



CITY OF
FAYETTEVILLE
ARKANSAS

*100 W. Rock St. Suite 246
Fayetteville, AR 72701*

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Agenda

**Jordan Annex Room 246 / Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Monday, May 4, 2026
5:30 PM**

Members

Chair Yarri Davis (Exp: 12/27)
Vice Chair Sky Caldwell (Exp: 12/27)
Elizabeth Cunningham (Exp: 12/26)
Dell Hall (Exp: 12/26)
David McNeil (Exp: 12/28)
Josh McGee (Exp: 12/28)
Doug Walsh (Exp: 12/27)
Coleman Warren (Exp: 12/28)
Melissa Zabecki (Exp: 12/26)

City Staff

Parks and Recreation Director Alison Jumper
Recreation Superintendent Lee Farmer
Park Planning Superintendent Ted Jack
Senior Administration Elizabeth Milton

Zoom Information

Webinar ID: 858 6669 6486

Registration Link: https://fayetteville-ar.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D8ekhc39R_yEvpN5cTbOYQ

Call to Order

Roll Call

Minutes

Approval of the April 6, 2026, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes.

New Business

Gregory Park Art

Reports and Presentations

2025 Parks and Recreation Annual Report

Active Transportation Advisory Committee: Doug Walsh

Botanical Gardens Report: Elizabeth Cunningham

Arts Council Report: Coleman Warren

Field and Partnership Report: Yarri Davis

**Construction and HMR Report: Ted Jack
Park Land Dedication**

Announcements

Upcoming Programs and Events

May 5	Tree Anatomy and Function Session 2: Jordan Annex Meeting Room
May 9	Walker Park Splash Pad and Gulley Park Interactive Fountain Opens: Walker Park / Gulley Park
May 15	Last Day of YRCC Afterschool: YRCC
May 23	Wilson Park Pool Opens: Wilson Park
May 25	City Offices/YRCC Closed for Memorial Day (Wilson Pool Open)
June 1-5	Be Active Summer Camp, Outdoor Adventure Camp 1: Lake Fayetteville
June 1	YRCC Summer Fun4Kids Camp Starts (8 Weeks): YRCC
June 1-11	Swim Lesson Session 1: Wilson Pool
June 2- July 30	Swim Team: Wilson Pool
June 4	Gulley Park Summer Concert, Jon McLaughlin: Gulley Park

Next Meeting Day: June 1, 2026

Adjournment

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings may be attended in-person or virtually. Community members have the opportunity to address the board at a designated time during the meeting.

The audience may attend the meeting via telephone by dialing (Toll Free) 888-475-4499.

As a courtesy, please turn off all cell phones and pagers.



CITY OF
FAYETTEVILLE
ARKANSAS

113 W Mountain St
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
City Hall Meeting Room 101 / Virtual Meeting via Zoom
April 6, 2026
5:30 PM

Members

Chair Yarri Davis (Exp: 12/27)
Vice Chair Sky Caldwell (Exp: 12/27)
Elizabeth Cunningham (Exp: 12/26)
Dell Hall (Exp: 12/26)
David McNiel (Exp: 12/28)
Josh McGee (Exp: 12/28)
Doug Walsh (Exp: 12/27)
Coleman Warren (Exp: 12/28)
Melissa Zabecki (Exp: 12/26)

City Staff

Parks, Natural Resources and Cultural Affairs Director Alison Jumper
Recreation Superintendent Lee Farmer
Park Planning Superintendent Ted Jack
Senior Administration Elizabeth Milton

A meeting of the Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held on April 6, 2026 at 5:30 PM in Room 101 of City Hall, located at 113 W. Mountain Street in Fayetteville, Arkansas..

Zoom Information

Webinar ID: 884 4804 0140

Registration Link: https://fayetteville-ar.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1YgugoPoT1ShU57LRVG8gQ

Passcode: 575664

Call to Order

Vice Chair Sky Caldwell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Caldwell, McGee, McNiel, Hall, Walsh, Warren and Zabecki

Absent: Davis, Cunningham

Minutes

Approval of the March PNRCAAB Meeting Minutes.

Approval of the March PNRCAAB Minutes. McGee to motion for approval, Hall to second.

PNRCAAB Motion: 7-0-0.

Please refer to the [City of Fayetteville Video on Demand Archive](https://reflect-fayetteville-ar.cablecast.tv/internetchannel/gallery/6?channel=1) for a detailed discussion of the item: <https://reflect-fayetteville-ar.cablecast.tv/internetchannel/gallery/6?channel=1>

New Business

Approval to Utilize Parkland Dedication Funds for the Design of Kessler Soccer Improvements: Ted Jack

Staff Ted Jack to propose usage of unencumbered SW quadrant bond funds at Kessler Soccer Park. In the year 2026, \$99,366 will need to be spent on the limited-time bond funds, and \$528,113 by 2027. The first step proposed on how to use those funds is to hire consultants and begin design work to add a full-sized soccer field with artificial turf, and a small natural turf soccer field, lighting, bleachers, sidewalks, drainage, landscaping and parking. The turf field would be considered not only an extra and much-needed field, but Championship field space. Jack asked for approval for \$400,000 to be released from the Southwest Quadrant for Kessler Soccer Field Improvements Project.

McGee to motion for approval, Hall to second. **PNRCAAB Motion: 7-0-0.**

Reports and Presentations

Urban Forestry Update: John Scott

Staff John Scott to give an update on Urban Forestry results from 2025, and plans for the department's Urban Forestry Master Plan goals for 2026. Scott's goal is to increase the City's overall tree canopy from 39% to 40.4% in 20 years. Through a recently implemented data collection process, staff are and plan to continue to track the removal and planting of trees in new development to make sure our canopy stays healthy.

Scott to report that several events were organized for this year's first Earth Week, including tree and native shrub giveaways, a "bounty" photo contest for invasives removal, documentary film screenings, Talking to the Trees, dedicating this year's Amazing Tree winner in Wilson Park, among others. Several classes/hikes through the Fayetteville Community Forester Program were added in 2025 with great success and attendance.

Park Land Dedication Update: Ted Jack

Combined with Jack's earlier Project Updates.

Active Transportation Advisory Committee: Doug Walsh

Walsh to mention that the White River Greenway is 90% planned and is planned to be completed this summer. Walsh also reported that there are areas in need of more sidewalk access on the west side of town.

Botanical Gardens Report: Elizabeth Cunningham

n/a

Arts Council Report: Coleman Warren

CAP applications were approved for the first round of applicants, and money has been set aside for the second round of applications, which Warren encouraged interested applicants to apply for.

Field and Partnership Report: Yarri Davis

McGee to report Field and Partnership met with Friends of Fayetteville Parks to identify potential parcels for field space/park land acquisition, and plan to work to move forward.

2025 Parks and Recreation Annual Report: Alison Jumper

Postponed.

Construction and HMR Report: Ted Jack

Ted Jack reported that HMR totals have improved. Installation has begun at the Walker Park playground, and construction progress continues throughout the park. Artist Jeremy Navarette, who also painted the basketball courts at Walker, will also be painting the ceiling of the Large Pavilion at Walker Park. The Lake Fayetteville Nature Trail contract is to go to the Council for approval. An Owl Creek public meeting is coming soon to involve the public in planning a 2-acre park in the newly dedicated park land, and also to discuss connecting trails to the facility.

Park Land Dedication

Monarch Summers

Development Name:	Monarch Summers
Engineer:	Strand (B. Payne)
Owner:	Goose Creek Addition LLC
Location:	6061 W Dot Tipton Rd
Parcel ID Number:	765-16202-650
Park Quadrant:	SW
Development Size:	66 Ac
Units:	264 Single-Family
Land Dedication Requirement:	N/A
Fee-In-Lieu Requirement:	\$287,496
Nearby Existing Parks:	Harmony Pointe Park, Owl Creek Park, Woolsey Farmstead, Woolsey Wet Prairie
Developer'S Request:	Fee-In-Lieu
Staff Recommendation:	Fee-In-Lieu
Justification:	Proximity To Existing Parks

Foster to present the Monarch Summers development, proposing a 264 single-family project with 66 acres. Staff suggested accepting fees-in-lieu.

Hall to motion for approval, Zabecki to second.

PNRCAAB Motion: 7-0-0.

Announcements

Upcoming Programs and Events

- April 6 Fayetteville Youth Baseball Games Begin: Kessler
- April 12 Outdoor Fayetteville Trail First Aid Response: Fire Department Training Center
- April 13 Youth 4 And Under T-Ball Begins: Gary Hampton
- April 13 Outdoor Fayetteville Intro To Fishing: Lake Fayetteville Marina
- April 16 Outdoor Fayetteville Archery Basics: Lake Fayetteville Marina
- April 18 Tree Giveaway At Farmers Market: Fayetteville Square
- April 20 Amazing Tree Plaque Unveiling: Wilson Park
- April 20 Talking To The Trees
- April 21 Three Documentaries With Panel Discussions: Fayetteville Public Library
- April 22 Earth Day Panel Discussion
- April 22 Outdoor Fayetteville Beginner Kayaking: Lake Fayetteville Marina
- April 23 Documentary: Fayetteville Public Library
- April 23 Spring Semester X-Factor Ends: YRCC
- April 24 No YRCC Afterschool: YRCC
- April 24 Arbor Day
- April 24 Weekend Starts Begin: Upper Ramble
- April 25 Rumble Pickleball Tournament: Wilson Park
- April 25 Lake Fayetteville Land & Paddle Cleanup: Lake Fayetteville Marina
- April 25 YRCC Shoe Giveaway With Samaritan's Feet: YRCC
- April 27 YRCC Teen Takeover Ends: YRCC
- May 2 Spring Square 2 Square: Upper Ramble
- May 2 Tree Anatomy And Function: Jordan Annex Meeting Room
- May 2 YRCC Basketball Classes End: YRCC

Next Meeting Date: May 4, 2026

Adjournment

Josh McGee to motion for adjournment at 6:27 p.m., David McNiel to second.

PNRCAAB Motion: 7-0-0

Minutes Submitted by: Elizabeth Milton



CITY OF
FAYETTEVILLE
ARKANSAS

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Ash tree at Walker Park, Fayetteville's 2025 Amazing Tree

WHAT'S INSIDE

03 Letter from the Director

05 Our Guiding Principles

07 Planning & Park
Development

09 Recreation Programs &
Participation

11 Community Events

13 Urban Forestry

15 Applying the
Principles

17 YRCC

19 Supporting our parks

04 Leadership, Staff &
Advisory Boards

06 New in 2025

08 Run. Ride. Race. Repeat

10 Youth Camps

12 Arts & Culture

14 Talking about Parks

16 Find your Park

18 Service and Action

20 Connect with Parks

LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS

Alison Jumper, ASLA, CPRP
PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR



Fayetteville's parks and public spaces are a major part of how people experience our City every day. They are where neighbors gather, where families spend time together, and where community takes shape.

In 2025, we saw continued growth in **HOW residents use and value these spaces**. From signature events like the Dickson Street Mile and Phantasma to new programming at the Upper Ramble, our parks remained active, welcoming, and central to community life.

This year also marked meaningful progress in **expanding and improving our parks system**. We welcomed the community to the expanded Yvonne Richardson Community Center, advanced construction on new community parks, including Walker, Underwood, and Bryce Davis, and partnered with *Specialized Real Estate Group* to open South Yard Park along the Razorback Regional Greenway. These efforts reflect our **commitment to increasing access and creating spaces that serve residents** across Fayetteville.

At the same time, we continued planning for the future, wrapping up an aquatic feasibility study and drafting a park developer-impact fee study. We are taking thoughtful steps to make sure our parks grow to **meet the needs of a changing, expanding community**.

Parks are critical infrastructure.

They are the heart and lungs of a city and play a vital role in supporting **community health, economic vitality, and environmental resilience**. This report reflects the work of a dedicated team whose creativity and commitment shine through in every project, program, and space we care for. We couldn't do it without them.

I am proud of what we accomplished in 2025 and grateful to serve alongside this team and for our community. I hope you see the impact of this work as you read this report.

With Gratitude,

Alison

LEADERSHIP, STAFF & ADVISORY BOARDS

LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Alison Jumper, Director
- Ted Jack, Planning Superintendent
- Lee Farmer, Recreation Superintendent
- Joanna Bell, Arts & Culture Director
- Tiffany Hoover, Assistant Rec. Superintendent
- Elizabeth Milton, Sr. Admin. Assistant

STAFF

RECREATION

Lacie Ballard
Mark Banks-May
Dean Rawlings
J. Elizabeth Smith

PARK PLANNING

Melissa Evans
Zach Foster

YRCC

Josh Lainfiesta
T'Essence Long

URBAN FORESTRY

John Scott

ARTS & CULTURE

Sarah Dilatush

ADVISORY BOARDS

Parks, Natural Resources & Cultural Affairs

Steven Sheely, Chair, Sarah Downing, Vice Chair

Members - Skyler Caldwell, Elizabeth Cunningham, Yarri Davis, Dell Hall, Hugh Kincaid, Doug Walsh, Mel Zabecki

Urban Forestry

Joseph Fox, Chair

Members - Hannah Ash, Carlo Bertani, Joe Donahue, Jim Parrish, Kate Shirley, Tas Zinck

Arts Council

Chloe Bell, Chair, Emily Miller, Vice Chair

Members - Andrew Blackwell, Jessica DeBari, Na'Tosha De'Von, Elizabeth Muscari, Diana Rubi, Robert "Bob" Stafford, City Council, Ellen Woodse

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Nature Connection

Our outdoor spaces are integrated in our everyday lives to attract people near and far for the health benefits of our natural environment.



Stewardship and Maintenance

We care for our parks and assets to ensure they meet the needs of current and future generations. Our operations and investments prioritize sustainability, fiscal responsibility, and equity.



Active and Well

Opportunities for recreation, health, and wellness are accessible for all through our parks, fitness and sports programs, and trails and benefit our physical and mental health.



Gathering and Placemaking

Our parks are designed to provide gathering spaces and amenities for our community while celebrating our unique culture, arts, music, people, and the beauty of the region.



Resilient Natural Systems

Our natural systems and parks help support a city environment that integrates natural and built landscapes and maximize ecosystem benefits and nature-based recreation for the community.

VISION

To create and sustain a premier park system through best practices that enrich, welcome and connect residents, strengthening community and cultural pride.

MISSION

To improve quality of life through a vibrant park system, cultural and natural resources, and recreational opportunities.

NEW TO YOU 2025

Over the past year, the City has delivered a number of new initiatives that strengthen community engagement, promote environmental stewardship, and expand access to arts and culture experiences.



TREES, TREES, TREES

Fayetteville further expanded its focus on our tree stewardship through dedicated staff, new programs, and increased community engagement.

The **Fayetteville Community Forester Program** was launched to foster tree stewardship and environmental awareness among residents, and saw 92 residents in classes.

The first-ever **Fayetteville Tree Week** was held from April 19–26, aligning with Earth Day and Arbor Day. Our Urban Forestry team hosted daily events to highlight the environmental and social benefits of trees, encouraging residents to plant and care for trees in their communities.



COMMUNITY ART

The **Community Arts Program (CAP)** was also introduced, offering local artists and organizers the opportunity to lead free, community-based activations.

The program supports creative expression while enhancing gathering and shared experiences across the city.

The first **City Hall Art Exhibition** featured the work of 32 artists with ties to Arkansas, creating a new space to showcase local talent and connect residents with the arts.

Mayor Rawn has challenged Fayetteville to try new things, support fresh ideas, and create new ways for the community to connect with parks and public spaces. The success of 2025 reflects that approach, building on what works while making space for innovation.

PLANNING & PARK DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, Fayetteville continued to invest in both new park spaces and improvements to existing facilities, expanding access and enhancing the overall park system.

- The expansion of the **Yvonne Richardson Community Center** added new community gathering spaces, including a teaching kitchen, classrooms, and updated amenities to better serve residents.
- Construction moved forward on several new community parks, including **Walker, Underwood, and Bryce Davis Parks**. Bryce Davis is nearing completion, with the remaining parks expected to open in 2026.
- **South Yard Park**, a new pocket park along the Razorback Regional Greenway, opened through a partnership with Specialized Real Estate Group, demonstrating how collaboration can expand park access in growing areas of the city.
- Improvements at **Buddy Hayes Park** are also nearing completion, with stream restoration and new gathering spaces that enhance both environmental function and visitor experience.
- Planning efforts this year focused on preparing for future growth. Design work advanced for additional park improvements, including an accessible nature trail and bridge at **Veterans Park**. Master planning began for a new neighborhood park at **Owl Creek**.
- The City also completed an aquatic feasibility study and advanced a park developer-impact fee study, helping guide **long-term investment decisions** and ensure the park system continues to **meet community needs**.

3,853 square feet

More room for learning, playing, and building community.

Based on the latest population count, Fayetteville has one park for every 2,194 residents!

47

parks in
Fayetteville

RUN. RIDE. RACE. REPEAT.

Fayetteville's race series continued to grow in 2025, reflecting strong community interest in running, cycling, and outdoor fitness. From trail runs to downtown races and regional rides, events brought participants of all experience levels together throughout the year.



Frozen Toes set a new attendance record with 554 runners as trail running continues to gain popularity across Northwest Arkansas.



The Dickson Street Mile grew to 526 participants in its second year, adding new race categories like the Heroes Mile alongside returning favorites like the Open Mile, Bartender Dash, and Dog Mile.



The White Elephant 5K and 1-mile fun run also reached a record high of 470 participants in its fourth year, continuing to build on its reputation as a family-friendly holiday tradition.



The Square to Square ride celebrated its 10th year as the official ride of the Razorback Greenway, drawing 3,479 riders across two events and connecting communities across the region.



5,540
Estimated # of toes
at Frozen Toes

3,479
Square to
Square riders

526
Dickson Street
Mile runners

10
Years of Square
to Square ride



RECREATION PROGRAMS & PARTICIPATION

Across all programs, the continued growth in participation reflects the important role recreation plays in supporting health, connection, and quality of life in Fayetteville.

Youth Programs

Youth programming continued to grow in 2025, with 2,133 athletes participating in soccer, supported by approximately 180 volunteer coaches. The **Kessler Cup Tournament** capped the spring season, while the “**Kicks for Kids**” cleat exchange expanded access, circulating nearly 400 pairs of cleats each season.

Youth softball served 240 athletes, including record participation in the 10U division. The **YRCC X-Factor** program engaged more than 800 participants ages 5–14 through homeschool physical education classes held across Fayetteville parks, offering activities ranging from archery and rock climbing to team sports and fitness.

Aquatics

Aquatics programs saw strong demand throughout the season. **Wilson Park Pool** recorded more than 21,000 visits, while the **Wilson Park Wahoos Swim Team** increased to 70 swimmers, its largest team in more than five years.

Adjustments to class scheduling expanded access for young swimmers, and swim lessons reached an 88% fill rate, significantly reducing waitlists.

Adult & All-Ages Programs

Adult and all-ages programs continued to draw strong participation across Fayetteville in 2025. Three seasons of adult softball brought together 194 teams and more than 3,000 participants at Lake Fayetteville and Gary Hampton, while the Unified Softball League expanded to 12 teams and served over 200 participants.

The Adult Soccer League remained steady with 36 teams competing across spring and fall seasons. Adult kickball also saw strong participation, with 44 teams and 770 players competing at Lake Fayetteville and Kessler Regional Park.

Tennis and pickleball programming returned to the resurfaced courts at Wilson Park, engaging 243 players, with expanded pickleball offerings for youth and intermediate and advanced participants.

21,000+

Visits to Wilson Park Pool

3,000+

Adult softball players on 194 teams

180

Volunteer coaches throughout the year.

99

Picklers participated Fayetteville's first ever pickle ball tournament

Spring Break 2025

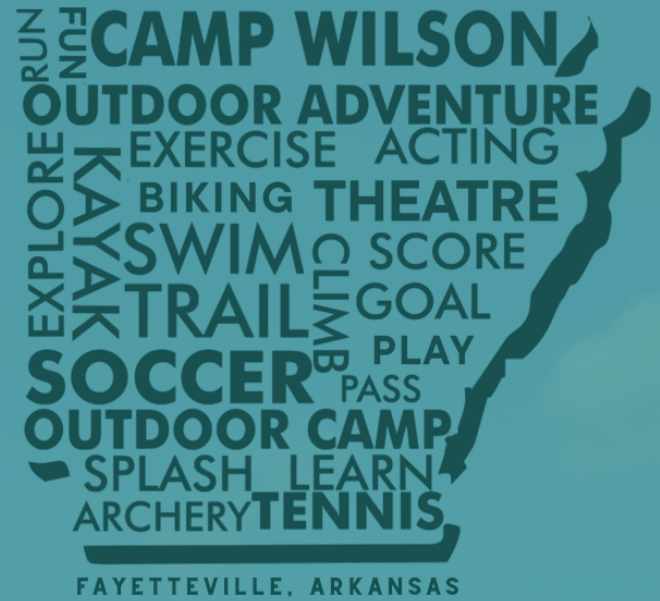
The Yvonne Richardson Community Center (YRCC) expanded seasonal camp opportunities, with 50 participants in **Spring Break Camp** and 600 campers attending the **Summer Fun4Kids** program. Campers engaged in games, arts and crafts, sports, and field trips across the city, including visits to Wilson Park Pool, the Fayetteville Public Library, Appleseeds Farm, and the University of Arkansas.

Summer 2025

The **Summer Fun4Kids Junior Counselor Program** also provided leadership opportunities for teens, with six participants supporting camp activities and gaining hands-on experience.

Partnerships helped support a well-rounded experience for campers, with meals provided through Hattie's Heart, Second Helping NWA & Chef Nate Walls, and Fayetteville Public Schools.

SUMMER CAMPS



These programs continue to create accessible, enriching experiences for youth while supporting families throughout the year.

YOUTH CAMPS

Camp programs continued to provide opportunities for Fayetteville youth to stay active, learn new skills, and build connections in a supportive environment.

BE ACTIVE!

Campers participate across a variety of offerings, including outdoor adventure, biking, tennis, soccer, and theatre.

883

Record number of campers in 2025 Summer Camps

3,000+

Adult softball players on 194 teams

180

Volunteer coaches throughout the year.

Fayetteville's events continue to bring people together in parks and public spaces throughout the year, creating opportunities for connection, celebration, and shared experiences.

Signature events like the **Gulley Park Summer Concert Series** drew more than 16,500 attendees in its 29th year, marking its largest season to date. The series also introduced a sustainability initiative that diverted 73% of waste from landfills, while continuing to support local artists and vendors through the **Mini Makers** and **Art Market** and **Kidz Night** programming.

16,500+

Gulley Park concert attendees

Seasonal and specialty events saw strong participation across the **Upper and Lower Ramble**. The **Phantasma Silent Disco** and **Glow Party** attracted approximately 3,500 attendees, while **Trick-or-Treat on the Trail** welcomed more than 3,000 participants as a growing fall tradition.

3,000+

Trick-or-Treaters on the trail

Outdoor movie programming expanded, with **Movies in the Parks** at **Walker** and **Bryce Davis Parks** drawing more than 1,300 attendees. The **Dive-In Movie** series at **Wilson Park Pool** remained a popular summer activity, including one of its largest events to date.

Lights of the Ozarks remained a signature holiday tradition, with more than 500,000 LED lights installed across the **Downtown Square**, creating a destination for residents and visitors throughout the season.

500,000+

LED lights at Lights of the Ozarks

Community-centered programming at the **Yvonne Richardson Community Center** continued to support residents through events, youth activities, and partnerships, reaching hundreds of participants throughout the year.



100

pairs of shoes given with Samaritan's Feet



25

kids from YRCC participated in Burls Kids.



over **300**

Friendsgiving served 300+ hot meals with Second Helping NWA.



100

25 YRCC kids participated in Cookies with Santa at Mt. Sequoyah.



100

175 participants at Holiday Bingo hosted by the YRCC.

Together, these events reflect the vital role parks play as gathering spaces that support connection, celebration, and community life across Fayetteville.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ARTS & CULTURE

Arts and culture continue to shape how the community experiences Fayetteville's parks and public spaces, bringing creativity into everyday life through public art, programming, and long-term planning.

New additions to the City's public art collection included two large-scale murals by international artist Leon Keer, who also engaged with local artists, students, and the broader community during his time in Fayetteville. Additional installations across the city featured work by regional and national artists, contributing to a growing and diverse public art presence.

Nothing but Net
Mural by Bryan Alexis



Veritate Duce Progredi
Mural by NTEL



Play Your Way
Wayfinding mural
at Parks office



Gravity of Memory
Augmented reality
installation exploring
childhood and perception

Emoji Dispenser
Interactive piece
reflecting on
emotion and
consumer culture



In 2025, Fayetteville adopted its first **Arts & Culture Plan**, establishing priorities to support creative spaces, public art, and cultural growth. As part of this effort, a feasibility study explored opportunities for artist-focused housing and support for the local creative economy.

Programming expanded throughout the year. **Weekend Starts** activated **the Ramble** with weekly events from March through October, engaging more than 5,700 participants and showcasing over 130 artists.

The **Community Arts Program (CAP)**, launched this year, created new opportunities for local artists and organizers to lead free, community-based activations across Fayetteville.

Together, these efforts reflect a continued commitment to integrating art into public spaces, supporting local artists, and creating shared cultural experiences.

URBAN FORESTRY

Urban Forestry efforts further focused on expanding Fayetteville's tree canopy, engaging residents, and strengthening environmental stewardship across the community.

Throughout the year, 606 trees were planted across the city, supported by strong community participation. More than 2,000 residents engaged in Urban Forestry programs and events, reflecting growing interest in caring for Fayetteville's natural spaces.

Together, these efforts reflect an ongoing commitment to maintaining healthy natural systems, increasing tree canopy, and supporting a more resilient Fayetteville.



EDUCATION

Education and outreach remained a key focus. The **Fayetteville Community Forester Program** launched this year, strengthening neighborhood partnerships and supporting tree planting and naturalization efforts in five areas of the city. Additional outreach reached more than 500 elementary students through school programs and community events.

ENGAGEMENT

Tree giveaways expanded access, with more than 2,383 trees and shrubs distributed through seasonal events and neighborhood partnerships. Volunteer efforts also supported cleanup and restoration across parks, trails, and waterways, with more than 80 volunteers contributing across multiple locations throughout Fayetteville.



PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT OUR PARKS AT HOME AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Fayetteville's commitment to community, sustainability, and stewardship was recognized through several key achievements in 2025.

- **Tree City USA** community for the 29th consecutive year
- **Governor's Volunteer Community of the Year** award
- **2025 Trendsetter City Award for the Ramble**
- **2025 Architizer A+Awards, Popular Choice Award**
- **Mayor's Monarch Pledge Leadership Circle** status achievement: completed 11 action items that led to more than 1,500 pollinator-supportive plants, seeds, and trees being distributed through public giveaways and events across the city.

YRCC Holiday Bingo Participant

"I thought it was wonderful. The YRCC have improved this event so much from early years (it's always been great). I'm really impressed by the YRCC team. Thankful for the work they put in."

"Helping to clean up my community makes me feel connected to my neighbors and gives me a strong sense of purpose. It's a rewarding, hands-on way to take pride in where we live and ensure our town stays beautiful. The city of Fayetteville makes it so easy to work with them, we are all blessed to have such a great city we can partner with to make this a better place to live."

Dennis

Braxton on the CAP Program

"I'm a multimedia artist and educator with a focus in natural and fiber arts. My activations with the City of Fayetteville included mini moss gardens workshops and block printing. All events brought in maximum participants with a wide range of ages and backgrounds represented. I will definitely be applying for the next round!"

"What a wonderful way to connect with nature this winter! Love the idea of learning to identify trees by bark, buds, and form while enjoying the quiet beauty of the season."

Peak State Recovery on the Community Forester Program

WHY WE CONTINUE DOING THIS WORK

Fayetteville's parks and recreation system continued to grow in ways that reflect the City's guiding principles, connecting investments, programs, and community experiences across the parks system.



Nature Connection

Improvements to trails, wetlands, and park spaces expanded opportunities for residents to engage with the natural environment, from restored connections along the Fayetteville Traverse Trail to new and enhanced gathering spaces in neighborhood parks.



Stewardship and Maintenance

Ongoing investments in park infrastructure and environmental restoration ensured that existing spaces remain safe, functional, and sustainable, supporting both daily use and long-term system health.



Active and Well

Recreation programs, camps, and community events continued to see strong participation, reflecting the important role parks play in supporting physical activity, wellness, and social connection across all ages.



Gathering and Placemaking

Parks served as key gathering spaces for cultural events, performances, and community traditions, bringing residents together and reinforcing Fayetteville's identity through shared experiences.



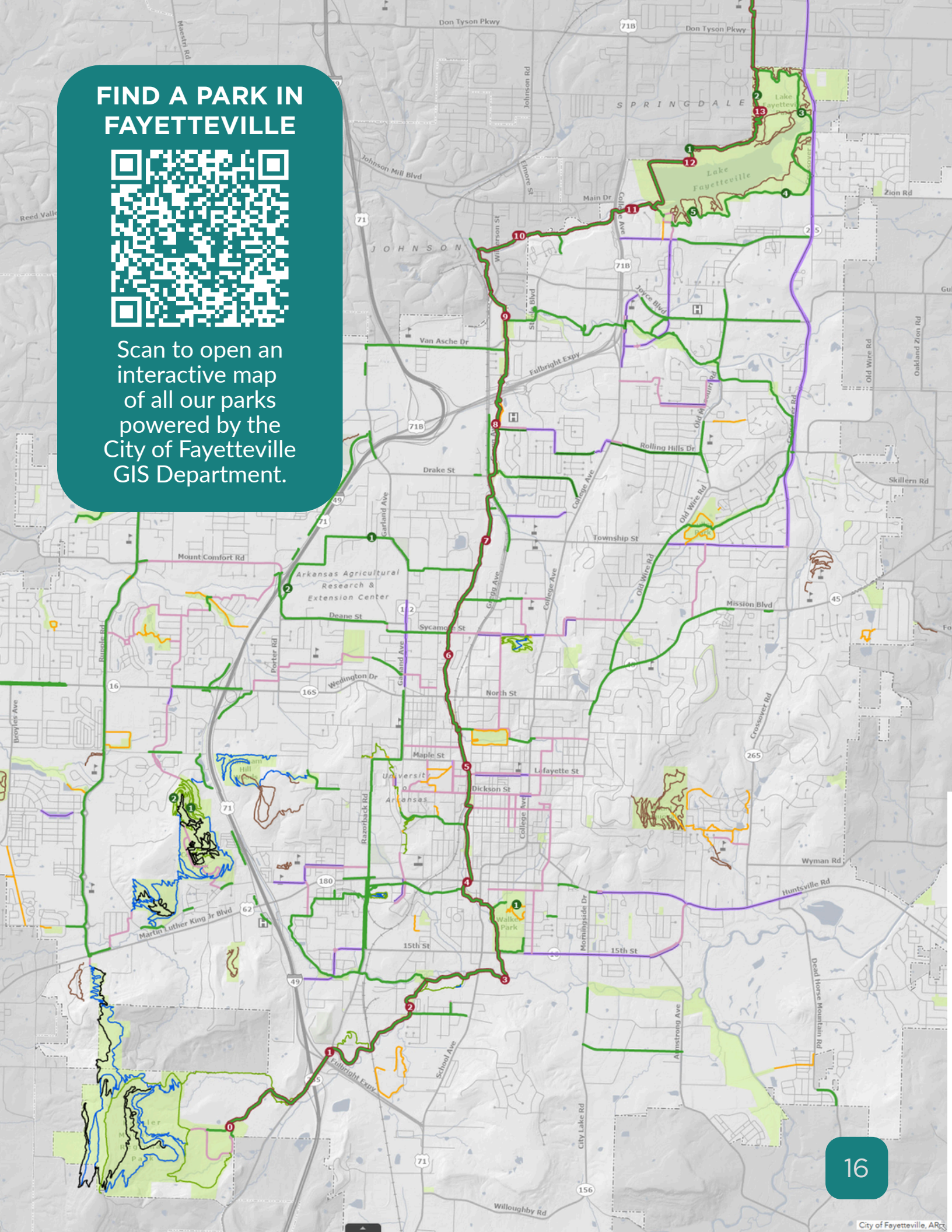
Resilient Natural Systems

Tree planting, environmental restoration, and volunteer efforts strengthened the city's natural systems, supporting long-term ecological health and resilience.

FIND A PARK IN FAYETTEVILLE



Scan to open an interactive map of all our parks powered by the City of Fayetteville GIS Department.



YVONNE RICHARDSON COMMUNITY CENTER EXPANSION



**YRCC HAS
COME A
LONG WAY!**

The expansion of the Yvonne Richardson Community Center (YRCC) marked a significant investment in community space and access. The 3,853-square-foot addition includes a teaching kitchen, community rooms, a multipurpose classroom, and upgraded amenities, including a new gymnasium floor, restrooms, and renovated office space.

These improvements allow the YRCC to expand programming, increase capacity, and better serve residents of all ages. The updated spaces support a wide range of activities, from youth programs and camps to community events and educational opportunities.

As a central hub for connection and support, the YRCC continues to play a vital role in strengthening community, providing access to resources, and creating welcoming spaces for Fayetteville residents



SERVICE IN ACTION

Fayetteville's parks are shaped by people who care for them.

In 2025, volunteers contributed 20,967 hours supporting parks, trails, waterways, and public spaces across the City, setting a new annual record.

This work represents an estimated \$729,000 in community value. It also reflects the impact of residents, partners, and organizations who work together to continuously improve quality of life in Fayetteville. Groups like Ozark Off Road Cyclists and the Arkansas Conservation Corps played a key role in trail building, maintenance, and restoration efforts across the City.

Residents can support Fayetteville's parks in a variety of ways, from volunteering at events and cleanups to participating in programs or contributing to park initiatives. **Every effort helps strengthen the spaces that connect our community.**

20,967

Volunteer hours
contributed

\$729,000

Estimated community
value of volunteers

9,300+

Hours contributed by
Ozark Off Road Cyclists

4,000+

Hours contributed by
Arkansas Conservation Corps



VOLUNTEER

Volunteers help make Fayetteville's parks possible.



<https://givepul.se/kypjtm>

Fayetteville's parks and programs are strengthened by the support of residents, partners, and community organizations. Donations help expand access, enhance spaces, and support programs that serve the community year-round.

FRIENDS OF FAYETTEVILLE PARKS



Friends of Fayetteville Parks is a nonprofit partner that supports park improvements, special projects, and community initiatives. Donations help fund enhancements and opportunities beyond what public funding alone can provide.

www.fofpar.org

PARKS AND RECREATION



Contributions to the department support programs, public spaces, and initiatives that enhance parks, recreation, arts, and environmental stewardship across the city.

<https://secure.rec1.com/AR/fayetteville-ar/catalog>

FRIENDS OF YVONNE RICHARDSON COMMUNITY



Donations to the Yvonne Richardson Community support youth programs, camps, meals, and community-based services that provide access and opportunity for Fayetteville residents.

www.friendsofyrcc.org

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARKS

Follow the City of Fayetteville, AR,
Parks and Recreation Department
on Instagram and Facebook



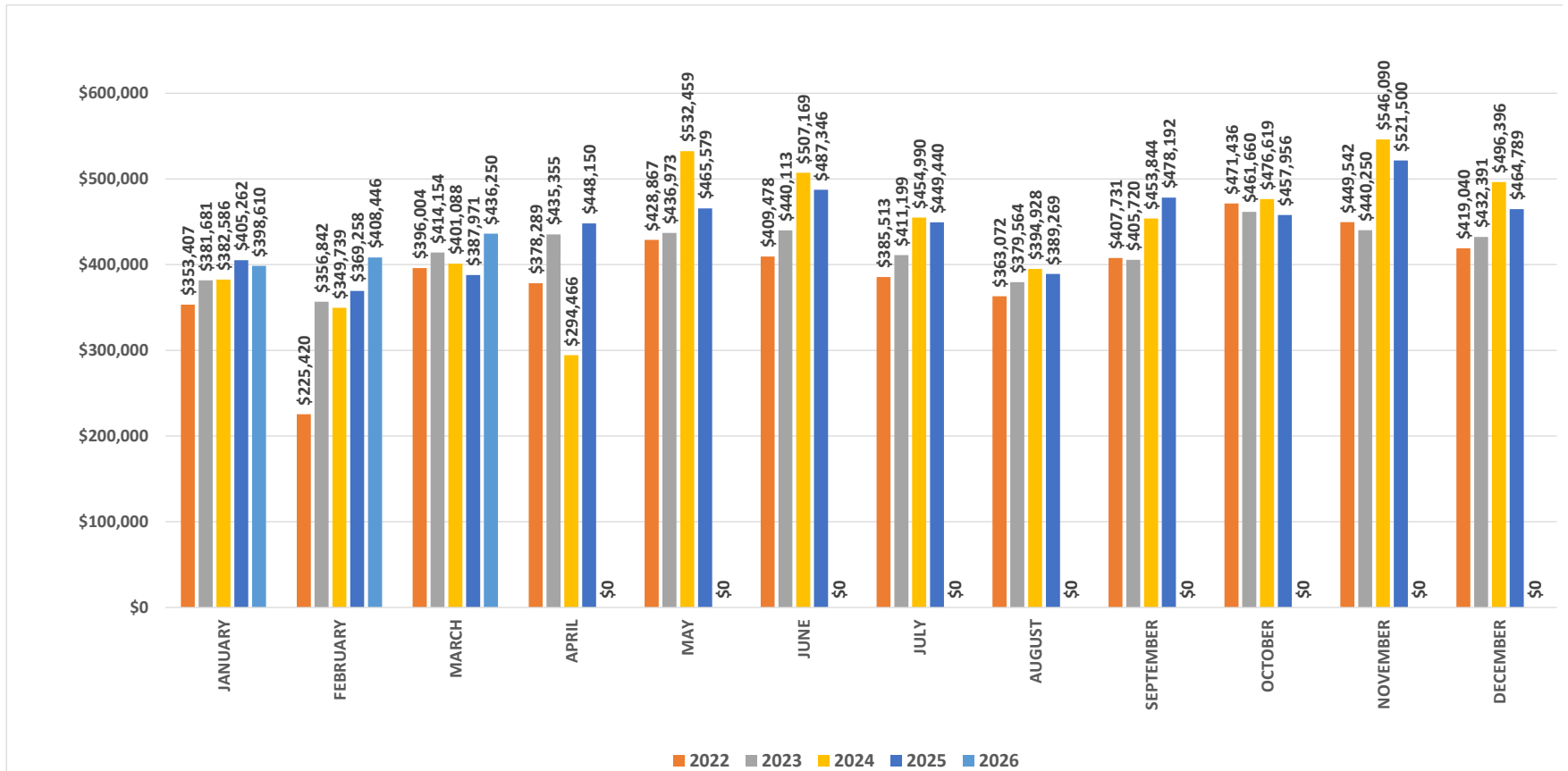
@FayettevilleParksAndRec



CITY OF
FAYETTEVILLE
ARKANSAS

100 W. ROCK ST. SUITE 250
FAYETTEVILLE, AR
GOPLAYFAY.COM

Fayetteville Parks and Recreation HMR Comparison 2022 - 2026



Year to Date Total Comparison	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
	\$ 974,831	\$ 1,152,678	\$ 1,133,413	\$ 1,162,491	\$ 1,243,305

YTD 2025-2026
7.0%

YTD 2025-2026
\$80,814