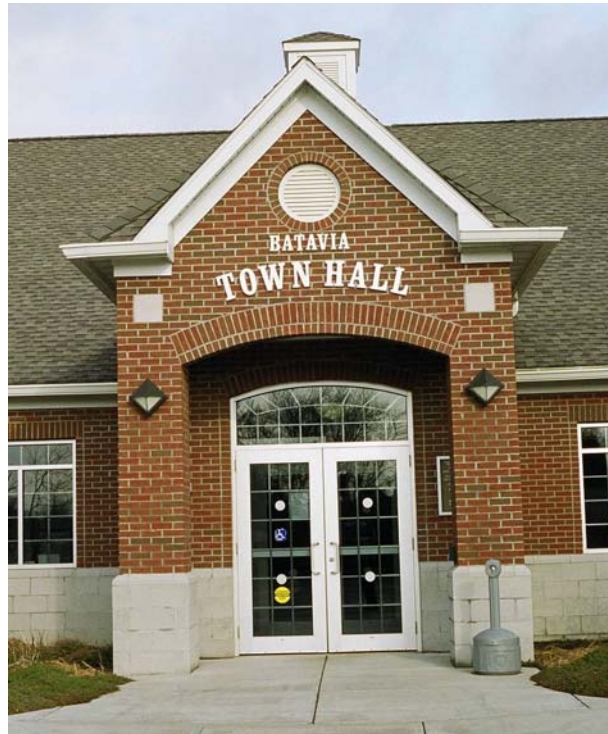


Government and Community Services



GOALS:

- A. Maintain and improve government facilities to meet the needs of Town residents in a cost-effective manner.**
- B. Work with governmental and private entities to increase the number and enhance the quality of recreational opportunities available to Town residents.**

Existing Conditions

Town Government Facilities and Services

The Batavia Town Hall and Highway Garage is located on an 8.4-acre parcel located on West Main Street Road. The facility contains the offices of the Supervisor, Clerk, Assessor, Code Enforcement Officer, Engineer and Highway Superintendent.

The Supervisor oversees and provides direction to all Town department heads. In addition, the Supervisor is responsible for Town finances and for providing fiscal and budgetary oversight and control.

The Highway Superintendent is responsible for maintaining and improving the Town's road system, including road surfaces, street lights, signs and culverts. The Town Engineer oversees the Town's water and sewer facilities.

The Town Clerk's office has responsibility for providing the following services to the public:

- Receiving Town and County property tax payments and permit fees
- Issuing birth and death certificates and certificates of residency
- Issuing permits, including handicapped parking and transfer station permits
- Issuing marriage, hunting / fishing and dog licenses
- Maintaining and storing Town records and responding to Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests

The Code Enforcement Officer is responsible for issuing zoning and building permits and inspecting construction projects to ensure compliance with local zoning regulations as well as the Codes of New York.

The Town Assessor is responsible for maintaining the real property tax roll and periodically assessing the market value of each property within the Town. The tax roll is used by the Town, County and the various School Districts to levy property taxes and to determine the amount of tax for each parcel of land.

Town Court

The Town Court is located in the Batavia Town Hall. The Town employs two Town Justices and two Court Clerks. Town Court is held

on Monday evenings beginning at 5:00 pm and Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pm.

Recycling and Refuse Disposal

The Town of Batavia operates a transfer station. Permits for refuse disposal are available at the Town Hall. The transfer station and recycling center are open on Wednesdays from 3 pm to 7 pm and on Saturdays from 8 am to 3:30 pm.

Emergency Fire and Medical Services

Fire protection services are provided within the Town of Batavia by the Batavia and East Pembroke Fire Districts. Map 20 depicts the service areas for the respective fire districts. Dispatching for all emergency service agencies is centralized and provided by the Genesee County 911 center.

Educational Facilities

Portions of six public school districts include land within the Town of Batavia: Batavia, Pembroke, Elba, Oakfield-Alabama, Alexander and Byron-Bergen (see Map 21).

The only public school facility located within the Town of Batavia is the Genesee Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Batavia campus located at 8246 State Street Road. The Genesee Valley BOCES is composed of twenty two individual school districts that are located in Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston and Steuben Counties. BOCES provides technical and career education for high-school aged students, special education and adult education.

The Genesee Community College (GCC) campus is located on 240 acres in the Town of Batavia northeast of the City of Batavia. Genesee Community College is a two-year college that is part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system. The college has approximately 6,000 full- and part-time students. GCC offers on-campus housing.

Animal Shelter

The Genesee County Animal Shelter is located at 3841 West Main Street Road in the Town of Batavia. The Shelter houses stray dogs and cats and sponsors adoptions.

Community and Cultural Resources

Town residents utilize cultural and community facilities located in the City of Batavia. These include the post office, public library, Holland Land Museum and others.

Tools and Techniques

Grant Programs

Various grant programs administered by New York State make funding available for parks and other recreational facilities. Grant programs are competitive and each has specific limitations on the type of facility funded. Below is a list of possible grant sources.

Environmental Protection Fund and Clean Water / Clean Air Programs -These grant programs are administered by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). Municipal grant recipients are required to provide a local match equal to the amount of the grant award. The local match may be in the form of force-account (in-kind) labor provided by the municipality and/or labor and/or materials donated from private sources. The value of land acquired for a project may also be applied toward the local match.

Legislative Initiatives—NYS Legislators are often able to obtain appropriations for special projects within their respective districts. There are no local match requirements.

Recreational Facilities

The Town of Batavia owns and maintains **Kiwanis Park**, located on the south side of West Main Street Road. The park includes play-ground equipment, picnic facilities and athletic fields.

Genesee County maintains two **County Parks**—the County Park in Bethany and the DeWitt Recreation Area in the City of Batavia

The **Genesee County Fairgrounds** is located south of East Main Street Road.

The **Terry Hills Golf Club** is a public 27-hole golf course located in the eastern part of the Town. The original course was established in 1930 with nine holes. In addition to the golf course, the facility contains a full-service restaurant and banquet facility and a miniature golf course. The restaurant and banquet facility operate year round.

The privately-owned **Area 51** motocross park is located on Harloff Road. The facility sponsors eight competitive races per year, as well as motocross school and track rentals. Other activities include snow tubing in the winter.

A network of **snowmobile trails** provides recreational opportunities to Batavia residents and others. The trails are maintained by local snowmobile clubs.

Map 21 depicts the locations of public parks and private recreational facilities in the Town.

Issues and Opportunities

Government and Community Facilities

The Town Hall is not sized to accommodate both Town administrative offices and the Town Court. A larger facility may be needed. Separating the Town Hall from the Town Court would reduce the number of Court-related phone calls and in-person inquiries that are handled by Town staff.

A location closer to the NYS Thruway may make it easier for State Police to attend court. It may be appropriate to coordinate with the potential relocation of the State Police barracks from Saile Drive to City-owned property near the County Sheriff and Thruway Interchange. A site on Park Road, near the new County Sheriff's building, may have potential.

In addition, the Town needs more room for records storage. As the building does not have a basement, which was included in the original building design, records storage space is limited.

The Town continues to seek more effective and efficient ways to provide services to residents, Inter-municipal cooperation and coordination has the potential to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

Parks and Recreation

Private Park on Route 98

A private park on 68 acres along Route 98 is for sale and has the potential to meet some of the recreational needs of area youth. The parcel includes four recreation fields for soccer, lacrosse and other sports. The front portion has been subdivided into residential lots on paper only. The rear portion of the lot is in the floodplain.

Great Lakes Motorsports Park

A private group has expressed interest in building a 2,200-acre motorsports park – potentially to replace Watkins Glen. The target area is north of Galloway Road to the Townline Road. The group is seeking \$120 million in financing to develop the facility.

Potential Fairgrounds Improvements

The Genesee County Agricultural Society, which operates the County Fairgrounds, has approached the Town in regards to constructing a skating rink and public pool. The facilities would be located near the racetrack at the fairgrounds and the Gravel Pit.

Parks and Recreation Focus Group Meeting

On September 13, 2006, Comprehensive Plan Committee sponsored a discussion regarding recreational opportunities.

Paul Osborn of the Genesee County Parks Department reported on Genesee County's two parks—the County Park in Bethany and DeWitt Recreation Area in the City of Batavia. Issues include the increasing cost of fuel and materials needed to maintain the parks and problems with vandalism.

Mr. Osborn also encouraged the Town to develop recreation areas in conjunction with development of corporate parks.

Michael Sabatino described a 68-acre private park that he developed on Alexander Road (NYS Route 98).

Chris Mosier discussed the activities at Area 51, a moto-cross park which offers competitive racing, track rentals and motocross school. Future improvements may include a pro shop and pavilion.

William Bastuk and Mark Scarborough of Great Lakes Motorsports Park are seeking a site for a 2200-acre motor sports park. Such a facility may generate 134 full-time and 116 part-time jobs and draw people from up to 250 miles away. The area north of Galloway Road has been targeted.

Government and Community Facilities

A large professional sports arena may be developed in the future in association with the YMCA and Genesee Community College. The facility would be located at GCC and may include 3 soccer fields, 2 basketball courts. The potential cost is approximately \$15 million.

Recommended Actions

1. Investigate opportunities to acquire additional land for recreational purposes.
2. Obtain funding and construct larger facilities for the Town Court.
3. Establish additional space for records storage.
4. Expand and improve Town facilities as needed.
5. Cooperate with other governments to address municipal needs on a cost-effective manner.