

Michael Gonzalez
 Parks and Recreation Director
mgonzalez@ci.elgin.tx.us 512-285-6434



August 2019 Parks Report- Michael

Facility and Park Activity Summary	Number of uses August 2019		
	June	July	August
Park/ Pavilion Rental	9	11	4
Ball Field Rental	31	13	10
Fleming Community Center/ Rec Center rentals	37	61	31
Monthly Rec Memberships	224	201	180
Yearly Rec Membership	18	7	10
Pool Entries	2,246	2,903	1,353
Deposits	\$22,116.80	\$17,195.75	\$12,380

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The Parks Department is proud to be working towards efficient maintenance programs. Recently our team made repairs and upgrades to the irrigation system at Veterans’ Memorial in an effort to maintain healthy turf. In the long run, healthy turf is easier and cost less to maintain than weeds and seasonal grasses. This same approach is being applied to out maintenance operations in every park. What we are looking for is long term results that ultimately save the department on expenses and extensive labor.

The challenge in creating this type of work schedule is that there are some up front cost and labor initiatives. Getting past these first initial challenges should pave the way for easier task later on.

Our plan to get these objectives done is to prepare out in advance all the labor-intensive projects we have coming up and assign them to the work week to fit between our essential job functions.

By planning the work, creating a clear vision on where we want the department to go, I feel that can maximize our work output and ultimately improve more park areas for Elgin residents. We are excited to finish our work plan and implement this strategy.

August Happenings:

At the beginning of August we published and released our Fall/Winter Program Guide that covers events October – January including kickball and basketball leagues, special thematic events and the announcement of our big Texas Arbor Day celebration where we’ll be planting new trees to accomplish our goal of a “Park of All Seasons” in Elgin Memorial Park.

In the month of August we hosted a Scavenger Hunt through Main Street during Sip, Shop and Stroll to highlight our new local businesses and bring attention to the Parks & Recreation Haunted Escape Room at the Fleming Center. Our Escape Room was the first of it’s kind and drew 9 people over two sessions (we allowed 4-6 people per session) bringing in a total of \$96 in ticket sales.

At the end of the month we began our Trash Art Week where we partnered with Clever Tiger Art Gallery and Elgin Beta Space & Maker's Network to host recycled craft days leading up to our Trash Art Competition. We had 22 unique recycled art pieces submitted to the competition made by participants aged 2 to 65. The art was then displayed in the Elgin Recreation Center so everyone could see how creative our community is.

Morris Memorial Pool moved from Regular Season Hours to Late Summer Hours with the beginning of the school season, however we managed to maintain regular water aerobics sessions through the end of August to avoid disrupting our seniors' workout schedule.

Joseph Williams – Parks Superintendent

In the month of August, we started irrigation work and finished work on the softball field at Memorial Park. The new sod was watered and fertilized to have it ready by the time the fall season started at the end of the month. Everything went according to plan and the erosion issue that we have been having on the field should be much better although we have had no rain to check. We started work on Veterans park irrigation which has not worked in over a decade. This project is extensive due to the lack of use and the multiple line breaks over the years. So far, we have encountered 10 breaks in water lines and multiple breaks in control wires along with the central controller not working. All materials have been purchased and the system should be up and running by the first week of September if everything goes well and we find no other problems. Mowing has been cut back due to the lack of rain or irrigation in the parks. The areas that have irrigation have had the systems checked and any issues have been fixed. The parks that do have irrigation are on a weekly trim schedule.

Goals for September 2019

- Prepare for fall special Events
- Winterize the pool and equipment
- Resurface the gym floor at the Rec Center