



# 2023 Annual Report



**Batavia**  
Park District  
*Your fun is our business!*



# Welcome to Batavia **Park District**

*Your fun is our business!*

Welcome to the Batavia Park District – “Committed to providing fun, safe and innovative open space and recreational opportunities that will enrich the quality of life for our residents.”

Batavia Park District has been providing memorable experiences in parks and recreation for the community since its inception in 1969. Nestled in the scenic Fox River Valley and just 45 miles west of Chicago, Batavia serves a thriving, growing community 26,000 people strong. Batavia boasts a windmill heritage, rich in history and steeped in traditional family values. Batavia is a popular place to settle because of its close proximity to the river, trails, thoroughfares and direct access to Chicago. Add to those elements the family-oriented nature of the city, small hometown feel, and old-fashioned values. Founded in 1833, it is the oldest city in Kane County.

## **Batavia, Illinois**

**Population: 26,122**

### **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.

### **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.





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## Website

[bataviaparks.org](https://bataviaparks.org)

## Social Media

[@bataviaparks.org](https://www.instagram.com/bataviaparks.org)



# Community led & focused

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, tennis, pickleball and basketball courts. The District offers nearly 2,000 programs each year and serves roughly 95,000 participants through various recreational, arts and environmental programs.

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 Batavia Civic Center, 327 W. Wilson St., Batavia. **All are welcome to attend.**

The Park Board meetings are televised on Batavia Access Television (BATV). Meeting agendas, minutes, ordinances and reports are available online at [bataviaparks.org/the-board-room](http://bataviaparks.org/the-board-room)

The day-by-day operations of the District are run by the Executive Director who reports to the Board of Commissioners.



**Patrick J. Callahan**

President

*Celebrated 25 years of service*



**John Tilmon**

Vice-President

*Celebrated 15 years of service*



**Tara Gray**

Secretary



**Kevin Riley**

Treasurer



**Molly Connelly**

Commissioner

## Commissioners Elected in 2023



**Samantha**

**“Sam” Bell**



**Julie Larson**



**Allison Niemela**

Executive Director

# Creating fun **for all.**

It's not work when you love what you do. Park District staff, be it outdoors maintaining parks and playgrounds, at a special event, teaching a class or helping customers, love providing fun and enriching opportunities for people within Batavia.



Staff contact information is available at [bataviaparks.org/staff-directory](http://bataviaparks.org/staff-directory)

**It takes a community to run a park district.**

Thank you to all of the part-time staff, seasonal staff and volunteers who help run the programs and parks for the community.

**175**

Part-time & seasonal workers

**42**

Full time staff

**80**

Hall Quarry Beach staff



# Award **winning**

Batavia Park District works hard to be the best park district possible for the community by constantly striving to reach and exceed industry standards in park management, financial transparency, exception programming and employee engagement.

## **Distinguished Accreditation**



The Batavia Park District was recognized as an Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency with the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). In late fall, the District underwent a comprehensive evaluation to determine whether it met the stringent criteria. A Joint Distinguished Park and Recreation

Accreditation Committee (JDPRAC) composed of members from IAPD and IPRA visited District parks and facilities and reviewed District documentation and information.

The team reviewed general management procedures, recreation statistics, master plan, finance and business operations, facilities and parks, personnel, recreation services, legal documentation, conservation of natural resources and other materials including mission statements, goals and safety manuals.

In compliance with the program, Batavia Park District will be reevaluated in five years to verify that they have continued to demonstrate sound management practices in providing quality park and recreation services to the community. Less than 10% of all park districts in Illinois receive state accreditation.



## **Top Workplace**

Batavia Park District was recognized as a Chicago Tribune Top Workplace in 2023. The recognition is a result of an employee engagement survey during the summer. Employees had the opportunity to share feedback on the workplace including their level of engagement, areas for improvement, and their favorite things about working for the District. Batavia Park District proudly ranked 97 th overall in the small business category.



**Government Finance Officers Association  
Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in  
Financial Reporting**

This is the highest distinguished achievement a governing body can receive.



**Daily Herald 2023 Readers' Choice  
Awards:**

Best Park District



**Kane County Chronicle's 2023 Readers' Choice  
Award for Best Summer Fun Park District**

**Location in Kane County:**

Hall Quarry Beach



**Award of Merit by the Illinois Association of  
Museums and a Superior Achievement Award for  
the Best of Illinois History Award by the Illinois  
State Historical Society** for the "Refraction: Finding  
Identity" exhibit



**Forbes Magazine 2023 America's Best Small  
Employers**

**MARKETING & DESIGN:**

1st place blue ribbon in design at the IAPD/IPRA State Conference for Printed Brochure Series. Honorable mention for Integrated Photography



# Grant awards

Batavia Park District actively seeks out grant funding to offset construction and program costs. These resources allow the District to complete projects and provide services that would otherwise not be feasible.

## \$2.8 million

### **Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act (PARC) Grant**

The District received this grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the construction of the Patrick J. Callahan Center.

## \$600,000

### **Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant**

The Clark Island Recreation Expansion project received this matching funds grant from the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

## \$50,000

### **National Fitness Campaign Grant**

The District received this grant to help support the development of the Fitness Court at Clark Island Recreation Area

## \$900

### **National Day of Play Grant**

The Batavia Depot Museum received this award from Nickelodeon and the Association of Children's Museums

**\$3,450,900 total grant funding received in 2023**

# Working in the **community**

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Batavia Park District works closely with other local, state and national organizations to provide the best services and support for the community. The District prides itself on the strong intergovernmental and community relationships that lead to better service for everyone in Batavia.

## **Local Organizations**

- City of Batavia
- Batavia Public Library
- Batavia Public School District 101
- Batavia Parks Foundation
- Batavia Chamber of Commerce
- Batavia Rotary Club
- Batavia Lions Club
- Kiwanis Club
- Batavia Historical Society
- Batavia Youth Baseball
- Batavia United Way
- CHIP In Batavia
- Fox Valley Special Recreation Association (FVSRA)
- Batavia MainStreet
- Batavia Access Television
- Women in Leisure Services (WILS) Chi-Chapter
- Fox River Ecosystem Partnership
- Suburban Park and Recreation Association (SPRA)

## **State & National Organizations**

- Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA)
- Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD)
- Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA)
- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
- Midwest Institute of Park Executives (MIPE)
- Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA)

## **Staff Liaisons**

Staff represent the Park District on many different community organizations:

- Batavia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- Fox Valley Special Recreation Association Board of Directors
- Fox River Ecosystem Partnership
- Illinois Park and Recreation Association Department Head Task Force
- Fox Valley Special Recreation Association Board of Directors Alternate
- Batavia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Alternate
- Park District Risk Management Agency Representative
- HR Source Advisory Council
- Batavia Rotary Club Treasurer
- Batavia Kiwanis Club
- Batavia Parks Foundation Liaison
- Batavia Access Television Board Secretary



# Supporting a healthy community

Batavia Park District provides both programs and natural areas to help Batavia residents live healthy and fun lives. With miles of trails, thousands of programs and dozens of places to play there is something for everyone to do in Batavia.

**45**

Parks & facilities

**400**

Acres of parkland

**1**

Free dog park

**3**

Community access points to the Fox River

**10**

Outdoor tennis courts

**17**

Miles of paths

**7**

Fishing areas

**180**

Acres of natural area habitat

**2**

Indoor gymnasiums

**10**

Outdoor pickleball courts

**1**

Preschool

**29**

Rentable spaces

**9**

Outdoor basketball courts

**33**

Picnic locations

**1**

Peace Bridge

**16**

Sports fields

**1**

Museum

**1**

Aquatic Center

**2**

Community centers

**1**

Historic trolley

**2000+**

Programs offered annually

**1**

Senior Center

**9 trees, 5 benches**

Memorial program additions

**40+**

Special events

**1**

Skate park

**20**

Park shelters

**26**

Playgrounds



# Always improving

Batavia Park District is committed to improving the lives of the community and District as a whole. The District has five internal committees that focus on improvement in several important areas. Each committee is composed of staff members representing the various departments within the District.

## **Team Building: Activities Committee**

This committee organizes a number of events throughout the year to encourage team building, enhance interdepartmental communication and boost staff morale.

## **Safety First: Safety Committee**

This committee creates and maintains a safe environment for staff and patrons.

## **Sustainability: Green Committee**

This committee educates and engages staff and external customers to participate in practices and activities to reduce the burden on our resources and the environment. Major projects in 2023 included providing green tips each month in the employee newsletter and completing the IPRA Environmental Report Card.

## **Listening and Acting: Customer Service Committee**

Focusing on both internal and external customer service, this committee looks at ways to improve communication between the District, staff and customers. Major projects in 2023 included the adaptation of a texting-based customer service portal and customer service week.

## **Digital Support: Technology Committee**

This committee plans and implements the District's technology plan. This committee was founded in 2023 and spearheaded email safety training.

**Do you have a suggestion to help improve the District? Let us know at [bataviaparks.org/contact](https://bataviaparks.org/contact)**



# Achieving & **succeeding**

## *District-wide successes*

Batavia Park District is committed to continuously improving and enhancing the community by offering top-level programs, maintaining beautiful parks and running state-of-the-art facilities. By prioritizing the needs of residents, the District works tirelessly to ensure that every park is a welcoming, well-equipped space for recreation and relaxation. The District's innovative programs cater to diverse interests, from sports leagues to arts and cultural activities, fostering a vibrant and active community. With a focus on excellence, the Park District ensures that each facility is carefully managed and kept up-to-date, providing a safe, enjoyable environment for all to experience.



### **Distinguished Accreditation**

The Batavia Park District was recognized as an Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency with the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA).

## *Staff successes*



### **Nathaniel Jaroz**

Received the Nationally recognized Certified Park and Recreation Professional Certification.



# District **Departments**

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To ensure the success of Batavia Park District, the organization is divided into six major departments. All departments report to the Executive Director.

**Community Recreation**

**Parks**

**Facilities & Trades**

**Talent & Culture**

**Creative Development**

**& Community Engagement**

**Finance & Business Services**



# Community Recreation

The Community Recreation Team creates innovative programs and events for the community including arts and crafts, dance, fitness, nature, performing arts, preschool, senior activities, tumbling and more! This department also oversees Kids' Club before and after school care program, Batavia Depot Museum and New Horizons Preschool. The recreation department also plans the special events, manages Hall Quarry Beach and coordinates District rentals.

## Major successes

### Scholarship access

The Park District worked with United Way to provide six scholarships through Success by Six to benefit preschool aged children participating in the New Horizons Preschool Program.

### Ties and Tiaras

To be more inclusive to the variety of family types in Batavia, staff changed the name of its Daddy Daughter Dance to Ties and Tiaras. The new format allows a child and any adult to attend this memorable event.

### Touch-a-Truck

A touch-a-truck activity was included in the 2023 Windmill City Festival to add more daytime activities on Saturday during the festival.

### Windmill Whirl 5K

After a long break, recreation staff brought back the 5K race. Proceeds from this race supported the Batavia Park District Scholarship fund.



**15,272**

Activity registrations

**316**

Classes offered at the Eastside Community Center

**1 month**

Youngest program participant

**90%**

of Registration is by Batavia residents

**Summer**

Highest program enrollment

**223**

Classes offered at the Civic Center

**102 years**

Oldest program participant

**84%**

Households enroll in more than one program

**\$5,324**

Scholarship funds awarded

**444**

New families participated in programs

**6.8**

Average program registration per household



# Something for everyone

## *Major program areas in 2023*

*Explore all programs at [bataviaparks.org/fun-guide](https://bataviaparks.org/fun-guide)*

### **Preschool & Youth**

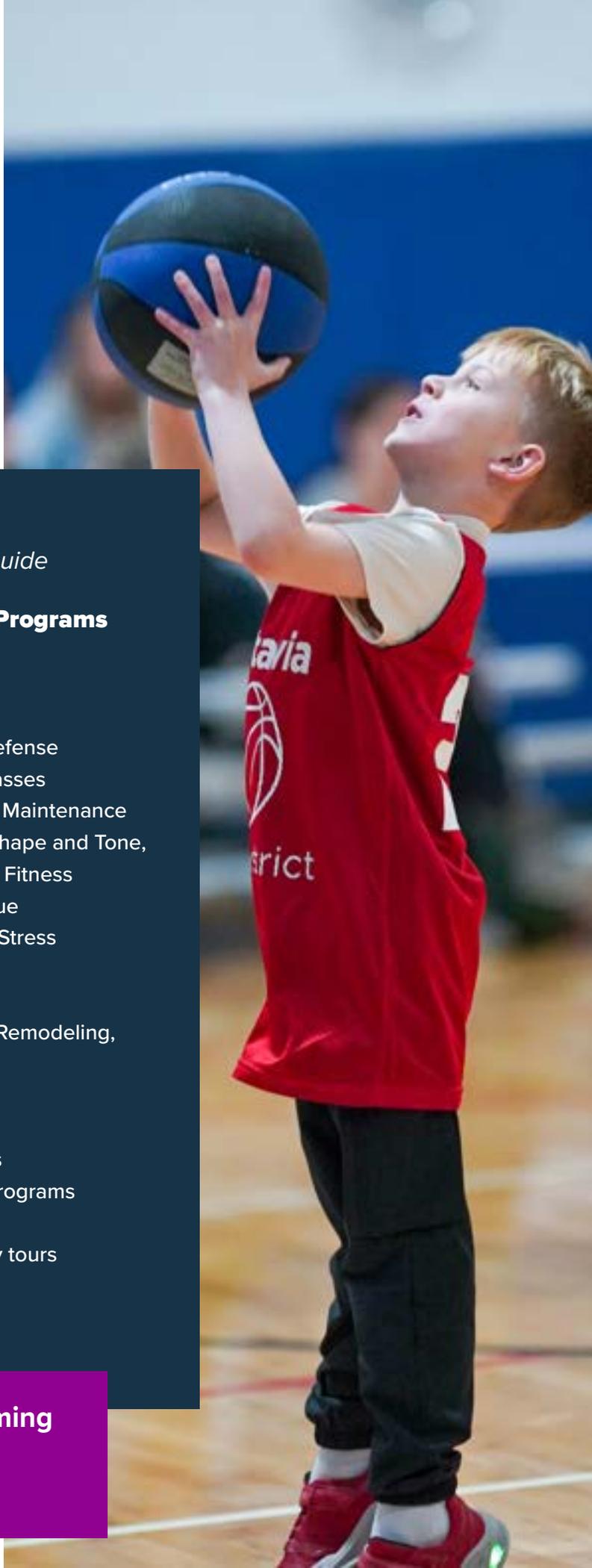
#### **Programs**

Ties and Tiaras  
Music: Tot Rock & Kid Rock  
Preschool Spanish  
Preschool swim lessons  
Basketball league and lessons  
Softball  
Karate  
Athletics: T-ball, track, basketball, soccer, tennis  
Cheer and tumbling  
Nature  
Performing arts  
Dance  
STEAM and STEM  
Robotics  
Chess  
Magic  
Horsemanship  
Self-esteem through comedy

### **Adult & 50+ Programs**

Dog obedience  
Adult dance  
Tai Chi  
Women's self defense  
Card making classes  
NEW! Basic Car Maintenance  
Fitness: Yoga, Shape and Tone, TRX, Lunchtime Fitness  
Basketball league  
Meditation and Stress Management  
Karate  
Bath & Kitchen Remodeling, interior design  
Pickleball  
Horsemanship  
Spanish lessons  
Family nature programs  
Candlemaking  
Historical trolley tours  
Sip and Paint  
Cards & games

**The District expanded adult programming in 2023 to include pickleball, offering both drop-in and tournament play.**





# Childcare programs

## Kids' Club & Klub Fun

The District's before- and after-school care program supports the needs of working families in Batavia. Klub Fun provides safe and fun day off school care for local families.

- 6 Batavia schools serve as Kids' Club sites
- 165 students served
- 211 participants in Klub Fun day off school program



## Summer Camp

One of the District's most successful programs, camp runs from June to early August. It serves children in Kindergarten through sixth grade.

- 11 weeks of summer camp
- 170 different camp options
- 1,438 campers
- 1,026 Camp Sun-sational participants



## New Horizons Preschool

For children ages 3-5, preschool runs from September to May. Learn more [bataviaparks.org/new-horizons-preschool](http://bataviaparks.org/new-horizons-preschool).

- 100 students
- 12:2 student-to-teacher ratio
- 6 teachers with degrees in elementary education or early childhood education
- 1 Young 3s program
- 3 3s classes
- 4 four-year-old programs, three- and four-day options
- 1 pre-kindergarten class

# Community special events

*Special Events: New and updated*

## Windmill City Festival

Windmill City Festival has long been a staple of the community and has become a tradition for many families, formerly called Batavia Boo Boo Days until 1978. The three-day festival offers free concerts, food, beverages, activities and family fun.

## Pints by the Pond

In its second year, the craft beer festival sold out with over 500 tickets purchased prior to the event on Sept. 23, 2023.

- 13 participating local breweries
- 500+ craft beer enthusiasts

## S'mores & More

This popular event offered in the fall includes hayrides, fall crafts and s'mores! Due to the popularity of this event, a second session was added after registration began. The event was held Sept. 21 and 28, 2023.

## Year-round fun

With over 40 special events offered each year there is something for everyone.

- Snowman building contest
- Ties & Tiaras
- Egg Hunts
- Preservation Week
- Super Savvy Senior Expo
- Hall Quarry Beach Events
- River Rhapsody Concerts
- Touch-a-Truck
- Windmill Whirl 5k
- Movies in the Park
- Pints by the Pond
- S'mores & More
- House Decorating
- A Nightmare at West Main
- Celebration of Lights
- Breakfast with Santa

[bataviaparks.org/special-events](http://bataviaparks.org/special-events)



*Summer is better at the beach*

# Hall Quarry Beach

*A great summer starts here*

Hall Quarry Beach employed 46 lifeguards, 21 admission/concession staff, four managers, one assistant manager and two custodians for a total of 74 staff members.

Reduced price preseason passes and regular season passes were sold in 2023. More passes were sold in 2023 than in 2022.

Hall Quarry Beach was scheduled to be open 79 days in 2023.

Cleanliness of the Quarry: The Park District employed two daytime custodians to keep the facility clean during open hours.



**2,552**

Season passes sold

**80**

Staff employed



Safety rating

**12,207**

Number of daily passes sold

**20+**

Hours of preseason safety training per staff

**25**

Deck and facility rentals

**250**

Swim lesson participants

**1**

Hour of daily safety training

**3**

Quarry special events

[bataviaparks.org/harold-hall-quarry-beach](http://bataviaparks.org/harold-hall-quarry-beach)



*Preserving and sharing local history*

# Batavia Depot Museum

## *Major successes*

### **Award winning**

The Museum was awarded the Award of Merit by the Illinois Association of Museums and a Superior Achievement Award for the Best of Illinois History Award by the Illinois State Historical Society for the 2022 exhibit, "Refraction: Finding Identity."

### **National Day of Play Grant**

The museum received a grant to offer family-centered programming for National Day of Play. Activities included a custom activity booklet and yard games.

### **Museums for All**

The Batavia Depot Museum joined Museums for All, a federal program to offer free and reduced admission to low-income residents. The Museum is always free to the public but this list provided an opportunity to better reach out to underserved community.

### **New staff**

The museum welcomed Jessica Meis as the new Curator of the Museum.



### **Exhibits for everyone**

The Museum developed and delivered six original temporary exhibits: Never Done: the Women Who Built Batavia, Meet the Curator, What's in a Name: Batavia Schools Edition, Batavia Hair: Picture Day Edition, From the Desk of Dr. Cigrand and Hometown Holidays.

**3,789**

Visitors

**235**

Batavia students  
visited on field  
trips

**6**

Original  
temporary  
exhibits offered

*[bataviaparks.org/batavia-depot-museum](http://bataviaparks.org/batavia-depot-museum)*



# Parks Department

The Parks Department creates and maintains beautiful, healthy environments in the 45 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.

## Major successes

### Continuing education

Ten Park Technicians obtained their Illinois Pesticide License.

### Batavia Depot Museum Retaining Wall

Repaired the retaining wall on the east side of the museum.

### Camera installation at West Main Community Center

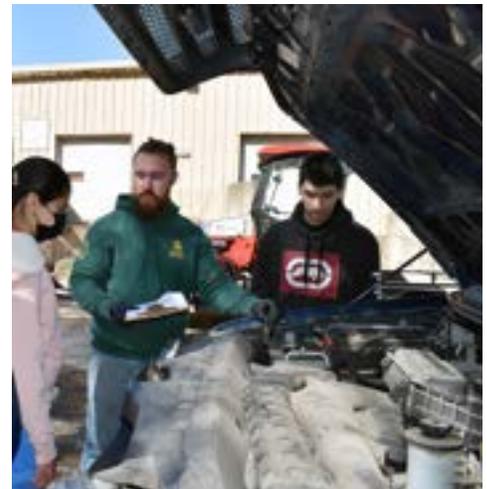
Kane County Sheriff's office installed a camera at West Main Community Park to help deter theft.

### Community education

Parks staff taught programs to the community during the popular Car Maintenance and Annual Flower Cutting classes offered at the Lacher Maintenance Facility.

### West Aurora High School Work Day

The Parks team worked with 30 students and seven adults West Aurora High School. Participants performed various tasks including assembling picnic tables and washing trucks.



## Nestled in nature

Many of the District's parks combine recreation features with the beauty of Batavia's natural landscape. As a community steward for ecological preservation, Batavia Park District builds thriving parks for our human, plant and animal neighbors.

Pictured: South Mill Community Park

45

Parks & Facilities

400

Acres of parkland

17

Miles of paths

180

Acres of natural area habitat

12

Butterfly and Bird Houses

# Volunteer

Are you looking for a way to get involved in the community? From organizations to families to Eagle Scout projects, connect with the Park District for your volunteer needs.

Learn more at [bataviaparks.org/volunteering](https://bataviaparks.org/volunteering)

## *Park projects & updates*

### **Prescribed burns**

Our natural area contractor, Bluestem Ecosystems, performed two prescribed burns at Hawks' Bluff Park and South Mill Creek Park. Prescribed burns are a vital part of maintaining natural areas because they help to increase plant diversity, help control invasive species and improve wildlife habitat.

### **Jones Meadow Path Project**

In 2023 Parks staff redesigned the Jones Meadow Park pathway to reduce flooding.

### **Safety mulch**

701 cubic yards of certified playground safety mulch was installed across the District. Each year staff ensure that the mulch levels at all District parks meet the National safety fall standards requirements.

### **Payne Woods Natural Area**

Staff cleared invasive species from the natural area and sowed native seeds to strengthen the local ecology.

### **Millview Park**

Landscaping at the community park was completely updated in 2023. The new landscape design includes expanded plantings, new plants and features a Weeping Alaskan Cypress tree.

### **Eagle Scout project**

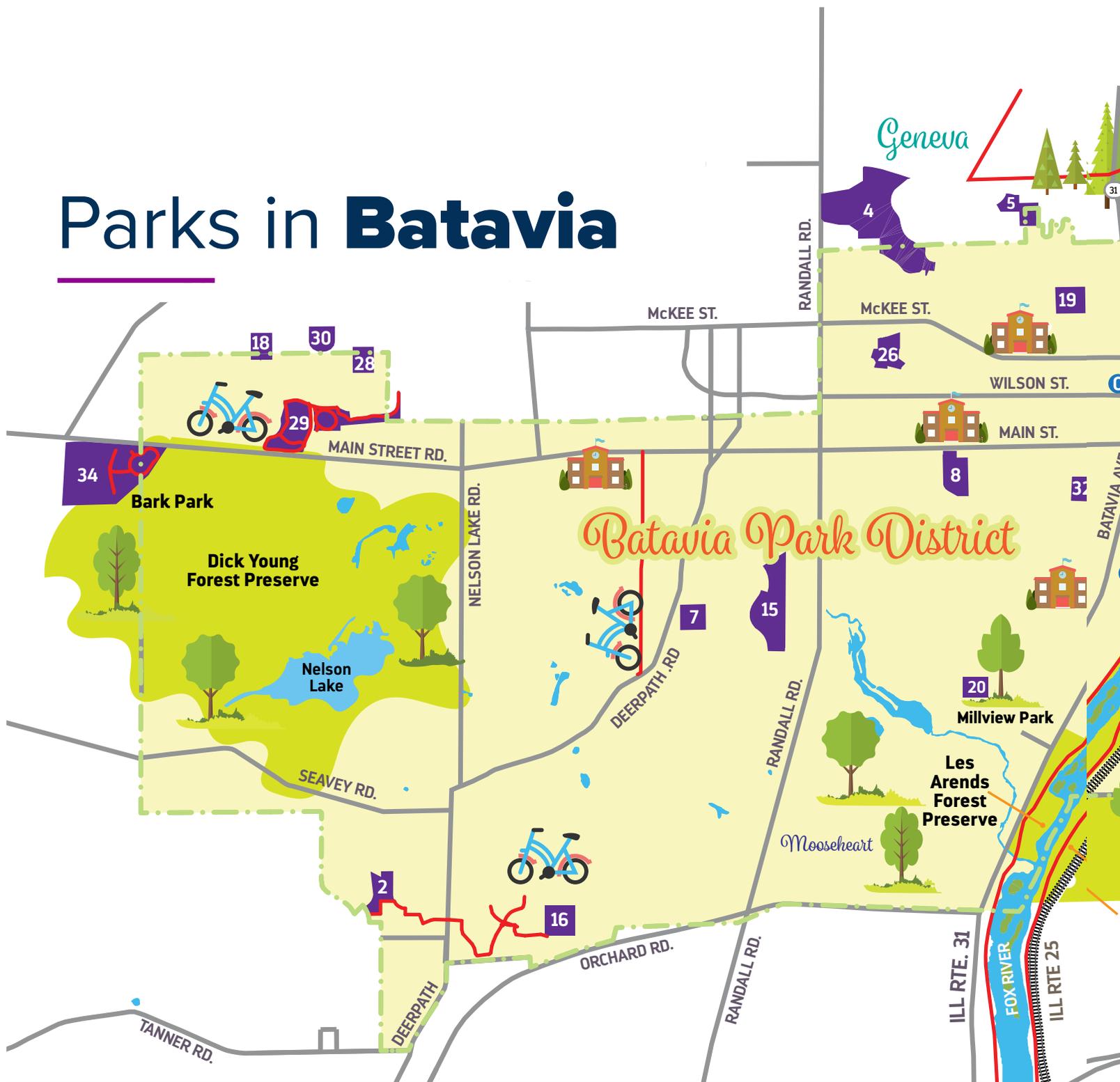
As part of an eagle scout project, 12 butterfly houses were created and installed within the natural areas at Hawk's Bluff Park.



## Made to ride

All of the paths within Batavia Park District are paved. Several of the District's parks and facilities connect with the Fox Valley River Trail.

# Parks in Batavia



## Park District Facilities

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>A</b> <i>Batavia Depot Museum</i> – 155 Houston Street          | <b>F</b> <i>The Lodge at Laurelwood</i> – 800 N. River Street       |
| <b>B</b> <i>Peg Bond Center</i> – 151 Island Avenue                | <b>G</b> <i>Lacher Maintenance Facility</i> – 700 S. River St.      |
| <b>C</b> <i>Civic Center</i> – 327 W. Wilson Street                | <b>H</b> <i>The Batavia Professional Building</i> – 150 Houston St. |
| <b>D</b> <i>Eastside Community Center</i> – 14 N. Van Buren Street | <b>I</b> <i>Harold Hall Quarry Beach</i> – 400 S. Water St.         |
| <b>E</b> <i>Kemp Hall</i> – 18 N. Van Buren Street                 |   |



## Parks

- 1 **Batavia Riverwalk** – Houston St. at Island Ave.
- 2 **Bennett Park** – 2094 Rockwood Ln., N. Aurora
- 3 **Big Woods Park** – 1063 S. Raddant Rd.
- 4 **Braeburn Park and Preserve** – 507 Western Ave.
- 5 **Carriage Crest Park** – 1001 Parkview Dr.
- 6 **Clark Island Recreation Area** – 401/411 S. River St.
- 7 **Coventry Park** – 2552 Hunt Lane
- 8 **Engstrom Family Park** – 326 Millview Dr.
- 9 **Fidler Farm Park** – 2921 Savannah Dr., Aurora
- 10 **Fidler's Oak Park** – Flagstone Ln. at Savannah Dr., Aurora
- 11 **Fox Trail Park** – 411 Fox Trail Dr.
- 12 **H. Michael Wild Park** – 516 Viking Dr.
- 13 **Hamlet Park** – 300 Hamlet St.
- 14 **Hartfield Park** – 1320 Fairfield Way, N. Aurora
- 15 **Hawk's Bluff Park** – 950 Twin Elms Ln.
- 16 **Jones Meadow Park** – 1501 Mooseheart Rd., N. Aurora
- 17 **Laurelwood Park** – 800 N. River St.
- 18 **Levi Newton Park** – 15020 W. Mallory Dr., Geneva
- 19 **Memorial Park** – 601 Illinois Ave.
- 20 **Millview Park** – 1501 Millview Dr.
- 21 **Payne Woods Park** – 2020 Gillenwater St.
- 22 **Philip B. Elfstrom Memorial Greenway** – 103 South River St.
- 23 **Prairie Commons Park** – 1752 Carlsted Dr.
- 24 **Prairie Path Park** – 813 Mark Twain Trail
- 25 **Prairie and Lathem Park** – 601 Lathem St.
- 26 **Saratoga Park** – 100 Saratoga Dr.
- 27 **Shanahan Grove Park** – 800 Cleveland Ave.
- 28 **Shannon Park** – 0S025 E. Mallory Dr., Geneva
- 29 **So. Mill Creek Comm. Park** – 1S455 Wyatt Dr., Geneva
- 30 **Somerset Park** – 01S008 E. Mill Creek Circle, Geneva
- 31 **Van Buren Park** – 231 S. Van Buren St.
- 32 **Walnut Park** – 600 Walnut St.
- 33 **Washington Park** – 401 N. Washington St.
- 34 **West Main Community Park** – 40W101 W. Main St.
- 34 **Bark Park**
- 35 **Wind Energy Park** – 850 Wind Energy Pass
- 36 **Woodland Hills Park** – 515 Woodland Hills Dr.



## Explore

The interactive map at [bataviaparks.org/locations](http://bataviaparks.org/locations)



## If you see something

Call or text 630-879-5235 to report park vandalism

### Other Class Locations

**Red Oak Nature Center**  
2342 S. River Street

**Stephen D. Persinger Recreation Center (SPRC)**  
3507 Kaneville Road, Geneva

**Sunset Community Center (SCC)**  
710 Western Avenue, Geneva

**Pottawatomie Community Center (PCC)**  
8 North Avenue, St. Charles

**Western Elementary**  
1500 Western Avenue, Geneva

**Dunham Woods Farm**  
9N755 Nesler Road, Elgin

**Marquee Youth Stage**  
619 W. Main Street, St. Charles

**Swim with Bill**  
1975 Melissa Lane, Aurora

**Moore Park**  
877 Geneva Drive, Geneva

**Geneva High School**  
416 McKinley Avenue, Geneva

**The Wilds Event Facility**  
1400 N. River Road, North Aurora

# Facilities & Trades

The Facilities & Trades Team manages vendor contracts, renovations and maintenance for all Park District Facilities. Strategic planning is an integral part of the District and this team is heavily involved in the Capital Development Plan (CDP) and is a vital part in keeping the District running.

## Major successes

### Clark Island Recreation Area Project

The Park District received a \$600,000 OSLAD Grant for the renovation of the Clark Island Skate Park, a new outdoor fitness court, fishing outcrops and other amenities. The design and engineering took place in 2023, with construction slated to start in 2024.

For more information visit [bataviaparks.org/clark-island-recreation](https://bataviaparks.org/clark-island-recreation).

### West Main Community Park Pickleball Court Design

The design and engineering process for eight new pickleball courts at West Main Community Park was started. The new courts will replace the current multi-sport court and will include eight new courts, new fencing, shade structures and a rain garden.

For more information visit [bataviaparks.org/west-main-community-park](https://bataviaparks.org/west-main-community-park)

### Tennis Court Resealing

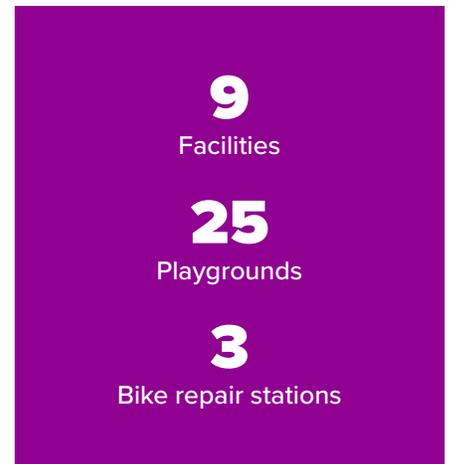
The tennis courts at South Mill Creek Community Park and Prairie and Lathem Park were crack filled, resealed and painted.

### Civic Center Gym Floor Refinish

The gym floor at the Civic Center was sanded down and refinished. Completing this task every three years will increase the longevity of the floor.

### Peace on Earth Bridge Letters

The old wooden Peace on Earth letters on the pedestrian bridge were replaced with white powder coated aluminum letters. This was a collaboration between the Park District at the Batavia Parks Foundation.



## A community project

A cooperative project between the community, the District and the Batavia Parks Foundation, the original letters were created in the early 2000s. Learn the history of the bridge at [bataviaparks.org/peace-bridge](https://bataviaparks.org/peace-bridge).



# Patrick J. Callahan Center

In 2021, the Park District purchased the old professional building located at 150 Houston St., with the idea of renovating the building and creating a new community center. 2022 saw the initial concept and design phases. This project is funded by a PARC grant and the Park District's existing fund balance and did not increase Batavians' property taxes.

2023 The Park District received a \$2.8 million PARC Grant for the project.

2023 The design and engineering phase was completed, and interior demolition was started to prep for the start of construction in 2024.

2023 The building was officially named the Patrick J. Callahan Community Center.

Follow the project progress at [bataviaparks.org/callahan-community-center](https://bataviaparks.org/callahan-community-center)

## *Major construction projects*

### **Demolition and Conversion of 209 S. River St. to Open Green Space**

The Park District purchased the property at 209 S. River St. in 2022. In 2023, the house was demolished and the property was converted to green space as part of the Phil Elfstrom Memorial Greenway.

### **Fiber Installation at Harold Hall Quarry Beach**

New underground and overhead fiber lines were installed at the Quarry.

### **The Eric Lacher Maintenance Facility Parking Lot Replacement**

The parking lot at the maintenance facility was replaced and included new curb and gutter, plus five extra parking spots.

# Talent & culture

The Talent & Culture team assumes responsibility for talent management, employee relations and engagement, overall risk management operations, general safety, policy, training and development, wellness, compensation, benefits and employment related matters for the Batavia Park District. The District employs a full-time staff of 42 and 175 part-time and seasonal workers.

## Major successes

### Top Workplace

The District received Chicago Tribune's Top Workplace in November 2023. The Chicago Tribune identified 197 best companies and organizations to work for in Chicago by collecting data from six surrounding counties. Batavia Park District was the only park district awarded the top workplace in 2023.

### Human Resource Information System (HRIS)

Human Resources and Finance implemented a new Human Resource Information System (HRIS), Paycor. The new system is an All-In-One HR solution that automates routine tasks, mitigate compliance risks and drive efficiencies across the District.

### Keeping staff informed

Full-time and part-time staff participated in the first "All Staff Meeting" which was a suggestion from our employee engagement survey. During the half-day meeting, staff was informed on updates from all departments and completed the required safety training.

### Staff recognition

The 2023 recognition programs include Cheers for Peers (employees nominate colleagues who have gone above and beyond), Safety Bonus and the annual Bruce the Spruce award.

### Risk management review

The PDRMA Risk Management Review award was achieved for all four quarters which resulted in a \$1,500 rebate to the District.

### New staff

The department welcomed Lindsey Williams as the Executive Assistant.

42

Full time staff

175

Part-time & Seasonal  
Workers



# 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, Growth, Creativity, Integrity, Respect & Trust



Bruce the Spruce, the District's official mascot, also reinforces these values in 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

## *Bruce the Spruce Award Winners*

This award recognizes staff two staff who embody the Batavia Park District CORE Values.

### **Alex Macias**

Full-Time Staff  
Winner



### **Kaylee**

### **Gallagher**

Part-Time Staff  
Award Winner



# Creative Development & Community Engagement

The Creative Development & Community Engagement 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. Members of this department create the seasonal Fun Guide, manage sponsorship, create content for the Batavian, manage the District's website and social media and provide graphic and writing support for the District.

## *Major successes*

### **Award-winning design**

The department received two awards at the Illinois Association of Park Districts/Illinois Parks & Recreation Association's 2023 Agency Showcase Competition during the Illinois State Conference: First Place for Large Format Marketing for the Civic Center "Welcome" Mural and Second Place in the Printed Brochure Series Category.

### **New Horizons Preschool: rebranding and logo**

Collaborating with preschool staff, the Strategic Communications staff updated the preschool's branding to align with their goal of creative learning through play, inquiry, science, arts and language. The new branding launched at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.



### **Community Events**

#### **Christmas Tree Lane**

The Community Engagement team organized Christmas Tree Lane securing 25 local organizations to participate in the event

#### **Super Savvy Senior Expo**

The Community Engagement staff secured 33 exhibitors and brought in \$5,350 in funds to help offset senior programming.

### **Text message communication tool**

Working closely with the Business Services Department, the District added inbound text messaging as a communication tool for patrons.

### **New staff**

The department welcomed Katie Burgess as Director of Creative Development and Community Engagement to the team. Jayelin Haines worked with the department during the summer as a marketing intern.

*Keeping you informed*

# Reaching the Community

The Creative Development and Community Engagement department uses multiple communication channels to share events and program updates with the community.

**13,687**

Batavia addresses receive the seasonal Fun Guide

**10,375**

Facebook followers

**4**

Printed Fun Guides each year

**2,573**

Instagram followers

**4**

Digital Fun Guides

**11,240**

E-newsletter subscribers

**6**

Issues of the Batavian

**19,196**

Unique website users

**198,884**

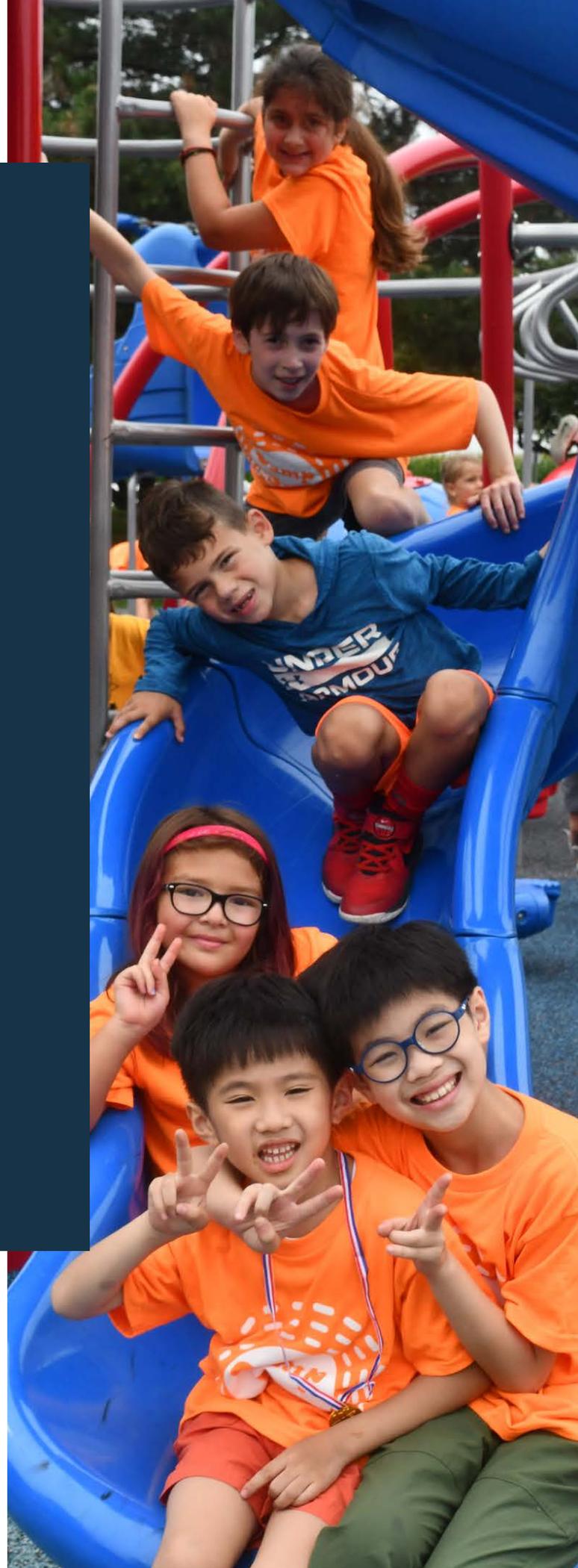
Website visits

**257,412**

Internal webpage visits

## Sponsorship

Event, park signage and program sponsorship falls under this department and is one of the ways the District engages local business with the community. Learn more at [bataviaparks.org/advertising](http://bataviaparks.org/advertising).



# Finance & Business Services

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

## *Annual projects*

### **Annual Comprehensive Financial Report**

Responsible for compiling and presenting the Park District's annual comprehensive financial report, detailing its financial position, activities and compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

### **Annual Budget**

Oversees the development and presentation of the Park District's annual budget, outlining anticipated revenues, expenditures and financial priorities for the upcoming fiscal year to guide operational planning and resource allocation.

## *Major successes*

### **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

The District received the award for the 13th time for the 2022 annual comprehensive financial report.

### **Information Technology Services**

Awarded a long-term contract for information technology contractual services. The contract will provide the District will 24/7 information technology support while maximizing the quality of service received with the least amount of resources.

### **Human Resources Information System (HRIS)**

Coordinated the transition to the District's first HRIS, consolidating multiple platforms previously used for timekeeping, payroll, recruiting and interoffice communication. This integration streamlines several processes, offering centralized management of employee data and operations.

### **Hall Quarry Beach Network Installation**

Partnered with the City of Batavia to bring a fiber internet connection to Hall Quarry Beach. Bringing a secure fiber network connection to the facility marked a significant upgrade in service quality and reliability.

# Fiscal responsibility

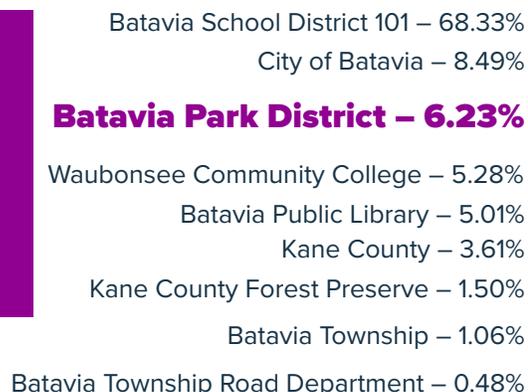
Fiscal responsibility within our Park District means conscientiously managing the financial resources entrusted to us by our community. It involves transparent budgeting, rigorous expense monitoring and strategic allocation of resources to support our mission of providing fun, safe and innovative open space and recreational opportunities that will enrich the quality of life for our residents. We uphold accountability through regular financial reporting and adherence to fiscal policies, aiming to optimize the use of taxpayer dollars for the benefit of our entire community.

## Where do your taxes go?

The Park District' taxing district is not contiguous with the City of Batavia borders. Some Batavia residents do not pay taxes to the Batavia Park District and likewise some nonresidents pay taxes to the Batavia Park District. Please refer to your property tax bill for your specific tax rates.

- The Park District is 6.23% of a typical Batavia resident's total tax bill that is within the Park District's taxing district.
- For every \$1 a person pays in their total tax bill, \$0.0623 cents go to the Park District.
- A resident with a median home value of \$349,700 (per the 2020 US Census) would pay the Park District approximately \$1,870 a year or \$156 per month. Per the 2020 US Census, the median home value in Batavia is \$349,700.

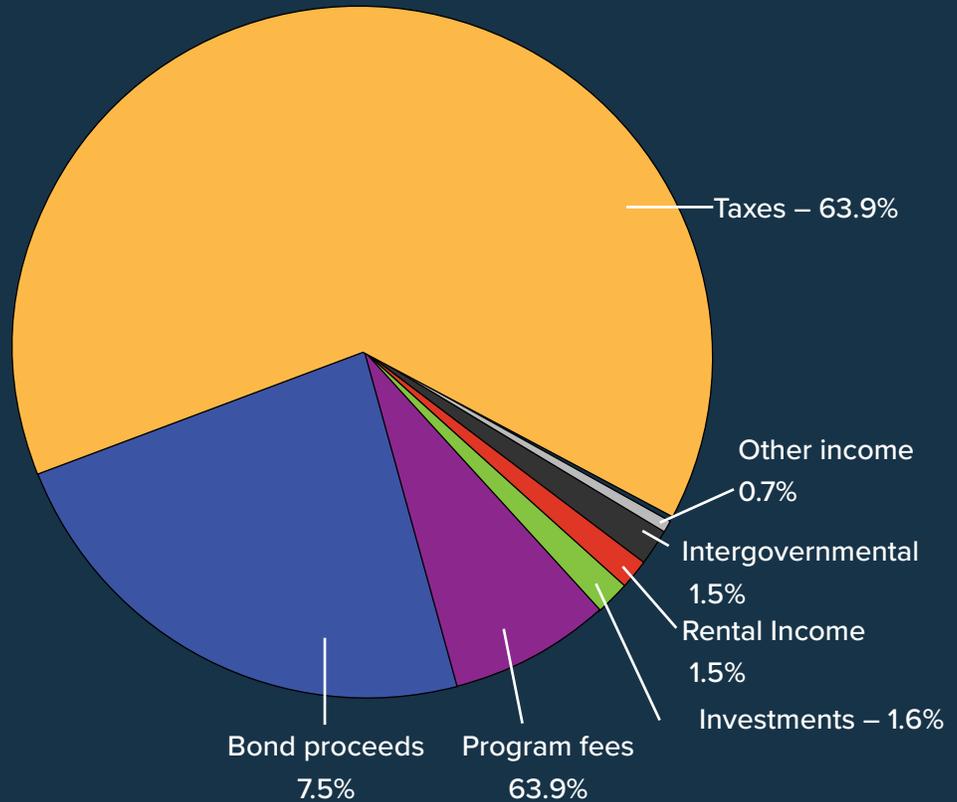
**For every \$1 a person pays on their total tax bill \$0.06 cents go to the Park District**



## Park District revenue streams

- The Park District's largest revenue source is property taxes, which represented 64% of total revenue in 2023 compared to 63% in 2022. Property taxes are levied annually by ordinance and adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

Revenue streams by category



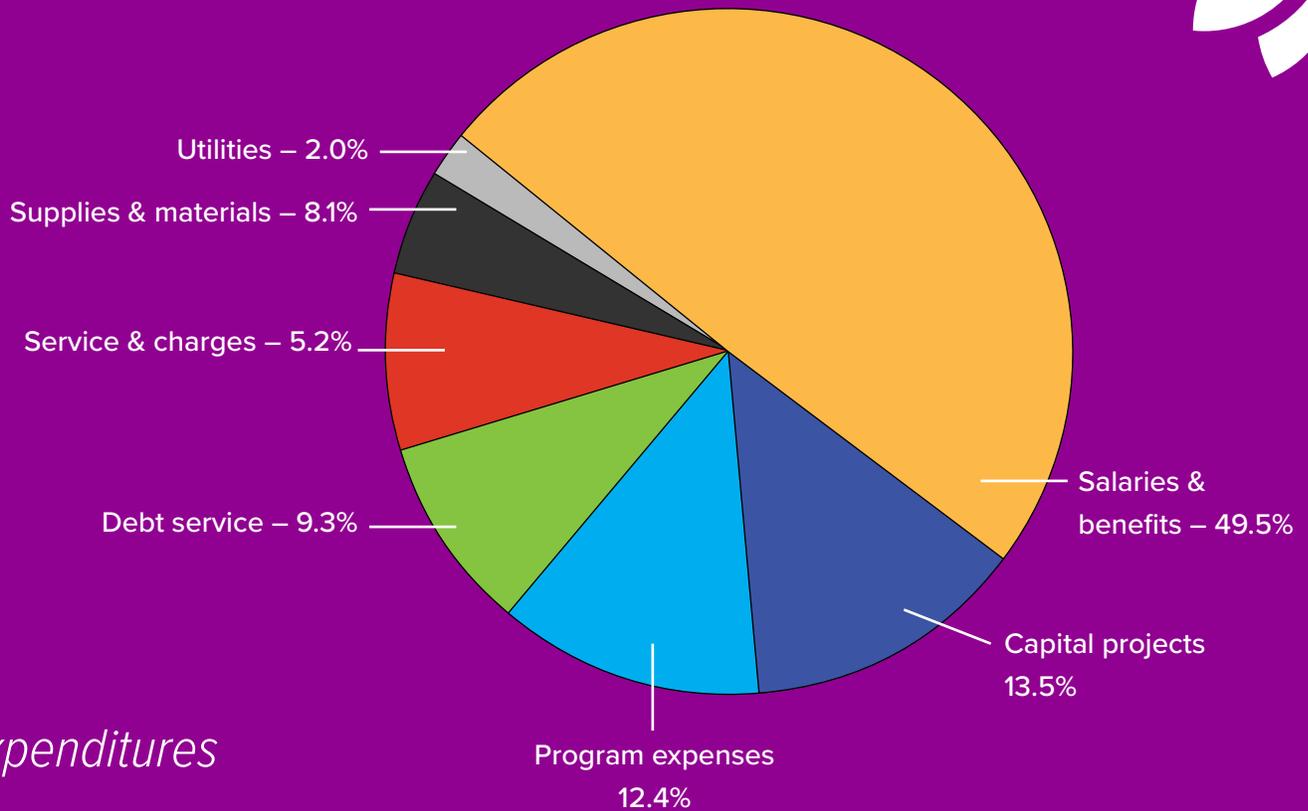
- Program revenue is the Park District's largest non-tax revenue source and was the District's second largest overall source of revenue at 23%. The Park District's three largest program revenues are Kids Club, Camp Sunsational and New Horizons.

- Rental income saw an 8% increase in 2023 compared to 2022 as there continues to be strong demand for facility rentals including Shannon Hall, Peg Bond Center and the Lodge at Laurelwood.
- Additional examples of other revenue sources are investment income, concession sales, sponsorships, grants and donations.





## Expenditure by category



## Expenditures

Expenditures supporting our building and grounds and recreational programming represent the heart and soul of what the Batavia Park District offers.

- As a service industry, people are the major asset of the District. Thus, wages and employee benefits represent the largest allocation of expenditures.
- The second largest expenditure relates to capital outlay for replacement of infrastructure, parks and playgrounds, vehicles and other equipment throughout the District.
- The third largest expenditure category is for our recreational programming. These expenditures support our wonderful programming and events including Windmill City Festival, Pints by the Pond and River Rhapsody.



# Business Services

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The Business Services team at the Park District serves as the primary point of contact for visitors, residents and community members, providing essential customer service and administrative support. Responsibilities include greeting and assisting visitors in person, over the phone or via email regarding Park District facilities, programs and services, processing registrations and reservations for activities and amenities and ensuring accurate information is distributed. The team also helps with maintaining a safe and welcoming environment through monitoring and adhering to safety protocols. Additionally, it promotes community engagement by disseminating information about park events and initiatives and gathering public feedback to enhance visitor experiences and participation in Park District activities.

## *Major successes*

### **Scholarship program**

The Board of Commissioners and staff believe in providing program scholarship opportunities to residents with financial limitations. Revisions were made to the program in order to simplify the application process.

### **New credit card processor**

The Park District accepts credit card payments at multiple locations including the Civic Center, Eastside Community Center, Hall Quarry Beach, Depot Museum and special events. Customers can conveniently use credit cards for program registration online, over the phone and in-person. Although the Park District incurs fees from card processors for each transaction, these costs are not passed on to customers. The Board of Commissioners approved a new contract with a credit card processor aimed at reducing fees and introducing mobile and tap-to-pay options for enhanced customer convenience.

### **Electronic ticketing system**

Implemented an internal electronic ticketing system for special events. Previously a third party utilized these services which cost 10% of the event revenue.

### **Eliminated plastic water coolers**

A new water filtration system was installed at several locations in order to eliminate plastic water coolers. The new system is less expensive, more environmentally friendly and eliminates the need for staff to coordinate deliveries.

### **New printers and postage lease agreements**

Upgraded Park District printers and postage machines to improve efficiency and service. This includes faster printing, better quality, reduced downtime, reliable postage handling, cost savings and environmental benefits. This upgrade ensures we continue providing efficient services while embracing enhanced technology.

### **Text messaging**

Business services coordinated with the Customer Engagement department to develop and launch phase one of the text messaging service. The main District line was converted to accept text messaging to better serve customers. Business services staff field and answer customer questions.



# The magic of childhood

Popular free community events, such as Celebration of Lights in November, provide area families fun ways to build memories. The District offers over 40 special events each year.

