

GENERAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Retirement Announcement: Recreation Superintendent Karlene Hummel announced her retirement after 27 years with the City. Hummel is looking forward to relaxing, spending time with her grandchildren, and enjoying life on her own time schedule. Staff have been putting together a plan to fill the void in Hummel's absence and how to move forward until a replacement is found. A Retirement Reception is planned for February 13. *Congratulations and best wishes on your well-deserved retirement Karlene!*



PROJECTS

Marion Central Plaza: Marion's Central Plaza in City Square is nearing completion, with an anticipated finish in April and a ribbon-cutting event planned for early May. While progress continues, winter weather and supplier delays have slightly adjusted the timeline. Additionally, the upcoming Broad and Main on 6th project will impact the installation of personalized brick pavers, as the eastern portion of the site will be used for construction access and staging. The pavers will be placed once adjacent construction is complete to ensure proper installation. Donors have been informed of this delay with appreciation for their patience and continued support in bringing this community-gathering space to life.

Willowood Redevelopment and Aquatic Center: The Willowood Open house on January 13, provided valuable community feedback on park and aquatic center priorities. Top-ranked amenities included playgrounds, splash pads, trails, pavilions, and green spaces, with strong interest in shade, seating, and accessible features. Residents expressed mixed opinions on retaining a smaller pool, with some interest in an indoor pool, dog park, and bike/pump track. The steering committee for the aquatic center was formed and will have a kick-off meeting in February.

PARKS

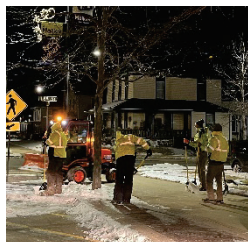
Lowe Arts and Environments Facility Deep Clean: Staff performed the deep cleaning of the A&E facility. Deep cleaning items include dusting duct work and lights, tile cleaning, window cleaning, and dusting all other surfaces not accessible from the ground requiring a scissor lift.

Skate Shack Upfitting: Grounds staff worked to upfit the Skate Shack with interior slat walls to mount a shelving system to store skates and concession items.

Ice Resurfacer Arrival: The WM Technics Compact ice resurfacer arrived in January. Staff received initial training and a run through on basic maintenance. The ice resurfacer will have the sponsorship graphics installed by Cutting Edge Graphics.

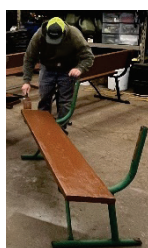


Routine Snow and Ice Removal: Staff responded to snow events in the month of January. The department takes care of the Uptown district, City facilities, side paths, city-owned sidewalks, and various city-owned parking lots. A variety of equipment is utilized to remove snow and ice including: an end loader with a snow pusher, a skid loader with a snow pusher, a spreader truck, a UTV with a plow and spreader, front mount utility tractors with brooms and plows, various trucks with plows, and manual removal with shovels.



Uptown Central Business District Cleanup: Parks staff assisted Public Works with Uptown Cleanup following the January 22nd snow event. Staff worked to push all snow which was inside the curb out to the street so it could be picked up by Public Works and hauled out. One skid loader, one front mount tractor, one truck with a plow, and five shovelers were utilized to complete the task.

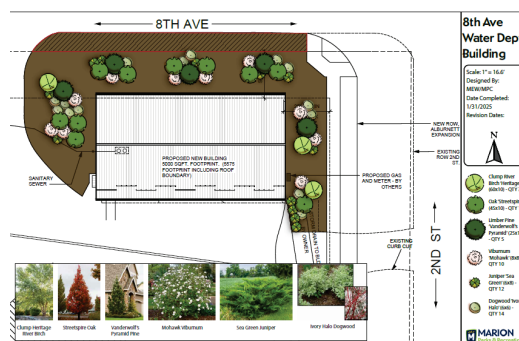
Prairie Maintenance: Parks and Urban Forestry staff teamed up to perform volunteer tree removal in multiple sections of prairie at Lowe Park. Staff cut trees, treated stumps, and followed up with chipping and removing the material.



Picnic Table and Bench Painting: Grounds staff are going through all parks and repairing and repainting benches and picnic tables found in poor condition.

Horticulture: Annual designs were finalized in January and orders were placed for spring annuals and fall mums. The process of updating the Prairie Hill landscape designs started in January and is expected to be finished in early February, with orders being placed once the plans are finalized.

The City Arborist and Horticulturist worked together to create a low-maintenance shrub and tree landscape design for the new 8th Ave Water Department building. These plans will be finalized in February.



URBAN FORESTRY

Forestry Activities: A rough draft for the Community Development Block Grant bid notice and scope of work to plant public trees in Marion through September 2026 is being finalized.

Annual Stormwater Basin Inspections were conducted to evaluate conditions and maintenance needs and to provide input for future maintenance and budget planning.

Construction Project scheduling has been reviewed by Parks Management and tentative timelines will be announced with the 2025 Summer Work Program.

Tree order quotes for grant programs and City planting projects have been received and the nursery material supply is expected to be adequate for this season's works schedule.

GIS solution updates continue with the Forestry Tree Maintenance Center app to manage work assignments and a new solution for Conservation Area Maintenance tracking has been completed and is ready for testing. This will help track maintenance of trails and natural areas such as prairie, wetlands, stormwater basins and woodlands.

Time is dedicated to gear inspection and detailed maintenance for safety and evaluation during the winter. Important tools with regular wear such as ropes, harnesses, climbing and rigging devices and hardware, helmets, chainsaw chaps and many other items get an in-depth evaluation in addition to the daily overview during the summer season.

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

CODE COMPLIANCE	NOV 2024	DEC 2024	JAN 2025
New Complaints	8	2	15
Resolved Complaints	31	6	14
Active Complaints	18	15	21

COMPLAINT TYPE	NOV 2024	DEC 2024	JAN 2025
Tree – Right of Way	6	1	1
Tree – Private Property	2	1	0
Sidewalk Obstruction	0	0	1
Sidewalk Not Cleared (Snow or Ice)	0	0	13
Tall Grass and Weeds	0	0	0
TOTAL	8	2	15

CEMETERY

OAK SHADE CEMETERY	NOV 2024	DEC 2024	JAN 2025
Spaces Sold	4	2	3
Burials	3	4	2

RECREATION

Agility Camp: The popular Agility Camp was held this month for children ages 3 to 8, with 41 participants. Camp is held at the Marion YMCA with Recreation staff leading participants through fun games and activities aimed at increasing coordination, speed, balance, teamwork, and more! This camp is so popular, there were 25 children on the wait list. Another session of has been added in March to accommodate the demand.

BINGO Night: It was another successful BINGO Night on January 10 hosting a full house of over 120 people. The new electronic bingo system, donated by Friends of the Parks, has

continued to provide a benefit to the event, adding fun and new twists to the game. Friends of the Parks have also continued to sell popcorn during the event. There are three more BINGO Nights this spring, February 7, March 7, and April 4, before taking a break during the summer months.

Little Stars Basketball: Little Stars Basketball Camp was held on Tuesdays with three, 30-minute sessions for 46 kids aged 4 and 5 at Echo Hill Elementary. The program was cancelled on the 21st due to cold temperatures when the schools closed. The make-up date is scheduled for February 4. In this camp, recreation staff lead kids through skill-building activities including how to shoot, pass, dribble, rebound, and defend to increase their basketball knowledge, fundamentals, and teamwork.



Pinecone Craft Night: The Pinecone Craft Night was a fun and educational event where participants made pinecone owls and peanut butter bird feeders and learned about trees. The event was a great partnership with the Master Gardeners, who shared their expertise and helped make the evening memorable.

E-Sports: In the simplest terms, e-sports are organized video gaming sessions in which individuals or teams compete against opponents, just like in traditional sports. Many e-sport athletes experience the same positive social and emotional benefits of being part of a team as they would in any sport. In this program, children



learn to develop effective strategies used in the esports world, such as tactics, communication strategies and teamwork. All of this is done in a safe, controlled, organized and supervised environment. This is a four-week program housed at Lowe Park in the Oaks Rooms, every Tuesday in Jan. We had a cancellation due to the weather, so the last program will be February 4.



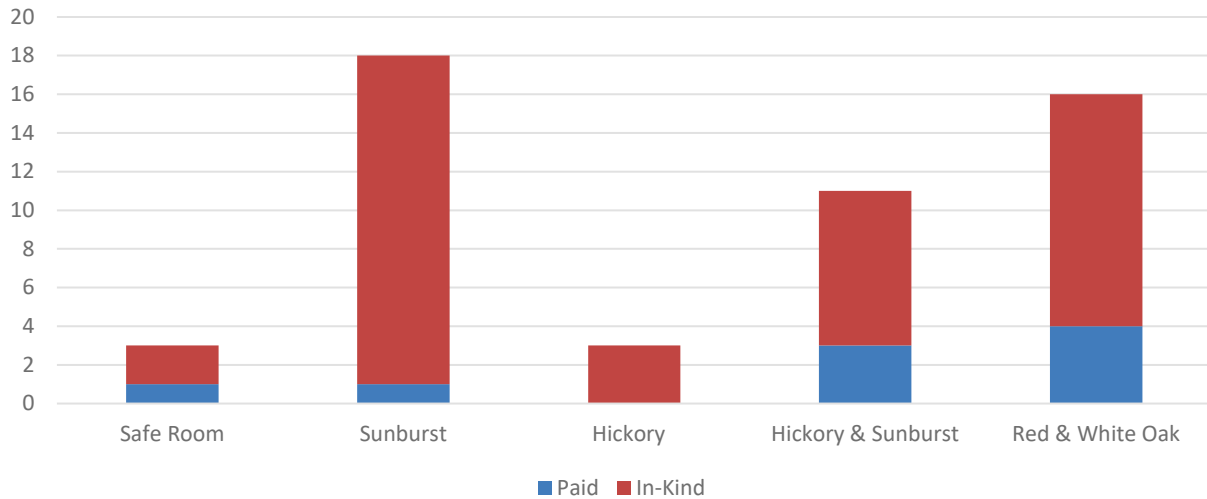
ARTS COUNCIL

Art Gallery: The exhibit in The Gallery by Rachelle Byers and Steve Mineck continued through January. 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: There was no performance in January. The next event will take place on February 7, with the Cedar County Cobras performing; March 7 will feature Irish Jam.

FACILITY RESERVATIONS

2025: In-Kind 42; Paid 9
 2024: In-Kind 49; Paid 9
 2023: In-Kind 51; Paid 9



ACTIVITIES USAGE (Pavilion data not reflected)

2025 - 51
 2024 - 57
 2023 - 60

