



PARKS MONTHLY UPDATE, MARCH 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. Jay and the workers finished cleaning up the old chamber building this past week. Jay wrapped up some maintenance on some equipment around the shop. Jay and I took the bucket truck to the aquatic center for some maintenance. Worked on overhead lighting and returning some of the palm leaves on the tiki hut that have blown off with strong winds. Jay has been checking drainage areas to make sure they are clear with the snow melting. Jay reinstalled the bike fixit station at Wings Park that was damaged last fall. The Lake Oelwein dam is closed and the lake is at full capacity once again. The main drain plug on the pool filter that rusted through last season was replaced after we tapped the threads, as the filter replacement project is our high priority for this department. This month I hosted the trails committee meeting on the second Tuesday evening of the month at the park shop. The trails committee is working on the REAP grant for additional funding. We talked about fundraising efforts locally and easements with the next trail section. Larry Murphy is working on our proposed bill SF 240 that passed the senate transportation committee and is on the senate floor. On the first Wednesday evening of the month, I hosted the Tree Board meeting at the park shop as we reviewed our work last fall on tree plantings and tree trimming. I notified the Tree Board that the City has received the Tree City Award for 2020 through their work with tree plantings. I was also able to notify the board that we received the Trees Forever - Branching Out grant for the full \$5000 once again. This grant will be used to purchase and plant trees in the street boulevards.

On Monday, we had a burial at Woodlawn Cemetery for Jamison Funeral home. This week the park and rec meeting was postponed until Tuesday due to winter weather. In the meeting, we discussed our master plan outlook of 1-5 years; tree board updates and trails progress. Jay replaced stickers on the City Hall vehicle this week as well. The tree board got their picture in the paper for the Tree City award this month. I talked with the trails committee and they are on board with a nomination to accept the governor volunteer award this year. Jay and I changed over the fluorescent lights to LEDS's in the pump room at the pool, which will make it safer to conduct our work. This past week Jay and I started removing the fencing at the pool old mini golf area to make way for contractors to put in the new trail section. This new trail will correct the approach to the existing bridge and eliminate the two steps on the west side of the bridge. I attended the Upper Explorer land Meeting online and the city safety meeting at the fire department this month. Jay spent time to install the new broom attachment for the John Deere tractor that is a CIP item. The park and cemetery employees came in on a Friday to go through orientation so they can get to work on all the projects.

This month some of the parks employees returned to start on some projects as we went over many safety items and videos as we do every year. The employees took the new tables to the aquatic center and took the old tables away. Tab and I spent the morning cleaning up around the City's newest property it acquired this winter as branches and junk were left in the yard. The employees were busy installing the new shower house doors this month at the campground, which was a CIP item. In addition to the new doors, we are now utilizing a keypad lock so we will no longer deal with making keys and will make the campground hosts job a little easier. Jay installed the new memorial bench at the complex in memory of Bob Henderson. The employees also installed a new door at Wings Park that was kicked in last season. I met with a surveillance company this month to get a second quote for the aquatic facility. This past month the tree board learned that they are the recipient of an award from the Iowa Urban Tree Council. The council gives the Outstanding Community Organization award yearly to one group in the state. If available, anyone can join in on April 8th with the online presentation.



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Tree board members include - Jeff Milks, Bill Brownell, Ron Lenth, Kyle Scheel, and recently retired from the board Tom Fick. If you see any of these board members, please be sure and tell them you appreciate all their hard work for this community. <http://www.treesforever.org/IowaUrbanForestryLuncheon>

This past week has been a flurry of activity with the park and cemetery departments. This week Jon Biederman and I met with the contractor to go over tree removal for segment 1 in the NE and NW parts of town. As a reminder, the trees were dropped by the contractor to comply with the long eared bat rule as trees larger than 3" in diameter are not to be dropped between April 1 to Nov. 1. The contractor will be back to dispose of the trees as soon as they finish their other jobs. Jon and I also met with Alliant Energy, as they will be moving several utility poles for the City as a part of the 28e agreement to make way for the trail. The Red gate bathroom/shelter project also started this week as I met with the contractors Monday morning and Miller started concrete work on the bathroom already. The employees removed the swing set that was damaged by the tornado last year to make way for the new set that was purchased through a grant from the RJ McElroy Foundation. The employees have been using the new brush attachment to keep the trails clean this past week.

I attended a park planning class online that discussed trends and adaptations of park departments for the future. The park employees took the soccer nets and garbage cans to the complex this week. I ordered Turface for the baseball diamonds and marking paint and chalk for the rec programs. Both park and cemetery guys have been working this week at the aquatic center making way for the trail contractor and getting the facility ready for the upcoming season. I have been working on getting paperwork ready for the pool ready and last Thursday Jessica and I went to the High School during the lunch period to recruit employees for the pool and rec programs. On Wednesday, I sent out the agenda for the April tree board meeting for next Monday April 5th where we will discuss their newest award they received. All the parks are now open to the public to drive through and enjoy. This department was awarded another grant from Diamond Vogel Paint to repaint signs, tables and benches at Reidy and Levin Park this season. We are still short a couple employees for the park and cemetery and still recruiting new personnel. Dumpsters have been returned to the sports complex and the cemetery so that people can remove their winter decorations. Last night we had a meeting at City Hall with the celebration committee and talked about this year's event.

Old chamber building



Repairs



Aquatics work





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Drainage



Fixit station





Lake full



Filter Plug replaced



Branching Out grant

(319) 373-0650 • (800) 369-1269
www.treesforever.org
80 W 8th Avenue • Marion, IA 52362

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

Dear Joshua,

Congratulations! You've been selected for an Alliant Energy Branching Out grant!
Alliant Energy is pleased to award Oelwein with a grant of \$5,000.00 for the project applied for. Your project is one of **45 Branching Out projects** statewide. We're so excited to partner with you!

March 5, 2021



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Master Plan



New decals



Tree City award



Trail nomination



LED lighting



Trail prep



Trail corrections





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New brush for trails



New tables at Aquatic Center



Clean up new property



Campground doors



Bench installed





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March 17, 2021

Oelwein Tree Board
20 2nd Ave SW
Oelwein, Iowa 50662

Congratulations, Oelwein Tree Board!

The Iowa Urban Tree Council would like to recognize your efforts in promoting and enhancing urban forestry in the State of Iowa. You were nominated by Patty Reisinger from Trees Forever and have been selected to receive recognition as an Outstanding Community Organization.

The mission of the Iowa Urban Tree Council is to guide, lead and assist public officials, professionals, volunteers, and organizations with implementing urban forestry solutions. Your nomination recounts accomplishments and commitments that resonate with our mission. We greatly value your efforts to preserve, protect, expand, and improve your community's urban forest resources. Your contributions serve as a model for others and we would like to share your achievements with the rest of the state of Iowa.

We invite you to be virtually recognized for your award at our annual Iowa Community Forestry Awards Ceremony. The Awards Ceremony will take place virtually on Thursday, April 8, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM via Zoom. To confirm your attendance, please complete the registration form by clicking [here](#). You may also call or email Molly Walkner at 319-440-7756 or mwalkner@treesforever.org to confirm registration.

In addition to your attendance, we would be excited and appreciative if you would submit a photograph of your organization that we will use to recognize you during the Awards Ceremony. We will also use this photo in social media posts, press releases, and more. Don't be shy – we want people to know about your good work and to be inspired! You can e-mail your photo to the e-mail address below.

Thank you for your accomplishments and because of you, we have a greener, more tree-friendly state to live in; your award is well deserved! Please contact me with any questions you may have. I look forward to recognizing you on April 8, 2021.

Sincerely,
Clayton Ender
Iowa Urban Tree Council, President
iowaurbantreecouncil@gmail.com



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Trail contractors



Alliant Energy



Redgate bathroom



Playground equipment



Trail sweeping



Park planning



Aquatics prep





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Dear Paint Iowa Beautiful Award Recipient,

Congratulations on being a **2021 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 invoices to Keep Iowa Beautiful for reimbursement.

You can help us continue to provide this program for communities in the future by observing the following requests:

- Complete the project in the calendar year 2021
- Request reimbursement of invoices all at one time and before December 31, 2021
- Provide us "Before and After" photos and/or video of your project
- Send us copies of any news coverage or publicity your project receives

Please consider using the logos of Paint Iowa Beautiful, Diamond Vogel and Keep Iowa Beautiful in conjunction with the projects announcement and promotional material. If you would like the logos electronically, please e-mail or call Bill Jackson at Keep Iowa Beautiful: 515-243-2000 ext. 111 or bjackson@keepiowabeautiful.com.

Thanks for your work in helping Keep Iowa Beautiful. We are confident that you'll find that a little bit of paint can make a dramatic difference.

Have Fun!

Sincerely,

Doug Vogel
VP, Corporate Marketing
Diamond Vogel

Bill Jackson
Executive Director
Keep Iowa Beautiful



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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
- ❖ 2 full burials
- ❖ Meet with contractors

Progress on Projects

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- ❖ Website work
- ❖ Finish ordering CIP items
- ❖ Trail easements/grants
- ❖ Continuing education classes completed
- ❖ Work on Park and Rec master plan
- ❖ Took new tables to aquatic center
- ❖ Surveillance system at pool ordered
- ❖ Bathroom/shelter project at Red Gate park started
- ❖ Replaced campground doors/locks
- ❖ Memorial bench installed at complex
- ❖ Wings door replacement at D1 done
- ❖ Pool preparations started
- ❖ Trail Segment 1 work started
- ❖ Bike fixit station installed
- ❖ Diamond 1 bathroom plumbing fixed
- ❖ Pump room lights switched to LED's

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
- ❖ Diamond 1 building work
- ❖ Arching sign for entrance at Woodlawn
- ❖ Memorial bench install
- ❖ WIFI install campground
- ❖ Playground equip install Red Gate
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Controller replacement at pool
- ❖ Fayette Appreciation Day group
- ❖ United Way - Day of Caring
- ❖ Church group cleaning day

Joshua Johnson MA
Oelwein Park Superintendent

