

# About



## ABOUT BATTLE CREEK UNLIMITED

### Generating investment and job creation in our community.

Our services are centered around our mission, by assisting new and growing companies or those looking to relocate to find resources they need to build their business. This includes not only site selection, but also redevelopment assistance, workforce research, access to financing and other incentives or resources to help them make the most of their investments in Battle Creek. For over 50 years, Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) has helped people and businesses find ways to create economic opportunity in Southwest Michigan. BCU, a private, nonprofit corporation, serves as the business and economic development arm for the City of Battle Creek.

BCU was established in 1972 under contract with the City of Battle Creek to market and manage the conversion of the abandoned, former military property, which is now known as Fort Custer Industrial Park. The grounds were transformed from rolling, wooded tracts of abandoned military property into the now modern, thriving industrial park. This transformation was the nation's first and most successful base conversion project into Michigan's largest, cutting-edge, state-certified industrial park - 3,000 acre Fort Custer Industrial Park.

BCU positioned Battle Creek among the **first communities** to make a marketing strategy of workforce development and customize training.

Thanks to the foresight and diligence of local, state, and national leaders assets were put in place to encourage success. This included:

- 1976 - Customs Port of Battle Creek Designation
- 1978 - Foreign-Trade Zone 43 grant of authority
- 1980 - Public Act 450, positioning the Battle Creek Tax Increment Financing Authority as the **first industrial TIFA in Michigan.**

Through stunning early wins in manufacturing, BCU never abandoned its strategy of determined outreach, a collaborative approach, and proactively developing an asset base for economic growth and social resilience.

[View our Strategic Plan](#)

[View our Strategic Plan Dashboard](#)

[View our Commitment to Equity & Inclusion](#)

## **Downloads**

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