

PROJECTS

Hanna Park: Wood chips were cleared from the previously removed play structure areas, then backfilled and seeded.



Landscaping was completed around the pavilion and restroom to enhance the area's appearance. Planter beds were outlined with limestone blocks and will have perennial plantings incorporated in the future. Staff worked diligently to complete the final tasks in preparation for the ribbon-cutting ceremony (photo left) on July 22 and the opening of the park's new amenities.



Draper Park Update: Discussions are continuing with the American Legion to secure additional public parking. A preconstruction meeting was held with Rathje Construction, who is scheduled to begin the project in mid-August. The caboose has returned to Cedar Rapids and is currently stored at Wabtec; it will be one of the first features installed in the upcoming project.

Prairie Hill Park: A retaining wall was constructed with limestone blocks at Prairie Hill Park to terrace around the Water Department's building. This eliminates a slope which was not easily mowed and gives a visually appealing finish to the end of the parking lot. (photo left)



Urban Reforestation Master Plan: Final dates and comments are being evaluated for the Urban Reforestation Plan. Deadlines and dates have been set to complete the presentation and have it adopted by City Council before October.

PARKS

Fireworks and Fireflies: Operations staff worked to setup for the Fireworks and Fireflies event on July 3 at Lowe Park. Items included mulching, painting traffic lines, setting up cones and barricades, mowing, trimming, and assisting with the setup of other event equipment. Full time staff worked the night of the event to assist with traffic management, parking, the command center, and cleanup.

Park Security Cameras: With help from the IT Department and a security camera vendor, the department is working to have security cameras installed in high traffic parks and historically vandalized areas. Identified areas include the Thomas Park restroom, Hanna Park restroom, Hanna Park basketball court, Starry Park, Lowe playground, and Lowe concession stand. Once all materials are in, contractors will begin the installation this fall.

Playground Surfaces: There were 160 cubic yards of playground wood chips added to Thomas Park, Elza Park, and Donnelly Park. An additional 80 cubic yards have been ordered with the aim of re-chipping the remaining playgrounds. (Elza Park photo right)



Storm Damage: Heavy rains caused significant washouts along the Boyson Trail. (photo right) The washed-out lime was removed, and fresh lime brought in to regrade those areas to match the existing trail conditions. Several trees were damaged from the strong winds and several days were spent working to clean up and clear trails and parks after the storms. A large tree fell in Oak Shade Cemetery (photo left) which required removal by a third party with specialized equipment.



Right-of-Way and Flail Mowing: Monthly right-of-way mowing was completed as well as the additional monthly flail mowing areas. This helps with visibility, controlling woody vegetation, and managing invasive/noxious species.

Mowing and Trimming: Routine mowing and trimming operations continued; however, heavy rains made some areas challenging to mow.

Horticulture: Planning meetings have started for the future greenhouse to be added at Lowe Park. The greenhouse will be utilized to grow annuals for the city and to provide the Master Gardeners a larger area to grow plants and offer public education.

Horticulture staff assisted recreation staff with the Lil Sprouts Program. This program is in its 4th year and is full or nearly full each year. (photo right)



URBAN FORESTRY

Growing Futures: The Trees Forever Growing Futures program is scheduled to begin fall planting on September 14 in Marion as part of the one-year agreement. Final items for the partnership are being completed and staff instruction is scheduled for late August.

Forestry Equipment: STAR Equipment provided staff with 2 track skid loader units to try for an afternoon. Equipment operators from Parks spent time in each unit to observe functionality and ease of use. The feedback will help select a new unit to purchase during the current fiscal year.

General Forestry Operations: Forestry staff addressed a few storm-damaged tree concerns reported along streets and trailside following wind and heavy rain events. Staff completed trimming in park spaces for clearance following some reports from the mowing and maintenance crews. (photo left)



Memorial tree replacements were installed, and GIS inventory data was collected for all memorial trees in the Parks system. This data will be used to provide a public dashboard for viewing current trees and to request new plantings. This data will also help staff record maintenance and monitor long-term.

Fall planting preparation has begun as staff identify project sites for trees and evaluate suitability and planning requirements.

CEMETERY

Cemetery: The flagpole in the cemetery had a broken fastener at the top of the pole that held up the rope and pulley system for the flag. Staff rented a towable lift and repaired the flagpole.

OAK SHADE CEMETERY	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024
Spaces Sold	3	0	7
Burials	7	3	6

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

CODE COMPLIANCE	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024
New Complaints	71	39	67
Resolved Complaints	52	39	41
Active Complaints	42	47	67

COMPLAINT TYPE	MAY 2024	JUN 2024	JUL 2024
Tree – Right of Way	3	3	2
Tree – Private Property	1	4	3
Sidewalk Obstruction	0	1	4
Sidewalk Not Cleared (Snow or Ice)	0	0	0
Tall Grass and Weeds	67	31	58
Parks Misc	0	0	0
TOTAL	71	39	67

RECREATION

Movies On the Move: July’s movie featured Barbie at Ascension Park on July 26. The sponsor, ImOn, came out to hand out pink glow sticks and popcorn to attendees. Roughly 54 people were there to watch the movie.

Music Under the Moon: The legendary classic rock band Head East performed on July 13, with local band “Last Call Party Band” as the opener. An estimated 3,000 people came to enjoy the performance. This concert series is sponsored by Veridian Credit Union and supported by Marion’s Hotel/Motel grant program.

Fireworks & Fireflies: Over 5,000 people were at Lowe Park on July 3 to enjoy an evening of activities and perfect weather. A band performed while people waited for the sun to set and the fireworks to begin. A plethora of vendors were around the amphitheater bowl and near the Irish Drive parking lot with a wide variety of food and snack options. It was all hands-on deck for Park and Recreation staff doing everything from set-up, parking control, grounds monitoring, and trash pickup. When it was all over, it was agreed the popular event went smoothly and a good time was had by all.



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Adult Rec Softball: The Adult Rec Softball league is played at Prospect Meadows and runs for 10 weeks, beginning July 31. There are 6 teams signed up this year. (photo right)



REC United Soccer: The REC United Soccer program continued through July and will end August 7. The over 250 participants focus on learning age-appropriate skills and fundamentals to better enhance their ability and understanding of the game. Emphasis is placed on teamwork and good sportsmanship.



Track & Agility Camp: This camp began July 30 at Lowe Park with 2 morning sessions and 3 evening sessions for the 75 participants. (photo left)

Lil' Sprouts: Children ages 3 to 5, along with a parent, participated in the Lil' Sprouts classes at Lowe Park from July 16 to August 6. Activities included exploring a different nature or garden-based class each week with a coordinating story-time and craft or activity. There were 24 participants in the two time slots. (photo right)



Lil Chippers Golf: There were 2 morning and 2 evening sessions for the 54 children, ages 6 to 10, participating in the Lil Chippers Golf held at the Lowe Amphitheater on Mondays in July. The camp was increased from 4 weeks to 5 weeks this year based on requests from the parent surveys. The first few weeks are focused on skill development and swing technique of driving, chipping, and putting. The final day, we set up a miniature golf course around the bowl and kids practice playing holes. (photo left)

Mr. Brandt's Art Classes: The summer art camps wrapped up this month. It was another successful year with 156 students participating over the summer. (photo right)





Happy Feet Soccer: The Happy Feet Soccer Camp was held at Butterfield Park on Tuesday evenings in July. There were 72 participants ages 3 and 4 in 5 different sessions. Children are taught the basic skills of dribbling, shooting, and passing with a variety of drills and activities. On the final day, Rec staff lead them through a scrimmage, and they played a “real game.” (photo left)

Pool: Pool staff and the Fire Department recently held a valuable training session covering CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed, and First Aid, and provided an excellent learning opportunity for both pool staff and fire and rescue personnel. Informative group discussions were conducted to align expectations during emergencies, emphasizing the collaborative



effort to ensure the safety and care of all patrons. Although the original plan included mock rescues at the swimming pool, unfavorable weather conditions prevented this activity. Future training sessions are being planned. Additionally, pool staff enjoyed a tour of Fire Station 1.



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
July	203	2,969	60	0	137	2,634	6,003

ARTS COUNCIL

Art Gallery: There was no art display scheduled in July, so The Gallery received a fresh coat of paint.

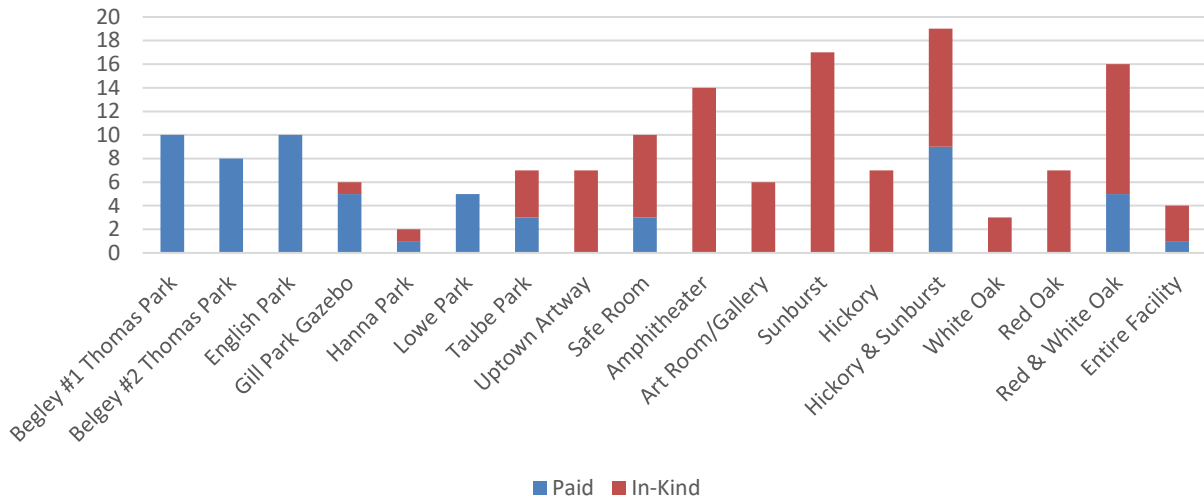


Some of the 2024 pool staff (left) and recreation staff (below).



FACILITY RESERVATIONS

2024: In-Kind 98; Paid 60
2023: In-Kind 93; Paid 130
2022: In-Kind 95; Paid 73



ACTIVITIES USAGE

(Pavilion data not reflected)

2024 - 105
2023 - 93
2022 - 110

