

GENERAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Iowa Sports Field Managers Association (ISFMA) Spring Workshop: Brent Neighbor, James Offerman, Drew Mollenhauer, and Josh Storla attended the ISFMA Spring Workshop at the University of Iowa. Topics included artificial turf care, low pesticide and synthetic free fertilizer turf practices, and tours of all University of Iowa turf facilities. (photo right)

PROJECTS

Prairie Hill Park: Conduit has been dug for the pavilion and prepped so the electrical contractor can pull wires and add power. Expansion joints in the sidewalks were caulked. (photo right with Mike Biechler)



Hanna Park Construction: A 10' x 15' concrete pad for the grill, and a sidewalk to the rear maintenance room of the restroom were poured. All the expansion joints were sealed with a self-leveling caulk. Staff are wrapping up punch list items for the ribbon cutting planned for July 15.



Draper Park Update: Rathje Construction can begin work at any time at the new caboose park located on 31st St and along the Grant Wood Trail. Per the contract, the project must be completed by October 2024.

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



Seasonal Staff Training: Six- and three-month seasonal staff attended in-house training to cover topics from PPE (personal protective equipment) usage to proper mowing and trimming safety.

Waldo's Rock Pond: The pond at Waldo's Rock Park has historically been in poor condition due to algae and lack of aeration. With last season's addition of an aeration system and beneficial bacterial treatment this year, the pond is showing major water quality improvements. (photo left)

Scoreboard Installation: Scoreboards were installed at the Peg Pierce Softball Complex. Electricity will be hooked up when an electrician is available to complete the work.

Concrete Projects: The grounds team poured the pad for the irrigation pump at Lowe Park. They also poured and installed 3 memorial benches in various locations at Lowe Park.

Bridge Repairs: Two bridges along the Grant Wood Trail needed some repair work done to the abutments. One needed the concrete approaches leveled up with a poly foam which was completed by a third party. Staff then caulked the expansion joints to help slow down breakdown issues due to freeze and thaw. Repairs were needed on the approach to another bridge due to the abutment washing out underneath. The trail had to be removed to add the proper base and rip rap to prevent this problem from re-occurring. Fresh concrete was then poured for the bridge approach. (photo right)



Mowing and Trimming: Grounds staff completed the monthly right-of-way mowing list as well as the additional monthly flail mowing areas. This helps with visibility, controlling woody vegetation, and managing invasive/noxious species. Routine mowing and trimming operations continued through the month of June. Trimming crews completed the trimming list and focused on trail visibility and bridge clearance.

Horticulture: Watering, weeding, fertilizing, and spraying were completed as needed throughout the month of June. Recreation staff helped to tackle an overgrown bed at the Lowe Ball Diamonds (photo right). Multiple plants in the Uptown district had to be relocated due to their proximity to fire hydrants (photo left). Staff repotted these plants and will utilize them in an alternative location.



URBAN FORESTRY

General Forestry Operations: Despite the plentiful rain this spring, tree watering is still a priority to support newly planted trees for optimal health throughout the city. Stump grinding for the spring was completed including stump removal, clean up, backfilling and seeding for parks and right-of-way city work. Herbicide follow up for spot treatments are being monitored in areas where previous applications were completed this spring for noxious weeds.

Remaining Ash trees were evaluated, and six total park trees are being treated to preserve them from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) decline which is in peak decline throughout the community and county. (photo right with Klein Walker)

Staff assessed the Faulkes Woods walking path and removed several downed limbs, trees and hazards due to strong winds this spring.

Spring tree plantings are nearly complete with another 102 trees being installed in the right-of-way with funding from Alliant Energy Community Trees program.



Prairie seed was installed in various transition areas in city parks including Hanna, Taube and Prairie Hill. This promotes reduced maintenance and a larger biodiversity of wildlife and pollinators.



CEMETERY

Cemetery: A combination of full-time and seasonal staff continues mowing and trimming the cemetery. Staff also trimmed the hedges throughout the grounds. (photo right)

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

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

CODE COMPLIANCE	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024
New Complaints	11	71	39
Resolved Complaints	22	52	39
Active Complaints	26	42	47

COMPLAINT TYPE	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUN 2024
Tree – Right of Way	1	3	3
Tree – Private Property	0	1	4
Sidewalk Obstruction	0	0	1
Sidewalk Not Cleared (Snow or Ice)	0	0	0
Tall Grass and Weeds	10	67	31
Parks Misc	0	0	0
TOTAL	11	71	39

RECREATION

Moonlit Movie: The movie Wonka was shown on June 7 at Lowe Park. The weather was beautiful and there was a great turn out for the first Moonlit Movie night of the season. The attendees enjoyed face painting, two big inflatables, Almost Famous Popcorn, The Freeze, and Kona Ice.

Movies On the Move: The first night of Movies on the Move was June 21 featuring Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 3 at Hanna Park. The sponsor, ImOn, provided free popcorn bags for us to hand out to people, which was a great addition. The movie was on a very hot night, but 52 people came out to watch!

Music Under the Moon: This concert series kicked off with Cher on June 8 at Lowe Park with a large crowd, great weather, and incredible music. Hundreds of people brought blankets, chairs, and coolers to sit and watch the Cher impersonator perform on the Amphitheater stage. Recreation staff was able to snap a photo with the impersonator as well (photo left).



Lil' Pigskins Football: Three different sessions were held in June at Butterfield Park for the Lil' Pigskins Football program. Participants attended 30-minute sessions at either 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m., or 5:45 p.m. Youth are introduced to the basics of football without contact. Fun and fundamentals are combined through skill-building drills, activities and games while emphasizing the importance of good sportsmanship and teamwork. (photo left)

REC United Soccer: For the 3rd year, Marion partnered with Cedar Rapids and Hiawatha for the 8-week REC United Soccer program which started June 19. There are over 250 participants in this year's program, with games played at the Tuma Soccer Complex. Focus is placed on learning age-appropriate skills and fundamentals to better enhance the players ability and understanding of the game. Emphasis is placed on teamwork and good sportsmanship. (photo right)



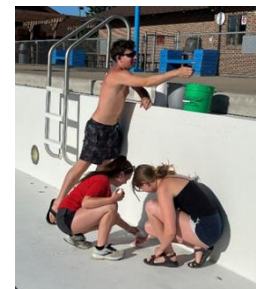
Little Kickers Kickball: The Little Kickers Kickball camp wrapped up in June. Camp was held on Tuesdays with one morning and two evening times offered. Staff lead 29 participants aged 3 and 4 through various drills and activities to teach the basic skills of kickball. Children learned how to kick the ball, throw and catch, how to run the bases, and where to stand on defense. On the final day of camp, staff led the group through an actual game of kickball. Unfortunately, the final session had to be cancelled due to severe weather in the area.



Lil Sluggers Blastball: Lil Sluggers Blastball was held Thursday nights from May 30 to July 11 at the Butterfield Park Ball Diamond. Volunteer parents coach the teams while staff facilitate the games. There are 12 teams with 6 kids on each team for a total of 72 participants. Blastball is a fun and easy introduction for kids to learn the basic skills involved with t-ball. (photo left)

Pool: The swimming pool had to close on June 6 due to an underwater light exploding, causing the lens cover lens to shattering glass into the water. The main pool was drained, cleaned, and opened back up on June 11. (photo right)

Session 1 and 2 swim lessons started the week of June 3, with a total of 472 swimmers.



POOL ATTENDANCE							
Date	3 & Under	4 & Older	Family Swim	Add'l with Family Swim	Lap Swim	Pool Passes	Total Swimmers
May 27-31	4	297	2	0	13	160	476
June	207	3,242	136	0	166	2,536	6,287

ARTS COUNCIL

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

