



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

Park and Recreation

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This month in the park department we have been super busy completing tasks with very limited staff. This month the park and cemetery staff poured concrete foundations at Woodlawn for their fall pour. The front sign was decorated with a fall theme by the donor who gifted the sign to the city. The contractors came in with the final signs for segment three trail to wrap up that aspect of the project. I walked the new trail with Jon with Fehr Graham, and we came up with some items for the punch list for the contractor to address. We are getting ready for our big tree planting next week with this department. We have laid out plantings and called in utility locates for all the locations around town. The employees pulled t-posts from last year tree planting, cut tile for animal guards we place on the trees, and purchased string to tie up the new trees. Andrew Rust, our new Trees Forever representative attended the Tree Board meeting at the park building. The park employees installed all the 4x4 posts for the new disc golf course at City Park as we are trying to get as many projects completed as time allows. The employees took down another two dead ash trees in Wings Park this week near the trail. As the temperatures are starting to drop, we started winterizing bathrooms in some of the parks and closing them up for the season. Last week we watered all the trees at Redgate Park that have been planted in the past two years as it had not rained for a while. On the west side of Redgate Park we dropped 5 dead ash trees that were hanging over west Charles Street. We have been downtown trimming off the lilies in the mornings as this is a large task to complete each season.

This month we had our large tree planting with the Branching Out grant that was awarded to the department. There is a ton of leg work to complete for these projects beforehand that we complete to make this day go efficiently. After a two-hour rain delay, tree board members Jeff Milks and Kyle Scheel gave a great tree planting demonstration to the volunteers. Park and Rec board members brought volunteers from East Penn; Kyle Scheel brought employees from his landscaping business as well. Tree board members took the day to come in and help with park and cemetery employees and our Trees Forever representative, Andrew Rust cataloged the plantings with a GPS device. Both departments have been busy winterizing bathrooms and water lines in all the properties as the mornings continue to get colder. The employees started gathering all the equipment and bringing it back to the shop for annual maintenance. I attended the annual Iowa trails summit as some of the presenters were with some of the organizations that offer grants that we apply for. This week we also have the monthly trails committee meeting on Tuesday that was held at the park building and sent out the agenda for Mondays Park and Rec meeting.

Tree Board Members: Jeff Milks, Ron Lenth, Kyle Scheel, Bill Brownell

Please make sure and thank these board members that do a fantastic job for this community.

Since 2016 we have planted 585 trees, with an average estimated **annual** benefit value of \$199 per tree as approximated in the 2018 street tree survey the Park Department and DNR Forestry Department completed.

This month the employees have been working hard cutting down more dead ash trees in Platt Park. With the cold weather that rolled in we were busy last week winterizing the final water lines which included the campground. The campground was closed for the season as Carolyn and Craig Rohrick did a great job hosting for the city this year. Sweeping trails is an ongoing task this time of year as the leaves continue to fall. At City Park we removed the old yellow gates that are never used to spruce up the front entrances. I have filled out and sent in the follow up portion of the Branching Out project to Trees Forever. I have also called to area nurseries to get quotes on trees for the next round and working on that grant proposal. The employees have been watering all the trees we just planted from the Branching Out project as the will do into next week.

I met with Cristen Gallup with Alliant Energy to go over some projects that will be coming up next season. The employees have been busy with their weekly tasks with trail sweeping and other chores walking through the downtown. Nate replaced a board in the bridge by the pool that had a hole developing in it. At Platt Park the guys took several more trees down as they have taken 45 trees down in that park alone. We took down an ash tree in Chrysler Park with the bucket truck with it being in proximity of the gazebo. This week I turned in the Trees Forever grant proposal for 2023 and submitted the Tree City application for the city. I have been working on updating the trail presentation for segment two for final approval. The employees are finishing up the final days of watering the trees from the Trees Forever planting that are location throughout town. I also finished up the signs for the disc golf course for City Park and sent them off for production.



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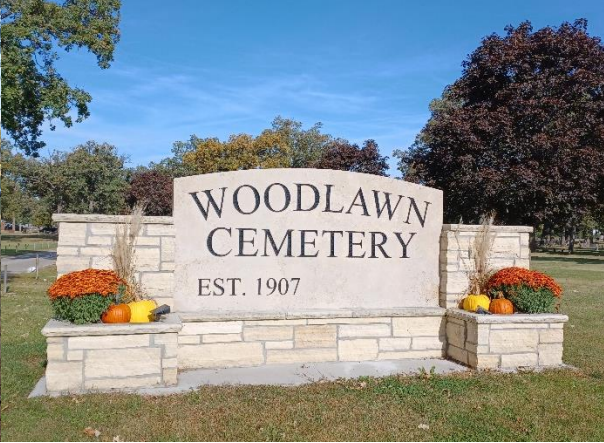
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FOUNDATIONS



FOUNDATIONS



SEGMENT THREE TRAIL





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TREE PLANTINGS



DISC GOLF

WINTERIZING BATHROOMS



WATERING TREES

DEAD ASH TREES





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DOWNTOWN



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2022 TREES FOREVER PLANTING





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WINTERIZING



GATHERING EQUIPMENT



TRAILS

CONFERENCE



ASH TREE REMOVAL





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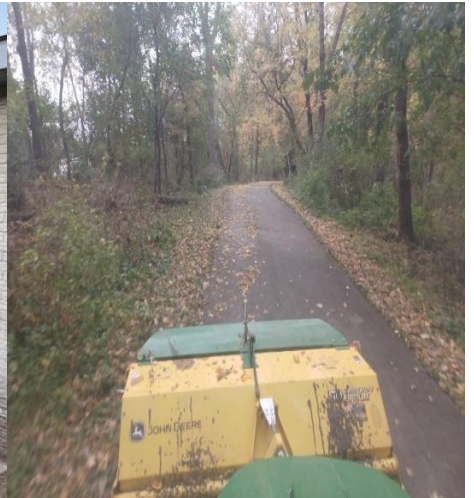
POST REMOVAL



TREE WATERING

WINTERIZING FACILITIES

TRAIL SWEEPING



BURIAL

ALLIANT ENERGY

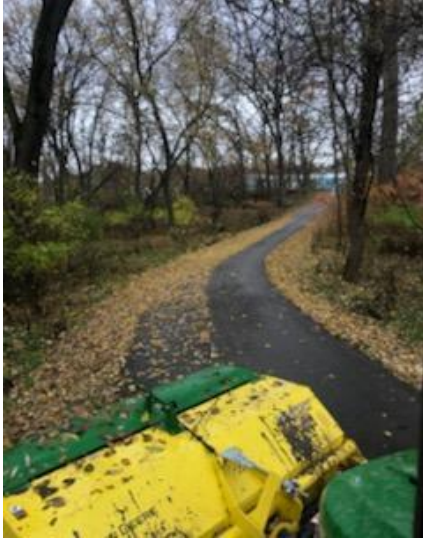




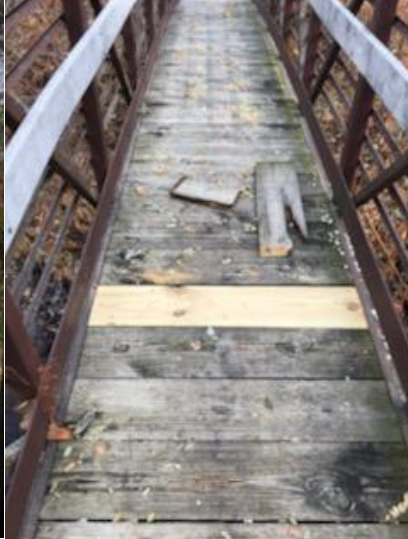
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TRAIL SWEEPING



BRIDGE REPAIR



TREE REMOVAL



ASH TREE REMOVAL



GRANT WRITING



DISC GOLF SIGNAGE





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Daily Activities

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- ❖ Clean/organize 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
- ❖ Weed spraying
- ❖ Trail sweeping

Progress on Projects

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- ❖ Website updating
- ❖ Trail easements/grants
- ❖ Work on Park and Rec master plan
- ❖ Grant writing
- ❖ Foundations poured
- ❖ Order CIP Items
- ❖ Stump grinding
- ❖ Ash tree removal
- ❖ Trail Segment 3
- ❖ CIP pricing/budget
- ❖ Trees Forever planting
- ❖ Disc Golf Signage ordered
- ❖ Received solar umbrella for pool
- ❖ Downtown trimmed

Next Month and Future Projects

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- ❖ 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
- ❖ Ash tree removal
- ❖ Pool filter project
- ❖ Prairie planting
- ❖ Diamond 3 in-field fencing
- ❖ Equipment maintenance
- ❖ Snow equipment ready

JOSHUA JOHNSON
OELWEIN PARK SUPERINTENDENT

