



# 2025—Year in Review

**Battle Lake Economic Development Authority**  
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**2025 Economic Development Commissioners:** Randy Dorn, Rob Nudell, Sharon Casey, Josie Thomopolous, Steve Young, Richard Bullard, Mayor; Majorie Quammen, Council Member; Val Martin, Secretary & EDA Director

*"The mission of the Battle Lake Economic Development Authority is to promote diverse Economic Development and enhance quality of life through the retention and growth of business, industry & services in the Battle Lake area."*

## Lincoln Apartments Completed

Highpoint Homes have nearly completed the construction of a 10-unit apartment complex. These apartments are possible through a grant from the MN Housing Finance Agency, and with the help of the Otter Tail County CDA, who purchased the property and demolished the old church to make it ready for a developer. The City partnered with the CDA by providing TIF for the project. Because of the grant funds, rent at these apartments will be considered affordable and lower in cost than most comparable



## BATTLE LAKE INNOVATE Community Design Event

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Battle Lake School Commons 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Come and join us anytime between 5 and 7 p.m. to learn and talk about the Community Design Project. Free meal along with art projects for kids of all ages

Building a Shared Future for the Place we Love! Help up design the future of Battle Lake! Come anytime between 5 and 7 p.m.

For more information contact: Val Martin 218.864.0424 [cityclerk@battlelakemn.org](mailto:cityclerk@battlelakemn.org)

Battle Lake was accepted into the Empowering Small MN Cities program, funded through the MN legislature. The program is centered around housing but may include other amenities and ideas for development in Battle Lake. A project team is working with key stakeholders in the community that have planned a community event. The outcome of the event will provide valuable information to the team. This information will be used to compile a report to exhibit to the community and interested participants. The materials will then be used as tools to advance collaboration, communicate the community vision and to facilitate conversations and next steps with potential partners, developers, funders and investors.



## MN Brownfields Redevelopment Award

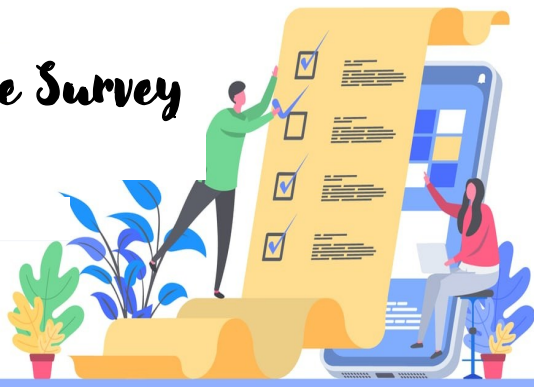
Minnesota Brownfields, an organization devoted to the promotion, efficient cleanup and reuse of contaminated lands announced the recipients of their 2025 ReScope Awards last April.

Minnesota Brownfields proudly offers these awards recognizing exemplary Brownfield redevelopment projects completed statewide. These recipients were chosen from a larger pool of nominees.

April 17, 2025 at the 1893 Historic Grain Belt Office in St. Paul.

Battle Lake was chosen as the Economic Impact Award Winner for the Hatchery Row project. This project will also be featured in their annual report.

## On-line Survey



**We need input from the local business owners for this new project!**

An application was submitted to Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) and was successfully awarded. Through this grant, the EDA will receive 135 hours of professional technical assistance to develop and implement a Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) program. CEDA staff will work closely with EDA staff, commissioners and key community stakeholders to design the program. The grant also includes some financial support to assist with launching the initiative.

**We are currently asking area business owners to fill out a survey. If you haven't received an email with the link**

## Welcome to all New Businesses & Business Owners

### Business Improvement Program

The EDA launched a Business Improvement Program that awarded \$5,000 grants to several Battle Lake businesses. Funding for the program included a \$10,000 grant from the Otter Tail County CDA to the Battle Lake EDA along with financial assistance from BL Lions Club and the BL Area Community Fund. This cost-share program requires participating businesses to match the grant funds they receive. In the first year, grant applications were awarded quickly, reaching the EDA's maximum funding allocation of just over \$20,000. Work is underway for a 2026 program.

### BATTLE LAKE SCHOOL CONTINUES WITH CONSTRUCTION TO BE COMPLETED IN THE FALL



## SAVE THE DATE

**Battle Lake School Career Fair  
February 26, 2026**

## Community Roundtables

They serve as an informal gathering for residents, business owners, nonprofits, and local leaders to come together and share their perspectives. This quarterly forum focuses on generating ideas and input to shape economic initiatives and social events that strengthen the community and businesses.

This is a joint effort between the EDA and the LACC. Four meetings were held in 2025 with over thirty attendees at some of these meetings. Several ideas came from the discussions and it was also an opportunity for anyone to share information and future plans. Highlights of the four meetings included:

- In March, the guest speaker was Rikka Brandon, local HR recruiting expert providing ideas for hiring and retaining employees. Community updates were also provided.
- At the April meeting the guest speakers were Tosha Rohls from Otter Tail Lake Country and staff from WC MN Business Development Center providing practical marketing strategies for the summer.
- At the September meeting, there were no speakers but the meeting focused on community updates and upcoming events.
- The speaker for the November meeting was DeeDee LeMier, Community Economics Educator from the U of M. She provided insights from cell phone data that could help understand the seasonal patterns and how the highly seasonal community can become a welcoming home for year-round and seasonal residents.



Mark your calendar for  
**2026 dates:**  
**April 15**  
**September 16**  
**November 18**



### Of Interest:

1. The EDA and City Council have held one joint work session with another one coming up in April. The purpose is to work on future goals and priorities and to align those goals and priorities with one another.
2. Martin and Dorn are available, and have held numerous meetings with prospective business owners to not only answer questions, but to let them know that their business is welcome and important to our City.
3. The EDA worked with the LACC and Network Battle to create the calendar and coupon flyer. Volunteers from Network Battle sold ads for the back of the flyer and it was prepared and printed by the Battle Lake Review. We partnered with Otter Tail Tourism to deliver over 5000 copies of our Battle Lake brochure with the calendar flyer insert.
4. Social media continues to be a strong tool and we are happy to share an appropriate post of yours to our site. Please feel free to share our posts!
5. The LACC and EDA partnership gets stronger each year with continued efforts to work on future events and opportunities.

**Keep up-to-date with the Battle Lake EDA:**

**[www.BattleLakeMN.org/EconomicDevelopment](http://www.BattleLakeMN.org/EconomicDevelopment)**

# A message from EDA President, Randy Dorn

01-28-2026

To the Community of Battle Lake and surrounding area,

Happy New Year to our friends and neighbors! We enter 2026 hopeful for a year of health and prosperity! There are a lot of positives to look forward to as we enter this new year and some items to reflect back on from 2025.

Additional housing continues to be a focus and goal for the City and EDA. Working on both single-family and multifamily options including new locations to expand housing. We are looking at public/private partnerships for development. The completion of the Lincoln Apartments was celebrated with an open house on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This is a 10 unit apartment located in the heart of Battle Lake focused on workforce housing. The City also acquired land north of Battle Lake that has the potential to be utilized as a housing development.

The Battle Lake School has experienced the benefits of some of the initial enhancements! Hosting the annual EDA meeting in the new commons area is a special treat. Work continues with the hope that everything is completed by the end of 2026. The enhancements are already being enjoyed by the existing student body with the real potential of attracting additional students in the future.

Battle Lake continues to be a destination for food and fun. The Rusty Nail was acquired by Marv & Cheryl Andersen in 2025 and now operating as The Little Bar & Grill. Stella's was closed in 2025 but we are hopeful for this being opened for the summer of 2026. It will be great to get Stella's going again.

One huge success from 2025 was the Business Improvement Program. Through the combination of City funds, COVID funds remaining from 2020, the County Development Agency, the Battle Lake Lions Club, the Battle Lake Area Community Fund and others, we were able to inject over \$20,000 into the local Battle Lake Businesses and organizations for store front improvements. We look forward to the paving of the alley behind Stella's all the way to Main Street in 2026!


Some additional business changes to note are Auto Value selling in January of 2026. We want to thank Tom & Jone Heifort for their many years of serving the community of Battle Lake! The business will be missed. Battle Lake Standard is working on their expansion and remodel. The investment in the expansion of their business is appreciated.

On January 30<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the ribbon cutting at Lakes Veterinary Hospital. Congratulations to Kate & Donald Clark on their beautiful new facility! What a huge asset for the community!!

The Battle Lake Pickleball group is excited about getting their courts completed in 2026.

Collaboration continues to be the thing that sets Battle Lake apart from other communities. Being resourceful when it comes to ways to partner with the county, state, townships etc is what brings projects across the finish line. As always, we encourage new and existing businesses to reach out to Val or any EDA commissioner to discuss what the City and the EDA can do for them.

Sincerely,



Randy Dorn

President/Battle Lake Economic Development Authority