

GENERAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Corridor Corporate Games: The City of Marion proudly participated in the 2025 Corridor Corporate Games, an initiative that promotes wellness, teamwork, and community spirit through friendly competition. Both full-time and part-time staff took part in a variety of events, including track and field, 3v3 basketball, golf, speed puzzle, and more—showcasing not only their athleticism but also their pride in representing Marion. Pictured is our first-place relay team, featuring three Parks staff members and the Deputy Director of Public Works, exemplifying the collaboration and energy that make Marion a great place to work and serve.



PROJECTS

Central Plaza Water Feature: The water feature in the Central Plaza started at the end of June. The feature is a recirculating system which is on temporary hours from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Park Board and City Council will soon be discussing the hours to make a final decision. The system requires two manual chemical tests per day and a test every four hours during operation.



Ascension Playground: Staff have been working at Ascension Park to prepare the site while awaiting delivery of the correct playground. The area was re-graded to the proper subgrade depths, and crews began installing rock under the perimeter sidewalk in preparation for the concrete pour. This work allows us to stay on schedule while coordinating with Little Tikes Company on the delivery and installation details for the new playground.

PARKS

Right of Way and Flail Mowing: Staff worked to flail mow all right-of-way areas and trails. This practice helps to increase visibility for pedestrians and vehicles while helping reduce the amount of woody vegetation which tends to grow in these areas.

Trimming: With most of the seasonal staff starting at the beginning of June, the first task at hand was to complete trimming throughout the parks and green spaces. This took roughly three weeks with 4 to 5 trimming staff.

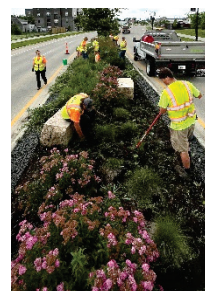


Baseball and Softball Setup: Grounds seasonal staff continue to setup Starry, Peg, and Lowe Park daily for evening games. Lowe Park also continues to have weekend tournaments through mid-July with staff present to prep fields between games.

Parks Maintenance Operations: Parks staff have been actively working through a variety of work orders across the entire park system. Crews have addressed a wide range of tasks from vegetation control and plumbing fixes to miscellaneous upkeep like sign repairs, trail work, and other small but important tasks. Staff continue to respond promptly to requests, ensuring our parks remain safe, clean, and well-maintained for public use.

Weeding: Grounds staff and Horticulture staff worked on weeding large median beds on 6th Avenue, right-of-way beds, and the Uptown perennial beds. Large groups were utilized to help the process go faster.

Horticulture: In June, Horticulture staff and Adopt-a-Flowerbed volunteers spent a large majority of their time planting and watering annuals. Over 3,500 annuals were planted throughout City flowerbeds and in 92 hanging baskets and 99 planters.



Over 50 perennial plugs were added at the Lowe Park playground to fill in space and add seasonal color interest. General weeding was done through smaller Park beds as well as planting and watering.

URBAN FORESTRY

Tree Plantings: Right-of-way tree planting projects are complete for spring with over 400 trees installed in northern Marion. The GIS inventory was updated for all the new spring plantings. Watering the new plantings has been a priority with the heat and dry conditions.

Right-of-ways & Public Areas: Herbicide applications for noxious weeds are revisited from previous concerns and spot treated if necessary. Any new locations identified are addressed during this time also.

Prairie Areas: Maintenance, mowing and walkthroughs were completed for medians and new prairie locations within the establishment period. Monthly mowing at 8 to 12-inches in height helps to discourage weed development in the first 2 to 3 years. Detailed inspections for noxious weeds are removed physically with hand tools, or mechanically with trimming and mowing.

Lowe Park: Staff spruced up the Demonstration Orchard at Lowe Park by expanding mulching rings and fencing around all plantings.

CEMETERY

OAK SHADE CEMETERY	APR 2025	MAY 2025	JUN 2025
Spaces Sold	8	1	7
Burials	4	2	7

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

CODE COMPLIANCE	APR 2025	MAY 2025	JUN 2025
New Complaints	1	26	29
Resolved Complaints	0	18	25
Active Complaints	24	35	36

COMPLAINT TYPE	APR 2025	MAY 2025	JUN 2025
Tree – Right of Way	1	1	0
Tree – Private Property	0	1	0
Sidewalk Obstruction	0	0	0
Sidewalk Not Cleared (Snow or Ice)	0	0	0
Tall Grass and Weeds	0	24	29
TOTAL	1	26	29

RECREATION

Rec United Soccer: Rec United Soccer is a partner program with Cedar Rapids and Hiawatha and is now in its 4th year. The 8-week program began June 19 with over 250 participants. Games were played at the Tuma Soccer Complex on County Home Road. Focus is placed on learning age-appropriate skills and fundamentals to better enhance the players ability and understanding of the game of soccer with emphasis placed on teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Bounce Party at Gill Park: On June 25, the inflatables were brought out to Gill Park for a Bounce Party. Operations staff hauled the equipment over, and Recreation staff set them up. The Bounce Parties were an idea which came about to provide additional recreation opportunities at Gill Park following the playground removal. The first one in June was very successful, with roughly 150 kids coming out to play. There will be two more this summer on July 23 and August 20.



Lil Pigskins Football: There were 4 sessions of the Lil Pigskins Football held in June at Butterfield Park. With times ranging from 9:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., parents could select a schedule to accommodate a busy summer. Players were introduced to the basics of football without contact. Fun and fundamentals are combined through skill-building drills, activities, and games while emphasizing the importance of good sportsmanship and teamwork.

Lil Sluggers Blastball: This modified t-ball league for 3-year-olds ran for 6 weeks and wrapped up June 26. The 73 players made up 12 teams who were coached by parent volunteers. Each team had two practices and four games at the Butterfield Park Ball Diamond. Rec staff assisted the teams throughout each game/practice.

Lil Kickers Kickball: This Tuesday event camp for 3 & 4-year-olds was held at Butterfield Park. Rec staff taught the 13 participants how to kick, throw, field, and run the bases and wraps up with a "real" game on the last day.

Movie On the Move: The first Movie on the Move this summer was at Lininger Park on June 27 (photo right). Rec staff set up the portable movie screen, and some yard games. June's movie was The Fall Guy with about 40 people coming out to enjoy the night and beautiful weather. Next up, Twisters at Thomas Park on July 27.



Moonlit Movies: Bluesky Productions showed Inside Out 2 at Lowe Park on June 20 with approximately 100 attendees. The event started at 7 p.m. and ended around 9:45. Due to the wind the movie screen was set up against the building. Inflatables were unable to be used due to the wind as well, but attendees lined up to get their faces painted.

Music Under the Moon: The Hype performed at Lowe Park June 14. Even though it was Father's Day weekend and there were other events throughout the Corridor, the event drew a crowd of approximately 500 attendees. The Snack Shack was open for the first time during the event and brought in about \$75 in sales.

POOL

Pool: The month of June had rainy but beautiful weather. Session 1 and 2 swimming lessons took place with a total of 454 participants. The pool had a grand total of 4,589 attendees in June.

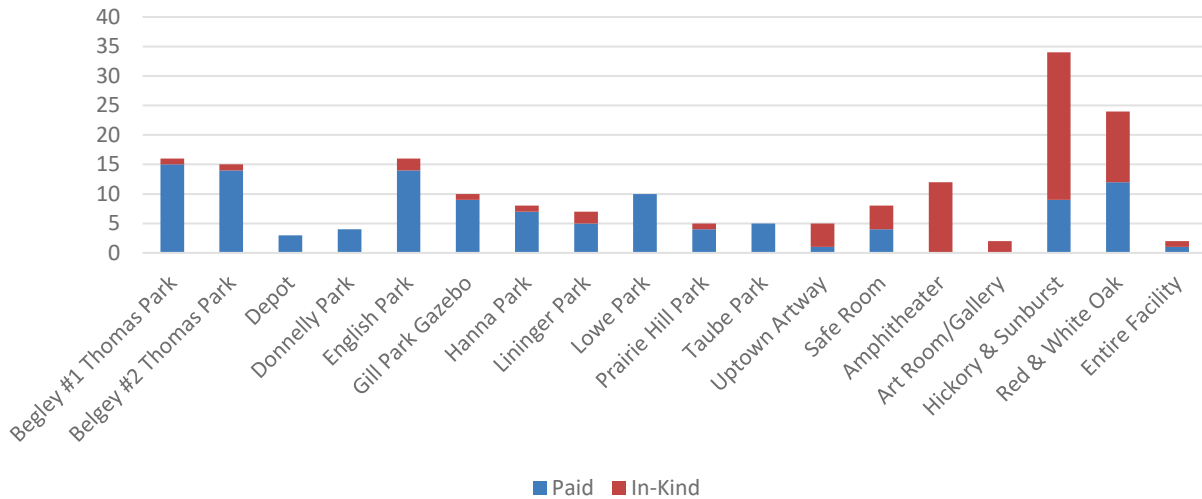


ARTS COUNCIL

Picnic On the Prairie: Funk Daddies performed at Lowe Park on June 21. Despite the high temperatures, the event drew a crowd of approximately 100 attendees. The Snack Shack was open during the evening and brought in about \$50 in sales. The next Picnic on the Prairie concert will take place on August 16 and will feature The Wonderful Smiths.

FACILITY RESERVATIONS

2025: In-Kind 69; Paid 117
 2024: In-Kind 89; Paid 125
 2023: In-Kind 88; Paid 143



ACTIVITIES USAGE (Pavilion data not reflected)

2025 - 81
 2024 - 114
 2023 - 104

