



# Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority 2023 Work Plan

* Results of Issue Identification and Ranking			* Desired Outcomes/Work Approach/Schedule			
Issue/Task/Work Item	Role	Term (years) Short 1-2 Med. 3-5 Long 6+	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Continue to work with Voyageur Capital on current and future development.	Lead	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Voyageur Capital toward executing a Contract for Private Development for the buildout of speculative industrial space.</li> </ul>	Work with IRRR, DEED and others to support the new industries with low interest financing for equipment and tenant improvements.		Complete the public infrastructure buildout.
Market GREDA Services	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate the many GREDA successes and raise awareness of GREDA programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBIL program marketing</li> <li>Downtown Entertainment Loan program marketing</li> </ul>	Consider comprehensive updates to the GREDA website under a new platform	
Continue to support the ASV/Yanmar Expansion	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding ASV/Yanmar's request for a Tax Abatement.</li> <li>Coordinate with the County on a joint Contract for Private Development involving Tax Abatement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work on supportive workforce housing development.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

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Provide support for the Huber Project	Support	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in developing and implement a coordinated group effort of area and regional entities to support the successful advancement of the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Pursue and support initiatives addressing the local workforce/childcare and housing shortages	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support private development interest in housing projects by advising the City Council on TIF and Tax Abatement business assistance requests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Execute development agreements on GREDA housing parcels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with childcare facility developers and IRRR to incentivize/remove financial barriers for projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Support the development or redevelopment/infill of strategic commercial sites to achieve growth in the retail sales and service sector.	Lead	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support private development interest in housing projects by reviewing proposed requests for business assistance.</li> <li>Promote the development of GREDA housing parcels and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and support investment interest in the redevelopment of infill sites such as the former K-Mart site, former Ray's Sport and Marine, and former Sawmill Inn site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify retail gaps and more actively recruit businesses and developers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Begin implementation of the updated Downtown Plan.	Partner	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review strategies within the completed Downtown Plan update.</li> <li>Implement the Downtown Entertainment Loan Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore strategies for a sustainable Central School adaptive reuse.</li> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider a Blandin Foundation grant request for the purpose of hiring a consultant to lead downtown business and property owners through steps to establish a downtown program and organization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

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Ensure an adequate inventory of industrial sites and facilities exist to accommodate full industrial, warehousing & distribution business expansion and relocation potential.	Lead	L	▪	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to explore funding opportunities that would support the development of a speculative, flexible, industrial/warehousing building in Grand Rapids.</li> <li>Recruit a developer.</li> </ul>	▪	▪
Continue to advocate for highway transportation route improvements to improve linkages between Grand Rapids and the interstate, the Duluth port.	Lead	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have discussions with appropriate agencies, government, and elected officials the prioritization of improvements to the TH2 corridor to Duluth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore working with UWS or others in preparation of a needs study.</li> </ul>	▪	▪
Consider ways to support the relocation/renovation of local small businesses and assist with ADA compliance improvement funding options.	Lead	S	▪	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider submitting a grant request to the Blandin Foundation to establish a loan program, possibly with some forgivable terms, to address ADA and Minnesota Accessibility Code deficiencies.</li> </ul>	▪	▪
Assist with the redevelopment of the Boswell site.	Lead	S	▪	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support County efforts to implement energy transition strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify energy transition funding state and federal programs that may be applicable to GREDA efforts toward economic diversification.</li> </ul>	▪

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Continue to support our medical service providers to ensure that Grand Rapids maintains and grows its position as a regional hub.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate with major providers, Grand Itasca and Essentia, about trends toward a stay-at-home rural health care model and the buildout of services and jobs to support that growth potential.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Pursue initiatives that would support existing and new wood product industries/advocate for U.S. EPA rule changes.	Lead	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research and consider advocacy for U.S. EPA rule changes that would define wood as carbon neutral so it can be used as an alternative fuel source applicable to a future conversion of MP Unit from coal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Consider ways to diversify the membership of the Commission and amend the meeting format to include updates from local partners/organizations.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As membership opportunities arise, recruit applicants that further a diverse board.</li> <li>Invite local partner organizations to provide updates, one presentation per quarter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>