

# VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



## Essential Community Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Services

The Village of Bellevue Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department is responsible for the content of this publication. Financial data has not been independently audited as of the date of this publication and is used for narrative, informational purposes only.



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Food Truck Rally  
Josten Park

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On the Cover: Collecting candy canes during the annual Grinch Candy Cane Hunt at Josten Park.

## 2021 In Review...

On behalf of the Bellevue Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department, I present the 2021 Annual report, which highlights all of the department's accomplishments and activities.

As our community continues to search for normalcy throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, Parks & Recreation has played a vital role in everyone's lives. Staff have been overjoyed to welcome patrons back into our recreational program offerings and community events. The Department will continue to work to safely grow and expand our reach within this great community.

The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is steward of over 325 acres of parkland and over 4,400 public street and park trees. Over 7,000 participants partake in recreational programs annually in Bellevue. Each facet of the Department's work strives to meet the values adopted by the Village Board: Dedication, Quality, Innovation, Responsiveness, Accountability, Integrity & Leadership.

As we move forward in 2022, we thank you for your support in building and sustaining a quality Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department.

*Sincerely,*

*Adam Waszak, CPRP*

*Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry*



## MISSION STATEMENT

“The Bellevue Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department provides essential community park, recreation and urban forestry services through quality driven, citizen-focused and fiscally responsible efforts.”

## KEY DEPARTMENT

### GOALS:

- Preserve and advance diverse recreational and leisure opportunities for all.
- Advance the professional delivery and operation of our programs and services.
- Be an effectively governed, efficiently managed and fiscally sound department.
- Increase greater awareness of the role parks and recreation services play in creating a healthy, vibrant community.



# STAFF & ELECTED OFFICIALS

## 2021 Village Board

Steve Soukup, President

Dave Kaster, Trustee

Tom Katers, Trustee

Adam Gauthier, Trustee

John Sinkler, Trustee

## Village Interim-Administrator

Andrew Vissers



## 2021 Park Commission

Roger VandenLangenberg, Chairman

Nathan Hoerning, Member

Henry Kollross, Member

William Mielke, Member

Jack Schlag, Member

Johnathan Virant, Member

James Dorrance, Member

## 2021 Adult Programs Committee

Joan Simpson

Rose Bunke

Maureen Cardin

Ed Simpson

Liz Healy

## Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

Adam Waszak, Director

Kyle Casper, Recreation Supervisor

Tyler Schiesser, Parks & Urban Forestry Foreman

Steve Dart, Facilities & Grounds

# BENEFITS OF Parks & Recreation

Our health, our community, our economy and our environment all benefit from parks & recreation services.

**National survey results released by the National Recreation and Parks Association showed that 92% of Americans believe their communities benefit from local parks and recreation services.<sup>1</sup>**

## Our Health...

Access to parks and recreation services leads to an increase in frequency of exercise. In a study published by the CDC, creation of or enhanced access to places for physical activity led to 25.6 percent increase in the percentage of people exercising on three or more days per week.<sup>2</sup> For small children, playing is learning. Self-directed, imaginative play has proved to be a critical element in a child's future success.

## Our Community...

Parks and recreation services give a community a vital identity. Well-maintained, accessible parks and recreational facilities are key elements of strong, safe, family friendly neighborhoods. Research shows that residents of neighborhoods with greenery in common spaces are more likely to enjoy stronger social ties. Parks are also proven to be linked to reductions in crime and in particular to reduce juvenile delinquency.

## Our Economy...

Parks enhance property values, contribute to healthy productive workforces and help attract and retain business. A recent HouseLogic.com article states that property values increase 8-20% if located near a desirable park or other recreational open space.<sup>3</sup> Parks attract users and visitors on a daily basis. Park users are likely to visit local business before, during, or after their visit to a local park.

## Our Environment...

Parks play a vital role in preserving water and air quality, reducing congestion and protecting wildlife and their habitats. Park visitors learn about the natural world in parks and take those lessons home with them.

1: NRPA Americans' Broad-Based Support for Location Recreation and Park Services: Results from a Nationwide Survey 2016

2: The CDC Guide to Strategies to Increase Physical Activity in the Community

3: Houselogic.com 9 Surprising Things that Add Value to Your House







DeBroux Park

## OVERVIEW

Our park system offers a variety of parks and open spaces, such as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, linear parks/trails and conservancy areas.

The park system is open to the public daily from 8:00am to 10:00pm. Progress is continually made to meet the recreation needs of the community.

There are a total of 326 acres of park property, divided into 15 park and open space areas, including a future community parks, arboretum, trails and neighborhood park areas.

In 2011, the Village established a Park Improvement Fee and Parkland Dedication Ordinance. New parks are acquired and partially funded through this source. Other funding comes from debt proceeds, grants, naming rights, donations, sponsorships and agreements with developers and end users of the new parkland.

The Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department is responsible for acquisition, design, development, management and maintenance of the park system.

## DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDED

### *Facility Rentals*

Reservations for private parties are accepted on a first come, first serve basis for park shelter rentals.

The following facilities were available in 2020:

- Josten Enclosed Shelter
- Josten North Open Shelter
- Josten South Open Shelter
- DeBroux Enclosed Shelter
- Willow Creek Open Shelter
- Community Center

### *Athletic Facility Rentals*

Athletic facility reservations for both adult and youth leagues are taken annually. Leagues are required to submit their current year schedule prior to March 1st of each calendar year to guarantee the prior year's facility.

The following facilities were available in 2020:

- Josten Upper Diamond (Lighted)
- Josten Lower Diamond
- Josten North Multi-Purpose Field
- Josten South Soccer Field
- DeBroux Diamond (Lighted)
- DeBroux Soccer Field
- Willow Creek Soccer Fields 1, 2, & 3



# PARKS

by the numbers...



●●●  
Josten North Open Shelter  
●●●

## Park Shelter & Community Center Rentals

Facility	2021	% of Dates Used <sup>1</sup>	2020	2019	2018	2017
Josten Enclosed	24	75%	11	26	31	32
DeBroux Enclosed	27	77%	4	35	32	37
Josten Open North	10	32%	5	5	9	10
Josten Open South	9	26%	5	5	9	12
Willow Creek Open	12	39%	5	9	7	9
Community Center <sup>2</sup>	73	82%	45	57	48	50
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>150</b>
Community Group Recreational Rentals <sup>3</sup>	190	N/A	81	N/A	N/A	N/A
Community Center Recreational Rentals <sup>4</sup>	0	N/A	10	152	217	229

Park Shelters were available Saturdays & Sundays May 1st to September 30th. Due to Covid-19 no rentals took place from March 24—June 10

<sup>1</sup> Total number of rentable days varies by park due to special events and internal facility uses.

<sup>2</sup> The Community Center was available for a total of 89 days for private weekend rentals.

<sup>3</sup> Community Rentals for groups with fees waived including American Red Cross, 4-H, and Empowerment Dance Inc. YEL, Also includes Recreation programs.

<sup>4</sup> Recreational rentals include: Bellevue Dance Inc. and Lifelong Learning Institute.



# PARKS

by the numbers...



Gridiron Football League at Willow Creek Park

## Athletic Facility Rentals (Dates)

Facility	2021	5 Year Average	2020	2019	2018	2017
Josten Upper Ballfield	52	50	25	48	46	78
Josten Lower Ballfield	72	52	35	70	45	36
Josten South Soccer*	2	2	0	0	3	6
Josten North Multi-Purpose	2	3	0	0	2	13
DeBroux Ballfield	120	103	58	109	114	116
DeBroux Soccer	52	29	0	0	44	48
Willow Creek Soccer #1	106	100	0	138	126	130
Willow Creek Soccer #2	24	38	0	62	50	52
Willow Creek Soccer #3	55	36	0	38	51	38
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>517</b>



# RECREATION



## OVERVIEW

The Recreation Division strives to offer a diverse set of recreational programs for youth, adults, families and older adults. The Division is also integral in providing a significant offering of community special events such as the Trick or Treat Trail and Grinch's Candy Cane Hunt.

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES OFFERED

### Adult Programs

- Yoga in the Park, Martial Arts, Co-ed Kickball, Adult Dance Classes

### Community Events & Activities

- Movie in the Park, Trick or Treat Trail, Grinch's Candy Cane Hunt, Rockin' in Josten, Family Sledding Night, Food Truck Rally, National Night Out, Easter Egg Bonanza

### Family Activities

- Tae Kwon Do, Trips

### Older Adult Programs & Events

- Bingo, Educational Seminars, Holiday Gala, Summer Social

### Youth Enrichment

- Dance, Summer Day Camp, Before & After School Program, Leaders-In-Training, Babysitter Class, Youth Art Series

### Youth Sports

- T-Ball, Basketball, Flag Football, Tennis, Little Ninjas, Pitch Hit & Run





# RECREATION

by the numbers...



Summer Camp Olympics

## Program Participation Overview

Program Area	2021	5-Year Average	2020	2019	2018	2017
Adult Programs	296	151	149	120	108	80
Community Events/ Activities	3,148	3,335	2,187	3,775	3,582	3,982
Family Activities	148	136	54	156	155	166
Senior Programs & Events	366	682	142	703	1,130	1,070
Youth Enrichment	2,462	2,031	1,103	2,213	2,179	2,207
Youth Sports	291	283	176	381	255	313
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>6,711</b>	<b>6,574</b>	<b>3,583</b>	<b>7,348</b>	<b>7,409</b>	<b>7,818</b>

Program Participation denotes the number of participants enrolled in the program area or attendance at the event.



# URBAN FORESTRY



Total Trees	Planted	Pruned
2021	421	900
2020	203	980
2019	275	634
2018	184	871
2017	69	1237
2016	114	921
2015	118	1194
2014	105	781
2013	226	939

## OVERVIEW

The Village of Bellevue established its Urban Forestry division in 1999. In 2001, the Village Board adopted its first urban forestry plan. The plan identified and created the New Subdivision Planting Program. This program requires developers to plant trees in the right-of-way adjacent to a new home at the next planting season after an occupancy permit has been issued.

It is estimated that the Village has approximately 5,400 public street and park trees, based on the updated 2020 tree inventory. The first complete GIS based inventory was completed in 2009, updated in 2016 and again in 2018 as part of Urban Forestry Grants through the DNR.

In 2021, the Village's Forestry division was awarded a grant from the WI DNR for \$23,310 toward EAB mitigation, arboretum plantings and staff training. Additionally, the Forestry program received funds from ATC and NEW Water for a variety of tree plantings.

## DIRECT SERVICES PROVIDED

### Education

- Citizen consultations
- Tree care information and resources
- Insect and disease information
- Ordinance review/enforcement

### Tree Planting

- New Subdivision Planting Program
- Current Resident Planting Program
- Street Reconstruction Planting Program
- Tree Memorial Program

### Tree Maintenance & Removal

- Pruning, removal and general maintenance of trees on Village properties and street right-of-ways





# SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS



○○○  
Bench Memorial at Manderly  
Way Trailhead ○○○

Sponsorship & Donations	
Sponsor Area	2021
Guide / Banner Sponsors	\$2,715
Special Event Sponsors	\$4,250
Senior Program Sponsors	\$2,200
Youth Program Sponsors	\$1,000
Adopt-A-Park/Bench/Tree Program	\$1,000
Other Donations	\$1,435
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$12,600</b>





# VOLUNTEERING IN BELLEVUE

## VOLUNTEERS IN 2021...

### Special Event, Recreation Programming, and Park Volunteers

An estimated 829 hours of volunteer time at an estimated value of \$8,300 in staff savings were donated to the Village by various community groups throughout 2021.

- Groups include: Friends of Bellevue Parks, Bellevue Lion's Club, Bellevue Dog Park Committee, Leaders in Training, Junior Jets 4-H, Senior Advisory Board and Youth sports coaches
- For events: Trick or Treat Trail, Grinch's Candy Cane Hunt, Rockin' in Josten, Summer Day Camp, Bingo, T-ball, NFL Flag Football and park clean up days.



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



## Meet Julie Kocken...

Julie has been working as a Youth Dance Instructor for the Village since January 2020. Prior to starting with the Village of Bellevue Julie has 23 years experience teaching dance classes for Kids on the Move and the YWCA. Julie teaches Tap, Ballet & Jazz classes throughout the year for ages 3 & up. Julie continues to work for the Village of Bellevue because she enjoys working with the kids and this great community.

“My favorite part about teaching dance class is watching the joy on the kids faces when they dance. It is great to watch the kids grow and become more confident in their ability as well as seeing the excitement of the parents while watching their child. I enjoy doing extra special activities for the kids as each student in my class is important. Freeze Dance, where we get parents involved in dancing with their child, is a class favorite. The one hope I have for my students is that they believe in themselves, develop self confidence and develop friendships.

The Village of Bellevue is extremely fortunate to have great program instructors like Julie. PR&F Staff would like to thank her for continued dedication to the Department, and to the Village of Bellevue.



# GRANTS AND AWARDS

## American Transmission Company

\$1,500 for planting of trees along the Village of Bellevue Arboretum

## Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry

\$23,31 for EAB mitigation and staff training

## NEW Water

100 street and park trees between 2020-2021



# LOOKING AHEAD

## Coming in 2022...

### **Moonrise Park Conversion**

- Convert existing park into a community garden site.

### **Josten Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts**

- Resurfacing & Renovation

### **Josten Park Accessibility Path**

- Construct ADA accessible path around the playground

### **EAB Mitigation (continued)**

- Removal, stump grind and replacement of 150 ash trees throughout the Village

### **East River Trail Resurfacing**

- Resurface portion of the ER Trail

### **Implement Outdoor Recreation Plan**

- Implement year 2 of the 5 year CORP.

