

2022

Annual Report

Play Your Way



Contents



About Us	3
Core Values	4
Fun Facts & Figures	4
District Achievements	5
Awards	5
Individual Achievements	5
Committee Highlights	6
Departmental Highlights	
Community Recreation	8
Parks	9
Facilities & Trades	10
Batavia Depot Museum	11
Talent & Culture	12
Marketing & Public Relations	13
Batavia's New Community Center	14
Finance	15
Where Tax Dollars Go	16
Batavia Parks Foundation	18

About Us

The Batavia Park District has been providing memorable experiences in parks and recreation for the community since its inception in 1969. The Park District maintains and operates approximately 400 acres, encompassing 40 sites, an in-line skating/skateboarding park, a unique aquatic facility and a museum, plus a multitude of baseball and soccer fields and tennis and basketball courts. The Park District offers nearly 2,000 programs each year and serves roughly 95,000 participants through various recreational, arts and environmental programs.

Our Vision

The Batavia Park District is recognized as an industry leader in providing innovative experiences and for providing exceptional care and attention to parks and facilities.

Our Mission

At the Batavia Park District, our mission is committed to providing fun, safe, and innovative open space and recreational opportunities that will enrich the quality of life for our residents.

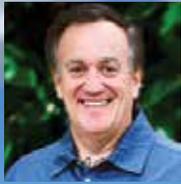
Leadership



Allison Niemela
Executive Director

The Park Board

The Park Board is composed of five non-paid commissioners voted into office by the community for six-year terms that are staggered to retain continuity of board members. The Board is primarily a policy-making body that reflects the needs and interests of all taxpayers. The Park Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Civic Center, 327 W. Wilson St., at 7 p.m. Please feel welcome to attend.



Patrick Callahan
President



John Tilmon
Vice President



Samantha "Sam" Bell
Treasurer



Julie Larson
Secretary



Tara Gray
Commissioner



Core Values

At the Core of What We Do

At Batavia Park District, our Core Values are the cornerstone of the District’s fundamental belief system. These guiding principles help power our passion when it comes to programs, parks, and the people we interact with on a day-to-day basis.

Motivation ★ Teamwork ★ Clarity ★ Respect
Growth ★ Creativity ★ Integrity ★ Trust

Bruce the Spruce is the District’s official mascot. The name “Bruce” serves as an acronym for the values the award recipient must demonstrate to earn the honor.

- ▶ **B** – Being a team player: Demonstrates teamwork and cooperation
- ▶ **R** – Ready for anything: Adaptable, flexible, and responsive in all situations
- ▶ **U** – Unique ideas: Thinks of new and innovative ways to improve the District
- ▶ **C** – Customer Service: Continually strives to exceed customer’s expectations
- ▶ **E** – Excellence: Demonstrates excellent communication skills



Allison Niemela,
Executive Director

Lynn Boerman,
Director of
Talent &
Culture

Lynn Boerman was chosen as the 2022 Bruce the Spruce award recipient.

Bruce the Spruce Award

Each year, the Bruce the Spruce Award is presented to an employee who embodies the Core Values in all facets of work. Staff and supervisors nominate employees, and the award recipient is selected by the Executive Director. The award is presented at the annual Recognition Party in January.

Fun Facts & Figures

40

Park Sites

3,224

Volunteer Hours
Per Year

40+

Special Events

400

Total Acres

17

Miles of Trails

District Achievements



- ▶ A bronze James “Jim” Eby Gymnasium sign was installed at the Civic Center.
- ▶ The District hosted a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the Philip B. Elfstrom Memorial Greenway.
- ▶ The District was awarded The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their support of their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

Awards

- ▶ The Batavia Park District was named a Readers’ Choice Top Pick by suburban readers of the Daily Herald.
- ▶ Windmill City Festival was voted “One of the Best Festivals in Kane County” by Kane County Chronicle’s Readers’ Choice Awards.

Individual Achievements



- ▶ Alex Macias, Superintendent of Parks, became an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist.
- ▶ Lori McDonald, Recreation Supervisor, was promoted to Assistant Director of Community Recreation.

Committee Highlights

The District has five internal committees that focus on improvement in several areas of importance. Each committee is composed of staff members representing the various departments within the District.



Activities Committee

This committee organizes a number of events throughout the year to encourage team building, enhance interdepartmental communication and boost staff morale. A special recognition event is held each year to celebrate all staff, name the “Bruce the Spruce” employee of the year recipient, announce years of service awards, and honor retirees.

Safety Committee

The committee creates and maintains a safe environment for staff and patrons. The committee is composed of staff members from various departments and meets bi-monthly. The committee reviews submittals for the safety program and recognizes individuals who may be awarded the safety bonus.

In 2022 the safety committee attended the Park Districts Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) annual Risk Management Institute (RMI) and learned ways to incorporate and train best safety practices for the workplace in daily operations.

Green Committee

This committee educates and engages both internal staff and external customers in many different types of sustainable practices and activities which reduce the burden on our resources and the environment. This committee also encourages staff to exercise eco-friendly purchasing practices.

In 2022, the Green Committee completed a Green Audit through SCARCE (School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education). The audit data will guide the Green Committee on future projects.

Customer Service Committee

The Customer Service Committee held a District-wide training for employees that featured a local speaker and reinforced the core values of the District.

Technology Committee

This committee is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the District’s strategic technology plan. Staff develops recommendations for the annual IT budget and provides technology training to staff.

In 2022, the District fully replaced our existing IT server infrastructure. The refresh of this hardware will increase dependability as well as reduce complexity and support costs of the environment by reducing the physical hosts that will be maintained. Additionally, it will allow for implementation of new security features that enhance the District’s resilience and recovery capability in the face of threats such as ransomware.

The District also took steps to bolster its defense against cybersecurity threats. Some of the steps taken include requiring annual cybersecurity training, sending simulated e-mail phishing attempts to employees, and enforcing multi-factor authentication.



2022

*Hall Quarry Beach
by the numbers*

5,855

Resident daily attendance

7,332

Nonresident daily attendance

38,671

General Daily Attendance

289

Individuals Registered for Swim Lessons

Community Recreation

The Community Recreation Team creates innovative programs and events for the community, including arts and crafts, dance, fitness, nature, performing arts, preschool, sports, trips and tumbling, plus teen, adult and senior activities. Community Recreation oversees all of the District programming, such as Kids' Club Before & After School Program, Batavia Depot Museum and New Horizons Preschool. This department plans annual festivals, operates Hall Quarry Beach and coordinates park and facility rentals.



Highlights

- ▶ The Batavia Park District hosted its first ever craft beer festival, Pints by the Pond. It was a sold-out event with over 500 people in attendance.
- ▶ Hall Quarry Beach opened its north gate for a perk to season pass holders to eliminate long lines and offer parking to loyal customers.
- ▶ The Park District worked with United Way to provide five scholarships through Success by Six to benefit students in need.
- ▶ Staff offered brand new programming such as: pickleball private lessons, Wine & Align yoga and adult basketball leagues.
- ▶ After a long break, the team was excited to bring back a carnival to Windmill City Festival for families to enjoy.
- ▶ The District's Zoom fitness classes reached participants as far as Spain.



Parks

The Parks Team creates and maintains beautiful, healthy environments in the 42 parks and properties and nearly 400 acres of land owned by the District. Recreational amenities include 26 playgrounds, four volleyball courts, 10 tennis courts, 13 ball fields, 13 basketball courts, 17 miles of trails, one outdoor aquatic facility, an outdoor skating rink, a museum, a skate and bike park and a dog park.



Highlights

- ▶ Parks and facilities staff hosted the annual work day for special education students from West Aurora High School.
- ▶ A portion of the bike path at Jones Meadow Park was reconfigured and repaved due to flooding from a nearby wetland.
- ▶ The department's in-house greenhouse for annuals saved taxpayers \$7,500 a year.
- ▶ A new park located within the Prairie Commons subdivision was added to the inventory of Batavia parks.



Facilities & Trades

The Facilities & Trades Team manages vendor contracts, renovations and maintenance for all Park District facilities, including the former Batavia Professional Building at 150 Houston St. Strategic planning is an integral part of the District and the Team is heavily involved in the Capital Development Plan (CDP), a vital instrument and a major link to the mission of the District to meet residents' recreational needs.

Highlights

- ▶ Washington Park was renovated with a new playground, sidewalk and retaining wall.
- ▶ The fishing dock at Hawk's Bluff Park was renovated with new deck boards and rails.
- ▶ New radios and access points were installed at Peg Bond Center, Batavia Depot Museum, Hall Quarry Beach, Eastside Community Center and Kemp Hall to help with Wi-Fi and network upgrades.
- ▶ Touch-screen smart thermostats were installed at Peg Bond Center, Civic Center and The Lodge at Laurelwood, controlled with the Skyport app, via smart phone or laptop.
- ▶ The shingles on the Depot Museum's pitched roof were replaced. The membrane and trim were replaced on the upper flat roof, with the lower flat roof receiving a roll-on sealant.
- ▶ The Lodge at Laurelwood and Batavia Depot Museum received new roofs as part of the District's Capital Development Plan.



- ▶ A new storage shed was purchased and installed for the kayak and paddle boat rentals at the Riverwalk.
- ▶ An ADA picnic site was created at the north end of Hall Quarry Beach. The site includes a pergola, table and grill.
- ▶ The north building at the Quarry was cleaned and converted from a storage space to an admissions building.



Batavia Depot Museum

Batavia Depot Museum is a cooperative effort between Batavia Park District and Batavia Historical Society. The Museum is housed in a restored 1854 Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad Depot and is focused on preserving and sharing Batavia history through programs, events, exhibits, preservation and research.



Highlights

- ▶ Visitation and program participation remained high. In 2022 the Museum welcomed 3,545 visitors, brought history education to over 240 Batavia students on field trips and outreach programs.
- ▶ The Museum developed and delivered four original temporary exhibits: Inspiring Expression, Refraction, City of Energy, and Hometown Holidays
- ▶ After a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Preservation Week returned. The revamped Cheers Through the Years pub crawl brought attention and business to historic downtown Batavia.
- ▶ The Museum staff mentored two talented interns pursuing degrees in Museum Studies who helped with the ongoing re-cataloging project. As part of the interns' work, 957 objects in the Museum's permanent collection were inventoried, records updated and safely rehoused. 210 objects were added to the collection.
- ▶ The Museum applied for, was awarded, and completed a Museum Assessment Program through the American Alliance of Museums to review our procedures and policies for Collections Management. The Assessment drove home the importance of a cohesive Collections Plan.

Talent & Culture

The Talent & Culture Team assumes responsibility for overall risk management operations, general safety, policy development, training, wellness, compensation, benefits and employment-related matters of Batavia Park District. The District employs a full-time staff of 40 and 175 part-time and seasonal workers.

Highlights

- ▶ The district staff completed Total Responsible Person (TRP) training, which shared tips and tools with employees on how to make their contribution to the district more meaningful every day. How to stay Positive ~ Productive ~ Effective, no matter what the circumstances.
- ▶ Full-time staff completed in-house trainings, including Strengths Training through HR Source and the PDRMA-offered trainings. Part-time and seasonal staff completed mandatory trainings.
- ▶ The district received a grant of \$1,000 from PDRMA for Wellness and created Lunchtime Fitness program on Mondays and Wednesday for employees and open to the public.
- ▶ The 2022 recognition programs included Cheers for Peers, a Safety Bonus and Bruce the Spruce Award.
- ▶ The PDRMA Loss Control Award was earned which resulted in a \$1,500 rebate to the District.
- ▶ A new Sick Bank Program was approved by the Board.



Marketing & Public Relations

The Marketing & Public Relations Team is composed of three full-time staff. The Department develops, organizes, communicates and implements effective marketing strategies and promotions online, in print and in person through community outreach and attendance at District and other public events. The Marketing Team also enhances the brand of the Park District via social media and the District website.



Highlights

- ▶ The District received four prestigious awards at the Illinois Association of Park Districts/Illinois Parks & Recreation Association's 2022 Agency Showcase Competition at the Illinois state conference: First Place for the Printed Brochure Series; First Place for Large Format Marketing; Third Place for Logo Design; and Fourth Place for the Print Promotional category. The first award is for the District's quarterly Fun Guide; the last three awards capture the stellar rebranding and promotion of Hall Quarry Beach, Batavia's iconic summer destination, after being closed in 2020 due to the pandemic.
- ▶ Marketing worked with Kane County Chronicle staff and representatives of Batavia School District, Batavia Public Library, and the City of Batavia to plan and create a new community magazine, The Batavian, that launched in 2022 to replace the former Neighbors publication. The new publication allowed more content control and resulted in a cost savings of 65% annually.
- ▶ The Graphic Design & Media Specialist mentored a Batavia High School graphic arts student in the VALEES 2022 Graphics Student of the Year Competition, to help prepare her for a design competition in March 2022. Established by the Illinois State Board of Education, VALEES stands for the Valley Education for Employment System and supports Career Technical Education programs.
- ▶ New Quarry key fobs facilitated online Quarry pass renewals. The new fobs reduced the wait time for customers. Individual daily passes and punch passes for the Quarry also were offered.
- ▶ Two banner ad positions were added to the District website, for future promotion and monetization.
- ▶ Marketing and Customer Relations staff launched a Black Friday gift card promotion to offer residents bonus "Bruce Bucks" with every gift card purchased in a three-day period. This promotion garnered \$1,650 in three days, surpassing traditional annual gift card sales.



Youth Basketball Leagues

Our youth basketball leagues (3-4 grade girls, 3-4 grade boys, 5-6 grade girls and 5-6 grade boys) begin in November and run through March. Teams practice once a week for the first several weeks of the season and play games on Saturdays and Sundays beginning in January.

Depending on the league and size/number of teams, we sometimes team up with Geneva, Sugar Grove, Winfield and Warrenville park districts to combine our leagues and create more parity and competitiveness.

Finance

The Finance Team is responsible for the financial reporting and accounting functions for the District. Areas of responsibility include budget, audit, payroll, purchasing, debt management, accounting and financial reporting. Upon the closure of the fiscal year, the Finance Team is responsible for the coordination of the audit process and preparation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The Finance Department also manages the budget process and develops priorities based on the goals of the District Board of Commissioners. Additionally, the Finance Department oversees information technology for the entire District.



Highlights

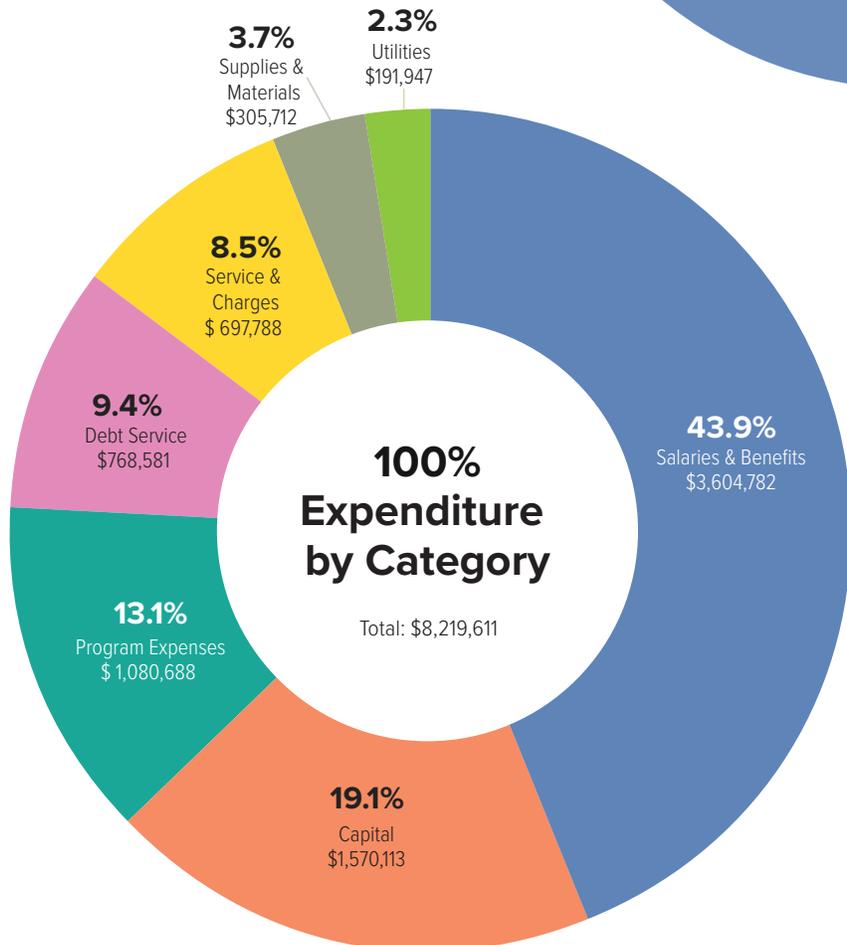
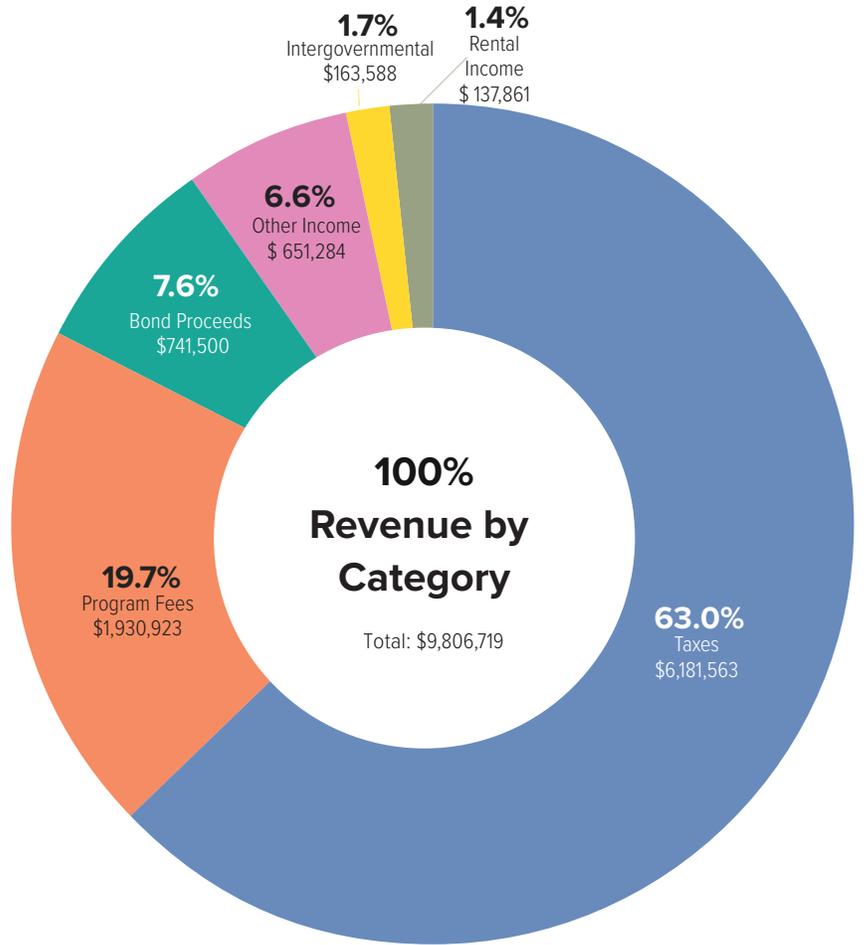
- ▶ The District received the Government Finance Officer's Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
- ▶ Staff began work on an overhead allocation model to effectively distribute indirect costs in the recreation fund to the various programming categories. This will produce an informative view on how profitable various programming categories are and will be used in the budget process to refine pricing and better control costs.
- ▶ As of December 31, 2022, the District has no long-term debt outstanding.



Where Tax Dollars Go

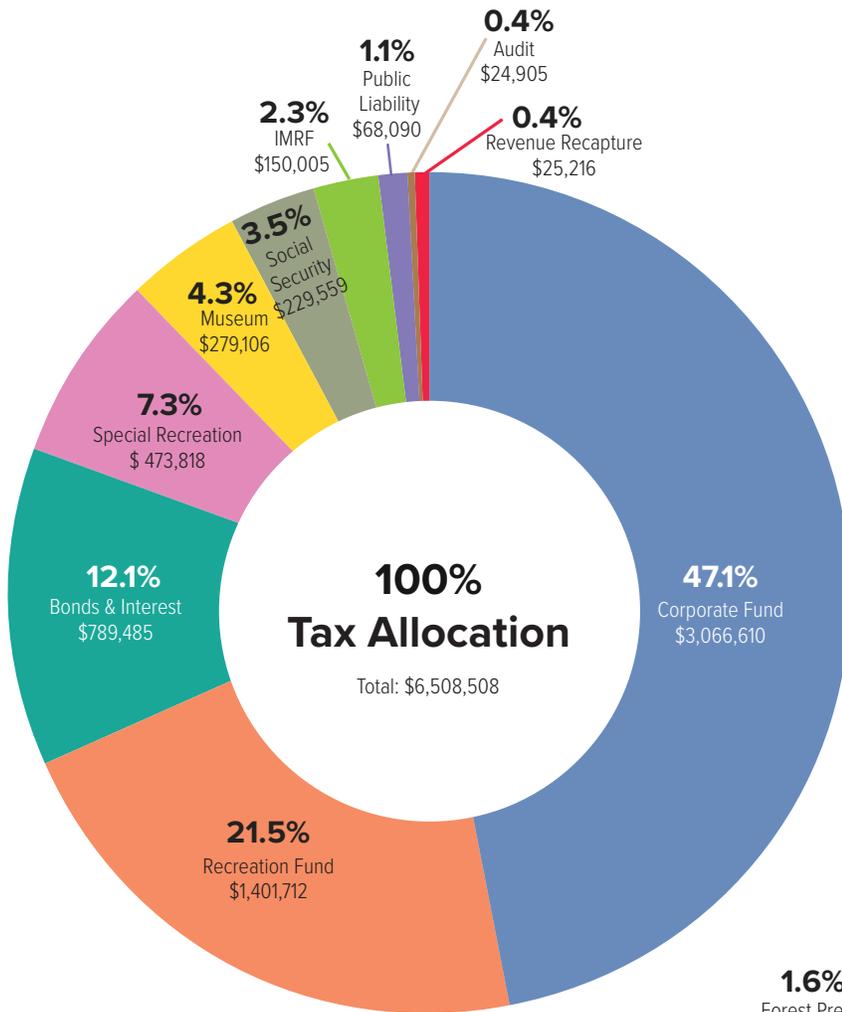
Sources of Revenue

The Batavia Park District's largest revenue source is property taxes, which represented 63% of total revenue in 2022 compared to 71% in 2021. The decrease in 2022 compared to 2021 was primarily due to the continued recovery of program revenue from the COVID-19 pandemic. Program revenue was the District's second largest source at 20%. The third largest revenue source in 2021 was bond proceeds at 8%. Other Income includes a \$430,000 donation from the Batavia Historical Society to help pay for the acquisition and improvements of the Patrick J. Callahan Community Center. Additional examples of other revenue sources are District facilities rentals, concession sales, interest income, sponsorships, grants and donations.



Expenditures by Allocation

As a service industry, people are the major asset of the District. Thus, wages and employee benefits represent the largest allocation of expenditures. The next largest expenditure relates to capital outlay for replacement of infrastructure, parks and playgrounds, vehicles and other equipment throughout the District. Expenditures supporting our building and grounds and recreational programming represent the heart and soul of what the Batavia Park District offers.



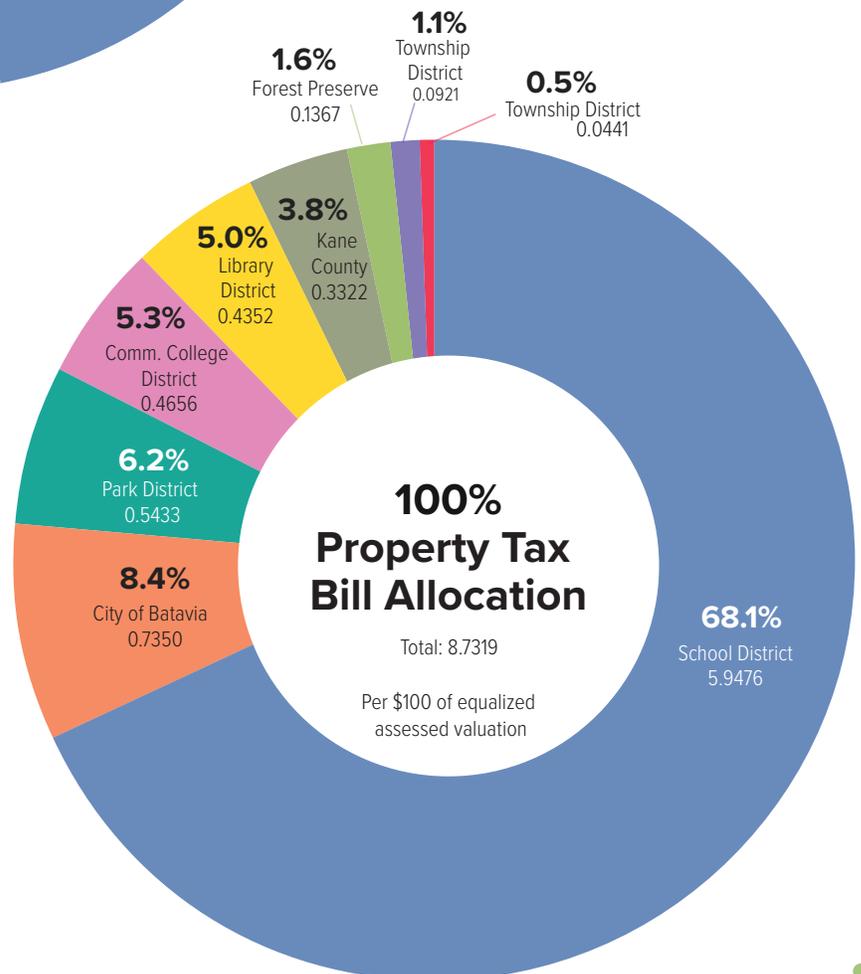
Internal

The majority of tax proceeds support the Corporate Fund. The Corporate Fund is used to account for the resources and activities associated with the core services and day-to-day operations of the District. It also funds the maintenance and upkeep of the parks and facilities. Other tax receipts assist with providing service to residents with disabilities and state mandates such as employee retirement funding and social security payments.

Paving & Lighting did not levy for 2022

External

The Batavia Park District represents just 6% of the Batavia-based annual tax bill. This level helps fund public use and management of 42 parks sites totaling approximately 400 acres, two community centers, a museum, dance studio, and many other amenities throughout the community. Batavia Park District is committed to providing high-quality programs, services, parks, and facilities to its citizens while being conscious of the District's impact on property taxes.



Batavia Parks Foundation

The Batavia Parks Foundation's mission is to foster recreation and open space initiatives that enhance residents' quality of life. The Foundation hosts several clean-up days annually in parks throughout Batavia, actively fundraises for parks projects, and promotes and hosts special events and programs that enhance participation in the parks.



Highlights

- ▶ Hosted a spring "Pitch in the Parks" at the Batavia Riverwalk with partners Batavia Park District and the Batavia Plain Dirt Gardeners and a fall Friends of the Fox "It's Our Fox River Day" at Glenwood Park with site partner Kane County Forest Preserve.
- ▶ Created a "Play it Forward" promotional raffle with downtown Batavia business partners to raise funds for the PEACE ON EARTH project and to drive business to promotional partners.
- ▶ Partnered with Fox Valley Special Recreation Association on National Play Outdoors Day on May 7, 2022, at the Riverwalk South Plaza.
- ▶ Launched a \$50,000 campaign to raise funds for the PEACE ON EARTH project on May 1, 2022, and reached the goal on Dec. 22, 2023.
- ▶ Participated in pop-ups at the Batavia Farmer's Market, River Rhapsody, Windmill City Festival (beer pouring), Pints by the Pond, Limestone Coffee & Tea (Giving Tuesday) and Celebration of Lights.
- ▶ Organized and hosted Batavia #peaceday, sponsored by Drendel & Jansons Law Group, held on the Riverwalk South Plaza and Peace Bridge on the United Nations International Day of Peace on Sept. 21, 2022.

Funded Projects

- ▶ Since its incorporation in 2003, the Batavia Parks Foundation has raised more than \$500,000 in funds and completed a number of capital projects. The Foundation continues to search for ways to raise funds and to complete projects that enhance our community.
- ▶ PEACE ON EARTH Permanent Artwork \$50,000 Fundraising Campaign (2022)
- ▶ Pandemic Scholarship Fund Support (2020)
- ▶ Engstrom Family Park Ballfield Pilot (2019)
- ▶ Batavia Riverwalk Boardwalk Reconstruction Project (2014)
- ▶ Bulldogs Unleashed Public Art Events (2011 & 2018)
- ▶ Batavia Riverwalk Peg Bond Pavilion (Bandshell) (2011)
- ▶ Engstrom Family Park Space Net (2010)



Philip B. Elfstrom Memorial Greenway

On Nov. 12, 2022, the Batavia Park Board of Commissioners hosted a ribbon cutting and dedication to name a linear park along South River Street in memory of Philip B. Elfstrom, a Batavia leader, visionary and businessman who was instrumental in creating Kane County bike paths along abandoned rail lines.

The park district-owned trail and open space from Webster Street south to Clark Island Recreation Area was named The Philip B. Elfstrom Memorial Greenway.

A memorial plaque with the inscription “This greenway park site is dedicated in memory of a man whose quiet generosity makes it possible for thousands of people each year to enjoy the Fox River Trail in Batavia” recognizes Elfstrom’s contribution to improving quality of life in Batavia.



Your Fun
Is Our
Business