



Battle Lake, MN



Award: Bronze | Fall 2022
Award History: Bronze since 2018, previously Honorable Mention in 2015.

Battle Lake's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **0**
 # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
 # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **0**
 Minnesota's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#5**

The 5 Es Category Scores	Battle Lake	Max Score this round
Engineering	22%	62%
Education	30%	60%
Encouragement	12%	61%
Evaluation & Planning	14%	64%
Equity & Accessibility	2%	57%

Percentages shown above are the points received out of points available in that category. See pages 2-3 for Battle Lake's subcategory points earned within each Category.

Key Outcomes

Commuter Ridership: 0%

(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate)

Overall Bicycle Mode Share: Unknown

(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 1

(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0

(Reported by applicant)

Community Profile

Population: 857
 Area: 1.47 square miles
 Population Density: 583 people/square mile
 Land Classification:
 Rural/Rural Town
 Poverty Rate: 6.36%*
 Median Household Income: \$47,321*
 Percent of the Population that Speaks a Language Other Than English at Home: 0.8%*
 Percent with Disability: 15.3%*
 Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 3.3%*
 *Source: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile/Battle_Lake_city,_Minnesota?g=1600000US2703970

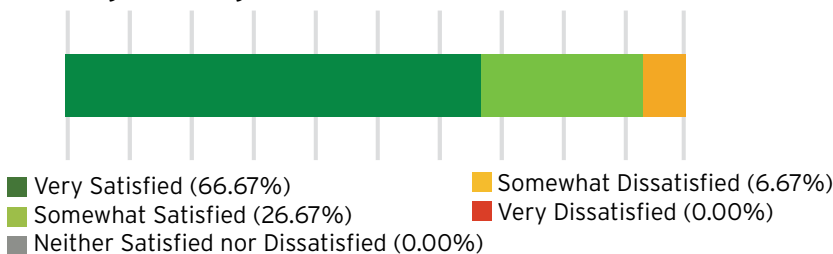
Battle Lake's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:
 N/A

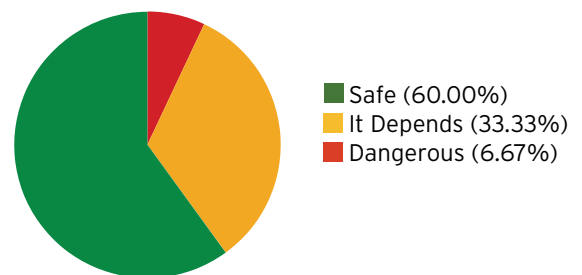
Bike Plan, if available:
 N/A - no bike plan

Fall 2022 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Battle Lake, MN

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 15)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 15)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 15)

1. More bike paths (26.67%)
2. None, can't think of any (26.67%)
3. More bike lanes (13.33%)
4. Improve markings and signage that direct people to safe bike routes (13.33%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Battle Lake in the Fall 2022 Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) submission round. These scores reflect a combination of automatically-generated points earned through the online application, as well as judge-assigned points and bonus points given by BFC reviewers.

The League updated its Bicycle Friendly Community application and awards criteria in the Summer of 2022, after nearly a year of research, focus groups, interviews, listening sessions, and other outreach. The updated application includes a new section on Equity and Accessibility, and other changes throughout. As such, **this Bicycle Friendly Community Report card is a beta version** as we refine our new scoring system and develop a greater understanding of how to convey new information.

All Fall 2022 BFC Report Cards (including this one) will be republished with updated scores if there are changes to the points system after the next round of Bicycle Friendly Community applications. To learn more about the BFC application and awards criteria, please visit <https://bikeleague.org/community>.

ENGINEERING	<i>Battle Lake earned 22% of the points available in the Engineering Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Battle Lake earned in each subcategory of the Engineering section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Engineering Subcategories	Battle Lake's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	3 / 38 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	6 / 41 pts
	Bicycle Network	34 / 126 pts
	Network Maintenance	9 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	0 / 22 pts
	Bike Sharing	0 / 25 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	0 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	12 / 16 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	5 / 9 pts	

EDUCATION	<i>Battle Lake earned 30% of the points available in the Education Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Battle Lake earned in each subcategory of the Education section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Education Subcategories	Battle Lake's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	35 / 71 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	14 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	6 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	0 / 22 pts
	Inclusive Education	1 / 22 pts
Education Bonus Points	3 / 8 pts	

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>Battle Lake earned 12% of the points available in the Encouragement Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Battle Lake earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	Battle Lake's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	3 / 22 pts
	Route-Finding Support	5 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	6 / 99 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	7 / 49 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	0 / 10 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	4 / 8 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>Battle Lake earned 14% of the points available in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Battle Lake earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	Battle Lake's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	11 / 42 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	2 / 33 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	1 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	0 / 21 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	0 / 21 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	14 / 38 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	2 / 8 pts	

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>Battle Lake earned 2% of the points available in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Battle Lake earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	Battle Lake's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	3 / 38 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0 / 20 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	0 / 38 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	0 / 35 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	0 / 35 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	1 / 35 pts
Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	1 / 35 pts	
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	1 / 15 pts	



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

To maintain and improve on Battle Lake's Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community award, BFC Reviewers recommend...

- » With over 15% of Battle Lake's population identifying as having a disability (according to Census data on your 2022 BFC application), it is important for Battle Lake to consider and prioritize accessibility as the Town expands bicycle infrastructure and programming. Consider how adaptive cycling can be incorporated into existing efforts, and conduct an accessibility audit of your existing bicycle facilities.
- » Develop a design manual for bike facilities that meets current national standards, or adopt the FHWA's Small Town and Rural Multimodal Network Guide. This will make it easier for City staff to propose and implement bicycle facility designs that have been shown to improve conditions for people who bike in other similar communities throughout the U.S. See: <https://ruraldesignguide.com> and https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/small_towns/.
- » Lower speed limits on residential streets to 20 mph or less. Introduce road diets and traffic calming measures to ensure compliance. Develop a system of bicycle boulevards, utilizing these quiet neighborhood streets, that creates an attractive, convenient, and comfortable cycling environment welcoming to cyclists of all ages and skill levels.
- » Continue to increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking throughout the community, and to upgrade the quality of existing bike parking to meet APBP standards. Adopt a bike parking ordinance for new and existing buildings that specifies the amount and location of secure, convenient bike parking available. Develop community-wide Bicycle Parking Standards that adhere to current APBP guidelines. (See www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions)
- » Consider launching a bike share system or bicycle lending library that is open to the public. Bike sharing is a convenient, cost effective, and healthy way of encouraging locals and visitors to make short trips by bike, make bicycling more accessible to all, and to bridge the 'last mile' between destinations.
- » Expand and improve existing in-school bike safety education to include an on-bike component to help children and teens of all ages become safer and more confident riders. Provide a fleet of bikes in schools to ensure that all students can learn to safely ride a bicycle regardless of the availability of a bicycle in their household.
- » Increase the number of local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in your community, either by hosting an LCI seminar in partnership with BikeMN, or sponsoring a City staffer or local bike advocate to attend an existing seminar elsewhere in the state. Having several active instructors in the area will enable you to expand cycling education for youth and adults, recruit more knowledgeable cycling ambassadors, deliver Bicycle Friendly Driver education to motorists, and have experts available to assist in encouragement programs. Visit bikeleague.org/ridesmart for more information.
- » Continue to encourage local businesses and organizations to promote cycling to their employees and customers and to seek recognition through the Bicycle Friendly Business program. City Hall or other municipal buildings could apply to the BFB program as an employer to lead by example among other Battle Lake employers.



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Develop and adopt an official dedicated bicycle master plan for your community. A bicycle master plan is a critical step to improving conditions for bicycling and institutionalizing processes for continual improvement, and should include specific and measurable goals and dedicated funding for implementation. The plan should help the Town continue to evolve its in-town bike network and help to coordinate with the future Master Plan that will connect downtown Battle Creek with Highway 78 and Highway 210.
- » Create a bicycle count program that utilizes several methods of data collection to create an understanding of current bicyclists and the effects of new facilities on bicycling in Battle Lake. Already having the MnDOT Eco-Counter data included on your application is a great starting place – having more automated bicycle counters could provide long-term data on bicycle use at fixed points in a community and mobile counters can provide periodic or before/after data related to a change in your community's road or bicycle network. Observational counts and surveys can supplement automated data in order to collect demographic information and examine social equity goals.
- » Continue with plans to develop a women's bicycle education program in the next year.
- » Standardize an engagement plan/process for all future transportation projects. This will help ensure a more transparent process for all community stakeholders. This approach can also incorporate more checks and balances to ensure engagement with all demographic groups for projects.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **League of American Bicyclists:** <https://www.bikeleague.org>
- » **Resources for Building a Bicycle Friendly Community:** https://bikeleague.org/BFC_Resources
- » **About the BFC Application Process:** <https://bikeleague.org/content/about-bfc-application-process>
- » **The Five E's:** <https://bikeleague.org/5-es>
- » **The League's Benchmarking Project on Biking and Walking Data and Reports:** <https://data.bikeleague.org>
- » **Bicycle Friendly State Rankings and Report Cards:** <https://bikeleague.org/state>
- » **Bicycle Friendly Business Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/business>
- » **Bicycle Friendly University Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/university>
- » **Smart Cycling Education Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart>
- » **Advocacy Reports and Resources from the League:** <http://bikeleague.org/reports>
- » **Federal Funding Resources from the League:** <https://bikeleague.org/content/federal-funding-resources>
- » **Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities from U.S. DOT Transit, Safety, and Highway Funds:** https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.pdf