

Town of Munster – Department of Parks & Recreation
Board Report
June 17, 2025

Administration & Capital Projects

- **Landfill Gas Header Replacement:**
 - Scheduled gas collection line replacements are completed.
 - Additional work remains in the pipeline.
 - **Centennial Park Clubhouse Redevelopment:**
 - Park Board held a work-study session on June 3, building on prior meetings.
 - Collaboration with HWC Engineering and SEH continues, focusing on demolition and electrical reconfiguration.
 - Electrical feed rerouted from Clubhouse to the new Pro Shop via Midwestern Electric.
 - **West Lakes Park Washroom:**
 - CSK Architects are finalizing detailed design and specs for upcoming bid phase.
 - **Briar Creek Park Playground:**
 - Playground installation is complete and open.
 - Contractor supplying longer chains for belt swings to enhance accessibility.
 - **Fisher Street Trail Assessment:**
 - AES conducted geotechnical surveys; asphalt depth ranged between 1.25"–3".
 - Data will guide 2026 trail repave planning by SEH.
 - **Bridge Installations Over Ditches:**
 - Gariup Inc. awarded contract; bridges have a 42–44 week lead time.
 - Construction will commence in July, with most work likely spilling into 2026.
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Recreation & Community Events

- **Staff Training & Outreach:**
 - Superintendent participated in an IPRA webinar on LGBTQAI2S+ inclusivity.
 - Met with NWI Town Planner for 2026 advertising campaigns, anticipating budget constraints.
 - Secured School Town of Munster partnership for bi-weekly camper busing to the pool.
 - Superintendent attended the Chamber of Commerce luncheon.
- **Summer Intern & Program Staffing:**
 - Recreation Intern onboarded; supporting sports camps, pool management, and Touch A Truck event logistics.
- **Pool Operations:**
 - Pool opened May 29 – 6½ days closed out of 8 possible in May due to cold temperatures; 137 attendees on open days, plus 144 at one private party.
 - Season passholders have reached 844.
 - New credit card readers installed.
- **Summer Camp Updates:**
 - Week 1 included activities like Zao Island, pool visits, face painting, and Chipotle lunch.
 - June camp is over-enrolled; additional subs and second-round staff training are in place.

- **Program Enrollment (ongoing):**
 - Tennis: 50 youth, 19 adults, plus 5 private/semi-private lessons.
 - Swim lessons: 19 kids (weekday), 46 (Saturday), with 3 Intro-to-Diving participants.
 - Other programs: Sports Camps (22), BLAST (12), Hispanic Heritage Dance (9), Destination Español (6).
- **Recent Events:**
 - **Bark in the Park:** ~700 attendees; earlier timing, cooler weather welcomed; featured vendors and contests.
 - **Tunes on Tuesday** added a ‘Pop-Up Concert’ with Highland Community Concert Band at Centennial Park on June 3rd ~100 attendees.
 - **Sunday Summer Concert Series:** Began with ‘28 Days’, was moved indoors due to weather—attendance was ~75.
 - **Upcoming Events in Planning:**
 - *Decades Fest:* 50s–70s theme (Fri); 80s–present theme (Sat) with vintage cars, “Friends”-themed trivia, dancing.
 - *Kid’s Fest:* Vendor secured; finalizing entertainment lineup.
- **Facility Rentals:**
 - Tours: 42 conducted year-to-date.
 - Rentals: 82 total in 2025 (Jan–May), including weddings, shelter use, and pool events.

Financials (Completed Activities)

Program	Attendance	Revenue	Expense	Surplus
Bark in the Park	~700	\$2,298	\$112.50	\$2,185.50
BLAST	12	\$620	\$308	\$312
Hispanic Heritage Dance	9	\$725	\$540	\$185
Morton Arboretum trip	23	\$1,612	\$1,391.07	\$220.93
Patti’s AA Partnership	3	\$737	\$442.20	\$294.80
Spring Tennis	30	\$1,610	\$1,101.85	\$508.15
Tiny Tykes	11	\$1,100	\$990	\$110
Total	62 / 726	\$8,702	\$4,885.62	\$3,816.38

Park Maintenance Highlights

- Routine tasks: mowing, trash, cleaning, Social Center setups, plant monitoring, pump operations.
- Additional projects:
 - Storm debris cleanup across parks.
 - Removal of Bradford Pear stumps at Twin Creek and reseeding.
 - Beech Park memorial tree replacement.
 - Grove Park sign reinstalled.
 - Roller slide refurbishment in Stewart Park; high slide hood replaced.
 - Pool repairs: exhaust fan, auto-fill valve rebuild, shower valve replacements.
 - Soccer goal storage and turf repairs at Grove and West Lakes.

- Centennial irrigation fixes.
 - Landfill well weed trimming.
 - Event setups: DARE graduation, Bark in the Park, Tunes on Tuesday Concert.
 - Pressure washing of stage/shelter floors.
 - Staff trained on new irrigation control systems.
 - Ball cleaner relocated and replumbed.
 - Town-wide event banners displayed.
 - Re-installed maintenance gate at Community Park ball field.
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Jenbacher Gas-to-Energy Engine Production (6/10/2025)

Metric	Value
Run Hours	454
MWh	145.5
Methane Flow	219,790