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## GENERAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

**Staff Development:** Iowa Parks and Recreation (IPRA) hosted a Young Professionals Network in Iowa City to network and communicate challenges and solutions in the recreation field on December 1. On December 8, IPRA hosted an Aquatics Maintenance Meet Up with opportunities to learn more about the challenges of maintaining outdoor aquatic centers. We sent small groups to both opportunities.

**New Team Member:** December 18, Thomas Peyton joined the department full-time as a Utility I. Peyton has been with the City several years as a seasonal employee. He is a graduate of Mount Mercy University and an avid disc golfer. We are excited to have him join our team.

**ICAP Loss Control Visit:** The City hosted visitors to our facilities for a loss control and risk management report. The goal of the visit was to assess our operation practices and to address potential risks at certain sites. Overall, the visit was positive, and we have a few things to address. This is a common practice to ensure the City is providing not only quality services, but safe ones.

## PROJECTS

**Hanna Park Pavilion Construction:** Operations staff began constructing the pavilion metal structure at Hanna Park. An electrician pulled electrical wiring through the roof beams for lighting and outlets. Next, staff started installing the tongue in groove boards for the roof. The roof will be completed in early 2024, depending on the weather. (photo right)



**Reforestation Plan:** There were 507 responses to the online survey for the Urban Reforestation Master Plan. The public surveys were reviewed and shared with JBC; an early January meeting is scheduled to discuss the information with the steering committee.

## PARKS

**Side Arm Mowing:** Staff began operating the 20-foot sidearm mower in overgrown right-of-way areas. This piece of equipment will allow for more routine maintenance and help to avoid hand cutting in the future. Staff will move to trail rights-of-way after finishing the roadways. (photo right)



**Holiday Lights in Davenport:** Members from operations and recreation attended a recreation interest group in Davenport. Staff toured the Municipal Ice Arena and the Holiday Light Show at Fejervary Park. The tours allowed staff to ask questions and see practices which will be helpful with the Central Plaza operations.

**Equipment Cleaning:** Staff worked on cleaning the interior and exterior of vehicles and equipment at Lowe and Thomas Park. Equipment was washed, waxed, vacuumed, and wiped down before receiving winter maintenance. This process is critical to ensure the fleet is operable, reliable, and efficient during the summer months. (photo left)



**Shop Organization and Cleaning:** Staff began the task of cleaning and reorganizing the Thomas Park Maintenance Facility. This includes creating an

inventory of all stored items, like picnic tables, benches, trash cans, and grills we have received throughout the year. All the inventoried items are being grouped together to make it easier to place them in the field when projects and locations are ready for them.

**LED Lighting:** The Lowe Maintenance facility had some upgrades completed to the lighting. Many of the existing fluorescent lights had failing ballasts and bulbs. The ballasts were eliminated, and the existing fluorescents were upgraded to brighter, more efficient LED lights. The wash bay never had lighting installed, so staff installed two new LED lights to allow for better visibility when washing and inspecting equipment.

**Horticulture:** All holiday greenery and decorations were wrapped up and put in place during the first week of December. The 34 planters decorated the Uptown, Parks offices, and the Water Department office.



Once the décor was completed, staff cleaned up spaces used for greenery assembly and organized decoration tools and supplies. Mid-month, staff worked on cleaning and storing canna tubers for planting during the 2024 season (photo left). The tubers had been dried for about a month, then the remaining dirt was removed, roots/shoots trimmed, soft spots or rot removed, and then divided before



being stored in pine shavings for the remainder of the winter. After fieldwork, the Horticulturist moved back to the office and began the process of general office cleaning, catch-up, and starting on annual plant orders.

## URBAN FORESTRY

**Forestry Operations:** Prescribed fire burns were conducted at various prairies for management of natural stands of grasses and forbs. Marion Fire Department provided support. Reports and new applications for grant funding were completed for MidAmerican Energy Trees Please! Funding. The Tree City USA and Growth Award applications were completed and submitted for 2023. Water bags were collected and winterized for the season. Hand cutting and removal follow up was completed in the stormwater basins where mowing was done previously with the rental unit.



## REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

CODE COMPLIANCE	OCT 2023	NOV 2023	DEC 2023
New Complaints	10	1	1
Resolved Complaints	10	18	1
Active Complaints	48	32	31
COMPLAINT TYPE	OCT 2023	NOV 2023	DEC 2023
Tree – Right of Way	4	1	0
Tree – Private Property	1	0	0
Sidewalk Obstruction	2	0	1

Sidewalk Not Cleared (Snow or Ice)	0	0	0
Tall Grass and Weeds	3	0	0
Parks Misc	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	1	1

## CEMETERY

OAK SHADE CEMETERY	OCT 2023	NOV 2023	DEC 2023
Spaces sold	1	3	8
Burials	2	4	4

## RECREATION

**Candy Cane Hunt:** There were 30 participants in this year's Candy Cane Hunt for children ages 3 to 8 and their parents. Participants come to Lowe Park for a fun morning filled with Holiday activities. First, they begin with candy cane themed crafts, then they go on the hunt for dozens of candy canes scattered around Lowe Park. They finish the morning with snacks and refreshments. The Candy Cane Hunt was on December 9, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

**Santa's Workshop:** Santa's Workshop was also held on December 9. This year, 18 kids in kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade participated in this half-day camp from 1 to 5 p.m. with a wide variety of holiday activities. Parents drop their kiddos off for an afternoon filled with crafts, games, snacks, a movie, and even an indoor snowball fight!



**Bingo Night:** The December Bingo Night at Lowe Park had almost 120 participants, with the biggest payout for blackout bingo of nearly \$65.

**Grinchmas:** On December 2, children and parents enjoyed a silly morning with the one they call "mean," the Grinch! This event is so popular, two times were scheduled; one at 9 a.m. and one at 11 a.m. Each group was an hour and half long where the kids' enjoyed crafts, Grinch games, treats, and of course, a photo-op with the Grinch himself.

## ARTS COUNCIL

**Coffee House Night:** The December Coffee House Night concert featured Cedar County Cobras with 46 people in attendance. The next event is February 2 with Roots of Rhythm performing.

**The Gallery:** The art exhibit in The Gallery titled "Four Midwest Friends" features works from Denise Murphy, Eli Ehlinger, Chris Childers, and Robert Murphy. The display will run through January.



