



**City of Smithville, Missouri  
Parks and Recreation Committee  
April 23, 2026  
6:00 PM  
Smithville City Hall Board Room**

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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 [ldrummy@smithvillemo.org](mailto:ldrummy@smithvillemo.org) prior to the meeting to be sent the meeting Zoom link.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2026, Parks and Recreation Committee**
- 3. Staff Report**
- 4. Park Naming Discussion for Current "Diamond Crest Park"**
- 5. Public Comment**
- 6. Adjourn**

**City of Smithville, Missouri**  
**Parks and Recreation Committee**  
**January 22, 2026**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Smithville City Hall Board Room**

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**1. Call to Order**

Hailey called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Parks and Recreation Committee members present were Jeremiah Bloemker, Hailey Kellerstrass, Shaunna Houghton, Mayor Boley, and Ben McClanahan. Staff present were Matt Denton and Alex Threlkeld.

**2. Approval of Minutes from October 16, 2025, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting**

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

**3. Staff Report**

**Diamond Crest Parking Lot and Trail Update:**

The Diamond Crest parking lot construction has been completed! The asphalt work and striping have finished, and final grading was completed earlier this month.

The OK Railroad Trail project was bid in November. Epic Concrete Construction was awarded the contract. Construction is scheduled to start in the spring, with the goal of completing the project by Memorial Weekend.

**Staffing Changes**

To kick off the new year, we have welcomed a new Park Maintenance Worker, Jeremy Couch, to our team. A Smithville native, Jeremy has worked closely with our staff during his time at Pack's Hardware.

Additionally, on Monday, February 2, 2026, our new Recreation Coordinator, Cassidy Childerston, will be joining us. Cassidy has worked seasonally in our Recreation Department, and you may have seen her at many of our programs and events over the past year. She brings a wealth of experience in hosting programs and events for youth, and she is excited to start her role and introduce new ideas to the community.

**Year-End-Report**

Staff has prepared a year-end report, which is attached separately to the agenda. Please refer to the document for further information.

**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 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.

Matt mentioned that 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.

Matt mentioned that attendance at this event is highly encouraged. If you are unable to attend, please let me know as soon as possible. Staff will be asking for an RSVP.

### **Smith Fork Park Project Update:**

Matt let the Committee know that at the November 18, 2025, Board of Aldermen work session, staff presented a discussion on alternative construction project delivery methods. The Board directed staff to further review these construction options and bring forward recommended methods for upcoming projects.

Over the past few years, the City has experienced several challenges in delivering large capital improvement and infrastructure improvement projects. These challenges include: Project schedule delays and equipment procurement issues, Low-bid contractors lacking capacity or resources to perform, and unforeseen site conditions resulting in significant change orders.

To improve predictability and performance, staff have reviewed alternative project delivery methods as potential options for larger, more complex projects.

On January 20, 2026, staff presented again to the Board of Aldermen on the direction staff thinks is best for the Smith's Fork Project.

Staff is recommending proceeding with the selection of an owner representative that will assist staff with the development of the project, estimates, contractor selection, and work through the various alternative delivery methods and RFQ processes.

Owners Representative (OR) acts as the City's advocate and technical resource from project planning through construction. The OR does not perform construction work, but instead provides independent expertise to assist staff in navigating project delivery options and evaluating the most appropriate path forward. This includes guidance related to cost estimating, scheduling, constructability, and risk management, as well as assisting with procurement processes and ensuring fiscal accountability. The OR would also support collaboration among the City, design professionals, and construction partners while helping protect the City's interests throughout the life of the project.

Matt mentioned that he will continue to provide updates on the project and will be looking for a Parks and Recreation Committee Representative to sit in on interviews for the Owners Representative. Shauna let Matt know that she would be interested.

### **Senior Center Building Name**

Matt presented that 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.

Additionally, this building is included in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is part of a larger strategic vision. The aim is to expand beyond the current facility by increasing senior services, recreational programs, and facility rentals. The road to a bigger facility is to show the need.

Matt mentioned that he would like to clarify that there is no plan or discussion about removing senior services from the building or our program offerings. Our goal is to continue increasing attendance and providing more opportunities for the community.

With all this in mind, matt asked for 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.

Matt mentioned he met with the Smithville Senior Board on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. Matt mentioned that the meeting went well and the Senior Board was in favor of the name change and like the suggested name "Smithville Activity Center".

Matt asked for a motion to move forward with a name change. Jeremiah made the motion to rename the Smithville Senior Center to Smithville Activity Center. Hailey Seconded the motion. All Ayes.

### **Park Naming Discussion for Current "Diamond Crest Park":**


Matt presented that the park currently known as Diamond Crest Park was originally named based on its proximity to the Diamond Crest neighborhood. Since that time, the park has evolved beyond a single-neighborhood facility and is now physically connected to three surrounding neighborhoods, functioning as a true community park rather than a neighborhood park.

With the recent completion of the new parking lot, the expected construction of the OK Railroad rail connection, and the existing splash pad, access to and use of the park will continue to grow. In light of these improvements and features, staff recommends starting a formal process to establish an official name for the park.

Staff proposes opening the naming process to the community through City social media and the City newsletter, inviting residents to submit name suggestions over a defined period. Staff will review all submissions and select the top three name options, which will be brought back to the Parks and Recreation Committee for consideration at the April meeting.

The goal is to finalize an official park name in advance of a planned ribbon-cutting ceremony around Memorial Day weekend, allowing the new name to be incorporated into signage and public communications.

Matt asked for a motion to move forward with this process. He mentioned that if the committee has any suggestions, we will open it up for further discussion. Committee approved the process. Matt will bring the park suggests to the next meeting in April.

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

### **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.

On April 9, Navigate Building Solutions and Project Advocates meet with our interview committee, which will include myself, Cynthia Wagner, Shaunna Houghton, and Leah Shipley. We provided one hour for each of them to introduce themselves and present their services, highlighting how these relate to this project. Following the presentations, the panel will have the opportunity to ask any questions.

After the interviews the committee discussed which firm they felt was best for the role and it was a tough decision, but we agreed to move forward with Navigate Building Solutions. Staff is working with Navigate Building Solutions to set up a meeting to move forward. More information will come soon.

### **OK Railroad Trail:**

On April 13, 2026, we officially broke ground on the OK Railroad Trail! Significant progress has been made and we are still pushing for a Memorial Weekend opening. More information to come.

# April 2026 Recreation Report

## Alex Hulet – Recreation Manager

### Sports

- **Youth Soccer**
  - Spring youth soccer is in their final week of games – no rainouts this season!
  - 29 total teams this season | 265 players | 40 volunteers
  - Brett is going to work on the fields this summer and help us grow grass, there are lots of bare spots especially in the goalie boxes.
- **Youth Baseball + Softball**
  - Practices started 4/6
  - First week of games begin next week 4/27
  - 19 Smithville teams | 8 Platte City teams | 12 Kearney teams
- **Youth T-ball**
  - Practices begin this Friday 4/24
  - 10 total teams | 128 players | 14 volunteers
- **Fall sports online registration will open July 1**
  - *Youth Soccer, Little Kickers Soccer Clinic, Youth T-ball, Youth Volleyball*

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
2021	180	40	140	105	71	178	32	68	49	132	New in 2024	<b>1,005</b>
2022	221	71	152	116	89	169	40	61	54	135	New in 2024	<b>1,110</b>
2023	228	50	139	109	77	195	32	87	53	150	New in 2024	<b>1,120</b>
2024	262	40	140	91	81	230	50	107	46	154	40	<b>1,241</b>
2025	302	30	136	92	107	178	32	90	62	172	46	<b>1,247</b>
2026	265	50	128	111	99							<b>653</b>

### Facility Rentals

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

### 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
<b>Total Participants</b>		<b>115</b>

## Marketing

**SPONSORSHIPS:** Sponsorship opportunities are here! [Smithvillemo.org/sponsorship](http://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 is now 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.