

GENERAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES



Recreation Interest Group: Drew Mollenhauer, Allie Waterman, and Brinkley Braden spent a day visiting Cone Park in Sioux City, IA, on January 26, for an Iowa Parks & Recreation Association organized Recreation Interest Group event. Cone Park is an outdoor winter recreation park which includes a snow tubing hill, ice rink, and lodge with concessions and rental items. Topics involved winter programming opportunities, ice rink operations, and tubing hill operations. Staff even got to snow tube. It was a fun and informative day. (photo right)

Staff Development: Horticulturist Mary Weber attended the Turf Seminar Day at Kirkwood with several grounds staff.

PROJECTS

Hanna Park Pavilion Construction: Staff utilized nice weather at the beginning and end of January to continue constructing the Hanna Park Pavilion. Phases of construction will continue as weather allows. (photo right)



PARKS



Snow Removal: Operations and Forestry staff worked 10 consecutive days during and after the snowfall events, logging a total of 670 hours. The highest priority areas include school zones, City facilities, and Uptown. The second priority is City-owned side paths, sidewalks, and parking lots. The third priority is the community's system of trails. Parks communicated and collaborated with the Public Services Department to perform Uptown snow removal.

Facility and Equipment Cleaning: Staff spent time going through facilities to organize and clean. Equipment and vehicles were inspected for needed repairs, cleaned, and serviced. These tasks will continue throughout the winter season.

Horticulture: During the month of January, orders were finalized and placed for over 3,200 annuals for planters and flowerbeds. The color theme for this year is a dark, rich, jewel-toned palette (official theme name TBA soon) and will really pop! Over 200 mums in complementary colors were chosen and ordered to be installed in early fall to extend the blooming season. Various planning meetings to discuss different projects took place, including plans for prairie expansion and plantings at the new Draper (Caboose) Park, Prairie Hill Park, and renovating existing medians on 10th Street. Planning for different educational and outreach events throughout the year also began. The end of the month started the transition to design work for these different projects, which will continue into February.

**Summer 2024
Planter Designs
Theme: Rich & Jewel-Toned**



URBAN FORESTRY

Forestry Operations: Kammiller Tree Service began clearance along the Grant Wood Trail east of the Milwaukee Bridge crossing over Indian Creek. The activity is expected to take 3 to 5 days and will require trail closure during the work. (photo left)



Forestry staff worked on adolescent tree pruning and completed the 6th Avenue corridor from 9th Street to 26th Street. Trimming focuses on low limbs, crossing or rubbing limbs which may cause future conflicts, and developing structure of the tree to promote long term health.

Grant reports were submitted for 2024 and spring planting projects are in the early stages of planning.

Parks staff are transitioning public property green space to native prairie to reduce mowing maintenance and create natural spaces for wildlife. Locations are being reviewed interdepartmentally and public outreach is being developed to educate residents on the benefits of these efforts.

CEMETERY

OAK SHADE CEMETERY	NOV 2023	DEC 2023	JAN 2024
Spaces sold	3	8	6
Burials	4	4	6

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

CODE COMPLIANCE	NOV 2023	DEC 2023	JAN 2024
New Complaints	1	1	70
Resolved Complaints	18	1	65
Active Complaints	32	31	35

COMPLAINT TYPE	NOV 2023	DEC 2023	JAN 2024
Tree – Right of Way	1	0	6
Tree – Private Property	0	0	2
Sidewalk Obstruction	0	1	0
Sidewalk Not Cleared (Snow or Ice)	0	0	62
Tall Grass and Weeds	0	0	0
Parks Misc	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	1	70

RECREATION

Agility Camp: This year’s Agility Camp was held at the Marion YMCA with three sessions for children aged 3 to 8, on Thursday nights in January. This was a high demand program with 56 participants in the program and 19 on the wait list. Options will be reviewed to accommodate more kids in the future. Agility Camp is a recreation, staff led program. Kids are lead through various agility drills, games, and activities to improve their fine motor movement. They work on their speed, balance, and coordination with agility ladders, hurdles, balancing stones, and other drills.



Putt-Putt Indoor Golf: Indian Creek Elementary School gym hosted the Putt-Putt Indoor Golf program on Monday nights. With multiple school closures due to the snowstorms and limited gym space availability, the last make-up is scheduled for February 5 at the Arts & Environment Building. This program is for ages 4 to 8 and had 43 kids participating. Putt-Putt Indoor Golf is a staff led program. The first three meetings, kids are instructed in proper putting form and technique through various drills. The final day, they play a round of mini golf through obstacles set up by staff.



BINGO Night: January’s BINGO Night was rescheduled from the 12th to the 19th due to the blizzard. Because it was rescheduled, there was a much lower turnout than usual, with 42 people attending this all-ages event. The next one is scheduled for February 9.

ARTS COUNCIL

Coffee House Night: No Coffee House Night in January. The next event is February 2 with Roots of Rhythm performing.

The Gallery: The art exhibit in The Gallery titled “Four Midwest Friends” featured works from Denise Murphy, Eli Ehlinger, Chris Childers, and Robert Murphy. The display ran through January.

The exhibit featuring watercolor artist Barbara A. Weets began January 2 and ends March 28.

ART EXHIBIT AT THE LOWE CENTER

Barbara A. Weets
January 27 - March 28



**ARTISTS RECEPTION
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Thursday, Feb. 8 7-8 p.m.**

Sponsored by
 **MARION**
arts
COUNCIL
Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center
4500 10th Street, Marion, IA 52301
319-447-3590
www.cityofmarion.org/artsCouncil

GALLERY HOURS
M - F
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
FREE ADMISSION

 **City of**
Marion

