



Mason County, Michigan

Monthly Update: April 2018

IMPACT DASHBOARD

			SUSTAINED IMPACT <i>(since 2015)</i>	
			\$50.1 Million <i>in Private Investment</i>	188 <i>New Jobs</i>
2018 IMPACT			\$3.5 Million <i>in Grant & Resource Assistance</i>	\$7 Million + <i>in New Payroll Annually</i>
13	59	12	\$15,000	\$5,000
<i>Retention Visits</i>	<i>Company Assists</i>	<i>Projects in Progress</i>	<i>in Placemaking Project Support</i>	<i>in Entrepreneurship Grant Support</i>



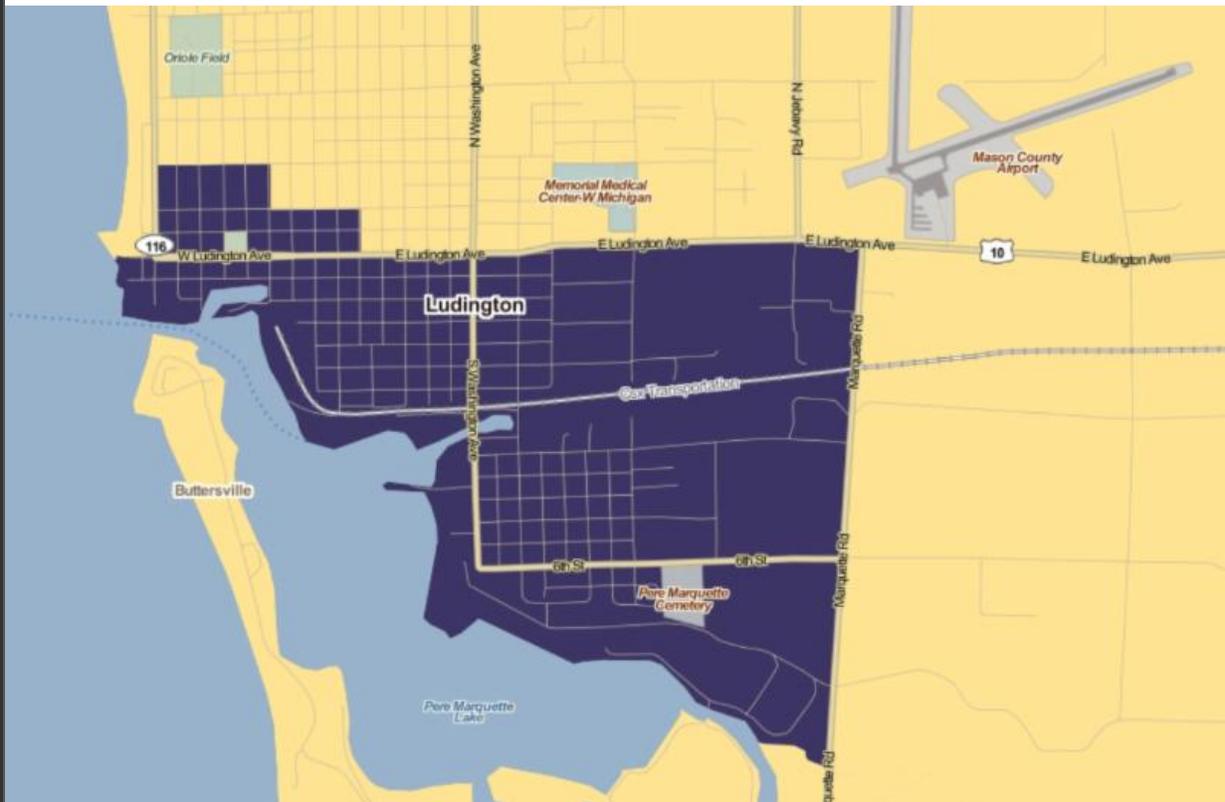
MCGA Announces Placemaking Grant Recipients

The Mason County Growth Alliance is proud to announce the recipients of the Spring 2019 *Uncommon Spaces* Placemaking Grant: the Lakeside Wiener Wagon and the Friends of the Ludington State Park. The Lakeside Wiener

Wagon plans to use funds to support the creation of a Pop Up Food Truck Court. This project proposes to create a destination that can be enjoyed by locals and tourists alike, offering a unique outdoor dining experience unlike anything else in Mason County. The pop up park will also allow other food truckers to utilize the space, with the hope of creating broader opportunity in the food truck market.

The Friends of the Ludington State Park will use the funds to support the construction of an accessible playground at Ludington State Park's Hamlin Lake beach. The project will create two separate playscapes, one for children ages 2-5 and another for children 5-12, designed specifically to promote accessibility and safety. This project will support positive experiences for tourists and residents at the top tourism destination in Mason County. Additional information on the project as well as ways to contribute can be found at www.ludingtonfriends.com.

The Growth Alliance developed the *Uncommon Spaces* Placemaking Grant in order to encourage the development of vibrant places in our community. In a time when people are prioritizing where they want to live above what they want to do for a career, sense of place and quality of life are significant factors impacting our industry's ability to access, attract, and retain workforce. This grant was made possible thanks to the contributions of our [local business partners](#).



Ludington Census Tract Designated as Opportunity Zone

On April 9th, as a part of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the US Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service announced the designation of Opportunity Zones in 18 states, including Michigan. Mason County census tract 9505 (pictured above) was among the 288 census tracts recommended by the State of Michigan and approved by the US

Department of Treasury. This census tract includes downtown Ludington, Ludington's Industrial Park, and a portion of Pere Marquette Township's US 10 commercial corridor.

The Opportunity Zone program is designed to incentivize the reinvestment of capital in designated low-income census tracts across the nation by offering deferred or reduced capital gains taxation. For additional information on Opportunity Zones, visit the [Michigan State Housing Development Authority's website](#).



April Brings Job Fair and Career Exploration to Students

During the month of April, high school students from across Mason County will be participating in two events intended to increase awareness about jobs and careers with local business and industry. The first of these events is Career Day, which allows high school seniors the opportunity to visit local employers' facility, see firsthand what those companies do, and learn about potential career opportunities. Participating employers include Harsco Rail, Gourmet Mushroom, Occidental Chemical Corporation, Metalworks, and Western Land Services. Mason County Central and Mason County Eastern students had the opportunity to visit these employers on April 10th, and Ludington High School and Gateway to Success Academy will be visiting on April 27th.

In addition, the Growth Alliance worked with the Mason County College Access Network to hold the third annual Summer Job Fair at Ludington High School on Friday, April 13th. The purpose of this job fair is to help connect high school students with summer employment opportunities, where they can start to develop and refine their employability skills that will help them to succeed after graduation. This event also helps connect businesses with potential summer employees, which is increasingly important as the demand for seasonal help continues to grow in Mason County. Mason County Central and Mason County Eastern's job fair was initially scheduled for Monday, April

16th, but has been postponed due to a snow day. Gateway to Success Academy participated in the Ludington High School fair.

About the Mason County Growth Alliance:

The Mason County Growth Alliance was created in 2006 to support economic growth and community development in Mason County. Its mission is to nurture a more dynamic economy to support a vibrant quality of life in the community. The Growth Alliance believes its efforts must be devoted to building on its business base, encouraging entrepreneurship, and capitalizing on the local community assets.



Mason County Growth Alliance

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