



PARKS MONTHLY REPORT, MARCH 2020

PARKS / CEMETERY / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND

Park and Recreation

www.oelwein.fun

This month Jay has been busy finishing up on some maintenance of some equipment. I had Jay take the hanging baskets to the FFA program so they can get the flowers started for the downtown hanging baskets. We had a cremation burial this Saturday the 7th for the Hintz family that Jay prepared already. With the rapid melting snow we have the north end of the cemetery barricaded off with the gravel roads completely saturated, they are too soft to be driving on. I grabbed the backhoe from streets and gave Jay some time learning to operate that machine.

Ryan Bergan with the school metal program finished up the steel security doors for the Wings bathroom between diamonds 2/3. The doors were painted by Transco, and will be easily removed in the spring with the way we designed them. These are necessary because of the continuous vandalism during the winter that people cause by kicking in these doors. They damage the commercial steel doors and locks, which are expensive, let alone destroying toilets and sinks, mirrors and setting fires. On Monday, I hosted the tree board meeting where we went over our fall planting and went over projects for the upcoming season.

The grade school kids (Wings & Sacred Heart) voted for the bulldog slide that we will be installing at the aquatic center. We had a half dozen different animal designs that we could choose from so we gave the kids the final choice. Kids brought in a canned good to vote that was donated to the local pantry. The class that had the most winning votes per class was the Sacred Heart first graders.

This month in the Parks Department, we had the phenomenal donation of \$10,000 to the Friends of the Trails program. On Tuesday evening the 10th, I met with the trails committee as we discussed our progress and developed our plans for fundraising. I have the new Park and Rec webpage linked to the city webpage, which has a ton of information about our facilities. Jay has been busy putting new bleachers together that will go to diamond three this spring. Jay got rid of some old pallets around the shop and upgrading signage. I am talking with the school to complete some projects at the aquatic facility this spring with their construction program. I have sent the agenda out to the park and rec board for this coming Monday's meeting. Tomorrow we are bringing in the pool staff to complete paperwork and have an orientation. Today Jay and I conducted interviews for some seasonal positions within the department that we are filling.

In the cemetery department, we had a cremation at Woodlawn Cemetery on Monday the 16th. Jay was sent home as he was out of state this past weekend for his 14-day quarantine. Monday, we received word that the Parks Department was awarded \$10,000 from the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. This grant is going towards replacing and upgrading the electrical services at City Park for the Oelwein Celebration.

This month in the Parks Department, we received notification letters from grants that were submitted these past few months. Community Bank of Oelwein has committed \$5,000 towards trails, \$2,500 in 2020 and again in 2021 through the Friends of the Trails program. The Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation sent their annual contribution with their agreed amount of \$250,000 for trail building. I received word back from Trees Forever that they are contributing the full amount of \$5,000 for trees. This grant will be for a fall tree planting in which we will plant trees in the street boulevards to fill in and replace ash tree removal. This grant has been reduced to one time a year and only 31 projects statewide were funded this year in the state so we are very fortunate to receive the full amount two years in a row. We also received a smaller grant through Diamond Vogel for six gallons of paint that we

will use to paint picnic tables. This morning we have a full burial at Woodlawn and I have been working on the Cities REAP grant proposal through the DNR.

The last week of March in the parks department, the City had an EF-1 tornado with estimated 107 MPH winds touchdown in Redgate Park and Woodlawn Cemetery. Saturday night our concentration was getting the trees that had blown over and hanging out in to West Charles Street cut and pushed out of the way. Redgate Park was still locked up from the winter, in Woodlawn we escorted all the cars out and barricaded the facility off.

In Redgate the City lost approximately 40 trees and evergreens, basically we lost most all the mature trees in that park. The City lost two pieces of older playground equipment, a metal slide and swing set. A large ash came down on the large shelter and destroyed it, and wind ripped off shingles on one of the small shelters.

In Woodlawn Cemetery, the City lost around 40 trees and evergreens as well. Many headstones were knocked over either by trees or wind. Right now, we have cut up most of the trees and placed them in the southwest corner of the facility. On Wednesday morning, we swept the streets with the sweeper and opened the cemetery to the public. We have many stumps that we will work on throughout the season being cleaned up. The workers will start setting the small stones up that were blown over.

On Wednesday April 1st, I went around to all the parks posting signage and taping off all playground equipment and ball fields. We will close these areas off to the public to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 during this pandemic. Last week we picked up a new mower from Bodensteiner for the parks department, which was a CIP item. We prepared a grave yesterday for the Jamison funeral home for Friday morning.

Maintenance



Downtown baskets



Cremation



Digging



Security Doors





Wings



Pool slide



Bleacher construction



Cleaning up





Park and Recreation

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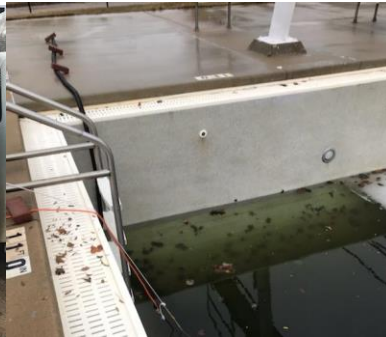
Signage



Upgrades




Pool maint.



Website




Lifeguard Orientation



Park and Recreation www.cityofoelwein.org

Oelwein Family Aquatic Center



Lifeguard Manual

Trail Donation of \$10,000





Park and Recreation

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Trail support- Community Bank **\$5,000**

Charitable Foundation - Trails **\$250,000**

Friends of the Oelwein Municipal Urban Trail
 To support, promote, enhance and protect The Oelwein Municipal Urban Trail, and its trail connectors now and for future generations.

Type of membership (Check one):
 Business (\$1,000+ per year)
 Corporate (\$5,000+ per year)
 Trail Segment (\$10,000 one-time gift)

Pledges may be paid all at once or in installments. (If applicable, please select your choice.)
 Monthly Quarterly Annually **\$2500 in 2020**
 Annually **\$2500 in 2021**

Business Community Bank of Oelwein
 Address 150 1st Street SE
 City Oelwein
 State IA Zip Code 50662

NORTHEAST IOWA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
 Churchill T. Williams - 1915 - 2005
 Founder and President - 1982 to 2005

March 23, 2020

Joshua Johnson, Park Superintendent
 City of Oelwein
 20 2nd Avenue SW
 Oelwein, Iowa 50662

Dear Joshua,

Please find enclosed a check for the amount of \$250,000. This check represents the first payment of the commitment Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation has made for the Oelwein Municipal Urban Trail project.

Trees Forever **\$5,000**

Diamond Vogel **\$300**

TREES FOREVER
 (319) 373-9650 • (800) 369-1269
 www.treesforever.org
 80 W 9th Avenue • Marion, IA 52302

March 20, 2020

Joshua Johnson
 Park and Recreation Superintendent, City of Oelwein
 20 2nd Ave SW
 Oelwein, IA 50662

Dear Joshua,

Congratulations! The City of Oelwein has been awarded a **\$5,000.00** project grant for 2020 from *Branching Out*, an Alliant Energy and Trees Forever partnership. Because of recent changes to utility energy efficiency plans, **these funds are to be used ONLY for trees near buildings and planted for energy efficiency benefits.** Your project is one of **31 projects** statewide that Alliant Energy is sponsoring. Trees shade homes and neighborhoods, block and redirect cold winter winds, reducing winter heating, so they provide a direct energy efficiency benefit to customers. **Your funding** is contingent on the following changes to your tree planting plans: Your planting project meets direct energy efficient guidelines, no changes are needed.

PAINT IOWA BEAUTIFUL
 Keep Iowa Beautiful
 Diamond Vogel

Dear Paint Iowa Beautiful Award Recipient,

Congratulations on being a 2020 Award Recipient. We appreciate the pride you have in your community as evidenced by the desire to improve it.

Your award certificate gives you the details on how to redeem it, but it is really quite simple: purchase the paint through your local Diamond Vogel store and then submit your

Tornado Damage

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HOME FORECAST PAST WEATHER SAFETY INFORMATION EDUCATION NEWS SEARCH

Local forecast by "City, ST" or ZIP code
 Enter location... Go
 Location Help

News Headlines
 • March 2020 Climate Summary
 • Summary of March 28th Tornadoes in Northeast IA, Southwest WI
 • River Rises, Minor Flooding This Week - Get the Latest Water Levels and Forecasts
 • Impact Based Flash Flood Warnings & WEA Changes

Additional Headlines

The Tornadoes of March 28 2020

Weather.gov > La Crosse, WI > The Tornadoes of March 28 2020

Current Hazards Current Conditions Radar Forecasts Rivers and Lakes Climate and Past Weather Local Programs

Overview

A strong storm system moved through the central U.S. on March 28, 2020. This brought a strong warm front northward into northeast Iowa and far southwest Wisconsin. Thunderstorms formed during the afternoon hours north of the warm front and brought many reports of small hail covering the ground. In the late afternoon and early evening, storms formed near the warm front and produced brief tornadoes which caused damage in Oelwein, Iowa, near Maynard, Iowa, and north of Potosi, Wisconsin.



Radar Loop of the Tornado-producing

Tornadoes: Photos Radar / Graphics Storm Reports

Tornado - Oelwein, IA
 FAYETTE COUNTY

Date	March 28, 2020
Time (Local)	6:30-6:36 pm
EF Rating	EF-1
Est. Peak Winds	107 mph
Path Length	4 miles
Max Width	120 yds
Injuries/Deaths	0 / 0

Summary:
 A rain-wrapped tornado formed near the Fayette Co. line south of Oelwein and raced north-northeast into the west side of the city. The tornado caused damage to apartment buildings and trees. The tornado lifted north of the city of Oelwein.

Track Map

Downloadable KMZ File

Red Gate Park



Woodlawn Cemetery



Redgate Park

Front planting damage

Slide damage



Redgate Park damaged swing

Shelter



Redgate Park



Redgate Park shelter roof damage



Woodlawn oak



COVID-19



Mower



Redgate ash tree



Woodlawn



Funeral for Friday





Daily Activities

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- ❖ Sanitizing shop and equipment
- ❖ Reviewing sanitizing and social distancing daily
- ❖ Pick up garbage downtown
- ❖ Checking parks, cemeteries
- ❖ Monthly safety checklist
- ❖ Maintenance on equipment
- ❖ Order supplies for different departments
- ❖ Work with trails committee, Friends of Trails
- ❖ Safety meetings
- ❖ 2 graves, 2 cremations

Progress on Projects

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- ❖ Trails REAP grant
- ❖ Tree trimming
- ❖ School program work on cemetery arch sign/bathroom security doors finished
- ❖ Cemetery front sign project
- ❖ Website work
- ❖ Storm cleanup

Next Month and Future Projects

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- ❖ Storm cleanup
- ❖ Wings Park trail extension
- ❖ Park master plan
- ❖ Grant work
- ❖ Diamond 3 fencing
- ❖ Pool LED conversion
- ❖ Old bridge prep for new placement
- ❖ Website work
- ❖ Cemetery signs projects
- ❖ Install water fountains
- ❖ Prairie planting at Platt Park
- ❖ Remove well houses at City Park
- ❖ Pool projects
- ❖ Bleachers to diamond 3
- ❖ Diamond 1 building work
- ❖ Take split wood/rock to campground
- ❖ Remove dead tree at City Park
- ❖ Finish winter graves

Joshua Johnson MA
Oelwein Park Superintendent
319-283-5440 – City Hall
319-283-0544 – Cell

