



News and Highlights

Chris Muller

Emergency Management Director

Beltrami County Jail Construction Update

Construction of the new jail in Beltrami County continues at a steady pace. The Beltrami County Board of Commissioners received a construction progress update during its Board Work Session on February 17, 2026.

Since construction began in spring 2025, significant progress has been made on the facility's structure. While the exterior walls, windows, and site work are the most visible elements from the street, a carefully designed and highly functional interior is also taking shape. Years of planning went into developing a facility that is efficient, durable, and financially responsible for the future needs of the county.

Despite colder temperatures in January and February that slightly slowed masonry, concrete, and brick work, the project remains on schedule. Approximately 90 workers are currently on site, with only minor issues arising and promptly addressed by project managers. Major mile-

stones include the installation of 105 detention cells in December, with the remaining cells set in the following months. This progress allowed heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, along with mezzanine construction to move forward. The project team also highlighted the inclusion of handicapped-accessible detention cells to help ensure safety and accessibility for all populations.

To support the extensive technology and utility systems within the new facility, more than 18 miles of conduit wiring has been installed beneath the flooring. Plumbers have completed the underground infrastructure, enabling the remaining concrete floors to be poured throughout the building. With multiple phases of construction occurring simultaneously, precise coordination among contractors has been essential. Representatives from Kraus-Anderson noted, "...this is one of the best teams I've worked with

in 34 years — everyone is working together."

The physical construction is only one component of the broader project. Replacing the aging Beltrami County Jail was a difficult but necessary decision due to updated requirements from the Minnesota Department of Corrections and the limitations of the existing facility. Voters approved a five-eighths percent local sales tax to support two \$40 million bonds to fund construction. Thanks to strong financial planning, favorable bond issuance conditions, solid sales tax revenues, and other cost savings, the second bond was reduced to \$36 million — resulting in substantial overall savings for the project..

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BEMIDJI, MN
PERMIT NO. 40
Residential Customer
ECRWSS EDDM



Admin Area windows complete -January 2026



Sally Port slab complete



105 detention cells placed December 2025

The Beltrami County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is currently hosting the 2026 Spring Tree Sale!

Orders are taking place completely online this year on a first come/first serve basis. Check out our online shop at: <https://www.beltramiswcd.org/shop>.

For more information, please email Rose Moore at rose.moore@co.beltrami.ms.us or call (218)-333-4152.



Bruce Hasbargen

Public Works Director

2026 County Road Improvement Projects

Scheduled On County State Aid Highways (CSAH) and County Roads (CR)

Beltrami County will be investing in several road improvement projects this summer to preserve infrastructure, improve safety, and extend the life of our transportation system. These projects include road reconstruction, resurfacing, safety improvements, and preventive maintenance.

Reconstruction Projects

- CSAH 22 (Island View Dr): From CSAH 15 to TH 71
- CSAH 20 (Birchmont Beach Road NE): From CSAH 21 to CR 414, including construction of a new multi-use trail

Bituminous Mill and Overlay (Resurfacing)

- CSAH 49 (Wildwood Road NE): From CSAH 21 to TH 71
- CR 305 (Wildwood Road NE): From TH 71 to CSAH 22
- CSAH 1 (Marshall 54 NW): From north of CR 706 to the north county line

Multi-Use Trail Project

- CSAH 7 (Division Street West): From the High School to Gene Dillon Elementary School

Chip Seal Program

Beltrami County will also complete approximately 46 miles of chip sealing this summer. Chip sealing is a cost-effective preventive maintenance treatment that seals the pavement surface, improves skid resistance, and extends roadway life.

- CR 307 - Main Street, Tenstrike (CSAH 43 to Three Culverts Road)
- CSAH 7 - Becida Road SW (County Line to CSAH 14)
- CSAH 11 - Jefferson Avenue SW (TH 197 to CSAH 7)
- CSAH 15 - Irvine Avenue (CSAH 52 to Turtle River Bridge)
- CSAH 23 - Gull Lake Loop Road NE (TH 71 to CSAH 29)
- CSAH 27 - Parkers Lake Road NE (CSAH 12 to CSAH 20)
- CSAH 29 - Gull Lake Loop Road NE (CSAH 43 to CSAH 23)
- CSAH 30 - Blackduck Lake Rd NE (CSAH 31 to TH 71)
- CSAH 31 - Hines Road NE (TH 71 to CSAH 30)
- CSAH 43 - 3rd Avenue, Tenstrike (Main Street to TH 71)

During chip seal operations, drivers should expect loose stone for a short period and are encouraged to reduce speeds to protect their vehicles and the traveling public.

Work Zone Safety

Construction activity means lane closures, reduced speeds, and changing traffic patterns. For the safety of workers and fellow drivers, please slow down, stay alert, and follow posted signs when traveling through work zones.

If you have questions about any of these projects, please contact the Beltrami County Highway Department at 218-333-8173 or visit our office. We appreciate your patience as we work to maintain and improve the county road system.

Spring Gardening Party

With the Beltrami County Master Gardeners

While April in Northern Minnesota may bring snow instead of rain showers, it's not too early to start planning for Spring gardening. Join the Beltrami County Master Gardeners on Saturday, April 11 for a morning of gardening education, plant-related conversation, and lots of fun! Whether you're new to gardening or an experienced green thumb, you'll take away information you can put to use this growing season.

Have you ever wondered how variations in the life cycle of plants can help us learn more about climate change? John Latimer, who hosts the Phenology Show on Northern Community Radio, will tell us more and answer our questions.

Tarah Young, Hubbard County Extension Educator will share with us ways we can prepare for climate change in our gardens in her talk "Embracing Climate Change

- How to Prepare for Weather Whiplash."

And for houseplant enthusiasts looking for a challenge, Dave Severson, Bonsai Specialist will share bonsai culture techniques and his journey in the world of bonsai.

Beltrami County Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions, and we will also have representatives from related organizations available to share their information. Delicious snacks and fun plant-related door prizes will round out an enjoyable morning with other like-minded gardeners.

Beltrami County Master Gardeners are part of the statewide University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Interns in the program complete a 14-segment online core course focused on science-based horticultural knowledge, and volunteer at least 50 hours to provide education and support in gardening best practices in their communities. Upon completion of internship, volunteers provide at least



Tony Hansen

University of MN Extension Regional Director

25 hours of volunteer work and 5 hours of continuing education that supports the core values of horticulture skills, pollinator health, plant biodiversity, nearby nature, clean water, climate responsiveness and local food sustainability. There are currently over 3100 Master Gardener Volunteers across Minnesota. More information can be found at <https://extension.umn.edu/master-gardener/about-master-gardener>. We look forward to seeing you at the Garden Party!



Garden Party

Saturday April 11, 8:30 am–Noon

Check-in starts at 7:45 am

Please Pre-register on line at:

<https://tinyurl.com/GardenParty2026>

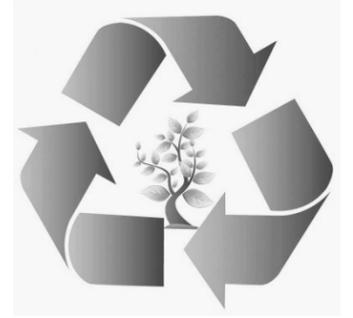
Location: Evangelical Free Church
115 Carr Lake Rd SW, Bemidji

Cost: **\$20**

Jared Davidson

Solid Waste Operations Coordinator

Source Separated Organic Materials



A More Efficient Composting Process

Household trash may look like a mix of odds and ends, but studies show that up to 20% of it is organic material. Instead of sending that material to the landfill or burning it as waste, it can be composted and returned to the soil. That opportunity has made organic waste a key focus for diversion efforts across our region.

These efforts are known as **Source Separated Organic Materials (SSOM)** programs. “Source separated” simply means that residents intentionally set aside organic materials at home rather than mixing them into regular trash. The “organic materials” portion primarily includes food scraps, but also extends to items such as houseplants, coffee grounds and filters, wet or soiled paper towels, and even pet waste.

It’s important to note that SSOM programs are separate from traditional yard waste collection. Leaves, grass clippings, sticks, and garden waste should continue to be managed through the existing yard waste program at the Beltrami County Demolition Landfill.

How Co-Collection Works

Our program uses a convenient approach called

co-collection. Residents place their food scraps into specially designed compostable bags. Once full, the bag is tied and placed in the same trash cart or dumpster they already use—no extra cart or additional pickup service required.

Because the organics are sealed in a distinct compostable bag, they can be separated from regular trash after collection. At the Polk County Material Recovery Facility, advanced artificial intelligence (AI) robots identify and remove these compostable bags from the waste stream. The bags are designed to stay intact through collection and sorting, making the process efficient and reliable.

Once separated, the organic material is transported to the Polk County Compost Facility for processing.

A More Efficient Composting Process

Currently, the compost facility uses a common method called static windrow composting—long rows of organic material are formed, and heat and moisture are managed to support decomposition. When activity slows, the rows are turned

to reintroduce air and moisture, restarting the process.

The facility is transitioning to an Aerated Static Pile (ASP) system, which improves efficiency and speeds up composting. Instead of long rows, materials are formed into larger, compact piles. Air is delivered through perforated pipes beneath the piles using fans, ensuring consistent oxygen flow without the need for frequent turning.

This upgrade will:

- Use space on the compost pad more efficiently
- Accelerate the composting process
- Reduce the time needed to meet key composting benchmarks

By separating organic materials at home and participating in SSOM, residents play a direct role in reducing landfill waste, supporting innovative recycling technology, and creating valuable compost that benefits our community.

1) Collect Organic Waste in Special Organics Bag



2) Tie-off the Organics Bag & Place in Trash Container



3) Trash & Organics Bags Sorted by Robots



4) Organics Bags sent to Composting Facility



Amy Bowles

Public Health Director and Community Health Services Administrator

You Spoke—We Listened

315 Families First Public Surveys were collected

Top three requests were:

- Add more breastfeeding education and cultural resources
- Train caregivers to better support mothers, including culturally responsive healthcare.
- Strengthen in-home breastfeeding support

Public Health and the Community Health Board have responded:

- Trained & Certified 30 individuals as Lactation Specialists.
- Expanded hours hosting the Babe Café’ in partnership with Sanford Health



- Participant in the Bemidji Breastfeeding Coalition
- Added breastfeeding supplies to the Emergency Response Supplies
- Offer in-home or at Public Health Clinic breastfeeding support
- Enhanced waiting area to include a breastfeeding friendly space
- Set-up and maintain a breastfeeding tent at community events

For more information or to submit ideas on how to better support families in their breastfeeding journey, reach out to:

<https://familiesfirstminnesota.org/>

<https://www.co.beltrami.mn.us/services/public-health/>

Shane Gustafson

Veteran Services Officer

The Veteran Services Office is a Busy Place

Highlights and Outlook

Fiscal Year 2025 was a year of significant growth and expanded impact for the Beltrami County Veteran Services Office, with increased access to services and measurable benefits delivered directly to local veterans and their families.

Demand for services reached record levels as veterans and surviving spouses sought assistance with VA claims, appeals, pensions, and survivor benefits. The office recorded 1,676 face-to-face visits, a nearly 13 percent increase over FY24. When combined with outreach efforts, total face-to-face contacts reached 2,657, representing a 77 percent increase year over year.

A major contributor to this growth was the Northern Warriors Outreach (NWO) program. In FY25, the mobile claims unit conducted 43 outreach events, traveled more than 2,000 miles, and connected with nearly 1,300 veterans, family members, and community members, bringing services directly to rural and underserved areas.

These efforts resulted in real financial impact. Approximately \$1.5 million in retroactive VA compensation and pension payments was paid directly to individual veterans and surviving spouses, not to the county.

The office also administered critical financial assistance through the Minnesota State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP), completing 172 grants in FY25. Following the June storm in Bemidji, 129 disaster relief grants distributed \$55,742 to eligible applicants. An additional \$75,458 was awarded through optical, dental, veterans relief, and subsistence grants.

Strong partnerships enhanced these efforts. Collaboration with DAV Chapter 7 provided \$21,189 in direct assistance to veterans facing urgent needs such as housing repairs, heating costs, groceries, and transportation.

FY25 also included new initiatives supporting homeless and at-risk veterans. Veterans transitioning into housing or mental health treatment received backpacks stocked with essential items, with additional support provided by the VFW Ladies Auxiliary. The office also expanded its partnership with Beltrami County's DWI Court to connect justice-involved veterans with VA health care, mental health services, and substance use treatment.



CVSO, Shane Gustafson and ACVSO, Luke Wilkowski accepting the Tyler Technologies Award and the AMC Achievement Award

The Veteran Services Office work has earned statewide and national recognition, including the Tyler Technologies VSO Excellence Award and an Association of Minnesota Counties County Achievement Award for the Northern Warriors Outreach program.

FY26 began with continued momentum, including a Military Appreciation Hockey Game featuring Bemidji State University Beavers and the Minnesota Golden Gophers, where 210 tickets, provided through a partnership with Enbridge, were claimed by local veterans and families.

Looking ahead, the Northern Warriors Outreach program will expand with monthly outreach at the Red Lake Government Center on the fourth Friday of each month, further improving access for veterans and their families.

The Veteran Services Office also encourages community members to attend Veterans Day on the Hill on April 23 in St. Paul at the Cedar Street Armory and the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda. No membership is required, and all veterans, families, and supporters are welcome. Topics will include proposed legislation such as Minnesota Senate File 3260, which addresses expanded property tax relief for disabled veterans and surviving spouses beginning in 2026.

Veterans or family members seeking assistance can contact the Beltrami County Veteran Services Office by calling 218-333-4192 to schedule an appointment or receive benefits counseling.

As FY26 continues, the Beltrami County Veteran Services Team remains focused on expanding access, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring veterans and their families receive the benefits and support they have earned.



VSO Team and BSU Men's Hockey Team together for the Military Appreciation Game

TINY TOTS
Health & Wellness Fair

Saturday,
March 28, 2026
9:30-Noon
Sanford Events Center
Bemidji, MN

FREE!
Ages 0-5
& families

Join us! At the Tiny Tots Health and Wellness Fair

Brought to you by the Bemidji Early Childhood Collaborative (BECC). This is a free event and is open to the community. There are lots of fun activities focused on our youngest people. In addition, this is a great way to prepare for "Week of the Young Child".

naeyc
Week of the Young Child
April 11-17, 2026

Brought to you locally by **BECC**
Bemidji Early Childhood Collaborative

Watch for other special community events celebrating themed days with local businesses!

MUSIC MONDAY
TASTY TUESDAY
WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY
ARTSV THURSDAY
FAMILY FRIDAY

www.bemidjierlychildhoodcollaborative.org

Ehren Inkel
Director of Operations

On the Radar

Bemidji Regional Airport

Community Engagement at Bemidji Regional Airport

The Bemidji Regional Airport is more than a place to catch a flight to the Minneapolis–Saint Paul International Airport. It’s also a hub for community learning and aviation exploration.

Tours and Education

The airport hosts tours for school groups and community organizations, offering behind-the-scenes looks at aircraft, airport operations, and Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF).

Groups interested in scheduling a tour can find more information at www.bemidjiairport.org.

Aviation Exploring Program

In partnership with Bemidji Aviation Services and Scouts BSA, the Aviation Exploring pro-

gram gives high school students monthly, hands-on exposure to aviation careers—from flight operations and maintenance to snow removal and ARFF.

TSA PreCheck Enrollment Opportunity

Frequent travelers flying out of Bemidji or other airports may be interested in TSA PreCheck®. In the coming months, Greater Bemidji, the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Bemidji Regional Airport will host a one-day TSA PreCheck enrollment event at the airport.

This special event will provide a convenient, local option for completing the required in-person enrollment appointment—saving applicants the time and expense of traveling to another approved enrollment center. Appointment availability will be limited.

TSA PreCheck is beneficial for both leisure and business travelers. Approved participants typically:

- Keep on shoes, belts, and light jackets
- Leave liquids and electronics in carry-on bags (at most TSA checkpoints)
- Experience shorter lines and faster security screening

Dates for the Precheck enrollment center and information on how to apply can be found at Greater Bemidji or Bemidji Chamber of Commerce.



Brent Rud
Environmental Services Director

Keep it Clean

Upper Red Lake is Looking Good

For years, shoreline cleanup had become a frustrating spring routine on Upper Red Lake. Trash, human waste, fish remains, beer cans, and minnow bags were too common and rose right along with the increase in wheelhouse use. While most anglers did the right thing, enough didn’t, creating a serious problem.

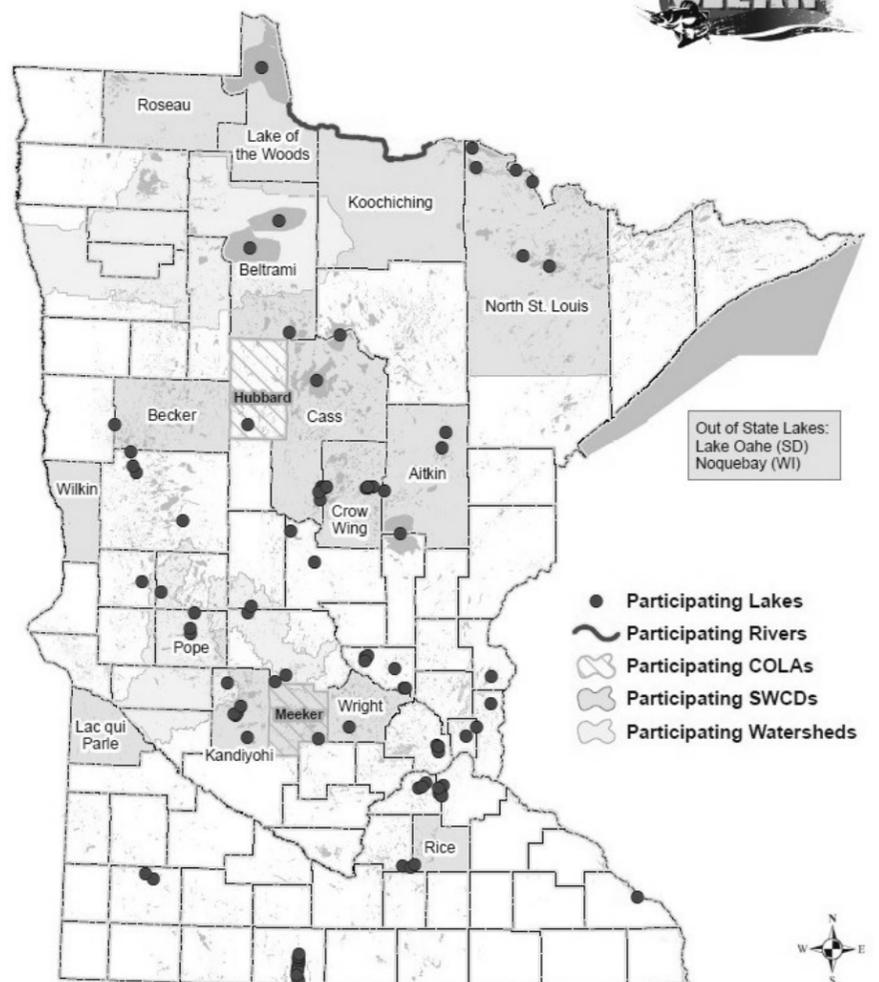
Today, that story has changed.

Thanks to the leadership of the Upper Red Lake Area Association and strong partnerships with Beltrami County, Beltrami Soil & Water Conservation District, Resorts and Outfitters, and Red Lake Watershed District the Keep It Clean program has made a real impact. Grants, outreach, education, and the human waste dumpster program have helped shift habits in a positive way. Anglers have proven that they will do the right thing if given the opportunity and resources to dispose of their waste bags.

This past season, not a single complaint about garbage was reported and there is a dramatic difference in the amount of trash and waste left on the ice according to resorts, outfitters, and lakeshore owners.

What started on Lake of the Woods has now expanded across Minnesota and beyond. Most importantly, anglers and local partners stepped up — proving that when a community works together, real change happens.

Keep it Clean Partners



Shane Foley

Natural Resource Management Director

Lori Clark

Recreation Resource Coordinator

Shaping the Future of Outdoor Recreation

The Beltrami County Natural Resource Management Department (NRM) is excited to announce the development of a new Recreational Facilities Plan, a comprehensive plan that will guide the future of county parks and outdoor recreation opportunities on lands managed by Beltrami County. The current plan was written in 2008 and with changing trends and growing community interest, we felt it was time to review how our parks serve residents and visitors.

NRM currently manages six county parks: Three Island, Rognlien, Movil Maze, Mississippi High Banks, Grant Creek Horse Camp, and Wilton Hill. Together these parks span more than 4,000 acres and provide diverse outdoor recreational experiences, from hiking and biking

to horseback riding and winter sports.

The new plan will be developed in coordination with the county board, local user groups, and members of the public. Although, this collaborative approach takes a bit more time, it ensures that the plan more broadly reflects the needs of the community and showcases ideas unique to our area.

We want your input! If you have new ideas or suggestions for improving our parks, whether it's new trails, facilities, or programs, please share them with us by scanning the QR code and visiting the Beltrami County Website to leave your comments or by email at: nrm.beltrami@co.beltrami.mn.us.

Your feedback is essential to creating a plan that serves everyone.

The planning process is already underway, with anticipated completion in August 2027. Together, we can create a vision that enhances outdoor recreation in our area and strengthens community for years to come.

Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to participate in shaping the future of Beltrami County parks!



Chris Muller

Emergency Management Director

Safely Burning Storm Debris

Residents of Beltrami County are likely dealing with significant tree debris and brush piles following the June 21, 2025 derecho. For many property owners, the easiest and most efficient disposal method is to collect and burn debris on site rather than haul it elsewhere.

Winter — when snow is on the ground — is often the safest time to burn brush piles. Removing debris that could serve as fuel for wildfires helps reduce the risk of larger fires in the spring and throughout wildfire season.

Residents choosing to burn brush piles should follow all burning restrictions and guidelines established by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Before starting a fire,

be mindful of wind direction and current weather conditions. Burning on days with light winds and sunshine allows smoke to disperse more effectively.

To minimize smoke and improve safety:

- Keep fires actively stoked to prevent smoldering.
- Burn several smaller piles instead of one large pile, making fires easier to monitor, manage, and extinguish.
- Keep brush piles at least 25 feet from structures (100 feet for larger fires).
- Remember that embers can travel several hundred feet and ignite additional fires.

Residents planning to burn are asked to notify the Beltrami County Emergency Communications Center at **218-333-9111** so dispatchers can inform emergency responders of planned burns.

Fires must be monitored until completely “out cold.” Even during winter, large brush piles can retain heat for several days or even weeks. Fire can also spread underground through roots, duff, peat, or other organic material. After snow melts, recheck the burn area to ensure the fire is fully extinguished.

To learn more about wildfire prevention and preparedness, visit the Minnesota DNR’s Firewise program at mndnr.gov/firewise.



The County Newsletter is Available Online

Did you know you can view or download a copy of the County Newsletter from the Beltrami County website? Issues date back to 2022 and there is a subscription option to receive email notification when the newest issue goes live. Visit the Beltrami County website at www.co.beltrami.mn.us.

Your feedback is also important, e-mail a comment to webmaster@co.beltrami.mn.us or submit your comment on line at www.co.beltrami.mn.us/living-here/newsletter

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Chris Muller
Emergency Management Director



New Emergency Notification System

Everbridge has been selected as the new emergency notification system for Beltrami County. Emergency Management and Emergency Communications Center personnel conducted several product demonstrations before selecting the new service to ensure Beltrami County’s alerting needs were met. Everbridge is an industry leader in mass notification systems across the country, bringing a full suite of resources to alert visitors and residents of danger and hazardous situations in the community.

As technology changes and improves, it is important that residents enroll or opt-in to the Everbridge system. Certain alerts are disseminated through technologies that most mobile devices are automatically receiving and are opt-out through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), but phone calls to landline or cellular devices, text messages, emails, mobile applications and TTY/TTD devices are opt-in. To sign up and register, visit the Beltrami County website or scan the QR code attached to this article.

The emergency notification system change follows Beltrami County decommissioning the CodeRED Notification System late in 2025 due to a cyber security incident. Everbridge alerts are free for residents and messages are generated by Beltrami County Emergency Management and the 911 Emergency Communications Center.



Chris Muller
Emergency Management Director

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Beltrami County is beginning the update of its Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). As part of this process, the required five-year (quinquennial) review by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will take place to maintain eligibility for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program. Keeping the plan current ensures that the county and its jurisdictions remain eligible for future disaster mitigation funding.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies natural hazards that pose risks to the county, including flooding, tornadoes, windstorms, winter storms,

extreme temperatures, wildfire, and drought. The plan also assesses local vulnerabilities and outlines mitigation strategies designed to reduce the long-term impacts of future natural hazard events.

This is a multi-jurisdictional plan covering all of Beltrami County, including its cities and townships. Tribal nation partners who share geography within the county are also invited to participate and may integrate this effort with their existing planning initiatives.

The plan update is being led by a professional team from the University of Minnesota Duluth in coordination with county staff and representatives from local jurisdictions.

Public input is a critical component of the planning process. The HMP update will continue throughout 2026, with completion anticipated by December. There will be multiple opportunities for community involvement.

Residents interested in contributing to the plan update are encouraged to contact Emergency Management Director Chris Muller at chris.muller@co.beltrami.mn.us or 218-333-8386.

Bruce Hasbargen
Public Works Director

Countywide Road Safety Plan

Beltrami County has been awarded federal planning funds through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Safe Streets and Roads for All program to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. This countywide effort will focus on reducing and ultimately preventing serious injuries and fatalities on our roadways.

This plan will guide how we improve safety for everyone who uses Beltrami County roads, including drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and commercial vehicles. The project follows the nationally recognized Safe System Approach, which looks at safety from multiple angles: safer road design, safer speeds, safer vehicles, safer driving behaviors, and improved emergency response after a crash.

Using crash data, roadway analysis, and community input, the County will identify our most significant safety concerns and develop prioritized strategies to address them. The goal is to make practical, data-driven improvements that reflect local needs and save lives.

We need your help. Residents are encouraged to share their experiences and identify locations where they have safety concerns on county roads. Your feedback will directly influence where future safety improvements may occur. We invite you to attend the Winter Festival on March 7 in Kelliher to participate in person and/or take the short online survey to submit your input <https://bit.ly/Beltrami-CSAP>

One death is too many. You can help prevent the next tragedy.



Chris Muller

Emergency Management Director

TEXT-TO-911

Have an Emergency but Can't Call? Try a Text...

Text-to-911 has been available in Minnesota for several years and is easier to use than most realize. The same as texting a friend or family member, instead of entering a 10-digit phone number, you can enter 911 and your text will be delivered to a 911 Emergency Communications Center. The Telecommunicator will engage in a conversation where they'll confirm your emergency, location and what is needed.

Recent improvements and changes in technology have expanded the capability of Text-to-911 to be available even when there is no cellular service. Following tornadoes that impacted Beltrami County in June 2025, campers found themselves trapped in storm debris. Despite no service, they successfully sent a text message to 911 and it was received by a satellite that subsequently delivered the plea for help to Beltrami County.

While dispatchers prefer to have a voice call, when that isn't possible Text-to-911 is an alternative that is available to request assistance. While technology isn't always perfect, if your phone indicates SOS mode only, it is worth an attempt to send a text. That text could save your life.



Anne Lindseth

Health and Human Services Division Director

State Wide Leadership Award

Honoring Beltrami County's Public Health Division Director



Left to right: Commissioners Craig Gaasvig & John Carlson, Amy Bowles, Commissioner Scott Winger

Beltrami County Public Health Division Director **Amy Bowles** has been selected as the recipient of the **2025 Local Public Health Association (LPHA) Emerging Leader Award**. This annual award recognizes rising leaders who go above and beyond in strengthening Minnesota's public health system.

Amy's nomination highlighted her leadership and unwavering commitment to community health. Among her many contributions:

- **Emergency Response Leadership:** Following last year's derecho and straight-line winds in Beltrami County, Amy coordinated a rapid and effective emergency response. Her calm direction and planning ensured residents had access to shelter, food, and essential public health services during a critical time.
- **Team Building and Regional Collaboration:** Amy has cultivated regional relationships and consistently lends her knowledge across agencies. She actively participates in, and often leads, workgroups and projects at both regional and statewide levels.
- **Advocacy for Rural Health:** Amy is a trusted voice for smaller and rural health departments, championing their needs and ensuring they are represented in statewide initiatives.
- **Inspiring Leadership:** Known for her energy and genuine care for others, Amy approaches every challenge with positivity and forward-thinking solutions.

Congratulations to Amy Bowles on this well-deserved recognition! Her dedication and leadership continue to make a lasting impact on public health in Beltrami County and beyond.

Board of Commissioners

District 1—Craig Gaasvig	218-766-9699
District 2—Joe Gould	218-259-4342
District 3—Scott Winger	218-556-7589
District 4—Tim Sumner	218-407-7589
District 5—John Carlson	218-766-5010

Administration Building

701 Minnesota Ave NW Bemidji MN 56601	
Administrator—Thomas Barry	218-333-4109
Assessor—Kaleb Bessler	218-333-4116
Auditor/Treasurer—JoDee Treat	218-333-4175
Environmental Services	

Brent Rud.....	218-333-4158
Facilities Manager Steve Shadrick	.218-333-8475
Geographic Info Systems (GIS).	
Kevin Trappe	218-333-8457

Human Resources

Jordan Hickman.....	218-333-4155
License Center.....	218-333-4148
Information Technology (IT)	

Kevin Warne.....	218-333-4151
Natural Resource Management	

Shane Foley	218-333-4210
Real Estate & Tax Services.....	218-333-4138
Recorder—Charlene Sturk.....	218-333-4170

Community Service Center

616 America Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601	
Health & Human Services	

Director Anne Lindseth.....	218-333-4195
Social Services Division Director	

Jeff Lind	218-333-4196
Economic Assistance Division Director	

Curt Anderson.....	218-333-4199
Public Health Division Director	

Amy Bowles.....	218-333-8116
Veterans Services Officer	

Shane Gustafson.....	218-333-4192
Law Enforcement Center	

613 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601	
Sheriff Jason Riggs.....	218-333-9111
Bemidji Police Chief Mike Mastin	218-333-9111

Judicial Center

600 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601	
Attorney—David Hanson.....	218-333-4219
Court Administration	218-888-5060

County Jail

626 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601	
Main phone number	218-333-4189

Public Works Department

2491 Adams Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601	
Public Works Director	

Bruce Hasbargen.....	218-333-8173
751 Industrial Park Dr SE	

Solid Waste Director	
Brian Olson	218-333-8187

County Extension

7223 Fairgrounds Rd NW, Bemidji MN 56601	
Extension Secretary	218-444-5722



BELTRAMI county