

Town of Munster
Department of Parks and Recreation
Board Report – July 15, 2025

DIRECTOR / ADMINISTRATION

Parks Capital Improvements

The Park Board held a work study session on Tuesday, July 8, to discuss future capital improvement projects, help establish priorities, and assess potential funding capabilities.

West Lakes Park Washroom Building

CSK Architects is finalizing detailed designs to prepare the project for bidding later this month. A recommendation for award is expected to be presented at the August Park Board meeting.

Bridges Over Ditches

An initial coordination meeting was held with Gariup Inc., the contractor for the Bridges Over Ditches project. While some preparatory work may begin this year, the bridges themselves are expected to be delivered and installed in spring/summer 2026 due to a 42–44 week lead time.

Independence Day Festivities

The Town's Independence Day events were held on July 3 at Centennial Park and July 4 on Ridge Road. Staff were actively involved in both, with significant efforts focused on July 3 for park preparation and post-event cleanup.

Portapotty Vandalism at West Lakes Park

Vandalism continues to be a problem, with four portapotties destroyed over the past two summers. Our current vendor has refused to place new units without on-site surveillance. We are working with the IT Department to install a camera powered via a nearby light pole. Temporary units from a different vendor have been brought in for special events. We aim to have permanent units and camera monitoring in place by August 1 for the fall soccer season.

Golf Course Management RFP

The RFP for golf course management was distributed to potential vendors, posted on the Town website, and included in the Indiana Park and Recreation Association's newsletter. We've received some initial interest, with a better sense of participation expected after the scheduled site tour. One firm has already visited the course independently.

Clubhouse Electrical Redistribution

A recent meeting with SEH addressed how to re-route power to the Maynard Lake fountains at Centennial Park. Due to outdated systems and failing equipment, the recommendation is to install new LED fountains, updated wiring, and new control panels. These upgrades will be included in the overall demolition and redevelopment project.

Maynard Lake Stocking

We are in discussions with the Indiana DNR to restock Maynard Lake at no cost in 2026. The condition for participation is that all anglers must hold an Indiana Fishing License. If this is acceptable, a resolution should be considered later this year to formalize the rule.

Centennial Park Golf Course – Fence Safety

A recent incident involving a pedestrian being struck by a golf ball near the 8th hole green has prompted an evaluation of fencing and other mitigation options to improve public safety.

RECREATION

- Superintendent attended an IPRA webinar: *"How to Think Big in Parks and Recreation."*
- Actively collecting vendor and sponsorship payments for the upcoming **Crusin' the Ridge** event.
- Coordination meetings and walk-throughs were held for **Decades Fest** and **Kids Fest**.
- Recreation Intern attended the July Chamber of Commerce luncheon.
- Staff supported the July 3 Fireworks event, assisting with wristbanding in the Beer Garden.
- The Recreation Intern concludes their internship on August 1 after completing numerous events and camps.
- In response to repeated issues, **pool entry age has been increased to 18+ unless accompanied by a paying adult**. Issues included minors scaling fences and ignoring dress code.
- **Munster Pool Weekly Attendance:** Avg. 1,972
 - 5 Private Parties
 - 9 Birthday Parties
 - 928 Season Pass Holders
 - June Red Cross Blood Drive: 16 donors, 12 pints collected.

Summer Camp Highlights

Weeks 2–6 included trips to the Museum of Ice Cream, AMC Theatres, Medieval Times, White-Water Canyon Waterpark, and Lincoln Park Zoo. A highlight was an animatronic velociraptor and petting zoo visit. Lunch out Fridays average 45 campers.

Tennis Lessons

- Session 2:
 - Youth: 65
 - Adults: 16
 - Private: 5
 - Semi-private: 2

Swim Lessons

- 70 youth enrolled in the first three sessions.
- 3 enrolled in Intro to Diving with positive feedback.

Programs & Events

- **Beryl Markham Lunch & Show** hosted regular Lynn Rymarz attendees. Munster Arby's donated lunch.
- **Spring soccer photo rebate** from Fox Photography: \$772.
- **Movie in the Park:** *Mufasa* drew 485 attendees; Hispanic Heritage Dance Class performed pre-show.
Next movie: July 21.
- **CIVIC Concert Series:**
 - John David Daily: rescheduled to 6/24 – 75 attendees.
 - Cheap Foreign Cars: 250 attendees.
- **Summer Concert Series:**
 - The Throwbacks (outdoors): 150 attendees.
 - Good Clean Fun (moved indoors due to rain): 140 attendees.
- **Region Eats Food Festival:**
 - 18 food vendors
 - Over 1,000 attendees
 - Live music by Nick Danger Band
 - Beer Garden operated by the Pro Shop

Upcoming Events

- **Touch A Truck** – Friday, July 11:
 - Over 15 vehicles
 - Kona Ice and additional vendors
 - Bounce house included
- **Decades Fest** – Final planning underway:
 - 5 Bands
 - South Shore Roller Derby
 - Break dancing
 - Car cruise
- **Kids Fest** – Also in final planning stages:
 - 7 food vendors
 - New additions: toddler area, magician, Touch A Truck

SOCIAL CENTER RENTALS

- 45 facility tours conducted year-to-date
- **Rentals by Month:**

Month Rentals Completed

January	8
February	11
March	11
April	10
May	42
June	58
Total	140

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF COMPLETED PROGRAMS

Program	R	NR	Revenue	Expense	Variance
Afternoon Sports Camps	17	5	\$1,040.00	\$528.50	\$511.50
Beryl Markham Lunch & Show	4	6	\$400.00	\$301.34	\$98.66
Coffee and Canvas	5	3	\$240.00	\$158.27	\$81.73
Destination Español	6	0	\$468.00	\$330.00	\$138.00
Home Alone Training	8	0	\$280.00	\$140.00	\$140.00
Marshmallow Dodgeball	7	3	\$100.00	\$56.12	\$43.88
Region Eats	—	—	\$3,565.78	\$961.73	\$2,604.05
Tennis – Session #1	63	21	\$6,640.00	\$3,783.24	\$2,856.76
Tiny Tykes	14	0	\$1,400.00	\$990.00	\$410.00
Totals	124	1138	\$14,133.78	\$7,249.20	\$6,884.58

PARK MAINTENANCE

In addition to routine tasks (trash pickup, restroom cleaning, Social Center setup, landfill operations), the following were completed:

- New department truck received and decaled
- Sidewalk edging and bush trimming

- Tree limb and brush cutting near Briar Creek, Hart’s Ditch, and Somerset pond
- Shelter fascia boards/posts repainted
- Ballfield drags rebuilt and fields groomed weekly
- Soap dispensers installed at Community Park and Pro Shop
- Beer garden and formal garden fences pressure washed
- Setup support for fireworks and other events
- Irrigation system repairs at Centennial and softball fields
- New landfill cell riser pump control panels/flowmeters installed
- Short light poles damaged by vehicles repaired and/or removed
- Red brick surfaces weeded and raked at Centennial
- Stage lighting bulbs replaced

Jenbacher Engine Production

Date	Run Hours	MWh	Methane Flow
6/10/25	454	145.5	219,790
7/9/25	755	236	443,808

CENTENNIAL PARK GOLF COURSE

Category	2025	2024
Member Rounds	898	512
Public Rounds	2,112	1,908
Green Fees	\$33,637	\$33,110
Range Fees	\$16,380	\$10,933
Cart Fees	\$12,377	\$11,641

Course and driving range operations have seen notable increases in both usage and revenue, driven by strategic improvements, focused marketing, and improved guest experiences.

Although excessive heat in late June impacted play, overall public participation and revenue are trending upward.

Concessions

The pool concession stand has performed well this season, aided by favorable weather. Staff continue to focus on quality menu offerings and customer service.