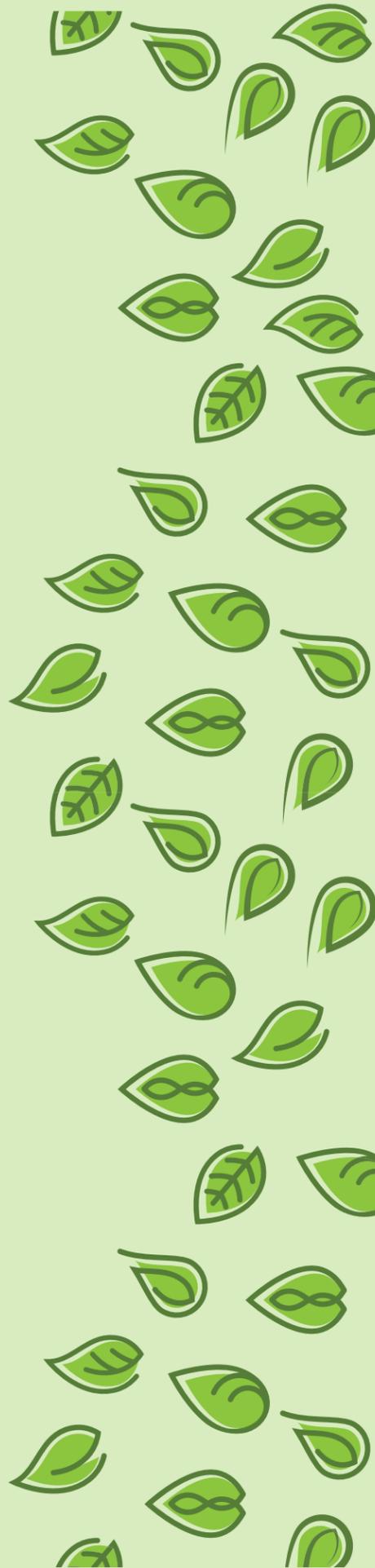
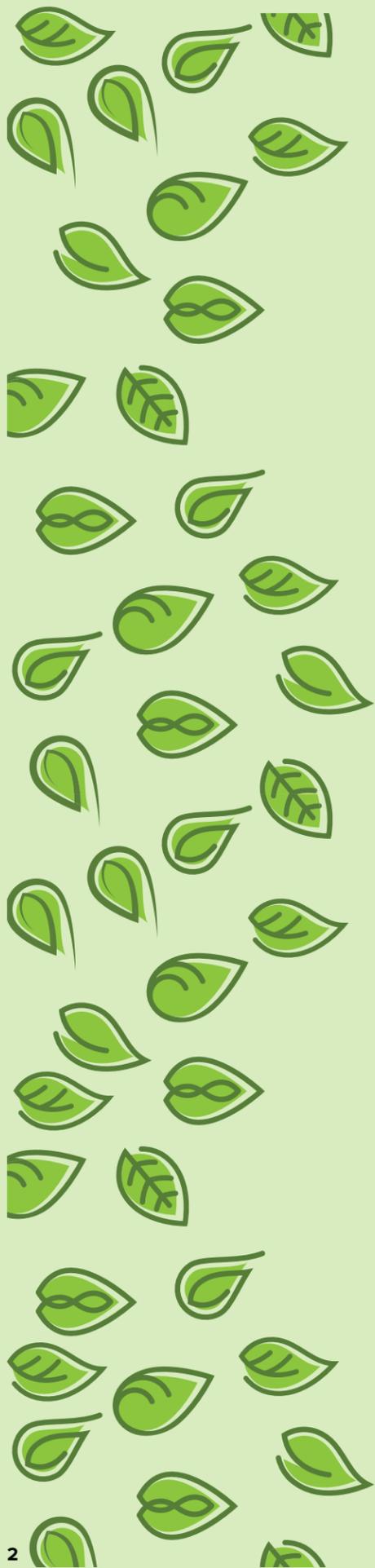




Batavia
Park District

2021 Annual Report

Moving Forward Together



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At the Core of What We Do

At the Batavia Park District, our core values are the cornerstones 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, the District's official mascot, also reinforces these values in his name to our staff members.

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



Recreation Supervisor Lori McDonald was chosen as the 2021 Bruce the Spruce award recipient.

The Park Board is composed of five non-paid commissioners selected by you for 6-year terms which 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.

Leadership



Allison Niemela
Executive Director

The Park Board



Patrick Callahan
President



John Tilmon
Vice President



Kevin Riley
Treasurer



Tara Gray
Secretary



Molly Connolly
Commissioner

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.

Fun Facts & Figures



#1
Employer of Youth
in Batavia



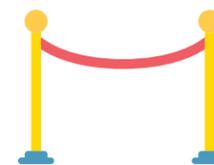
40 & 400
Park Sites Total Acres



17
Miles of Trails



40+
Special Events



2,404
Batavia Depot Museum
Visitors



3,224
Volunteer Hours
Per Year



81
Senior Club
Members



1920
Hall Quarry Beach
Opened

Highlights

- ▶ Hitchcock Design Group was contracted to develop the Fox River Corridor Master Plan. A Community Open House was held to discuss the Master Plan.
- ▶ Staff attended the annual Illinois Park and Recreation Association/Illinois Association of Park Districts State Conference virtually.
- ▶ The State of Illinois issued five liquor licenses for the following locations: Civic Center, Peg Bond Center, Batavia Depot Museum, Eastside Community Center, and The Lodge at Laurelwood.
- ▶ After being canceled in 2020, Windmill City Festival resumed August 27-29, co-sponsored by The City of Batavia. The Comedy Vault hosted two stages on the east side of the river.
- ▶ Batavia Park District's Windmill City Fest was voted 2021 Best Festival in Kane County in the Kane County Chronicle's Readers' Choice Awards.
- ▶ The Park District and the City of Batavia rezoned two plats on South River Street from residential to open space.
- ▶ The Park District purchased the Batavia Professional Building at 150 Houston Street.
- ▶ A new community magazine named *The Batavian* was created to launch in the new year.

- ▶ Commissioner John Tilmon was re-elected to a six-year term and Commissioner Molly Connolly was elected to fulfil the remaining two years of Tom Dorsey's former seat.
- ▶ Rescheduled due to the pandemic, a retirement celebration was held for five retirees: Jim Eby, Tammi LaFleur, Eric Lacher, Robin Soderquist, and Donna Taylor.



Highlights

- ▶ Josh Wyant, Batavia Park District's Director of Facilities & Trades, received the Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Jim Redmon, a 10-year member of the Illinois Army National Guard and the Park District's Superintendent of Facilities & Trades, nominated Wyant for the award. Wyant also is a U.S. Army veteran. (Pictured above)
- ▶ Former Superintendent of Facilities Josh Wyant was promoted to Director of Facilities and Trades.
- ▶ Former East Side Parks Crew Leader Alex Macias was promoted to Superintendent of Parks.
- ▶ Former Trades Technician Jim Redmon was promoted to Superintendent of Facilities and Trades.
- ▶ Superintendent of Parks Alex Macias passed his CPR instructor training course and pesticide applicator test.
- ▶ Park Technician Eduardo Espinoza received his commercial pesticide license.
- ▶ Trades Crew Leader Jeff Ruhl and Trades Technician Adam Roudebush passed the Certified Playground Safety Inspector exam.
- ▶ Kate Garrett joined the District as the Director of the Batavia Depot Museum.
- ▶ Debbie Gentry joined the District as Executive Assistant.
- ▶ Director of Parks and Properties Eric Lacher retired from the District after 35 years of service.
- ▶ Former Executive Assistant Debbie Gentry was promoted to Director of Marketing & Public Relations.
- ▶ Former Superintendent of Parks Kim Hansen was promoted to Director of Parks.





The District has six 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. This year, the event was held via Zoom due to the pandemic.

Safety Committee

This committee creates and maintains a safe environment for staff and patrons. The committee is composed of staff members from various departments who take a particular interest in well-being and safety. Safety trainings were done virtually in the first half of the year and CPR training was held in small groups.

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.

Facilities Committee

This committee enhances facilities’ image through aesthetic improvements and accessibility. Staff evaluates the current facility usage and identifies potential programming opportunities while improving appearance and functionality. In 2021, the Hall Quarry Beach parking lot was regraded and paved, sidewalks and new fencing were added. Shannon Hall was redecorated with new wood floors, modern LED lighting and neutral paint colors, perfect for facility rentals.

Technology Committee

This committee prepares and implements the District’s strategic technology plan. Staff develops recommendations for the annual IT budget and provides technology training to staff. In 2021, the District successfully partnered with Verizon Wireless to upgrade all District-owned cell phone devices for free, which totaled 24 devices throughout the Finance, Marketing and Recreation Departments. In addition, the District purchased four new tablets to be used throughout the District to accept credit card payments, specifically at events such as Windmill City Festival and the River Rhapsody Summer Concert Series.

Customer Service Committee

This committee ensures that all staff members understand the value of excellent internal and external customer service. The committee was reactivated in the fall of 2021, and new members were chosen.



Shannon Hall’s interior was redecorated and updated in 2021.



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

Highlights

- ▶ Early in the year, New Horizons Preschool, fitness classes, and Batavia Senior Citizens Club meetings were held via Zoom. Virtual Recreation options continued to be offered online.
- ▶ Staff assembled activity boxes for Daddy Daughter Date Night and also created new programs, such as the Tween Glow-in-the-dark Egg Hunt; family trivia nights; ultimate frisbee camps; basketball clinics; and gardening and pop-up yoga classes.
- ▶ The Park District's Kindergarten Enrichment program was absorbed by Batavia Public School District 101.
- ▶ For the first time, the Kids' Club program was offered at all six Batavia elementary schools.
- ▶ The Hall Quarry Beach reopened in May after being closed the summer of 2020.
- ▶ Hall Quarry Beach's 100th anniversary was postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. On June 27, 2021, staff and residents celebrated with food, throwback games, and fun! The Beach's mascot Chuck the Duck also joined the party.
- ▶ Kamp Kaleidoscope is reimagined as Camp SUN-sational and held at the Eastside Community Center. The camp featured new camp groupings for K-2, 3-4, and 5-6.
- ▶ The River Rhapsody outdoor summer concert series resumed. For the first time, wine from a local restaurant, Acquaviva, was sold for participants to enjoy.
- ▶ Trips, Easter events, Batavia Senior Citizens Club luncheons, and recreational basketball leagues resumed in person.
- ▶ The District partnered with Strikers Fox Valley Soccer Club to offer recreational, developmental soccer leagues.



Highlights

- ▶ The Depot Pond ice skating rink was open for a record-breaking 30 days.
- ▶ The Parks staff attended the Great Lakes Park Training Institute virtually.
- ▶ The Parks team removed invasive plants on the shoreline along the Batavia Depot Museum bike path.
- ▶ The Parks team cleared out invasive plants on the hill behind Hall Quarry Beach's dive tower.
- ▶ As part of the Memorial Program, five benches and seven trees were installed.
- ▶ The Parks team grew over 3,000 annuals in its greenhouse.
- ▶ The Parks Department hosted its annual community appreciation luncheon.
- ▶ Two community parks clean-up days were held.
- ▶ Park Specialist Hector Perez rebuilt the Batavia Depot Museum's limestone retaining wall.



The Parks team creates and maintains beautiful, healthy environments in the 40 parks and properties and nearly 400 acres of land owned by the District. Recreational amenities include 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 disc golf course.

Highlights

- ▶ Shannon Hall was redecorated with new lighting, a fresh color scheme, paint, and acoustic pannels.
- ▶ The District upgraded its managed access system for secure entry to buildings.
- ▶ Hamlet Park playground equipment replacement was completed.
- ▶ New sand volleyball courts were installed at South Mill Creek Community Park.
- ▶ The Lodge at Laurelwood received new flooring, paint, and lighting.
- ▶ Hall Quarry Beach was regraded and new sand replaced the existing sand at the beach and two volleyball courts.
- ▶ Hall Quarry Beach's parking lot was renovated in the fall. A sidewalk and new fencing also was installed.



Highlights

- ▶ After a shuttered year in 2020, the Batavia Depot Museum came back strong, serving 2,404 visitors in 2021.
- ▶ Three new temporary exhibits opened at the Museum: *Heart and Hustle*, *Good Roads*, and *From Silver to #selfies*.
- ▶ Two seasonal staff members were hired to expand hours of operation on Saturdays and Sundays, increasing museum accessibility.
- ▶ Batavia History Trolley Tours were added to program offerings.
- ▶ The Museum hosted its annual Craft and Vintage Market at Windmill City Festival.
- ▶ The Museum supported Camp SUN-sational with weekly museum field trips for each age group of camp participants from June through August.
- ▶ The Museum participated in Batavia Mainstreet's Second Friday activities with special evening hours to engage with the downtown community.
- ▶ The Historical Preservation Commission approved the shingle and flat roof materials for the Depot Museum roof project.
- ▶ Volunteerism at the Museum remained high, with 725 hours recorded in all areas of museum operation.



The Batavia Depot Museum is a cooperative effort between the Batavia Park District and the 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.



The Facilities & Trades team manages vendor contracts, renovations, and maintenance for all 40 District facilities, including the new facility purchased this year at 150 Houston Street. 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.



The Human Resources Department assumes responsibility for overall risk management operations, general safety, policy development, training, wellness, compensation, benefits, and employment-related matters of the Batavia Park District. The District employs a full-time staff of 40 and 200 part-time and seasonal workers.



Highlights

- ▶ The District updated COVID-19 signage and communications for employees and residents using park district facilities.
- ▶ The Leadership Team continued to work with the Kane County Health Department and PDRMA to handle COVID-19 cases.
- ▶ Staff further reduced the risk of community spread by deep cleaning and disinfecting areas following CDC guidelines.
- ▶ The District received a grant from PDRMA and created a Zen Room for employees to relax.
- ▶ A new Teleworking policy was approved by the Board.
- ▶ A COVID-19 "School Personnel" Vaccination and Testing Policy was implemented.

Highlights

- ▶ The District won four prestigious awards in the IAPD/IPRA's 2021 Agency Showcase statewide competition: 1st place for the Printed Brochure Series; 1st place for Large Format Marketing; 3rd place for Logo Design; and 4th place for the Print Promotional category. The first award was for the District's quarterly brochure, or "Fun Guide;" the second two awards captured the rebranding of Hall Quarry Beach, Batavia's iconic summer destination; and the fourth award was for a postcard for the Quarry's reopening after being closed in 2020 due to the pandemic.
- ▶ The Marketing Department moved to offices upstairs in the Civic Center.
- ▶ Staff continued to work in person and remotely around COVID mitigations. They proactively informed residents of promotions available and changes to programs through email blasts and updated signage on lobby doors. They also personally called residents who were registered for programs and affected by any changes.
- ▶ The Customer Relations team sold 2,171 Hall Quarry Beach season passes, which were sold at pre-season rates for the full swimming season. For the first time, patrons also could renew their passes online.
- ▶ The Hall Quarry Beach logo and signage were redesigned, featuring a modernized Chuck the Duck mascot, to rebrand the Quarry and to commemorate its 100th anniversary.



- ▶ An online Fun Guide survey was conducted, which garnered 225 responses. Four public focus groups were scheduled to discuss the quarterly Fun Guides.



The Marketing and Public Relations Department is composed of six full-time and one part-time staff, which includes a dedicated Customer Relations team. 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 and updates the District websites.

The Depot Pond ice skating rink was open for a record-breaking 30 days.



Highlights

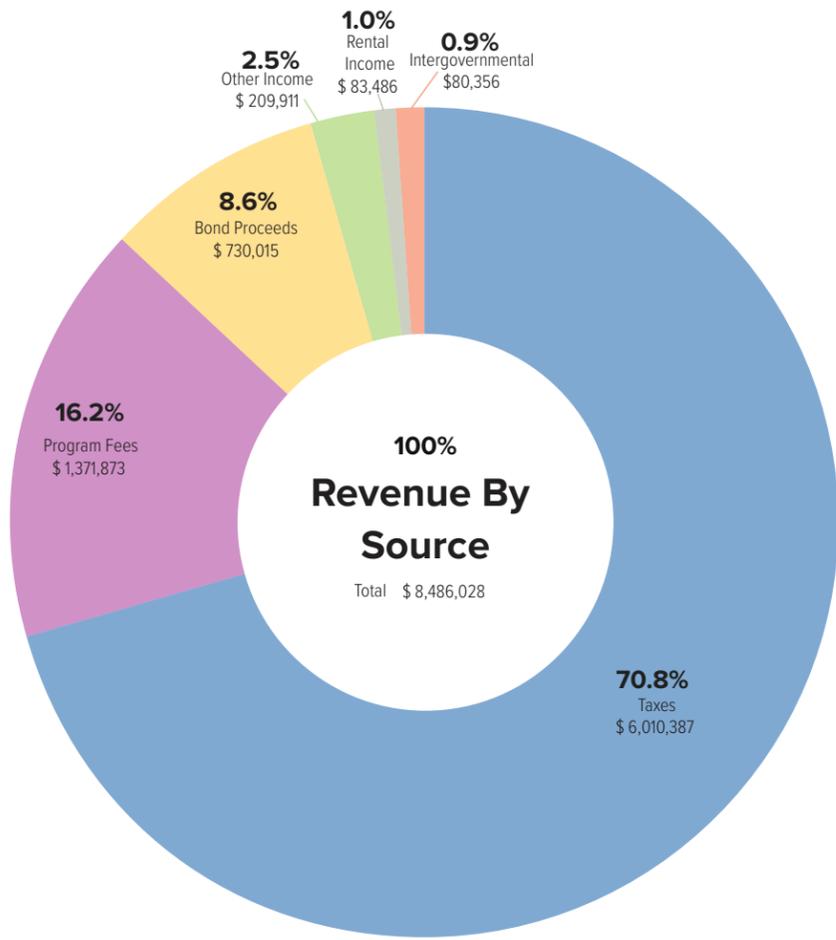
- ▶ The District received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).
- ▶ The Director of Finance attended a Master Class in Cost Recovery, which set the foundation for creating a cost recovery philosophy and strategy for the District.
- ▶ The District received the second Coronavirus Relief disbursement from Kane County in the amount of \$13,790.30 at the end of March. The total grant reimbursement received through this program was \$28,552.11 to help offset direct COVID-19 expenditures the District incurred during 2020.



The Finance Department

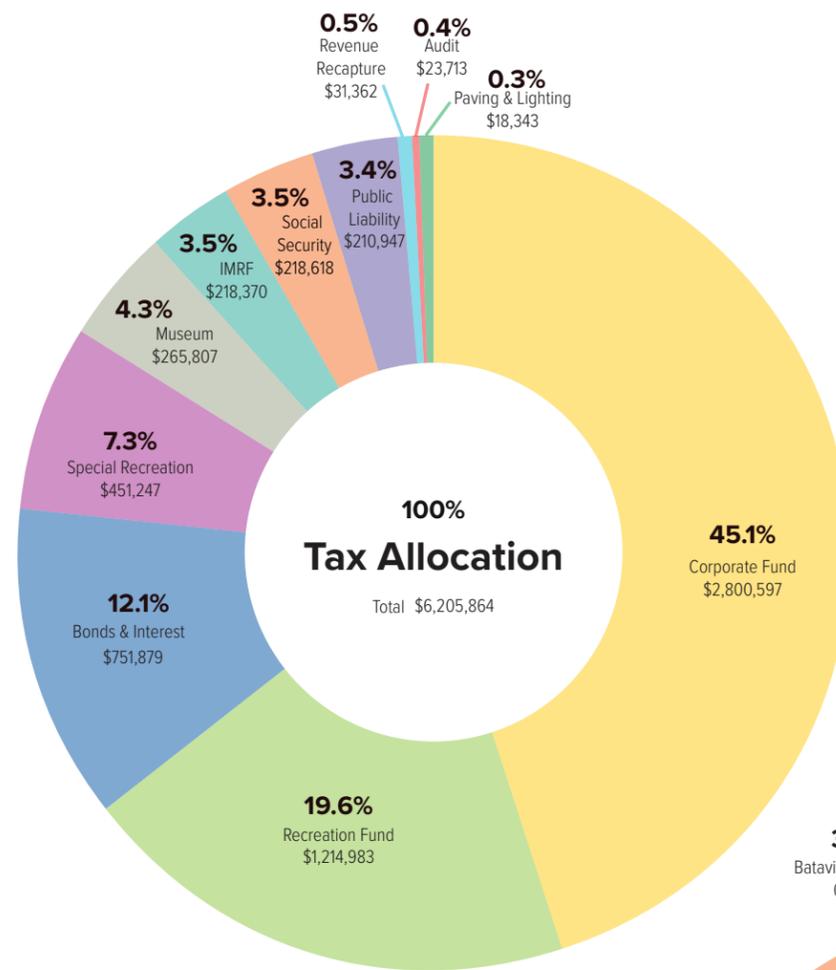
is responsible for all financial reporting and accounting functions for the District, including budgets, audit, payroll, purchasing, and debt management. At the close of the fiscal year, the Finance Department coordinates the audit process and prepares the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The Finance Department also manages the budget process and develops priorities based on the Board of Commissioners' goals and oversees Information Technology for the entire District.

Where Tax Dollars Go



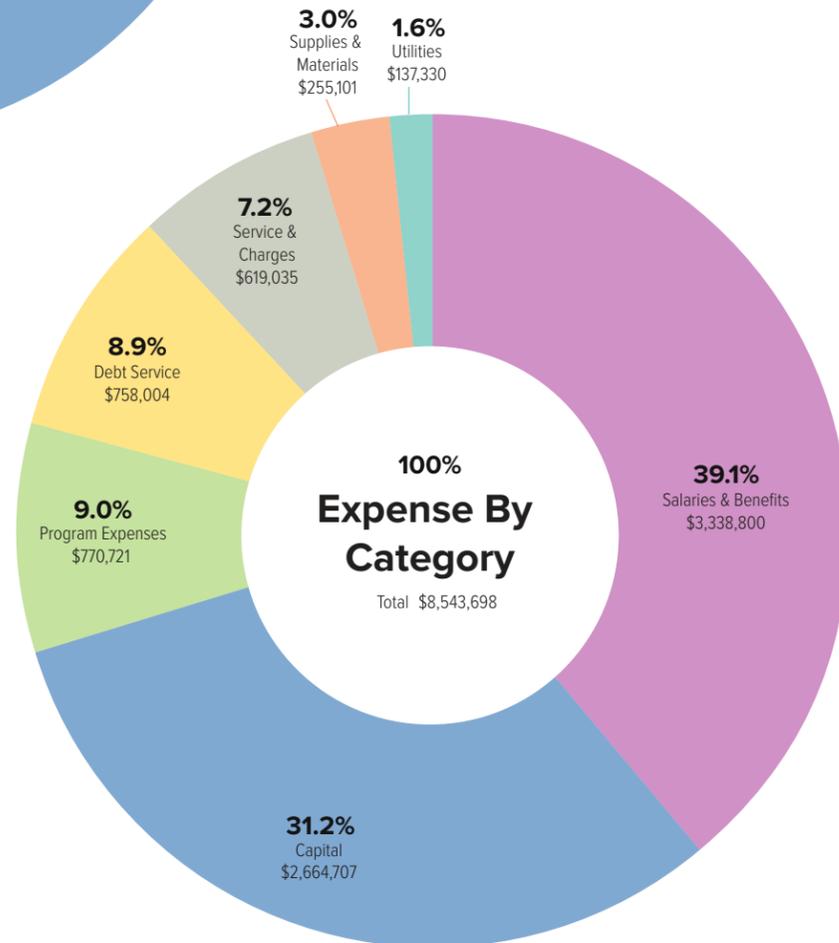
Sources of Revenue

The Batavia Park District's largest revenue source is property taxes, which represented 71% of total revenue in 2021, as compared to 75% in 2020. The decrease was primarily due to the recovery of program revenue in 2021 compared to 2020, when program revenue was significantly lower due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Program revenue was the District's second largest source at 16%. The third largest revenue source in 2021 was bond proceeds at 9%. Examples of other revenue sources are District facilities rentals, concession sales, interest income, sponsorships, grants and donations.



Allocation by Fund

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 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. As of December 31, 2021, the District had no long-term debt outstanding.

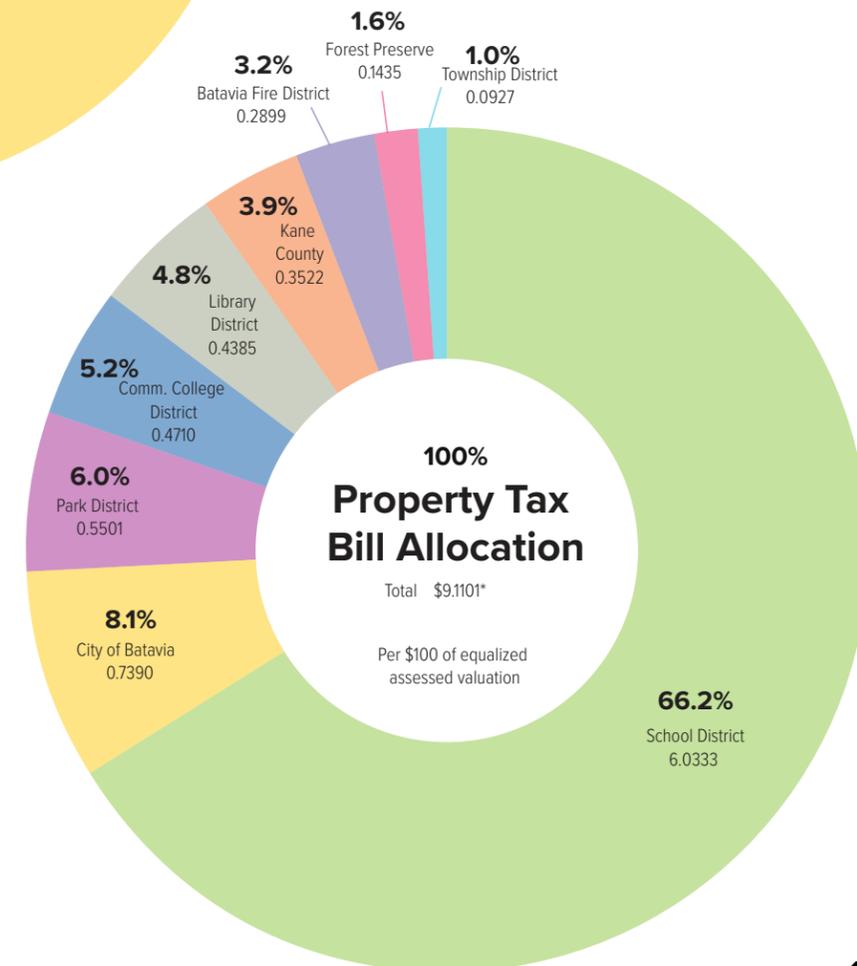


Internal

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.

External

The Batavia Park District represents just 6% of the Batavia-based annual tax bill. This level helps fund public use and management of 40 park sites totaling 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.





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, and also participates and promotes special events and programs that enhance participation in the parks.



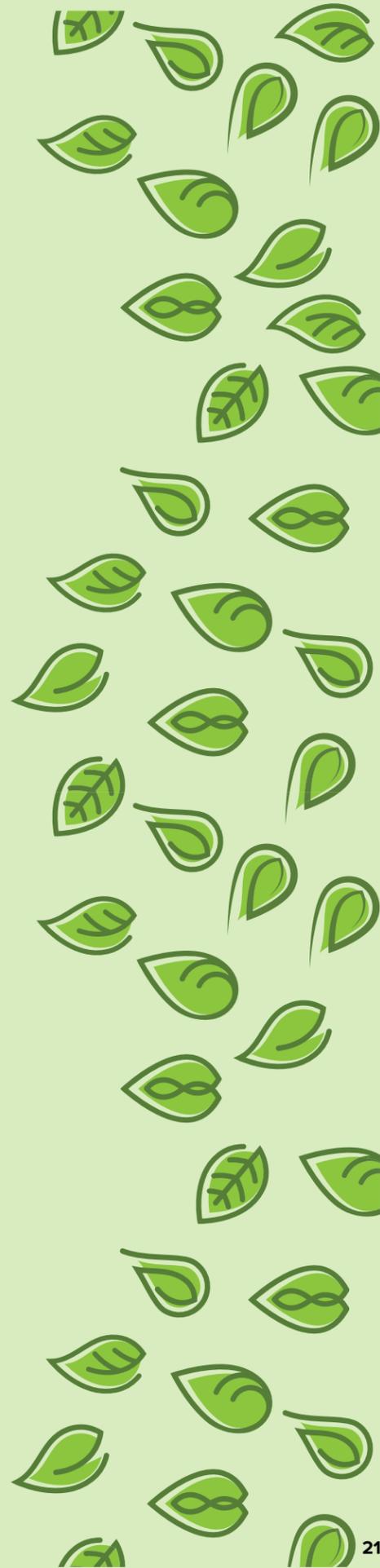
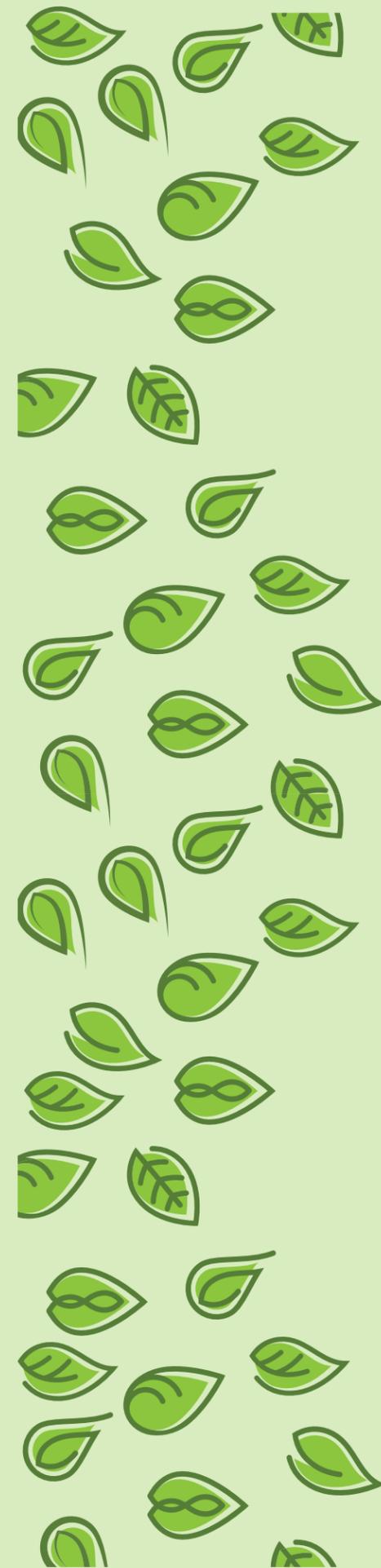
Highlights

- ▶ Britta McKenna became the Parks Foundation President and new Board members were slated.
- ▶ ENgage Batavia Volunteers project was launched, and offered a custom deck of 68 information cards that featured volunteer opportunities at non-profits and other organizations in Batavia.

Funded Projects

Since its inception in 2005, the Batavia Parks Foundation has raised more than \$500,000 in funds and has completed a number of capital projects. The Foundation continues to search for ways to raise funds and to complete projects that will enhance the community.

- ▶ Engstrom Family Park Space Net
- ▶ Batavia Riverwalk & Peg Bond Center
- ▶ Disc Golf Course
- ▶ Batavia Riverwalk Boardwalk Project
- ▶ Bulldogs Unleashed public art event
- ▶ Engstrom Park Ballfield upgrade



Your Fun is Our Business!

