



Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

376 West Main Street, Suite 130 • Benton Harbor, MI 49022-3651
www.swmpc.org • (269) 925-1137

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EDA CARES Act Funding Opportunity

A few weeks ago the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission notified the community of a new funding opportunity with the Economic Development Administration. This funding opportunity was the result of the CARES Act and aims to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 or to respond to economic injury as the result of COVID-19. Southwest Michigan must respond aggressively to capture our share of this funding for vital economic development projects and planning. The opportunity is uniquely broad and inclusive and the local match split required is amazingly small. This is our moment to be ambitious and innovative in reimagining our post-pandemic economy.



As the designated Economic Development District for Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission developed a more robust project identification and selection process in order to advance the region’s strongest project proposals to the EDA grant application. Information about the project selection process can be found at www.swmpc.org/eda_eaa.asp.

Call for Projects

We invite eligible applicants to submit project proposals to us for consideration. The first round of applications are due Friday, July 10th at 5:00 pm. The project submission form can be found at www.swmpc.org/downloads/project_submission_form.pdf. Please review the project selection process and the 2018-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy before starting the application. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Jerrid Burdue at burduej@swmpc.org.

A few reminders:

To be eligible for funding under EDA’s CARES Act Recovery Assistance, applicants must explain clearly in their application how the proposed project would “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus” or respond to “economic injury as a result of coronavirus.”

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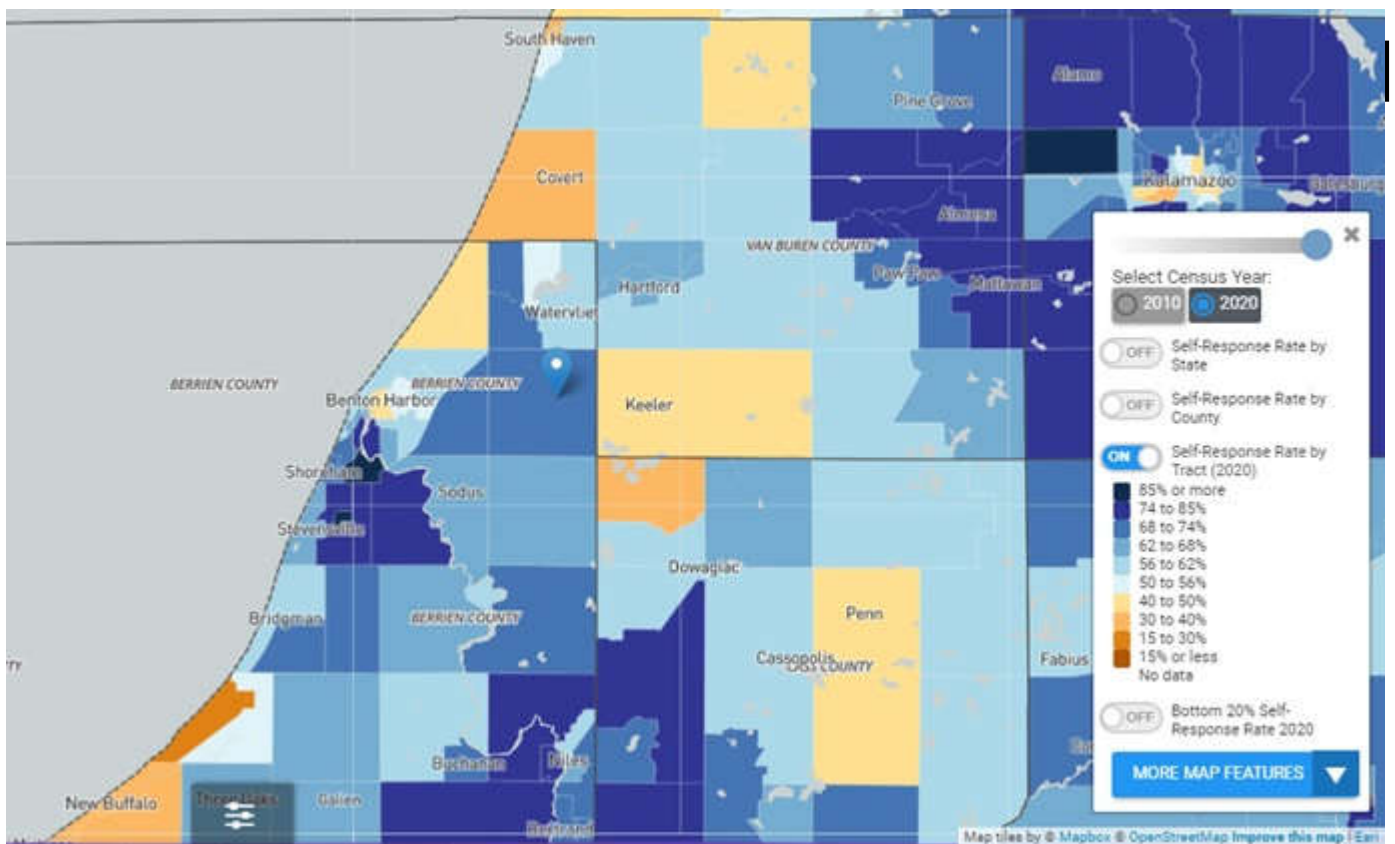
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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Eligible applicants under the EAA program include a (n):

- a. District Organization;
- b. Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes;
- c. State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
- d. Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or
- e. Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.

US Census Response Rate Map for Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties.



This map is updated often and you can track response rates here: <https://bit.ly/2NSfiSw>.

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US CENSUS 2020

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2020**

We know this is a difficult time, but we want to keep you informed of the progress being made on the US Census 2020. In the map above it shows the current response rates in our 3 county region. As you can see, we have more work to do. This map is updated often and you can track response rates here:

<https://bit.ly/2NSfISw>.

As you know, the Census count determines how much funding our region will receive over the next 10 years for roads, school lunches, education, housing, transportation, Medicare, Medicaid, and much more. It also determines how many lawmakers we get in Lansing and Washington D.C.

SWMPC has done an analysis on the impact a 10% undercount would have on road funding for each of the 3 counties we serve. Michigan uses population derived from the Census (along with road miles) in its road funding formula known as Act 51. In 2019, each city and village received approximately \$70 per person and each Township received \$19 per person.

- If Berrien County has an undercount in the Census of 10% it would lose approximately \$546,000 every year in road funding!
- If Cass County has an undercount in the Census of 10% it would lose approximately \$153,000 every year in road funding!
- If Van Buren County has an undercount in the Census of 10% it would lose approximately \$252,000 every year in road funding!

Please help get the word out to your residents about the importance of completing the 2020 Census. There are 4 easy ways....

1. Online at <https://my2020census.gov>
2. By Phone – English 844-330-2020; Spanish 844-468-2020
3. By Mail – a paper survey will be sent to you with return paid postage
4. Provide a link and information on your municipal website to: <https://2020census.gov>

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

SWMPC GIS OPEN DATA

Berrien County · Cass County · Van Buren County

[SWMPC GIS OPEN DATA PORTAL](#)

SWMPC has created a new portal to view, search and download spatial data directly from the web. The service provides direct access to GIS data created at SWMPC. The data can be examined immediately via an online map and by the associated table. Spatial data can be downloaded as shapefiles, KML and geodatabase. Much of the data was created by SWMPC in conjunction to work in transportation, transit and non-motorized planning and cannot be found elsewhere. Highlights are an up-to-date inventory of non-motorized trails, local and state park system and the state's Michigan Economic Recovery Council (MERC) regions. Visit [SWMPC GIS OPEN DATA](#) to see more. <https://southwest-michigan-planning-commission-swmcp.hub.arcgis.com>

IDENTIFYING CORRIDORS MOST SUITABLE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The siting of industrial corridors was developed in collaboration with Berrien County, Cornerstone Alliance, and U. S. Economic Development Administration. Using GIS to identify potential industrial sites was developed by using multicriteria variables to highlight areas most suitable to the least suitable for industrial development in Berrien County. This was done by using eleven different map layers. The layers were given scores, for example the flood plain layer was given a low score and areas close to sewer lines were given a high score. The layers were then added together to rank the county from most to least suitable for industrial development. You can find more details regarding the [methodology](#), view the final [map \(PDF\)](#) or examine the [online map](#).

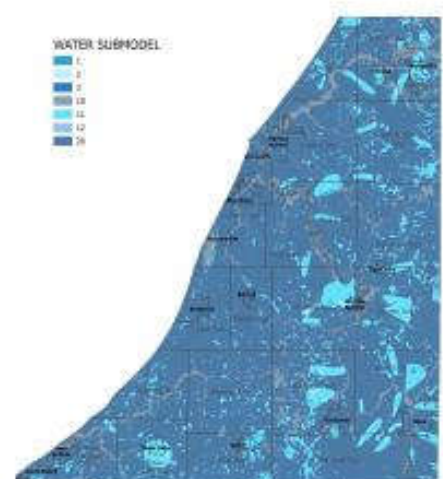
INFRASTRUCTURE SUBMODEL



LAND FORMS SUBMODEL



HYDROLOGY SUBMODEL



Paw Paw River Water Trail



The Paw Paw River extends from the Village of Paw Paw to the City of Benton Harbor. It flows through communities, forests, and wetlands. The river portion of the Paw Paw River Water Trail begins immediately below the Maple Lake Dam. The Paw Paw River then winds its way 66 miles through a large, wildlife rich floodplain forest corridor through Van Buren and Berrien Counties. Along the way, the river runs through or skirts the edge of the communities of Paw Paw, Lawrence, Hartford, Watervliet, Coloma, and Riverside. Ultimately, the Paw Paw River joins the St. Joseph River in Benton Harbor, approximately one half mile from Lake Michigan. This water trail provides great non-motorized recreational opportunities for residents and tourists. It provides economic benefits to the communities along the river.

SWMPC served as project manager and grant administrator from (2016-2018) to create a water trail for the Paw Paw River with funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. We are currently working with municipalities and stakeholders to continue funding pathway maintenance and marketing of the water trail.

Partners on this project include: Benton Charter Township, Hagar Township/Riverside DDA, Coloma Township, City of Coloma, Watervliet Township, City of Watervliet, Village of Lawrence, Lawrence Township, Hartford Township, City of Hartford, Waverly Township, Paw Paw Township, Village of Paw Paw, Paw Paw Area Chamber of Commerce, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Cornerstone Alliance, Two Rivers Coalition and Sarett Nature Center.

For more information please visit: <http://www.pawpawriverwatertrail.org> and follow on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PawPawRiverWaterTrail>



Environmental



Water Quality Information

Everyone needs to do their part to protect our streams, rivers, inland lakes, and Lake Michigan! We depend on these water resources for our drinking water and for recreation: swimming, boating, and fishing.

How do pollutants enter the water?

- In urban areas storm drains are a main source of pollutants, draining virtually everything from lawns, streets, and parking lots directly into local streams, rivers, and lakes. Most storm drains do not treat or filter pollutants.
- Common pollutants include; fertilizers, pesticides, grass clippings, leaves, oil, grease, toxic chemicals, sediment, and pet waste.

Simple Steps to Protect our Water

- ◆ **Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste.** Never dump items such as motor oil, fuel products, cleaners, paints, pharmaceuticals, and pesticides on the ground or down the drain. They can contaminate groundwater and surface water. Check with your county for collection dates.
- ◆ **Limit Fertilizer Use.** During watering or rainstorms, unnecessary phosphorus applied to lawns is washed into storm drains, which empty directly into local waterways. Get a soil test at an MSU Extension Office to see what amenities your lawn needs. It's the law to use no-phosphorus fertilizer!
- ◆ **Maintain Your Septic System.** If you have a septic system, have it checked and pumped every 2-3 years to insure it is working properly.
- ◆ **Close Abandoned Wells.** Close any abandoned wells on your property. They can act as direct conduits for contamination of groundwater.
- ◆ **Only Rain in the Storm Drain.** Rainwater and snowmelt is the only thing that should wash down our storm drains. Anything else grass clippings, leaves, motor oil, even fertilizer is considered an ILLICIT DISCHARGE and will pollute our water.
- ◆ **Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS).** If you see any pollution affecting air, land, water, wetlands or public drinking water supplies call: 1-800-292-4706 to report it.

For more information on what you can do for water quality visit:

www.letskeepitblue.org

Environmental

Clean Sweep Opportunity



Clean Sweep is a free, safe disposal option for unwanted agriculture pesticides. The Clean Sweep Pesticide collection for the Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren county area is Wednesday, July 29, 2020 in Benton Harbor. Clean Sweep is open to all Michigan farmers, greenhouses, golf courses, pesticide retailers, and individuals. Participants must register at least one weeks prior to the event.

Registration forms are at www.berriencounty.org/465/Clean-Sweep-Pesticide-Collections, or call Jill Adams in the Berrien County Parks Department at 269-983-7111 x 8234. The registration process is simple and is designed to help organizers be prepared for incoming materials. After registration, participants will be given a general drop off time and directions to the collection event. The event takes place on the Berrien County Road Department property in Benton Harbor.

This state-wide grant program is administered by the Michigan Department of Ag and Rural Development and funds collection sites throughout Michigan. Accepted items are pesticides which include all the classes of “cides” – fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, and rodenticides. Fertilizers are NOT accepted as part of Clean Sweep unless they are a component of a pesticide formulation.

Nearly 260,000 pounds of pesticides have been collected and disposed safely through the Berrien County site since it began.

The next closest Clean Sweep collection program site is in Kalamazoo. Contact the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center directly for more information, www.kalcounty.com/hhw or call 269-373-5211.

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SWMPC Board Meeting Schedule 2020

August 21 9:30 am

October 16 9:30 am

December 18 9:30 am

For more information visit: www.swmpc.org/calendar.asp

**Save Paper by Receiving our Newsletter Electronically:
email rosep@swmpc.org**