

City of Camden *Parks and Recreation*

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Our Mission

To meet the parks and recreational needs of all residents and visitors by providing a safe and diversified park system that encourages community pride, visionary planning and operations and environmental stewardship.

At the City of Camden Parks and Recreation Department, we are in the people business! It is our intent that individuals of all abilities, ages, interests and needs, feel welcome in our programs and our facilities.

Camden Parks and Recreation is poised to become one of the best park systems in southwestern Arkansas. We are constantly adding new programs and upgrading our park system to keep up with the needs of our residents.



We want to be the number one stop for your family's fun and recreation. If there are any special needs accommodations, you might need in order to participate, please let us know. Parks and Recreation invites you to enjoy any (and all) of our parks, paved and natural trails. You may enjoy one of our free movies at "[Movies on the River](#)," a quick game of pick-up basketball, or swim at the [Carnes Park Aquatic Facility](#), or by playing tennis at one of our community tennis courts. Our bet is that you will enjoy it all... ***Come one, come all, enjoy the fun!!!***

General Information

The City of Camden Parks and Recreation Department manages all parks, playgrounds, sports fields, gazebos, overlooks, tennis courts, swimming pool, Skate Park, and picnic facilities -- you're sure to find a park to fit every need.



The City of Camden is dedicated to ensuring the establishment and preservation of community parks. In addition to establishing public lands, the Parks and Recreation Department contributes to recreational programs as well as other city projects. It's all part of the City's dedication to improving the quality of life for the residents of Camden, Arkansas.

City of Camden Parks

- [Carnes Park](#)
- [Ft. Sutherland Park](#)
- [Ivra Clark Park](#)
- Madison Clifton Mini Park
- Newspaper Hill
- [Riverfront](#)
- [Sandy Beach Park](#)
- Stinson Park
- [Van Buren Mini Park](#)
- [Washington Adams Mini Park](#)

Park Regulations

- Park hours (*all City of Camden parks*): Daylight until 10:00 p.m.
- Trash must be placed in proper receptacles
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed in parks
- No soliciting, vending or peddling
- Motorized vehicles on paved roads only
- Park in designated areas only
- No disfiguration or removal of property
- No fires except in fireplaces or grills
- No hunting
- No overnight camping
- Observe City of Camden noise control regulations
- Leash and clean up after pets

Parks and Recreation Reservations

Camden has gazebos and overlooks located in city parks that can be reserved for free (*a nominal deposit may be required*). All gazebos and overlooks are reserved on a first come-first-served basis beginning on January 1 of each calendar year. Gazebos and overlooks are available for company get-togethers, family reunions, or just a day at the park. Park amenities (*including available electricity and water*) are listed.

Camden Parks are for Fun!

Camden's parks are as unique and as diverse as any Parks System in the southwestern part of the county. The City of Camden has over 80 acres of parks, paved and natural walking trails, athletic fields, basketball courts, a swimming pool and a skate park, all of which provide something for everyone.



Camden's parks are designed with you and your family in mind. You will find parks to fit every need, and equipped for all sorts of activities: picnicking, boating, swimming, tennis, soccer, softball, baseball and more. And you can enjoy all that Camden parks have to offer, free of charge! Camden parks are the perfect place for public events such as our summer concerts. Parks are also ideal for private gatherings, like birthday parties, holiday outings and family reunions.



In partnership with the City Council and the [*Chamber of Commerce*](#), the Parks and Recreation Department contributes to many city recreation programs, such as the Boys and Girls Club and league sports. It is all part of our commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Camden, now and forever!

Camden Parks and Recreation...Come join the fun!

Natural Areas in Parks



What do you envision when you hear the word "Park"? Do you visualize a developed area with mown lawns, playground structures, walking trails and gazebos? The truth is that park properties come in many forms and varieties, and the parks in the City of Camden are no exception.

Camden's park system is diverse and includes several types of parks. Some of Camden's park properties are natural areas with few or even no amenities. Some may be frequently visited natural areas that contain developed trail systems, parking lots or overlooks. Others may be remote natural areas that are visited very infrequently. Both types of natural areas require minimal maintenance such as litter and weed control on an as needed basis, however regular mowing is not provided.



Other Camden park properties may be a combination of developed park land and natural areas that require minimum maintenance. In an effort to improve water quality and reduce maintenance, the Parks and Recreation Department is developing a plan to reforest portions of several parks in the upcoming years. Park users can expect to see a change over time in these areas as trees grow and begin to shade out areas that have historically been maintained. Reforesting areas along the creeks will serve many purposes including improving water quality, flora and fauna habitat, air quality and bank stabilization.

Park Planning and Urban Forestry

What is an Urban Forest?

Urban forests are made up of public and private forests, prairies, wetlands and other ecological communities that provide environmental services to the urban and/or suburban community of Camden. The concept of urban forestry is based on the management of trees and other vegetation on public and private land. Community trees make up the urban forest and can be found along streets, in parks, on public property, and on private property. Landscaping required of new developments also is a community asset and can be found in the same places. It is the combination of these trees and landscapes which create the urban forest. As a community, we receive multiple benefits from trees and plantings within the urban forest.



This urban forest provides benefits that are fundamental to our city's livability and vitality, such as clean air and water, cooler streets and homes, enhanced retail sales, beauty, and wildlife habitat. These elements are essential to the prosperity, health and comfort of any city.

Benefits of Trees

Not only do trees add to the aesthetics of our city, shade our trails, and give good homes to wildlife; trees also provide economical, environmental, and behavioral benefits. Using trees as wind blocks or as shade producers will



decrease your utility bill. Trees also remove huge quantities of pollutants from the air and aid in erosion control and decrease storm water peak flow runoff. It has been proven that given a green shady area to relax or play in, a person will stay calmer and remain longer. Trees planted where they can be observed from residential dwellings, hospitals rooms or school classrooms can reduce crime rates, quicken patient recovery rates and increase child productivity.

Camden Park Management

Camden's Park and Recreation program is managed by two entities within the City Government:

- 1) Street tree maintenance is performed by the Street Department right-of-way work crews.
- 2) Park and trail tree maintenance is carried out by the Parks and Recreation Department crews.

As representatives of the people of Camden, the city's management practices focus on providing an urban forest that is safe, healthy, diverse, and able to provide the greatest benefit to the people, wildlife and environment of our city.

Camden Parks and Recreation!

Camden Parks and Recreation has a wide variety of recreation programs we offer to the citizens of Camden. Our programs include youth and adult soccer, youth and adult softball, adult kickball, adult flag football, summer camps, and swim lessons, along with all activities at the individual park community centers. Volunteer organizations manage activities in our parks for youth baseball, tennis, and volleyball.

Carnes Park Aquatic Facility

(870) 837-5577

Swim for fun and fitness!

Carnes Park Aquatic Facility is the only municipal pool operated in the City of Camden. Although the Aquatic Facility may be the only pool, it provides a wealth of atmosphere for your swimming experience. Tucked into one of Camden's most popular parks, Carnes Park Pool is surrounded by shade trees and beautiful landscaping. The Carnes Park Aquatic Facility is operated by the Christian Sports Association (CSA) through a two-year contract with the City of Camden. Activities offered, in addition to recreational swimming sessions, include popular water aerobic exercise and swim lessons. The pool is also available for private parties.



The Carnes Park Aquatic Facility is open for recreational swimming, instructional swim lessons, fitness opportunities and family swim times.

For hours of operation call (870) 837-5577

Swim Lessons

Red Cross certified swimming lessons are available to children and adults of all skill levels. Classes are available for young children and high-level instructional lessons for more advanced swimmers. Swim lesson registration is handled at the pool office only.



Private Parties

The Carnes Park Aquatic Facility is available to rent for your next birthday, office, school, team, neighborhood or family party! The pool can be reserved for hours before or after normal pool hours. For example, hours are after 8:00 pm during the week or before 1:00 pm on Saturday. Rental fees depend on number of hours and number of guests.

For more information, please call (870) 837-5577.

Carnes Park Skate Park



TRAIL SAFETY & ETIQUETTE

BE COURTEOUS

- Yield to others when entering and crossing the trail
- Faster trail users should yield to slower traffic
- Move off the trail when stopped to allow others to pass

BE SAFE

- Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle
- Use bicycle lights and reflectors after dusk and before dawn.
- Cyclists should use hand signals to alert others when they intend to turn
- Maintain control of your speed at all times. Approach turns in anticipation of someone around the bend
- Watch and listen for others
- Trail speed limit is 15 M.P.H.

STAY TO THE RIGHT

PASS WITH CARE

- Look ahead and behind before passing
- Ring a bell or give clear, verbal warning by saying "passing" to nearby trail users before passing
- Pass slower traffic on their left
- Yield to oncoming traffic when passing

PROTECT THE TRAILS AND SURROUNDING ECOSYSTEMS

- Stay on the trails to protect vegetation and minimize potential erosion
- "Leave no Trace" — Keep trails litter free by carrying out anything you carry in
- Do not ride on wet or muddy nature trails
- Avoid locking wheels and skidding on steep nature trails. Dismount and walk your bike
- Do not disturb wildlife
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on trails, except motorized wheelchairs



BE RESPONSIBLE WITH PETS

- Keep all pets on a leash within 4 feet
- Pick up after pet waste