

2022

City of Marion Annual Report

Delivering on
Our Promise



MaRion
IOWA
Reach higher!



NICOLAS ABOUSSALY, Mayor
marionmayor@cityofmarion.org



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



RANDY STRNAD, At Large
marionatlarge1@cityofmarion.org

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to present the City of Marion's Annual Report for 2022 on behalf of the Marion City Council and our entire City team.



COLETTE ATKINS, Ward 1
ward1@cityofmarion.org

In a year punctuated by the completion of several major public and private investments in the community and considerable progress on several others, Marion delivered on its promise of progress. With projects like the new Marion Public Library, the expansion of our trail system, new housing and retail options and recent announcements about emergency medical services, we're taking things up a notch.



STEVE JENSEN, Ward 2
ward2@cityofmarion.org

City leaders and our community partners are laser-focused on making Marion a place that people want to be. We are adding value through growth and development and we are finding ways to embrace that growth while preserving our city's history.



WILL BRANDT, Ward 3
ward3@cityofmarion.org

When we look at the results of our biennial community survey and see that 92 percent of our residents rate the community as an excellent or good place to live, 90 percent rate the overall quality of life positively and 90 percent of respondents say they would recommend living in Marion to someone who asks, we know our efforts are paying off.



SARA MENTZER, Ward 4
ward4@cityofmarion.org

More than 43,000 people now call Marion their home, making it Iowa's 13th-largest city and one of the fastest-growing cities in the state. I have no doubt our city will continue to grow and prosper as we reach higher every day to shape a community where businesses can thrive and residents have the best opportunities for a great quality of life.

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2022 Annual Report. We know you'll agree that the future is bright here in Marion. Let's keep reaching higher.

Nicolas AbouAssaly
Mayor



GRANT HARPER, At Large
marionatlarge2@cityofmarion.org



MAKING PROGRESS

7th Avenue Reconstruction & Streetscape Project Completed

Marion celebrated a major milestone with the completion of the 7th Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape Project. The work, spanning two construction seasons, included the reconstruction of the street and sidewalks and the replacement of underground utilities, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water main on 7th Avenue and the adjacent side streets between 8th and 12th Streets and 6th and 8th Avenues in the historic central business district. It also added a plaza on 11th Street that stretches from the Uptown Artway south across 7th Avenue.

The project improves walkability, accessibility and overall safety in the heart of the community. Angled parking spaces were added on the south side of 7th Avenue and the number of designated accessible parking spaces in Uptown tripled. In addition, the City worked with building and business owners to update fire suppression systems and ADA entrances. New community gathering spaces were incorporated to make the area attractive to potential businesses, visitors and residents.

Staff and Council Revisit Strategic Plan

The City partnered with Monica Allen of Insight Performance Management to update the Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2023-2025. The leadership team and City Council met in June to revisit the plan. This was done to align with the onboarding of new Council members and teammates, reflect the latest

Community Survey results and ultimately integrate with the budget process. The focus areas include Vibrant Community, Efficient & Effective Government, Community & Economic Development, Sustainable Infrastructure & Services, Safe Community and Team Marion. Strategies are being added as City staff work through the budget process. City Council is expected to adopt the budget and new Strategic Plan concurrently in March 2023.

Commitment to Equity & Inclusion

Marion is committed to creating a vibrant and welcoming community that is accessible, attractive and open to all residents and visitors.

Several activities to support this effort occurred in 2022. The City continued its work to build out the \$1.2 million records management system, which will allow for enhanced data collection by the Police Department. The project was completed in February 2023. Employee training was another focus and several staff members/departments within the City participated in a variety of equity-related learning opportunities. Topics included intercultural competence, implicit bias, having difficult conversations about race and DEIB (diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging) to name a few. Another highlight from 2022 includes the Police Department's approach to recruiting diverse candidates for both sworn and non-sworn positions within the department.

The City stands by its commitment to becoming a more diverse, high-performing and inclusive organization.

Trails

Pedestrian Bridge over Marion Boulevard |

The pedestrian bridge over Marion Boulevard, part of the CeMar Trail project, serves as a gateway for pedestrians and motorists alike as they head into Uptown Marion. This bridge was a critical connection to the trail network and provides a grade-separated crossing. It gives bicyclists and pedestrians safe access to the Grant Wood Trail that extends from east to west through the community and follows the former railroad right-of-way. A ribbon-cutting celebration occurred in July 2022 with gateway art to be installed in the future.

10th Avenue Sidepaths | The City celebrated the completion of the 10th Avenue Sidepaths project, stretching from Hy-Vee to Walmart, in September. With the construction of a mile-long, 10-foot-wide trail on either side of the highway, the project provides a safe, convenient connection for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling between residential areas and businesses. The shared-use path also connects to the Grant Wood Trail at 35th Street.

Indian Creek Trail | The Indian Creek Trail is a new trail connection that follows Indian Creek through the heart of Marion from the Boyson Trail to Tower Terrace Road. Thanks to an easement from Linn-Mar Community School District, old culverts that once presented flood hazards were able to be removed and replaced with a single-span bridge. Additionally, this trail will provide recreational connections to a number of the projects proposed in the Indian Creek Master Plan, as part of the Creekside Pride initiative. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is anticipated this spring.



Marion Awarded \$3 Million in Destination Iowa Funding

The City of Marion was awarded \$3 million from Destination Iowa to be used for the development of a Central Plaza and the completion of the final phase of the CeMar Trail, which connects Uptown Marion to Downtown Cedar Rapids. Together these projects will serve as a dynamic, regional asset for attracting residents, tourists and visitors to Marion and bring more than a decade of planning and public investment in Marion's Uptown District to life.

Plaza amenities include a dedicated performance space, ice skating loop, fire tables and seating, interactive play sculptures and green space additions.

The final 1.3 miles of the CeMar Trail will connect Uptown Marion with the Czech/NewBo Main Street Districts, providing trail users with a unique biking experience and destination with limited use of city streets. The total project investment is over \$9 million.

The development of design and construction documents is underway with construction projected to begin in 2023.

Quality of Life Receives High Marks in the National Community Survey

In early 2022, the City of Marion partnered with Polco and the National Research Center, Inc. to conduct The National Community Survey™. The survey measures the overall livability of communities and looks at the relationship between government entities, the private sector, community-based organizations and the residents of a geographic area.

For Marion, 92 percent of residents rated the community as an excellent or good place to live and 90 percent rated the overall quality of life positively. In the area of governance, overall customer service, value for services paid, confidence in city government and honesty all improved by more than six percentage points.

Marion ranked well above the national and peer benchmarks with 92 percent of respondents indicating that Marion is an excellent or good place to raise children. K-12 education also ranked higher than both benchmarks at 89 percent, and 86 percent of residents positively rated the overall feeling of safety in Marion. Nine in 10 respondents would recommend living in Marion to someone who asked.

In addition to the high marks for quality of life and a strong sense of safety in Marion, nine in 10 residents identified utility infrastructure as a priority. While several aspects of Marion's economy showed improvement since the 2019 iteration of the survey, the economy continues to be a focus for residents.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A community that provides excellent job opportunities, attracts and retains quality businesses and engages in partnerships and services that allow for ongoing growth in Marion.

Housing Needs Analysis | As Marion's population continues to grow, so does the need for different types of housing. Maxfield Research and Consulting, LLC completed a Housing Needs Analysis in September and assessed demographic/economic data and housing market conditions for Marion. The finished report provides calculations of housing demand between 2022-2030. It also explores senior housing and the rental market and offers recommendations to address both the challenges and opportunities outlined in the report.

Several housing projects made significant progress in 2022, including the Green Park Apartments at the site of the former YMCA and the Boulevard Apartments that are going up where Hames Homes once stood. The units at Broad & Main on 7th began leasing last fall. An additional 250 rental units are expected to come online in Marion in the next 12-18 months.

Business Innovation & Support | Marion City Council awarded 31 local small businesses a combined \$400,000 through the Business Innovation & Support Grant program. The program was administered as a partnership between the City and the Chamber of Commerce with funds provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The intent was to help small businesses, with one to 10 employees, that were impacted by the pandemic and continued to demonstrate innovation and growth.

The awards ranged in size from \$5,500 to \$15,500 and required a 25 percent cash match by the business. Each award came with up to five hours of mandatory business counseling by a pre-approved business coach.

Community Developer's Guide | The City of Marion and Marion Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) published a streamlined Developer's Guide to assist developers and businesses as they navigate the City's development process. Supporting a commitment to being the community where a project can move forward faster than anywhere else, the guide

provides a concise resource for understanding zoning, building, permitting and inspection processes. The guide is available online or as a printable document. It also includes key contacts and offers an overview of financial assistance programs.

Marion Community Build Program |

Marion Community Build is a partnership between MEDCO, the City of Marion, Marion Independent School District, Linn-Mar Community School District and multiple business partners. Students recently completed a second home renovation and the project was listed for sale at the beginning of 2023. Throughout the school year, students worked together to learn about framing, siding, roofing and many other skills. An additional property was recently acquired for renovation. Students will also begin construction on a new single-family home in the spring.

Cowork 1107 | MEDCO celebrated the opening of its new office in November along with Cowork 1107. Both are collocated at 1107 7th Avenue, Ste. 201 in Marion. Cowork 1107 offers a shared, community-driven workspace for location-independent workers and entrepreneurs.

Uptown Marion | The landscape of Uptown has changed significantly over the past year with new infrastructure, businesses and redevelopment. One of the most noticeable changes is Broad & Main on 7th which celebrated its grand opening in November. This private investment, partnered with strategically-planned public investments, like the Marion Public Library, the 7th Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape project and the proposed Central Plaza, is breathing new life into the central business district.

Marion Chamber of Commerce | Quality of life and placemaking initiatives spur economic development and make Marion a desired place to live and do business. In 2022, the Marion Chamber collaborated with the City to submit a successful \$3 million Destination Iowa grant application. The Chamber and Uptown Marion organizations were heavily involved in the 7th Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape project. Their business support efforts resulted in 100 percent retention of local businesses in the project area. The Creekside Pride initiative moved ahead with the adoption of the Indian Creek Master Plan and the Chamber was proud to host Marion's inaugural Oktoberfest event in September. In 2023, the Chamber is anticipating the delivery of the Americans for the Arts Economic Prosperity Study and the 10-year redesignation of Marion as an Iowa Great Place.



MEDCO

In 2022, supported construction projects in the community valued at

\$66 million

77%

of MEDCO partner businesses created new jobs in 2022

Partnered with the community to celebrate

5

groundbreakings

UPTOWN MARION DISTRICT

Since 2013 (program inception)

\$47 million

in private investments through building acquisitions, rehabilitations and new construction

\$1 million

in state grants to rehabilitate our historic buildings

152

business starts and expansions

11,721

volunteer hours

CHAMBER

In the last year,

31

groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings

12

free community events

\$20,000+

in Marion gear sold at the Marion Welcome Center

PROSPECT MEADOWS

In 2022,

958

teams from 19 states participated in tournaments

122,495

people attended

Kiwanis Miracle League hosted a record

102

participants in the fall

VIBRANT COMMUNITY

One that is accessible, attractive and open to all members of the community and visitors and that aligns with having a *high quality of life in Marion.*



Marion Public Library

LIBRARY

Offered
270

programs which drew over

5,970
attendees

Welcomed
24,700
patrons

Used social media
channels (Facebook, Twitter,
Instagram and TikTok)

to reach over
100,000
users combined
in FY 2022

“Excitement and anticipation” are two words that summarize the activities and feelings surrounding the Marion Public Library in 2022. After more than a year and a half of construction, Marion’s new, community-centered library became a reality when the building opened to the public on Nov. 10. Between its opening date and the end of 2022, it’s evident that the new library is a much-needed community resource with something for everyone.

Between working out of five temporary library locations and preparing to move into the new space, library employees consistently put the community first, designed innovative programming and stepped up to help with the various challenges of operating multiple locations. This commitment to exceptional library service earned the library team a Citation of Merit Award from the Iowa Library Association (ILA) in October 2022. This award recognizes groups or individuals who made contributions to or advanced the principles of quality library service.

In addition to highlights from the new library and its staff, the Marion Public Library Foundation closed out its \$3 million private fundraising goal of the Our Next Chapter capital campaign, which included funding for the new library on 6th Avenue and a mobile library branch. This bookmobile is anticipated to arrive during the summer of 2023.

With numerous possibilities on the horizon during the coming year, staff are eager to utilize the new library and the bookmobile to their full potential to meet Marion’s growing needs and support our community’s readers, creators, dreamers and learners.

Parks and Recreation

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department provides a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities that encourage healthy, active lifestyles and lifelong learning.

Some of the highlights from 2022 included the painting of the dual-purpose Hanna Park basketball and pickleball court, the replacement of the Taube Park parking lot and the construction of the playground at Prairie Hill Park. The department also enhanced winter lights décor throughout the community and facilitated the installation of the new Community Peace Tree.

The Parks and Recreation Department offered 286 programs and activities in 2022, an increase from 211 in 2021. New offerings included the Movies on the Move series, a youth triathlon, a learn-to-kayak session, Snapology and REC United soccer in partnership with Hiawatha and Cedar Rapids.

Priorities for 2023 include the replacement of the pavilion and restrooms at Hanna Park, completion of the Lowe Park Master Plan, completion of Prairie Hill Park and further exploration of the relocation of the caboose to a pocket park along the Grant Wood Trail. The department will also continue to work on land acquisition and a funding plan for the proposed aquatic center.

In addition to the typical work program of the department, derecho recovery continues. In 2022, over 1,400 trees and seedlings were planted in public areas, over 1,000 free, native trees were distributed to residents through Monarch Research and more than \$123,000 was secured from seven different entities to support replanting efforts.



PARKS AND RECREATION

600+ acres

of parks and greenspaces

35+ miles

of trails/sidepaths maintained

85

pieces of playground equipment inspected

3,700

annuals planted

406

pavilion rentals

286

programs/activities offered

18,700

pool admissions

URBAN FORESTRY

Over

1,400

new trees and seedlings planted in city parks and rights-of-way, supported by

\$123,000

in grants and donations

Tree City USA

29

years and running

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Investments in road, water, trees and sewer to create a long-term approach to maintaining the physical infrastructure for residents and visitors.



Engineering

The Engineering Department is responsible for the construction and reconstruction of the transportation network and underground infrastructure throughout the community.

In 2022, the City completed the highly anticipated 7th Avenue Streetscape and Reconstruction project, installed a roundabout at the intersection of Echo Hill and Alburnett Roads and implemented turn lane improvements and traffic signals at S. 31st Street and Highway 100.

Grading and underground utility work happened on a new stretch of Tower Terrace Road, from C Avenue to Alburnett Road. The first phase of the 3rd Avenue Reconstruction project was completed from 26th to 31st Streets and more than \$1 million was invested in asphalt overlay projects.

The Engineering Department continues to build, inspect and design multiple projects as part of its \$65 million work program. Construction of the Central Plaza is anticipated in 2023 in

partnership with Rinderknecht Associates. Work is anticipated on the second phase of the 3rd Avenue Reconstruction project, Segment 7 of the Indian Creek Trunk Sewer project and the rehabilitation of 10th Avenue from 35th Street to Highway 13. Grading and utility work will continue on Tower Terrace Road from Alburnett Road to the Marion city limits. Pavement patching, the annual asphalt overlay program and the development of a Stormwater Master Plan are also anticipated.

Water

The Marion Water Department is dedicated to providing a safe, high quality and reliable water supply that meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water requirements.

In 2022, the Water Department completed a \$2.87 million Iron Removal Plant at 2351 31st Street. This plant is capable of producing 2.1 million gallons of water per day to meet the existing and future water demands for Marion's growth. This site receives water from both the Jordan and Silurian Aquifers.

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Contractors installed 3.55 miles of new water main in Marion last year. Approximately 2,600 feet of old water main were replaced by both private contractors and Water Department staff.

In 2023, the Water Department will be spending approximately \$3 million on various capital improvement projects, such as a new Silurian Well #11, replacing old water mains, repainting a ground storage tank and an elevated water tower, installing new water mains and buying new fire hydrants.

Planning

Zoning Map Update | The City of Marion completed its update of the citywide zoning map in October. The zoning map was last overhauled in 1972. All City zoning districts have new names; however, the permitted uses and development standards for many districts, particularly the residential ones, did not substantially change. Residential properties within the original town and some properties built out prior to 1972 now have reduced setbacks and lot widths. These changes reduce the number of non-conforming lots and structures that were created by the last update.

Architectural Design Standards and Site Development Plan Review | The Planning Division worked to establish minimum community-wide design requirements and a formalized site development plan review process to align with the Marion Comprehensive Plan. The new code applies to all uses community-wide except for dwellings consisting of one to four units. The architectural design requirements also exclude non-occupiable structures on a property with a Public Institutional (PI) or Recreational and Open Space (ROS) zoning classification or uses on a property with a Central Corridor or Manufacturing zoning classification. The formalized site plan review process is required by all projects and sites considered as being redeveloped per the code, excluding properties zoned Planned Unit Development (PUD), or those with the Central Corridor zoning classification as they have a separate formalized review processes to follow.

Public Services

The Public Services Department is responsible for maintaining the City's infrastructure in a cost-effective and efficient manner. Department activities include street repair and maintenance, traffic maintenance, snow and ice control, street cleaning, stormwater and sanitary sewer maintenance and garbage collection. The department provides services to Marion residents as well as to many neighboring communities.

In 2022, the Public Services Department continued to make progress on the community's derecho recovery efforts and worked behind the scenes to close out some of the associated FEMA projects. The team is also working to execute a new wastewater treatment agreement with the City of Cedar Rapids. A sanitation study is currently underway, which will solicit public input in the coming months. The study is expected to be completed and implemented in 2023.

The two biggest initiatives on the docket for 2023 will be the advancement of the new Public Services Facility and the replacement of the fleet. These two projects account for roughly half of the \$69.1 million Capital Improvements Program (CIP) in FY 2024. In 2019, construction began on a new Public Services Facility, north of Highway 100 and west of 44th Street. The structure was affected by the derecho and later demolished. Since then, the Public Services Department has been working with a design team from Shive Hattery and construction manager Conlon Construction to move the project forward.

ENGINEERING

9

active subdivisions

30+

active commercial sites

10

active Capital Improvement Projects under construction

23

projects being designed or out to bid

WATER

18,776 feet

of new water main installed in new subdivisions

2,600 feet

of old water main replaced

41

new fire hydrants installed

185

new water accounts bringing the new total to 15,243

PUBLIC SERVICES

Crews stop at over

12,500 houses

per week to collect garbage/recycling

6,500 tons

of garbage was gathered at the curb

1,350 tons

of recycling

34,377 cars

visited the Recycling Drop-Off Center

43,011 cars

visited the Yard Waste Facility

SAFE COMMUNITY

A community where all residents, businesses and visitors *feel safe.*

BUILDING

9,379

inspections completed
in FY 2022

3,412

permits issued

369

new homes or housing units

4,617

registered rental units in Marion

18

new commercial
buildings/units in progress

FIRE

4,961

calls for service in 2022,

85%

were medical calls

732

were fire calls

POLICE

25,862

calls for service

759

accidents

583

motorist assists

1,051

proactive patrols

911

COMMUNICATIONS
CENTER

10,485

emergency calls

49,510

non-emergency calls

Building

The Building Inspection Division within the Community Development Department works to ensure a safe, secure and stable built environment through uniform and fair enforcement of all building and related codes. Inspectors are required to have a thorough knowledge of building codes and construction techniques.

In 2022, 9,379 inspections were completed. The number of permits issued returned to more manageable numbers after a spike in recent years caused by the 2020 hailstorm and derecho.

The Building Inspection Division celebrated its first full year using a digital plan review process, including an online portal for contractors, which reduces the City's carbon footprint. The Building Inspection team logged over 200 hours of continuing education in 2022 to ensure a safe built environment throughout Marion.

Marion is currently home to more than 4,600 rental housing units and will be adding more than 260 in the next 12-18 months. Staff conducted more than 2,500 housing inspections in 2022.

Looking ahead, the division expects to adopt the 2023 National Electrical Code for Marion and introduce new software to help streamline the process for rental housing inspections and permitting in the City of Marion.

Fire

Marion Fire Department is charged with the responsibility of protecting the lives and property of Marion residents and visitors. Whether the emergency is fire, illness, trauma, hazardous material release or special rescue, Marion Fire is equipped to meet this responsibility.

The biggest change for the department came with the transition to new leadership. Former Fire Chief Deb Krebill retired in March 2022 after 31 years of service to the community. The City welcomed new Fire Chief Tom Fagan in September. Fagan brings more than 22 years of experience to the position, having worked his way through the ranks at the Lee's Summit Fire Department in Lee's Summit, MO and the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department in Lawrence, KS.

The development of a community-driven Strategic Plan is in the works to formalize the direction of the Fire Department based on input from both internal and external stakeholders. The creation of an Emergency Operations Plan and a Continuity of Operations Plan are also slated for 2023 to help the City respond effectively to large-scale events that impact Marion.

Residents can also expect the department to launch a new truck deployment system for emergencies, leveraging the closest unit via GPS Automatic Vehicle Location positioning for the fastest response time possible. With the approval of the proposed FY 2024 budget, Marion Fire will be recruiting and hiring six new firefighters to support staffing Marion's three fire stations.

Police

The Marion Police Department has taken several steps over the past three years to improve operational efficiencies. In 2021, the department partnered with Foundation 2 to have a full-time mental health liaison assigned to the Marion PD. Since the partnership began, the liaison has responded to several hundred calls and conducted follow-up visits with individuals in the community who were experiencing mental health issues. More than 85 percent of those incidents resulted in either an in-place stabilization or voluntary committal to the hospital, which are both positive outcomes for those in crisis.

SAFE COMMUNITY



Last year, the Marion Police Department entered into a new agreement with the Cedar Valley Humane Society (CVHS) to provide animal control services for the city. From 2016 to 2021, officers spent over 100 hours per year dealing with stray animals. Under the new contract, community members take strays directly to the CVHS facility located at 7411 Mt. Vernon Road SE in Cedar Rapids instead of the Police Department and officers are no longer required to be present or involved in the incident.

The Police Department has also taken steps to improve its ability to use data and intelligence to drive decisions regarding patrol activities and resource allocation by purchasing a new

computer-aided dispatch and records management system. The new system went live in February 2023. It allows supervisors to quickly identify trouble spots around the city so sufficient resources can be deployed in a timely manner, provides an advanced case-management capability that makes it easier for investigators to track criminal patterns and makes the sharing of information with other agencies and the public much easier. Technology is also being used to increase the speed at which we can respond to records requests while reducing the costs associated with retrieving those records.

Marion Public Safety Communications Center | Maintaining staffing levels in a high-stress, public-facing profession has its challenges, but the Marion 911 Public Safety Communications Center is optimistic about the rollout of the new computer-aided dispatch and records management system. It sees the new technology as a way to enhance recruitment and training efforts while also encouraging healthy work/life balance for dispatchers. Communications Center staff answered nearly 60,000 emergency and non-emergency calls in 2022. Other notable projects included a partnership with the State of Iowa to upgrade the 911 call-taking system as well as a new contract to support the county-wide radio system for Linn County.

EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

All-encompassing internal support functions and departments for alignment to the *focus areas*.

Information Technology

The IT Department aided in the technology deployments for the new headquarters of the Marion Fire Department and the Marion Public Library. Both systems were brought fully online in 2022. The IT Department was also heavily involved in the design and implementation of the records management and computer-aided dispatching software for public safety departments. Mobile car computers for the Police Department were replaced and upgraded. In addition, the City's guest network and all point-of-sale systems were segregated. Projects on the horizon include solicitation of bids for software to support the Community Development plan review and inspection processes, replacement of the existing phone system and continued work to defend against cyber-security threats.

City Clerk

Code of Ordinances Update | Since March 2022, the City has been working with General Code, LLC, a professional codifier, to update its code of ordinances. The entire Code was analyzed and reviewed for accuracy and to ensure that the content reflects current City practices, needs and priorities and conforms to current State law. City staff worked

diligently to complete its analysis. The project is expected to be completed in March 2023. Once complete, residents, business owners, developers and municipal officials will have access to a reformatted and updated City Code – in print and online – that will boost transparency and efficiency for all.

Finance

In addition to its day-to-day oversight of the City's financials, the Finance Department initiated a revamp of the budget process in 2022. It also worked to deconstruct and reconstruct the Capital Improvement Program and issued a request for proposals from insurance brokers. Looking ahead, the department continues to build out budgetary models to project the impacts of potential decisions. Other strategic priorities include updating the existing purchasing policy, introducing a new procurement card program to create efficiencies, reduce risk and add revenue, reviewing the schedule of fines and fees, and working to improve the overall risk-management program.

Strong Bond Rating and Audit Report

The City of Marion continues to maintain its strong Aa1 bond rating, as assigned by Moody's Investors Service.

Marion has received this rating consistently since 2010 with each issuance of bonds. This rating allows the City to borrow at lower rates and stretches taxpayer dollars further.

The independent annual audit by Hogan-Hansen indicates that Marion's financial statements are presented fairly and accurately per accounting principles accepted nationwide. Hogan-Hansen reported four findings related to segregation of duties, financial statement preparation, questionable expenditures and revenue bond requirements. Three of the four were repeated from the prior year.

Operating Budget

The Finance Department prepares an annual operating budget that is consistent with the objectives of the City Council and the Strategic Plan.

The charts depict the General Fund budget from FY 2022. The General Fund is one of several funds in the City's annual operating budget. The total operating budget would also include utility funds, road use tax collections and all other funds. In FY 2022, this added \$94,420,120 in revenues to support city services and accounted for \$83,489,623 in expenditures. Additional budget information is available at www.cityofmarion.org.

Property Tax Distribution

In FY 2022, the owner of a \$100,000 home in Marion paid \$801 annually (\$66.75 monthly) for City services.

This includes public safety, public works, culture and recreation and more. This is how the funds generated by the City's portion of the property tax bill were distributed.



\$228
Police



\$178
Fire



\$25
Emergency
911



\$1
Animal
Control



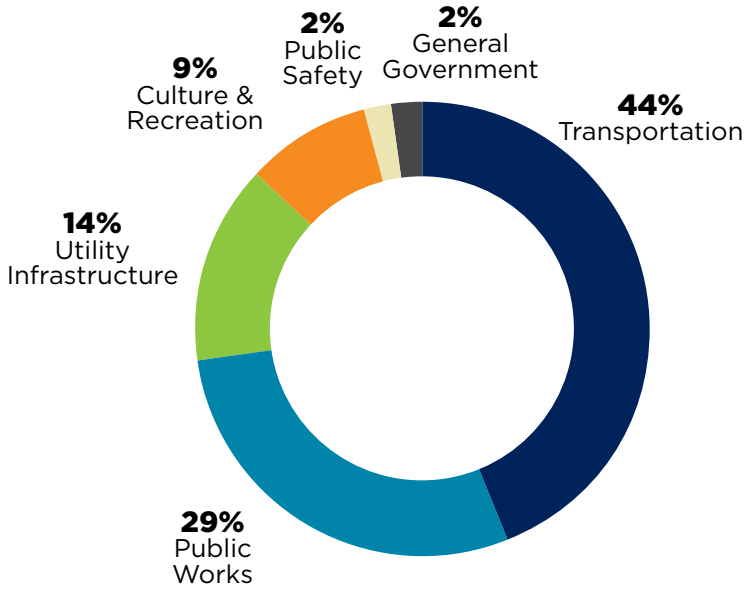
\$10
Street Lighting



\$1
Traffic

EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

Proposed Capital Investments



FY 2024-FY 2028 Capital Improvement Program

Capital project priorities are identified through the City's multi-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The FY 2024-FY 2028 CIP represents approximately \$139 million in projects and establishes the City's blueprint for investments in capital infrastructure. The CIP is used as a tool to ensure that the City's long- and short-term capital investments are made in the context of the City's needs as well as the resources available to fund all projects. The chart at the left shows the CIP portfolio broken down by government function.

General Fund FY 2022

Property Taxes	15,696,535	54%	Public Safety	14,773,920	50%
Other Financing Sources	7,488,288	26%	Public Works	1,050,760	4%
Charges for Services	738,442	3%	Culture and Recreation	5,256,640	18%
Licenses & Permits	960,414	3%	Community & Economic Development	1,594,822	5%
Other City Taxes	2,741,017	9%	General Government	3,437,632	12%
Intergovernmental	775,163	3%	Other Financing Uses	3,209,757	11%
Use of Money & Property	276,287	1%	Total Expenditures	29,323,531	100%
Misc Revenues	292,526	1%			
Total Revenues	28,968,672	100%			



\$15
Engineering



\$3
Airport



\$7
Streets



\$54
Library



\$68
Parks & Recreation



\$18
Community & Economic Development



\$15
Transit



\$63
General Government



\$115
Debt Service

HUMAN RESOURCES

137

New Hires in 2022
26 full-time, 25 part-time,
82 seasonals

Our People Deliver

Darcie Coberly | Parks and Recreation Department
Administrative Assistant of the Year, Iowa Parks and Recreation Association, March 2022

Tom Daubs | Marion Police Department
Paul Draper Spirit of Marion Award Winner, City of Marion, May 2022

Jacob Hahn | Engineering Department
Outstanding Government Civil Engineer, Iowa Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Sept. 2022

Zach Brunscheen | Marion Fire Department
Meritorious Recognition Award, Peer Support Foundation, Sept. 2022

Marion Public Library Employees | Marion Public Library
Citation of Merit, Iowa Library Association, Oct. 2022

Mayor Nick AbouAssaly | Marion City Council
Forty Under 40 Alumnus of the Year, Corridor Business Journal, Oct. 2022

Mike Barkalow | Engineering Department
Forty Under 40 honoree, Corridor Business Journal, Oct. 2022

Seth Staashelm | Parks and Recreation Department
Forty Under 40 honoree, Corridor Business Journal, Oct. 2022

Mike Cimprich | Parks and Recreation Department
Merrell Changing Nature of Work Award, National Recreation and Park Association, Nov. 2022

Kim Downs | Administration
Corridor Leaders 250, Corridor Business Journal, Dec. 2022

Mayor Nick AbouAssaly | Marion City Council
3rd Most Influential in the Corridor, Corridor Business Journal, Dec. 2022
Corridor Leaders 250, Corridor Business Journal, Dec. 2022

Ryan Waller | Administration
16th Most Influential in the Corridor, Corridor Business Journal, Dec. 2022
Corridor Leaders 250, Corridor Business Journal, Dec. 2022

TEAM MARION

Working to implement a clearly defined people strategy that attracts, engages, develops and retains employees to achieve the City's *Reach Higher!* mantra.



Corridor Corporate Games | In support of the City of Marion's health and wellness goals, Team Marion participated in the annual Corridor Corporate Games competition. This provides employees with the opportunity to compete against local, like-sized organizations in various events. A wide array of activities were offered ranging from trivia night and meal packaging to track and field events and mud volleyball. Employees appreciated having opportunities to socialize outside of work and engage in some friendly competition.

MPO Assessment Rollout | The City is continuing to use the Management & Performance in Organizations (MPO) assessment in its hiring and leadership development processes. The MPO is an equal-employment-opportunity-compliant, psychometric test that analyzes a person's natural behavior, needs, talents, communication style and motivational profile. Communications training will be offered to all employees and help provide the tools and knowledge to work more efficiently and effectively.

Talent Acquisition | In 2022, 137 new employees joined the City of Marion. The Human Resources Department worked with a team of consultants and the Marion City Council to identify the qualities desired in an ideal deputy city manager. Kim Downs, previously the city manager in Hiawatha, IA, with 20 years of local government experience, joined the City of Marion in this role in September 2022. In addition, the City conducted a nationwide search to find Marion's next fire chief. Tom Fagan assumed that position in September 2022.

Employee Recognition | To recognize the exceptional work of City employees, a new employee recognition program was introduced in 2021. The Paul Draper Spirit of Marion Award was established to recognize a City employee who best exemplifies public service, teamwork, a strong work ethic and humility, all combined with a sense of humor. In 2022, Officer Tom Daubs was recognized with the Paul Draper Spirit of Marion Award. Tom Daubs has been a Marion police officer for 26 years, the last 10 of which he has been the school resource officer for Linn-Mar Community Schools. He is also the Marion Police Department's public information officer.

Employee Handbook | The City's personnel handbook was reviewed, updated and approved effective Jan. 1, 2023. This was the first comprehensive review in 15-20 years. The update included a legal review from Lynch Dallas as well as a review from equity and inclusion consultant Thomas Newkirk. Some policies were updated to ensure compliance and others were revised to be more inclusive.

Compensation Study | The City has partnered with Baker Tilly to conduct a compensation study. The initial market study and benefits survey have been completed. The next steps include evaluating job questionnaires, establishing a compensation philosophy, and creating a framework for moving forward. The study will provide insight into the compensation and benefit administration practices for our identified comparable cities. The project is on track to be completed in Spring 2023.

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

Marion is proud to be the best place in Iowa to raise a family and grow a business. Here we reach higher and achieve more, in business and in life.

Sunrise Yoga at Lowe Park

The beautiful Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park continued to provide a serene backdrop for the ninth season of Sunrise Yoga. What began as a Blue Zones Project® initiative has continued, thanks to a partnership with the Marion Parks and Recreation Department, Be Well Marion and a dedicated group of instructors. More than 900 attendees participated in 9 sessions between June and August.

Uptown Community Garden

The Uptown Community Garden continued to thrive in its new location on an empty lot next to Marion City Hall. The garden plot features raised beds, including two accessible beds, stock tank beds and a garden bed made with pavers. In addition to showcasing different types of raised bed garden options, the garden's volunteer coordinators also demonstrate different options for supporting plants for trellising, staking and cages.

Staff/Council Accessibility

Community engagement isn't the responsibility of one division within the City of Marion; it's a way of doing business. From public meetings to community events to interacting online, there are countless opportunities for engagement between Marion's civil servants, elected officials and the residents who call Marion home.

Engaging with members of the community continues to be a strong focus, with emphasis placed on meeting people in places where they are already gathering. The City's responsive website, meeting portal and social media sites provide access to City information 24/7.

WELL-BEING

740

pounds of produce donated to the food pantry from the Uptown Garden

210

volunteer hours spent at the garden

910

Sunrise Yoga participants attended 9 sessions

OUTREACH

50

City Council work sessions and meetings

135

Board and commission meetings

27,385

visits to meeting portal

463,970

Website sessions

COMMUNITY EVENTS

25

Free events hosted by the City

\$210,000

In hotel/motel funding awarded to community organizations

Did you know?

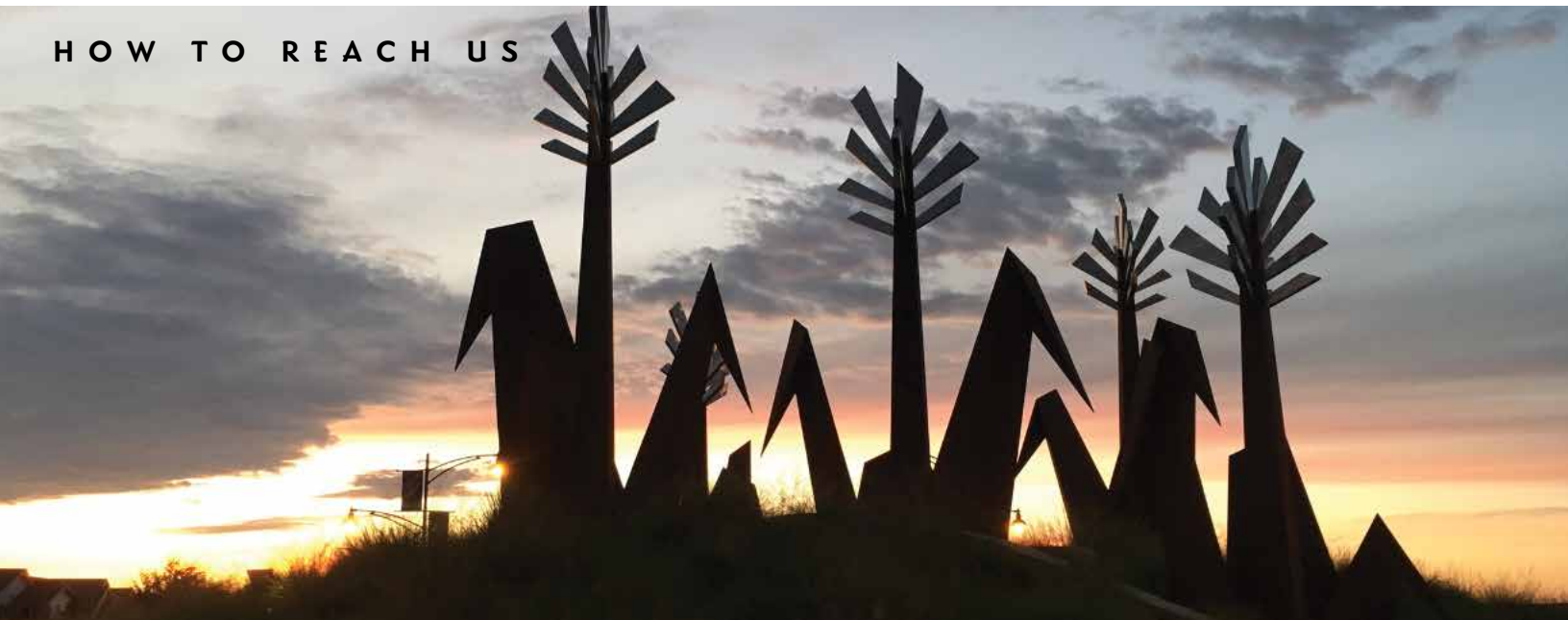
- › The Marion Public Library project was nominated by King's Material and recognized with a **Masonry Institute of Iowa Appreciation Award** for its use of masonry in March.
- › In April 2022, the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau awarded Marion the **Tree City USA Growth Award**. Marion has achieved **Tree City USA** status every year since 1993 and has received the Growth Award since 1994.
- › Uptown Marion received the **Main Street Business Support Award for the Streetscape Business Support Initiative** from Main Street Iowa in April 2022. This joint initiative between the Uptown Marion Main Street Program and the City of Marion was created to support small businesses through the hardships of the 7th Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape Project.
- › In May 2022, with support from the Friends of Marion Parks and Iowa BIG, Marion was designated a **Bird Friendly Iowa Community**. Marion is proud to contribute to the creation and preservation of wildlife and bird habitat in our community.
- › In October, the City of Marion's Planning and Development Division, Uptown Marion and RDG Planning & Design were awarded the **Urban Design Award** from the American Planning Association Iowa Chapter for the Uptown Master Plan. The plan was developed to guide the near-term and long-term development of the Uptown District considering the character of the district, redevelopment opportunities, programming offerings and infrastructure needs.
- › The Marion Fire Department Headquarters project, which was designed by Cedar Rapids-based OPN Architects, was awarded the **Excellence in Design Honor Award** from the Central States Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in November. The judges commented that this project reconsiders what a fire station can be with its use of wood on the interior and exterior and its connection to natural daylight and nature.
- › Marion has consistently landed in the **top 22 percent of Best Small Cities in America by WalletHub**, and 2022 was no exception. To identify the small cities where Americans can enjoy a good quality of life and affordable living costs, WalletHub's analysts compared 1,268 cities with populations between 25,000 and 100,000 across five key dimensions: affordability, economic health, education and health, quality of life and safety.
- › For the past 22 years, based on population and reported crimes, Marion continues to be **one of the safest cities in Iowa**.
- › **AreaVibes** gave Marion a **Livability Score of 93 out of 100**. Marion received exceptionally high marks for its schools, amenities, low crime rate and user ratings. Marion ranked 5th in the State of Iowa and 53rd in the US.



1225 6th Avenue
 Marion, IA 52302
www.cityofmarion.org



HOW TO REACH US



MARION CITY HALL

1225 6th Avenue
 Marion, IA 52302
www.cityofmarion.org

Administration
 319-743-6301
aabernathey@cityofmarion.org

City Clerk
 319-743-6327
cityclerk@cityofmarion.org

City Manager
 319-743-6301
citymanager@cityofmarion.org

Engineering Department
 319-743-6340
mbarkalow@cityofmarion.org

Finance Department
 319-743-6350
lcairy@cityofmarion.org

Human Resources Department
 319-743-6329
lsperfslage@cityofmarion.org

IT Department
 319-743-4735
thunter@cityofmarion.org

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Administrative & Operations Offices
 Thomas Park –
 343 Marion Boulevard
 319-447-3580
bneighbor@cityofmarion.org

Recreation Office
 Lowe Park – 4500 N 10th Street
 319-447-3590
sstaashelm@cityofmarion.org

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Planning & Development
 319-743-6320
dhockett@cityofmarion.org

Building Inspection
 319-743-6330
building@cityofmarion.org

WATER DEPARTMENT

3050 5th Avenue
 319-743-6310
tsteigerwaldt@cityofmarion.org

FIRE DEPARTMENT

100 Irish Drive
 Emergency – 911
 Non-Emergency – 319-377-8237
tfagan@cityofmarion.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT

6315 Highway 151
 Emergency – 911
 Non-Emergency – 319-377-1511
 Records – 319-200-7714
 Administration – 319-200-7727
administration@marionpolice.com

PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

(solid waste, sewer, streets)
 195 35th Street • 319-377-6367
public-services@cityofmarion.org

MARION PUBLIC LIBRARY

1101 6th Avenue • 319-377-3412
info@marionpubliclibrary.org