

07

FACILITIES

VISION

Marion will have well maintained facilities and infrastructure that can adequately support and provide for all residents and visitors to the city. Facilities and infrastructure in Marion will be regularly inspected and updated as needed.

FACILITIES GOALS

1. Continue to involve all city departments in development review
2. Budget to maintain all facilities and adapt to meet changing needs
3. Strategically invest in older parts of Marion
4. Monitor fire and rescue response times with growth to determine needs for additional facilities
5. Seek partnerships with the school districts and other organizations to share facilities

FACILITIES POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Continue to involve all city departments in development review.

City staff are well-connected and work well across different departments. As the city grows, these inter-departmental relationships will be increasingly important to maintain high levels of service. As this happens, a formal process for development review should continue. An ideal process includes:

- **Development review schedules.** This is a time for applicants to meet with staff and hear comments related to building requirements, code violations, and where flexibility is allowed.
- **Ensure all City departments understand the vision and goals of Marion 2045 and act together.** Annually, each department should report to the City Council how their actions during the year helped advance the vision or specific goals of the Plan. Marion 2045 incorporates various City efforts. New reports, studies, and plans in the future should use Marion 2045 as a reference point for overall community visions. Relevant plans and studies as of 2024 that are incorporated or referenced in Marion 2045 include:
 - 2024 Master Streets Plan
 - 2024 Reforestation Plan
 - 2023-2028 Marion Fire Department Strategic Plan
 - 2023 Lowe Park Master Plan
 - 2022 Indian Creek Master Plan
 - 2022 Marion Housing Analysis
 - Ongoing Marion Equity Initiative
 - 2022 C Avenue Alburnett Road Growth Area Study
 - 2021 Sanitary Sewer Master Plan
 - 2021 Uptown Master Plan Update
 - 2019 Central Corridors Districts Plan

Budget to maintain all facilities and adapt to meet changing needs.

Public buildings and facilities must be held to the same standards as private development. That includes new building design, maintenance, and regular evaluation. The City should evaluate facilities as demand changes to determine their future - whether that be adjusted to serve their current purpose better, re-purposed to use in a new way, or adding new facilities.

- **Budget for studies to regularly evaluate facility and resource needs every 5-7 years, including expansions, satellite locations, or co-sharing locations.** Detailed engineering or planning studies for utility, safety, and public facilities that occur twice a decade or more often as needed ensure Marion is informed and proactive in improvements. If a detailed study finds a facility's current use is no longer practical, these options may be considered:
 - *Is the facility appropriate for another public use?*
 - *Is the location appropriate for another city use?*
 - *Can the facility be shared between multiple city departments?*
 - *If no, can the facility be put to a private purpose that is supportive of the goals of Marion 2045? (i.e.: housing, business development, recruitment and retention of workers, etc.)*
- **Implement a plan for the Marion Municipal Airport.** The Airport provides small scale flight access into Marion. However, the facilities limit the size of aircraft that can use it. With interest in sites around the Airport for development, the City and its partners, particularly MEDCO, need to determine the best use for the Airport moving forward. This could mean facility upgrades or decommissioning.

- **Use the 2021 Sanitary Sewer Master Plan to guide investments that support growth.**
- **Plan for land investments in the northern part of Marion for a shared building with Parks and Public Works equipment that adds improved response times for snow removal and repairs.**

Strategically invest in older parts of Marion.

Marion will add new neighborhoods as people continue to choose to live in Marion. Investments in these new areas are important, but just as important are investments in existing neighborhoods. These areas shape the character of Marion's core and provide a similar, if not higher, property value per acre to the City.

- **Implement a stormwater master plan.** To be completed in 2025, the plan will help shape design in new neighborhoods and offer solutions in older areas with less flexibility to adapt to stronger storm events.
- **Identify a neighborhood and centers investment phasing plan.** Investments include street reconstructions, utility upgrades and burying, drainage improvements, and other investments in the public realm. Public investments are proven to stimulate private investment by increasing homeowner pride in their neighborhood and increasing the accessibility and capacity of business centers like Uptown, the Central Corridor, and the airport area. This might include neighborhoods or centers where there are also incentives and assistance dollars for property owners to make improvements.

2024 FACILITIES

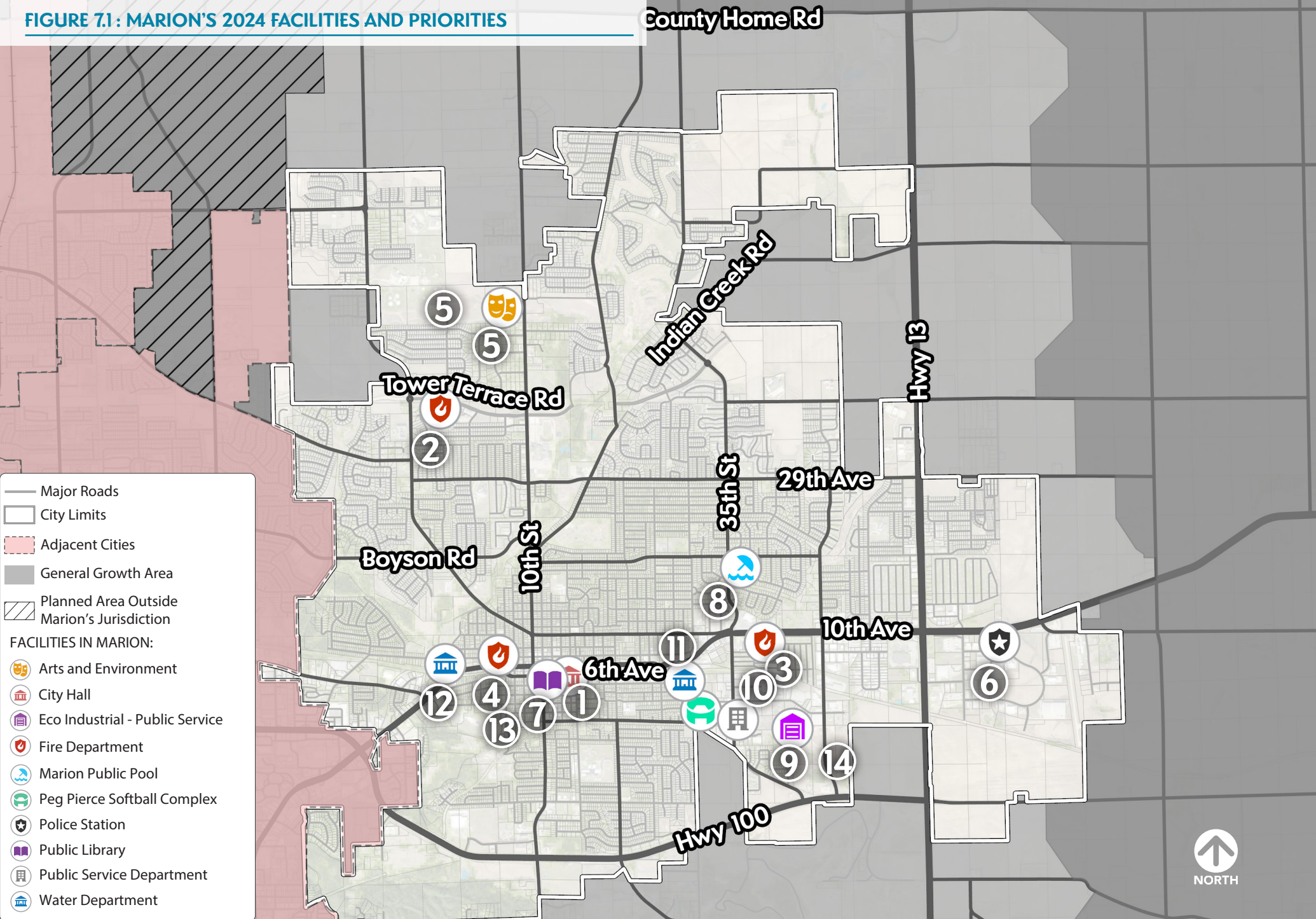
Public facilities and infrastructure are imperative to every resident's quality of life and economic development. Both seen and unseen, the residents and businesses rely on the City's facilities and infrastructure for transportation, education, and everyday tasks. Marion 2045 helps guide facilities in a way that is both expansive and efficient.

Figure 7.1 shows the locations of Marion's public facilities with a summary of major needs identified for the future.

FIGURE 7.1 : MARION'S 2024 FACILITIES AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

	Facility	Priorities through 2035
1	City Hall 1225 6th Avenue	Continue routine maintenance
2	Fire Station #1 100 Irish Drive	Evaluate storage space as needs change
3	Fire Station #2 3933 Katz Drive	Planned space needs assessment
4	Fire Station #3 600 8th Avenue	Update of exhaust extraction system; explore areas for relocation
5	Lowe Park Arts Center and Maintenance Facility 4500 10th Street / 4502 Irish Drive	Address deferred maintenance; update facilities; add a greenhouse facility and a storm shelter; continue routine maintenance
6	Police Department 6315 Highway 151	Continue routine maintenance and evaluate space needs
7	Public Library 1101 6th Avenue	Continue routine maintenance
8	Public Pool 1855 35th Street	Decommission the aging facility after adding a new aquatic facility at a new location
9	Public Works, Fire Training Tower, and Future Burn Building 202 44th Street	Finalize master site plan; continue routine maintenance
10	Former Public Works Office 107 35th Street	Explore decommissioning the public works building and selling to a private use
11	Water Department 3050 5th Avenue	Explore potential locations for a new water tower
12	Thomas Park Administrative Offices and Safe Room 343 Marion Boulevard	Continue routine maintenance
13	Oakshade Cemetery Maintenance Facility 789 2nd Avenue	Continue routine maintenance
14	Future Recycling Center and Yard Waste Area	Complete future location on the east side of 44th Street
TBD	Future Water Tower	Install water tower to increase water pressure on the north side
TBD	Future Fire Station #4	Determine appropriate location to serve growing areas and look into acquiring land

FIGURE 7.1 : MARION'S 2024 FACILITIES AND PRIORITIES



Monitor fire and rescue response times with growth to determine needs for additional facilities.

Three fire stations served the City of Marion in 2024. The three fire stations at their locations serve the 2024 population well but will become inadequate with neighborhood growth. Ways to improve existing facilities and equipment include:

- **Explore areas for the relocation of Fire Station #3.** The relocation of fire station #3 will improve response deployment time and coverage to a broader area, and a new location could include modern safety features.
- **Continue to evaluate and act on equipment and space for emergency personnel.** The City should continually check that adequate Personal Protective Equipment is available and research the adoption of the most state-of-the-art models.
- **Continue to monitor police and fire response time and consider additional facilities when and where needed.**

Emergency response time is directly tied to Marion's street and growth patterns. Response times for facilities should be evaluated when considering major land development proposals and proposed street patterns, particularly in the northern and eastern areas of the community. For example, a fourth fire station will eventually be needed in northern Marion to serve new development.

Seek partnerships with the school districts and other organizations to share facilities.

Several new school facilities are expected with community growth through 2045. The schools and the City both directly benefit when the school district and citywide planning are coordinated. Continued coordination opportunities include:

- **Recreation facilities and active transportation connections.** New school facilities and site selection planning should be coordinated with the City's plans for pedestrian and bicycle routes and the possibility of sharing recreation facilities, such as playgrounds, with the public. For example, a future partnership with the Linn Mar school district and City Parks Department for recreational space and maintenance equipment to the east of Highway 13 as growth and development continues.
- **Youth programs.** Public/private partnerships with schools, the YMCA, and Prospect Meadows provides a critical resource for youth programming. Coordinating with programs offered by the Parks Department and Library creates efficiencies in staffing and more opportunities for youth.

