

GENERAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Welcome Interns: This summer, the department has two interns. Andrew Gaolimowski will be assisting with recreation programming and will be a senior at St. Ambrose University this fall. Taryn Hildenbrand will be assisting with special programming.

Iowa Arborist Association (IAA): The Forestry crew attended educational workshops and helped with setting up for the IAA's Tree Climbing Competition held in Cedar Rapids this year.

Iowa Sports Field Management Association (ISFMA) Spring Workshop – Neighbor, Offerman, Storla, and Mollenhauer attended the Spring ISFMA Workshop in Ames. Staff were given tours of Jack Trice Field and Johnny Majors field. Topics included fraise mowing and fertilization.

Migratory Bird and Arbor Day Celebration: Forestry and horticulture staff hosted the annual Migratory Bird and Arbor Day Celebration at Thomas Park on May 10.

PARKS

Central Plaza & Depot: Operations and Forestry staff worked to mow and prep the Central Plaza for the ribbon cutting on May 7. Staff also worked to help set up the stage and seating area. Horticulture staff helped to get some natural beautification in the area.

Spraying: Grounds staff sprayed flowerbeds and median beds to limit the amount of manual weed removal in the spring.

Pool and splash pads: The pool and splash pads have been successfully turned on and are now fully operational for the season. Staff completed all necessary inspections, maintenance, and system checks to ensure safe and efficient operation. Startup procedures included filling and treating the water, testing all mechanical systems, and verifying compliance with health and safety standards. The facilities are now ready for public use, and staff will continue to monitor and maintain them throughout the season to ensure optimal performance.

Ascension Playground Subgrade: Grade hubs have been set with the assistance of the Engineering Department, and the subgrade has been prepared in anticipation of the new playground installation, which will be completed by an external contractor. The play structure was originally delivered with incorrect colors, and a replacement unit is currently being processed by the supplier. The corrected structure is expected to be delivered in early July, with installation scheduled to take place shortly after delivery. Staff will continue coordinating with the contractor and supplier to ensure a smooth installation once the correct equipment arrives.

Horticulture: Seasonal horticulture staff started this month amidst many planting and volunteer projects. Perennial landscaping projects were completed at the new water department building off Alburnett Road, around the new Hanna Park pavilion and restroom, and at Prairie Hill Park.

Annual plantings began this month as well. So far all the hanging baskets at the Depot, half of the Artway, and all 6th Avenue planters are done. The remaining planters throughout Uptown

and at other City offices will be completed in early June. The theme in uptown Marion this year is *Wildflowers!*

A group of Linn-Mar seniors helped to weed and mulch at the Lowe Arts and Environment Center. Another volunteer group helped City staff to plant 92 hanging baskets that are now mounted throughout the uptown district. Volunteers in the Adopt-a-Flowerbed program also started to pick up and plant annuals in a variety of Park beds this month.

URBAN FORESTRY

Volunteer Event: Trees Forever coordinated a large volunteer project helping plant nearly 50 trees as part of a project planned with funding from the Alliant Energy Community Trees program for 2025.

Marion Airport: Vegetation clearing was completed in preparation for sale of the airport property and to meet DOT clearance requirements. (photo right)

Forestry Operations: The tree pit mulching was completed in the 6th Avenue Corridor and areas around the Central Plaza.

Planting projects were in full swing, and staff prioritized getting trees planted before the beginning of summer weather.



New landscape plantings, such as the new Water Department facility, Draper Park and the Grand Avenue Basin, were completed. (photos left & right)

Seasonal staff mulched and pulled posts on plantings ready to be graduated.



Fencing on conifers in various parks was adjusted and weed whipped around.

CEMETERY

OAK SHADE CEMETERY	MAR 2025	APR 2025	MAY 2025
Spaces Sold	10	8	1
Burials	4	4	2

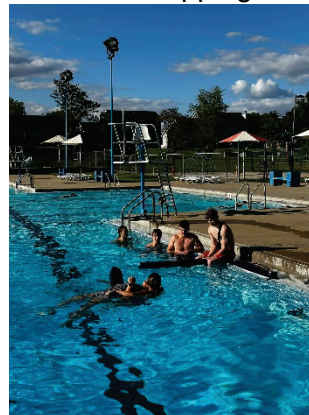
REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

CODE COMPLIANCE	MAR 2025	APR 2025	MAY 2025
New Complaints	1	1	26
Resolved Complaints	6	0	18
Active Complaints	23	24	35

COMPLAINT TYPE	MAR 2025	APR 2025	MAY 2025
Tree – Right of Way	1	1	1
Tree – Private Property	0	0	1
Sidewalk Obstruction	0	0	0
Sidewalk Not Cleared (Snow or Ice)	0	0	0
Tall Grass and Weeds	0	0	24
TOTAL	1	1	26

RECREATION

Marion Pool: Another summer season has kicked off at the Marion pool! There are over 50 staff members which include: Managers, Head Guards, Swim Assistants, and Cashiers. The all-staff meeting was held May 15 at the Thomas Park Safe room to kick off the season. The pool officially opened Monday, May 26, and had quite a crowd for Memorial Day. The week prior to opening was filled with hands-on training for lifeguards and even dipping into the pool to practice rescues.



Spring Flag Football: This program started April 7 and ended May 5 with two different leagues, K-1st Grade & 2nd-4th Grade with a total of 70 participants, meeting Monday's and Wednesday's from 5:15pm – 7:00pm. This league focused on teaching the fundamentals of football, including throwing, catching, running, blocking, hand-offs, plays/formations, etc. Teams were kept small to encourage participation for each child. A combination of group practices and games were used to reinforce and teach skills, fundamentals and basic understanding of the game.



The Great American Kites Festival: Despite the gusty winds, there was an incredible turnout for The Great American Kites Festival May 17. This event is held at the Lowe PeeWee Diamonds and is a free event open to all community members. Not only were there giant kites in the sky, there also were food vendors and face painting. Hundreds of people attended on the beautiful Saturday!



Tiny Goal Kickers: This program started on April 1 with 210 participants including coaches and children ages 4-8 years of age. This instructional league was designed to develop basic soccer skills, rules, and concepts. Players were randomly assigned to teams in this non-competitive, seven-week league. Games were played in a 3v3 format on a scaled-down soccer field to increase player participation and interaction. The program wrapped up the week of May 13.

Little Sports Camp: This sports sampler class introduces little ones to the basic skills, fundamentals and terminology associated with various sports while stressing the importance of having fun while being active. The program took place during the month of May with two sessions and 34 kids total. Each day of camp focused on a different sport: basketball, soccer, football, softball/baseball.

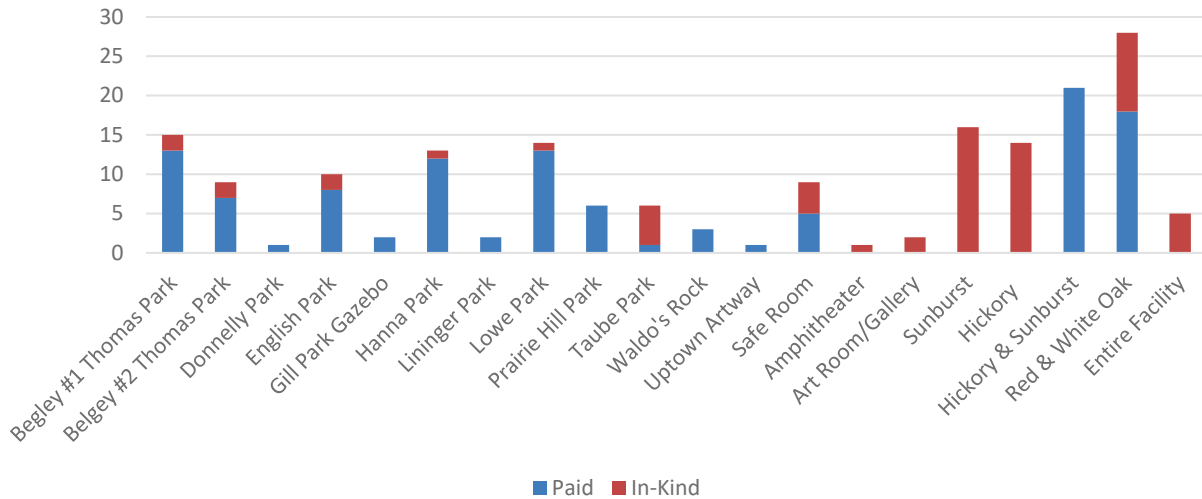
Marion Farmers Market: The Marion Farmers Market began May 3 and is open every Saturday from 8-11 a.m. through Sept. 27 at Willowood Park. This new location offers enhanced pedestrian safety, more vendor spaces, increased customer parking and permanent restrooms. Over 30 vendors offer fresh produce, baked goods, meats, flowers, honey, jewelry, woodworking, crafts and more. In addition, Marion City Council members hold weekly office hours where one or more council members are available for questions and conversation during market hours.

FACILITY RESERVATIONS

2025: In-Kind 65; Paid 113

2024: In-Kind 74; Paid 92

2023: In-Kind 96; Paid 103



ACTIVITIES USAGE (Pavilion data not reflected)

2025 - 100

2024 - 96

2023 - 95

