



VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE
PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY
PARKS, RECREATION &
URBAN FORESTRY
SERVICES

2023

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.



2023 Instructional T-Ball Program

Table of Contents

WELCOME	3
STAFF & ELECTED OFFICIALS	4
BENEFITS OF PARKS & RECREATION	5
PARKS DIVISION	6
RECREATION DIVISION	9
URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION	10
SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS	14
VOLUNTEERING IN BELLEVUE	15
STAFF SPOTLIGHT	16
GRANTS & AWARDS	17
COMPLETED PROJECTS & LOOKING AHEAD	18



Summer Camp Field Trip to Timber Rattlers Game

Welcome

OVERVIEW

As our community continues to move past the COVID-19 pandemic and tough economic times, Parks & Recreation has played a vital role in everyone's lives. Staff have been overjoyed to welcome patrons into our recreational program offerings and community events. The Department feels fortunate for its residents and their dedication toward making Bellevue a healthy, vibrant community for all through people, parks, programs and preservation efforts.

The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department are stewards of 326 acres of parkland, over 4,700 public street and park trees. Over 8,000 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 2024, we thank you for your support in building and sustaining a quality Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department.

KYLE CASPER, 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, recreation & urban forestry services play in creating a healthy, vibrant community.

Staff & Elected Officials

Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department



KYLE
CASPER, CPRP
*Director of Parks,
Recreation & Forestry*



JESS
HARKCOM, CPRP
*Recreation
Supervisor*



TYLER
SCHIESSER, ISA-CA
*Parks & Urban
Forestry Foreman*



STEVE
DART
Facilities & Grounds

2023 Village Board



STEVE
SOUKUP
President



DAVE
KASTER
Trustee



JACKIE
KRULL
Trustee



TOM
MURPHY
Trustee



JOHN
SINKLER
Trustee

Village Administrator



BENJAMIN
KRUMENAUER,
ICMA, CM

2023 - Park Commission Members

Roger VandenLangenberg, *Chairman*
Henry Kollross Johnathan Virant
William Mielke James Dorrance
Jack Schlag Doris Theeke

2023 - Adult Programs Committee

Joan Simpson Maureen Cardin
Rose Bunke Ed Simpson

THE BENEFITS

National survey results released by the National Recreation and Parks Association showed that 275 million Americans visited a local park or recreation facility.¹

Bellevue
JOSTEN PARK
EST. 1976
Home of the
Bellevue Lions



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% increase in the percentage of people exercising on three or more days per week.² For small children, playing is learning. Self-directed, imaginative play has proved to be a critical element in a child's future success.



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.



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.³ 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.



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 Agency Performance Review, 2023

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

Parks Division

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 future community parks, an 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 Dept. 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. The following facilities were available in 2023:

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

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 2023:

- 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



East River Trail

2023 Rentals Community Center + Park Shelters

Josten Park

Enclosed

28 93%

of Rentals % of Dates Rented

2022	2021	2020	2019
21	24	11	26

Open North

15 48%

of Rentals % of Dates Rented

2022	2021	2020	2019
9	10	5	5

Open South

14 35%

of Rentals % of Dates Rented

2022	2021	2020	2019
7	9	5	5

DeBroux Park

Enclosed

31 82%

of Rentals % of Dates Rented

2022	2021	2020	2019
31	27	4	35

Willow Creek Park

Enclosed

11 33%

of Rentals % of Dates Rented

2022	2021	2020	2019
13	12	5	9

Community Center¹

75 83%

of Rentals % of Dates Rented

2022	2021	2020	2019
68	73	45	57

Total Rentals

174 66%

of Rentals

% of Dates Rented

Community Group Rec. Rentals²

48

of Rentals

2022	2021	2020	2019
35	24	81	n/a

Park Shelters were available Saturdays & Sundays May 1st to September 30th.
Total number of rentable days varies by park due to special events and internal facility uses.

1. The Community Center was available for a total of 90 days for private weekend rentals.
2. Community Rentals for groups with fees waived including Bellevue Lions Club, VFW, Green Bay Youth Baseball, 4-H and Brown County Women's Group.

Josten South - Open Shelter

2023 Rentals Athletic Facilities

Josten Park

Upper Diamond

33 40

of Rentals 5-Year Average

2022	2021	2020	2019
43	52	25	48

Lower Diamond

76 65

of Rentals 5-Year Average

2022	2021	2020	2019
72	72	35	70

South Soccer

1 1

of Rentals 5-Year Average

2022	2021	2020	2019
0	2	0	0

North Multi-Purpose

1 1

of Rentals 5-Year Average

2022	2021	2020	2019
0	2	0	0

Willow Creek Park

Soccer #1

115 95

of Rentals 5-Year Average

2022	2021	2020	2019
114	106	0	138

Soccer #2

44 32

of Rentals 5-Year Average

2022	2021	2020	2019
28	24	0	62

Soccer #3

98 54

of Rentals 5-Year Average

2022	2021	2020	2019
77	55	0	38

DeBroux Park

Diamond

116 105

of Rentals 5-Year Average

2022	2021	2020	2019
121	120	58	109

Soccer

48 29

of Rentals 5-Year Average

2022	2021	2020	2019
44	52	0	0

**Total
Rentals**

532

of Rentals

422

5-Year Average

Recreation Division

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.

Adult Programs

Martial Arts, Adult Fitness Classes (Zumba, Tai Chi), Pickleball Clinics

112 **187**

of Participants 5-Year Average

<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
248	296	149	120

Community Events

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

3,729 **3,291**

of Participants 5-Year Average

<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
3,614	3,148	2,187	3,775

Family Activities

Tae Kwon Do, Bus Trips

178 **143**

of Participants 5-Year Average

<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
178	148	54	156

Older Adult Programs & Events

Bingo, Educational Seminars, Holiday Gala, Summer Social

668 **485**

of Participants 5-Year Average

<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
547	366	142	703

Youth Enrichment

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

3,142 **2,426**

of Participants 5-Year Average

<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
3,212	2,462	1,103	2,213

Youth Sports

T-Ball, Basketball, Flag Football, Tennis, Little Ninjas, Youth Fun Run

324 **303**

of Participants 5-Year Average

<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
342	291	176	381



2023 - Holiday Gala



Youth Art Series - Snowglobes



2023 - Easter Egg Bonanza



Before & After School Program



2023 - Youth Basketball

Urban Forestry Division

OVERVIEW

The Village of Bellevue established its Urban Forestry Department in 1999 and adopted its first urban forestry plan in 2001. Since then, the Forestry Department has grown Bellevue's urban tree canopy significantly through public tree planting programs that benefits the residents of the Village. The Village continues to invest in its urban forest and will be updating the Urban Forestry Management Plan for the years 2024-2028.

In 2023, the Village's Forestry Department was awarded a grant through NEW Water that would allow trees to be planted along streets, in parks and on other Village property. The purpose of the grant was to plant public trees that will aid in stormwater benefits for the community and generate positive impacts on surrounding water bodies affected by stormwater.

There are many economic, environmental and social benefits that trees provide to residents and wildlife that live in Bellevue. Trees provide shade and canopy cover that improves comfort and quality of life for people who live along tree-lined streets or use sidewalks and pedestrian trails on tree-lined streets. Trees aid in energy conservation by lowering energy consumption, as well as helping to increase property values. Trees provide stormwater management benefits, sequester carbon from the atmosphere, improve air quality through pollution control and provide habitat for local wildlife. The Bellevue Forestry Department realizes there is great value in its urban forest and strives to expand our urban canopy corresponding with all residential and commercial development, which is why for our community trees, **Bellevue is a A Great Place to Grow!**

DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDED

Education

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

Tree Planting Programs

- New subdivisions tree planting
- Planting of trees when streets are reconstructed
- Neighborhood tree planting program
- Public tree planting
- Memorial tree and bench sponsor program

Public Tree Maintenance Services

- Planting
- Pruning
- Removal
- Risk assessment
- GIS inventorying
- Public tree protection & preservation



Bedford Heights Park

2023 Highlights

- Spring 2023 street tree pruning operations were completed for the first time utilizing a newly purchased aerial lift truck, which allowed staff to provide trees with a professional standard prune of the entire canopy vs only clearance pruning from the ground, which is what the Village was limited to prior to 2023.
- Forestry, with the help of Public Works staff, completed ash tree removals along streets. All replacements have been completed as of spring 2023.
- The Village Forester, GIS/IT Manager and summer GIS Intern worked together to complete an updated species and locations inventory of trees within Village tree boulevards, parks and facilities.
- The Village applied for Tree City USA recognition for the 20th consecutive year, as well as the Growth Award.
- Parks, Recreation & Forestry staff celebrated Arbor Day in April 2023 by planting a tree on McAuliffe school grounds and taught students about some of the benefits of trees and how to properly plant trees.
- The Forestry Department continues to advocate for and increase species diversity within Bellevue and incorporate and explore new species to add to the Village tree inventory.

SPRING TREE FLOWERS YOU CAN FIND IN OUR PARKS & ALONG STREETS



TREES

Planted & Pruned

2023

378

Planted

555

Pruned

145

Removed & Stumped

2022

222

Planted

896

Pruned

217

Removed & Stumped

2021

459

Planted

910

Pruned

272

Removed & Stumped

2020

195

Planted

1305

Pruned

122

Removed & Stumped

2019

275

Planted

634

Pruned

84

Removed & Stumped

**SPECIES
INVENTORY**

4,741
Trees in Village Tree Inventory

24 *Families*

53 *Genera*

118 *Species of Trees*

Bareroot Trees - Pre-Planting

Sponsorships & Donations

\$17,230

in total sponsorships & donations

**PROGRAM
& BANNER
SPONSORS**

\$3,600

**SPECIAL
EVENT
SPONSORS**

\$10,125

**SENIOR
PROGRAMS
SPONSORS**

\$1,480

**YOUTH
PROGRAM
SPONSOR**

\$500

**ADOPT-A-PARK/
BENCH/TREE
PROGRAM**

\$950

**OTHER
DONATIONS**

\$575



Volunteering in Bellevue

\$11,000

in total staff savings!



Special Event, Recreation Programming & Park Volunteers

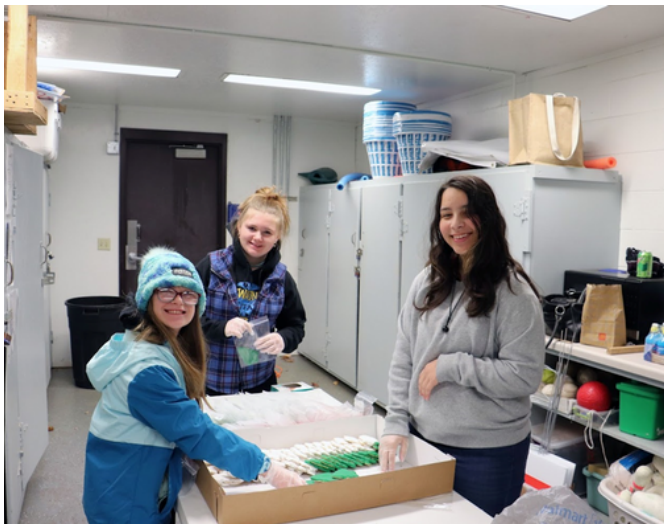
An estimated 1,100 hours of volunteer time at an estimated value of \$11,000 in staff savings were donated to the Village by various community groups throughout 2023.

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

EVENTS INCLUDE:

Trick-or-Treat Trail, Easter Egg Bonanza, 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 Aizja Duqainne

Aizja has been working for the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department as a Seasonal Park & Forestry Maintenance employee since April 2021. Aizja typically works from April to November based on department needs and budgeted hours. She attends the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where she studies Political Science to pursue a career in the Public Administration/Parks & Recreation Department.



Aizja joined the Village of Bellevue staff for the valuable experience she needs to achieve her career goals. She returns each year because she enjoys working with her coworkers, as everyone is so friendly. **"I love coming to work every day, knowing it's not going to be the same thing every day! My work is so fulfilling and I also learn something new. Everyone in the PRF Department is so easy to get along with. My all-time favorite part of the job is being able to be outside and getting to do new things every single day while being able to make a difference in the community I grew up in."**

The Village of Bellevue is exceptionally fortunate to have hard-working seasonal employees like Aizja. PRF staff would like to thank her for her continued dedication to the Department and the Village of Bellevue.

Grants & Awards

FIRST DOWN FOR TREES

32 street trees planted in 2023

One of the Packers' Green Team Initiatives, the First Downs for Trees [PDF] Program donates trees to participating Brown County communities and the Oneida Nation based on the number of Packer first downs made during the previous season.



NEW WATER

250 street trees to be planted from 2024-2026

NEW Water was awarded a grant from the U.S. Forest Service under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to plant street trees through out communities in the NEW Water service area . The effort supports water quality improvements by helping to capture stormwater runoff.



Looking Ahead

Future



Small Dog Area - Shade Structure

COMPLETED PROJECTS IN 2023!

Mossakowski Family Dog Park

Constructed shade structure for the small dog area.

EAB Mitigation

Removal and replacement of our 800 ash trees throughout the Village. Completed along streets, the last five years.

COMING IN 2024!!

DeBroux Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts

Reconstruction

East River Trail Resurfacing

Resurface portion of the East River Trail.

Bethel Park Multi-Purpose Field & Pavilion

Planning & design.

Implement Outdoor Recreation Plan

Implement year four of the five year CORP.

