



PARKS MONTHLY UPDATE, MARCH 2022  
PARKS / CEMETERY / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND / TRAILS

**Park and Recreation**

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This past month in the park department Nate has been busy working on his certifications and completing various projects. The goal setter basketball hoops were delivered to the shop that are a CIP item. The new shed for the campground was delivered recently as well. This shed is a CIP item that will house split wood, kayaks/paddleboards, and the mower/trimmer for the campground host. With the warm weather, we barricaded off the north gravel roads of Woodlawn, as they are very soft to prevent traffic from damaging the roads. The trail bridge at the complex had some boards replaced as snowmobiles crosses it late in the season and damaged it. I have been talking with the AmeriCorps director about lining up a couple of teams to come to Oelwein to complete some projects this fall. Projects include trimming trees at City Park & trails, painting shelters/picnic tables, and helping with the Branching Out – Trees Forever planting in October. Another project I would like them to complete is completing a tree survey of all the trees in the parks and cemeteries. I talked with Emma Hannigan with the forestry department about using a couple of their GPS units once again as we did in 2018 when the parks department completed the street tree survey. I am working on applying for three different grants to acquire more trees to plant in parks and cemeteries. Our big news is that our bill, HF2415 passed the house yesterday unanimously. Rep. Chad Ingles and Steve Bradley have done a lot of work to get this bill passed so we can acquire a trail easement from Iowa Northern Railroad.

This past month in the park department, we started out the week with a couple of inches of snow so we had a few employees come in and clear all sidewalks, trails and cemetery. I have submitted the Trees for Kids grant with the Iowa DNR this week. This grant the City can receive up to \$2,500 for trees that we would like to plant in Redgate Park. I have also been working on the AmeriCorps concept form to turn in this month to get approval to move forward with the full application to get a couple of teams in this fall to complete some projects for the park department. Nate has been working on his pesticide applicator license this week. Nate and Chris worked on the second trailer this week removing the expanded steel mesh on the gate and replacing it. This week the park department received a check from the Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation for \$250,000 for their third annual trail donation.

This past month in the park department, we took advantage of the warm weather to start cleaning some facilities from the winter months. Nate and I have swept all the trails with the brush as sticks and debris accumulate over the winter months. At the aquatic center, we started pulling gutter covers and cleaning out the channels. We have started pumping down the deep end to keep the standing water in the diving well to keep the dirty water isolated to that small area. On Monday, we had a full burial at Woodlawn for the Buehner funeral home and a cremation burial on Tuesday for Jamison Schmitz. Nate swept the sand away around the gas pumps; he started the sweeping the parking lots at the pool and around the fire department. Nate wrapped up the trailer gate project applying some paint to the new grating. I ordered new safety vests for the employees for the upcoming season. We have advertised in the paper on Facebook, and hand dozens of applications out just talking with individuals for park and cemetery positions with no applications coming in. Nate and I took the bucket truck and dropped at hanging branch at Platt Park that was hanging over the roadway where walkers pass through. Nate and I also dropped two infected small ash trees and one bigger ash tree along the west trail that needed to come down before it became a safety issue. Nate is preparing to take his next pesticide applicator test today. I prepared and sent out the park and rec agenda for Mondays meeting and sat in on the upper explorerland zoom meeting on Wednesday for trails. Our trial bill has made it past the natural resources and environment subcommittee. I have been working on getting pricing on playground mulch for this spring that will be part of the United Way day of caring project. I have been working with pool managers Kim and Peggy getting trainings lined up for the upcoming season at the aquatic



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center. I have been working on the AmeriCorps concept form to be sent out and the community forestry grant proposal as well as a trail grant that recently came up.

Nate and I installed the new memorial bench at the sports complex. This bench was purchased by the Reaves family last fall as we poured the foundation last fall, and the bench was delivered this winter. On Friday at 11am we received very short notice from Geilenfeld funeral home that they wanted a full burial dug for Monday morning. On Tuesday, I attended the Iowa Park and Rec Association conference in Dubuque. At the campground Nate and I cleaned up a small tree that needed to come down. Nate has been cleaning the downtown every morning and checking drainage areas in parks to make sure they are clear with all the rain. This week the new computers showed up, so we have been busy setting them up. Nate past his pesticide applicator license test on Thursday so he is ready to weed spray for this summer. This month I hosted the park and rec meeting at City Hall and gave updates on the departments.

Nate has been busy with his daily cleaning of the downtown. Nate finished his arial truck certification this week and set up a time to take his driving test for his CDL certification. We have been doing some spring cleaning of the sidewalks in the viaduct and picking up branches in the parks. We have been working on replacing the gutter system at the pool with the stainless-steel grates. At the complex, I had Nate take some black dirt out with some seed to dress up the new memorial bench for the Reeves family we recently installed. I had Nate get out the soccer goals, take out trash barrels and ordered the portable toilets for the soccer program. I met with the pool managers once again as we are busy lining up certification trainings, interviewing and getting paperwork completed. I have been working with Joe Bouska with East Penn lining up projects to complete for the United Way Day of Caring in May. I emailed the DNR once again as we are waiting on their report so that we can apply for a permit to stock Lake Oelwein with donations raised. I have been working on preparing hiring paperwork, safety trainings and orientations as we are bringing back employees this coming Monday.



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**BASKETBALL HOOPS**

**CAMPGROUND SHED**



**CEMETERY ROADS**

**BRIDGE REPAIR**



**AmeriCorps**



HF2415

House File 2415 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2415  
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2103)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to private land available for public use for  
2 recreational purposes.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE &  
LAND STEWARDSHIP**





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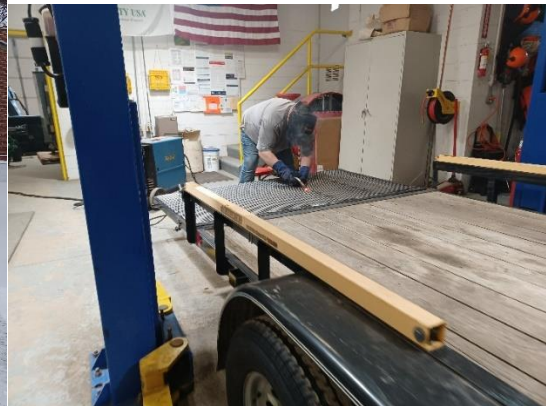
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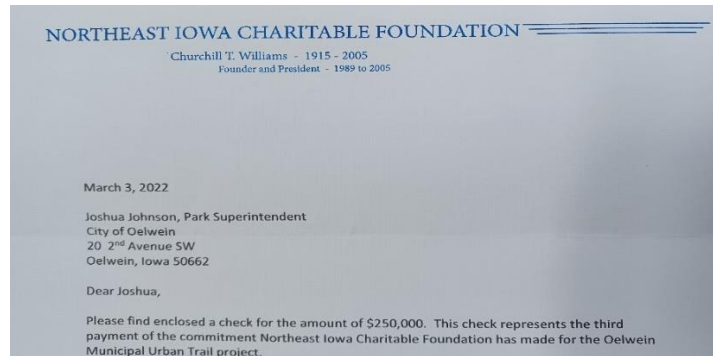
SNOW REMOVAL



TRAILER REPAIRS



TRAILS DONATION



TRAIL CLEANING



POOL MAINTENANCE



GRAVE PREP



CLEANING



NEW PPE







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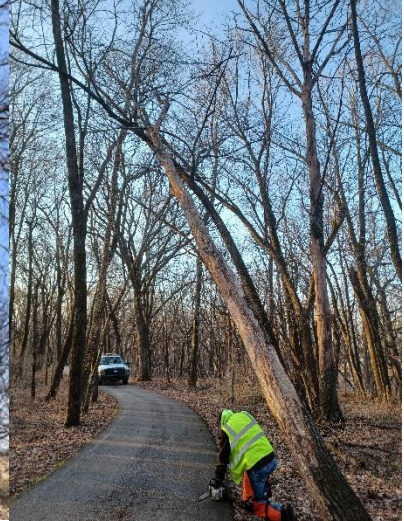
TRAILER FINISHED



LIMB DROPPED



TREE DROPPED



Memorial Bench



Grave Preparation



Conference







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Tree Removal



New computers



Viaduct cleaning



Picking up sticks



Gutter replacement



Finishing bench



Soccer nets out



Snowed again!



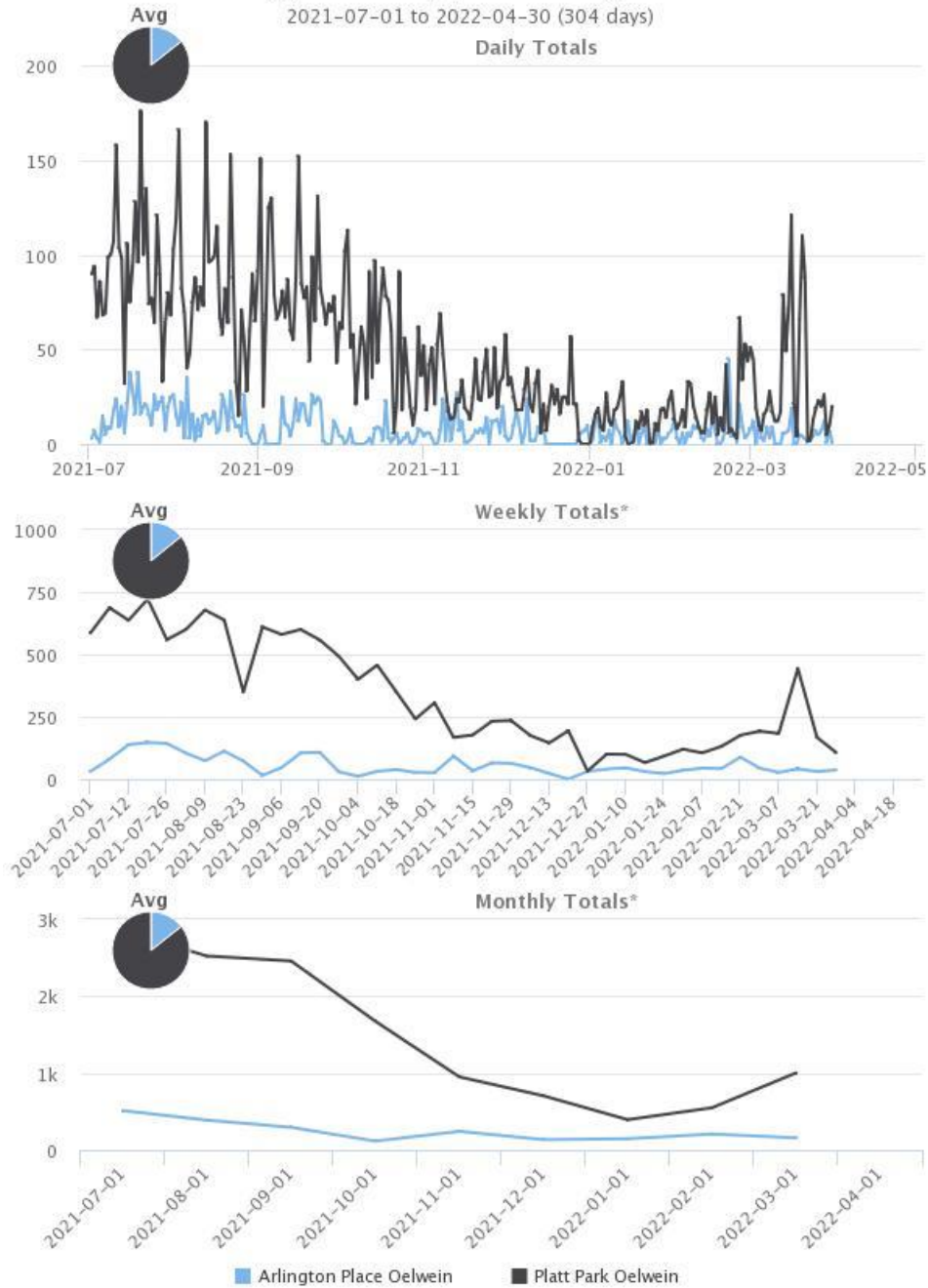


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### Daily/Weekly/Monthly totals



| SITE                    | 21/22 TRAIL TOTALS |      |       |      |      |      |      |       | ADT   |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
|                         | JULY               | AUG  | SEPT. | OCT  | NOV. | DEC. | FEB. | MARCH |       |
| Arlington Place Oelwein | 512                | 388  | 294   | 115  | 242  | 134  | 207  | 158   | 9.11  |
| Platt Park Oelwein      | 2845               | 2523 | 2458  | 1676 | 950  | 704  | 548  | 1,002 | 21.60 |

TOTAL TRAIL USERS 14,756



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**Daily Activities**

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- ❖ Sanitizing shop and equipment
- ❖ Pick up garbage downtown
- ❖ Checking/maintaining parks, cemeteries
- ❖ Maintenance on equipment
- ❖ Order supplies for all departments
- ❖ Safety meetings
- ❖ Meet with contractors
- ❖ Retrieve & upload trail count data
- ❖ Snow Removal
- ❖ Safety videos and paperwork for new employees

**Progress on Projects**

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- ❖ Website work ongoing
- ❖ Trail easements/grants
- ❖ Work on Park and Rec master plan
- ❖ CEU classes
- ❖ Grant writing
- ❖ Motor/Pump replacement at pool started
- ❖ Order CIP Items
- ❖ Hiring seasonal positions
- ❖ Pool hiring paperwork started
- ❖ LGI completed
- ❖ Pool forms
- ❖ Memorial bench installed

**Next Month and Future Projects**

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- ❖ Diamond 3 in-field fencing
- ❖ Website work
- ❖ Remove old well houses at City Park
- ❖ Drinking fountain install Platt Park
- ❖ Arching sign for entrance at Woodlawn
- ❖ Replace decking on old bridge
- ❖ Grant writing
- ❖ Install basketball anchors
- ❖ Install new slide sign at pool
- ❖ Move fence line at pool
- ❖ Trail development
- ❖ Disc golf signage, backfilling
- ❖ Paint bathroom doors
- ❖ Redgate parking area
- ❖ Ash tree removal
- ❖ Sealcoating roads in Spring
- ❖ Concessions window
- ❖ Install counter at Redgate shelter
- ❖ Install solar umbrella at pool from ITC
- ❖ Pool filter project
- ❖ Prairie planting
- ❖ Winter graves
- ❖ Foundations
- ❖ Prep pool for season

JOSHUA JOHNSON MA  
OELWEIN PARK SUPERINTENDENT

