



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Adam Smith, City Manager

Phone: (517) 627-2149

E-mail: asmith@cityofgrandledge.com

Website: www.cityofgrandledge.com

City Receives \$1 Million Michigan Economic Development Corporation Grant for Grand Improvements to Downtown Grand Ledge

GRAND LEDGE, MI, September 7, 2022 — The City of Grand Ledge was awarded \$1 million in grant funds from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) through their Revitalization and Placemaking Program (RAP) during today's Michigan Strategic Fund board meeting. The City will leverage the grant funds as gap financing to support an estimated \$3.9 million place-based, infrastructure project within the downtown Central Business District. The RAP initiative is aimed at supporting downtown businesses within the tourism, travel, and hospitality-related sectors that were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Grand Renovations for Downtown Grand Ledge (GRDGL) project will enhance the traditional downtown streetscape and public gathering spaces from Scott St. to Main St. and along W. River St., significantly improving amenities to bring enhanced walkability and four-season enjoyment to the downtown area.

Grand Ledge submitted the application in early June 2022, along with 185 other applicants, and was one of only ten communities that were awarded a maximum \$1 million RAP grant for public space improvements. "The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is tremendously proud to receive this funding from the MEDC. We accepted numerous impassioned letters of support from downtown businesses who are in support of this project. The DDA is keenly aware of the struggles downtown business owners faced, and still face, trying to stay open in a pandemic. This grant will allow us to bring to life first-class placemaking projects, that have been on our to-do list for years. These vibrant projects are permanent amenities, designed specifically to bring more people downtown with enhanced public gathering spaces and encourage longer visits," stated Bruce MacDowell, DDA Chair.

The GRDGL project pulls elements from five (5) key, public-supported plans utilized for future planning: City Master Plan, Parks & Recreation Master Plan, Downtown Development Authority Priorities, Capital Improvements Plan, and Complete Streets Policy. "With \$1 million in RAP funding from the MEDC, the City can take projects we hoped to do someday and pull them into what we will actually complete in the next two years," stated Keith Mulder, DDA Board Member and Mayor Pro-Tem. "The GRDGL will activate unutilized and underutilized spaces, as well as greatly improve the walkability downtown. These incredible efforts will better support downtown businesses, enrich visitors' experiences, and enhance exploration of our downtown for all pedestrians whether they explore on foot, bicycle, or by kayak." The public can stay up to date on GRDGL's progress at www.cityofgrandledge.com/412/Grand-Renovations.

The City of Grand Ledge is home to nearly 8,000 residents, hundreds of businesses, and 15 parks and open spaces. Thousands of visitors visit the City annually for the charming downtown, outdoor recreation, and spectacular views created by the historic 60' sandstone ledges, from which the City's name was derived, and Michigan's longest river, the Grand River which runs directly through the downtown. For more information, visit www.cityofgrandledge.com and follow [@CityofGrandLedgeGovernment](https://twitter.com/CityofGrandLedgeGovernment).

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