



Park Department 2019 Successful Projects

This past year the Oelwein Park Department raised outside funds and constructed the City's first dog park to improve upon City Park. The Park Department did an excellent job by taking over maintenance over the downtown landscape and planted 54 trees funded with a Trees Forever grant in the street boulevards to increase the city's urban canopy. The Park Department improved the existing east trail by sealing the entire length; expanding its life expectancy and created a stretching station with a bike fix-it station donated by ITC. The trails committee leveraged \$25k into over \$175K with grants to extend the trail in Wings Park and install a safe, visually stunning bridge. The trail committee raised \$1.175 million dollars with a grant to expand and improve upon the Oelwein Municipal Trail System that will encompass the entire community.

Goals/Projects

As the City moves forward it is important to acknowledge the importance of creating safe clean outdoor places for community members to exercise and enjoy nature. Parks provide social / psychological benefits, strengthen community vision, promote child development and increase property values. Continuing to expand trail segments is a major priority of the Park Department as it is a key goal of council. As the City continues to establish new trail sections and encompass the entire community the City will establish community identity and create a destination for visitors. Positioning the City with an established trail system will attract regional trails to connect and will help the City tap into a \$365 million dollar Iowa bicycle tourism market.

Several projects that the Park and Recreation Board have detailed in their master plan include many basic improvement projects of essential services. Installing new modern bathrooms while eliminating primitive toilets and installing new sanitary drinking fountains in all major parks. This upcoming season the Park Department will be adding three new dual height drinking fountains at various parks that are ADA compliant. Improvements to the pool is essential in that the city is providing basic water life skill to the youth of this community. The City is currently adding some much needed shade structures to the facility to both beautify this key destination and provide vital sun protection.

The Park Department has worked with several groups to solidify our relationship with the community over the years. Recently the Park Department has been working with the OCS senior seminar program on several projects such as building a new grave heater for the cemetery last season. Other projects consist of constructing more benches for the dog park, creating winter security doors for the bathroom facilities, and creating a new metal arching sign for Woodlawn Cemetery paid for by a community donor. Currently another senior group is in the planning stages to improve upon the trail bridge on the north side of the veterans' sports complex.

As the City moves forward, the Park Department appreciates the support of council and administration. The Park Department will continue to expand upon and improve the parks, trails, campground, aquatic center and cemeteries to enhance our community image and make the Oelwein community more marketable.

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