



Greater Gratiot
Development, Inc.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



PROGRAM IMPACTS

\$1.7 Bil

Invested by GGDl-assisted projects since 1978

\$33.98

Generated in additional tax revenue for every \$1 GGDl received from the 2021 millage

5,511

Jobs created or retained since 1978 (34% of labor force)

\$12.6 Mil

In grant dollars allocated to Gratiot County as a result of GGDl assistance since 1978

35.7%

Of millage dollars received by GGDl are generated from GGDl-assisted projects.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Assisted in development of Heartland Farms Wind, which will include 68 turbines in Newark, Washington, New Haven, North Shade, and North Star townships. To be complete in 2023.
 - Supported the following manufacturing companies: Avalon & Tahoe, Jer-Den Plastics, Plasti-Paint, Misenhelder Welding, Alma Tire, Saia Fabrication, Mid Michigan Upholstery & Awning, Powell Fabrication, and Trident Manufacturing.
 - Completed Brownfield Redevelopment plans on Zone3 Boutique Hotel and 120 E. Superior, LLC.
 - Received EGLE grant for environmental review of the West Hoffman Road industrial property.
 - Collaborated with the City of Alma, Gratiot Area Chamber, and MSU Extension in hosting the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference in downtown Alma.
 - Assisted MyMichigan Health in their new surgical suite project at the Alma Hospital, which will greatly increase healthcare access in the region.
 - Helped develop the successful Gratiot Young Professionals Network and the GYPN Leadership Development Workshop to assist with talent recruitment and retention in the County.
 - Collaborated with regional counties in developing an in-depth two-year Business Attraction Plan for Region 5 (Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw counties).
 - Achieved a clean financial statement audit with no significant findings for FY 2021.
 - Earned voter approval of the four-year millage for Economic Development Services in Gratiot County to support GGDl projects.
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PROJECT UPDATES



MISENHELDER WELDING

- Custom agricultural, commercial, and residential fabrication
- Located in South Ithaca Industrial Park
- 2022 expansion of increased production space and equipment
- \$380,000
- 2 new jobs created, 4 jobs retained

HEARTLAND FARMS WIND

- 68 turbines developed by Invenergy, owned by Consumers Energy
- New Haven, North Shade, North Star, Newark, & Washington townships
- To be complete in 2023
- \$280 million invested (est.)
- 6 new jobs created



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

- Leadership training for forty young professionals in 2021 / 2022
- Goal is to increase and retain talent in Gratiot County
- In partnership with Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce & GGDI
- Sponsored by Alma College, Mercantile Bank, MyMichigan Health, and Powell Fabrication.

PLASTI-PAINT

- Painting of plastic parts for auto and recreational vehicles
- Located in St. Louis Woodside Industrial Centre
- 2022 expansion of increased production space
- \$564,000 invested
- 3 new jobs created, 109 jobs retained





2023 FOCUS AREAS

Solar Development

Thanks to its early foray into renewable energy with wind development, Gratiot County has much of the infrastructure and substation capacity necessary to make solar development economically viable.

Solar energy is being pursued in several different capacities. First, large-scale solar, often developed by utility providers, is being pursued in agricultural areas where larger sites can be leased; energy produced goes to the grid for the use of utility customers. Second, solar is being considered on sites with environmental issues to make use of land that otherwise would be too costly to develop. Finally, solar is being incorporated on privately-owned business and residential properties to off-set energy costs.

Talent Recruitment

Talent shortages are now a nationwide problem, regardless of industry. Less people are in the workforce due to demographic changes. This is the number one issue for most businesses.

GGDI is working collaboratively through several initiatives to increase talent availability in the area. First, the Gratiot Young Professionals Network offers individuals aged 21-40 who live or work in Gratiot the opportunity to network and grow roots in the area. Second, Gratiot County is working with regional partners on a workforce training grant that will assist companies in training new employees. Finally, GGDI continues to work collaboratively with industry and education representatives to ensure students receive appropriate training.

Master Planning

Every five years, municipalities are required by state law to review/update a master plan, which provides the goals, objectives, and strategies that will guide communities over the next twenty years. Gratiot County is unlike any other in the state, in that all cities, villages, and townships come together to develop a unified Countywide Master Plan.

In 2023, Gratiot will be completing a new Master Plan that will incorporate new Census data, future development goals, and opportunities for collaboration. The Countywide Master Plan relies on public participation and there will be numerous ways to incorporate your ideas, including public participation sessions and online surveys. Completing the Countywide Master Plan will ensure the area is eligible for future grant opportunities from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).



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For assistance in the following areas:

- Building/equipment expansions
 - Site selection
 - Brownfield Redevelopment
 - State and local incentives
 - Entrepreneurial assistance
 - General consultation
 - Employee recruitment/training
 - Strategic planning
 - Community impact initiatives
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