Strategic Plan Update

First Quarter

2026

Batavia Strategic Plan 2024-2028

Trustworthiness & Transparency

Batavia is a city that is known for building trust through authentic and transparent communication with our residents. Through clear expectations, communication, and honest governance, we foster a community where everyone is heard and valued.

Vibrant & Diverse Community

Batavia has multiple vibrant downtown high-density residential areas, where diverse people come together to form a lively and inclusive community. We aim to enhance the riverfront, making it a thriving business, residential, and recreational hub that reflects the excellence of our community.

Environmental Leadership & Sustainability

Batavia will be a model of environmental leadership, striving for carbon-neutral energy sources, promoting innovative sustainability measures, and developing in a sustainable and efficient manner. We will be known for our dedication to energy efficiency, waste reduction programs, and sustainable infrastructure design that fosters future growth.



Regional Connectivity & Transportation

Batavia is regionally connected through multiple transportation options, including active transportation and transit. We work with regional partners to achieve seamless access and mobility throughout the Tri-City region.

Safety & Well-being

For Batavia, safety and well-being are vital. Through thoughtful and intentional planning and design, we aim for zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Residents are safe, cared for, and confident in their community's ability to ensure their security no matter what affects us. We provide robust support for our first responders and staff, allowing them to keep everyone safe.

Community Engagement & Inclusion

Batavia is a city where everyone works together. This means the community, city council, and city staff work together as a unified team, building strong relationships based on mutual respect and support. We ensure that our city staff and elected officials reflect the diverse makeup of our community.

Effective Governance & Service Delivery

Batavia optimizes city services and creates efficient governance that allows easy engagement with city services and staff. By investing in the use of data, technology, and innovative practices, we identify and address issues promptly, communicate our actions clearly, and provide transparency on how funds are spent to achieve Batavia's vision.

Economic Development & Local Business Support

Batavia is a beacon for economic growth, inspiring new businesses to establish themselves here, and for existing businesses to grow here. We prioritize and support small and local businesses, fostering an environment that encourages entrepreneurship and prosperity.

2025 Accomplishments

- Constructed River Street ramp and improved access at Larsen Becker lot.
- Advanced public restroom design and procurement for downtown.
- Approved incentive for 72-unit workforce housing complex.
- Purchased property for large-scale downtown housing development and centralized parking.
- Began digitizing 1,000 boxes of community development and police files.
- Launched new website and mobile app for modern standards.

2025 Accomplishments Continued

- Expanded field mobile devices to all staff for better responsiveness.
- Introduced online permitting options and created Application Specialist role.
- Implemented standardized memo template linking agenda items to strategic goals.
- Hosted Farmers Market events with aldermen and staff.
- Expanded Lunch and Learn series for staff development.
- Participated in Senior Savvy Expo and Tech Talk outreach events.
- Enhanced employee recognition efforts in front of Council and community.

2025 Accomplishments…continued x2

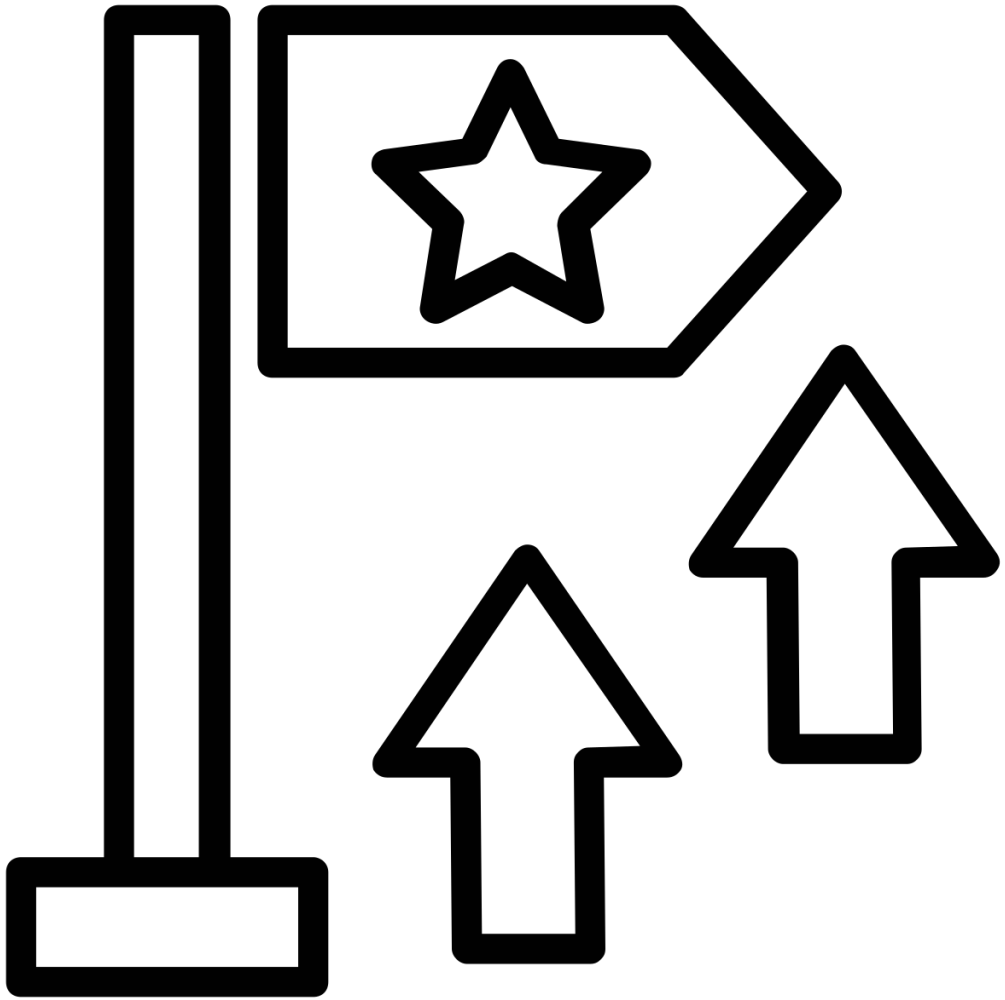
- Expanded Parkway Tree Program funded by single-use bag fees.
- Purchased hybrid police vehicles and launched plug-in hybrid conversion for admin fleet.
- Installed Level 3 EV fast chargers at Batavia High School and Public Library.
- Partnered with Recycle Coach for sustainable waste practices.
- Completed two tabletop exercises improving emergency preparedness.
- Fire Department advanced accreditation steps, joint training programs, and Rapid Intervention Team guidelines.

2025 Accomplishments…continued x3

- Secured state grant to support fire department projects.
- Added firefighter for improved coverage.
- Digitized fire training records and checklists for efficiency.
- Continued lead service line replacement ahead of schedule using 0% IEPA loans.
- Advanced electric utility planning with studies on rate design and resource planning.
- And more!

2026 starts with the budget

The 2026 budget contains many investments into strategic plan items to advance the causes Batavia cares about.



2026 Plans

- Hire Community Engagement Intern to organize ward-based events and Farmers Market participation.
- Expand GREEN Energy Audit & Grant program with Kane County support.
- Fund Downtown Parking Study, Building Condition Survey, and Bike & Pedestrian Design Policy.
- Provide additional funding for Batavia MainStreet to expand grant programs.
- Hire two new police officers and two firefighters.

2026 Plans continued

- Implement Axon body cameras with AI-assisted transcription and translation.
- Purchase positive protection systems for parades and community events.
- Add Public Safety Analyst to support Police and Fire Departments.
- Create HR Management Analyst position for wellness, policy updates, and organizational development.
- Continue digitization and process improvements for efficiency.

2026 Environment

- Batavia faces tighter funding, rising costs, and growing service demands. With grants becoming more competitive and external resources limited, we must rely on our people, partnerships, and smart planning. Moving forward requires prioritization, innovation, and a shared commitment to invest in what matters most.
- From all of us, thank you. Your tough budget votes and bold plans are a testament to the confidence you have in us and our teams.