

DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC)

Paul J. Borek, Executive Director 2008 – 2023

DCEDC Accomplishments

- DCEDC led to the creation of DeKalb County Enterprise Zone with DeKalb County Government, the Cities of DeKalb, Genoa, Sandwich and Sycamore, the Town of Cortland, and the Village of Waterman. The Enterprise Zone was a major asset in attracting over \$2.5 billion in investment in the development of 8,000,000 square feet of space and the creation of 3,500 jobs during the past eight years. While the Enterprise Zone contributed to the attraction of 19 companies to DeKalb County, the Zone also helped expand 39 local businesses during that period
- This significant development has nearly doubled the industrial tax base of DeKalb County, from 4% to 7% of total valuation, and will continue to grow as new construction continues and the industrial tax base further increases.
- DCEDC worked with the Illinois Data Center Coalition to advise the Illinois General Assembly of the significant economic and fiscal impacts of hyperscale data center campuses. This led to the approval of Illinois Data Center Investment Act and the attraction of Meta to acquire the 505 acres at the ChicagoWest Business Center in the City of DeKalb to establish the DeKalb Data Center.
- DCEDC supported development projects throughout DeKalb County: the expansion of Hines Supply Millwork and Components in Kirkland; multiple expansions of Custom Aluminum Products in Genoa; multiple expansions of The Suter Company, IDEAL INDUSTRIES, and the BCM Industrial Park; and the attraction of Meijer in Sycamore; the attraction of Natural Polymers/Owens Corning to Cortland; the attraction of Meta, Ferrara Candy, Kraft Heinz and Amazon, and expansions of 3M, Target, Wehrli Custom Fabrication in DeKalb; the attraction of Syngenta R & D Innovation Center to Malta; the attraction of Hinckley Fresh Market Grocery to Hinckley; the expansions of Bayer and Conserv FS in Waterman; recognition of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Shabbona; the attraction of Meadowvale and the reconstruction of Gord Industrial Plastics in Sandwich; and the expansion of Precision Enterprises in Somonauk.
- During the past three years, DeKalb County attracted as much investment and development as the previous 33 years combined, with an active pipeline of continued development under consideration.
- DCEDC worked with Northern Illinois University to lead the creation of DeKalb County's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS Plan) with DeKalb County Government and the DeKalb County Community Foundation. The plan served to guide the expansion and diversification of the DeKalb County economy with the addition and expansion of major new technology, research & development and food processing industries complementing the county's manufacturing, logistics, education and agricultural base.
- The CEDS Plan led to the establishment of the Business Retention & Expansion / Talent Pipeline Committee that promotes and supports employee training and recruitment to serve the needs of DeKalb County employers.
- The CEDS Plan also led to advocacy of business climate improvements throughout the county and the establishment of economic development "Community Champions" in every county municipality.
- DCEDC members contributed to the creation and execution of the Opportunity Unbound branding strategy created to attract talented professionals, students, families, and visitors to work and live in DeKalb County. Opportunity Unbound does this by promoting the county's abundant and growing attractions, communities, and careers to the Midwest audiences and beyond.
- These accomplishments were made possible by DCEDC business, community, institutional and individual members, led by the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and conducted by DCEDC's outstanding staff Karen Hoyle, Katelyn Lancaster, Jan Kinczewski and Adrea Van Drew.