

GENERAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Community Involvement: Parks, Recreation and Forestry staff visited the UNI Tallgrass Prairie Center in Cedar Falls and volunteered for the morning to sort native seed mixes for distribution to local county programs for installation this season. (photo right)



Migratory Bird and Arbor Day Celebration: This event was held at Thomas Park and had a great turnout with around 100 participants. Various stations were held for adults and youth including tree and bird house giveaways!

Partner Recognition: Monarch Research was recognized at City Council for the two awards they received this spring for their partnership with Marion to plant native trees and prairie pollinator plots in the urban community.

PROJECTS

Butterfield Playground Reconstruction: Two hundred and fifty yards of playground chips were placed so the playground could be used. The concrete border and sidewalk will be completed later in the season to allow for some other projects to be completed.

Hanna Park Construction: Trash cans and a set of concrete bags boards have been set at the pavilion. Staff formed a 10' by 15' pad to install the grill for the pavilion, and a 5' sidewalk connecting the mechanical room of the restroom to the trail. Stone was added around the upright vertical posts of the pavilion and a serving table area was made from stone was added.

Caboose Refurbishment: Wabtec reported the Caboose windows and wood walkways were installed, and the road numbers and Milwaukee decals were affixed.

Urban Reforestation Master Plan: A final draft of the Urban Reforestation Master Plan was reviewed by Parks and Urban Forestry staff. The draft was shared with the Executive Leadership Team to help identify final edits. The document will be presented to the steering committee, Tree Board and City Council for final comments and adoption this summer.

PARKS

All Hands On Deck!: All grounds staff contributed to mowing and trimming operations in May. Heavy rains and warm temperatures resulted in rapid grass growth which had not occurred in the last couple of years. Many of the seasonal employees put in hours of overtime to help the department catch up.

Weekend Tournament Staff: With the cancellation of a weekend tournament at Lowe Park, weekend staff also came in to help catch up on trimming.

Ball Diamonds: Staff continued to maintain and setup ball diamonds for weekday and weekend tournaments. Using an online plan, seasonal employee Tom Gaffney constructed a nail drag so the task could be completed quicker. (photo right)



Cemetery: Grounds staff assisted in a site opening for a burial after discovering there was a large amount of rock in the location. Staff utilized a backhoe with a hydraulic breaker to break apart the rock so it could be removed. (photo left)

Mowing operations at the cemetery are being completed in-house this year and has proven to be a huge task. With this year's rapid grass growth and in-house learning curve, all operations staff worked at the cemetery before Memorial Day weekend to ensure it was looking good.

Horticulture: Perennial planting was completed to fill in beds needing plants replaced after winter. The Lowe Arts & Environment west bed near the patio was planted with plugs and will have other perennial plants to come. Additional perennial plants were added to the entrance bed at Thomas Park.

Over 3,000 annuals arrived during the month. A combination of horticulture, operations staff, and volunteers will work to plant them throughout the next month. (photo right)

Weeding was completed in many beds and street medians followed by the application of preemergent herbicide.



URBAN FORESTRY

General Forestry Operations: Staff began a right-of-way tree trimming program to focus on certain blocks of the community with needed maintenance and to assess all trees as they work through the assigned zone. Staff completed some flail mowing in basins to be added to the stormwater Basin Maintenance Program contract after being accepted from new developments last fall. Trash pick-up, woody cutback and herbicide spraying were completed at the Grant Wood Trail's 31st Street wetland basin. Herbicide applications were completed in areas where previous follow-up was necessary for noxious weeds and overgrowth; spot treatments will be monitored for second applications through June.



Spring Activities: Staff installed seeding for native prairie transitions at Hanna, Taube and Prairie Hill Parks.

Spring tree plantings continue. Right-of-way trees were planted with MidAmerican funding; replacements at fire station #1 were completed; and memorial trees were installed at various locations. (photo left)

CEMETERY

OAK SHADE CEMETERY	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024
Spaces Sold	0	4	3
Burials	1	1	7

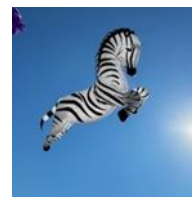
REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

CODE COMPLIANCE	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024
New Complaints	2	11	71
Resolved Complaints	0	22	52
Active Complaints	24	26	42

COMPLAINT TYPE	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024
Tree – Right of Way	1	1	3
Tree – Private Property	1	0	1
Sidewalk Obstruction	0	0	0
Sidewalk Not Cleared (Snow or Ice)	0	0	0
Tall Grass and Weeds	0	10	67
Parks Misc	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	11	71

RECREATION

Great American Kites Festival: Summit Pointe Senior Living sponsored this year's Great American Kites Festival which took place on May 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It was a beautiful sunny day and hundreds of community members and families stopped by the Lowe Ball Diamonds to experience the colorful giant kite display. There were multiple food vendors, including: Hy-Vee, Kona Ice, and That's So Cheesey. Face painting was also available.

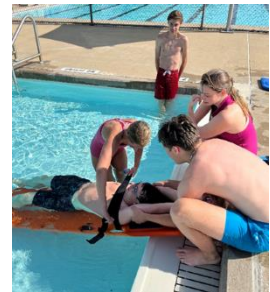


Little Sports Camp: This program met four times in May with 36 participants ages 3 to 5. Recreation staff teach the basic skills and fundamentals of different sports, including soccer, base/softball, football, and basketball. Little Sports Camp was held at Butterfield Park three times and at the Thomas Park Basketball Court one time.



Tiny Goal Kickers Soccer: Tiny Goal Kickers Soccer leagues began in April with three age groups. The 4-year-olds play on Tuesday nights with co-ed teams at Butterfield Park. The 5- and 6-year-olds play on Thursday nights with co-ed teams at Butterfield Park. The 7- and 8-year-olds play on Saturday mornings with separate boys' and girls' teams at Taube Park. After a few weather cancellations, the program wrapped up at the end of May. Volunteer parents coach the teams and rec staff act as referees.

Pool: Park operations staff cleaned and completed some minor repairs to prepare the pool for startup and filling on May 13. Lifeguard training was held the week of May 20, which included rescues, customer service, guard chair rotations, and CPR. Opening day was Memorial Day, May 27. With school in session, three days of lap swim were held the first week. Regular hours began May 31.

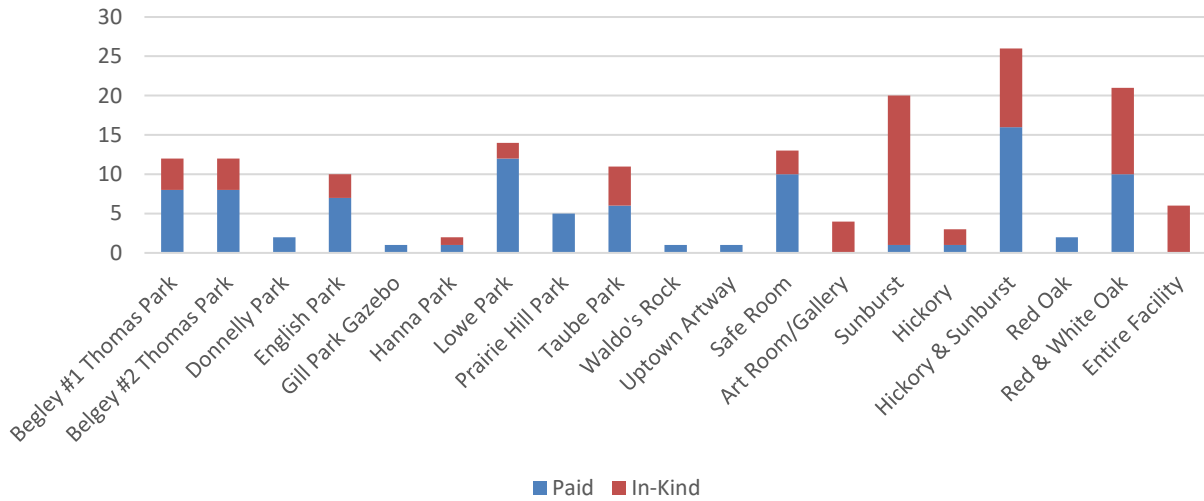


ARTS COUNCIL

Picnic on the Prairie: The Arts Council will be hosting Picnic on the Prairie at the Amphitheater on June 15, with Funk Stop performing.

FACILITY RESERVATIONS

2024: In-Kind 74; Paid 92
2023: In-Kind 96; Paid 103
2022: In-Kind 103; Paid 86



ACTIVITIES USAGE
(Pavilion data not reflected)

2024 - 96
2023 - 95
2022 - 109

