

2020 IMPACT REPORT

OSHKOSH PARKS DEPARTMENT



Highlights

THE OSHKOSH PARKS DEPARTMENT ADJUSTS TO THE NEW WORLD WITH COVID-19

MENOMINEE PARK ZOO BECOMES AN OUTDOOR ESCAPE FOR COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES DURING COVID-19

PARK EVENTS CHANGE, GO VIRTUAL, OR ARE CANCELLED TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH





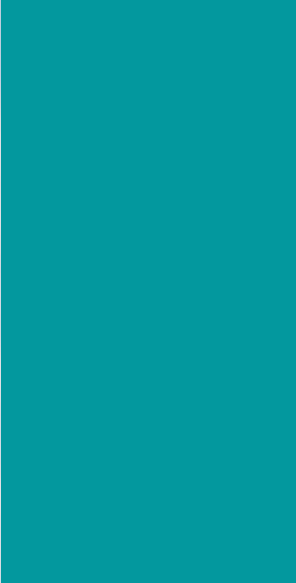
Park Use Guidelines During the Governor's Safer at Home Order

Tips to stay safe while enjoying the outdoors

- Walk, hike, and bike in the parks! Outdoor activities that meet social distancing requirements are encouraged.
- No team or contact sports are permitted.
- Playgrounds and sport courts (tennis, pickle ball, and basketball) are closed.
- Practice social distancing requirements. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from people.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 can remain on surfaces for days.
- Practice good personal hygiene. Bring hand sanitizer or disinfecting wipes.
- Park restrooms in the City of Oshkosh are closed.

City of Oshkosh Parks Department Mission Statement:

Despite COVID-19, our department continued to realize our mission. The City of Oshkosh seeks to provide a park and recreation system that will meet the needs of our current residents and future generations, preserve and protect the City's open space, water, historical and natural resources, and provide a park and recreation program that is designed to enhance the City's quality of life. (2018 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan)



The Oshkosh Parks Department consists of Oshkosh's various Parks and facilities, urban forestry programs, Riverside Cemetery, Menominee Park Zoo, Pollock Community Water Park, Leach Amphitheater, Children's Amusement Center and Oshkosh Seniors Center. The Parks Department has 14 rentable shelters and six boat launch areas within the City limits. The park system consists of just over 415 acres of park space.

Parks Department Administrative Staff

Ray Maurer, Parks Director

Chad Dallman, Assistant Parks Director

Bill Sturm, Landscape Operations Manager

Jenny McCollian, Revenue Facilities Manager

Jean Wollerman, Senior Services Manager

Kathy Snell, Special Events Coordinator

Anne Schaefer, Marketing and Fund Development Coordinator

Stacy James, Administrative Assistant

PARKS OFFICE

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OSHKOSH, WI 54902



MENOMINEE PARK ZOO

The Zoo Celebrated its
75th Anniversary
in 2020



- New Animals Arrived - Albino Raccoon, Foxes, Badger, and Wolves
- The Zoo opened to 50 patrons at a time and became a safe outdoor place for family experiences
- 62,000+ visitors in June - August
- Zoo Education Coordinator hosted small daily sessions



MENOMINEE PARK ZOO'S
75th Anniversary
Fun Monthly Events Held
See Menominee Park and Zoo Facebook page for details



CHANGES TO ZOLOWEEN BOO & TOUCH-A-TRUCK

- Two events were combined to create Truck-or-Treat a safe Halloween option for families
- 500 cars drove through the Menominee Park event



LAKESHORE PARK



In January 2018, the City sold approximately 32 acres of the former golf course property to Oshkosh Corporation for construction of their global headquarters. The Oshkosh Common Council has directed staff to develop the remaining 70 acres of the Lakeshore site as a park. The park property has floodplains, wetland pockets and archeologically-sensitive areas. The City has developed a trail connection on the northern border of the site connecting the Tribal Heritage Trail to Rainbow Memorial Park. This trail connection was completed in the spring of 2020.

The Oshkosh Parks Department, Advisory Park Board, and consulting firm SmithGroup worked with the public to help design the future Lakeshore Park Master Plan.

The Parks Department is actively pursuing grants and donations to help fund the \$14 million dollar project and the four-season pavilion designs are being finalized.

**PARKS
STRATEGIC
PRIORITIES**

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND COMPLETED



Lakeshore Park Riverwalk
is completed



Bowen Street Fishing
Dock is refurbished



Menominee Park outdoor
exercise stations installed

Solar powered electronic pay
stations are installed at boat
launches



LANDSCAPE OPERATIONS

- Completed WI DNR grant project that planted 200 terrace trees in the Sawyer/Paine and Congress Field Neighborhood Associations. Funds came from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation's Taking Root Program and WI DNR
- Completed installation of wetland plants at the South Park lagoons
- Landscaped the new Oshkosh Community Playground in Menominee Park
- Planted 363 terrace and park trees
- Pruned 1,871 trees through the annual pruning cycle
- Removed 122 trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer and other issues
- Removed 250 stumps





OSHKOSH SENIORS CENTER



- While physically closed March to May, the staff at the Seniors Center reached out to our most vulnerable population and kept in touch with them as social isolation became their world
- Following safety protocols we were able to safely phase in programming throughout 2020
- Nail care was a necessity and we made seniors feel safe coming to us for this service
- Programming was shared virtually and through Oshkosh Media
- Connect through Tech helped isolated older adults connect to family, friends, and services

SPECIAL EVENTS

2020 posed incredible challenges for both businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout the world. Some of the largest renowned events were cancelled, rescheduled or “went virtual”. Oshkosh was no exception.

In 2020, the City hosted 32 Special Events, down 78% from 2019. The events that carried on were able to reimagine themselves and host a fun and safe event for those in our community to enjoy!



Our organizers are continuing to view 2021 optimistically. Learning from events that did occur last year, event organizers are making changes to prioritize the health and welfare of our community.

MARKETING & FUND DEVELOPMENT

- Social media page visits on Facebook grew by 12% in 2020
- Raising funds was challenging but creativity helped us reach goals
 - Bader Philanthropies, Inc. granted the Oshkosh Seniors Center \$152,000 to address social isolation through the use of technology (Connect Through Tech)
 - The Friends of the Oshkosh Seniors Center hosted a Facebook Live event to raise funds and increase support for the annual appeal for the Oshkosh Seniors Center
- Grants were submitted to fund the Lakeshore Park development



10.29.2020
#FriendsDayofGiving
Benefitting Oshkosh Seniors Center



We Need Your Help!
Join us LIVE on Facebook
@Oshkosh Seniors Center
for the Friends Day of Giving benefitting
the Oshkosh Seniors Center
October 29, 2020 from 8:00 am to Noon



Media Sponsor
WOSH
NewsTalk 1490 AM



Connect Through Tech

Learn new skills
Explore video chat
Use voice recognition

Make an appointment!
(920) 232-5300

LEARN ABOUT TECHNOLOGY DURING FUN AND INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS.
The Oshkosh Seniors Center offers personalized technology training for adults age 50 and older. Bring your computer, tablet or phone. Explore ways to connect through tech! It is fun, safe, and stress free.

