

February Newsletter

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Elizabeth Kluesner

Minnesota Brownfields is proud to be partnering with the [Economic Development Association of Minnesota \(EDAM\)](#) to hold our first joint event on February 28. EDAM and Minnesota Brownfields share many common goals. We are excited to start our 2025 educational programming with this event.

The luncheon will focus on the application process for the two site assessment grant programs that Minnesota Brownfields administers in cooperation with Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. It is a great opportunity for economic development professionals, emerging developers and non-profits to learn about these grant programs and how to apply.

Thank you to Barr Engineering for sponsoring this event and providing the beautiful Barr Training Facility as the event space for the luncheon.

Finally, please consider sponsoring ReScape 2025. This year's event is on April 17 and we have some fun new elements planned for this year's Gala. I am looking forward to seeing you all in April and celebrating Spring in Minnesota along with some inspiring Brownfield projects.

Warm Regards,
Elizabeth



Minnesota Brownfields Kicks Off 2025 With Social at Forgotten Star Brewery

We had over 40 members join us for socializing at the Forgotten Star Brewery in Fridley on January 23. Thanks to all who attended and check out the event photos below:



Join Us & EDAM February 28 for a Grant Program Luncheon

In partnership with Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, Minnesota Brownfields co-manages and administers two grant programs aimed at assisting nonprofits, local governments and emerging developers in the Metropolitan Region to redevelop contaminated sites. Join Minnesota Brownfields for a joint luncheon event with EDAM on February 28 to learn more about these programs including, eligibility and how to apply.

Friday, February 28 11:30 pm - 1:00 pm Barr Engineering



JOIN US!

HENNEPIN & RAMSEY COUNTIES GRANT PROGRAM LUNCHEON

FEBRUARY 28
11:30 am - 1 pm



The Brownfield Gap Financing Program (BGFP) provides grants to nonprofit organizations, local units of government, and emerging developers for environmental

assessment of property in Hennepin County through funding from the County's Environmental Response Fund (ERF). Typical BGFP grants are <\$25,000 and are the seed money for future redevelopment projects.

Ramsey County offers assistance to help offset the cost of environmental assessment for affordable housing and mixed-use development projects, including youth, family, homeless supportive and community services, to improve indoor air quality and/or remove, prevent, or reduce blight, blighting factors or the causes of blight. [Site Assessment Grants](#) support projects in the early stages of development where site assessment and investigation is needed. Typical SAG grants are <\$25,000.

[Register](#)

Meet Our Speakers

Michael Zazzera Hennepin County

Michael Zazzera works at Hennepin County's Environment and Energy Department. He is a manager of brownfield grant programs including the Environmental Response Fund and the Brownfields Gap Financing Program. Michael has a background in environmental due diligence and brownfield redevelopment from working as an environmental consultant for over nine years. During his time as a consultant, Michael managed and worked on environmental assessment and cleanup projects at residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural properties for clients across the country.

Ella Mitchell Ramsey County

Ella Mitchell is a Redevelopment Manager with Ramsey County's Community & Economic Development (CED) department. In this role, she works on real estate projects such as Rice Creek Commons, and she administers redevelopment grant programs including Critical Corridors, Environmental Response Fund (ERF), and Site Assessment Grants (SAG). Prior to joining Ramsey County, she worked in affordable housing development and housing policy consulting.

Thank you to our Sponsor!



DEADLINE EXTENDED: Submit ReScape Projects Through February 7



[Submit Your Projects Today](#)

We are now accepting project applications for our 2025 ReScape Awards. Qualifying projects must meet the requirements of one of four categories - Community Impact, Environmental Impact, Economic Impact or Innovation. Hurry! **The deadline to submit projects is February 7!** [Learn more and enter today.](#)

[Categories & Descriptions](#)

There are four categories to select from when entering your project. Please review the category description to be sure you are entering your project in the correct category.

1. Community Impact:

Projects achieving notable community benefits, including removing blight, project which provide an end use that benefits the community or neighborhood, provides community services or other social benefits and places a high value on community outreach and involvement.

2. Environmental Impact:

Projects reducing threat to human health and the environment, projects with complex or unusual investigation or remediation strategies, or projects utilizing sustainable cleanup, construction and/or end-use approaches.

3. Economic Impact:

Projects modeling positive economic impacts involving creating or retaining permanent jobs, increasing the tax base, attracting private investment and/or are catalysts for neighborhood/community revitalization.

4. Innovation:

Projects employing unique and innovative approaches to redevelopment challenges engineering, financing, legal, community outreach or other issues.

[Submit a Project](#)

**Mac Hyde Scholarship Application
Deadline is March 3!**

Maclay “Mac” Hyde (1934-2013) was a pioneering environmental law attorney and real

estate developer of polluted, often abandoned brownfield sites. Mac was an inspiration and a mentor to many in the field of brownfield redevelopment and environmental law. At past ReScape Awards, Mac was remembered through the Mac Hyde Leadership Award. The scholarship now honors Mac's life and legacy by supporting the next generation of innovative brownfield redevelopment minds. To celebrate Mac Hyde, Minnesota Brownfields offers this scholarship to students pursuing studies in diverse fields related to brownfield redevelopment. **The deadline to apply is March 3, 2025.**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

- \$2,000 scholarship award
- Recognition at the ReScape Awards
- Honorary student membership with Minnesota Brownfields for duration of time as a student
- Free registration to one Minnesota Brownfields educational forum

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Undergraduate or graduate student at an accredited Minnesota college or university; and/or a Minnesota resident
- Pursuing a field of study related to brownfields redevelopment, including: engineering, earth/environmental sciences, government/public policy, law, business, real estate, public health, economic development
- Intended career in profession related to community revitalization, environmental quality, or remediation
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0
- Recipient is invited and encouraged to attend ReScape Awards Event in April 2025 to receive scholarship

Apply

Sponsor the 2025 ReScape Gala!



We are looking for sponsors for our 2025 ReScape Gala to be held Thursday, April 17, at the Historic Grain Belt Offices in Minneapolis.

Several sponsorship opportunities exist - from the purchase of a table for your company to general sponsorship and more! [View the prospectus here](#) and click the link below to sign up. We look forward to seeing you in April!

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Mac Hyde Scholarship



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Sponsor the ReScape Gala

RAP Submittal Deadline & General Project Review Timelines



The application deadline for the Spring Cleanup Grant cycle is Thursday, May 1, 2025. In order to meet this deadline and allow MPCA staff sufficient time for review and approval of site documents, please submit:

1. The Response Action Plan (RAP) and all supporting documents to the MPCA Brownfields Program by Friday, February 28, 2025, and
2. An email notice to Andrew Nichols at andrew.nichols@state.mn.us, that you intend to apply for Investigation/Cleanup Grants for your new or existing Brownfields site.

The Brownfield Program's revised goal is to respond to submittals within 45 business days. Please notify the assigned project staff of any critical deadlines. Please ensure all submittals follow Brownfield redevelopment guidance; not doing so will cause a delay in our response to your request.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Hاديaris at amy.hadiaris@state.mn.us or

Metropolitan Council Spring Local Brownfield Grant Webinar

The Metropolitan Council will be holding its spring grant webinar on February 18th. Information and details can be found below.

Local Brownfield Funding for Redevelopment in MN

Join us to learn about local brownfield redevelopment financing in Minnesota, including resources from the Livable Communities Act Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA), DEED, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.



February 18, 2025
12:00-1:00PM

[Local Brownfield Funding for Redevelopment in MN - Metropolitan Council.](#)

[Register for the Webinar](#)

Thank you, Members!

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Organizations and One Person
Company**

City of Minneapolis - CPED
City of Rochester
City of St. Cloud Economic Development
Condition Services LLC
Dakota County CDA
Dakota County Water Resources
DEED-Brownfields and Redevelopment
Duluth Economic Development Authority
Duluth Seaway Port Authority
Hennepin County
HTB Project Navigation LLC
Metropolitan Council
Midwest Select Contracting LLC
MN Dept of Transportation
Parkway Law
Port Authority of St. Paul
Ramsey County Community & Economic
Development
Washington County Community
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Student Members

Erik Breitenbach
Ashley Crawl
Wendy Erickson
Seth Golden
Logan Mahoney
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