

Batavia Sights

There's lots to see in the Windmill City

Visitors and residents alike are able to take advantage of lots of entertainment and historical sights in and around Batavia. From the charming downtown to the bike paths around Fermilab, there's plenty to see.



637 N. Batavia Ave. (above) –

Designed by the famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, this home was built in 1906, and served as home to Challenge Company President Frank Snow.

Batavia Park District Eastside

Community Center – Originally home to the Holy Cross Catholic Church, the community center was built in 1896 and renovated in April 1996 when it was dedicated to the Batavia Park District.

Batavia Riverwalk Depot Pond/

Entry Court & South Plaza – The Batavia Riverwalk is a 3.2-acre park built and financed by volunteers. The Riverwalk is also home to a native wildflower sanctuary.

Bellevue Place 333 S. Jefferson St. (background image)–

Built in 1853 from native limestone, Bellevue Place was originally home to the Batavia Institute. Following President Lincoln's assassination, Mary Todd Lincoln recuperated here in 1875 when the building was known as Bellevue Place Sanitarium. Renovated in the early 1990s, Bellevue Place currently consists of rental units and condominiums.

Challenge Building – (right)

The past home of the Challenge Windmill Factory, now home to a growing number of businesses.



Government Center – This limestone structure was built in 1854 and was once the site of the Appleton Windmill Factory.

Congregational Church, 21 S. Batavia Ave. – Built in 1856, the Congregational Church is the oldest congregation in Batavia.



Depot Museum (above)– Built in 1854 and moved from its original site in 1973, the Depot was Batavia's link to Chicago and other markets. The Depot Pond is home to fishing and canoes in the summer and ice skaters in the winter.

East Wilson Street Business District – Home to many diverse businesses and antique and specialty shops.

Fermilab – Wilson Hall is open to the public (enter via Kirk Road). Fermilab features prairie and nature trails, bike paths and live buffalo.

Fox River Bike Trail

– Batavia is home to an extensive and impressive bicycle trail system which connects to other towns throughout the area.

Gammon Corner, 9 S. Batavia Ave.

– This wonderful Victorian Painted Lady was the home of Rev. E.H. Gammon. Built in 1885, the ornate Queen Anne home is home to many businesses. The original coach house remains on-site.

Hall Quarry Beach – This magnificent swimming facility was once an operational stone quarry. Renovated in 1994, Quarry Beach received numerous awards as a Park District Improvement project.

Newton House, 11 N. Batavia Ave.

– Built in 1875 by the owner of Newton Wagon Works, D. C. Newton, the family filled the house with items collected on European trips. The house also served as the Batavia Public Library from 1921-1981.

North River Street Corridor (below)–

A thriving section of downtown noted for fine cuisine.



Old City Hall – Built around 1890 and recently renovated, the Old City Hall is now home to several businesses.

South Batavia Avenue Business District

– This area of Batavia Avenue was recently rehabilitated — complete with a Pocket Park, a blacktopped lot and brick sidewalk. It is home to a diverse business base.

Tower Business Center (below) – Originally the home of U.S. Wind Engine & Pump Co. and later a munitions factory during WWII, this beautiful limestone building was converted to an office center in 1993.



United Methodist Church Landmark, 8 N. Batavia Ave. – Built in 1887, the Methodist Church is a beautiful example of French-inspired Romanesque architecture.

Wilson Street Bridge – The renovation of the Donovan Bridge on Wilson street originally built in 1911 was recently renovated in 2008.

Windmill Court – Dedicated on June 13, 1996 at the international Windmill's Trade Fair, this court features three types of Windmills — Appleton, Goodhue and Challenge Vaneless.

Sports

Fundraising walks and runs are featured regularly throughout downtown Batavia. Whether it's the Batavia Mother's Club or LivingWell Cancer Center, visitors come from all over the area to raise money for a cause, run or walk a race and enjoy the fellowship of Batavians. Each June, Batavia plays host to more than 700 athletes who swim, bike and run in the Batavia Sprint Distance Triathlon and Duathlon. Hundreds of spectators line the Quarry Beach, the city's neighborhood streets and the Fox River bike path to view the race. And if golf is a passion, there are as many as 14 courses in the Fox Valley area with Kane County's 18-hole Settler's Hill being the most convenient.

Just down Kirk Road is Fox Valley Ice Arena, home to local hockey teams. Featuring three ice surfaces and more, this arena brings in visitors each year for hockey tournaments. Also down Kirk Road is the Kane County Cougars, the Class A affiliate of the Oakland Athletics. The Cougars games feature great baseball, delicious food, family fun and amazing fireworks.



The Arts

Batavia is fortunate to have an active arts community. From the well respected Art in Your Eye festival in August, to art walks, public performances and more in downtown Batavia – this community is dedicated to supporting the arts.

Be sure to visit neighborsofbatavia.com often for more information on the arts, sports and entertainment events in and around Batavia.

HISTORICAL FACT: State Street is one of Batavia's oldest streets, made famous by Buttermilk Alley. Farmers would line up their wagons to unload their milk at the McKee-Chapple Creamery en route to market in Chicago.

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