

Hillsdale County

Right in the middle of it.

A special blend of yesterday and tomorrow.

What more could you want?

Visit us often.

Chances are you'll want to make us your home.

Welcome to Hillsdale County

Hillsdale County is a rural oasis in Michigan at the bottom of the mitten, bordering Ohio and Indiana. A community rich in tradition and hometown hospitality, family owned and corporate businesses, Hillsdale County is proud of its past and building for the future.

Centrally located in the middle a network of major highways (US 127, I-94, I-69, and the I-80/90 toll road), only a short drive from major cities like, Lansing, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Toledo, Ohio and Fort Wayne, Indiana. A municipal airport and a locally owned freight and railroad are added connections to broad markets.

Settled by Potawatomi Indians in 1821, the county soon welcomed white settlers in towns like Allen and Jonesville and became a fur trading center, with the first hotel, general store and grist mill. Travelers made the county a popular overnight stop along the great Sauk Trail (US-12) between Chicago & Detroit.

A Class Act

Hillsdale County residents enjoy excellent educational opportunities in ten traditional public and charter schools, a community college campus and at world renowned Hillsdale College. The educational commitment to quality is enhanced by an award winning intermediate school district, fiber optic connections and a technology training center.

Country Living Options... With City Conveniences

A plethora of housing options are available countywide - apartment complexes, condominiums, single family homes, subdivisions, farm houses, mobile home sites and appealing lands on which to build. The rolling hills and lovely dales, (flat lands, too!) are the perfect compliment to the relaxed lifestyle.

Business Expansion

Several of the over 1500 businesses here enjoy state and national prominence. The many family-owned businesses combine with corporate and international establishments in a diverse and pleasing blend. The Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce supports and promotes business through its network of members. Hillsdale County Industrial Development Commission provides full time service for established, expanding and emerging industries.

As reported in the 2002 Annual Report, industrial growth in Hillsdale County has been greater than expected; most of the growth accrued by expansion of existing industries. There was also growth in the commercial sector with both retail and service business increases noted. Much of this growth is related directly to the payroll of the sustained growth of the industrial sector.

Industry invested more than \$25 million in buildings and equipment. Growth occurred everywhere in the county, but Litchfield led with \$15 million, Hillsdale had \$1 million, Reading \$7.2 million and Jonesville \$1 million with the remainder scattered throughout the county. According to employment data, there was a net gain of 55 new industrial jobs in the county for 2002. One-third of Hillsdale County's workforce is employed by industry, which is significantly higher than the national or state average.

The heart of the promotion and advancement of the economic environment of Hillsdale County rests with the Hillsdale County Industrial Development Commission and The Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce. Both entities have a comprehensive website showcasing Hillsdale County's opportunities. HCIDC is computer-linked with the state, Jackson Community College and our development equivalents in Jackson and Lenawee counties. The HCIDC is also part of the National Association of Manufacturers site selection program. The industrial parks and business community are constantly transforming to accommodate the growing needs of the contemporary markets and those business as well as industries adapting to meet the challenge.

Power of the People

Eighteen townships, six villages and three cities comprise the governmental structure of our county. Citizen's concerns are also addressed through a board of seven commissioners at the county level. A pioneering community information service/geographic information system computer site is a unique link to the world for this county's 48,000 residents and for its businesses, schools and agencies.

Making a Difference

The spiritual needs of Hillsdale County residents are met by an array of religious opportunities of various denominations throughout the community. Culture is nestled within the community including theater, genealogy, history, arts, music and museums. Many non-profit agencies and service clubs awardendow Hillsdale County with a better quality of life.

Helping Hands

Health care is second to none. The Hillsdale Community Health Center is a hospital providing 24 hour emergency medicine, urgent care, medical/surgical services, a critical care unit, orthopedic specialists, joint replacement, a birthing center and a full range of outpatient services. This state-of-the-art medical center is home to over 50 physicians and specialists. Other health care amenities are a county medical care facility, community health agency, nursing homes, assisted living, adult foster care, home health care and a county senior citizens service center. Many dentists, orthodontists, optometrists, chiropractors, massage therapists, audiologists, and physical therapists provide care within our community.

Game Time

An abundance of natural beauty and scenery can be found in this serene setting. Hillsdale County offers acres of parks, lakes, outdoor recreational land, picnic facilities, tennis courts, golf courses, softball & baseball diamonds, biking & hiking trails, frisbee golf, hundreds of acres of state hunting grounds, soccer fields, playgrounds, wildlife observatories and a dazzling array of lakes for fishing, boating and swimming.

Places To Go & Things To Do

Choose from over a dozen hotels, motels, campgrounds, bed & breakfast locations, and enjoy local festivals and special programs, events at Hillsdale College that are open to the public and every September “The Most Popular Fair on Earth” – the Hillsdale County Fair.

In The Line Of Duty

Local law enforcement agencies work with the sheriff’s department and Michigan State Police with a united committed to serve and protect. Integrity and devotion and a spirit of cooperation are equally evident in local fire departments, ambulance services and 9-1-1 central dispatch services.

From The Beginning

Hillsdale County takes pride in its diverse business community. Since its “unofficial” founding in 1827 and formally recognized by the state in 1835, Hillsdale County has grown from primarily agricultural to a diverse economic base.

Putting You in Touch

For more information, please feel free to visit any of the following websites:

www.co.hillsdale.mi.us Information regarding Hillsdale County

www.hillsdalecounty.info Information regarding Hillsdale County

www.hillsdalecountychamber.com Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce

www.hillsdale-isd.org Hillsdale County Intermediate School District

www.hcinddev.org Hillsdale County Industrial Development Commission