULL
Total Participants		115

Marketing

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

- Current pledged sponsors 2026:
 - Smithville Ford (Digital Sponsor: Newsletter and Website | \$600)
 - Community in Action (Banner Sponsor x2 | \$750)
 - Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative (Banner Sponsor | \$500)

Park Naming Discussion for Current “Diamond Crest Park”:

The park currently known as Diamond Crest Park was originally named due to its proximity to the Diamond Crest neighborhood. Since that time, the park has expanded and now serves three surrounding neighborhoods, functioning as a true community park rather than a single-neighborhood facility.

With the recent completion of the new parking lot, the connection to the OK Railroad Trail, and existing amenities such as the playground and splash pad, access to and use of the park are expected to continue growing. In light of these improvements, staff recommended initiating a formal naming process at the January meeting.

Staff opened the naming process to the community through City social media and the City newsletter, inviting residents to submit name suggestions over a designated period. The goal is to finalize an official park name in advance of a planned ribbon-cutting ceremony around Memorial Day weekend, allowing time to incorporate the new name into signage and public communications.


A total of 27 submissions were received. Staff reviewed all entries and eliminated those that did not meet established criteria or were not appropriate for the area.

The Committee was asked to discuss the top recommendations and make a motion to select an official park name:

- **Rock Branch Park** – Named after the small stream that runs through the OK Railroad Trail and nearby neighborhoods.
- **Connection Park** – Reflects the park’s role in connecting three surrounding neighborhoods.
- **Splash and Play Park** – Highlights the park’s splash pad and playground amenities.
- **OK Railroad Park and Trail** – Recognizes the historic railroad that once ran through the area.
- **Eagle-themed names** (Eagle Woods Park, Eagle Landing, Eagle Crossing, Eagle Park and Splash Pad) – Reflect the proximity to Eagle Heights, where many local children attend school, as well as the presence of eagles in the Smithville area.

The Committee discussed and provided feedback on the names provided by staff. They also discussed the criteria of should or shouldn’t personal names be allowed to be an option. The Mayor made a motion to name the park Wilson Park, Kyle seconded the

motion. Staff issued a role call vote: Leeah-Yes, Kyle-Yes, Shauna-Yes, Hailey-Yes, Mayor-Yes, Ben-No, Jerimiah-No. Vote passed 4-3.

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OK Railroad Trail Update:

The Trail is open! On Friday, May 21 the ties in were completed. The schedule is to set the benches, water fountain, fencing, plaque and butterfly garden once concrete is completed. Then grading and seeding to follow. The project is anticipated to be complete by end of the month, as weather allows.

Parks and Facilities Manager Update:

Since joining the Parks and Recreation Department in March, Brett Teel has made a quick impact on operations, maintenance, and long-term planning. He has implemented an online inspection program for all park properties, trails, playgrounds, and city facilities, identifying 96 corrective tasks to proactively address deficiencies, with 42 already completed. He has strengthened maintenance operations by overseeing the replacement of the Council Chambers HVAC unit, repairing the Activity Center's commercial hot water heater in-house, and shifting equipment repairs from outsourced vendors to internal staff, resulting in cost savings and expanded crew capabilities.

He has also improved operational efficiency by instituting pre-trip equipment inspections, creating maintenance records for all fleet assets, centralizing city service contracts, and overseeing the installation of new park gates at Smith's Fork Park. His work at Heritage Park included upgrading ballfield base anchors to improve safety and field consistency.

In addition to daily operational improvements, he has assessed departmental capital needs, supported the bid process, hired and onboarded seasonal staff, and assisted with projects including the OK Railroad Trail and the upcoming dog pound kennel project. He also secured a Missouri Department of Conservation grant and cost-share agreement to enhance Courtyard and Wildflower Parks while reducing mowing maintenance demands. His support during multiple campground water leak repairs further ensured minimal service disruption. In a short time, his efforts have improved accountability, reduced costs, and strengthened the department's operational foundation.

Fall Sports:

Fall Sports Registration Opens July 1!

Park Naming Discussion for Current “Diamond Crest Park”:

I wanted to follow up on our recent April meeting regarding the park naming discussion. While we were able to move the process forward, the outcome differed somewhat from the approach we had initially outlined.

At our January meeting, we discussed the naming process; however, the specific criteria later developed by staff through research of other parks and recreation agencies were not formally reviewed by the committee prior to being shared with the community.

During the April meeting, a motion was made for a name that was outside of the criteria established for the naming process and communicated to the community. The motion received a second and passed with a 4–3 vote.

Following the meeting, a few committee members shared feedback and questions about the process and whether the selected name reflects the criteria that were communicated to the community. Additionally, a few members who supported the motion have since expressed interest in revisiting the discussion.

Based on this feedback, this item was brought back for further discussion.

Staff’s Path to Establishing Criteria:

After the January meeting, staff researched naming policies from neighboring parks and recreation agencies, including Excelsior Springs, Liberty, Wyandotte County, and Johnson County Parks and Recreation. These agencies generally use naming criteria focused on geographic features, neighborhood connections, historical significance, natural characteristics, amenities, and community identity. Several of the policies also note that naming a park after an individual is typically reserved for someone who has made a significant contribution to the park system, community, or specific property.

Because Smithville does not currently have a formal park naming policy or established criteria, staff used these neighboring agency policies as a framework to help create a fair and consistent process for this discussion. Based on that research, staff focused the criteria on names that reflected the park’s location, features, amenities, trail connection, surrounding neighborhoods, or overall community character.

Staff chose not to include personal or individual names within the recommended criteria because the research showed those types of names are commonly reserved for individuals or families who have made substantial contributions to parks and recreation services, park development, land donations, or the broader community. At this time, staff did not identify a direct connection or significant contribution tied specifically to

this park that would support that type of naming recommendation under the criteria being used.

The intent of the process was to encourage creative community input and identify a name that reflected the identity, purpose, and features of the park itself. This approach aligned with the information and expectations communicated to the community during the submission process

Further Discussion:

There are several potential paths forward for consideration:

- Move forward with the previously approved name, "Wilson Park."
- Select a name from the previously reviewed list that aligns with the established criteria.
- Bring two recommendations to the Board of Alderman and let them decide
- Reopen the nomination process with updated or clarified criteria for additional community input.
- Discuss whether the committee would like to formally establish naming criteria or a naming policy for future park naming discussions.

My goal is to ensure we have a clear and thoughtful recommendation that reflects both the committee's intent and the process we established for the community.