



PARKS MONTHLY UPDATE, APRIL 2021
PARKS / CEMETERY / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND / TRAILS

Park and Recreation

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This month in the park department, we have been completing our daily disinfecting of areas and cleaning the downtown every morning. This month the employees have been working on getting the pool facility ready for the season. The new slide for the little kids has been secured to the pool deck and is ready for action. The employees were busy digging out the old mulch in the front of the aquatic center and put back some new bright mulch for the upcoming season. The surveillance system is being installed at the aquatic center, which is a CIP item that will provide coverage for the whole facility. New pads and batteries were ordered for the AED at the aquatic center. The employees also installed sanitizing stations throughout the aquatic facility this week that finally arrived. The park employees are busy installing the new playground equipment at Red Gate Park that this department received through a grant from the RJ McElroy Trust this past fall. We dragged the gravel roads at Woodlawn Cemetery to even them out and Jay picked up a load of patch to fill in potholes as well. The cemetery employees found a headstone that someone had tipped over and put it back into place, up front in block 18. The employees took picnic tables that Jay painted over the winter months and distributed in various parks. The employees cleaned the primitive toilets and repaired the vandalism that occurred over the winter months.

This month the trails committee accepted a \$4,000 donation for trails from the owners of Pizza Ranch, Brandi and Gerald Hershey. Ray Crandall is set to open the campground facility this weekend. At Platt Park, we reinstalled the grill by the shelter that we poured a new pad and rebuilt last fall. We will complete the sidewalk when we have other concrete projects lined up. At some point this season, we will install the new drinking fountain along this sidewalk. Jay and Tim are putting the final fittings on and preparing the drinking fountain at City Park on the west side of the bridge. At that shelter, we also removed all the picnic tables last fall and returned the proper amount that had been gone through and painted this winter. At red gate park, the playground equipment has been installed that was destroyed in the tornado last March. The plumbers finished the rough plumbing for the bathroom project at red gate. The employees have been mowing certain properties as the streak of warm weather got the grass growing in open areas. Alliant Energy has started moving some of their utility poles to make way for the new trail segment. In the tree board award presentation last month, they learned that they are the recipient of the Growth Award from Trees Forever, which is awarded to cities that expand tree programming every year. There are several groups coming in the next few weeks volunteering to complete projects in the parks and cemetery. We are still short staffed in the park and cemetery and looking for lifeguards for the pool this season.

On the third Monday, I held the park and rec meeting at the Fire Department to go over completed and future projects. The park employees have been busy mulching the downtown area this month. Tim Ledesma took the stump grinder to City Park and ground three stumps out where the city lost ash trees. The campground is open but has been slow due to the freezing temperatures this past month. The park department got the new two-stage snow blower attachment for the skid loader this week for trails and other uses along with the cemetery forks. Chris, Willie and Dan are busy forming up foundations at Woodlawn as tomorrow is the last day for people to get their foundation orders in. On Wednesday, I arranged for Upper Iowa University to send a sorority group down to paint a shelter at City Park. This is part of their annual day of caring that they had to skip last year due to COVID. Progress at Red Gate Park is ongoing as



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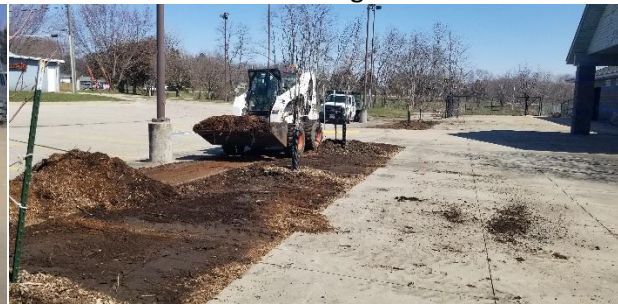
Miller poured the bathroom floor. Mediacom came to pool to get the phone/internet hooked up for the season. Progress on the trail is moving right along with the contractors. Bacon const. has complete the majority of the tree removal and the stump removal has begun, as they will be responsible for disposing the stumps elsewhere. Alliant Energy trenched in an electrical line so that they could remove two utility poles to make way for the trail. This past month the Tree Board received their Outstanding Community Organization plaque from the Iowa Urban Tree Council. Peggy Sherrets and I are busy recruiting lifeguards for the season; emailing the entire student body, texting and calling past staff, talking to surrounding schools, online posts, and talking with students in person during lunch time at the high school.

The Antioch Church of Oelwein brought in a bunch of volunteers to walk through Woodlawn Cemetery, pick up loose decorations, and pick up sticks. The group also had a bunch of volunteers walk through Wings Park and pick up sticks and debris in the park as well. The church group had a cookout at the shelter in which anyone in the community was invited to have a free lunch. The floor at Red Gate Park new bathroom has been poured and the lumber for the shelter was supposed to be delivered this past week. At the pool, the backflow preventer was serviced so that it is ready to go for the upcoming season. I am also working on the trail grant for COVID funding which I will turn in the middle of May. The contractors are plugging away on the trail project, have the trees cleaned up, and stumps removed. Jay and Tim L. dug up and replaced a yard hydrant at City Park on Wednesday that was bad. Jay and I restrung the safety barrels at City Park Lake to keep patrons away from the dam. Tim L. took the harley rake and stirred up, and smoothed out the campground pads. At the campground, we hooked up internet and have WIFI available for the patrons as another amenity to bring in more campers.

Slide



Mulching



Mulching



Cameras





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AED pads



Roads maintained



Patching



Red Gate progress



Playground install



Headstone replaced



Tables distributed



Dirt work



Bathroom fixed





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Complex grading



\$4,000 trails donation



Paperwork/videos

Grill installed



City Park drinking fountain





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Playground equipment install



Alliant Energy

Tree cleanup



Growth Award



Mulching



Fountain prep



Stump grinding





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New door kicked but no entry

Campground pads turned over

Snowblower



Foundations

Upper Iowa, Day of Caring – Delta Gamma Phi



Shelter scraped

Painted



Floor pouring





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Trail progress



Mediacom

Tree Board plaque



Concrete prep

Church volunteers



Church volunteers

Pool prep





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Church volunteers



Redgate floor poured



New yard hydrant



Safety barrels



Pads turned over



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

Progress on Projects

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- ❖ Website work
- ❖ Finished ordering CIP items
- ❖ Trail easements/grants
- ❖ Continuing education classes completed
- ❖ Work on Park and Rec master plan
- ❖ Surveillance system at pool installed-1 left to install on pump room
- ❖ Bathroom/shelter project at Red Gate park ongoing
- ❖ Pool preparations
- ❖ Trail Segment 1 work
- ❖ Fayette Appreciation Day group
- ❖ Controller replaced at pool
- ❖ Antioch Church group cleaning day
- ❖ Drinking fountain foundations poured
- ❖ WIFI installed campground
- ❖ Playground equip installed Red Gate



Next Month and Future Projects

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- ❖ Disc golf course install
- ❖ Diamond 3 fencing
- ❖ Website work
- ❖ Finish shelter/sidewalk at Platt Park
- ❖ Remove old well houses at City Park
- ❖ Drinking fountains install, City & Platt
- ❖ Diamond 1 building work
- ❖ Arching sign for entrance at Woodlawn
- ❖ Memorial bench install at Plaza Park
- ❖ Electrical project at City Park
- ❖ Replace decking on old bridge
- ❖ Grant work
- ❖ Pool shelter install
- ❖ Motor/Pump replacement at pool
- ❖ Block signs at Woodlawn
- ❖ Install basketball anchors/ hoops at Wings Park
- ❖ United Way - Day of Caring
 - Mulching at Red Gate
 - Disc Golf at City Park
 - Power washing at pool
 - Bench painting log cabin
 - Bench, sign, playground equip. at Platt Park
 - City Park sign painted
 - Trail cleaning
 - Cemetery sign planting
 - Drinking fountain Platt Park

Joshua Johnson MA
Oelwein Park Superintendent

