

DATE: September 17, 2019

Park Board Activity

- **Approvals:** The 3-year service agreement with Modern Piping for the HVAC (geothermal) system at the Lowe Park A&E Center was approved for renewal.

The Board reviewed RFPs from Snyder & Associates, Confluence, HBK Engineering, and MSA for the Neighborhood Master Plans. The RFP from Snyder & Associates was approved.

- **Park Board Seat:** The Board moved forward the application of Bryan Fiscus to the Mayor for consideration and appointment.

Department Activity

- **Low Park South Playground Ribbon Cutting:** The Lowe South Playground had its grand opening on August 28. Mayor AbouAssaly and Parks Director Carolan spoke about the great park addition with the inclusive playground, restrooms and pavilion to the City of Marion. The project is a great reflection of Marion's "Reach Higher" motto.
- **Low Park Maintenance Building Addition:** The building frame has been erected, wall insulation has been installed, the floor has been poured and contractors are finishing the electric and plumbing for the building. The project is set to be completed by the end of September.
- **Low Park Road & Trail Extension:** This project is being completed parallel to the Lowe Park Maintenance Building Addition. The road and trail have been graded for future asphalt paving by the Public Service Department. This project is set to be completed towards the end of September.

- **Hanna Park Fitness Trail:** The Public Service Department aided in installing the asphalt trail on the new section of the fitness trail. Operations staff is working on the finish grading and seeding for the project. The trail will be open for use on September 6.



- **Request for Proposals:** Proposals for a recreation software package are due September 6. They will be reviewed by a steering committee with a selection by October 9 and award of contract to follow.

Proposals for the Gill Park, and the 29thAve/50th Street Park Plan were due on August 30. The scope of work included public input sessions, a concept plan for two neighborhood parks, estimated construction costs, and a public meeting presentation. The plan will be used as a visionary tool and aide for budgeting within the City's capital improvement project planning. Four proposals were received, and an award of contract will be made at the September Park Board meeting.

- **Citizen Requests Tall Grass/Weeds:** Tall grass and weed complaints remained steady in August. There were 26 new cases opened, of which 23 were mailed certified letters for tall grass. By the end



of the month, 17 cases were closed, and the department mowed three properties. The remaining cases are still pending rechecks or mowing by the department.

- **Oak Shade Cemetery:** There were four burials, one disinterment, and six spaces sold last month.

- **General Park Maintenance:** Operation staff have been finishing summer projects. Routine mowing and trimming continued through the first week of August. Seasonal staff are staining split rail fencing and the ball diamond dugout areas. September begins the turf maintenance schedule including seeding, aerating, and broadleaf treatment. As the fall season comes up, preparation to the soccer and football fields has started.



- **Citizen Requests Tree Issues:** There were 3 citizen requests in August regarding private trees and 13 new cases regarding right-of-way trees. Three right-of-way tree cases were closed during the month.

- **Forestry Equipment:** The Park Board approved the purchase of a Vermeer SC382 Stump Cutter in early August and delivery was the following week. Forestry staff put it in service within days to start working on the long list of stumps to be removed due to the multitude of Ash trees removed this year. (Photo left, Ryan Hays working with the new stump cutter unit.)



Staff completed welding on Unit #37, a 1-ton dump truck, to repair a tailgate flange, welding on the water trailer to replace the jack stand, replacement of both taillights on the chipper, and a helic-tap to repair screw threading on the 200T chainsaw.

- **Forestry Project Tasks:** State Forester, Mark Vitosh, assessed dead or declining oak trees at Oak Shade Cemetery and gave recommendation for management. A work plan for trees in the cemetery was developed including estimates for large removals by contract and prioritizing work to be done by Forestry staff.

City Arborist Cimprich attended a workshop titled “Trees, Neighbors and the LAW.”

Trees Forever hosted a mulching project at Donnelly Park. Seven Tree Keepers attended to volunteer in mulching over 35 trees

Fundraising for the Battle Creek Planting Project has been opened and is being overseen by Trees Forever. A planting is scheduled for October 18 or 19.

- **Tree Care:** Forestry staff attended a variety of tree concerns related to storm damage and continued Ash removals in the second Emerald Ash Borer confirmation area. Stump grinding has been made a priority. (Photo right, Klein Walker assessing clean-up of a storm damaged tree.)



- **National Night Out:** Recreation staff took park in National Night Out at Thomas Park in partnership with Marion Police and Marion Fire Departments. Hy-Vee provided a free picnic meal for attendees.
- **Municipal Swimming Pool:** Pool staff started leaving August 14. Quite a few are involved in sports, band, and college programs. Labor Day weekend a minimal staff was available with the manager helping on Monday in the baby/training area.

The pool closed for normal weekday hours on August 21. The pool was only open for lap swim from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on August 22 and 23, as well as August 26 to 30. Weekend hours were still in effect August 24 to 25 and Labor Day weekend. On the best day, there were 14 swimmers for lap swim. The weekend of Labor Day was slow, mainly due to cooler weather.

A list of minor pool maintenance items was put together to be addressed over the next couple of months. For example, touching up paint in baby and training pools, and power washing the decks, locker rooms, and front area.

- **Fall into Fitness:** The Fall into Fitness schedule was finalized for September. The free fitness program is held at the Klopfenstein Amphitheater on Tuesday evenings in September from 6 to 7 p.m. The classes being offered are: Sept 3 Bootcamp/HITT; Sept 10 Pop Pilates; Sept 17 Body Attack; Sept 24 Dance Club Cardio.



- **Moonlit Movie:** The final Moonlit Movie Night at Lowe Park of the summer was held August 16, featuring “Ralph Breaks the Internet.” An estimated 350 to 400 people were in attendance to take in a night of fun at Lowe Park before the school year began. Kids enjoyed free inflatables, popcorn, and activities from radio station Z102.9. This event is sponsored by the Marion Hotel-Motel Grant program and by GreenState Credit Union (formerly University of Iowa Community Credit Union).
- **Youth Recreation Programs:** Track & Agility Camp for kids ages 5 to 8 was held in August with 87 kids participating in this newly popular camp. Kids were put through the ringer and worked on sprinting, relays, distance running, and general agility and footwork, before taking on a monster obstacle course the final day of the program.

PeeWee Flag Football for kindergarten to 1st graders began in mid-August with 82 kids participating. Kids learn the basics the first three nights under the guidance of recreation staff and play games against other teams the remaining five nights.

Youth Flag Football for kids in grades 2nd to 6th began practicing at the end of August. There are 129 kids participating across 12 teams in the league. Games are held Saturday mornings at Lowe Park beginning September 7.

Teams were organized for the new Fall 3v3 Soccer League being held at Butterfield Park. This program is for kids in kindergarten to 2nd grade. There are 55 kids participating in the six-week league which begins September 4.

- **Free Community Fitness:** Sunrise Yoga and Pound in the Park, two of our free community fitness programs, have wrapped up for the summer. It was a record summer for the Sunrise Yoga program with nearly 1,300 people attending. Pound in the Park wrapped up with Pound after Dark on August 30.
- **Arts Council:** Between 150 to 175 people attended the August 17 Picnic on the Prairie, with The Dandelion Stompers from Iowa City performing a New Orleans style of jazz.

The Gallery's current exhibit is from photographer Bob Strickland sharing his life-long, avid love of nature and photography. The artist reception will be September 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.



SAFE ROOM & ARTS CENTER USAGE – AUGUST

Events with alcohol permits: 12

AV Equipment Rentals: 1

Some reservations use more than one room.

Room	Paid	Free
Safe Room	3	6
Amphitheater	1	13
Art Room	0	5
Gallery/Lobby	0	0
Sunburst	0	16
Hickory	15	9
White Oak	0	1
Red Oak	7	1
Red & White Oak	5	13
Entire Facility	2	4
Outdoor (Pond) / Greenhouse	0	0
2019 MONTHLY TOTAL	33	68
2018 MONTHLY TOTAL	33	49

Activity Type	Monthly Usage	Number of Attendees*
Gallery Open / Arts Council Activities	7	43
Seniors Bingo / Dance / Cards	22	464
Parks / Recreation	5	2,100
Meetings / Work / School / Church	3	150
Blood Drive	1	20
Family Gatherings / Showers	14	575
Rehearsal/Wedding/Reception	5	810
Encore Meals	9	340
Graduation	1	200
Sunrise Yoga & Pound in the Park	9	200
2019 MONTHLY TOTAL	76	4,902
2018 MONTHLY TOTAL	89	6,215

*ISU Extension Camps and Art Gallery visitors not reflected.

PAVILION RESERVATIONS – AUGUST

Pavilion	Free	Paid	TOTAL	Attendance*
English – Thomas Park	0	18	18	1,245
Begley #1 – Thomas Park	0	15	15	600
Begley #2 – Thomas Park	0	16	16	505
Hanna Park	1	8	9	395
Depot - City Park	1	6	7	463
Taube Park	4	1	5	60
2019 TOTALS	6	64	70	3,268
2018 Totals	7	78	85	3,180

Does not include attendees to: Farmers Market (Taube Park every Saturday),
Library Children's Programs (2 @ Depot), Uptown Getdown (4 @ Depot),
and Uptown Marion Market (Depot).

