



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

Park and Recreation

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This month in the park department, the employees have been mowing and trimming as much as possible. The contractor finished pouring a few final pads along the trail segment and is putting street signs back in the northwest. The parks employees worked on installing some anchors at Wings for some new basketball hoops to be installed at some point. The parks employees were busy this week working on the disc golf course at City Park. The new disc golf course will be a dedicated 18-hole course mostly on the west side of City Park. Jay and I finished some storm damage at City Park with two trees that were uprooted on the lake edge. Another tree along the trail that was leaning along the west trail that started uproot from the storm a couple of weeks ago. Miller Construction finally got the bathroom partitions delivered and installed this week at Redgate Park. I had the cemetery employees' start with the landscaping around the shelter area now that the contractors have finished their work. The employees have been using the patch machine on some of the cemetery roads and will be working on Redgate as well. This week I hosted the monthly tree board meeting at the park shop as we went over our tree planting next Wednesday the 13th. The board also selected the tree species for the next grant proposal for Trees Forever that would be for next fall.

The tree planting was planned for Wednesday, but once again, the wind and rain persisted so we postponed to Thursday morning. This morning the tree board and parks department planted the 60 trees purchased with the \$5,000 grant from Trees Forever/Alliant Energy that the City received this spring. The tree board planted 8 different species of trees throughout the City street boulevards to encourage diversity in planting. These trees will be watered for the next two weeks by staff to ensure they take root and survive. Each tree was staked, tied off, mulched, watered and fitted with an animal guard. The trees were purchased through Cannons Nursery as they were the low bid this round, Daryl Cannon also donated 6 maple trees to the City to plant in the parks. At Redgate, Andrea Williams donated two trees to the park in memory of her father. The two Burr Oak trees were planted up front between the two drives where we lost trees from the tornado last March. Last Saturday, we had a full burial at Woodlawn Cemetery and have prepared another burial for this coming Saturday. I also compiled the trail counts for the two segments for the past month and total count has breached the 9,000 mark for three months. On Tuesday evening I hosted the trails committee meeting at the park shop where we discussed a possible upcoming fundraiser for trails.

The park employees have been busy winterizing all the bathroom facilities and the campground. The campground concluded its season this past weekend as we shut it down in the middle of October every season. I sat in on the Upper Explorerland zoom meeting on Wednesday morning to discuss trails in the regional area. Irvine is wrapping up the electrical project at City Park so that I can send the final report in for this grant and the panels will be ready for the next Oelwein Celebration. The \$10,000 grant that helped pay for this project was through the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. I finished the follow-up report for the \$5,000 Trees Forever grant that the tree board utilized to plant 60 trees last week. I am also working on the City grant proposal to Trees Forever for the next round of plantings next fall. We are watering all the trees every day, which will continue for another week. When the rain quits we are downtown trimming back the landscaping and will be working on leave removal at City Park next week. I am also advertising for a replacement for the park assistant position.

This last week of the month in the park department, the employees have been working on the downtown streetscape finishing the pruning of the plants. The employees have also been working on the disc golf course at City Park setting frames for the pads. I have completed and submitted the Branching Out grant proposal for the City for next year's tree planting. The 60 trees that the City and Tree Board planted this season have been watered daily for the past two weeks as part of the recommended maintenance planting these trees. I sat in on a zoom meeting for an online billing program for the park and rec departments. We are actively advertising for a new park assistant. I have been working on



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budget, CIP items and information for the wage discussion tonight. At Woodlawn, we prepared a grave for a Friday burial for Buehner Funeral home. The cemetery employees have been helping with downtown, chopping leaves at Woodlawn and putting away garbage cans. The cemetery employees have brought up the grave heaters and propane tanks for winter burials and will be pushing in t-posts along roads for snow removal identification. Last week Jessica and I travelled to West Union to attend the regional park and rec meeting where we discussed aquatics and rec programming. Wednesday afternoon we attended the annual insurance meeting at City Hall to learn about changes to the cities insurance plans. Last week we received a trail donation from the Woodraska family to help with future trail development.

TRAIL WORK



ANCHORS



DISC GOLF



STORM CLEANUP





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BATHROOM PARTITIONS



DIRT WORK



PATCHING



Tree Board members – Jeff Milk, Ron Lenth, Bill Brownell, Rob McKeeman and Kyle Scheel

TREE PLANTING





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TREE PLANTING



ANDREA WILLIAMS, BRAD BUNCE & CONNIE HAMILTON





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DOWNTOWN



ELECTRICAL PANELS



UPPER EXPLORERLAND



WINTERIZATION



JOB POSTING

ONLINE PROGRAM



WEST UNION





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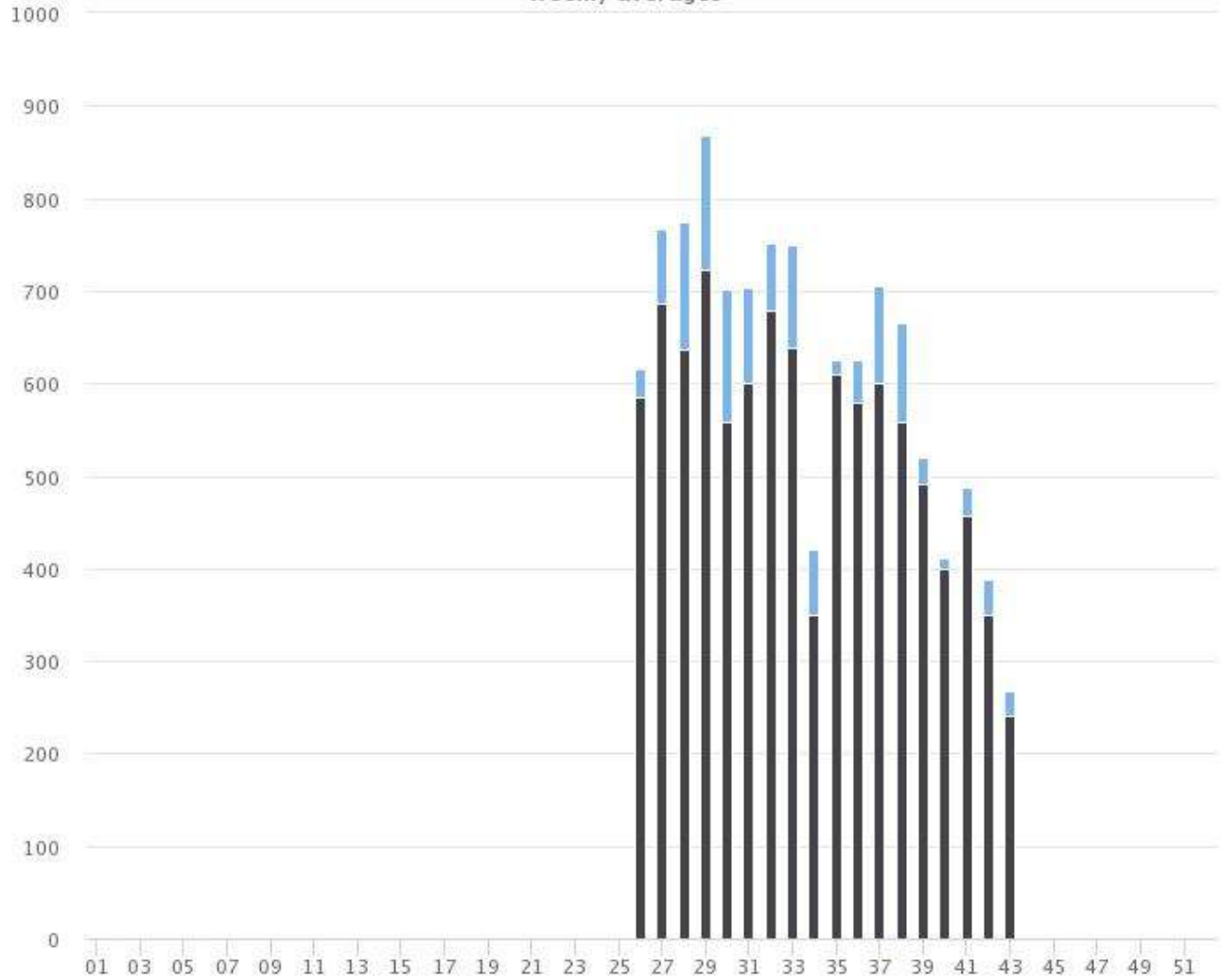
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Weeks of the year

2021-07-01 to 2021-11-02

Weekly averages



Site Name	Average	Median	STDV	Min	Max
Arlington Place Oelwein	72.7	73.0	44.8	11.0	147.0
Platt Park Oelwein	541.3	582.8	129.1	241.0	722.0

2021 TRAIL TOTALS

Year	Site	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov.	Dec.	ADT
2021	Arlington Place Oelwein	512	388	294	115			10.59
2021	Platt Park Oelwein	<u>2845</u>	<u>2523</u>	<u>2,458</u>	<u>1,676</u>			77.12
		3,357	2,911	2,752	1,791			

TOTAL TRAIL USERS **10,811**



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Daily Activities

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- ❖ Sanitizing shop and equipment
- ❖ Pick up garbage downtown
- ❖ Cleaning restrooms
- ❖ Checking/maintaining parks, cemeteries
- ❖ Maintenance on equipment
- ❖ Order supplies for all departments
- ❖ Safety meetings
- ❖ Meet with contractors
- ❖ Retrieve & upload trail count data

Progress on Projects

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- ❖ Website work ongoing
- ❖ Trail easements/grants
- ❖ Work on Park and Rec master plan
- ❖ Bathroom/shelter project at Red Gate park ongoing
- ❖ Trail Segment 1 work
- ❖ Continue pool winterization
- ❖ Storm cleanup ongoing
- ❖ Work on disc golf course

Next Month and Future Projects

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- ❖ Disc golf course install
- ❖ Diamond 3 in-field fencing
- ❖ Website work
- ❖ Remove old well houses at City Park
- ❖ Drinking fountain install Platt Park
- ❖ Diamond 1 building work
- ❖ Arching sign for entrance at Woodlawn
- ❖ 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

JOSHUA JOHNSON MA
OELWEIN PARK SUPERINTENDENT

