
OELWEIN, IOWA



2015

Community Profile



OUR TOWN: Oelwein is a melting pot, rich in diversity and culture. The dawn of the railroad brought an influx of people from various cultures and countries who followed the railroad to Oelwein. Oelwein was called "Hub City" because of the rail lines coming into town and the repair shops located there. Although most of the railroad business was moved in the 1980s, the railroad made Oelwein and the surrounding area what it is today.

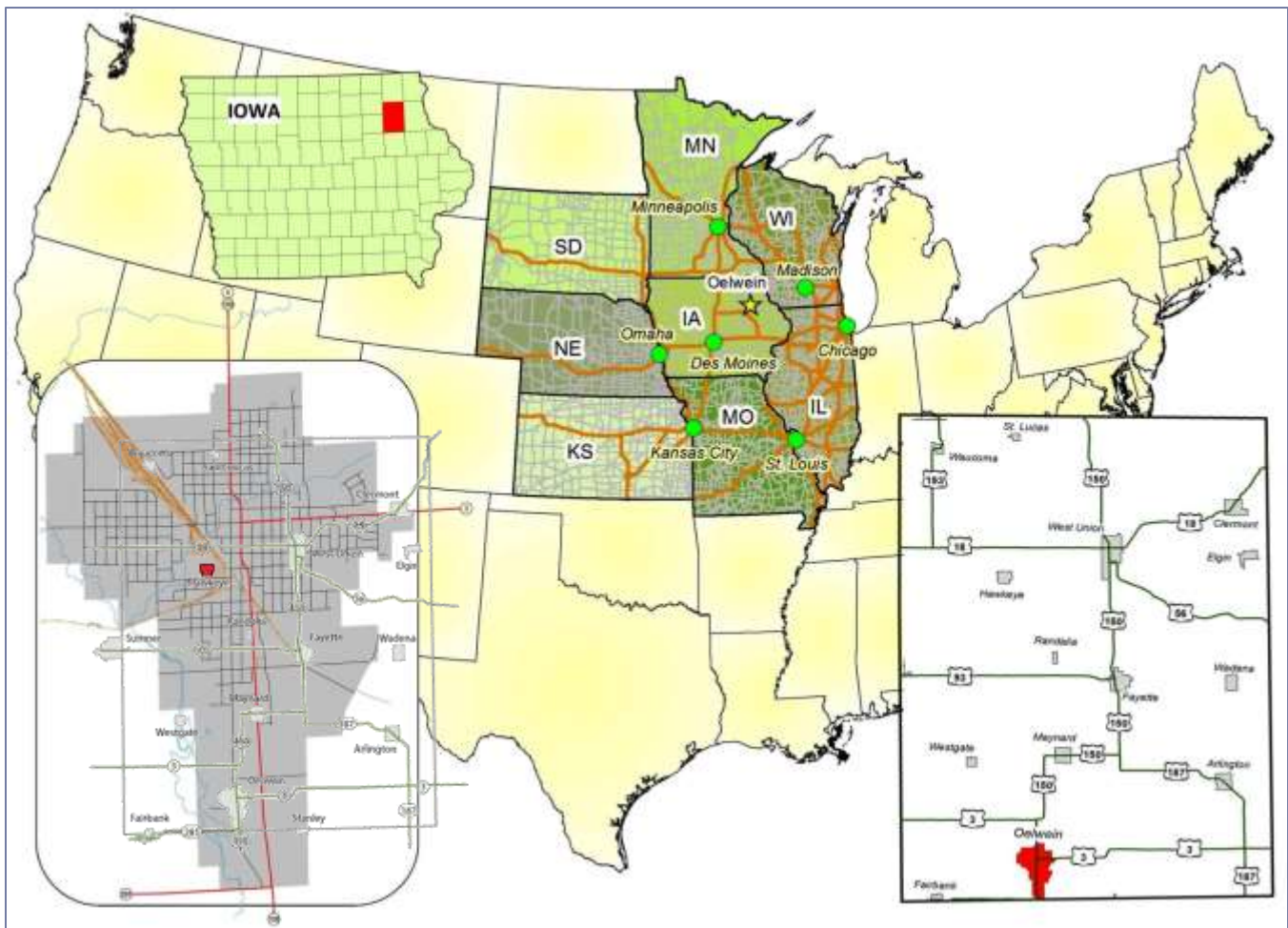
IDEAL LOCATION

Oelwein is located in the heart of the Upper Midwest, in Fayette County, Iowa. The community is at the intersection of state Highways 3 and 150. U.S. Highway 20 is accessed just 20 miles south of Oelwein; U.S. Highway 63 is just 25 miles west of Oelwein; Interstate 80 is located approximately 80 miles south of Oelwein; and Interstate 35 is located 80 miles west of Oelwein. The Mississippi River (with rail and barge access) is 70 miles to the east. The distances to major Midwest metropolitan areas and commercial airports are shown in Table 1. The Oelwein Municipal Airport is Oelwein’s general service airport. The local airport offers one 4,001 by 75 ft. concrete runway and one 1,800 by 85 ft. turf runway with hangars and tie-downs for airplane parking. Rail service is provided to the community on the D & W Railroad, operated by Iowa Northern Railway.

TABLE 1: DISTANCES FROM OELWEIN – MAJOR CITIES AND AIRPORTS

City:	Miles:	International Airports:	Miles:
Chicago	260	Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, Minneapolis, MN	198
Des Moines	160	Des Moines International Airport, Des Moines, IA	160
Kansas City	360	Rochester International Airport, Rochester, MN	115
Madison	160	Domestic Airports:	
Minneapolis	210	Waterloo Regional Airport, Waterloo, IA	35
Omaha	300	The Eastern Iowa Airport, Cedar Rapids, IA	63
St. Louis	370	La Crosse Municipal Airport, La Crosse, WI	110
		Dubuque Regional Airport, Dubuque, IA	85

FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP



DATA SNAPSHOTS

Population			
	2000	2010	2013
Oelwein	6,692	6,415	6,368
Fayette County	22,008	20,880	20,822
State of Iowa	2,926,324	3,046,355	3,062,553

Property Tax Rates			
	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15
City	17.07555	17.99927	18.30083
Schools	17.35123	17.16866	14.42655
County	6.74524	6.703	6.50007
Total	41.95258	41.87093	39.22745

Sales Tax Rates	
State	6%
City – Local Option	1% (7% total)

Drive Time Statistics			
	10 miles	20 miles	30 miles
Population	19,780	57,646	228,919
Median Age	43.7	43.6	42.9
Households	7,679	22,664	90,804
Med HH Income	\$54,603	\$55,207	\$51,660
Total in Labor Force	9,894	30,282	123,177

Local Government	
Type of Government	Council/City Administrator
2015 City Budget	\$9,648,500
2015 City 100% Property Valuations	\$212,978,967

School District Population	9,134
City Land Area	4,854 Square Miles

Fayette County Labor Force			
	2000	2010	2014
Civilian Labor Force	11,270	10,940	11,020
Unemployed	450	830	570
Unemployment Rate	4%	7.6%	5.2%

Oelwein Workforce Education Attainment		
	Count	Share
Less than high school	568	13.2%
High school or equivalent, no college	1,816	42.3%
Some college or Associate degree	1,256	29.2%
Bachelor's or advanced degree	656	15.3%

Oelwein Top Industries (Ranked by Employment)		
	Count	Share
Education, Health Care, Social Assistance	731	23.9%
Manufacturing	530	17.4%
Retail Trade	439	14.4%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation & Food Services	319	10.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	233	7.6%
Public Administration	151	4.9%
Professional, Management, Administrative	150	4.9%

Traffic Counts		
Highway 150, North of 2 nd Street SE	7,800	VPD

DOING BUSINESS IN OELWEIN

Oelwein is home to over 350 businesses which provide over 2,800 jobs in the community. About 68% of the city’s workforce commutes in to the community from the surrounding rural areas and neighboring communities. Over 43% commute less than 10 miles, while almost 21% have commutes greater than 50 miles.

The city’s major employers include:

- WS Live – Offers custom-designed inbound and outbound call center services
- City Laundering – An Oelwein original, City Laundering provides uniform rental, dust control, safety apparel, embroidery services, restroom supplies, paper products and linen supplies
- East Penn Manufacturing – Manufacturer of private label energy storage devices that serve numerous industries. They are the second-largest provider of Starting, Lighting and Ignition (SLI) batteries in North America.
- Transco Railway Products - One of the nation's leading independent providers of freight car repair, modification and rebuilding services for the rail transportation industry
- Grandview Healthcare Center –Grandview Healthcare Center has served the community since 1964 and provides full nursing care to over 90 residents.

Oelwein has a newly designed downtown area. This shopping district offers art galleries, florists, gift shops, clothing, financial services, home improvement, construction, automotive, as well as numerous and varied retail and service outlets. A cluster of antique and repurposed treasures stores has developed in the community, and is attracting many out-of-town shoppers to the community.

The City of Oelwein has several tools and resources available for attracting new businesses and economic development opportunities while retaining and improving the strong businesses and talented labor pool that already exist in the area. The City is an active participant in the pursuit of local economic development and partners with key development organizations and its local banks to provide business assistance, market information and guidance through the development process. Key community partners include:

- Oelwein Chamber and Area Development
- Fayette County Economic Development
- Community Bank of Oelwein
- Fidelity Bank and Trust

Together, these partners have access to numerous state incentive programs and technical resources. Locally, the City’s development tools include economic incentive options in the form of revolving loan funds, Tax Increment Financing, Tax Abatement, tax forgiveness and utility discounts. The city charges no registration or business license fees.

UTILITIES

Water Provider: City of Oelwein			
Main Size	12"	Rated Capacity	2,700,000 gal
Average Capacity	800,000 gpd	Storage Capacity	1,500,000 gal
Sewer Provider: City of Oelwein			
Rated Capacity	2,700,000 gpd	Average Daily Demand	2 mgd
Electric Provider: Alliant Energy			
Peak Demand (kW)	3,194,000 kW	Generation Capacity	2,945 MW
Natural Gas Provider: Alliant Energy			
Main Size	10"	Pipeline Source	Northern Natural Gas
Telecommunications Providers		Telecommunications Providers	
	Service Type		Service Type
	CenturyLink Mediacom Windstream	Community Digital Wireless US Cellular	cellular cellular
DSL	Yes	Fiber Optics	Yes

QUALITY OF PLACE

Recreation

Oelwein maintains over 140 acres of parkland in eleven parks throughout the community. The Oelwein Aquatics Center is a big attraction for area families and features a zero-depth entry pool with a 150 foot water slide, six racing lanes, two diving boards, changing facilities, playground, concessions and a 9-hole miniature golf course. The new Oelwein Sports Complex features two soccer fields, two softball fields, and two baseball fields for league play.

Lake Oelwein offers a great place for water sports and play. As one of only two in the county, the lake is great for fishing and “no-wake” boating, kayaking or canoeing. The city’s campground is located by the lake with 40 electrical and water camping sites available for public use. The city’s trail system is well underway with paved trails that will eventually run through Oelwein’s beautiful landscape to connect city parks and other popular destinations. Other recreational opportunities include the Williams Wellness Center, a nine-hole golf course and a bowling alley.

Education

Students attend the Oelwein Community School District which operates a high school, middle school and two elementary schools within the city of Oelwein. Parochial education is offered at Sacred Heart for elementary students. Early childhood care and education is offered by Little Husky Learning Center, Sacred Heart and Peace Pre-K.

Oelwein is home to Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) - Oelwein Center which offers credit, recertification and continuing education courses in both traditional classroom and ICN formats. The NICC Center and is located in Oelwein at the Regional Academy for Math and Science (RAMS) Center. The facility includes three classrooms, two science labs, one fully-networked computer lab, one Project Lead the Way lab, an ICN room, office and conference space.

The area offers many nearby higher education options including the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Upper Iowa University in Fayette, Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) in Calmar, Wartburg College in Waverly and Luther College in Decorah.

The Hub City Railroad Museum and the Oelwein Area Historical Museum are located in Oelwein and offer visitors the opportunity to learn more about the history of Oelwein and the surrounding area.

The Oelwein Public Library was established in 1911 and was moved to its current location in 2006. The library is open seven days a week and offers many programs for residents of all ages including book clubs, special interest classes and children’s programs. Small study rooms and large meeting rooms are available by reservation. Wi-Fi and computers are available for general use by the public.

Public Transportation

EARL Transit service is provided by Northeast Iowa Community Action-Transit. In addition to the regular demand response service available to residents at any time, EARL offers regular “In-town Services” in Oelwein from late morning to early afternoon, Monday through Friday. In-town services are economical and very easy to access and are used regularly by Oelwein residents wishing to travel in town during those hours.

Health and Wellness

Residents are fortunate to be able to access health and wellness locally. Mercy Hospital has been a part of the Oelwein community for nearly 80 years. Mercy Hospital and Covenant Clinic are part of the Wheaton Franciscan

Healthcare-Iowa system. Mercy has 25 beds for medical/surgical acute and skilled care and 39 beds for long-term and skilled nursing care. Mercy also provides a broad scope of outpatient services to residents living in the Oelwein and surrounding communities.

In addition to Mercy Hospital, residents have access to three physician clinics, pharmacies, dental care, optometrists, chiropractic care, and physical therapy. The Wellness Center and numerous massage therapists provide for whole body wellness.

Graceful Aging

As the rural population ages, Oelwein is becoming home to more and more seniors seeking quality living and lifestyles. Seniors can find the level of care they need in Oelwein, from senior apartments with emergency response systems and a daily meal to full service nursing care. The community has one senior apartment complex, one assisted living facility and two nursing homes. Seniors who want to stay in their homes can utilize the Oelwein Health Care Center's Healthy Living Home Care program as needed. For seniors who don't wish to drive anymore, the region's Transit Agency offers in-town rides for \$2 during midday hours. Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging offers noon meals Monday through Friday at the Oelwein Senior Dining Center.

Social Living

Oelwein offers numerous community events year round for resident and visitor enjoyment. Annual events include Heritage Days, Italian Heritage Days, Celebration Oelwein, Fall Fling and Olde Tyme Christmas. Community fellowship is encouraged through many additional gatherings such as the Party in the Park Summer Series and the Friday Night Downtown Park'n events. The Oelwein Farmers Market operates on Monday evenings and Friday mornings from May through the fall harvest season.

The Williams Center for the Performing Arts brings many high quality cultural experiences to the community. The Center features a state-of-the-art auditorium and performance venue that offers residents unique entertainment not often found in small communities. Each year, the center presents a scheduled series of fine arts performances. The Grand Theater has been in the community since 1923. This community-based theater shows first run movies on twin screens, attracting viewers from all around the area.

Oelwein is home to numerous churches of a variety of faiths and denominations and several social clubs including the Rotary Club, Lion's Club, the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and more. Churches and social clubs provide connection for community members and support to families in need. Oelwein's clubs and churches host various community events, dinners and fellowship opportunities throughout the year. Oelwein is fortunate to have a daily newspaper and a local radio station to keep residents informed of community opportunities and news.

Public Safety

Law enforcement for the City of Oelwein is provided by the Oelwein Police Department. The city has 24 hour E-911 service through its own dispatch center which allows a quicker response time to local calls for police, fire or ambulance services. The city maintains a 28E agreement with the surrounding communities and the Fayette County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement protection. In addition, the District 10 office of the Iowa State Patrol is located in Oelwein and offers traffic assistance and emergency response as needed. The Oelwein Fire Department operates with two paid employees and 25 volunteers. 24-hour paramedic services are provided by the Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare Paramedic Services based at Mercy Hospital.

CONTACTS

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