

GENERAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

CPSI Recertification: Parks Maintenance Manager Broc Dobling has successfully recertified as a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). This certification ensures he is qualified to conduct playground safety inspections, identify hazards, and ensure compliance with safety standards. His recertification supports our ongoing efforts to maintain safe playgrounds and recreational spaces for the community.

PROJECTS

Indian Creek Site One: The City received the REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) grant award agreement paperwork from the Iowa DNR to sign and return. This provides reimbursement up to \$150,000 to develop Site 1 at the northwest corner of Tower Terrace and Wallace Road.

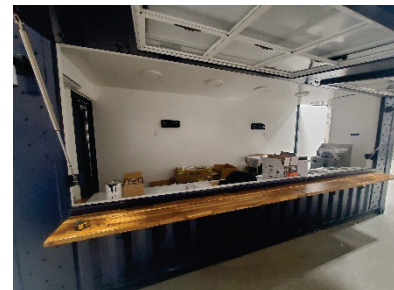
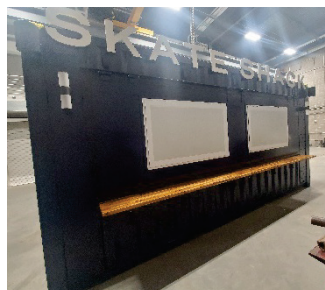
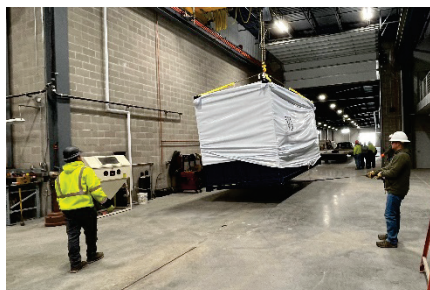
Oak Shade Cemetery Crypt Wall: We met with the lone bidder and Martin Gardner Architects and are making modifications to the specifications for the crypt wall project. The hope is the project will be more attractive to prospective bidders and lower the cost of the project without compromising the quality of the project.

PARKS

Ice Rink Site Visit: James Offerman, Mike Biechler, Brent Neighbor, Seth Staashelm, Brinkley Braden, Allie Waterman, Karlene Hummel, and Drew Mollenhauer took a trip to Bettendorf to tour the new ice rink at The Landing. Operations staff was able to take away key tips and tricks from an experienced veteran in the ice making business. Recreation staff learned about admission and rental procedures, as well as some special programming ideas.



Skate Shack Arrival: Grounds staff worked to unload the new 20-foot shipping container that will be named the Skate Shack. With assistance from Public Works, the container was unloaded using the overhead hoist in the new Public Works facility. Staff is working on outfitting the Skate Shack with the needed storage accessories.





Central Plaza Owner Supplied Items: Grounds staff worked on assembling items for City Square Park. These included serpentine benches, picnic tables, square benches, and other items that will be placed throughout. Operations managers have been working on purchasing the needed equipment, tools, and amenities to be used throughout the plaza.

Lowe A&E Storage Shed: Storage solutions for the shed at the Lowe Arts & Environment Center were created. This will offer a clean and organized way to store different event supplies that will live in the shed.

Hanna Bridge Removal: Over the past year, routine inspections and maintenance evaluations of the Hanna Park pedestrian bridge revealed progressive decline in the structural integrity. Despite efforts to repair and maintain the structure, the extent of the damage made the bridge unsafe for public use and it was closed. Due to the significant deterioration and ongoing safety concerns, the bridge was removed this month.



Winter Preventative Maintenance: Winter preventative maintenance has begun for our summer equipment. Staff are currently conducting servicing and repairs as needed to ensure all equipment is in optimal condition for the upcoming season.

Horticulture: The final holiday decorations were placed at the Water Department and Public Works buildings during the first week of December. The cemetery building, where holiday decorations are created and stored, was tidied after building greenery and centerpieces for the displays this year. Canna bulbs were cleaned, cured, and stored to be replanted next growing season. In addition, work began on brainstorming color palettes/themes and starting orders for next year's annual flower display!

URBAN FORESTRY

Forestry Activities: Grant applications for 2025 are being reviewed and submitted by the end of year. Applications include the DNR Iowa Tree Planting Grant (ITPG) and Derecho Community Grant Program (DCGP), MidAmerican Energy *Trees Please!* and Alliant Energy Community Trees.

The applications for Tree City USA and Growth Award recognition have been completed and approved at the State level. They will be passed along to the Arbor Day Foundation for final approval, and awards will be announced in February.

Forestry staff attended to a small list of right-of-way trimming locations to provide clearance for snow removal equipment during routine winter work and snow removal.

Oak pruning in the city right-of-way continues to be a winter priority as conditions allow.

Stump Grinding along the trail following ash tree removals continues as conditions allow.

Staff started facility organization, deep cleaning, and service of equipment while outside temperatures fall below the range of extended physical work.

Staff received delivery of a budgeted Forestry Skidloader. The unit will be looked over to verify it meets specifications and put into service once orientation is complete.

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

CODE COMPLIANCE	OCT 2024	NOV 2024	DEC 2024
New Complaints	2	8	2
Resolved Complaints	17	31	6
Active Complaints	41	18	15

COMPLAINT TYPE	OCT 2024	NOV 2024	DEC 2024
Tree – Right of Way	0	6	1
Tree – Private Property	1	2	1
Sidewalk Obstruction	1	0	0
Sidewalk Not Cleared (Snow or Ice)	0	0	0
Tall Grass and Weeds	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	8	2

CEMETERY

OAK SHADE CEMETERY	OCT 2024	NOV 2024	DEC 2024
Spaces Sold	3	4	2
Burials	2	3	4

RECREATION

Light the Night BINGO: There were fourteen houses in Marion who participated in the Light the Night Bingo this year! Beginning December 9, Marion and other residents were able to drive around Marion to see the beautiful Christmas lights and play BINGO while they do it! This ended December 29, with a total of 12 entries.

Candy Cane Hunt: This yearly tradition is fun for the whole family. The 24 large plastic candy canes were spread out and hidden within various parks in Marion for residents to find. When found, the candy cane was brought back to Lowe for a special prize. This ran from December 9 to December 27.

BINGO: It was a full house for the December BINGO Night with 68 people who came out to play on December 13. This was the fourth time using the electronic board donated by the Friends of Marion Parks, which has been a great addition to this event. The Friends also sold popcorn during the evening.

Grinchmas: It was a beautiful day for the Grinchmas Program, December 7, with programs at 9 a.m. and 11. The first group had 17 participants and the second had 13. This is always a fun program where family members can stay and enjoy the day with the kids and enjoy a silly morning with the one they call “mean”, the Grinch. Everyone enjoyed the day with Grinch themed crafts, cookie decorating, games, treats, and story time!



Candy Cane Hunt and Santa's Little Workshop: Unfortunately, due to the ice storm on December 14, the Candy Cane Hunt and Santa's Little Workshop was canceled this year. There were 21 signed up for the Candy Cane Hunt, and 22 registered for Santa's Workshop. Refunds or household credit were offered to the families.

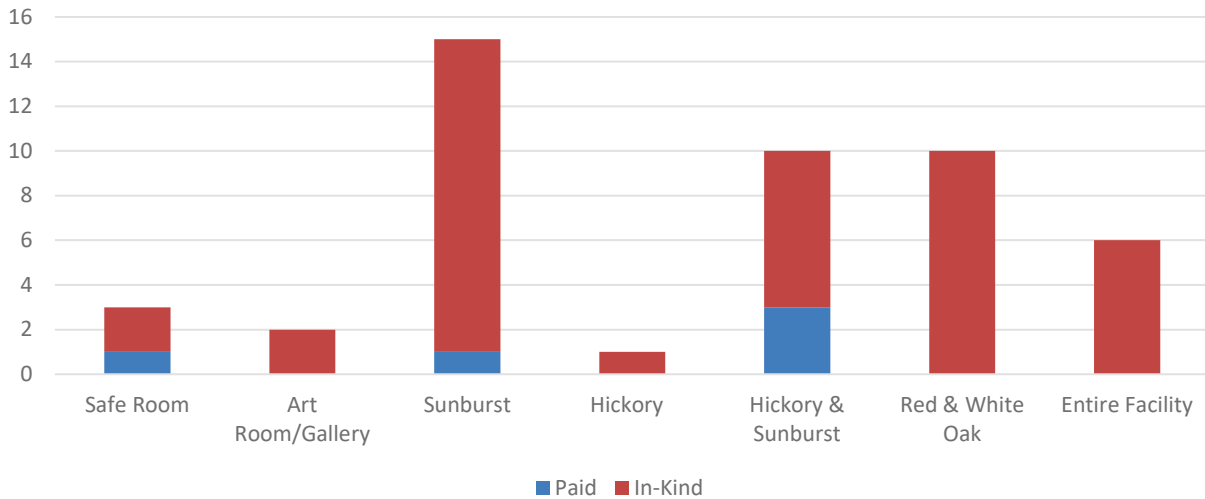
ARTS COUNCIL

Art Gallery: The new exhibit in The Gallery is by Rachelle Byers and Steve Mineck. This can be viewed from December 13 to January 31. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m.

Coffeehouse Nights: The December 13 Coffee House Night had 41 people in attendance to enjoy music performed by Lucas Blekeberg. The next event will take place on February 7, with the Cedar County Cobras performing; March 7 will feature Irish Jam.

FACILITY RESERVATIONS

2024: In-Kind 42; Paid 5
 2023: In-Kind 61; Paid 3
 2022: In-Kind 47; Paid 16



ACTIVITIES USAGE (Pavilion data not reflected)

2024 - 47
 2023 - 64
 2022 - 63

