

VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2020 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.

CONTENTS



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Yoga in the Park
Josten Park



WELCOME & INTRODUCTION	3
STAFF & ELECTED OFFICIALS	4
BENEFITS OF PARKS & RECREATION	5
PARKS	6
RECREATION	9
URBAN FORESTRY	11
SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS	12
COMPLETED PROJECTS	13
VOLUNTEERING IN BELLEVUE	14
STAFF SPOTLIGHT	15
GRANTS & AWARDS	16
LOOKING AHEAD	17

On the Cover: A group of campers at the DeBroux Park Summer Camp learning about the importance of respecting others, at morning flag.

2020 In Review...

On behalf of the Bellevue Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department, I present the 2020 Annual report, which highlights all of the department's accomplishments and activities.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought tough times and uncertainty to our community. Department staff worked tirelessly throughout the year to provide Bellevue residents with some sort of normalcy. Parks remained open, programs were adjusted, safety protocols were put in place, and ultimately the PR&F Department was still able to serve thousands of community members in 2020.

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 2021, 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

2020 Village Board

Steve Soukup, President

Dave Kaster, Trustee

Tom Katers, Trustee

Adam Gauthier, Trustee

John Sinkler, Trustee

Village Administrator

Diane Wessel



2020 Park Commission

Roger VandenLangenberg, Chairman

Nathan Hoerning, Member

Henry Kollross, Member

William Mielke, Member

Jack Schlag, Member

Vacant

Vacant

2020 Adult Programs Committee

Joan Simpson

Pat Brault

Rose Bunke

Maureen Cardin

Ed Simpson

Merrill Milson

Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

Adam Waszak, Director

Kyle Casper, Recreation Supervisor

Tyler Schiesser, Parks & Urban Forestry Foreman

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.¹

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.² 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.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.

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



PARKS



Rockin' in Josten

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 sports complex, 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 South Shelter

Park Shelter & Community Center Rentals

Facility	2020	% of Dates Used ¹	2019	2018	2017	2016
Josten Enclosed	11	37%	26	31	32	41
DeBroux Enclosed	4	17%	35	32	37	36
Josten Open North	5	17%	5	9	10	28
Josten Open South	5	17%	5	9	12	14
Willow Creek Open	5	17%	9	7	9	16
Community Center ²	45	62%	57	48	50	70
Totals:	75	35%	137	136	150	205
Community Group Recreational Rentals ³	81	N/A	55	N/A	N/A	N/A
Community Center Recreational Rentals ⁴	10	N/A	152	217	229	218

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

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

² The Community Center was available for a total of 84 days for private weekend rentals.

³ Community Rentals for groups with fees waived including Boy Scouts, 4-H, and Bellevue Dance, Inc. Also includes Recreation programs.

⁴ Recreational rentals include: Bellevue Dance Inc. and Lifelong Learning Institute.

PARKS

by the numbers...



Flag Football at DeBroux Park

Athletic Facility Rentals (Dates)

Facility	2020	5 Year Average	2019	2018	2017	2016
Josten Upper Ballfield	25	55	48	46	78	77
Josten Lower Ballfield	35	42	70	45	36	22
Josten South Soccer*	0	13	0	3	6	54
Josten North Multi-Purpose	0	10	0	2	13	33
DeBroux Ballfield	58	102	109	114	116	115
DeBroux Soccer	0	27	0	44	48	44
Willow Creek Soccer #1	0	98	138	126	130	98
Willow Creek Soccer #2	0	47	62	50	52	70
Willow Creek Soccer #3	0	36	38	51	38	52
Totals:	118	422	465	477	517	532

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

Family Activities

- Tae Kwon Do

Older Adult Programs & Events

- Bingo, Educational Seminars

Youth Enrichment

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

Youth Sports

- T-Ball, Basketball, Flag Football, Tennis, Little Ninjas



RECREATION

-by the numbers...



Youth T-Ball

Program Participation Overview

Program Area	2020	5-Year Average	2019	2018	2017	2016
Adult Programs	149	96	120	108	80	22
Community Events/ Activities	2187	3,320	3,775	3,582	3,982	3,075
Family Activities	54	138	156	155	166	161
Senior Programs & Events	142	809	703	1,130	1,070	998
Youth Enrichment	1,103	2,000	2,213	2,179	2,207	2,296
Youth Sports	176	300	381	255	313	374
Totals:	3,583	6,617	7,348	7,409	7,818	6,926

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

URBAN FORESTRY



Total Trees	Planted	Pruned
2020	203	980
2019	275	634
2018	184	871
2017	69	1237
2016	114	921
2015	118	1194
2014	105	781
2013	226	939
2012	246	504

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 4,700 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. Additionally in 2009, a 10-year urban forestry management plan was developed based on the inventory data. 2018 is year #8 of the ten year Urban Forestry Management plan which includes significant street tree planting, removals, stumping and pruning operations.

In 2020, 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 \$1,500 from ATC to utilize toward tree plantings in the Village's arboretum. The Village was awarded the Tree City USA award again in 2020. The Village has received this designation consecutively since 2003.

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	2020
Guide / Banner Sponsors	\$2,780
Special Event Sponsors	\$2,400
Senior Program Sponsors	N/A
Youth Program Sponsors	\$1,000
Adopt-A-Park/Bench/Tree Program/Other	\$500
Totals:	\$6,680



COMPLETED PROJECTS



Bedford Heights Park



Dog Park Water Project



VOLUNTEERING IN BELLEVUE



VOLUNTEERS IN 2020...

Special Event, Recreation Programming, and Park Volunteers

An estimated 500 hours of volunteer time at an estimated value of \$5,000 in staff savings were donated to the Village by various community groups throughout 2020.

- Groups include: Friends of Bellevue Parks, Bellevue Lion's Club, Bellevue Dog Park Committee, Leaders in Training, 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.



SPOTLIGHT ON BELLEVUE LIONS CLUB

Throughout 2020 members of the Bellevue Lions Club graciously volunteered their time to help plan and run modified community events in the Village of Bellevue. Lions Club members helped ensure that even during the Covid-19 pandemic, Bellevue was still able to offer fun and safe family focused events. Volunteers assisted with the drive-thru Trick or Treat Trail, Grinch's Candy Cane Hunt and provided concession at 3 Rockin' in Josten concerts. Staff look forward to continuing to work with the local Lions Club in 2021.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Meet Mike Diedrich...

Mike has been working as a Seasonal Park & Forestry Maintenance Employee since 2016. Prior to starting with the Village of Bellevue Mike was employed with Bellin Health for 40 years as a Maintenance & HVAC Technician. Mike typically works April—October, based upon approved budgeted hours. Mike directly assists the Park and Urban Forestry Foreman with the day-to-day maintenance operations of the Village's park system, as well as assists with urban forestry operations. Mike originally applied for the position when he retired from Bellin, and was looking for seasonal work close to home. Mike is a long-time resident of Bellevue. Mike's favorite part of the job is being outside and talking/connecting with park patrons. When asked what his least favorite part of the job is, Mike explained the job can be physically demanding at times, but it keeps him in shape. Mike continues to return every year because he enjoys the comradery among PR&F Staff, and enjoys the work.

The Village of Bellevue is extremely fortunate to have hard working seasonal employees like Mike. PR&F Staff would like to thank him for his 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

\$23,310 for EAB mitigation and staff training

NEW Water

100 street and park trees between 2020-2021



LOOKING AHEAD

Coming in 2021...

Moonrise Park Conversion

- Convert existing park into a community garden site.

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

Urban Forestry Projects

- Plant street trees as part of the Manitowoc Rd. reconstruction project
- Plant street trees as part of the Guns St. reconstruction project.

Urban Forestry Grant Projects

- Tree plantings along East River Trail Arboretum
- Continued addressing of EAB infestation through removal and replacement of village-owned ash trees
- Youth education (Future Foresters)

Update Urban Forestry Management Plan

- Update Plan 2022-2026

Implement Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Implement year 1 of the 5 year CORP.

