

VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2022 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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Josten Park

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On the Cover: Finding a Golden egg during the annual Easter Egg Bonanza at Josten Park.

2022 In Review...

On behalf of the Bellevue Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department, I present the 2022 Annual report, which highlights all of the department's accomplishments and activities.

As our community continues to move past 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 326 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 2023, we thank you for your support in building and sustaining a quality Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department.

Sincerely,



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 and recreation services play in creating a healthy, vibrant community.

STAFF & ELECTED OFFICIALS

2022 Village Board

Steve Soukup, President

Dave Kaster, Trustee

Adam Gauthier, Trustee

John Sinkler, Trustee

Jackie Krull, Trustee

Village Administrator

Benjamin Krumenauer



2022 Park Commission

Roger VandenLangenberg, Chairman

Nathan Hoerning, Member

Henry Kollross, Member

William Mielke, Member

Jack Schlag, Member

Johnathan Virant, Member

James Dorrance, Member

2022 Adult Programs Committee

Joan Simpson

Rose Bunke

Maureen Cardin

Ed Simpson

Liz Healy

Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

Kyle Casper, Director

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.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% 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





New Josten Park Sign

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 2022:

- 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 2022:

- 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...



DeBroux Park Shelter

Park Shelter & Community Center Rentals

Facility	2022	% of Dates Used ¹	2021	2020	2019	2018
Josten Enclosed	21	81%	24	11	26	31
DeBroux Enclosed	31	79%	27	4	35	32
Josten Open North	9	35%	10	5	5	9
Josten Open South	7	27%	9	5	5	9
Willow Creek Open	13	41%	12	5	9	7
Community Center ²	68	77%	73	45*	57	48
Totals:	149	57%	155	75	137	136
Community Group Rentals ³	35	N/A	24	81	N/A	N/A

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

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 89 days for private weekend rentals.

³ Community Rentals for groups with fees waived including American Red Cross, 4-H, and Brown County Women's Group.

PARKS

by the numbers...



Green Bay East Side Baseball

Athletic Facility Rentals (Dates)

Facility	2022	5 Year Average	2021	2020	2019	2018
Josten Upper Ballfield	43	43	52	25	48	46
Josten Lower Ballfield	72	59	72	35	70	45
Josten South Soccer*	0	1	2	0	0	3
Josten North Multi-Purpose	0	1	2	0	0	2
DeBroux Ballfield	121	104	120	58	109	114
DeBroux Soccer	44	28	52	0	0	44
Willow Creek Soccer #1	114	97	106	0	138	126
Willow Creek Soccer #2	28	33	24	0	62	50
Willow Creek Soccer #3	77	44	55	0	38	51
Totals:	499	410	485	118	465	481

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

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, Skateboarding Class

Youth Sports

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



RECREATION

by the numbers...



Summer Camp Lambeau Tour

Program Participation Overview

Program Area	2022	5-Year Average	2021	2020	2019	2018
Adult Programs	248	184	296	149	120	108
Community Events/ Activities	3,614	3,261	3,148	2,187	3,775	3,582
Family Activities	178	138	148	54	156	155
Older Adults Programs & Events	547	578	366	142	703	1,130
Youth Enrichment	3,212	2,233	2,462	1,103	2,213	2,179
Youth Sports	342	289	291	176	381	255
Totals:	8,141	6,683	6,711	3,811	7,348	7,409

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

URBAN FORESTRY



Total Trees	Planted	Pruned
2022	322	993
2021	421	900
2020	203	980
2019	275	634
2018	184	871
2017	69	1237
2016	114	921
2015	118	1194
2014	105	781

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



Gaga Pit—Josten Park

Sponsorship & Donations

Sponsor Area	2022
Guide / Banner Sponsors	\$3,800
Special Event Sponsors	\$5,200
Senior Program Sponsors	\$2,200
Youth Program Sponsors	\$1,000
Adopt-A-Park/Bench/Tree Program	\$1,950
Other Donations	\$1,000
Totals:	\$15,150



VOLUNTEERING IN BELLEVUE

VOLUNTEERS IN 2022...

Special Event, Recreation Programming and Park Volunteers

An estimated 1,050 hours of volunteer time at an estimated value of \$10,500 in staff savings were donated to the Village by various community groups throughout 2022.

- 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, 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 Emily Zellner...

Emily has been working for the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department since the winter of 2020. She started out as an After School Program Activity Leader. Emily spent two summers as a Camp Counselor before becoming the Camp Coordinator in 2022 at Camp Josten. Emily is currently in her Junior year at UW-Stevens Point where she is studying Elementary Education and Special Education.

Emily joined the staff at the Village of Bellevue because she wanted to be a Camp Counselor and knew there was an amazing camp program in Bellevue. She comes back each year because of the camp family and the friendships and relationships she has made with the staff and campers. "I love the summer camp kids so much! They always come with the funniest stories and are so excited for camp everyday. They never fail to make me smile even when I'm having a bad day! I have so many fun memories from camp with my favorite being the day we let campers pie all the staff in the face. Seeing the excitement in their faces made it all worth it!"

The Village of Bellevue is extremely fortunate to have great camp staff like Emily. PR&F staff would like to thank her for continued dedication to the Department and to the Village of Bellevue.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

First Down for Trees

28 street trees planted in 2022

NEW Water

81 street and park trees between 2021-2022



LOOKING AHEAD

Coming in 2023...

Mossakowski Family Dog Park

- Construct shade structure for small dog area

DeBroux Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts

- Reconstruction

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 3 of the 5 year CORP

Completed Projects in 2022...

Josten Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts

- Resurfacing & renovation

Josten Park Accessibility Path

- Construct ADA accessible path around the playground

