



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting

~~Redgate Park~~ Moved to Park Shop because of weather

Monday July 20th, 2026 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

www.oelweinparks.org

Call to order: 5:16 pm

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

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

Absent: None

Approval of minutes:

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of May 18th, 2026, meeting:

Motion: Meska 2nd: Stasi

Aye: All Nay: None

Citizen comments: None

Trail update: Johnson stated that he completed a walkthrough with the contractor and the engineer of trail segment two last week. Johnson stated that they created a final punch list of the project for the contractor to complete so that they can finish the project out. Johnson said that for the most part the grass seeding filled in nicely but there are a few areas for the contractor to touch up. Johnson stated that he attended the upper explorer land meeting last Wednesday as they talked about potential trail funding for projects. Johnson stated that he talked with an employee from Alliant Energy as they were working around the Wings Park area about a concern of his. Johnson stated that he had mentioned this before but must have gotten lost in the shuffle. Johnson asked if they could add an extension pole high on the electrical pole to offset the guy wire that came down and crossed the area above the trail. Johnson stated that he had seen this done in another community and would like to see it completed in this application along 8th Ave NE. Johnson appreciated that the Alliant employees took the time to do this as it makes the trail safer to use.

Aquatics update: Johnson stated that the aquatic center had a great start to the season as they had some nice hot and dry weather to start as they have not had good weather to start the season in recent years. Johnson said that staff sold 275 season passes this year as this is a significant jump from previous years.

Johnson stated that after the nice start, the weather turned cool and had several rain days in June, but things have warmed back up for great pool weather. Johnson stated that on July 2nd they received 6.5" of rain at the shop but then had a great weekend for the 4th. Johnson stated that he received a shipment of chemicals in early July for the facility. Johnson stated that every year they get some kids that cause mischief, but they were able to identify the kids with the surveillance system and called their parents. Johnson stated that there is always ongoing maintenance with the pool as an underwater light burnt out that they replaced right away. Johnson stated that they completed extra guard training practicing swimming and life saving skills. Johnson stated that they are wrapping up swimming lessons this week as they had two sessions of group lessons and two sessions of private lessons. Johnson stated that they hosted a night swim once again this season. Johnson stated that they held a sensory friendly swim on a Wednesday evening which was a big hit with the community as they had families from surrounding communities attend. Johnson stated that this event really helped some families as they talked with others and found out about available programs that can help them. Johnson stated that they hosted a free swim day sponsored by BCHC again this year which was a big success. Johnson said that last year it rained on the planned day, so they rescheduled and there was not a great turnout unlike this year they had over 400 people attending. Johnson stated that the staff has done a great job this season as they have received a lot of positive feedback this year on the extra programming and everything the staff is doing to make the pool a great place to visit. Johnson stated that they have taken all the monthly bacteria samples and other required testing and expect to have their annual inspection any day now. Johnson discussed with the board about parking in the parking lots at the pool.

Tree board update: Johnson stated that the tree board met this month as they reviewed guidelines on where they can plant trees in the boulevards as they are seeking places to plant right now. Johnson stated that they will be planting 35 trees with the money that they received with the Trees Forever grant this fall. Johnson stated that they usually hold this planting on the second Wednesday of October so that they can water for two weeks at the very end of their season before the seasonal workers are done for the year. Johnson stated that they will be planting trees with the IRA grant the board received in a few of the parks in early October. Johnson stated that they will plant the gravel bed trees sometime in October as they were funded by the Beane family in memory of Roger Beane.

Park/cemetery update: Johnson stated that again with all their wet weather in June and budget cuts, the seasonal workers have been scrambling to keep with their workload. Johnson stated that they are still sweeping the trails every Friday and addressing troublesome trees along the trails as needed. Johnson stated with all the rain they have received is short time periods that they have had flooding in the usual areas. Johnson stated that they installed expanded steel over the windows of Depot Park as they had been boarded up to protect the windows as people were breaking them out. Johnson stated that they have increased maintenance on some of the mowers as they are starting to show their age. Johnson stated that with all the rain they had had

some trees and branches come down and that they had cleaned up. Johnson stated that Alliant Energy is replacing poles in the NE part of town and placed the service on the north side of Wings underground. Johnson stated that the cemetery employees have been working hard to make Woodlawn look its best as there are only three employees out there this year. Johnson stated that in addition to all the mowing and trimming these guys also completed the digging of the burials so other departments can keep busy with their stuff. Johnson stated that the guy's complete maintenance on their equipment on rain days to keep everything moving forward. Johnson stated that they installed speed bumps in the campground to slow traffic down. Johnson stated that with the hot dry weather in July they completed some tree watering on certain recently planted trees this spring so that they do not become heat stressed. Johnson stated that when the park employees finish their mowing and trimming they have been going out to the cemetery and helping them get caught up. Johnson shared with the board a picture of the new diving board they installed before the season began this year in which they received funding from the Fayette County Community Foundation. Johnson provided pictures of the main shelter at City Park CIP improvements. Johnson stated that Aden Raber was low bid on the framing and tin work to install the ceiling and that Irvine Electric was in this past week to install the LED lighting. Johnson stated that the Pepsi cooler for the soda at the pool concession stand, which Pepsi owns, quit working so they will be bringing up a new cooler at no cost since they are PepsiCo's coolers. Johnson stated that Irvine Electric also did maintenance on the electrical panel at the pool as the pump room is hard on things with the humidity and chemicals. Johnson stated that WBC Boiler was in to swap out two gas solenoids on the heater and to replace the flow valve with the heater. Maintenance is ongoing with the park department as new hinges are being welded on the 20' trailer to keep things moving along. Johnson provided trail and cemetery totals to the board.

Board member updates: Meska brought up that he saw a coyote running around town, conversation ensued about said coyote.

Adjournment: 6:01pm

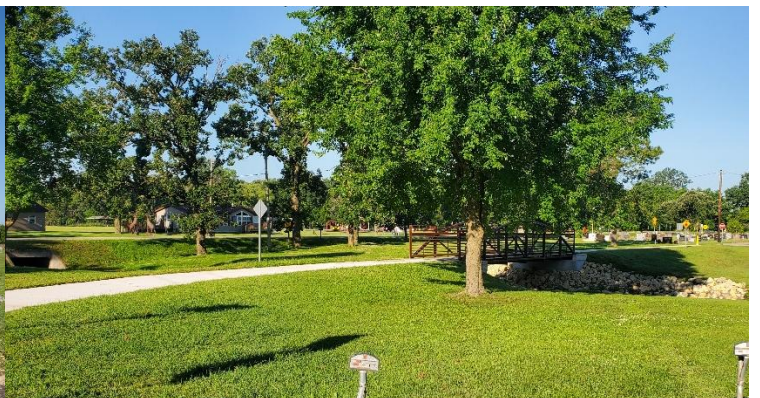
Next meeting: August 2026

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.

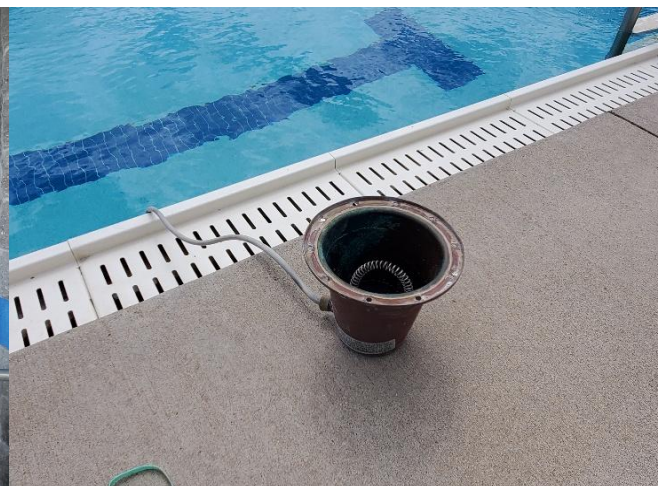
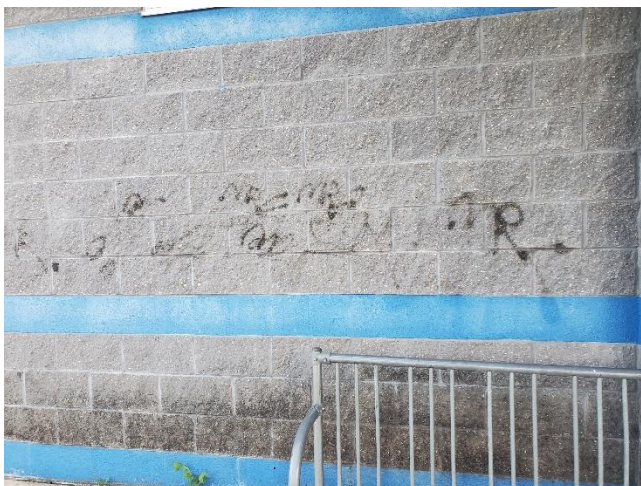


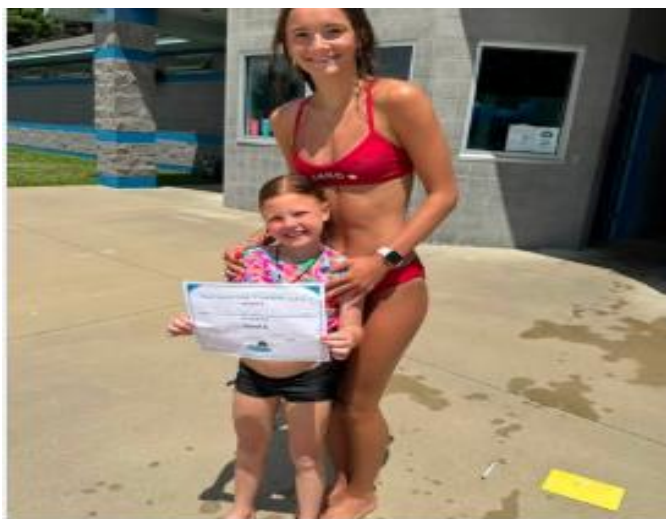
JULY 2026 UPDATES

TRAIL UPDATE:



AQUATICS:





Sheryl Hull · 2w

I have enjoyed watching the swim instructors with the kids. The instructors are as thrilled to see the big progresses as much as the parents & grandparents . Great role models for the kids. Good Job!



Reply

Hide

Edited



Cindy Noll · 2w

I was sitting next to her and grandma today and they both expressed how much they appreciated Ayelynns kindness and patience. Great job!



Reply

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Cindy Wissler Miller · 2w · by Author

She sure is the sweetest little girl ❤️



Reply

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Tammy Byrd · 2w

Thank you!



Reply

Hide



JUNE 20TH | 2026

night swim

TICKET \$6

START AT 08:00 PM - 10:00 PM

LAP SWIM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

REGULAR SWIM 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

MORE INFO AT THE OELWEIN FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER ON FACEBOOK

OELWEIN FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

MAKE A SPLASH in our community!

SPONSOR A FREE SWIM DAY!

The Oelwein Family Aquatic Center is looking for community-minded businesses and organizations to help make a big impact by sponsoring a **FREE SWIM DAY!**

Your sponsorship helps provide a fun, safe, and inclusive day at the pool for everyone in our community—regardless of financial barriers.

WHY SPONSOR?

- SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY**
Help promote health, wellness, and community connection for local families.
- GREAT VISIBILITY**
Your business will be recognized on our social medias and on the day off!
- POSITIVE IMPACT**
Show your commitment to making Oelwein a great place to live, work, and play.
- MAKE A SPLASH!**
Be part of something meaningful that creates lasting community goodwill.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A BIG SPLASH!
Interested in sponsoring a Free Swim Day? Learn more by contacting the Aquatic Center!

OELWEIN
FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

<https://oelweinparks.org/aquatics>

319-238-8025

STRONGER TOGETHER. Better Together.



- Gene Watson** · 3w
Me and my brother used to ride our bike during the summer when we weren't picking up rock or bailing hay and ride our bikes into town from Stanley and swim in the community pool
If our mom gave us a dollar
Meant alot
- Tammy Lincoln Stasi** · 4w
What a great group of young people! ❤️
- Tammy Byrd** · 4w
Grateful for your service to the community! Oelwein needs the pool and YOU to keep everyone safe! You are the BEST!
- Thank you**
- Denise Wilson** · 4w
Thanks for keeping a strong focus on what your roles as lifeguards means... keeping it a safe place for all who attend and mindful of each swimmer's safety while in the water 🙌
👏 great job **Kim Lawless** 👏 🙌

JOIN US FOR A SENSORY- FRIENDLY SWIM SESSION

A calm, welcoming
aquatic experience

Designed for individuals
of all ages with sensory
sensitivities and
their families.



Reduced noise
and distractions



Calm, low-
stimulation
environment



Swim, float, or
enjoy the water at
your own pace



Supportive and
inclusive
atmosphere

Sensory-friendly events are beneficial for many people, including
those with autism, ADHD, sensory processing differences, anxiety,
and anyone who simply enjoys a calmer environment.



Everyone deserves to enjoy the water!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

NEW DATE!
WEDNESDAY
JULY 1ST

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

OELWEIN FAMILY
AQUATIC CENTER

A night for neurodivergence



Kelly Mesplay watches her son Easton go down the slide at the low-stim night at the Oelwein Family Aquatic Center Wednesday, Easton, who is nonverbal autistic, loves the water but often has trouble with the environment and the noise, so the evening was perfect for him to enjoy the pool.

Aquatic Center provides low stim evening Wednesday

By TAYLOR NOHREBERG
taylor.nohreberg@oelweinregister.com

For most Kelly Mesplay of Strawberry Point, one night of a long summer made the world of difference for her 8-year-old son.

Her son, Easton, is on the autism spectrum and is nonverbal, but the environment created by the team Wednesday night at the Oelwein Family Aquatic Center broke through that silent barrier and allowed him to have a fun time swimming in a low-stimulation environment.

"He loves water, love this. We have stuff

at home like a pool and a water slide just because he can't usually go to the public pool because it's so loud and there's too many people, so we've had a really hard time," Mesplay explained.

With the raucous music that usually blares summer tunes through the speakers gone, those on the spectrum and their families were able to enjoy the pool without the overwhelming noise of large crowds and music. Around five families took part in the evening, but in this case, less is best.

Persons with neurodivergent minds tend to have hypersensitivities, which is when

they are highly sensitive to sounds as their brains do not filter out background noise. Otherwise it causes distress in the individual or physical pain.

Mesplay said he had to get used to the environment at the pool at first, adding that it took five to ten minutes to even get inside the facility, but once inside he began to enjoy it.

"Now he's getting brave, going down the slide and stuff. He loves it," she said.

Mesplay said she hopes that her hometown of Strawberry Point can also create

See NIGHT, page A2



Jennifer Vollmer Fitzpatrick · 4w

Great idea! I hope it is successful and can become a routine event.

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide 🇺🇸 🇩🇪



Ashley Clemens · 4w

Yes!! [Kim Lawless](#) Marcus and I will be there!! And it's the day before his birthday!! 🍕

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide Edited



Kelly Mesplay · 4w

Love this! Thank you

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide



Lacey M Zuck · 4w

I LOVE this

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide



Annä Boo · 4w

[Samantha](#) loook perfect time for baby to go 🍕

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide

View 2 replies



Jenn Ott · 4w

I love this, thank you!

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide



Denise Wilson · 4w

Absolutely love this 🍕

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide



Linda Squiers · 4w

Enjoy!

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide



Sue-Dennis Burington · 4w

What a great idea

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide



Jami Tafolla · 4w

[Rachel Tafolla](#)

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide



Stefanie Cole-Hutschenreuter · 4w

[Christina Barker](#)

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide ❤️

View 1 reply



Yvonne Erger · 4w

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide



Oelwein Family Aquatic Center is 🥰 feeling fantastic with Buchanan County Health ...

Published by Joshua Johnson · July 17 at 7:29 PM · 🌐

A big thank you to Buchanan County Health Center for sponsoring a free swim event today. We had a terrific turnout and excellent weather for the event. Guards, front de... See more



**Sheryl Hull**

Assign this conversation ▼

Mon 2:58 PM



I wanted to tell you I appreciate the life guard this morning ,his position was watching over the adult lap swimmers. As I was using the ladder to get out of the pool my left calf cramped. He recognized I was having trouble, asking if I was ok and stayed with me until I could step up onto the cement. Much appreciated Sheri Hull

**Kelly Mesplay** · 1w

We are so very thankful for this experience. Our son loved every minute of it. Thank you to everyone that made this possible. Hope to do it again.

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide ❤️

**Rashell Lee** · 1w

Thank you Kim for making this happen! I was so happy to be able to connect with families and share valuable resources for their family

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide 🙌

**Denise Wilson** · 1w

It was definitely a warm fuzzy experience to see the families enjoying what so many take for granted... definitely that mama 🐣 gets a tug.. beautiful experience for myself as well... thank you Kim for having the idea and making your vision happen 🌟👏👏 look forward to the next opportunity for these families and more 🙌

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide 🙌

**Michelle Maloney** · 1w

I wish I could have taken my son but unfortunately I had to work hope you offer this again

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide

**Ashley Clemens** · 1w

I really wish that the second date would've worked out for Marcus and our family but Scott and I both had to work till 8 PM tonight. If you guys decide to do it again, hopefully we can make it! Glad you had such a great turnout!

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide ❤️

**Oelwein Family Aquatic Center** · 1w · 🖋️ Author

Ashley Clemens there be more so stay tuned

👍 🗨️ Reply 🙌

**Mistie Afterlife** · 2w

I really love to see something like this. Especially for the littles with autism. This really brought a tear to my eye!!

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide

**Oelwein Family Aquatic Center** · 2w · 🖋️ Author

Mistie Afterlife awww thank you!

👍 🗨️ Reply

**Kaitlyn Michele** · 2w

👍 🗨️ Reply Hide ❤️


Oelwein Family Aquatic Center

Published by Kim Lawless · June 18 at 3:51 PM · 🌐

...

Just a little appreciation post

These men often go many days without recognition—Josh Johnson, Justin Beatty, Dan Ohi, Ron Fagle, Ron Huffard, Chris Jelinek, Danny Carnicle and Brett Mahoney. They work hard every day to keep our parks looking amazing, our cemetery beautiful and peaceful for time with loved ones, and our aquatic center clean, safe, and welcoming.

I want to give a special thank you to Josh Johnson for always taking the time to help me—whether it's moving things, showing me how to do something, or fixing what needs to be fixed. He comes in early to make sure everything is running properly and stays late when something needs extra attention.

Josh, you and the entire Parks Department truly go above and beyond. Thank you—I appreciate all the hard work you do every single day.

Send message

See insights and ads

Boost post

69

6 comments

Like

Comment

Share

Most relevant ▾



Sandy Gloede Steil · 3w

Thank you for your service!

THANK
YOU

Reply Hide



Marlena Ohi-Partman · 3w · Top fan

Love you dad and yes they all work very hard

Reply Hide



Tammy Byrd · 3w

You make Oelwein a better community! Thankful for your service! 🙏

Reply Hide



Lynnette Rochford · 3w

Thanks, guys!

Reply Hide



Darlene Young · 3w

Thank You

Reply Hide



Ken Sandy Magsamen · 3w

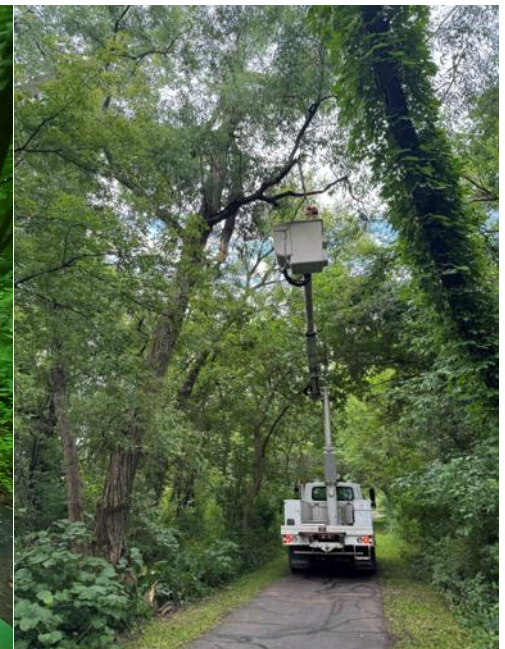
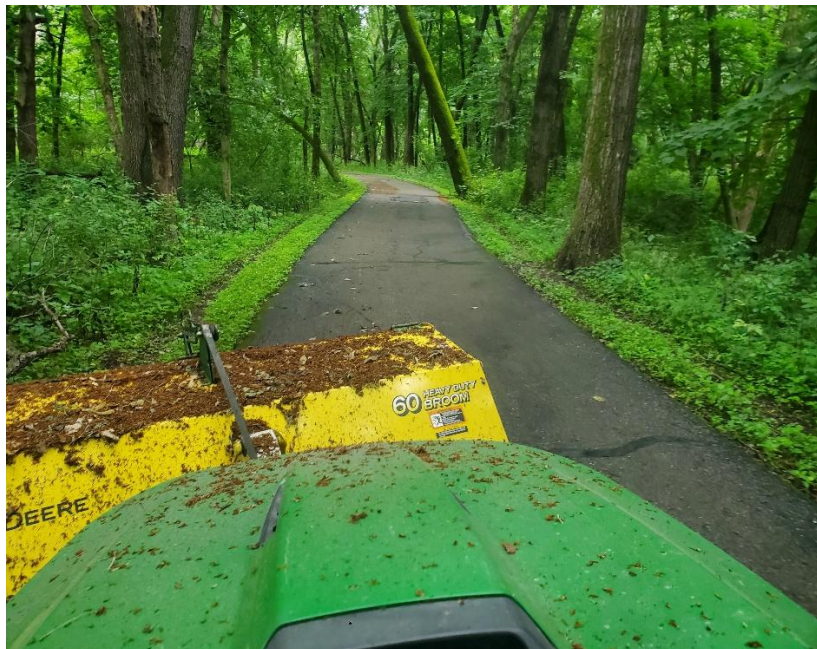
Thank you; much appreciated

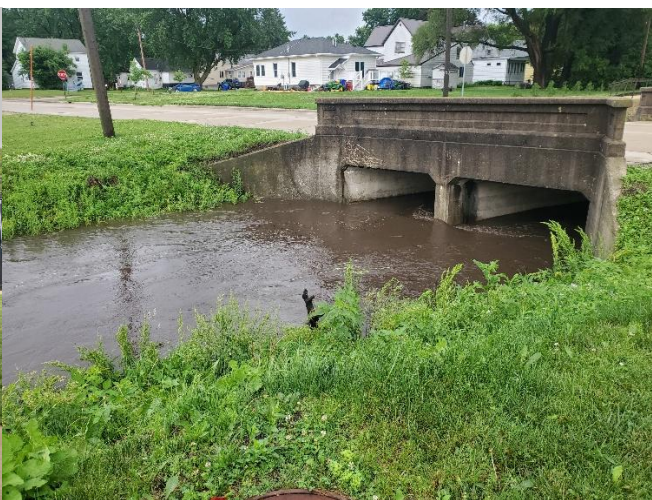
TREE UPDATE:

- FALL IRA PLANTING – BEGINNING OF OCTOBER
- TREES FOREVER PLANTING – MIDDLE OF OCTOBER
- GRAVEL BED TREE PLANTING – PLANTING OCTOBER

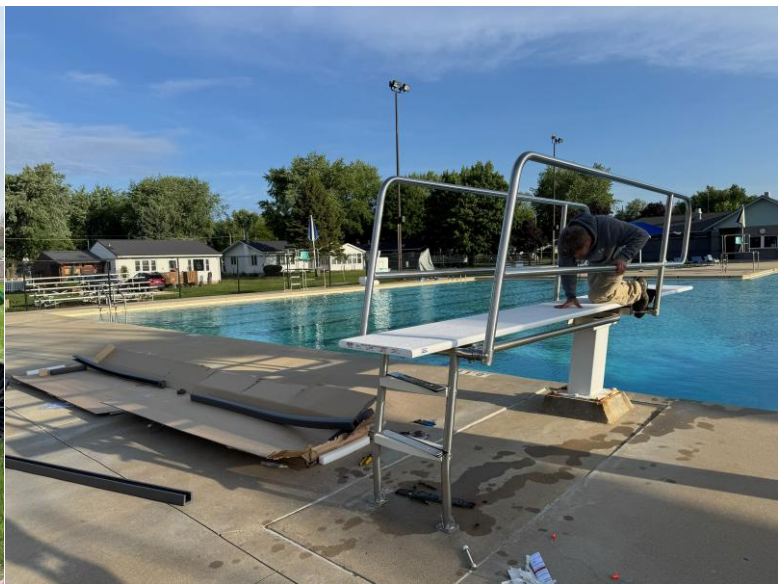


PARK UPDATE:







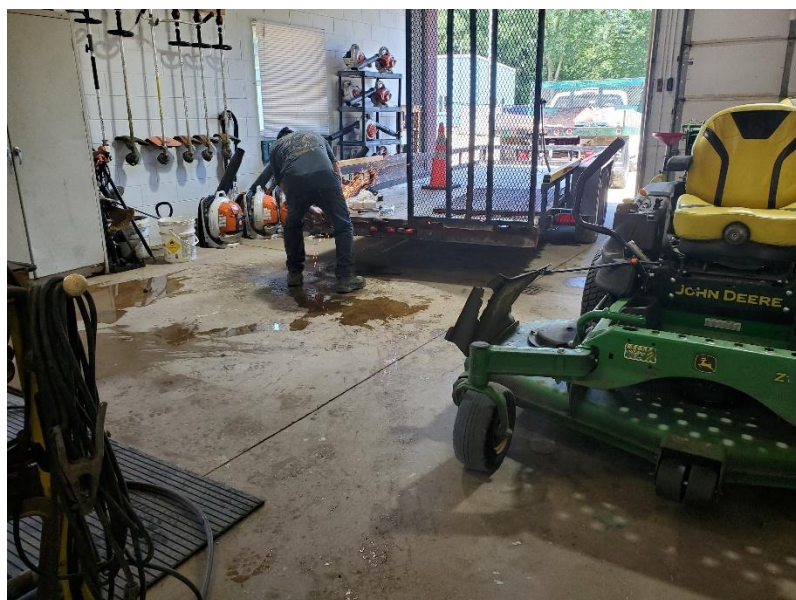
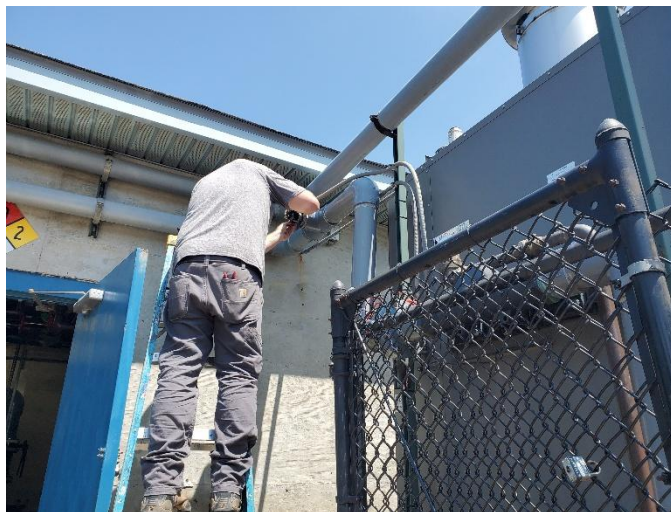




SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS



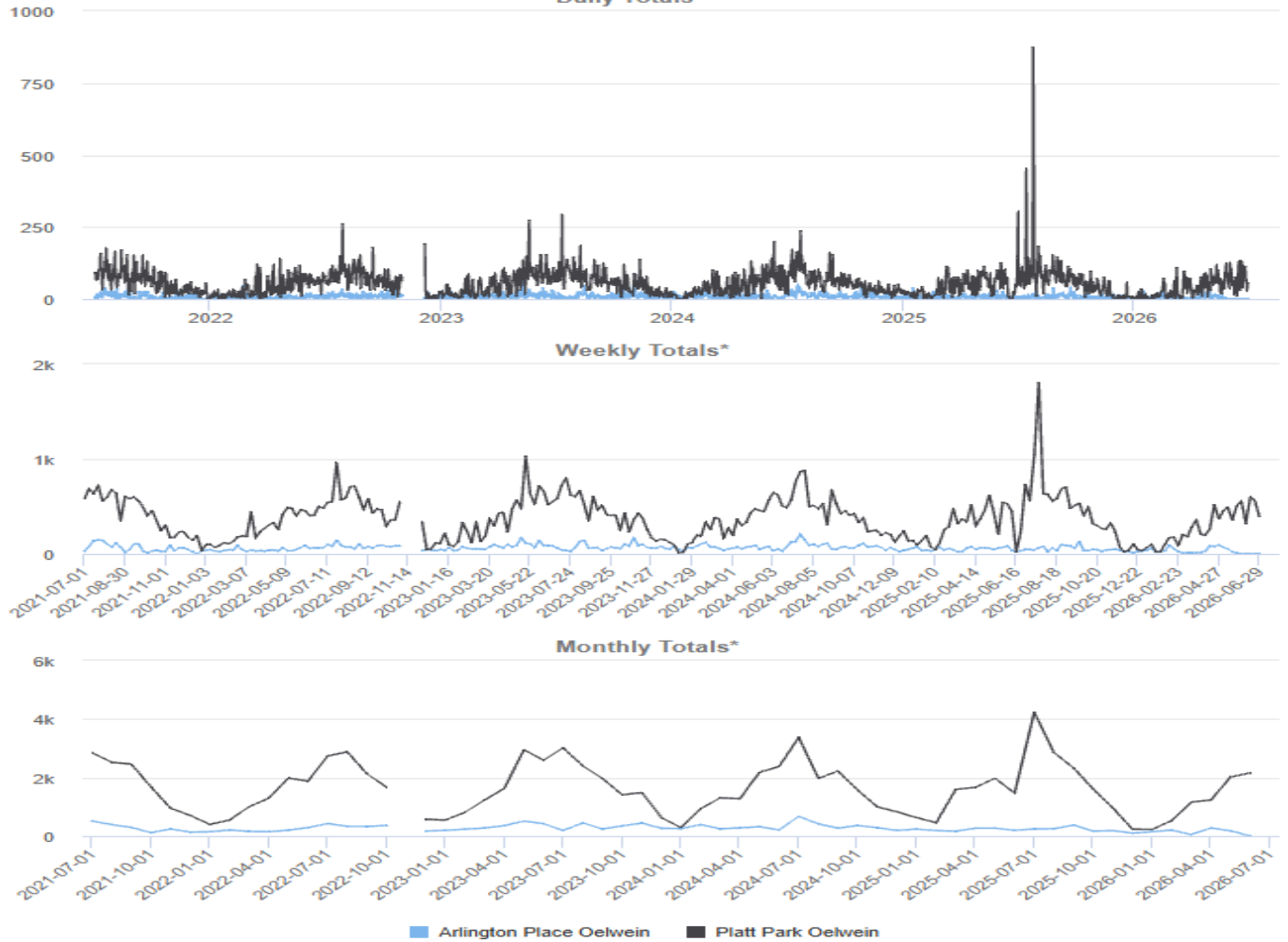






Daily/Weekly/Monthly totals

2021-07-01 to 2026-07-31 (1857 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	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	278	178	2							4.746	1,732	181
	Platt Park Oelwein	226	526	1,160	1,230	2,018	2,158							40.431	14,757	181

ADT† = Average Daily Traffic

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

FULL BURIALS – 16
CREMATIONS - 10

JOSHUA JOHNSON MA
OELWEIN PARK SUPERINTENDENT



www.oelweinparks.org