



OCTOBER 2024 PARK MONTHLY REPORT

This past month the tree board had a large tree planting at Wings Park. The tree board was awarded the “Trees for Kids” grant to plant 24 trees. City pool manager Kim L. assisted in lining up volunteers which were in large part students that work at the pool. Iowa DNR representative Chip Murrow drove up from Des Moines to help and observe the tree planting. Tree board members helped with the planting demonstration with Chip to start off. Tree board members and I had a great conversation with Chip after the planting to build a positive relationship for future projects. The park employees did a fantastic job with all the prep work that goes into these tree plantings to make sure everything goes smoothly on the day of the planting. Trees were purchased from both Cannons Greenhouse and Manske’s Corner Market. The park employees are starting on preparations for our next planting that we will host in two weeks with the Trees Forever grant that the tree board received for boulevard trees. The cemetery employees pulled forms off recently poured foundations and backfilled as funeral homes were notified. Cemetery employees have been busy watering trees that have been planted. On Wednesday, there was a full burial at Woodlawn the employees prepared, as a cremation burial scheduled for this Saturday too. The tree board agenda was sent out for our monthly meeting on Monday evening.

This past month Russ and I worked on cutting down stumps at Platt Park. The employees go through downtown every morning to pick up garbage and clean bathrooms. Russ and I took the air compressor and winterized a few more bathrooms, selecting the ones that get vandalized the most first. I have been working with contractors getting quotes for various CIP projects. Chris took the stump grinder and started working on a few more tree stumps this week. I have spent a lot of time preparing for our upcoming Trees Forever planting. Tree board members talked with community members about planting trees in the boulevard around their homes. I marked all the planting spots and called in locates. The employees have gone around and watered the locations so we can dig holes in the dry ground. On Monday evening, I hosted the monthly tree board as we made final preparations for their upcoming planting as we will be planting and additional 45 trees throughout the community. The cemetery employees have been watering the 40 trees at the cemetery and the 24 trees we planted at Wings Park. The boards on the gravel bed were removed and stained and reassembled. Fire extinguishers were serviced in all the department areas. Russ pulled all the ball diamond bags and put plugs in for the year and dumpsters are locked up as we go. The trails are being swept, when possible, with the falling leaves. The campground will wrap up for season this Sunday as it does every year at this time. I have started work on the city Tree City application for the tree board work this year.

This past month the employees have been stepping up helping with the last few projects completed. On Wednesday, the tree board hosted our third tree planting this year, planting 45 trees throughout the city. Total this year the tree board planted 110 trees, all with donations and grants. Tree board members have done a great job of giving demonstrations for the volunteers at all plantings to ensure that the trees are planted correctly. The park and cemetery employees have been busy watering the trees utilizing the water bags that were acquired through a grant last season. The board selected a variety of twelve different species of trees. Bri Hull with Trees Forever and Devin Wever with Alliant Energy were in attendance along with East Penn and Scheels Landscaping employees. The employees have been busy with power-spraying equipment and performing maintenance on equipment for the year. Both departments have been working on leaves at City Park as we are not going to be able to burn them off this year with the extremely dry weather. The last of the water lines were winterized last Monday. The Pirillo memorial bench was installed at Redgate Park. The employees have been busy trying to keep the trails clean as the leaves are really dropping this time of year. The cemetery has three cremation burials this week and has been busy putting away garbage cans and chopping leaves at the cemetery and sweeping the streets.

This past week the employees have been busy wrapping things up for the season. Both the park and cemetery employees were busy with leaves at City Park these last two weeks as it has been way too dry to burn them off this year as is usually done. At Platt Park we have been working on removing a dead oak tree that is right next to the back shelter. This has been a slow task as we must cut the tree into smaller pieces and hand throw to avoid damage to the shelter. We will wrap this project up in the spring as we have removed everything

that was directly over the shelter. On Tuesday, I was invited to Wartburg College to talk with students about grant writing. I put together a power point presentation to discuss some of the projects and how we have written grants to complete projects within this department. The employees have been sweeping the trails when possible as the high winds keep blowing everything around. The park employees have power sprayed all the equipment and performed maintenance a lot of the equipment to put away for the year. Employees have been going around and watering all the trees that we planted this year and will remove the watering bags today as we have been watering everything for at least two weeks now and there is more rain in the forecast. The cemetery employees have been taking care of leaves at Woodlawn and have had a couple of burials this past week as well. I submitted the city proposal for the Tree City designation as well as the Growth Award to the Arbor Day Foundation that is given to communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement.

TREES FOR KIDS PLANTING





TREES FOR KIDS PLANTING

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND



2:52 PM



2:25 PM



2:49 PM



2:34 PM



3:29 PM



3:43 PM

STUMP WORK

WINTERIZING



8:39 AM



1:16 PM



STUMP GRINDING



TREE PLANTING LOCATIONS



BOARDS STAINED



TRAILS SWEEP



TREES FOREVER TREE PLANTING 2024





TREES FOREVER TREE PLANTING 2024

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND





TREES FOREVER TREE PLANTING 2024

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Trees, trees and... more trees



Wednesday's tree planting group consisted of members from Parks and Rec, the Tree Board, East Penn Manufacturing, community members, Oelwein students and others.

Parks and Rec strengthens Oelwein's residential canopy

By TAYLOR NOHRENBERG
reporter@oelweinregister.com

A chilly morning, some glazed donuts and the positive energy of around 35 people wanting to better their community would be what some passersby would see when driving or walking past groups of two or three planting trees Wednesday morning.

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Iowa Trees Forever Project, around 44 trees of various types were planted Wednesday, Oct. 16, with the assistance of high schoolers, Parks and Rec department employees, School's Professional Lawn Care employees, some East Penn Manufacturing workers and Tree Board members. This is in addition to two other seasonal plantings, bringing the grand tree total to 109 trees within the last two months alone.

Josh Johnson, Oelwein parks superintendent, coordinated the day to have several groups travel around Oelwein to various

homes to plant trees following a 13 tree planting at Ashley Moulding and Northeast Iowa Community College's RAMS Center. Homeowners were contacted by Tree Board members to arrange the other 31 trees to be planted in street boulevards in Oelwein's southwest/southeast and the southeast quadrants.

In partnership with Alliant Energy's One Million Trees initiative, the grant provided funds for the purchase of trees from Corner Market and Greenhouse in Oelwein and Cannon's Greenhouse in Westgate. Many trees lost to the Emerald Ash Borer have been replaced, if not duplicated, by the efforts of the Parks and Rec department and the Tree Board.

Alliant Energy Customer Solutions Specialist Devin Wever said that he is grateful for the work Oelwein's Parks and Rec provides.

"I thank the City of Oelwein, city staff and volunteers that came out today on the brisk October morning to help plant trees

that will help reduce energy consumption and countless other benefits to the town," he said. "Alliant Energy is proud to offer our Community Tree Planting program as part of our One Million Trees initiative that grants communities up to \$5,000 for tree plantings that promote energy savings by shading and cooling from sun and wind. We are proud to partner with Trees Forever to help guide the communities to select diverse tree species and educate on proper care and planting to ensure longevity of the tree canopy for future generations and energy savings."

The group was also joined by City Administrator Dylan Mullinger.

"The work that Joshua Johnson and his crew have put in to make sure Oelwein has a healthy urban canopy is incredible," he said. "Future generations will benefit from this work."

In fact, Johnson has been the key figure

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Ron Lentz (yellow) and Jeff Milks, Oelwein Tree Board members, demonstrate proper planting technique. Milks added that planting trees is one simple way to combat climate change.

TREES

Continued from A1

in writing and applying for grants, making purchases and organizing plantings. Many grants have been awarded to Johnson and his

team, and that work has not gone unnoticed. Oelwein has been recognized for the Tree City USA award for 23 years and the Tree City USA Growth Award for six. The Oelwein Tree Board consists of John Fox,

Johnson, Ron Lentz, Jeff Milks and Kyle Scheel. A planting demonstration was given by Milks and Lentz that morning. Milks talked about how planting a tree can change how much a home uses energy, increases property

values and can help the environment by sequestering carbon. He explained during the planting demonstration that if a tree is planted incorrectly, then it may only live for 10-15 years, so planting correctly is essential for growth.

MAINTENANCE



CITY PARK LEAVES



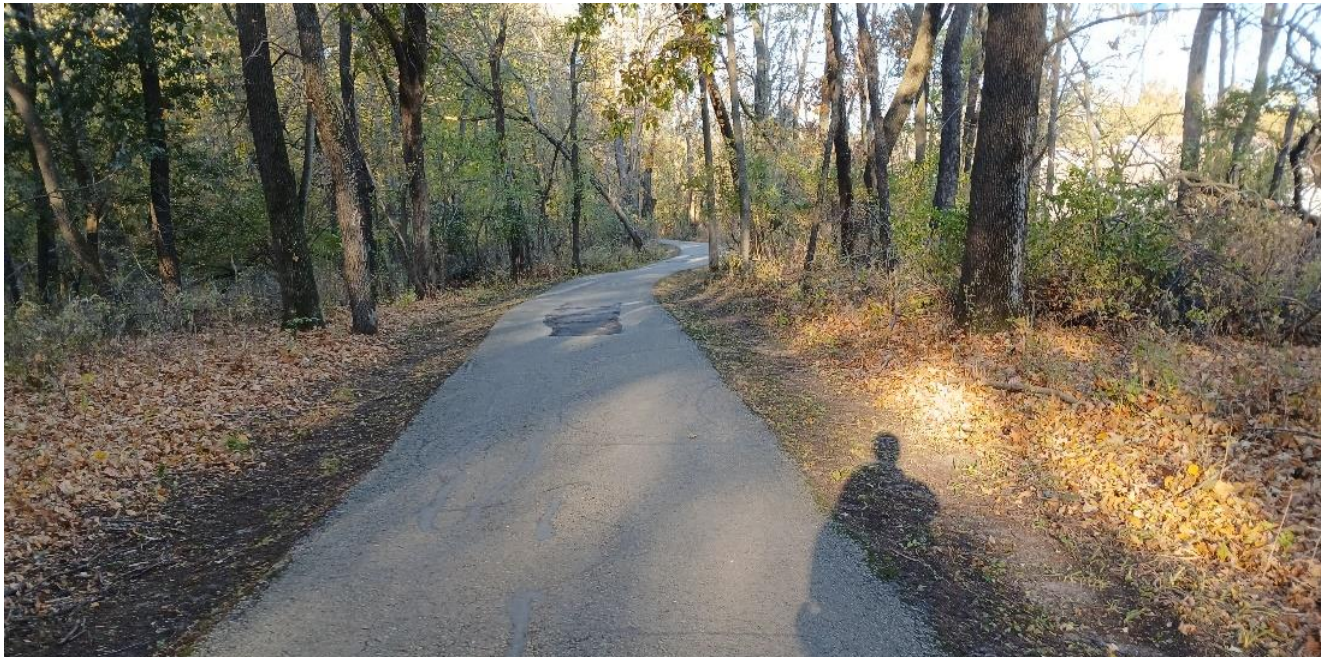
WATER LINES



BENCH INSTALLED



TRAIL SWEEPING





TREE REMOVAL



CITY PARK LEAVES



TRAIL SWEEPING



WARTBURG PRESENTATION



AQUATICS



EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE



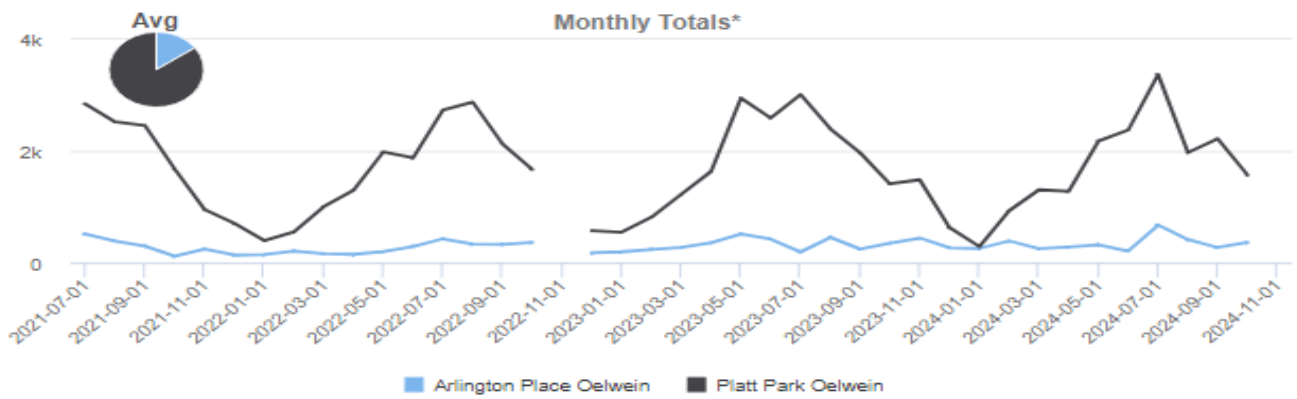
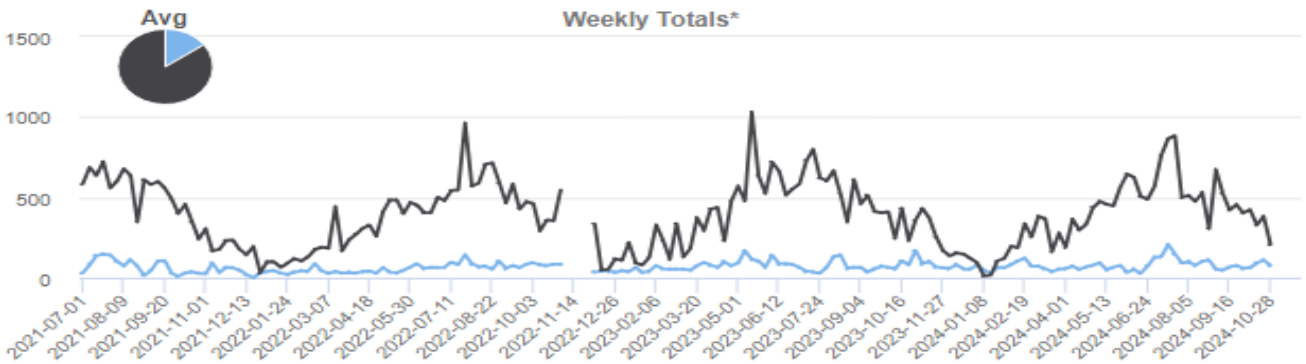
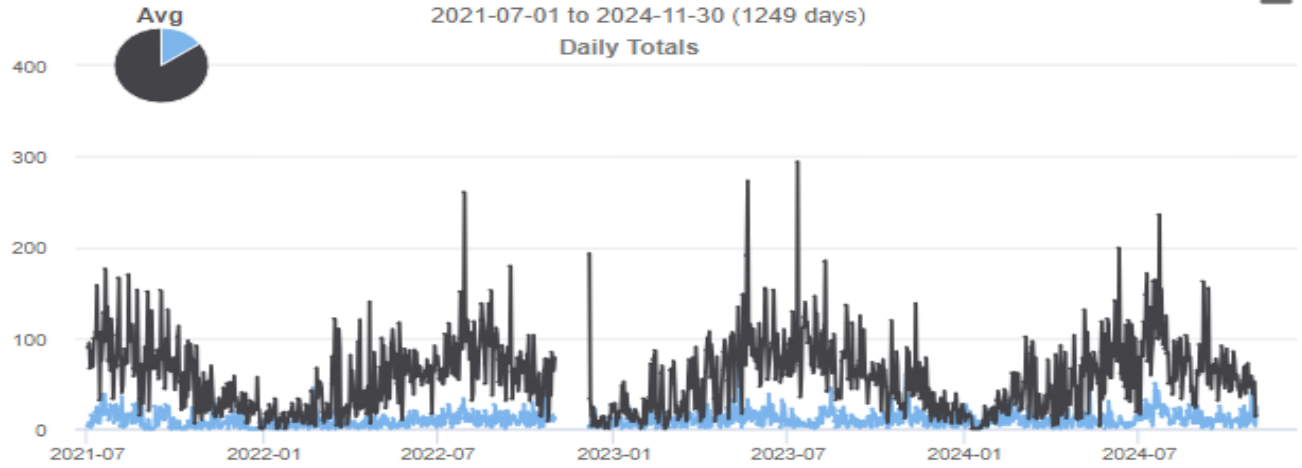


Daily/Weekly/Monthly totals

2021-07-01 to 2024-11-30 (1249 days)



PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND



* Based on Average Daily Traffic (ADT)

Master Summary

Download as Excel CSV

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT†	ADT†x365	Days with data
2021	Arlington Place Oelwein							512*	388	294	115	242	134	9.115	3,327	183
	Platt Park Oelwein							2,845*	2,523	2,458	1,675	950	704	60.454	22,066	183
2022	Arlington Place Oelwein	146	207	158	148	199	290	426	332	327	362		173*	8.303	3,031	330
	Platt Park Oelwein	394	548	1,002	1,297	1,984	1,877	2,736	2,877	2,127	1,672		572*	51.497	18,796	330
2023	Arlington Place Oelwein	193	235	274	356	510	421	190	451	241	347	441	266	10.753	3,925	365
	Platt Park Oelwein	543	816	1,229	1,635	2,948	2,592	3,013	2,399	1,969	1,411	1,485	628	56.625	20,668	365
2024	Arlington Place Oelwein	254	389	247	279	319	208	673	414	269	360			11.187	4,094	305
	Platt Park Oelwein	287	930	1,305	1,276	2,181	2,378	3,373	1,972	2,223	1,571			57.364	20,995	305

ADT† = Average Daily Traffic

* = based upon that month's ADT [Learn more](#) Indicates months with less than 8 days of data.



DAILY ACTIVITIES

- CLEAN/ORGANIZE SHOP AREAS
- PICK UP DOWNTOWN AREAS
- MAINTAINING PARK, CEMETERIES
- MAINTENANCE ON EQUIPMENT
- SAFETY MEETINGS
- MEET WITH CONTRACTORS
- RETRIEVE & UPLOAD TRAIL COUNT DATA
- WOODLAWN BURIALS
- PARK MAINTENANCE
- GRANT WORK

PROGRESS ON PROJECTS

- WEBSITE UPDATING
- TRAIL EASEMENTS/GRANTS
- PARK AND REC MASTER PLAN
- TRAIL MAINTENANCE
- GRINDING STUMPS
- CIVICREC WORK
- TREES FOR KID'S TREE PLANTING
- PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE
- DEAD TREE REMOVAL
- TREES FOREVER TREE PLANTING
- WINTERIZE ALL BATHROOMS
- WINTERIZE CAMPGROUND
- MSA GRANT WORK
- MOWERS/TRIMMERS MAINTENANCE
- WARTBURG PRESENTATION

NEXT MONTH AND FUTURE PROJECTS

- REPURPOSE OLD WINGS BRIDGE
- GRANT WRITING
- TRAIL SEGMENT 2
- TRAIL SEGMENTS 4/5 ALIGNMENT
- PLANT TREES IN CHRYSLER PARK
- BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- UPDATE FEES
- BUDGET
- CIP QUOTES

JOSHUA JOHNSON MA
OELWEIN PARK SUPERINTENDENT

