



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting
City Hall – 20 2nd Ave SW
Monday April 20th, 2026 - 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, Gearhart arrived at 5:18

Approval of minutes:

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the March 16th, 2026, meeting:

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

Citizen comments: None

YSA update:

Cody talked about the diamonds at Wings Park that are getting upgrades with the grant that Johnson wrote. Oakes stated that they are expanding the infield to allow 60-to-70-foot placement of bags on D3. Oakes talked about Alliant moving some poles for the batting cage. Oakes talked about fees he is charging teams for a tournament at the end of May with 22 teams, 8–13-year-olds with a \$300 team fee. Oakes talked about umpires costing \$60 a game being a big expense. Oakes talked about moving a foul pole, Johnson asked if locates had been called in and Oakes said they had. Meska asked if parents are donating food for concessions as Oakes stated that he would just go buy the food. Cantrell asked if parents were there to help volunteers and Oakes stated that he is using kids. Oakes stated that he is doing youth soccer and if a kid really wants to further soccer play, they can find a way and that soccer has really fallen off. Oakes stated how all City storage areas were not good and asked if the city could buy him a new shed, Johnson said it was not in the operating budget to just go out and buy a shed.

Trails update:

Johnson spoke on updates to trail segment two, as the project is nearing completion. Johnson stated that all the concrete work has been completed and the contractor’s installed signage along the trail segment. Johnson stated that the on-road part on third street will have signage that the city will install and markings will be put down once the street department has a contractor complete their work as well. Johnson stated that he is also installing signage and street marking from the trail that comes out on 4th Ave and 2nd St NW and connect it down 3rd Ave to the east side of the viaduct. This will essentially connect all the trail segments in town to one continuous trail around town now.

Tree board update:

Johnson talked about some upcoming events that he would like to board to participate in if available. Johnson stated that on April 13th they had the Arbor Day proclamation read at the council meeting as a part of the Tree City award they receive yearly. Johnson stated that on April 24th is Arbor Day, always the last Friday of April and the board is working with the elementary school for their event. Johnson stated that he ordered 75 tree whips from the state forestry department so the board can hand them out and give a planting demonstration to the third graders once again. Johnson stated that the next on the 25th the board will be hosting Operation ReLeaf at City Park. Johnson stated that the DNR contacted him to host the event like they did back in 2016. Johnson stated there was an online form online that any Alliant Energy customer could sign up to purchase up to two trees for \$25 a piece that people can plant anywhere as they sold out weeks ago. Johnson stated this is a great program and that the DNR will give a planting demonstration at the event for those who are unsure of how to properly plant a tree. Johnson stated that he has ordered the trees for the IRA grant that the board received money for four plantings over the next two years which he will talk more in the park update. Johnson stated that the tree board has received the tree city recognition and the growth award for all their work they completed last year and encouraged the board to thank the individuals on the tree board if they see them. Johnson stated that the board received the One Million Trees grant for the full \$5k through Trees Forever, that Alliant Energy sponsors. Lastly, Johnson stated that he was recognized on April 8th in Ankeny by the Iowa Urban Tree Council for the 2026 Outstanding Professional award. Johnson stated that the tree board nominated him for this award which was a great recognition for all the work the board has done for this community. Johnson explained that the IUTC board is composed of volunteers with IDNR, Forestry Dept., Trees Forever, Universities, certified arborists, NRCS and others in the industry.

Park/cemetery update:

Johnson stated that he is talking with several contractors to get competitive quotes on projects in the parks, campground and cemetery. Johnson stated that they are looking to replace some electrical panels in all these areas as it is important to upgrade these facilities to keep things safe for everyone. Johnson stated that he and Beatty trimmed several trees at City Park in preparations for Alliant Energy to replace several utility poles as part of a CIP project. Johnson stated that again these are not really fun projects, but it is necessary to update these facilities. Johnson stated that Aden Raber was the low bidder on the shelter project at City Park to add framing and install a ceiling. Johnson stated that Raber did an excellent job as always and is really happy with the end product. Johnson stated that this will keep birds from roosting inside the facility and keep patrons from stapling decorations to the rafters. Johnson stated that they will have new led lights installed to finish the project.

Johnson stated that he met with the tree board in February at Platt Park to trim and train young trees that have been planted. Johnson stated that they estimated around 60-70 trees in that park where ash trees that the park department removed. Johnson stated that they have had several tree plantings in that park over the years and trimmed them all up as this is very beneficial to trees creating a strong central leader. Johnson stated that the tree board has been doing this project of trimming young trees for several years now and is a project that they can put towards their growth award with the arbor day foundation. Johnson stated that with recent windstorms they have been keeping on top of cleaning up a few downed tree branches here and there as he provided a picture of cedar tree in Wings Park. Johnson stated that he and Beatty borrowed the bucket truck and spent a day trimming trees in Chrysler Park as they are trying to knock out trimming the trees in the smaller parks each year and start chipping away a city as well. Johnson stated that they trimmed the few trees at the pool in the fall with the bucket truck and they trimmed up the new small trees last month. Johnson stated that they have been diligent on snow removal as it has been a long winter season. Johnson stated that Beatty spent a couple days at City Park trimming back areas in the disc golf course this past month.

Johnson stated that he has applied to the Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation as he has met with Todd Bradley several times for guidance and expectations for applying. Johnson stated that he is hoping to get new fencing fabric and new outfield poles placed on diamond one this year along with yellow safety topper. Johnson stated that this is the last of the city's five diamonds that will get the topper, that he and Joe Bouska

have raised almost \$4k over recent years from local businesses to complete on the other four diamonds. Johnson stated that he also applied to the RJ McElroy Foundation for the same project as he had several meetings with them as well to ensure the city's best chances of receiving funding. Johnson stated that he applied to the Delta Dental Foundation to install a proper drinking fountain at diamond three.

Johnson stated that a memorial bench was purchased and will be installed at Wings Park at a pre-approved location with the board set along the bike trail overlooking diamond two. Johnson stated that they have had a few full burials and a couple cremation burials at Woodlawn cemetery. Johnson stated that they had to use the grave heater for the first time this season in February as the frost was too thick to get through. Johnson stated that Beatty went through some storage areas and have been cleaning them out at different locations. Johnson said that Beatty and he went to Depot Park and replaced all the colored light bulbs back to clear bulbs on the coldest morning of the year.

Johnson stated that they had an individual drive through the cemetery front ditch and put a small chip in a headstone in block 16. Johnson stated that they took pictures and sent a report with estimates to the PD to fix the stone if the family wants to do anything as it is their personal property. Johnson stated that they spent considerable time trimming trees on the west side of City Park along the roads and around the campground area. Johnson stated that he would like to complete some more if time allows. Johnson stated that they took down two trees along the west trail as they were dead and did not want them to fall on the trail or on some power lines across the trail to the north. Johnson stated that Beatty blew out some of the Lilly beds downtown in front of the street sweeper to hopefully save a little cleanup time this spring.

Johnson stated that Beatty and he removed a large evergreen near the front entrance of City Park by the old baseball diamond. Johnson stated that this is a project that he has wanted to complete for some time as patrons like to hide behind the bushes and park in the grass area creating a large divot of mud. Johnson stated that they also took the opportunity to trim many of the nearby evergreen as they have been garbage collectors. Johnson stated that they have more trimming to do in that area, but this is a great start, and they will take a couple loads of dirt out when it warms up and grass seed the area. Johnson stated that he has been working with the pool manager as they already completed the first of the paperwork for the lifeguards, front desk and concession kids. Johnson stated that Kim is lining up certification classes for the kids to get that large hurdle out of the way now as schedules get very busy in May with the kids. Johnson stated that they have tentatively set a date and created a job list for the United Way – Day of Caring for May 1st. Johnson stated that he and Bouska and Rivera work together to put this day together and has really been a very positive event for everyone involved. Johnson urged the board to participate and ask their employers to give United Way a call if they can help out that day. Johnson stated that their spring tree planting the tree board received funds from the IRA grant will be planted that day as well in Woodlawn, Redgate Park and at the sports complex.

Johnson talked about pool preparation that has been completed by the park department as it is a huge hurdle they take on every year. Johnson stated that for the most part there are not a lot of improvement projects, just replacing two drinking fountains on the south wall of the shower house. Johnson stated there is a lot of plumbing and general maintenance that needs to be done every spring. Cantrell asked if the utility department has been helping as he stated they have not so far.

Johnson stated that he had his contractor come in and install the overhang fencing on diamond three this past week that came out nice and the funding came from a grant he wrote to the charitable foundation. Johnson stated that all the employees are back that he could hire and went through a battery of videos and safety training to start out with. Johnson stated that he has the utility department working on getting the three wells at city park pulled and plugging the well casings so that they are taken care of. Johnson said that there were two on the east side in small green brick buildings and one on the campground side as all areas have been hooked into the city water system for some time now. Johnson stated that the buildings have been removed and once the guy comes in, they will fill and cap below grade and remove everything at ground level which will look much better. Johnson stated that with all the rain they have been busy controlling the drainage areas to ensure the water going into areas it's supposed to go and have no obstructions. Johnson stated that Alliant Energy has been out to City Park and they replaced two final utility poles on the east side of the park by the railroad shelter. Johnson stated that this was a CIP project which was not much fun but was essential. Johnson stated that they replaced three utility poles on the west side by the campground as one was brought down by straight line winds right after RAGBRAI last year and the wire was pulled from the poles. Johnson stated that they are receiving ten gallons of green for picnic tables to be painted with the United Way – day of caring. Johnson

invited all the park and recreation board members to get involved this year and attend some of these events if possible. Johnson also stated that with the grant money he received for new diving boards he contacted the Fayette County Community Foundation about promoting the foundation. Johnson recommended to the foundation that they utilize plastic posterboards that other companies and funders use for their promotion and that they had some made this year for everyone. Johnson stated the guys spent considerable time at City Park getting the leaves burned off as he told the board previously, they had a late leaf drop this past fall. Johnson stated that he had a new sign made up for the campground as they come in, they can see it and register if they have not done so already.

Johnson provided the board with updated trail totals for the past month and burials at Woodlawn cemetery.

Board member updates: None

Adjournment: 6:12pm

Next meeting: May 18th, 2026

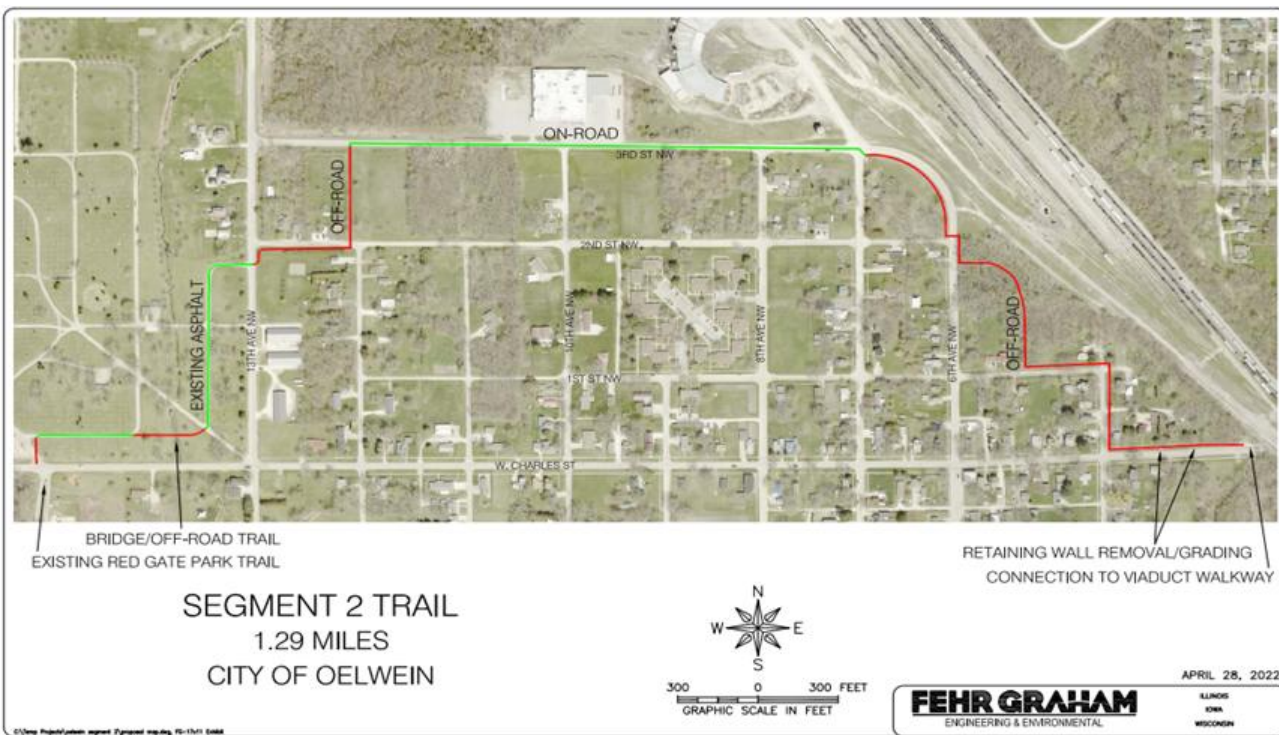
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for city meetings should notify city hall at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 319-283-5440.



APRIL 2026 UPDATES

TRAIL UPDATE:

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND





TREE BOARD UPDATE:

- APRIL 13TH ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION – COUNCIL – 6PM
- APRIL 24TH ARBOR DAY – 3RD GRADERS – 10:30AM
- APRIL 25TH OPERATION RELEAF – CITY PARK – 1 TO 3PM
- MAY 1ST UNITED WAY – DAY OF CARING – 8AM
- OCTOBER – TREES FOREVER PLANTING



OPERATION RELEAF 2026



Beautify your yard and save energy with a Alliant Energy sponsored residential tree distribution. Trees retail for \$75 or more, but Alliant Energy customers can purchase them for just \$25 each thanks to a grant from Alliant Energy! *A processing fee of \$1.50 applies, plus 2.5% if paying by credit card.

Properly placed trees shade homes in summer and block wind in winter. Advance purchase is required. You may order up to two trees. You must pick up your tree(s) on the day and time of your selected location. Any trees not picked up by the end of the distribution will be considered a donation to our local partner. In the event additional trees are available on distribution day, they will be offered for sale towards the end of the event.

Trees are non-refundable, exchange cannot be accepted, and plant material is under no warranty or guarantee. For maximum energy savings, plant shade trees within 30 feet of the east and west of your home. Plant evergreens as windbreaks on the north and west of your home. Dial Iowa One Call at 811 or visit iowaonecall.com at least two business days before you dig. They'll send someone to locate underground utilities for you. This is a free service.

Attend a short, free workshop 30 minutes into the event to learn the best way to place and plant a tree. All are welcome to attend and have your questions answered.

Shade trees are 5-8 feet tall in 7- to 15-gallon containers. Conifers and ornamentals are 3-5 feet tall in 5- to 7-gallon containers. Consider the location and mature height of the tree species so you don't plant a tree that could interfere with power lines.

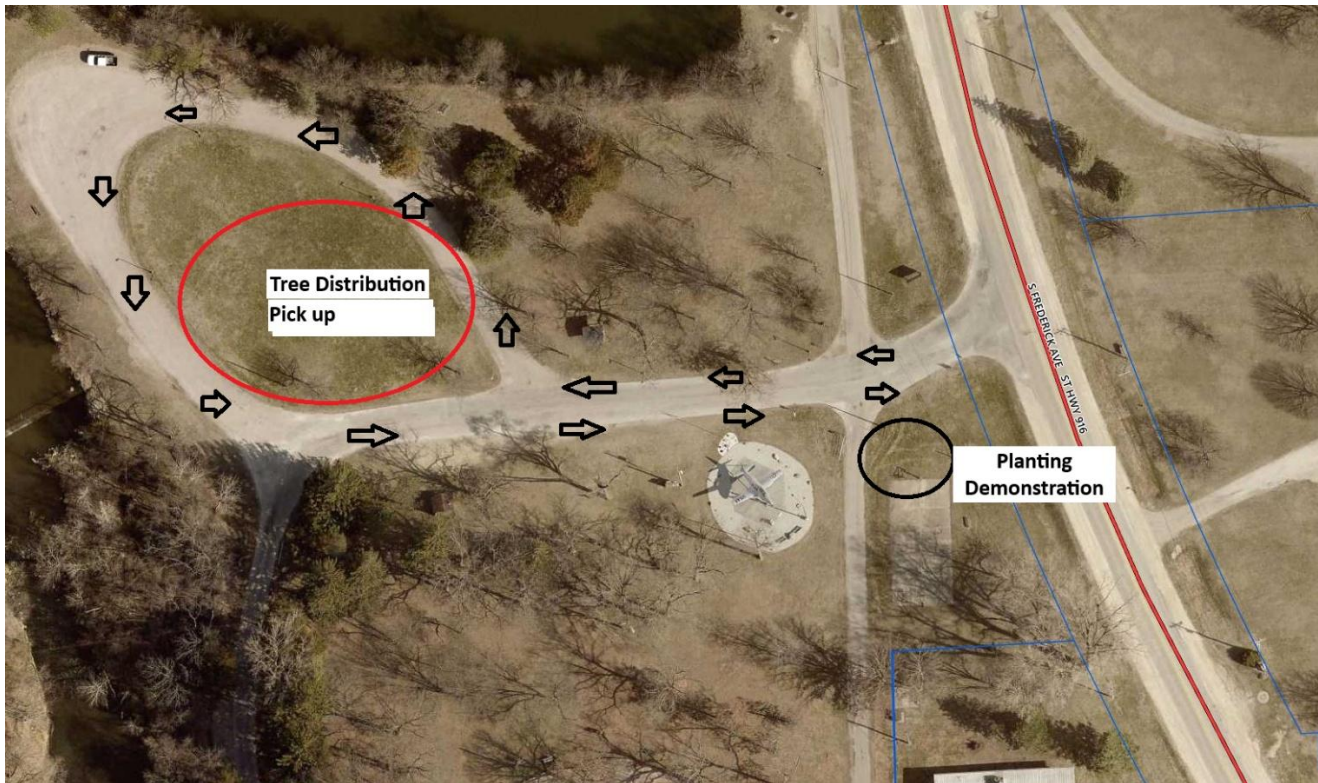
Locations:

- Ogden**
Tuesday, April 21, 2026
- Vinton**
Thursday, April 23, 2026
- Oelwein**
Saturday, April 25, 2026
- Mt. Pleasant**
Thursday, April 30, 2026
- Mason City**
Thursday, May 28, 2026



PICKUP AREA - CITY PARK

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND



TREE CITY USA®



TREE CITY USA®

An Arbor Day Foundation Program





ONE MILLION TREES



IOWA URBAN TREE COUNCIL AWARDS - ANKENY





IUTC AWARDS - ANKENY

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RON LENTH – TREE BOARD MEMBER





Oelwein Tree Board Accomplishments

Trees Donations/Grants:

08/15/2016	Trees Forever	Complex	\$1,210.00
01/25/2017	Trees Forever	Platt/Wings	\$2,124.00
01/27/2018	Trees Forever	Complex	\$4,000.00
08/20/2018	Trees Forever	Multiple Parks	\$1,019.20
10/11/2018	Tree Spading	Cemetery Trees	\$13,000.00
04/15/2019	Trees Forever	Boulevard Trees	\$5,000.00
04/14/2020	Trees Forever	Boulevard Trees	\$5,000.00
05/27/2020	Cannons/Anonymous	Red Gate Tree Replacement	\$725.00
10/14/2020	Dave Sondrol	Cemetery Trees	\$320.00
10/15/2020	Corner Market	Red gate Trees	\$200.00
03/11/2021	Trees Forever	Boulevard Trees	\$5,000.00
10/15/2021	Cannons Greenhouse	Tree Donation - Redgate	\$600.00
10/15/2021	Andrea Williams	Tree Donation-Redgate	\$300.00
02/23/2022	Trees Forever	Boulevard Trees	\$5,000.00
03/01/2022	Jack Freeman	Tree Donation - Redgate	\$1,000.00
05/18/2022	Jim Arnold	Tree Donation-Redgate	\$150.00
02/24/2023	Trees Forever	Boulevard Trees	\$4,000.00
05/17/2023	Aubrey Sadler	Tree Donation-Redgate	\$150.00
09/01/2023	Anthony Ricchio	Tree Donation-Redgate	\$300.00
09/08/2023	DNR	Community Forestry Grant	\$4,991.64
10/09/2023	Greg Bryan	Tree Donation -Gravel Bed	\$2,000.00
03/18/2024	Trees Forever	Boulevard Trees	\$5,000.00
09/06/2024	Iowa DNR Forestry	Trees for Kids – Wings Park	\$2,500.00
01/15/2025	Iowa DNR	IRA Community Forestry Grant	\$30,000.00
02/13/2025	Trees Forever	Boulevard Trees	\$5,000.00
09/08/2025	Iowa DNR	Trees for Kids	\$2,500.00
10/15/2025	Roger/Amy Beane	Tree Donation	\$500.00
11/01/2025	Jeanette Simon	Tree Donation – City Park	\$300.00
10/15/2025	Chuck Serra	Tree Donation - Woodlawn	\$150.00
02/17/2026	Trees Forever	Boulevard Trees	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
			\$77,038.84

Trees Planted:

2016	39	2020	66	2024	110
2017	69	2021	68	2025	119
2018	39	2022	50	2026	<u>140</u>
2019	254	2023	117		1,021

Accomplishments:

- ❖ Hundreds of tree whips given to kids for Arbor Day events
- ❖ Tree City Award - 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- ❖ Growth Award - 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- ❖ 2016 Hosted Operation ReLeaf – distributed 240 trees to the public
- ❖ 2018 Boulevard tree survey with Iowa DNR Forestry Department
- ❖ 2019 Governors volunteer award
- ❖ 2021 Outstanding Community Organization – Iowa Urban Tree Council
- ❖ 2022 Park and cemetery tree survey with Iowa DNR Forestry Department
- ❖ 2023 Recipient of the Community Forestry Grant
- ❖ 2024 Constructed a gravel bed to raise bare root trees
- ❖ 2025 Tree keeper course taken
- ❖ 2025 Started 40 chestnut trees
- ❖ 2026 Recipient of IRA Community Forestry Grant
- ❖ 2026 Hosting Operation ReLeaf – April
- ❖ 2026 Second gravel bed construction
- ❖ 2026 Recipient of the Outstanding Professional Award - Iowa Urban Tree Council

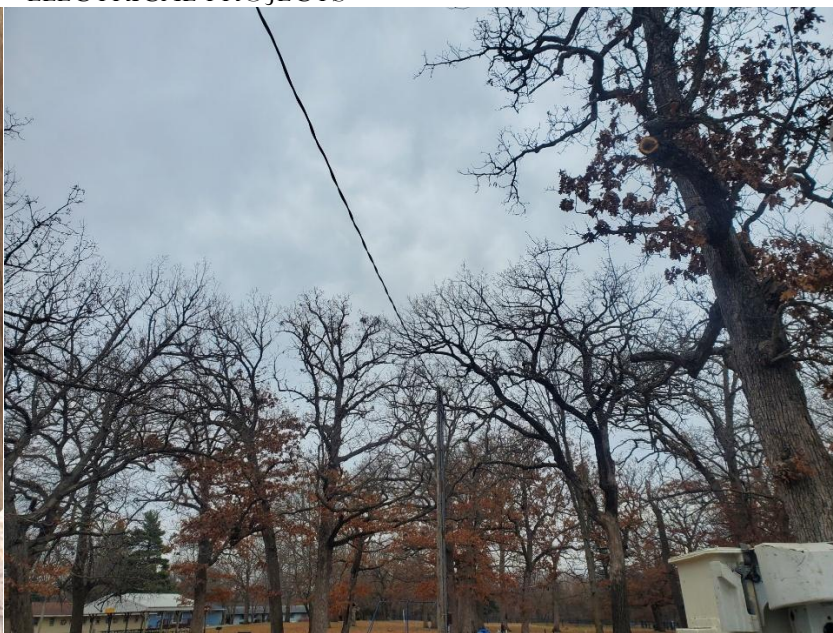
Tree Board:

Current Members - Jeff Milks, Ron Lenth, Kyle Scheel, John Fox, Terry Scherbring Past - Bill Brownell, Tom Fick

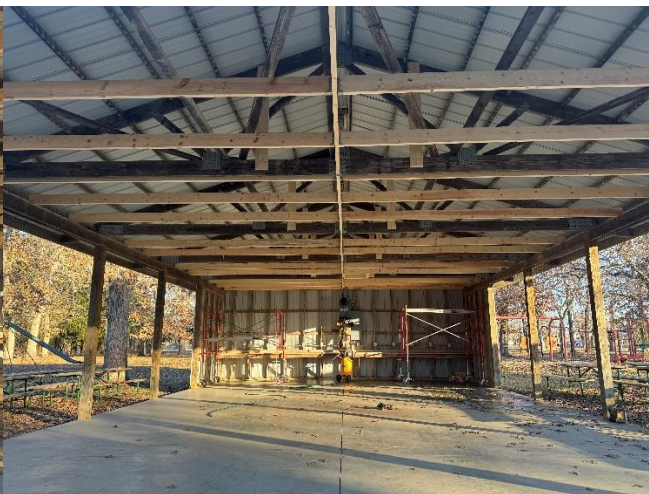
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ELECTRICAL PROJECTS



SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS



SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS





CEILING COMPLETED

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND



YOUNG TREE TRIMMING



YOUNG TREE TRIMMING





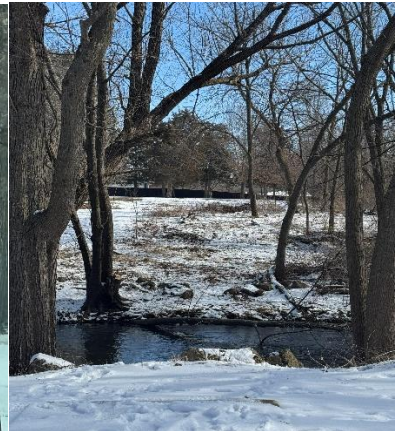
WIND DAMAGE



CHRYSLER PARK TRIMMING



TREE TRIMMING AND SNOW REMOVAL





WINGS PROJECTS

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MEMORIAL BENCH



GRAVE HEATER



CLEANING DE



CREMATION PREP



DEPOT PARK



WOODLAWN DAMAGE



TREE TRIMMING



TREE TRIMMING



TREE TRIMMING



TREE REMOVAL



DOWNTOWN CLEANING



CITY PARK WORK



EVERGREEN REMOVAL



EVERGREEN TRIMMING



EVERGREEN TRIMMING



EVERGREEN TRIMMING



CREMATION PREPARATIONS





UNITED WAY – DAY OF CARING 2026 MAY 1ST – 8AM

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND





PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND



United Way

05-01-2026

DAY OF CARING

Event Description Heading

Ready to help your community out and volunteer. Contact United Way today and sign up for a project today!



Support a great cause!

Get your business involved in the community

Projects in city parks, trails, cemetery, campground and at the aquatic facility!

Plantings, painting, cleaning

319-283-7334

Tim Rivera

<http://oelweinareunitedway.org/>

05-01-2026 - 8 am

POOL PREPARATIONS

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND





DIAMOND THREE IMPROVEMENTS

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND



SAFETY TRAININGS/ORIENTATIONS



WELLS



PLATT PARK INTAKE



UTILITY POLES – CITY PARK



UTILITY POLES - CAMPGROUND

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GRANTS RECEIVED



NEW CAMPGROUND SIGN



MORE POOL PREP



CAMPGROUND PREP



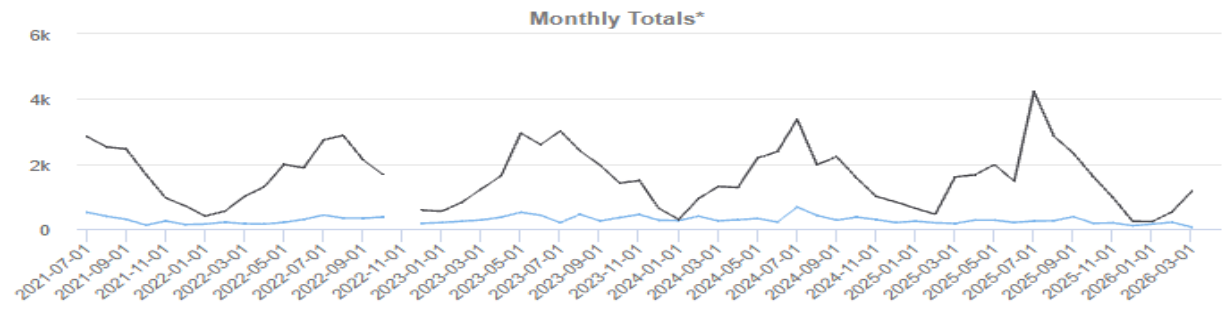
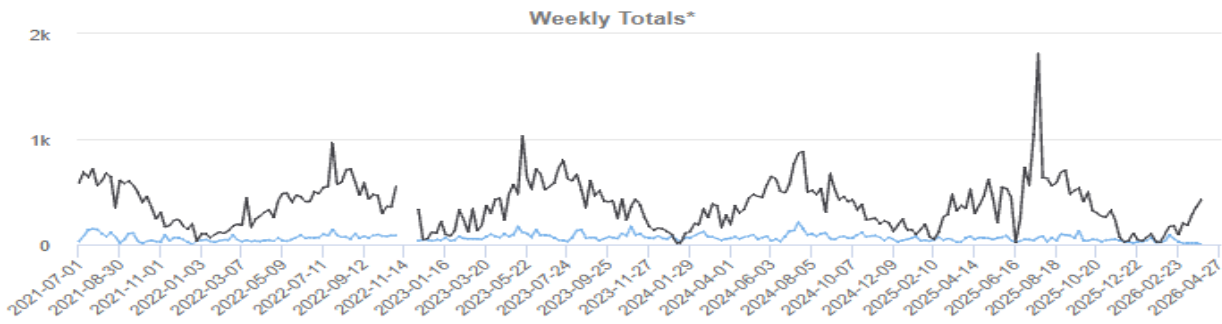
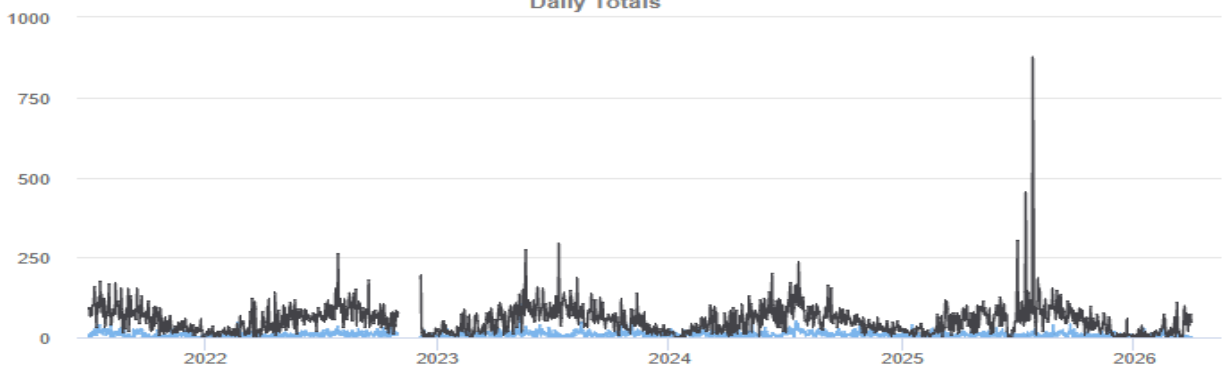
LEAF BURNING





Daily/Weekly/Monthly totals

2021-07-01 to 2026-04-30 (1765 days)



■ Arlington Place Oelwein ■ Platt Park Oelwein

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	184	100	7.225	2,637	365
	Platt Park Oelwein	631	453	1,595	1,663	1,978	1,465	4,229	2,859	2,327	1,610	964	234	54.816	20,008	365
2026	Arlington Place Oelwein	148	202	51										4.456	1,626	90
	Platt Park Oelwein	226	526	1,160										21.244	7,754	90

ADT† = Average Daily Traffic

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

FULL BURIALS – 8
CREMATIONS - 3

JOSHUA JOHNSON MA
OELWEIN PARK SUPERINTENDENT



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