

City of Smithville, Missouri
Parks and Recreation Committee
October 22, 2026, 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.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes from May 28, 2026, Parks and Recreation Committee**
3. **Staff Report**
4. **Smith's Fork Park Project Update Presentation**
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Adjourn**

Posted by Linda Drummond, City Clerk, October 19, 2026 4:30 p.m. 107 W. Main St., Smithville, MO 64089

City of Smithville, Missouri
Parks and Recreation Committee
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6:00 PM
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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 April 23, 2026, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting**
   Mayor made a motion to amend the April 23, 2026 minutes to show that Hailey voted No, not Yes, on the park name. Hailey made a motion. Shauna seconded the motion. Voice vote, all ayes.

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

3. **Staff Report**

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 will follow. The project is anticipated to be complete by the 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!

4. Park Naming Discussion for Current "Diamond Crest Park":

Matt followed up on the recent April meeting regarding the park naming discussion. While the process moved forward, the outcome differed somewhat from the approach initially outlined.

At the January meeting, the committee 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.

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

Matt provided 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 Aldermen 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.

Matt said the 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.

The Committee decided to select a name from the previously reviewed list that aligns with the established criteria.

Shauna made the motion to name the park OK Railroad Park and Trail. Ben seconded the motion. Roll call: Shauna, yes. Hailey, yes. Leeah, yes. Mayor, yes. Ben, yes. Passed 5-0.
Leeah made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 PM. Ben seconded. All ayes.

SMITHVILLE missouri	STAFF REPORT
Date:	**October 22, 2026**
Prepared By:	**Matt Denton, Parks and Recreation**
Subject:	**Staff Update**

OK Railroad Trail Update:

On July 1, 2026, we cut the ribbon on the OK Railroad Trail! I want to say thank you to those who attended. Since the completion of the trail, the park and trail has been highly used. We hear often that the park is always busy. Based on PlacerAI date, usage of the park is up 15% year to date.

Heritage Park Parking Lot:
On August 27, 2026, the Heritage Park parking lot was resurfaced! Staff brought the project to the Administration after another project came in at a good price and the City had savings available. When staff presented it to the BOA at the financial retreat, they agreed it was a priority and to move forward.

Concrete Repairs:
On September 2, 2026, contractors repaired concrete at multiple parks and city-owned properties. Major repairs happened at the campground and Smith's Fork tennis courts. This was brought forward by Brett during his facilities inspection. After discussion with our insurance provider, they recommended that the high-priority areas be repaired as soon as possible. The BOA allocated funds at the same time as the Heritage Parking Lot project.

Park Map/Website:
During the summer, Cassidy collaborated with a graphic designer to create a visitor guide and park map for the community and visitors. Brochures have been produced and distributed and has been added to our Parks and Recreation website.

Park Maintenance Report:

During Winter FY2026, staff completed epoxy flooring in the campground restrooms, added a window to the Activity Center office, and installed parking blocks at the Smith's Fork baseball fields and Spillway parking lot.

In the spring, staff installed four new gates at Smith's Fork Park, poured a concrete sidewalk along the west side of the Activity Center, installed concrete pads and new benches at Emerald Ridge Park, and installed a culvert on the Lake Remote Trail.

Summer/Fall projects included installing and relocating fencing at O.K. Railroad Park to accommodate the new trail. Staff also repaired 14 water leaks at the campground.

Winter FY2027 Planned Projects: Upcoming maintenance projects include grading campground ditches to improve drainage, improving the Lake Remote Trail with asphalt millings, extending the splash pad outlet, and removing the old streetlights at Courtyard Park. Staff also plans to upgrade tables and chairs at the Smithville Activity Center and purchase new equipment, including a batwing mower, UTV, compressor, and Courtyard tree.

Recreation Report:

- **Youth Soccer**
  - Fall youth soccer had their last games on 10/17 – no rainouts this season!
  - 22 total teams this season | 216 players | 31 volunteers

- **Youth Volleyball**
  - Practices started 4/6
  - First week of games begins next week, 4/27
  - 10 total teams this season | 88 players | 14 volunteers
  - We are maxed out on practice space; teams were extremely full, had to cap registration, and will need to speak to the school district about next year getting more gym dates for the growth of this program

- **Youth T-ball**
  - T-ball has one more week of games left – there have been two rainout dates
  - 6 total teams | 72 players | 8 volunteers

- **Little Kickers Soccer Clinic**
  - 30 players
  - 4-week and 6-week registration options

- **Spring sports online registration will open January 1**
  - *Youth Soccer, Little Kickers Soccer Clinic, Youth T-ball, Youth Baseball, Youth Softball*

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	**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	178	34	90	62	172	46	**1,247**
2026	265	50	128	111	99	216	30	72	87			**1,058**

Facility Rentals

2026						
	Park Shelters	Activity 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**
April	11	12	2	0	2	**27**
May	20	15	20	0	1	**56**
June	20	6	26	0	0	**52**
July	3	7	15	0	0	**25**
August	5	7	29	2	2	**45**
September	18	12	8	4	1	**43**

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
May 3	Symphony in the Park	100
May 6	SPR at the Farmers Market	25
May 4	Let's Learn Mahjong: 102	7
May 20	SPR at the Farmers Market	25
May 30	WildHERness Camp + Craft	15 FULL
May 29, June 12,19, 26	Pickleball Lessons – June Session	16 FULL
June 6	Let's Learn Mahjong: 101	16 FULL
June 8-12	Challenger Soccer Camp	32
June 10	SPR at the Farmers Market	25
June 20	WildHERness Women's Hike	20 FULL
June 27	Let's Learn Mahjong: 101	16 FULL
July 4	Smithville Fireworks Show	2,000
July 7	Let's Learn Mahjong: 102	12
July 19	Adult Pick Up Basketball	8
July 26	Adult Pick UP Basketball	8
July 6, 13, 20, 27	Mini Makers	60
July 7, 14, 21, 28	Books & Bites	60
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Popsicles at the Pad	100
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Yoga at the Courtyard	40
July 11, 18, 25	Picnic on the Playground	60
August 2	Adult Pick Up Basketball	3
August 9	Adult Pick Up Basketball	8
August 19	SPR at the Farmers Market	25
Sept 12	Touch-A-Truck	350
Sept 26	Fishing with a Firefighter	20
September 6, 13, 20, 27	Adult Pick Up Basketball	10
September 4, 11, 18, 25	Pickleball Lessons – September Session	16 FULL
October 2, 9, 16, 23	Pickleball Lessons – October Session	6
October 3	Howl-O-Ween	50
October 6, 13, 20, 27	Preschool Playdate	20
Total Participants		**3,268**

Marketing

MAPS: Smith's Fork Park | Downtown Smithville; Cassidy worked with a graphic designer to get these created. They look great! They have been distributed around town at regular pick up locations, if any business request prints we will gladly drop some off! They are also available digitally on our website at smithvillemo.org/maps

SPONSORSHIP UPDATE: Smithvillemo.org/sponsorship

- Current pledged sponsors for 2026:
  - GT Tow (HC Event Sponsor | $2,000)
  - Central Bank of the Midwest (HC Event Sponsor | $250)
  - Coulter Excavating (HC Event Sponsor | $100)
  - White Iron Ridge (HC Event Sponsor | $100)
  - Smithville Ford (Digital Sponsor: Newsletter + Website | $600)
  - Community In Action (Banner Sponsor | $750)
  - Stand Strong Fencing (Banner Sponsor | $500)
  - Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative (Banner Sponsor | $500)
  - Smithville Kiwanis Club (Banner Sponsor | $500)
  - KC Comfort Champs (Banner Sponsor | $500)

Total: **$5,800.00**

- Pending Haunted Campground sponsors ($800):
  - Murphy's Mobile Manicures ($500)
  - Farm Wife's Table, LLC ($100)
  - Nodaway Valley Bank ($100)
  - LC Interiors ($100)

Smith's Fork Park Project Update Presentation

Navigate Buildings Solution will be providing the Committee with an update on the Smith's Fork Park Project. Please see the attached PowerPoint Presentation.

As a reminder, Navigate is the Owner's Representative (OR) for the Smith's Fork Park Project. An 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.