



News Release

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July is Parks and Recreation Month

TOPEKA, KAN. – Since 1985, America has celebrated July as Parks and Recreation Month. The National Recreation and Park Association’s goal is to raise awareness of the vital impact that parks, recreation and conservation have on communities. Shawnee County Parks + Recreation has featured activities scheduled to celebrate the month:

July 4 – Spirit of Kansas Festival at Lake Shawnee

- Car Show starts at 9 a.m.
- Food and craft vendors open 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Blues Festival from 11 a.m. to approximately 9 p.m.
- Water Ski Show 6:30-7:45 p.m.
- Fireworks Display sponsored by Capitol Federal 10 p.m.
- Topeka Metro bus transportation from Rueger Sports Complex (2801 S. Kansas Avenue) beginning at 6 p.m.

July Thursdays – 50-cents off admission for the Gage Park Mini-Train in honor of the train’s 50th anniversary in Gage Park

July 15 – The Great 8 Fitness Promotion – Crestview Community Center

- Fitness classes on the hour from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- \$8 discount on a 20-visit SCP+R Fitness Pass
- Classes will be one-hour long with a Q & A at the end
- Additional open gym activities include pickleball, volleyball and basketball

July 27 – Big Screen Under the Stars – the movie “Hook”

- Bettis Family Sports Complex
- Gates open at 8 p.m.
- Concession stands open
- Movie starts at 9 p.m.
- Admission is free

This year’s Parks and Recreation Month’s theme is “Get Your Play On”. Play is a vital part of our mental well being, physical health and personal interactions. Local parks and

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recreation facilities are places for people to play and have fun.

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Shawnee County Parks + Recreation includes more than 50 miles of trails, 2,625 acres of parks and 320 annual days of sporting activities. In addition, the department offers recreation programs, educational programs and golf. A combination of tax dollars, user fees and private donations enables Shawnee County Parks and Recreation to offer parks, sporting and aquatic facilities with state-of-the-art features, and beautiful, nationally recognized gardens. According to a needs assessment 94 percent of residents visited a Shawnee County Parks and Recreation park or facility in the past year.