



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting
City Hall

Monday November 17th, 2025 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

www.oelweinparks.org

Call to Order: 5:15PM

Roll Call: Cantrell, Bouska, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Meska, Stasi

Attending: Cantrell, Bouska, Gearhart, Johnson, Meska, Stasi

Absent: Jorgensen

Approval of Minutes:

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the September 15th, 2025, meeting:

Motion:	Meska	2 nd :	Bouska
Aye:	All	Nay:	None

Citizen Comments: None

Tree Board Updates:

Johnson talked to the board about the "Trees for Kids" tree planting that was held on October first at City Park. Johnson stated that they planted 15 trees at City Park around the front area and north end of the park. Johnson stated the city was awarded the full \$2,500 for this opportunity, the same as they were awarded last year. Johnson stated that this is a non-matching grant and that these trees can be placed on any city property. Johnson talked to the board about the tree planting that they held on the 15th of October with Trees Forever. Johnson stated that they were awarded the full \$5,000 as this is also a non-matching grant in the way of matching dollars. Johnson stated that the matching part for the city with these programs comes in the way of supplying hours for watering, planting, maintenance; as well as supplying t-posts, mulch, rope, water bags, etc. Johnson praised board member Joe Bouska as he helped with this project with volunteers once again from East Penn. Johnson stated that Kyle Scheel also brought employees with his landscaping business, there were park and cemetery employees, board members, Alliant Energy and Trees Forever representatives present. Johnson stated that they pushed back the tree planting a day due to rain as it rained just as much the following day unfortunately. Johnson stated that they planted all 41 trees in about three hours as the department puts in a lot of hours preparing for this event every year. Johnson stated that the city is very fortunate to have such a great tree board that keeps doing a great job every year. Johnson stated that with this planting they have planted over 900 trees in the past ten years and brought in tens of thousands of dollars for the organization. Johnson stated that they planted around forty chestnut trees this spring that have done very well and will keep them in pots for a few years until they are big enough to put in their final location. Johnson stated that the park and cemetery transplanted the gravel bed trees to the cemetery as they did not have a lot of gravel bed trees this year. Johnson stated that he has finished the Tree City application to the Arbor Day Foundation for 2025 and the board will be completing a tree trimming next month to complete the requirements for a possible Growth Award for 2025.

Parks / Cemetery Updates:

Johnson stated that they trimmed down some dead ash trees along the NW trail this past two months using the bucket truck. Johnson stated that they poured concrete for a drinking fountain at the sports complex, the bean bag game foundations at Red Gate Park and cemetery foundations. Johnson stated that they installed a series of posts with story boards on them along the trail behind the middle school as part of a senior project. Johnson stated that unfortunately, someone broke all the plexiglass panels, pulled posts out the ground and broke the boards not long after they were installed. Johnson stated that the park and cemetery employees went through

the downtown streetscape as this is a large project for the department to complete every year. Johnson stated that he applied to the Fayette County Community Foundation for \$5,552.00 for 75% of a new diving board for the one-meter board that is showing its age. This is 75% of the total \$7,403 for the grant requires a 25% match in funds. Johnson stated that they helped put up Christmas decorations at depot park as they changed out the light bulbs and took down the shade canopy. Johnson stated that they installed the new drinking fountain at the sports complex this fall. Johnson stated that this was a non-matching grant for \$8,050.00 for the fountain that has a bottle filling station, standard drinking fountain and an animal drinking fountain.

Johnson stated that the cemetery and park employees completed one last round of mowing all the properties down and chopping up leaves before they big layoff. The employees burned off what they could at city park at the time but with the very late leaf drop there are still a lot of leaves that have not fallen yet. Johnson commended park employee Dan Ohl who designed and fabricated a very nice set of heavy-duty board covers for the aquatic center. Johnson stated that Dan goes above and beyond to help the department and took it upon himself to make these very nice covers. Johnson also stated that he appreciates all the hard work that all the employees did in all the departments this summer as a lot was asked of them this year and they came through and did a fantastic job.

Johnson stated that they winterized all the facilities and stacked tables. Johnson stated that he was invited to return to Wartburg College to give a PowerPoint demonstration on grant writing. Johnson stated that he gave an hour and a half presentation to the class about grant writing styles and techniques.

Trail Segment 2 Updates:

Johnson stated that trail segment two is moving along as there was a lot of extra work that needed to be done on this project. Johnson stated that the Richardson property was graded down and looks great, and there was tree removal that was included with this project at two locations. Johnson stated that the arching bridge was installed this past week as there were to place preformed foundations that saved a lot of time and money. Johnson stated that the bridge is a match to the one that was placed in Wings Park and looks very nice.

Fee Schedule:

- Consideration of a motion approving the fee schedule for 2026: Discussion was had on all areas of the fee schedule.

Motion: Stasi

2nd: Meska

Aye: All

Nay: None

Board Member Updates: None

Adjournment: 5:56PM

Next Meeting:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for city meetings should notify city hall at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 319-283-5440.



NOVEMBER 2025 PARK MONTHLY REPORT

TREE BOARD UPDATE:

TREES FOR KIDS GRANT -\$2,500

OCTOBER 1ST

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND

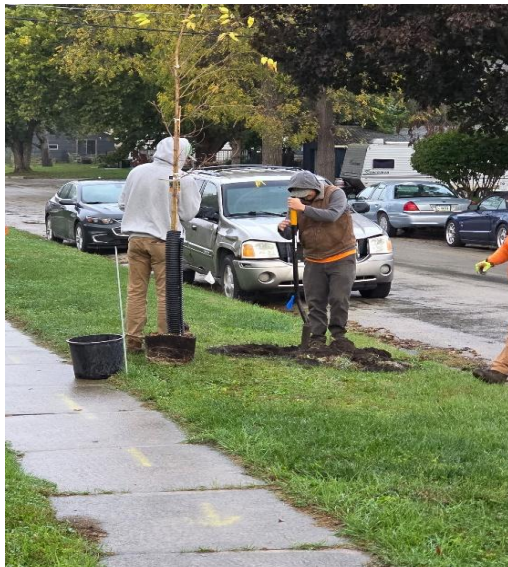




TREES FOREVER GRANT - \$5,000

OCTOBER 15TH







PARK / CEMETERY UPDATE:







**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
OF NORTHEAST IOWA





DELTA DENTAL FOUNDATION



Oelwein Daily Register

October 10 at 8:09 AM · ⚙️

Athletes, trail walkers and their four-legged counterparts will enjoy outdoor activities more with the new addition of a water fountain recently installed at Veterans Sports Complex.



COMMUNITYNEWSPAPERGROUP.COM

Veterans Sports Complex gets new fountain thanks to grant

Athletes, trail walkers and their four-legged counterparts will enjoy outdoor activities more wit...

👍❤️👉 28

3 shares

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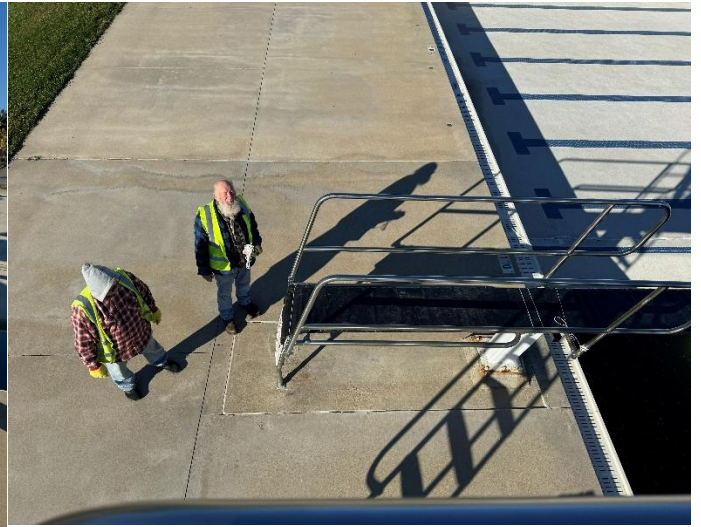
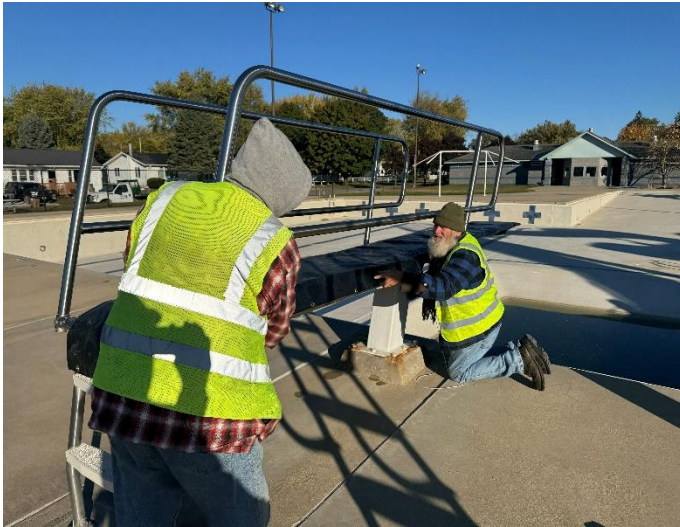
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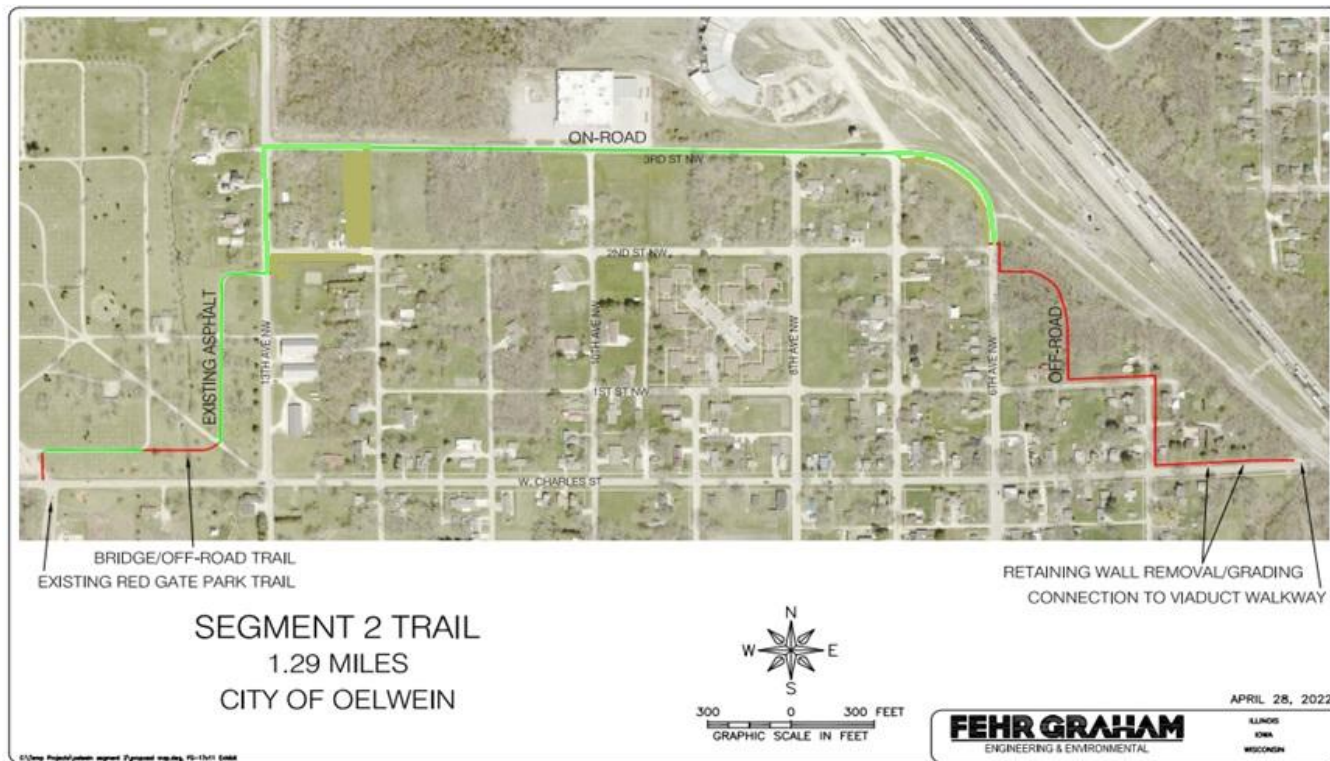


Comment as City of Oelwein





TRAILS UPDATE:

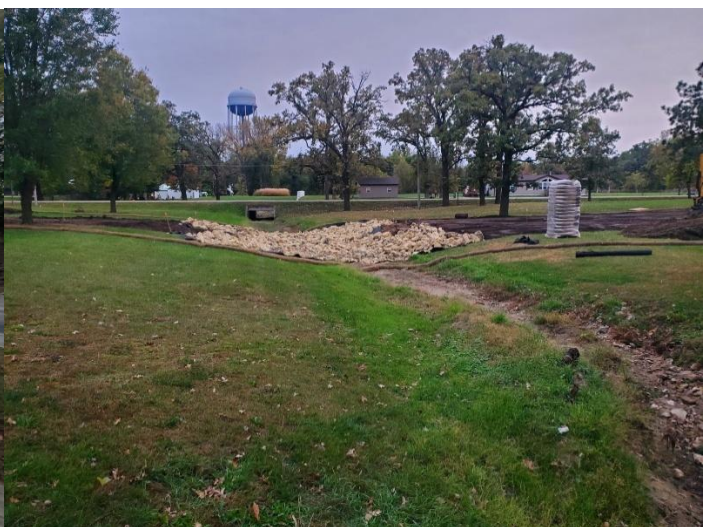


FUNDING:

• PRIVATE DONATIONS	\$83,737.18
• REAP GRANT	\$100,000
• FOUNDATION	<u>\$246,006.47</u>
PROJECT BID	\$429,743.65







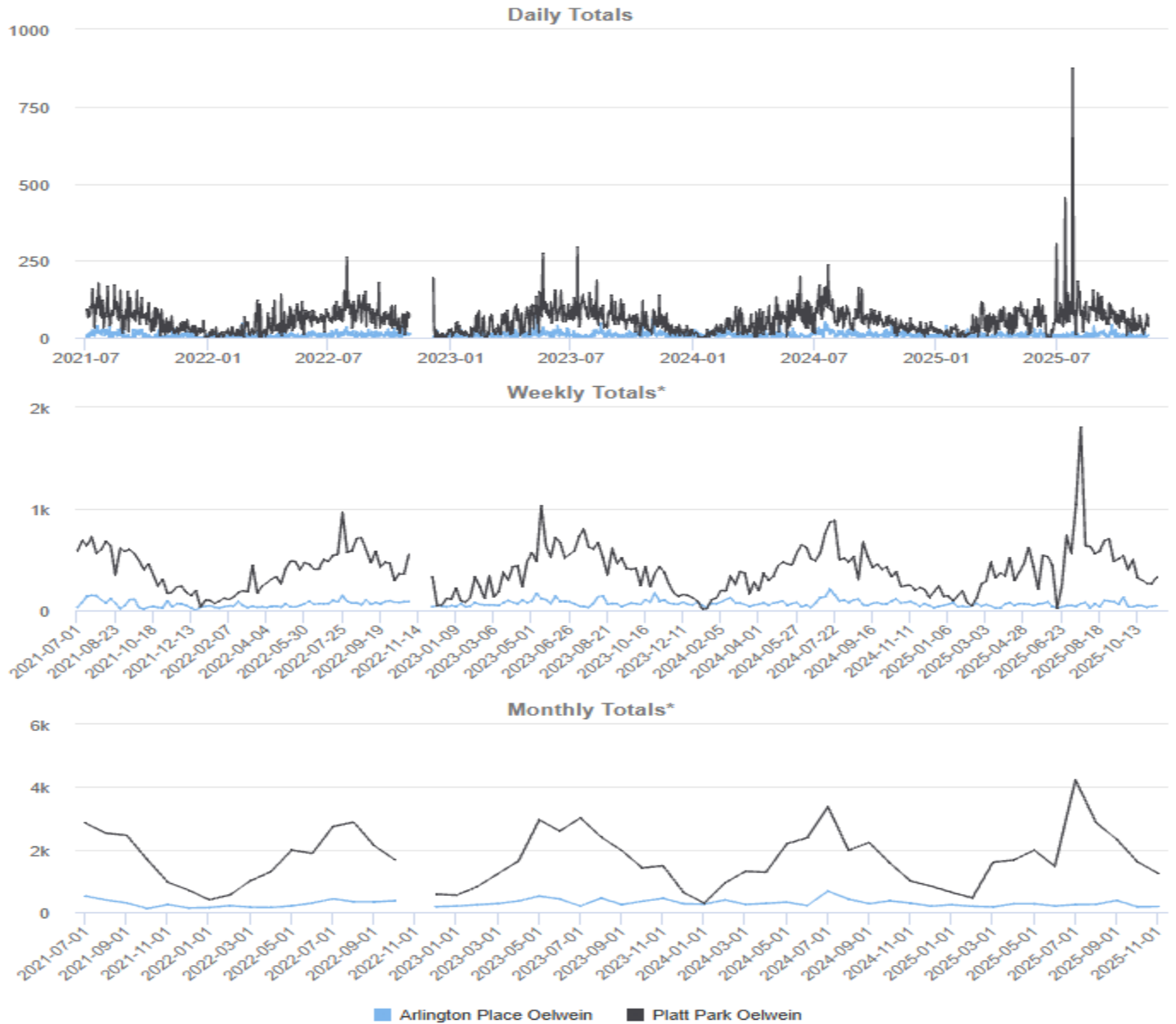






Daily/Weekly/Monthly totals

2021-07-01 to 2025-11-30 (1614 days)



Master Summary

Download as Excel CSV

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT†	ADT†x365	Days with data
2021	Arlington Place Oelwein							512*	388	294	115	242	134	9.115	3,327	183
	Platt Park Oelwein							2,845*	2,523	2,458	1,675	950	704	60.454	22,066	183
2022	Arlington Place Oelwein	146	207	158	148	199	290	426	332	327	362		173*	8.303	3,031	330
	Platt Park Oelwein	394	548	1,002	1,297	1,984	1,877	2,736	2,877	2,127	1,672		572*	51.497	18,796	330
2023	Arlington Place Oelwein	193	235	274	356	510	421	190	451	241	347	441	266	10.753	3,925	365
	Platt Park Oelwein	543	816	1,229	1,635	2,948	2,592	3,013	2,399	1,969	1,411	1,485	628	56.625	20,668	365
2024	Arlington Place Oelwein	254	389	247	279	319	208	673	414	269	360	287	191	10.628	3,890	366
	Platt Park Oelwein	287	930	1,305	1,276	2,181	2,378	3,373	1,972	2,223	1,571	998	828	52.792	19,322	366
2025	Arlington Place Oelwein	236	186	165	268	268	196	240	249	374	171	178*		7.650	2,792	320
	Platt Park Oelwein	631	453	1,595	1,663	1,978	1,465	4,229	2,859	2,327	1,610	1,241*		60.850	22,210	320

ADT† = Average Daily Traffic

* = based upon that month's ADT [Learn more](#) Indicates months with less than 6 days of data.



DAILY ACTIVITIES

- CLEAN/ORGANIZE SHOP AREAS
- PICK UP DOWNTOWN AREAS
- MAINTAINING PARK, CEMETERIES
- MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT
- SAFETY MEETINGS
- MEET WITH CONTRACTORS
- RETRIEVE & UPLOAD TRAIL COUNT DATA
- WOODLAWN BURIALS
- PARK MAINTENANCE
- GRANT WORK

PROGRESS ON PROJECTS

- WEBSITE UPDATING
- TRAIL EASEMENTS/GRANTS
- PARK AND REC MASTER PLAN
- TRAIL MAINTENANCE
- GRINDING STUMPS
- CIVICREC WORK
- TRAIL SEGMENT 2 - ONGOING
- TREE TRIMMING
- EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
- SEASONAL EMPLOYEE WORK WRAPPED UP
- COMPLEX DRINKING FOUNTAIN INSTALL
- UPPER EXPLORERLAND MEETINGS

NEXT MONTH AND FUTURE PROJECTS

- REPURPOSE OLD WINGS BRIDGE
- GRANT WRITING
- TRAIL SEGMENTS 4/5 ALIGNMENT
- BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- WINTERIZING
- PREP SNOW EQUIPMENT
- EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
- FCCF FOUNDATION PROPOSAL
- TREE CITY APP & GROWTH AWARD APP
- TREE TRIMMING

2025 PROJECTS COMPLETED

- ALL ASPHALT TRAILS CRACK FILLED AND SEALED
- PARK AND CEMETERY ROADS SEAL COATED
- RAGBRAI OVERNIGHT STAY
- STARTING GAZEBO FUNDRAISER
- CIVICREC FULL IMPLEMENTATION
- CITY PARK SOUTH ENTRANCE CULVERT REPLACED
- STARTED (50) CHESTNUT TREES
- SHOP WINDOWS REPLACED
- BCHC FREE DAY AT POOL, LATE NIGHT SWIM, VARIOUS OTHER EVENTS
- RAISED OVER \$16,000 THROUGH RAGBRAI EVENT AT POOL
- POOL TIKI HUT REFURBISHED
- UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING – SEVERAL PROJECTS COMPLETED
- YELLOW SAFETY DIAMOND TOPPER – DIAMOND 2 - \$550 RAISED
- CONCESSION WALL INSTALLATION / CIP IMPROVEMENTS
- STORM DAMAGED CLEAN-UP PLATT AND CITY PARK MONDAY AFTER RAGBRAI
- MAP CREATED BY NE IOWA RC&D FOR CAMPGROUND
- ELECTRICAL PEDESTALS REPLACED AT CAMPGROUND
- ARBOR DAY – PLANTING PRESENTATION / TREE WHIP GIVEAWAY-3RD GRADERS
- TRAIL SEGMENT 2 – STARTED 9-15-2025
 - \$100,000 REAP GRANT, \$82K PRIVATE DONATION, FOUNDATION
- DRINKING FOUNTAIN INSTALL
 - DELTA DENTAL \$6,814.99
- TREE PLANTINGS
 - TREES FOR KIDS \$2,500 – IOWA DNR
 - TREES FOREVER \$5,000 – FEATURED COMMUNITY
- BALL DIAMOND IMPROVEMENTS – FOUNDATION \$17,000
- CEMETERY FOUNDATIONS AND BEAN BAG GAME PADS POURED
- PRIVATE TREE DONATION - \$500



WOODLAWN BURIALS

- 16 CREMATIONS
- 24 FULL BURIALS
- 1 INFANT DISINTERMENT

SHELTER RESERVATIONS

- 51

JOSHUA JOHNSON MA
OELWEIN PARK SUPERINTENDENT

