



Noreen Otto
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To the Des Moines Business Record:

I am writing to recommend Nathan Unsworth for inclusion in your publication's "40 Under 40" list. As a member of the Newton City Council, I worked with Nathan on a number of projects over the last four years and am pleased to send this letter in his support. Every community in the Des Moines area yearns for civically engaged young professionals. In Nathan, we have young leader who is that and more.

Nathan serves as the Superintendent of Newton's Parks and his impact has been felt city-wide. He has embraced the challenge of updating the city's parks not though simply replacing outdated equipment but by reconfiguring each major park to best meet the needs of its "target audience". This spring a large park will be reimagined as a destination for older kids, complete with a rock climbing wall. A park close to a number of retirement homes will feature a walking trail and low impact workout stations. This vision and implementation can be attributed to Nathan. He understands the importance of quality of life to *every* member of our community. I was in attendance at the ribbon cutting of the updated playground at our largest city park and I cannot overemphasize the positive impact of these projects on the community.

But Nathan's impact is not felt in the reinvigorated parks alone. He is also an exceptionally involved community member. His energy and enthusiasm also helped created the inaugural "NewtonFest": a city wide festival that was recognized as the "Outstanding New Event" by the Iowa Tourism Office. His talent for coordinating projects and bringing stakeholders together shaped the event into a successful venture that will only continue to grow in stature.

In the past year, Newton has been recognized for its "Get to Know Newton" outreach campaign. That marketing campaign would be unsuccessful without work like Nathan's demonstrating a new effort and a new trajectory for the city. I am proud to be a fellow young professional serving the community alongside Nathan and it is my pleasure to recommend him for the 2016 "40 Under 40" award.

Sincerely,

Noreen Otto
2012-2016 Newton City Council Member