

community
PLAYMAKER
COY
community
of the year
2023

Setting the Standard

MaRion
IOWA
Reach higher!

2023
City of Marion
Annual Report



MEET THE MARION CITY COUNCIL

Dear Friends,

I'm proud to present the City of Marion's Annual Report for 2023 on behalf of the Marion City Council and our entire City team.

In this document, you'll see how we are "Setting the Standard" by using an approach that is forward-looking, people-focused and rooted in partnerships. Whether you are one of our 43,000 residents, a City employee, an investor or a business owner, collectively, we are all Team Marion and, together, we are shaping one of America's premiere communities!

Our focus on excellent services and safe neighborhoods, investments in beautiful amenities and dozens of annual events has resulted in a vibrant community that loves its Marion address. This is reflected in the results of our most recent National Community Survey™, which tell a story of high satisfaction and improved confidence and trust in City government.

Most recently, our city was honored to receive national recognition as Community Playmaker's "Community

of the Year" for our innovative approach to economic development, community engagement and sharp focus on building inclusive and high-quality environments for all people.

Today, Marion is the 13th-largest and one of the fastest-growing cities in Iowa. We have positive momentum and an excellent team equipped to achieve our vision of being the best place in Iowa to raise a family and grow a business. In many ways, we are setting the pace as an indispensable part of the regional equation and a place where people and businesses want to be.

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2023 Annual Report and for being part of our success story.

Let's keep reaching higher, together.

Nicolas AbouAssaly
Mayor

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WE WON

Marion Named Community of the Year

The Community of the Year Award is a celebration of cities and visionary leaders that spark progress. It's about innovative programs and initiatives that drive economic development, promote community engagement, provide places for residents to work and play, support public safety, amplify the arts and culture and build open, inclusive, high-quality environments for all people.

A panel of experts reviewed each entry with several criteria in mind, including the scope of the "quality-of-life" projects that were launched and the impact of each project, among other items. While they received many tremendous and inspiring entries, the panel said one stood above the rest.

"Marion is a great example of what can happen when a community, both its leaders and citizens, cast a vision for a tremendous quality of life for everyone. And the power is not just in the vision; it's also in the determination Marion leaders showed driving these projects through to completion," said Ashley Whittaker, editor-in-chief of Community Playmaker. "Through initiatives as diverse as their partnership to build a state-of-the-art YMCA to converting unused alleyways into accessible arts and entertainment space, we are inspired by the work they've done and continue to do."

In 2007, City and business leaders in Marion embarked on a bold path toward enhancing the community. It started with community visioning sessions and asking residents for their thoughts on how to make Marion a better place. This input helped civic leaders develop a list of projects that shape Marion today.

"It is a great honor for our city to be named 'Community of the Year,'" said Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly. "We are grateful for the recognition as it places Marion on a national stage and endorses our focus on serving residents and giving them the best opportunities for an unequaled quality of life. Marion's success is hard-earned by an energized team that works together and engages the entire community in moving the city forward."



Community Playmaker, a media platform designed to provide news, features and trends that highlight American communities and civic leaders, named Marion, Iowa its Community of the Year for 2023. The city of 41,864 residents beat out nearly 100 small, midsize and large communities that entered the nationwide contest to earn this honor.

Quality of Life Receives High Marks in the National Community Survey

Last fall, the City of Marion conducted The National Community Survey™ (The NCS™). A representative sample of approximately 3,000 households were invited to participate.

The survey measures the overall livability of communities, taking into consideration the relationship between government entities, the private sector, community-based organizations and the residents of a geographic area.

For Marion, 95 percent of residents rated the community as an excellent or good place to live and 91 percent rated the overall quality of life positively. Ninety-three percent of respondents indicated they intend to remain in Marion for the next five years.

The results show ratings for Marion government performance are strong and above national averages. Satisfaction with public information services increased by 10 percentage points and overall confidence in Marion government, honesty and transparency all scored higher than national and peer benchmarks.

"It is so gratifying to see these results," noted Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly.

"When we look at our trend data, we see consistently high marks from residents for the level of service they receive and the opportunities their city provides them. I'm encouraged by the consistent improvement in overall confidence and trust our City government is developing with the people we serve, particularly in the areas of honesty, transparency and treating all residents fairly. Our City team, elected officials and residents should be very proud."

When assessing City services, about nine in 10 respondents were pleased with the customer service provided by the City.

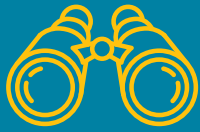


Ninety-two percent of respondents indicated that Marion is an excellent or good place to raise children and 87 percent of residents positively rated the overall feeling of safety in Marion. The new Marion Public Library and associated services achieved a 96 percent approval rating.

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 2021 survey, including the vibrancy of the downtown commercial area and Marion as a place to visit, the economy continues to be a focus for residents.

"Community feedback comes in many forms, and we thank all who participated in this biennial community survey," said City Manager Ryan Waller. "The data reaffirms many of the initiatives that are currently underway and will help inform a refresh of our Strategic Plan so that future projects align with our community's desires."

CITY VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES



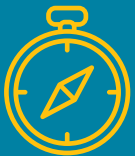
Vision

Marion is an innovative city with vibrant neighborhoods and abundant opportunities for all.



Brand Promise

Marion is the best place in Iowa to raise a family and grow a business. Here, we reach higher!



Guiding Principles

The City of Marion commits to the following:

- Acting with integrity
- Being accountable to the community and each other
- Fostering a collaborative work environment



EQUITY STATEMENT

Diversity, equity and inclusion are principles that bind us together to create a community where everyone belongs. The City of Marion is fully dedicated to addressing systems of inequity while building an accessible community where people of all cultures and identities can thrive. The City expects that its employees embrace this vision of inclusion and will strongly encourage its residents and community partners to do the same. By fulfilling this commitment, the City of Marion envisions a community that is inclusive and preserves the dignity of all people.

FOCUS AREAS

Vibrant Community | To have a community that is accessible, attractive and open to all members and visitors, and that aligns with having a high quality of life in Marion.

Efficient & Effective Government | To have all-encompassing internal support functions and departments in alignment with the focus areas.

Community & Economic Development | To have 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.

Sustainable Infrastructure & Services | To invest in roads, water, trees and sewer, and create a long-term approach to maintaining the physical infrastructure for residents and visitors.

Safe Community | To have a community where all residents, businesses and visitors feel safe.

Team Marion | To implement a clearly defined people strategy that attracts, engages, develops and retains employees to achieve the City's mission of Reaching Higher!

VIBRANT COMMUNITY



Marion Public Library

Gratitude and excitement are two words that summarize the activities and feelings surrounding the Marion Public Library (MPL) in 2023. In addition to a formal grand opening, MPL launched several new amenities, including the MakerSpace, culinary kitchen and recording studio. Library staff catered to all members of the community through innovative programming, amplified technology use and new additions to the collection.

2023 gave MPL staff an opportunity to find their groove in the new building and expand outreach efforts. MPL's partnership with Heritage Area Agency on Aging brings patrons together during Encore Cafés weekly meal and programming, while HACAP and Kwik Star provide snacks and meals for teens during the week. Virtual programming, such as author talks, are part of the monthly programming schedule thanks to a partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium. Families with young children explore the arts through partnerships with the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art and Orchestra Iowa. Through this outreach, MPL continues to address community needs, such as childhood literacy, education and wellbeing while providing cultural experiences for new and regular patrons.

Marion Public Library staff are looking forward to the arrival of the library's bookmobile, as well as developing and implementing a new strategic plan. Both are anticipated to launch during the summer of 2024.

With numerous possibilities on the horizon during the coming year, staff are eager to continue serving patrons, meet Marion's growing needs and support all of the community's readers, creators, dreamers and learners.

Parks & Recreation

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

Highlights from 2023 included the installation of Marion's first cricket pitch at Lowe Park, expanded programming for both youth and adults and the completion of an update to the Lowe Park Master Plan. The department also had a hand in expanding the holiday lights decor and celebrated the reopening of Faulkes Heritage Woods following the August 2020 derecho.

This spring, the department anticipates celebrating the completion of upgrades to Hanna Park, the opening of Prairie Hill Park and the restoration and reimagining of Legion Disc Golf Course.

Priorities for 2024 include the construction of and operational planning for the Central Plaza project, continued progress on Marion's Reforestation Plan and land acquisition and financial modeling for the proposed Outdoor Aquatics Center.



LIBRARY

132,291

patron visits

34,797

patrons attended

925

programs

318,052

physical items were checked out

4,689

new library cards issued

PARKS AND RECREATION

600+ acres

of parks and greenspaces

35+ miles

of trails/sidepaths maintained

3,200

annuals planted

1,270

reservations

17,414

pool admissions

100,000

holiday lights displayed

URBAN FORESTRY

1,025

new trees and seedlings planted
in City parks and rights-of-way,

2,200

trees in watering program

Tree City USA

30

years and running

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Marion Chamber of Commerce

Quality of life and placemaking initiatives spur economic development and make Marion a desired place to live and do business, and the Marion Chamber of Commerce directly supports these efforts.

2023 saw a record number of public and private projects come to fruition. The Marion Chamber continued the momentum by rounding out the year with a record 334 members, 29 networking events, 14 professional development events and 34 ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings.

The Chamber's Marion Leadership in Action program has celebrated over 200 graduates and 13 years of contributing to beautification projects in Marion. This includes the new LED Peace Tree, supported in part by generous contributions from businesses and community members. The first two Oktoberfest events contributed an additional \$15,000 in proceeds to the Marion Chamber Foundation's Winter Lights program. The first Shop Small Bus Crawl took nearly 50 shoppers on a whirlwind shopping spree of Marion's finest retailers.

The Chamber also celebrated the completion of the 2022 Americans for the Arts Economic Prosperity Study, which measured the economic impact of arts and culture across all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, in communities with populations from 4,000 to 4 million. The data showed that the arts and culture sector generated \$151.7 billion in economic activity and 2.6 million jobs. In Marion, arts and culture is responsible for \$9 million in direct economic activity. To put it simply, arts and culture drive commerce to local businesses.



MEDCO

The Marion Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) team embarked on a year of transition in 2023 and welcomed Mark Seckman as its newest president. Seckman has spent his career in economic development and is proud to be working on behalf of a community that is always striving to reach higher.

In 2023, MEDCO met with over 100 local businesses to understand their needs and to continue to help grow investment in the community. Those meetings resulted in three commercial developer site visits with two more scheduled for the first quarter of 2024, seven classroom speakers for Community Build students and several other valuable business connections.

In 2024, MEDCO looks forward to launching a regional Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) program in partnership with the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation, which is being branded as the Business Voice Call. As an extension of the

local BRE initiatives, MEDCO will be connecting with the corporate headquarters of local companies that are based outside the community to gain a global perspective on doing business in Marion.

As part of Team Marion, MEDCO will take a more proactive role in community development in 2024. Further development of retail, commercial and community amenities is paramount to enhancing the ability of area businesses to attract a quality workforce and to further complement the many assets residents of our community desire.

Additionally, a community need that will be a priority this year is a renewed focus on growing owner-occupied workforce housing. There is a pent-up demand to provide access to affordable housing stock that allows local businesses to grow and retain their talent pool. This new initiative will be a private/public partnership that accelerates the number of homes being redeveloped through the Community Build project.



MEDCO

supported
\$59 million
in construction projects in 2023

Met with over
105
businesses proactive business
growth and retention

Nearly 60%
of MEDCO partners saw sales
increases in both 2022 and 2023

UPTOWN MARION DISTRICT

Since 2013 (program inception)
\$48 million
in private investments
through building acquisitions,
rehabilitations and new
construction

\$3.8 million
in state grants
167
business starts and expansions

12,407
volunteer hours

CHAMBER

In the last year,
34
groundbreakings and
ribbon cuttings

12
free community events

Estimated
\$9 million
direct economic activity impact
of arts & culture in Marion

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES



Engineering

The Engineering Department is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the transportation network and underground infrastructure throughout the community, as well as overseeing network expansion in conjunction with new subdivisions or regional roadways.

In 2023, the City completed the rehabilitation of eastbound 10th Avenue/Business 151 from 35th Street to Highway 13. The 3rd Avenue Reconstruction Project was completed, and more than \$1 million was invested in asphalt overlay projects. The Twixt Town Road and Marion Boulevard Intersection Improvements Project realigned the Twixt Town Road approach. Grading and underground utility work happened on Tower Terrace Road from the west City limits to Alburnett Road, with paving planned for 2024.

The Engineering Department continues to build, inspect and design multiple projects as part of its \$45 million work program. The rehabilitation of westbound 10th Avenue/Business 151, from 35th Street to Highway 13, will take place in 2024. Work is also anticipated on the first phase of the 5th Avenue Reconstruction Project as well as Segment 11 of the Indian Creek Trunk Sewer Project.

Paving will occur on Tower Terrace Road from just east of Meadowknolls Road to Alburnett Road. Pavement patching and the annual asphalt overlay program are also anticipated. The Highway 100 and East Post Road Traffic Signal and Turn Lanes Project will complete intersection upgrades to one of Marion's busiest intersections.

Additionally, plans are currently being finalized and property acquisitions are underway for the Alburnett Road Extension Project from 7th Avenue to Boyson Road. The project, awarded \$7 million in federal funding, is designed to connect a developing region with the business district along Marion Boulevard and alleviate congestion, accommodate and encourage continued growth and decrease response times for first responders.

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.

The Marion Water Department pumped 1.15 billion gallons of water from two different aquifers last year. Sixty percent of the water came for the Jordan Aquifer (1600-1800-foot deep) and 40 percent came the Silurian Aquifer (500-foot deep).

The Marion Water Department spent over \$2.4 million on multiple capital projects last year, including three well rehabilitations, tank and elevated tower re-coatings, tower washings, general plant maintenance, multiple water main relay projects and loan debt payments.

The Marion Water Department is drilling another well in the Silurian Aquifer in 2024 on the east side of Marion to meet future water demands. They plan to construct a new storage building at the Water Department Shop and will begin design work on a future elevated water tower on Lucore Road.

Planning

The Planning Division within the Community Development Department coordinates long-range and current planning activities within the City and oversees all land development and zoning in the community.

Development activity slowed in 2023, with 20 fewer single-family lots coming online. City Council approved 573 preliminary platted lots for a potential total of 800 residential units and 69 lots were final platted for a potential total of 120 residential units.

Work began on a refresh of the City’s Comprehensive Plan, the roadmap for future growth and development that spans 20 to 30 years. Related to this, a year-long moratorium was instituted for selected uses along developing commercial corridors like Tower Terrace Road, the Central Corridor and Highway 13. This was put in place to allow time for the Comprehensive Plan to be completed.

The Planning Division assisted three projects that were awarded the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Funds in 2023. The division also started to research a potential special census of high-growth areas in the community to potentially secure a greater share of Road Use Funds to support road projects.

As new traffic patterns in Uptown were established, the City hired a consultant to conduct an Uptown Parking Study. The consultant reviewed existing and future parking needs for the growing Uptown District and a final report is anticipated in April 2024.

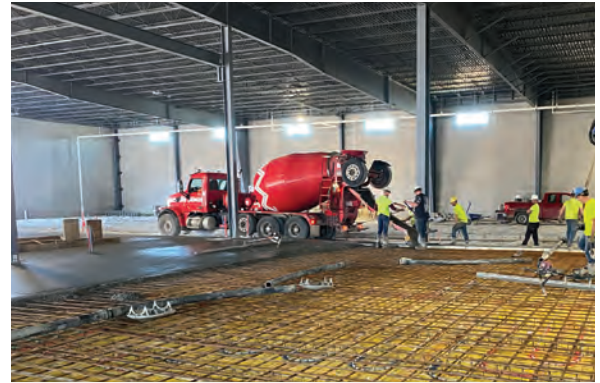
Public Services

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 control maintenance, snow and ice control, street cleaning, stormwater and sanitary sewer maintenance and garbage/recycling collection. The department provides services to Marion residents as well as to many neighboring communities through partnership agreements.

2023 was a year of change for the Public Services Department with several major initiatives underway and a vacancy in the director position, and team members stepped up to the challenge. After several years of deferred maintenance, the Public Services snowplow fleet is in the process of being replaced. In addition, staff continue to work with the City of Cedar Rapids to negotiate the terms of the wastewater treatment agreement.

Significant progress was made on the new Public Services Maintenance Facility located at 202 44th Street. The 144,000-square-foot structure provides for the current and future operational needs of the Public Services Department. It includes expanded equipment storage, fleet maintenance and fabrication facilities. The facility features a 3,000-square-foot FEMA-certified safe room and a front office constructed out of precast wall and ceiling concrete components. The project remains on track to be completed in the summer of 2024.

The department also worked with SCS Engineers to perform a study to determine if automated curbside garbage, recycling and yard waste collection is in Marion’s future, and the data returned a resounding “Yes.” In October, City Council directed staff to transition to an automated collection system with trucks equipped with a mechanical arm to pick up standardized wheeled carts. The program is currently under development and roll-out is anticipated in the fall of 2024.



ENGINEERING

11

active subdivisions

30+

active commercial sites

9

active Capital Improvement Projects

19

projects being designed

WATER

2.65 miles

of new water main installed

1.05 miles

of old water main replaced

28

new fire hydrants installed

235

new water accounts
for a total of 15,470

PUBLIC SERVICES

12,600+ stops

per week to collect
garbage/recycling

6,800+ tons

of garbage was gathered at the curb

1,500+ tons

of recycling

36,000+ cars

visited the Recycling
Drop-Off Center

43,000+ cars

visited the Yard Waste
Drop-Off Facility

BUILDING

6,553

inspections completed
in FY 2023

2,937

permits issued

109

new homes or housing units

4,890

registered rental units
in Marion

14

active commercial projects

FIRE

4,798

calls for service

78%

were medical calls

22%

were fire calls

Average 13.1

calls per day

POLICE

12,677

calls dispatched

5,087

self-initiated calls

760

accidents

342

motorist assists

911

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

11,400

911 phone calls

48,051

non-emergency phone 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. The building inspection staff logged over 220 hours of continuing education hours in the last year.

In 2023, 6,553 inspections were conducted. The number of permits has decreased, and a lack of storms has allowed the inspectors to finally keep up with the demand. After the second full year of digital plan review, contractors discovered that submitting permits and plans online in a digital format saves them time and money. Over 200 contractors use the online portal to submit permits.

The amount of available rental housing has increased due to the addition of multi-story apartment buildings. Marion is home to 4,890 rental units and will be adding another 200 plus in the next 12-18 months if all projects go according to plan. The inspection staff has conducted over 3,342 housing inspections in 2023. The upcoming addition of software for rental housing will streamline the process for managing the more than 5,000 rental units in Marion.

In 2023 the division adopted the 2023 National Electrical Code, which will help make the community a safer place to live. The addition of the Vacant Building Ordinance will make the community more inviting for people to come live or start a business.

Looking ahead in 2024 the division expects to be moving to the 2024 International Construction codes and starting the process of digitizing the archived building plans for better storage and ease of access for public safety. Staff will also start gathering information and training for the implementation of new Community Development software expected to go live early in 2025.

Fire

The 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 rescue, Marion Fire is equipped to meet this responsibility.

In 2023 the department saw the largest recruitment of professional firefighters in its history. The training academy included six new and three replacement firefighters to support balanced staffing at all stations. Additionally, a new automatic mutual aid agreement with the Cedar Rapids Fire Department was established. This agreement creates a more reliable and consistent response to emergencies.

Community input was sought to identify expectations, concerns and priorities that will enhance the department's ability to meet Marion's needs today and in the future. Six strategic initiatives were identified: enhancing external relationships, clarifying the scope and level of service, staffing and professional development, community risk reduction, firefighter health and wellness and achieving international accreditation.

A formal framework to support the response to and recovery from large-scale events impacting the community was also established in 2023. The City of Marion Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) were rolled out, ensuring first responders, City staff and community partners will be even more prepared to respond to hazards and natural disasters.

The department will celebrate its sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary in 2024. Plans for the year include replacing a fire truck at Fire Station 3 and breaking ground on the new Marion Public Safety Training Tower, located next to the new Public Services Maintenance Facility.

SAFE COMMUNITY



Police

The Marion Police Department welcomed seven new officers, two communications operators and a K9, all brought on board to fill vacant positions. This brought the sworn staffing level of the Police Department to 46 and the 911 Public Safety Communications Center to eight. The new hires included a communications operator and four officers, all of whom transferred to Marion from other departments.

The Police Department's new computer-aided dispatch and records management system went live in February 2023 following a two-year planning and implementation phase. The new system allows for more efficient and effective allocation of police resources, eliminates the need for most paper documents and provides data analytical capabilities previously unavailable to the department.

As part of the new records management system, the department rolled out a publicly available portal, Resident Connect, on the City website, which allows any user to see where incidents occur in Marion, as well as other statistical data, in real-time. The transparency portal was one of several recommendations that originated out of the City's Equity Task Force.

The City also deployed an automated traffic enforcement program in 2023, which includes stationary red light and speed cameras at the intersections of Highway 151 and Highway 13 and Highway 100 and East Post Road. It also includes a mobile speed unit that is deployed pursuant to complaints received from the community. The decision to implement the program was data-driven and in line with the City's strategic goals of providing a safe community and efficient and effective government services.

Marion Public Safety Communications Center

Training was the focus for Marion Public Safety Communications Center employees with the launch of the new computer-aided dispatch and records management system in February 2023. The vendor provided training prior to the cutover, and staff continued to learn the nuances of the system throughout the year. Procedures and training manuals were updated in addition to keeping staffing levels up and new employees trained.



Information Technology

The IT Department replaced the City's phone and firewall security systems during the first half of 2023. The replacement of these systems resulted in a lower total cost of ownership for the next several years and provided upgrades to a more modern and easier-to-manage backend.

The IT Department facilitated a request for proposals for software needed to enhance the plan review, permitting and inspecting processes for the Community Development Department. The selection committee consisted of 21 staff from nine departments. City Council approved the contract in early November, and a 16-month process is underway to develop and implement the workflows.

The IT Department also partnered with ImOn Communications to implement free, limited public Wi-Fi at Thomas Park, the area surrounding the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center and the Lowe Park Ball Diamonds.

The GIS Division worked with City departments to use real-time data to communicate the progress of the annual

fire hydrant flushing and street sweeping programs. GIS was also integral in creating a special census map to capture housing growth areas since the 2020 census.

Continued work to defend against cyber-security threats is at the forefront of the IT Department's daily duties. In the coming year, they also plan to focus on expanding the use of the City's digital content management system along with several surveillance and security improvements.

Finance

In addition to its day-to-day oversight of the City's financials, the Finance Department continued to build processes and centralize many accounting functions. In 2023, the department initiated a revamp of the Capital Improvement Program, the Asset Replacement Schedule and further developed the 5-Year Financials. The City's fines and fee structure was revisited and consolidated into one place and an update to the Purchasing Policy occurred. Three years post-storm, the department celebrated having all projects obligated through the FEMA Public Assistance Grant for the derecho.

Looking ahead, the department continues to build out budgetary models to project the impacts of potential decisions. Other strategic priorities include the implementation of a new procurement card program and continued work on budget development and cost allocations.

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 two findings related to segregation of duties and financial statement preparation, both repeated from prior years due to hiring limitations and staff capacity.

Property Tax Distribution

In FY 2023, the owner of a \$100,000 home in Marion paid \$769 annually (\$64.06 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:



\$212
Police



\$168
Fire



\$27
Emergency
911



\$1
Animal
Control



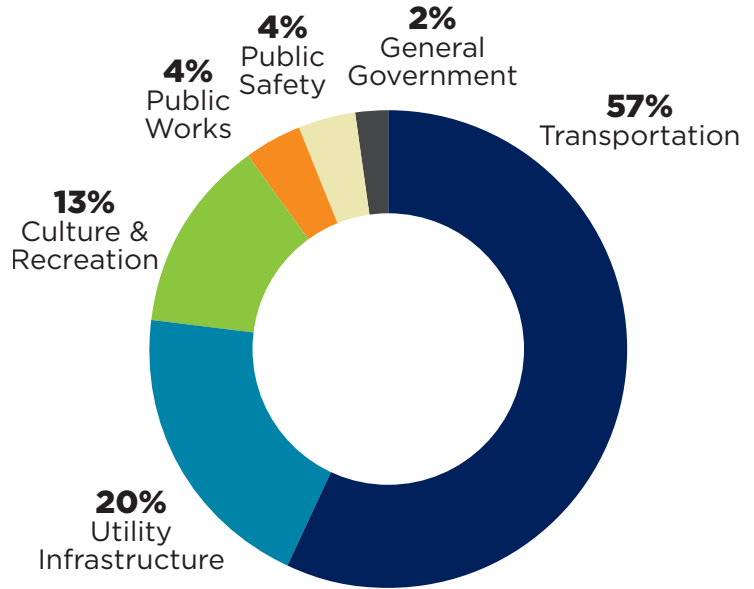
\$16
Engineering

EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

FY 2025-FY 2029

Capital Improvement Program

Capital project priorities are identified through the City's multi-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The FY 2025-FY 2029 CIP represents approximately \$134 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 careful consideration of the City's needs as well as the resources available to fund all projects. The chart at the right shows the CIP portfolio broken down by government function.



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 table below depicts the General Fund budget from FY 2023. 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 2023 this added \$83,827,029 in revenues to support city services and accounted for \$76,045,215 in expenditures. Additional budget information is available at www.cityofmarion.org.

General Fund FY 2023

■ Property Taxes	\$16,407,939	55%	■ Public Safety	\$15,526,845	53%
■ Other Financing Sources	\$7,417,479	25%	■ Culture and Recreation	\$6,212,935	21%
■ Other City Taxes	\$2,768,308	9%	■ General Government	\$3,368,983	11%
■ Use of Money & Property	\$972,990	3%	■ Community & Economic Development	\$1,702,978	6%
■ Charges for Services	\$876,202	3%	■ Other Financing Uses	\$1,291,300	4%
■ Licenses & Permits	\$756,736	3%	■ Public Works	\$730,784	2%
■ Intergovernmental	\$678,819	2%	■ Health & Social Services (Transit)	\$471,211	2%
■ Misc Revenues	\$220,252	1%	Total Expenditures	\$29,305,036	100%
Total Revenues	\$30,098,726	100%			



\$4
Airport



\$21
Streets



\$60
Library



\$68
Parks & Recreation



\$23
Community & Economic Development



\$15
Transit



\$43
General Government



\$110
Debt Service

Our People Deliver

Seth Staashelm | Parks and Recreation Department | Young Professional Award, Iowa Parks and Recreation Association, March 2023

Jenna Silver | City Manager's Office | Reach Higher! Award Recipient, City of Marion, March 2023

Mike Cimprich | Parks and Recreation Department | 2023 Outstanding Professional, Iowa Urban Tree Council, April 2023

Jacob Hahn | Engineering Department | 2023 Leadership Award, Main Street Iowa, April 2023

Dennis Hartl | Public Services Department | Paul Draper Spirit of Marion Award Winner, City of Marion, May 2023

Chuck Whited | Engineering Department | Reach Higher! Award Recipient, City of Marion, June 2023

Nathan Rompot | Marion Fire Department | Managing Officer Program Graduate, National Fire Academy, July 2023

Mayor Nick AbouAssaly | Marion City Council | Mayor of the Year, Iowa Mayors Association, Sept. 2023

Mary Weber | Parks and Recreation Department | Reach Higher! Award Recipient, City of Marion, Sept. 2023

Kesha Billings | Community Development Department | Waypoint Tribute to Women of Achievement Honoree, Oct. 2023

Mayor Nick AbouAssaly | Marion City Council | Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser, Association of Fundraising Professionals Eastern Iowa Chapter, Nov. 2023

Mayor Nick AbouAssaly | Marion City Council | 2nd Most Influential in the Corridor, Corridor Business Journal, Nov. 2023

Ryan Waller | Administration | 5th Most Influential in the Corridor, Corridor Business Journal, Nov. 2023

Kim Downs | Administration | 19th Most Influential in the Corridor, Corridor Business Journal, Nov. 2023

Tyler Steepleton | Public Services Department | Reach Higher! Award Recipient, City of Marion, Dec. 2023

Zach Bruce | Marion Fire Department | Fire Officer designation, Center for Public Safety Excellence, Dec. 2023

Jeff Madland | Marion Fire Department | Fire Officer designation, Center for Public Safety Excellence, Dec. 2023

Zach Brunscheen | Marion Fire Department | Fire Officer designation, Center for Public Safety Excellence, Dec. 2023

Mayor Nick AbouAssaly | Marion City Council | Corridor Leaders 250, Corridor Business Journal, Dec. 2023

Kim Downs | Administration | Corridor Leaders 250, Corridor Business Journal, Dec. 2023

Ryan Waller | Administration | Corridor Leaders 250, Corridor Business Journal, Dec. 2023

TEAM MARION



Compensation Study | The City partnered with Baker Tilly to conduct a compensation study. This included a market study, benefits study, evaluating job questionnaires, establishing a compensation philosophy and creating a framework for moving forward. The study was completed in Fall 2023 and has moved into the implementation phase. The City has implemented a new pay plan for both police and non-bargaining full-time employees. Next steps include continuing implementation with the remaining groups.

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 2023, Dennis Hartl, an equipment operator in our Public Services Department, was recognized with the Paul Draper Spirit of Marion Award. Hartl joined the City of Marion in October 2018 and demonstrates his commitment to the team daily and is always willing to lend a hand.

Corridor Corporate Games | In support of the City of Marion's health and wellness goals, the City participated in the annual Corridor Corporate Games competition for the second year. 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.

Health Insurance Design | The City Council approved the recommendation of adding a new High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) as an option to the City's benefit plan. Employees can now opt into the HDHP and contribute to a Health Savings Account (HSA).

Marion University | Marion University was launched in 2023 to provide City employees with a robust training and development program. Courses ranged from required safety training to cyber-security and diversity in the workplace offerings. A mix of in-person and virtual options were provided to accommodate a variety of schedules.

HUMAN RESOURCES

119

New Hires in 2023

31 full-time, 19 part-time, 69 seasonals

Community Events

2023 was a banner year for community events. Forty-seven free events were organized by the City, including 25 concerts, the first-ever play at Lowe Park, a winter celebration featuring ice-sculpture demonstrations and an Independence Day celebration that attracted approximately 6,000 people. Over \$36,000 in sponsorship dollars were raised through partnerships with 24 local businesses. Their support, coupled with Hotel/Motel tax funding, was vital to providing free programming and entertainment, and we're thankful to have so many supportive businesses in our community. These events are part of what makes Marion a standout community.

Sunrise Yoga at Lowe Park

The beautiful Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park continued to provide a serene backdrop for the 10th season of Sunrise Yoga. What began as a Blue Zones® 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 1,200 attendees participated in 11 sessions between June and August.

Uptown Community Garden

The Uptown Community Garden continued to thrive in what was 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. This garden is tended by community volunteers.

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

585

pounds of produce donated to the food pantry from the Uptown Garden (and one well-fed family of groundhogs)

155

volunteer hours spent at the garden

1,286

participants attended 11 Sunrise Yoga sessions

OUTREACH

49

City Council work sessions and meetings

140

Board and commission meetings

41,209

visits to meeting portal

345,300+

website sessions

47

free events hosted by the City



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



Awards & Designations

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.

- › In April 2023, 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 two awards from Main Street Iowa during the Main Street Development Awards in Des Moines in April 2023. **Broad & Main** received the **Best Housing Project Award** and the **7th Avenue Streetscape & North Plaza** received the **Comprehensive Placemaking Award**.
- › The American Council of Engineering Companies of Iowa presented the City of Marion and Shoemaker & Haaland the **2023 Honor Award for Engineering Excellence** in the Special Projects Category for **CeMar Trail: The Milwaukee Road Pedestrian Bridge**.
- › In May 2023, with support from the Friends of Marion Parks and Iowa BIG, Marion was redesignated a **Bird Friendly Iowa Community**. Marion is proud to contribute to the creation and preservation of wildlife and bird habitat in our community.
- › In September 2023, the Iowa Chapter of the American Public Works Association presented the City of Marion with the **Project of the Year Award** in the category of Transportation Greater than \$2.5 million for the **Central Corridor 7th Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape Project from 8th to 12th Streets**.
- › The **Marion Fire Department Headquarters**, and its use of biophilic design principles to support firefighter physical and mental wellness, continues to earn national and international recognition. In 2023 alone, it received the American Institute of Architects Justice Facilities Review Award; Architizer A+ Awards Special Mention; International Living Future Institute Stephen R. Kellert Biophilic Design Award; Rethinking the Future Awards Public Building (Built) Winner; and the American Institute of Architects Iowa Chapter Impact Award and Honor Award.
- › For the past 23 years, based on population and reported crimes, Marion continues to be **one of the safest cities in Iowa**.
- › Marion was named **2023 Community of the Year** by Community Playmaker. The national award recognizes innovative programs and initiatives that drive economic development, promote community engagement, provide places for residents to work and play, support public safety, amplify the arts and culture and build open, inclusive, high-quality environments for all people.