

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

**Staff Development:** The City Arborist attended the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Leadership Workshop and Annual Conference in Atlanta Georgia. This was an opportunity to network with international members and participate in educational sessions alongside professionals from across the world.



**Greenhouse Tours:** Director Staashelm, Deputy Director Neighbor, City Arborist Cimprich, Operations Supervisor Mollenhauer, and seasonal Caleb Bruty toured greenhouses at Iowa State University and the City of Des Moines with the Linn County Master Gardeners and RDG Planning & Design. These tours provided staff with ideas to implement into the future facility which will be added near the current Lowe Park greenhouse.

## PROJECTS

**Draper Park Update:** The caboose finally arrived back to Marion on August 26. A Memorandum of Understanding was approved with the American Legion for five public parking spaces for park visitors. The train signal from City Square Park has been refurbished. It spent the summer at Barnes Manufacturing where it was sandblasted, rewired, materials replaced, and painted. Volunteer Sam Dillon (photo right) was the mastermind behind the electrical components. Marion High School summer employees at Barnes Manufacturing took on the cosmetic aspect. The signal will be installed as part of the project which is set to be completed in October.



**Prairie Hill Park:** Bench pads were poured and a connecting walkway to the playground area was added. Bike racks and a bike repair station were installed. Landscaping is remaining for the project to be completed in September.

**Uptown Dumpster Enclosure:** With assistance from Public Works, staff dug and poured footings for the dumpster enclosure at the north end of the Artway Alley. (photo right)



**Urban Reforestation Master Plan:** The Urban Reforestation Master Plan will be presented by JBC on September 12 to the steering committee and involved boards, prior to City Council review on September 19.

## PARKS

**Public Works Facility TVs:** During the move to the new Public Works facility, Parks staff helped to install eight new TVs in the offices, lobby, and breakroom.

**Horticulture:** Watering, weeding, fertilizing, and spraying were completed as needed throughout the month of August. Continuous care will ensure the plants last as long as possible before being transitioned over to a fall theme as cooler weather approaches. Speaking of fall, mums arrived at the end of the month.



**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.

**Faulkes Heritage Woods:** Easement amendments are being reviewed for Faulkes Heritage Woods and the property abstracts are being updated for approval by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

**General Forestry Operations:** Budget planning for FY2025-26 has begun for the Urban Forestry Fund. A recommended fee increase is expected following the reforestation plan to support staffing and increased planting.

Prairie mowing was completed on new plots installed this spring. Tree trimming was completed in an area where new “no parking” signs had been installed and prompted a need for maintenance. Removal of declining Ash trees along trails and other natural areas was addressed as visible symptoms of dieback become more evident from the Emerald Ash Borer.

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

**REQUESTS FOR SERVICE**

CODE COMPLIANCE	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024
New Complaints	39	67	49
Resolved Complaints	39	41	54
Active Complaints	47	67	51

COMPLAINT TYPE	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024
Tree – Right of Way	3	2	0
Tree – Private Property	4	3	0
Sidewalk Obstruction	1	4	2
Sidewalk Not Cleared (Snow or Ice)	0	0	0
Tall Grass and Weeds	31	58	47
Parks Misc	0	0	0
TOTAL	39	67	49

## CEMETERY

OAK SHADE CEMETERY	JUN 2024	JUL 2024	AUG 2024
Spaces Sold	0	7	2
Burials	3	6	4

## RECREATION



**Track & Agility Camp:** At the Track & Agility Camp, 75 participants learned how to long jump, throw discus and shot puts, and ran relay races. Staff guided them through various exercises using agility ladders and hurdles with plenty of running involved to keep the kids active and engaged. Camp wrapped up August 15. (photo left)



**Lil' Sprouts:** This program for children ages 3 to 5, along with a parent, ended in early August. The kids enjoyed creating a different craft each week. One was a bandana using flowers to design it. (photo right)

**Youth Pickleball Camp:** This instructional camp for children ages 7 to 12 and was held at the Hanna Park Pickleball Courts and was led by staff. Kids begin by learning the skills involved in serving and returning the ball, then they work on volleys. At the end of the camp, kids had learned the full rules of a pickleball game and how to score it. This camp was held on Mondays and Wednesdays for two weeks with 36 participants.

**Marion Sprint Triathlon:** The first Marion Sprint Triathlon



hosted by the Parks department happened August 10. Events were at the Linn-Mar School aquatics center and track, with the bike routes going out onto the sidewalks and trails of the city. There was a total of 29 athletes, with the youngest being 7 years old and the oldest 64! The Triathlon started at 7 a.m. and the last athlete



crossed the finish line around 9:30 a.m. The Recreation and Pool staff did a fantastic job helping the athletes along the route and cheering them on. There were 6 sponsorships to help make the event happen!





**Movies On the Move:** The August movie featured ET at the Maron Pool on August 16. The showing was originally planned at Prairie Hill Park but moved due to wet conditions. Despite the slightly windy evening, over 50 people showed up to enjoy the classic movie.



**Iowa State Fair Bus Trip:** A group of 13 people adventured to the Iowa State Fair via chartered bus on August 15. The Iowa State Fair is one of the oldest and largest agricultural and industrial expositions in the country. The day was spent exploring museums, animals, fried food, and more!

**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:** The annual pool inspection by the Linn County Health Department happened August 9. This was the first year that no items were noted for follow up attention.

The last day for open swim was August 20. When chlorine levels reached 0.0, which was August 23, draining the pool began.

The final swimming lesson session concluded August 2. There were 779 American Red Cross swim lessons taught. The SPLASH program for 18 months to 3-year-olds had 12 participants.

Date	POOL ATTENDANCE					Total 2024
	3 & Under	4 & Older	Family Swim	Lap Swim	Pool Passes	
May 27-31	4	297	2	13	160	476
June	207	3,242	136	166	2,536	6,287
July	203	2,969	60	137	2,634	6,003
August	81	1,346	35	56	1,474	2,992
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>7,854</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>6,804</b>	<b>15,758</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>10,050</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>5,707</b>	<b>17,055</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>6,972</b>	<b>18,035</b>

## ARTS COUNCIL

**Art Gallery:** Art returned to The Gallery in August featuring various artists from the community.

**Picnic on the Prairie:** The Bearcat Pickers performed for the August Picnic on the Prairie at the Lowe Amphitheater. Around 200 people came out to enjoy the entertainment and beautiful weather.

**Coffeehouse Nights:** The first three performers have been lined up for the Coffeehouse Nights: Oct. 4 Roots of Rhythm, Nov. 1 Terry McCauley, and Dec. 6 Lucas Blekeberg.

