



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">Work with Voyageur Capital toward executing a Contract for Private Development for the buildout of speculative industrial space.	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">Communicate the many GREDA successes and raise awareness of GREDA programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CBIL program marketingDowntown Entertainment Loan program marketing	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">Provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding ASV/Yanmar's request for a Tax Abatement.Coordinate with the County on a joint Contract for Private Development involving Tax Abatement.	Continue to work on supportive workforce housing development.		

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Provide support for the Huber Project	Support	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in developing and implement a coordinated group effort of area and regional entities to support the successful advancement of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■
Pursue and support initiatives addressing the local workforce/childcare and housing shortages	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support private development interest in housing projects by advising the City Council on TIF and Tax Abatement business assistance requests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Execute development agreements on GREDA housing parcels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work with childcare facility developers and IRRR to incentivize/remove financial barriers for projects.
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"> Continue to support private development interest in housing projects by reviewing proposed requests for business assistance. Promote the development of GREDA housing parcels and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify retail gaps and more actively recruit businesses and developers.
Begin implementation of the updated Downtown Plan.	Partner	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review strategies within the completed Downtown Plan update. Implement the Downtown Entertainment Loan Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Explore strategies for a sustainable Central School adaptive reuse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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.

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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"> ▪ Continue to explore funding opportunities that would support the development of a speculative, flexible, industrial/warehousing building in Grand Rapids. ▪ Recruit a developer. 	▪	▪
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"> ▪ Have discussions with appropriate agencies, government, and elected officials the prioritization of improvements to the TH2 corridor to Duluth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore working with UWS or others in preparation of a needs study. 	▪	▪
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"> ▪ 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. 	▪	▪
Assist with the redevelopment of the Boswell site.	Lead	S	▪	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support County efforts to implement energy transition strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify energy transition funding state and federal programs that may be applicable to GREDA efforts toward economic diversification. 	▪

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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"> ▪ Communicate with major providers, Grand Itasca and Essentia, about trends toward a stay-at-home rural health care model and the buildup of services and jobs to support that growth potential. 	▪	▪	▪
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"> ▪ 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. 	▪
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"> ▪ As membership opportunities arise, recruit applicants that further a diverse board. ▪ Invite local partner organizations to provide updates, one presentation per quarter. 	▪	▪	▪