

Regional Growth. Vibrant Communities.



2026

ANNUAL REPORT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Duff Milkie | Waste Dynamics | *GSP Board Chair*
Jason McClure | Six Flags / Cedar Point
Jeremy Normington-Slay | Firelands Health
Dennis Shaffer | Civista Bank

Committee Chairs

Justin Harris | Firelands Health
Andrew Kurtz | BGSU Firelands
Matt Maschari | Firelands Auto Group
Ben Moncher | Janotta & Herner

Chris Corso | One Hospitality
David Dunn | Sandusky Yacht Club
Ron Guerra | LEWCO, Inc.
Kula Hoty-Lynch | Hoty Enterprises, Inc.
Ted Kastor | Kastor Construction LLC
Larry Fletcher | Lake Erie Foundation
Bob Jones | The Chef's Garden/ Culinary Vegetable Institute
Kimberly Kaufman | Black Swamp Bird Observatory
Matt Kosior | American Colors
Colleen Murphy-Brady | Cedar Point
Bill Murray | Firelands Wealth
Swathi Ravichandran | BGSU RAAM
Micah Roberts | Erie & Anchor
Eugene Sanders | Emmanuel Temple Pentecostal Church
Brian Shanle & Bill Reed | Kalahari Resorts & Conventions
James Stouffer | Catawba Island Club

STAFF

Eric Wobser | Chief Executive Officer
Lee Alexakos | Director of Public Affairs
Jarvis Cole-Caston | Talent Engagement Manager
Ryan Dillard | Chief Operating Officer
Alissa Fisher | Director of Marketing
Lindsey Hoke | Administration Manager
Jeff Kerr | Director of Planning & Policy
Kelly Kresser | Administration Coordinator
Matt Lasko | Chief Development Officer
Braden Michel | Development Project Manager
Lanee Orzech | Marketing Coordinator
Patrick Shepherd | Director of Member Services
Ben Simon | Director of Investor Relations
McKenzie Spriggs | Sr. Director of Destination Mgmt
Rachael Summerfield | Events Coordinator
Peyton Zamarelli-Minich | Chief of Staff



A MESSAGE FROM GSP

This past year has underscored the strength of collaboration and the importance of shared vision. We celebrate the momentum created through our collective efforts. With gratitude for our partners, we remain dedicated to advancing prosperity and opportunity across our region.

Sincerely,

Duff Milkie

Duff Milkie
Chairman of the Board

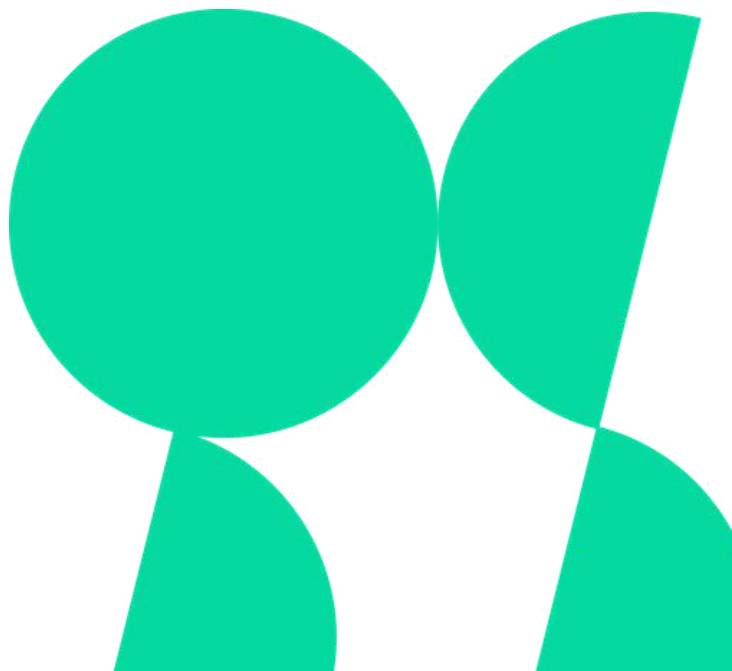
Eric Wobser

Eric Wobser
Chief Executive Officer



2026 at a Glance	1
Our Region by the Numbers	2
Growing Together	3
Growth & Business Vitality	5
Our Business Community	6
Talent Development & Engagement	7
Economic Development	9
Small Business Support & Residential Development	10
Community Vibrancy	11
Greater Sandusky Partnership Policy Center	13
Public Affairs	14
Major Initiatives	15

 www.greatersandusky.com
 [@GreaterSanduskyPartnership](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterSanduskyPartnership)
 [@greatersandusky](https://www.linkedin.com/company/greatersandusky)
 [@greatersandusky](https://www.youtube.com/greatersandusky)



2026 AT A GLANCE

\$439.7M CAPITAL INVESTMENT

from 7 closed and 6 active business retention and expansion projects resulting in 460 jobs created and over 1,400 jobs retained. Companies who utilized the Erie County Port Authority (administered by GSP) collectively saved \$5.2M with nearly \$500K distributed to economic development agencies in other counties.

21.8K

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES ATTENDEES

Entering its sixth season, the Party at the Pier summer concert series featured a diverse lineup of live music and welcomed record attendance.

947

GSP MEMBERS

GSP represents **695** business members, reflecting a **12.7%** increase from July 2025 and **28%** growth since July 2024.

Young professional engagement has also grown significantly, with **252** young professional members, a **500%** increase since NCYP joined GSP in Spring 2025.

35

COLLEGE
INTERNS

1,350

HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS

35

LEARNING
INSTITUTIONS

380+

EMPLOYERS

engaged through talent programs like Summer on Sandusky Bay Internship Experience, Career Showcase, RISE Student Pitch Challenge, Student Career Camps and more.

48

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY
CELEBRATIONS

celebrated this year including **18** ribbon cuttings, **11** business advancements and **19** anniversaries.

9.63M

SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS

across Destination Sandusky and Destination Huron's Facebook pages.

OUR REGION BY THE NUMBERS

FASTEST GROWING JOB MARKET IN THE NATION

#3

The Sandusky MSA, consisting of Erie and Ottawa counties, ranked **#3** among 393 U.S. metros for year-over-year employment growth in the first half of 2026—and **#1** in Ohio and the Midwest. Average monthly employment grew **2.9%**, adding **1,483** jobs, with PNC Senior Economist Ershang Liang noting Sandusky's 5% year-over-year payroll growth in June, well above Ohio and national gains. This momentum reflects businesses investing, communities advancing projects, and partners working together across the region to move Erie and Ottawa counties forward.

4.7M

VISITS TO LAKE ERIE

Last year alone, Lake Erie generated **4.7** million visits across Erie and Ottawa counties, reinforcing the lake as our region's greatest economic driver—fueling visitation, supporting our economy, and defining the quality of life that makes our communities unique.

5.4K+

MANUFACTURING JOBS IN ERIE COUNTY

Manufacturing remains Erie County's largest private-sector industry, supporting **5,445** jobs and paying an average of **\$69,922** annually. That makes manufacturing not only a major employment engine, but one of the region's strongest sources of well-paying jobs.

250

MILES OF SHORELINE

With 250 miles of Lake Erie shoreline—among the densest concentrations of shoreline across the Great Lakes—**20,000** boat slips, and a fishing charter industry that originated here, our region's connection to the lake is unmatched.

Lake Erie is not simply an asset; it is a foundational economic engine for tourism, recreation, boating, fishing and the quality of life that attracts residents, businesses and visitors to our region.

Growing Together

Two decades of regional collaboration have brought us to a new opportunity to tell the story of this place together.

More than 20 years ago, leaders in Erie and Ottawa counties made a decision that helped reshape tourism in our region: rather than market two counties separately, they would market one destination together.

That collaboration became Shores & Islands Ohio, a regional destination brand built around the idea that visitors don't experience county lines. They experience Lake Erie, our islands, and shorelines; our downtowns and attractions; our parks, restaurants, businesses and communities; and so much more.

Over the past two decades, that partnership has grown into a powerful platform for bringing people here and supporting the region's tourism economy.

The Greater Sandusky Partnership has been on its own journey of growth.

Beginning in 2023, organizations serving Erie County began aligning economic development, business services, and talent engagement under one organization. The goal was straightforward: spend less time working in separate lanes and build greater capacity to address the opportunities facing our communities and businesses together.

Neither journey was about reaching a predetermined destination. But as both organizations grew, an opportunity became increasingly clear.

In 2026, leadership from Shores & Islands Ohio and the Greater Sandusky Partnership began exploring what could be possible through greater alignment.

At the same time, Erie County Commissioners were examining opportunities to improve coordination and stewardship of public resources following recommendations from the county's Blue Ribbon Efficiency Commission. Months of conversations brought public, private and nonprofit partners to the table around a shared question:

How can we work together to create even greater impact for this region?

And, the answer wasn't to replace what was already working, but to build on it.

The long-standing Erie-Ottawa partnership behind Shores & Islands Ohio had already demonstrated the value of thinking regionally. GSP had spent the previous several years building greater capacity and coordination around economic development. Bringing those strengths together created an opportunity to connect how we promote this place with how we help it grow.

That vision became a reality as the Erie County Visitors & Convention Bureau, Ottawa County Visitors Bureau, Shores & Islands Ohio, Erie County Commissioners and Greater Sandusky Partnership worked together to establish a new partnership and shared structure. It took many partners coming to the table, asking hard questions and believing in what greater alignment could make possible. We are grateful for their vision, trust and commitment to this region.

One Place. Bigger Story.

This is an awe-inspiring place. And we have an opportunity to tell its full story.

We want people to visit and experience it. We want businesses to plant roots here and the businesses already here to keep investing, growing and creating opportunity.

We want people to build careers and vibrant lives here. And we want the people who already call this region home to feel proud of where they live and optimistic about its future.

The qualities that make this an incredible place to visit are connected to the qualities that make it a compelling place to live, work and invest. Lake Erie, thriving communities, world-class attractions, growing businesses and an exceptional quality of life are all part of the same regional story.

Shores & Islands Ohio will continue to invite the world to experience this destination. The Greater Sandusky Partnership will continue working alongside businesses and communities to strengthen the economy and quality of place.

Now, we can do those things with greater alignment, connecting visit, live, work and invest into a more complete story about who we are and where we are going.

Twenty years ago, Erie and Ottawa counties discovered what was possible when they marketed a destination together.

Organizations across Erie County discovered what was possible when they approached economic development together.

Now, we have the opportunity to keep **growing together**.

VISIT.
LIVE. INVEST.
THRIVE.
HERE.



Read the most recent
integration update at
[greatersandusky.com](https://www.greatersandusky.com)

GROWTH & BUSINESS VITALITY

About Our Members

695 BUSINESS MEMBERS

+10% from Sept 2025; +55% from Sept 2023

252 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

an increase of 500% since North Coast Young Professionals joined GSP in Spring 2025

58 UNIQUE COMMUNITIES

represented in our membership including communities in Erie, Huron, Ottawa and Sandusky Counties

Member Engagement

614 ATTENDEES AT 17 MEMBER EVENTS

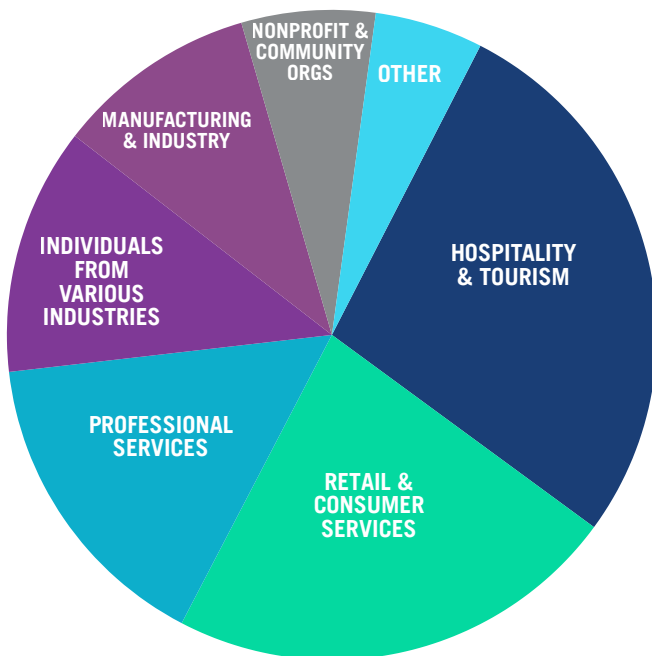
Business networking programs included Member Mixers and Coffee & Connections

48 BUSINESS CELEBRATIONS

celebrated this year commemorating milestones, business advancements and ribbon cuttings and grand openings



GSP MEMBER INDUSTRIES



OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Over the past year, our region's community has continued to make significant strides. Together, they are strengthening our economy, creating jobs and helping build a more vibrant and prosperous region.

BUSINESS MILESTONE HIGHLIGHTS

- BGSU Firelands | Celebrating 60 Years
- Cameo Pizza | Celebrating 90 Years
- Corso's | Celebrating 85 Years
- Exclusively BA | Celebrating 10 Years
- Firelands Health | Celebrating 150 Years
- First National Bank | Celebrating 150 Years
- Great Lakes Audio Visual | Celebrating 10 Years
- Great Wolf Lodge | Celebrating 25 Years
- LogistiQ | Celebrating 5 Years
- Loris Printing | Celebrating 60 Years
- Sandusky Bay Pancake House | Celebrating 60 Years
- Sandusky History Museum | Celebrating 50 Years
- Sandusky Mall | Celebrating 50 Years
- Sandusky Packaging Corp | Celebrating 60 Years
- Sandusky Witches' Walk | Celebrating 15 Years
- Stack Heating Cooling Plumbing Electric | Celebrating 50 Years
- VacationLand Federal Credit Union | Celebrating 70 Years
- WKFM 96.1 | Celebrating 30 Years
- Wilkes Plumbing & Heating | Celebrating 120 Years

BUSINESS ADVANCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Extol of Ohio, Inc. | Facility Expansion
- Firelands Auto Group | New Facility Groundbreaking
- Firelands Federal Credit Union | New London Construction
- Firelands Vending | Expansion
- Genoa Bank | New Facility
- Growers Mineral | Facility Expansion
- Horizon Education Centers | Sandusky Groundbreaking
- JBT Marel | Innovation Center Expansion
- Janotta & Herner | Renovated Headquarters
 - *Named among Best Places to Work by Crain's Cleveland Business*
- LEWCO, Inc. & LogistiQ | Major Expansion
- Toft Dairy | Cold Storage Expansion

RIBBON CUTTINGS

- The 1880 at Firelands Winery
- All Things Kozy Food Truck | The Emporium at West Market Street
- The ApotheCarrie + Glo-Skin Studio
- BAS Broadcasting
- Erie MetroParks ADA Pathway
- Eula's Kitchen
- Great Lakes Chocolate
- City of Huron Roundabout
- Legacy Cutz Barber Lounge
- Linwood Landing
- OneDigital Sandusky
- Pipe Creek Wharf
- Sandusky Bay City Lifestyle
- Sandusky Bay Pathway Pipe Creek Bridge
- Sandusky High School Computer Lab
- Stack Heating & Cooling
- The Cedar & Tique's Bar
- Window & Bath Expo



TALENT DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- **International Exposure for Students:** In partnership with the GeoTrac Foundation, six high school-aged male students from across the region attended the 2026 Alliance for Responsible Citizenship (ARC) Conference in London. The conference brought together global leaders, innovators, academics and young people from more than 80 countries to explore ideas around rebuilding communities, strengthening civic life and shaping the future.
- **Career Showcase:** An annual event designed to connect high school students in the region with local employers.
- **RISE Pitch Challenge:** An annual competition for high school students in the region to develop and present business ideas, fostering entrepreneurial thinking and skills. The 2026 competition was a partnership between four counties: Erie, Huron, Ottawa and Sandusky.
- **Student Career Camps:** These camps, a collaborative effort between GSP, Erie County Business Advisory Council and North Point Educational Service Center, offer hands-on experiences, business tours and workforce readiness lessons to introduce high school students to local career opportunities.

1,350
STUDENTS
ENGAGED ACROSS



35
LEARNING INSTITUTIONS
with direct connections to



380+
REGIONAL
EMPLOYERS



BUILDING A PIPELINE

HIGH SCHOOL:
CAREER
EXPOSURE



COLLEGE:
GAIN EXPERIENCE
& BUILD
CONNECTIONS



YOUNG
PROFESSIONAL:
MEANINGFUL
EMPLOYMENT



35 COLLEGE
INTERNS **15** REGIONAL
EMPLOYERS

This past summer, college level interns took part in a six-week experiential learning program designed to expose interns to the region's employers, history, community and leadership opportunities. Experiences included tours of Chef's Garden and the Culinary Vegetable Institute, Norfolk Southern and Downtown Sandusky; educational programming such as Civista Bank's Adult 101 course; a Cleveland Guardians game; and, a civic leadership and volunteer day with the Erie County Community Foundation.

The knowledge that you gain of the area is important as we enter the workforce. That knowledge will set us apart on a resume and in an interview. Having the ability to speak about this area and all its attractions and assets is a skill that is very valuable.

- Joe Lawrence, SOSB Intern



NORTH COAST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

NCYP has seen significant growth over the past year, now exceeding 240 members and supported by a robust and engaged steering committee. Members gain access to professional development, connections with key regional leaders, opportunities to take on community leadership roles and meaningful connections with fellow young professionals.

YP WEEK 2026

This year's NCYP Week was a success, bringing young professionals together for six days of programming focused on networking, professional development, leadership and civic engagement. The week hosted **140 attendees** and featured a leadership workshop, Aligned Data Centers tour, homeownership workshop with Firelands Federal Credit Union and a VIP event ahead of the Party at the Pier concert series.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The ECPA, administered by GSP, is a tool to promote investment and job creation in the region and can provide significant savings on construction projects.

ERIE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

administered by  Greater Sandusky Partnership

IN THE PAST YEAR

\$5.2M+

SAVED BY BUSINESSES
who utilized the ECPA programs

\$496K

DISTRIBUTED TO PARTNERS
in economic development in other counties

IN THE PIPELINE

\$373.5M

IN CAPITAL INVESTMENT

1,000+

JOBS TO BE CREATED / RETAINED

\$4.7M

IN DIRECT COMPANY SAVINGS

\$471K

RETURNED TO PARTNER EDOS

BUSINESS EXPANSION, ATTRACTION & RETENTION

Economic development is more than job creation. It's about building the systems and relationships that allow our region to adapt, compete and grow in a changing world.

\$439,673,000

TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT
from 13 business expansion projects

2,000+ JOBS

created and retained

\$2,575,000

IN GRANTS OR LOW INTEREST LOANS
secured through JobsOhio for
economic development projects

\$400K STATE GRANTS

secured for economic
development projects

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

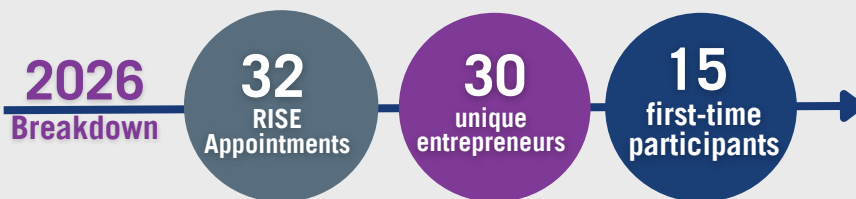
AUTOKINITON DRIVES JOBS & INVESTMENT IN BELLEVUE

The Autokiniton project in Bellevue represented a \$32 million investment in Sandusky County, generating **\$870,000** in direct company savings and a **\$94,250** contribution to the Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation. The project, which passed through the Erie County Port Authority, managed by GSP, this past spring, created **97** new jobs and retained **440** existing jobs, strengthening the region's manufacturing base and workforce.



SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

GSP continues to expand access to entrepreneurial resources through RISE, providing advising, educational opportunities, and connections for aspiring and existing entrepreneurs throughout the region. As interest in the program grows, GSP is increasing awareness and exploring opportunities to expand programming and better meet the needs of the region's entrepreneurial community.



RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

In January, GSP released the Residential Development Strategic Plan and hosted a regional Housing Symposium, convening more than **150** housing experts, local leaders, developers, planners and partners. The event marked a pivotal step in advancing a shared commitment to addressing the region's housing challenges and accelerating meaningful solutions for residents and employers.

Building on this momentum, GSP's housing efforts remain a key focus. There are currently seven projects in the pipeline representing more than **850** new for-sale and rental units, active engagement with **13** developers exploring opportunities in the region, and continued work to strengthen and expand the local housing inventory.



9 | **1,150** | **5**
PROJECTS | UNITS | COMMUNITIES



Read our
Residential Development
Strategic Plan

COMMUNITY VIBRANCY

9.63M

MEDIA VIEWS

670K

ENGAGEMENTS

across both Destination Sandusky & Destination Huron Facebook pages last year.



SHOULDER SEASON RECORD-BREAKING PROGRAMMING

GSP supported a strong slate of events that helped build momentum throughout the shoulder season and extend activity beyond the traditional summer tourism months. From supporting the Christmas Market—now recognized as one of the best in the state—to helping the Strongman and Witches Walk events pursue their Guinness World Record attempts, these community-driven events generated excitement, visitation and positive attention for the region. Both events achieved their Guinness World Records, highlighting the ability of local events to bring people together while elevating Sandusky's profile as a destination.



SUMMER CONCERTS

Party at the Pier is a free summer concert series at the Jackson Street Pier in Sandusky, Ohio, produced by the Greater Sandusky Partnership in collaboration with the City of Sandusky. Entering its sixth season, the annual waterfront event featured a diverse lineup of live music, including tribute bands and high-energy acts, and continued to grow as a signature community gathering.

21.8K
ATTENDEES

2026 Concert Series

3,719
ATTENDEES

Largest Concert
E5C4P3 - Journey Tribute

34%
INCREASE

In Attendance Compared
to the 2025 Season



The 2026 season opened with strong enthusiasm around the concert schedule and record-setting sponsorship support. Firelands Auto Group returned as the Presenting Sponsor for the fifth consecutive year, while every concert except one was sponsored by a local business or institution—the largest level of sponsorship support in the event's history. Attendance also increased **34%** over 2025, despite hosting two fewer concerts, with an average of **2,419** visits per show.

148 FARMERS MARKET VENDORS

Unique small business vendors who attended the Huron and Sandusky Farmers Markets

SANDUSKY FARMERS MARKET MOVES TO COLUMBUS AVENUE

The Sandusky Farmers Market launched its 2026 season in a new Columbus Avenue location, drawing an estimated 1,173 visits on opening day—nearly three times the 2025 average. Following the move, the market averaged more than 1,200 visits each Saturday, with vendors reporting record sales and nearby brick-and-mortar businesses seeing increased activity and improved sales.

A thorough opening-day analysis found that while 70% of visitors came from within 10 miles, the market attracted attendees from 32 communities across five states, with visitors staying an average of 55 minutes—demonstrating the market's growing role as both a community gathering place and regional destination while activating one of downtown Sandusky's newly reconstructed public spaces.

AMPLIFYING HURON'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

has been a key priority this year, with Destination Huron launching a series of business community interviews shared through its Facebook page. The initiative has provided a platform for local businesses to share their stories, connect with visitors and residents, and strengthen the visibility of Huron's business community.

SANDUSKY FARMERS MARKET



The Farmers Market move to Columbus Avenue is a win for both vendors and local businesses. At Sandusky Scoops, we've seen a 35% increase in Saturday sales compared to last summer, highlighting how important the market is in driving customers and supporting our downtown economy.



-Kim Gill, Sandusky Scoops

ANNUAL LAKE FRONT MARKET CONTINUES TO GROW

GSP reactivated the Huron Lake Front Market and infused new energy into the community event through a more curated site layout, expanded vendor mix and stronger promotion. The 2026 market featured 89 participants including 65 artisan vendors, six food trucks, seven young entrepreneurs and 11 young authors, attracting 3,177 visitors who stayed an average of 80 minutes. Visitors came from 58 different zip codes and eight different states, demonstrating the market's growing reach while creating a vibrant gathering place along Huron's lakefront.



Read Our
Destination Huron Magazine

The Greater Sandusky Partnership Policy Center provides data, research and analysis that help businesses, community leaders and policymakers make informed decisions about the issues shaping our region. As an integral part of GSP's economic development and advocacy work, the Policy Center turns regional data into actionable insights, helping identify opportunities, measure impact, shape policy and guide investments that strengthen the Greater Sandusky Bay Region.



Erie County Outperforms Peer Counties by

58%

in taxable sales activity relative to population

Our Destination Economy (Data for Erie & Ottawa Counties)



13M

ANNUAL VISITORS



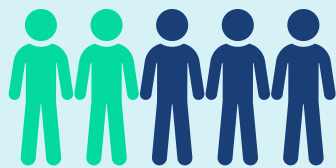
\$3.1B

DESTINATION ECONOMY



\$1.9B

DIRECT VISITOR SPENDING



Two out of Five people in our destination economy is a visitor



Erie & Ottawa Counties rank among Ohio's top counties for consumer-based economic activity per capita

\$33M+

GROSS TAXABLE SALES (2024)

\$397M+

GROSS LODGING SALES (2023)

\$25.6M+

ANNUAL LIQUOR TAX (2023)

ROUTE 250 VISITATION REPORT

The U.S. 250 Retail Corridor Visitation Analysis, produced by the GSP Policy Center, examines one of the region's most important commercial corridors and regional anchors. The study is designed to provide a data-driven foundation for future development and investment, while giving small businesses and community leaders a better understanding of who visits the corridor, where they come from and how they engage with it.

Read the full report



2.5M

out of market visitors

15.6M

total visits to the corridor

5.2

average days spent in market

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

STATE LEGISLATIVE DAY

Hosted a highly successful inaugural GSP Legislative Day involving six in-person meetings with key state leaders including the Senate President, Speaker of the House and future Speaker of the House.

\$1.725M

RECEIVED IN COMMUNITY
PROJECT APPROPRIATIONS

4

PROJECTS
AWARDED

3

DIFFERENT
COMMUNITIES

CAPITAL BUDGET CAMPAIGN COORDINATION

GSP played a coordinating role in the state capital budget process, connecting local project applicants with key state leadership to advocate for their proposals and demonstrate the impact each investment would have on the region. Erie County received \$1.725 million in Community Project Appropriations, supporting four important community investments.

LOCAL ELECTION SUPPORT & CONNECTION TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

GSP supported local elections last fall and will continue that work this fall by sponsoring the *Sandusky Register's* candidate debates at local high schools, producing our own candidate forum, and publishing candidate responses to questions submitted by the business community. Our goal is to create meaningful opportunities for candidates to connect directly with business leaders while ensuring candidates understand the priorities and values of our business community. By strengthening these connections and encouraging informed dialogue, GSP is helping build the relationships and shared understanding needed to maintain momentum and advance our region.

GSP GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

This past year, GSP created and regularly convened a Government Affairs Committee to bring business and community leaders together to identify key policy priorities and discuss issues impacting the region's economy and business climate. The committee helps shape GSP's advocacy efforts, inform policy positions, and connect local priorities with state and federal decision-makers.



MAJOR INITIATIVES

SANDUSKY BAY PATHWAY A 100-MILE MODAL PATHWAY VISION

The Sandusky Bay Pathway saw significant growth and momentum this year, advancing the vision for a 100+ mile multimodal trail system connecting communities around Sandusky Bay. In collaboration with regional partners, GSP formed a Steering Committee to guide development, strengthen partnerships, and advance trail segments.

Key progress included launching the ATIIP planning grant for the Sandusky-to-Port Clinton corridor, securing \$533,000 in ODOT funding for Huron, completing the Huron-to-Vermilion planning study, and exploring additional western connections. GSP also worked with partners to establish the pathway's brand, website, and social media presence and launch the regional coalition in July.



@SanduskyBayPathway



@sandusky.bay.pathway



sanduskybaypathway.com

NASA AS A MAJOR REGIONAL SITE

The former NASA test site presents a significant new development opportunity for our region, and GSP is working to help move the project forward by raising its visibility and connecting it with potential investment and development partners, including through an advertisement in *Site Selection* magazine. Our goal is to advocate for smart, strategic investments in the site that unlock its potential while creating long-term economic benefits for the entire region.



SANDUSKY STATE THEATRE

GSP is working to support the reopening of the Sandusky State Theatre, a critical downtown and regional anchor with the potential to strengthen the community's economy, vibrancy and quality of life. GSP was created in part to bring the experience and perspective of the business community to complex regional challenges like the future of the State Theatre, helping connect partners, resources and expertise to advance the project. Through the Policy Center, GSP also conducted an economic impact study to quantify the theatre's potential contribution to the local and regional economy once reopened and help inform future investment and decision-making.

\$43.6M

Five-Year Cumulative
Economic Impact

56%

Non-Local
Attendance

71%

Off-Season
Hotel Nights

4x

National
Benchmark

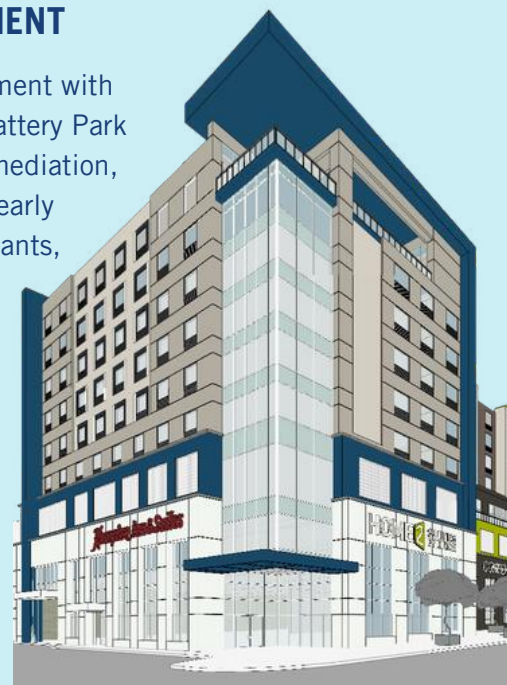
Read the
full report



DOWNTOWN SANDUSKY HOTEL & BATTERY PARK DEVELOPMENT

In 2026, Downtown Sandusky continued to see significant catalytic investment with two major developments advancing revitalization. The \$200 million-plus Battery Park development broke ground and is underway with demolition, brownfield remediation, and utility installation, with vertical construction expected in late 2026 or early 2027. The project will add more than 200 housing units, retail and restaurants, a hotel, a revitalized marina, and significant public greenspace. Battery Park received Ohio's largest Transformational Mixed-Use Development tax credit and support through the Erie County Port Authority's capital lease program, administered by GSP.

Additionally, approval was granted for a dual-branded Hampton Inn & Suites and Home2 Suites downtown, featuring event space and a 240 space parking deck, including 100 public spaces. Together, these projects represent major additions to downtown housing, hospitality, commercial, recreational, and public infrastructure.



LOOKING AHEAD

1ST FLOOR INITIATIVE

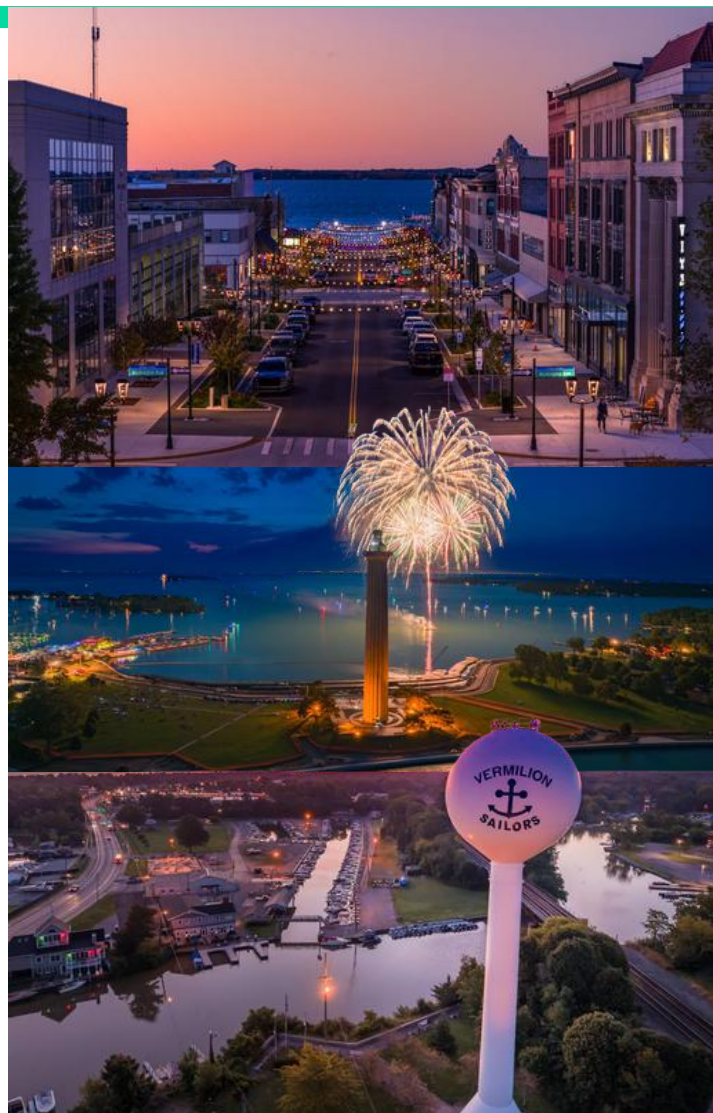
Planning is underway for the Downtown Sandusky First Floor Initiative to activate vacant and underutilized storefronts and create a more vibrant downtown, with full implementation launching in 2027.

THE POWER OF LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie will be a major 2027 priority, recognizing its role as a critical economic driver and the need to protect it while expanding access for residents and visitors. GSP will convene a spring 2027 policy symposium focused on the lake's economic, environmental and recreational significance and its role in our region's future.

SUPPORTING OUR DESTINATION COMMUNITIES

The Destination Communities Initiative will empower communities across the region through financial support, strategic planning and the opportunity to lean into their unique identities and strengths. Together, we're building stronger communities and celebrating what makes us one of the Greatest Little Towns on the Great Lakes.





2026

ANNUAL REPORT

THANK YOU TO OUR
CHARTER BENEFACTORS



Regional Growth.
Vibrant Communities.

