



City of East Grand Rapids

Community Profile

COMMUNITY PROFILE CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

About

East Grand Rapids is a full-service city of approximately 11,900 people with an annual general fund budget of \$12.8 million dollars, with a \$2.7 million-dollar (21.3%) budgeted fund balance. The total City budget is \$24.8 million. It has 67 full-time employees, 11 part-time and numerous temporary part-time recreation employees.

History

East Grand Rapids was founded in the 1830s, along the shores of Reeds Lake. It is one of the oldest suburbs in Kent County and is located immediately east of Grand Rapids. It became a village in 1891 and incorporated as a Home Rule City in 1926. It has operated under the Commission/Manager form of government since 1930. In the late 1800s Reeds Lake was a popular destination spot for swimming, boating and other recreational activities. For nearly 60 years the Ramona Park Amusement Park was a destination spot for thousands of families during the summer. Reeds Lake and Waterfront Park is still a very popular recreation area for residents of the community, as well as a large number of visitors.

Geography

The City has a total area of 3.4 square miles, one half mile of which is Reeds and Fisk Lakes. It is located in the southwest portion of Michigan. It is a suburb of Grand Rapids, which is the second largest city in Michigan. The Grand Rapids metropolitan area has a population of approximately 1,000,000. Grand Rapids is home to a large number of industries, museums, shopping, cultural venues, exhibition halls, convention centers, nationally recognized medical facilities and an international airport. The area is located approximately one hour east of Lake Michigan.



COMMUNITY PROFILE CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Housing and Income

The City enjoys an excellent quality of life. The City has a range of housing including single family homes and apartments. Home prices range from the mid to high priced homes located throughout the City and around the lakes. The average household size is 2.84. There are approximately 4,083 households. The median income for a family is \$133,982. The per capita income for the City is approximately \$61,165.

Education

The East Grand Rapids Public Schools has approximately 2,900 students with three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. The school system prides itself on offering rigorous academic programs, excellent opportunities in the arts, co-curricular activities that meets the needs of their students and holds several athletic state championships. A large percentage of graduates attend two- or four-year colleges after high school.

The East Grand Rapids Library is located on Reeds Lake in the same complex that houses City offices. The Library is one of twenty-one branch libraries in the Kent District Library system. The Library's amenities include wireless internet, public computers with internet, word processing and other software, teen space, quiet reading area with fireplace, vending services and access to hundreds of thousands of items through the District Library system.

Parks and Recreation

The City offers a large number of recreational opportunities for its residents. This is made possible in part by partnering with East Grand Rapids Public Schools. The City's parks system encompasses over 179 acres of land, from small neighborhood parks to the beautiful Waterfront Park on Reeds Lake. Reeds Lake is encircled by a 4.2-mile bike and walking path. During the Summer, typically the Recreation Department offers 60 plus different league sports, sports clinics, fitness classes, enrichment classes and aquatics programs for participants ranging in age from 3 years old to senior citizens. The City is proud of the fact that it is a "walkable" city.

Gaslight Village

Gaslight Village is the central shopping district in the City. The wide variety of stylish boutiques, interesting restaurants, and lifestyle services is turning "downtown" into a walker's delight, the perfect place to spend a leisurely day. In the winter, the downtown sidewalks are automatically cleared of ice and snow.

