

# VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



## Essential Community Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Services

The Village of Bellevue Parks, Recreation and 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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Osprey Point  
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On the Cover: A young athlete eyes up the ball in the youth t-ball program at Josten Park.



## 2018 In Review...

On behalf of the Bellevue Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, I present the 2018 Annual Report, which highlights the department's accomplishments and activities. Through the Bellevue community's generosity 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 is a steward of over 325 acres of park land and over 4,200 public street and park trees. Over 7,400 participants partake in recreational programs annually. Each facet of our work strives to meet the values adopted by the Village Board: Dedication, Quality, Innovation, Responsiveness, Accountability, Integrity & Leadership.

As we move forward in 2019, we thank you for your support in building and sustaining a quality Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Schlag, CPRP*

*Director of Parks, Recreation  
and Forestry*



## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## KEY DEPARTMENT

### GOALS:

- Preserve & 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

## 2018 Village Board

Steve Soukup, President

Dave Kaster, Trustee

Tom Katers, Trustee

Adam Gauthier, Trustee

John Sinkler, Trustee

## Village Administrator

Diane Wessel



## 2018 Park Commission

Roger VandenLangenberg, Chairman

Jill Bielinski, Member

Nathan Hoerning, Member

Henry Kollross, Member

William Mielke, Member

Ann Schreiber, Member

Jack Schlag, Member

## 2018 Senior Advisory Board

Roberta Atkinson

Jill Bielinski

Pat Brault

Rose Bunke

Maureen Cardin

Joan Simpson

Roger VandenLangenberg

## Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department

Stephanie Schlag, Director

Adam Waszak, Recreation Supervisor

Doug Tenor, Parks Foreman & Village Forester



# 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 reduced 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



# PARKS



● ● ●  
**Ice Rink at Josten 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 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 2018:

- 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 2018:

- 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...



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Willow Creek Playground

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### Park Shelter & Community Center Rentals

Facility	2018	% of Dates Used <sup>1</sup>	2017	2016	2015	2014
Josten Enclosed	31	76%	32	41	39	43
DeBroux Enclosed	32	78%	37	36	51	40
Josten Open North	9	22%	10	28	18	15
Josten Open South	9	22%	12	14	16	7
Willow Creek Open	7	17%	9	16	12	5
Community Center <sup>2</sup>	48	48%	50	70	64	65
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>175</b>
DeBroux Enclosed Recreational Rentals <sup>3</sup>	9	N/A	22	31	N/A	N/A
Community Center Recreational Rentals <sup>4</sup>	217	N/A	229	218	267	254

Park Shelters were available Saturdays & Sundays May 1st to September 30th.

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

<sup>2</sup> The Community Center was available for a total of 100 days for private weekend rentals.

<sup>3</sup> For the first time, in 2016 DeBroux Enclosed shelter was rented for recreational programs and utilized by Bellevue Dance, Inc.

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



# PARKS

## by the numbers...



● ● ● Youth Fun Run at Josten Park ● ● ●

### Athletic Facility Rentals (Dates)

Facility	2018	5 Year Average	2017	2016	2015	2014
Josten Upper Ballfield	46	60	78	77	49	48
Josten Lower Ballfield	45	30	36	22	2	43
Josten South Soccer*	3	51	6	54	91	101
Josten North Multi-Purpose	2	42	13*	33	88	76
DeBroux Ballfield	114	109	116	115	85	116
DeBroux Soccer	40	41	48	44	42	32
Willow Creek Soccer #1	126	84	130	98	32	32
Willow Creek Soccer #2	50	57	52	70	Rested	Rested
Willow Creek Soccer #3	51	50	38	52	52	69
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>520</b>

\*Primary user group disbanded in 2017.



# RECREATION

## OVERVIEW

The Recreation Division strives to offer a diverse set of recreational programs for youth, adults, families, and seniors. The Division is also integral in providing a significant offering of community special events such as the Trick or Treat Trail and Easter Egg Bonanza.

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES OFFERED

### Adult Programs

- Yoga in the Park, Martial Arts

### Community Events & Activities

- Easter Egg Bonanza, Movie in the Park, Trick or Treat Trail, Santa in the Park, Rockin' in Josten, K9 Karnival, Family Kite Fest, Family Sledding Night, National Night Out

### Family Activities

- Tae Kwon Do, Family Trips

### Older Adult Programs & Events

- Bingo, Educational Seminars, Trips, Summer Social, Holiday Gala

### Youth Enrichment

- Dance, Tumbling, STEM Camps, Summer Day Camp, Before & After School Program, Leaders-In-Training

### Youth Sports

- T-Ball, Basketball, Flag Football, Tennis, Little Ninjas, Sport Clinics, Youth Fun Runs





# RECREATION

by the numbers.



## Program Participation Overview

Program Area	2018	5-Year Average	2017	2016	2015	2014
Adult Programs	108	55	80	22	29	36
Community Events/ Activities	3,582	3,335	3,982	3,075	3,152	2,884
Family Activities	155	195	166	161	241	250
Senior Programs & Events	1,130	1,114	1,070	998	1,200	1,172
Youth Enrichment	2,179	2,209	2,207	2,296	2,211	2,154
Youth Sports	255	305	313	374	367	397
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>7,409</b>	<b>7,213</b>	<b>7,818</b>	<b>6,926</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>6,893</b>

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



# URBAN FORESTRY



Total Trees	Planted	Pruned
2018	184	871
2017	69	1237
2016	114	921
2015	118	1194
2014	105	781
2013	226	939
2012	246	504
2011	133	357
2010	65	237

## 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 4,200 public street and park trees, based on the updated 2018 tree inventory. The first, complete GIS based, inventory was completed in 2009 and 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 2018, the Village's Forestry division was awarded a grant from the WI DNR for \$21,000 toward EAB mitigation, gravel bed installation, arboretum plantings, and staff training. Additionally the Forestry program received \$3,300 from ATC to utilize toward tree plantings in the Village's arboretum and \$10,000 from the Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission to use toward planting replacement trees for ash trees removed due to EAB infestation. The Village was awarded the Tree City USA award again in 2018. 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



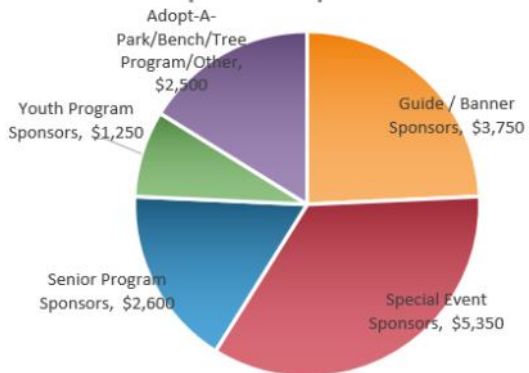
# SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS



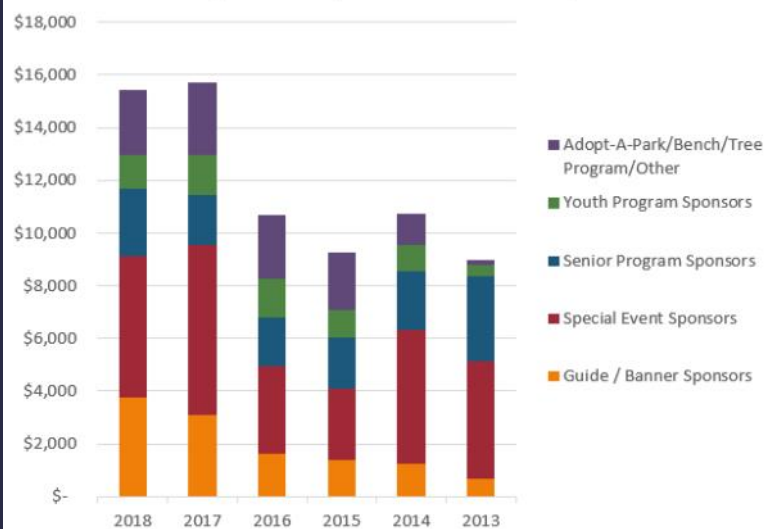
Bench Memorial at Manderly  
Way Trailhead

Sponsorship & Donations	
Sponsor Area	2018
Guide / Banner Sponsors	\$3,750
Special Event Sponsors	\$5,350
Senior Program Sponsors	\$2,600
Youth Program Sponsors	\$1,250
Adopt-A-Park/Bench/Tree Program/Other	\$2,500
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$15,450</b>

2018 Sponsorships & Donations



Sponsorship & Donation History





# COMPLETED PROJECTS



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**Westminster Dr. Trailhead**

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**Manderly Way Trailhead**

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**Westminster Drive Before**

## **East River Trailhead Parking Lot Improvements**

- Sealcoat and Striping of Manderly Way and Westminster Drive Trailheads
- The project was funded 50% through Village dedicated funds and 50% through a Wisconsin DNR Recreational Trail Act Grant.



# COMPLETED PROJECTS



● ● ●  
**Gravel Bed Nursery at Bellevue  
Community Center**  
● ● ●

## Missouri Gravel Bed

- Installation of a gravel bed nursery at the Community Center.. This gravel bed will house 30-50 bare root trees through a planting season and encourages rapid and significant root growth. These trees are also much easier to transport and transplant as they are lighter than the typical balled-and-burlapped trees.
- The project was funded 50% through Village dedicated funds and 50% through a Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Grant.



# COMPLETED PROJECTS



Arboretum signage along East River Trail

## Arboretum Updates and Improvements

- 25 trees planted along the arboretum and new identification tags and signage along the East River Trail. At completion, the arboretum will have 170 trees of various species through the 1.2 miles of trail.
- The project was funded 50% through Village dedicated funds and 50% through a Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Grant.





# VOLUNTEERING IN BELLEVUE

## VOLUNTEERS IN 2018...

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

An estimated 1045 hours of volunteer time at an estimated value of \$9,405 in staff savings were donated to the Village by various community groups throughout 2018.

- Groups include: Friends of Bellevue Parks, Bellevue East Town Optimists, Junior Jets 4-H, Bellevue Lion's Club, Bellevue Firefighters Association, Bellevue Dog Park Committee, Leaders in Training, and Preble High School Cross Country
- For events: Trick or Treat Trail, Easter Egg Bonanza, Santa in the Park, Rockin' in Josten, Summer Day Camp, Youth Fun Run, Bellevue Holiday Gala, Bellevue Summer Social, and park clean up days



## SPOTLIGHT ON ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Throughout 2018, the members of the Adult Program Committee (formally known as the Senior Advisory Board) volunteer their time to provide quality events and programs for the older adults in the Bellevue community. Above and beyond planning and hosting the Bellevue Holiday Gala and Summer Social, members of the APC host a booth at the Trick or Treat Trail and help staff run bingo each month at the Community Center.





# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



## Meet Jill Noel

Jill Noel has been working for the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department since the Summer of 2016. Jill is one of the Department's Summer Camp Counselors, and has also assisted with the Before and After School Program and several community events over the past few years. Jill is currently in her senior year at UW Eau Claire, where she is studying Kinesiology. Jill has been one of our most dedicated seasonal staff members since she started with the Department. Anytime there is an extended break at her school you will find her at the Village Offices assisting with planning and preparation for the Summer Camp program.

"I first applied for the Summer Camp Counselor position because I enjoy working around school-age children. I continue to come back each year because I enjoy seeing the children grow and mature from year to year. My favorite memory of Summer Camp is when we competed in Camp Olympics against Camp Allouez in 2018. It was fun seeing all of our campers from both locations compete together and work towards a common goal."



# GRANTS AND AWARDS

## American Transmission Company

\$3,300 for planting of trees along the Village of Bellevue Arboretum

## Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry

\$21,189 for Missouri Gravel Bed Nursery project, trees and signage for arboretum, ordinance update, staff training, for tree planting, and EAB mitigation

## Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission

\$10,000 toward planting replacement trees for trees removed due to EAB infestation, much of this work will be completed in 2019.



## NFL Play 60 After School Kickoff Grant



In 2018 the Village of Bellevue was awarded a \$7,000 grant from the NFL Foundation. The grant program was put on through a partnership between the NFL, NFL Network, and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The grant was open to any local park and recreation departments in 8 designated NFL markets (Green Bay being one) which provide some sort of after-school physical activity/health program or wellness education programs.

Staff worked with the Green Bay Area Public School District, specifically staff at McAuliffe Elementary School, to identify how to best utilize the grant money. The after school program would not be possible without the school district's cooperation, so it was important that the Village included district staff in the purchasing decisions. It was decided that the after school program and the students at McAuliffe would benefit best by purchasing (2) sets of youth soccer goals to be placed in the open fields at McAuliffe Elementary School.

Remaining funds were then used to update some of the shared athletic equipment at the school including: new pennies/jerseys, soccer equipment and corn hole boards. Staff believe that the updated equipment will help program staff continue to provide a fun and active experience for program participants.

# LOOKING AHEAD

## Coming in 2019...

### Bedford Heights Park

- Construction of a 3+ acre park in the Bedford Heights neighborhood



### Josten Park Improvements

- Improvements include LED retrofit of the parking lot and north east end of park, replacement security cameras at the south shelter, addressing plumbing issues in the enclosed shelter restrooms, replacing sidewalk around the enclosed shelter to bring into compliance with ADA requirements.



### EAB Mitigation (continued)

- Removal, stump grind, and replacement of 50 ash trees throughout the Village

### 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
- Insecticide treatment of 10 ash trees

### Ball Field Groomer Machine

- Purchase of a ball field groomer for Josten and DeBroux Parks



### Continuation of Urban Forestry Management Plan

- Implementation of year #9 of the ten year plan includes significant street tree planting, removals, stumping, and pruning operations.