

Town of Munster
Department of Parks and Recreation
Board Report September 16, 2025

DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATION

Parks Capital Improvements: The Town Council approved the engagement for the bond counsel for the Park Bond. The first step in that process is on the Park Board agenda tonight after some discussion over the past few months on anticipated capital improvements. The process is for a Park Department bond issue which would cover capital improvement projects in 2026 and 2027. Projects at Centennial Park have been removed as a separate financing mechanism is being sought to bring about those improvements which is similar to the way the park was initially developed.

West Lakes Park washroom building: The architect drafted the construction contract and we are awaiting legal review on whether we can proceed with having the contractor execute it. Once that occurs, construction should begin soon.

Bridges over Ditches: The Town held a groundbreaking ceremony on September 5th with the Town of Highland. Approximately 50 people attended as there is excitement for the project. SEH continues to work on a few final items including amending an agreement with NIPSCO and receiving final permission from the Lake County Surveyor/Lake County Drainage Board. As required by the Drainage Board the Town has to add 415 cubic yards of compensatory storage along Hart Ditch. This will be added in an area owned by the Town on the west side of Hart Ditch and south of the NIPSCO corridor. This will be changed to hold stormwater during larger rainfall events in the future as shoreline work is completed in that area. Additionally, the contractor will submit construction permits in both Highland and Munster for the work. An amended agreement with NIPSCO has been received and is on the September 15th Town Council meeting agenda for their consideration.

2026 Budget Worksheets: The Town Council has been reviewing budgets for 2026. With anticipated cuts in 2026, we have been asked to ‘tighten our belt’ and to include only things that are absolutely needed to help reach the Town goals for budgeting due to the SEA 1.

Golf Course Management RFP’s: The review committee met to discuss the three proposals that were received. Interviews have been scheduled with two of the three companies for September 16th. A follow up discussion will be completed after the interviews.

Clubhouse Electrical Redistribution: A site visit was completed with SEH and Midwestern Electric last week to continue the discussion on electrical redistribution from the Clubhouse at Centennial Park. This visit was mainly looking for solutions on where power for the pond fountains could be supplied from as part of the electrical redistribution plan.

Maynard Lake stocking: The Indiana DNR District 1 Fish Biologist visited the park on August 18th to complete a fish survey. They completed 30 minutes of electrofishing and found the following:

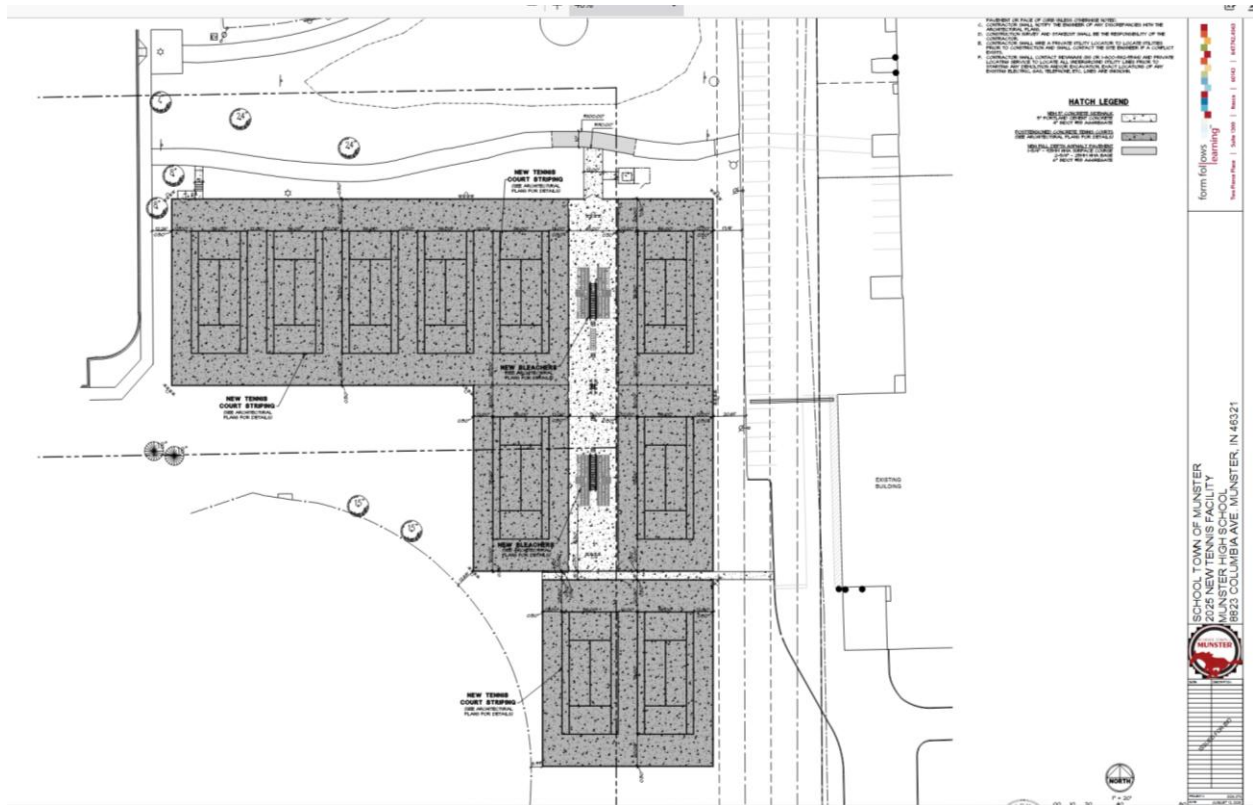
The DNR is suggesting to stock Redear Sunfish due to slight differences in feeding preferences and life cycle which co-exist very well with Bluegill. Introducing Redear will provide another fishing opportunity for anglers while protecting the already excellent fishing that exists for Largemouth Bass and Bluegill. They anticipate a stocking to occur this month as the opportunity came about sooner than anticipated based upon the species selection.

Species	Number	Percent	Min Length	Max Length
Bluegill	107	68.2	2.1	6.5
Largemouth Bass	37	23.6	5.5	18.3
Yellow Bullhead	5	3.2	6.7	10.9
Black Crappie	4	2.5	7.0	7.9
Hybrid Sunfish	3	1.9	4.6	6.0
Gizzard Shad	1	0.6	10.8	10.8
Total	157			

Concessions Management RFP: The optional site tour for concessions was scheduled for the morning of September 16th while proposals will be due on September 30th.

Pathway Use: A more recent trend has been the use of e-bikes and other electric or motorized devices. The general complaint is in regards to the speed of the devices on pathways. We've been in discussion with the police department about any solutions that can also be enforced. Since we have pathways in parks and there are other pathways through the Town that are governed by Town Ordinance as they are not on park property, I expect any changes to be approved by the Town Council for this issue. The simplest one might be a speed limit on all pathways, for instance the Cook County Forest Preserve added a 15mph speed limit on their pathways. This is still fast for neighborhood park pathways but would also be difficult for police enforcement. We are continuing to monitor the issue and looking for solutions.

School Town Tennis Courts project: The School Town's architect brought their proposal to the Town's site plan review committee meeting last week. The project is in the area east and northeast of the pool which was previously approved as a lease agreement for this. The layout shows 10 full tennis courts with 8 having lights. The complex will also have bleachers and a raised platform for viewing on the 'championship courts'. They will also be creating some detention areas as well as having some underground detention. A few items were pointed out for them to take care of, mainly concerning electric to the rest of the park, which they will continue to work on. Following shows their current proposed rental.



RECREATION

The Fall Recreation Guide has been mailed out and registration is ongoing.

Superintendent attended IPRA Webinar: Walk the Talk: Mindfulness and well-being for Parks and Recreation leaders.

Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon meeting: Superintendent of Recreation attended the September meeting.

Volunteer requests have been shared with Munster High school clubs to help with upcoming events, programs and camps.

2026 event dates have been decided and shared with Town Planner for next year's calendars.

Munster Community Pool had a great season with lots of smiles and great attendance. The pool report is included in the agenda packet.

Recreation Supervisor attended the Bellaboo's Play Summit. Topics included: best program methods and ideas for toddlers/youth along with the best approaches to different abilities in the classroom.

September's Movie in the Park featured Inside Out 2.

Fall Tennis began with beautiful weather. Two instructors are instructing adult classes with 15 enrolled and youth classes with 14.

Fall Soccer has 38 teams and 77 coaches. We have 7 refs hired for the games that start September 13.

National Senior Day BINGO ran with 58 Keen Ager. We celebrated the seniors that make up the Keen Ager membership with bingo games and an Aurelio's Pizza lunch sponsored by Hartsfield Village.

Pan Am Stewardess Lunch/Show ran with an audience of 28. We welcomed a new performer, Leslie Goddard, who portrayed a Pan Am Stewardess following the catered lunch from Chipotle.

Cruisin' on the Magnificent IL River sold out with 50 passengers. Travelers enjoyed a lunch from the Starved Rock Lodge and then enjoyed a 3-hour Illinois River Cruise on the St Genevieve Riverboat.

There were 2 final CIVIC Concert that completed the series this summer. Desperate Bastards had 125 people in attendance with Taco Buchon as the food Vendor and The Flat Cats had 150 in attendance. The food vendor never showed.

Crusin' with the Crew brought 27 bikers. The route started at the Monon Trailhead, stopped at Noodles and Company and ended back at the Monon Trailhead where bikers got a popsicle and goodie bag.

Cash for Clutter filled before the early-bird deadline with 99 sellers. Over the past few seasons, this event has become extremely popular. Dozens of calls have been rejected due to not enough vendor spaces.

<u>Month</u>	<u># of Rentals completed</u> Lion's Club Social Center, weddings, shelter rentals + Munster Pool
January	8
February	11
March	11
April	10
May	42
June	58
July	54
August	34
2025 Total	228

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF COMPLETED PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	R	NR	REVENUE	EXPENSE	VARIANCE
Cruisin' on the Magnificent IL River	8	42	\$2,044.00	\$30.00	\$2,014.00
National Senior Day Bingo	58		296.00	\$85.96	\$210.04
Pan Am Stewardess Lunch/Show	10	18	\$1,336.00	\$849.96	\$486.04
Tiny Shops Big Charm- Little Traveler	9	25	\$2,160.00	\$1,248.83	\$911.17
TOTAL:	27	143	\$5,836.00	\$2,214.75	\$3,621.25

PARK MAINTENANCE

In addition to daily trash pickup, bathroom cleaning, Social Center set up, gas plant monitoring/maintenance and leachate pump operation/recording, the following tasks were completed;

A large tree limb fell on John Friend Park property and was barricaded off. The neighbor had the tree removed.

Event banners were put out.

Helped with the Lions Club Steak Fry.

Worked a half day on the Little League C field scoreboard and discovered one of the volunteers switched the channel on the controller.

Replaced the exhaust fan motor at the south bathrooms.

A Community Park flagpole light was repaired.

Babe Ruth and Centennial Park irrigation repair.

Beech Park playground repairs.

MPR soccer fields were laid out and striped.

Munster Soccer Club fields are being restriped weekly.

Setup for Tuesday concerts.

Staff attended a meeting about relocating electric for the fountains and lighting that currently comes from the clubhouse.

Jenbacher Engine Production

Date	Run Hours	MWh	Methane Flow
6/10/25	454	145.5	219,790
7/9/25	755	236	443,808
8/14/25	1,297	372	690,545
9/4/25	1,715	518	991,168

CENTENNIAL PARK GOLF COURSE

August	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Member Rounds	1,074	693
Public Rounds	2,227	1,944
Green Fees	\$40,501	\$32,525
Range Fees	\$17,433	\$8,746
Cart Fees	\$14,113	\$12,676

Pro Shop

Over the reporting period, both course play and driving range operations have experienced significant growth in revenue and utilization. This positive trend can be attributed to strategic facility enhancements, targeted marketing initiatives, and a continued focus on delivering exceptional guest experiences. Our client-facing public play segment has also seen an encouraging increase in revenue this season. However, inclement weather from mid- to late August resulted in a decline in public rounds and driving range usage, limiting our ability to maximize revenue during that period. With fall approaching, we are now shifting our focus toward launching a membership drive aimed at increasing our base of new members.

Concession

The pool concession stand performed very well this season. With the pool now closed and fully cleaned out, we're looking ahead with optimism to another exciting season next year. Meanwhile, the Triple Play Café is beginning to pick back up as the fall ball season gets underway.

Golf Course

The grounds department has started seasonal layoffs. 2 employees have moved on. Bart is a teacher at a school in Lansing but has agreed to work some weekends through October. Nick, a two-season veteran has accepted a full time position in Chicago.

The John Deere bunker rake has arrived and is in use. We traded in a Toro bunker rake that was purchased in 2011.

We are prepping for aerification by edging all sprinklers and drains. Fertilizer and seed has been purchased to aid in recovery.

New tee signs have been installed. They replace original signs that were faded and peeling.

Restoration of methane pipeline continues.

Disposed of more junk around the shop.

Near completion of fence line clean up on the east side of course. We've been removing dead or dying trees and removing vines. There are several Ash trees that are infected with the Emerald Ash Borer. The Pennsy Path side also has many Ash trees. Much of the fence has poison ivy.

A snake made a home in an irrigation box that controls hole 3, 4 tee, 8 green and 9 tee. It has damaged some wiring so I rewired the box to make it functional. A Toro irrigation person is coming to repair the damage.

Centennial Park had 5.5 inches of rain in August, but only .25 since August 19 and only .05 in September. The course is looking much better but the current dry streak is starting to stress out the golf course.