

VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2019 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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Yoga in the Park
Josten Park



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On the Cover: A group of young athletes are working to cross the finish line during the Youth Fun Run at Josten Park.



2019 In Review...

On behalf of the Bellevue Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department, I present the 2019 Annual report, which highlights all of the department's accomplishments and activities. Through the communities generosity the Department fees fortunante for its residents and their their dedication toward making Bellevue a happy, healthy, vibrant community for all through parks, recreation and preservation efforts.

The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is steward of over 325 acres of parkland and over 4,400 public street and park trees. Over 7,300 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 2020, 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 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

2019 Village Board

Steve Soukup, President

Dave Kaster, Trustee

Tom Katers, Trustee

Adam Gauthier, Trustee

John Sinkler, Trustee

Village Administrator

Diane Wessel



2019 Park Commission

Roger VandenLangenberg, Chairman

Jill Bielinski, Member

Nathan Hoerling, Member

Henry Kollross, Member

William Mielke, Member

Ann Schreiber, Member

Jack Schlag, Member

2019 Adult Programs Committee

Joan Simpson

Pat Brault

Rose Bunke

Maureen Cardin

Ed Simpson

Merrill Milson

Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department

Adam Waszak, Director

Kyle Casper, Recreation Supervisor

Kyle Rouce, 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.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 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.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



Family Kite Fest

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 2019:

- 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 2019:

- 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	2019	% of Dates Used ¹	2018	2017	2016	2015
Josten Enclosed	26	70%	31	32	41	39
DeBroux Enclosed	35	73%	32	37	36	51
Josten Open North	5	13%	9	10	28	18
Josten Open South	5	12%	9	12	14	16
Willow Creek Open	9	27%	7	9	16	12
Community Center ²	57	68%	48	50	70	64
Totals:	137	48%	136	150	205	200
Community Group Recreational Rentals ³	55	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Community Center Recreational Rentals ⁴	152	N/A	217	229	218	254

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 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...



T-Ball at Josten Park

Athletic Facility Rentals (Dates)

Facility	2019	5 Year Average	2018	2017	2016	2015
Josten Upper Ballfield	48	60	46	78	77	49
Josten Lower Ballfield	70	35	45	36	22	2
Josten South Soccer*	0	31	3	6	54	91
Josten North Multi-Purpose	0	27	2	13	33	88
DeBroux Ballfield	109	108	114	116	115	85
DeBroux Soccer	0	35	44	48	44	42
Willow Creek Soccer #1	138	105	126	130	98	32
Willow Creek Soccer #2	62	59	50	52	70	Rested
Willow Creek Soccer #3	38	46	51	38	52	52
Totals:	465	486	477	517	532	441

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 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, Grinch's Candy Cane Hunt, Rockin' in Josten, K9 Carnival, 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...



Summer Campers on a Field Trip



Program Participation Overview

Program Area	2019	5-Year Average	2018	2017	2016	2015
Adult Programs	120	72	108	80	22	29
Community Events/ Activities	3,775	3,335	3,582	3,982	3,075	3,152
Family Activities	156	176	155	166	161	241
Senior Programs & Events	703	1,020	1,130	1,070	998	1,200
Youth Enrichment	2,213	2,221	2,179	2,207	2,296	2,211
Youth Sports	381	338	255	313	374	367
Totals:	7,348	7,340	7,409	7,818	6,926	7,200

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

URBAN FORESTRY



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 4,300 public street and park trees, based on the updated 2019 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 2019, the Village's Forestry division was awarded a grant from the WI DNR for \$25,000 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 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 2019. 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

Total Trees	Planted	Pruned
2019	275	634
2018	184	871
2017	69	1237
2016	114	921
2015	118	1194
2014	105	781
2013	226	939
2012	246	504
2011	133	357

SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS

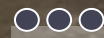


○○○
Bench Memorial at Manderly
Way Trailhead ○○○

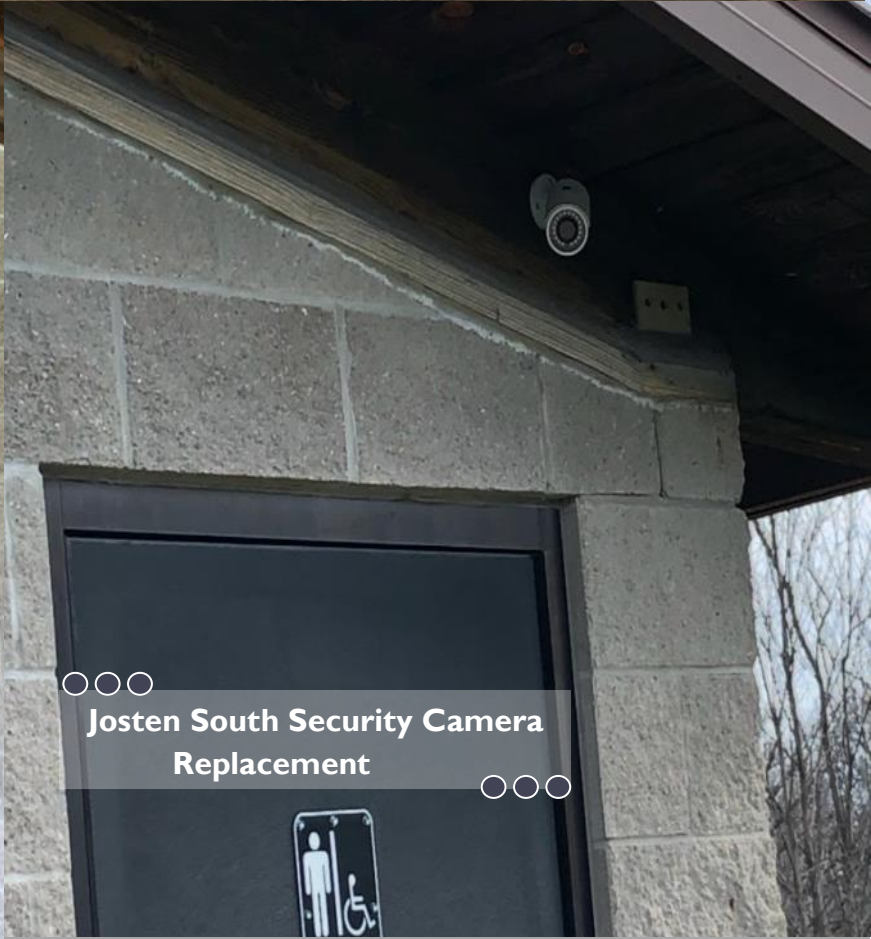
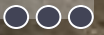
Sponsorship & Donations	
Sponsor Area	2019
Guide / Banner Sponsors	\$3,300
Special Event Sponsors	\$5,800
Senior Program Sponsors	\$2,430
Youth Program Sponsors	\$1,250
Adopt-A-Park/Bench/Tree Program/Other	\$2,500
Totals:	\$15,280



COMPLETED PROJECTS



Josten Park LED Retrofit



Josten South Security Camera Replacement



VOLUNTEERING IN BELLEVUE



VOLUNTEERS IN 2019...

Special Event, Recreation Programming, and Park Volunteers

An estimated 1020 hours of volunteer time at an estimated value of \$10,200 in staff savings were donated to the Village by various community groups throughout 2019.

- 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 2019, 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 Rhonda Manning

Rhonda Manning has been teaching Martial Arts classes for the Village of Bellevue since 2001. Overall, she has been teaching these classes for over 20 years. Rhonda began to teach Tae Kwon Do classes one night a week for the Village of Bellevue at the VFW. As the program began to grow it was moved to the Community Center where she added a second night of classes each week as well as a Little Ninjas program to get younger students introduced to Martial Arts.

“My favorite part of the class is the students. As a teacher I will never stop learning from the students. I particularly enjoy watching my students grow and for the ones that stick with the program to watch their growth from beginner all the way to Black Belt. The one thing I hope to pass on to all my students is any knowledge that could help them to get out of a dangerous situation or lifesaving measures.”

GRANTS AND AWARDS

American Transmission Company

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

Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry

\$25,00 for EAB mitigation, and staff training

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 2020



LOOKING AHEAD

Coming in 2020...

Bedford Heights Park Completion

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



Josten Park Playground Improvements

- Replacement of the final original play structure at the Josten Park playground.



EAB Mitigation (continued)

- Removal, stump grind, and replacement of 100 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

Continuation of Urban Forestry Management Plan

- Implementation of year #10 of the ten year plan includes significant street tree planting, removals, stumping, and pruning operations.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Update of the 5 year CORP.

