

Welcome to the City of Dickson

PARKS & RECREATION NEWSLETTER

October 2026 Fall Looks Good on Our Parks



Fall can be seen all over our parks, but of our favorite sights in just outside our office door.



RANGER SPOTLIGHT

CHRIS "MAC" MCCLELLAN

Chris "Mac" McClellan has been part of Dickson Parks & Recreation since 2017, after retiring from the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

Mac is known around the department for his quick wit, good-natured sense of humor and ability to keep everyone on their toes. Underneath the jokes is someone who cares deeply about our parks, his coworkers and the community we serve.

He is also our unofficial keeper of things that might come in handy someday. Need an unusual tool, part or gadget? Ask Mac. Chances are he has one tucked away somewhere - and probably remembers exactly where he put it.

FALL LOOKS GOOD ON OUR PARKS

October is one of those months when Parks & Recreation seems to have something happening around every corner. From trucks and airplanes to camping, fall color and Halloween fun, there truly is something for just about everyone.

Our calendar stays busy well beyond October, too. The next several weeks bring opportunities to get outside, spend time with family, enjoy familiar traditions and try something new. There is no shortage of things to do in our parks from now through December.

This is a busy season for our staff, but it is also one of the most rewarding. Seeing families fill our parks reminds us why so much planning goes into these events. Whether you join us for one afternoon or make Parks part of your family's fall routine, we hope you'll find a reason to get outside and enjoy the season with us.

Welcome to the City of Dickson Parks,
Nikki Holland, Program Coordinator

FALL PARK TIP

Pack an extra layer. Fall afternoons can turn cool quickly, especially as the sun goes down. Keep a light jacket or blanket in the car so an evening at the park doesn't have to end early.

WHAT DOES A PARK RANGER DO?

Park Rangers are often some of the most visible members of our team, but their work goes far beyond patrolling and enforcing the law. They help visitors, support special events, check facilities, respond to concerns, assist staff, and help keep our parks safe and welcoming every day.

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TOUCH A TRUCK TAKES TO THE SKY

October kicks off in a big way with Touch A Truck on October 3 from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM at the Dickson Municipal Airport. Families can climb in, look around and learn about vehicles that work on the ground - while our Fly-In partnership adds an entirely different view of transportation.

Visitors will have opportunities to see aircraft up close, sit in flying vehicles and take airplane rides for a fee. The first hour, 10:00-11:00 AM, is sensory-friendly, with additional supports available for guests who may need a quieter experience.

Touch A Truck has always been about giving children the chance to explore the vehicles they see working in their community. Bringing the Fly-In into the experience makes this year's event a chance to look beyond the road and discover what happens in the sky, too.

WHEN WILL THE LEAVES CHANGE?

EARLY OCTOBER

Mostly green with the first hints of yellow and red.

MID-OCTOBER

More color begins appearing.

LATE OCTOBER

Often one of our best windows for widespread fall color.

EARLY NOVEMBER

Late-season color may remain as more leaves begin to fall.

CAPTURE YOUR PARKS

Fall gives us a new way to see familiar places. Changing leaves, cooler temps, wildlife, family outings and quiet moments can turn an ordinary park visit into a photograph worth keeping. Our Parks Photo Contest is a chance to show us the parks through your eyes. Remember: entries should be photos you took yourself, and images featuring people should include permission from the individual or a parent or guardian. Selected photos may be featured by the department throughout the year.

Enter here: <https://forms.gle/bXy3Mt4JtMKhUetWA> or on the Parks Dept. Website.



ONE LAST SPLASH

The water at the Henslee Splash Pad will stop flowing at 8:00 PM on October 18. The splash pad will remain closed until spring 2027.

The playground and green space remain open, so families can continue enjoying Henslee Park throughout fall and winter.

CAMPING IN THE PARK

We are counting down to October 9-10 and cannot wait to see registered families enjoying the activities, meals, campfire fun and time together we have organized at Henslee Park.

All campsites are full and a waiting list is in place. If you missed this one, watch for our next Camping in the Park planned for spring/summer.

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HALLOWEEN NIGHT BELONGS AT HENSLEE

Haunting at Henslee returns October 31 from 5:30-8:30 PM with an evening of family-friendly Halloween fun. Families can enjoy hayrides, food trucks, prizes, candy, face painting, Jeeps & Treats and more. Costumes are encouraged, so start planning now and join us for one of our favorite fall traditions.

LOOKING AHEAD: HONORING OUR VETERANS

Mark your calendar for November 15 at 2:30 PM at Holland Park for a special Veterans Day concert. Along with live music, families can enjoy face painting, balloon art, a bounce house and more family fun. Bring the family and help us honor those who have served.

COMING UP IN OUR PARKS

Touch A Truck - Oct. 3 | 10 AM-2 PM | Airport
 Camping in the Park - Oct. 9-10 | Full/Waitlist
 Music in the Park (Henslee Park): Jenna Jane - Oct. 9 | 6 PM
 Splash Pad closes - Oct. 18 | 8 PM
 Haunting at Henslee - Oct. 31 | 5:30-8:30 PM
 Veterans Concert - Nov. 15 | 2:30 PM | Holland

MAKE THE MOST OF OCTOBER

October is one of the best months to rediscover your favorite park. Take an evening walk, pack a picnic, go fishing on a cool morning, photograph the changing leaves or visit a playground you haven't been to lately. You don't need an event on the calendar to enjoy fall in your parks - sometimes a simple afternoon outside is all you need.