



Midland, MI



Midland, Michigan, is located at the confluence of the Chippewa and Tittabawassee Rivers that was once the domain of the Chippewa tribe. Incorporated in 1887, Midland, along with Saginaw and Bay City, comprise the area referred to as the Great Lakes Bay Region. The Dow Chemical Company was founded in Midland by Herbert H. Dow who settled in the city in 1890.

Herbert H. Dow's son, Alden B. Dow, designed many homes and public buildings in Midland, including the Midland Center for the Arts and the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science & Art, with its hands-on Hall of Ideas and galleries with rotating exhibitions. The Alden B. Dow Home and Studio, which is a model of mid 20th-century modern architecture following in the path of Frank Lloyd Wright and a National Historic Landmark, is another local attraction.

The Herbert D. Doan Midland County History Center is the gateway to Heritage Park and showcases a permanent gallery of interactive exhibits of Midland County history, a local and general history research library, and an archival collection of county artifacts. The Herbert H. Dow Historical Museum has multimedia exhibits about the birth of Dow Chemical Company and the evolution of the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. The 1874 Bradley Home is a restored historic house museum with an adjacent Carriage House that maintains horse-drawn carriages, sleighs, and mid-Michigan's largest functioning blacksmith shop.

Midland Center for the Arts also operates 2 theaters that offer shows by local and national performers. The Center is home to the Midland Symphony Orchestra and 5 choral ensembles that comprise the Center Stage Choirs. Center Stage Theatre is a volunteer theater program located in Midland Center, with a performance season that includes popular favorites, lesser-known comedies, tragedies, and musicals.

The MATRIX: MIDLAND Festival is an annual event in early summer that celebrates the arts, sciences, and humanities.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Midland is primarily commercial. The downtown has a few lofts located above commercial properties, and a condominium/hotel development under construction. New apartment developments are also planned for the downtown.

The West Main Historic District consists of 2-story homes that were built in the early to mid-1900s as well as some of the 200 Dow primarily ranch-style homes that date from the 1930s through the early 1960s. The Dow homes are located in many of the city's older neighborhoods.

Residential areas on the east side of the downtown consist of bungalow and ranch-style homes from the 1950s and 1960s.

The Valley Drive neighborhood features large, custom-built homes built on large lots in styles that include contemporary ranch and two-story designs situated on a tree-lined street. The homes were built in 1960s through the 1980s.

Residential development in the northeast area of the city began in the mid-1980s and is ongoing today. Most houses are 2-story traditional styles.

The Hawks Nest development is a new neighborhood on the west side that features a central park that the homeowners share. Housing styles vary by builder and include ranch and 2-story traditional styles.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Midland's 81 parks offer playgrounds, sports fields and courts, a community swimming pool, and trails. The city also has the Currie Municipal Golf Course with two 18-hole courses and a 9-hole course, a BMX bike track, a disc golf course, and three summer spray parks.

Located in Chippewassee Park, the Tridge is a three-way wooden footbridge that spans the confluence of the Chippewa and Tittabawassee Rivers. The 35-acre park also contains the 15,000 square-foot Trilogy Skate Park, an off-leash dog park, play equipment, open fields, and paved trails. Chippewassee Park is known for its summer festivals and community events.

Comprised of hardwoods and pines, the 520-acre City Forest has 4 iced toboggan runs, cross-country ski trails, an outdoor skating rink, and a lighted sled hill. The park also has 13 miles of mountain biking trails.

Currie Stadium and its 3 softball fields are located in Emerson Park, which is also home to a regulation size lighted hockey rink that is available for in-line skating in the summer. Other facilities include horseshoe pits, shuffleboard courts, a lighted sand volleyball court, open play fields, play equipment, and a paved path.

The 40-acre Plymouth Park is home to the outdoor community pool and the 16,000 square foot wooden community-built playground, the Fun Zone. The park also boasts a large open field, a sand volleyball pit, 2 baseball fields, and additional play equipment.

Stratford Woods Park is situated around Kwassee Lake, which offers swimming and a sandy beach. The park also has 4 beach volleyball courts, play equipment, a basketball court, and a BMX bike track.

Covering more than 1,200 acres of historic spaces, arboretum, wetlands, rivers, and upland fields, the Chippewa Nature Center offers paved and unpaved trails with interpretive stops along the route and a visitor center with hands-on exhibits.

Other parks include the 24.9-acre Barstow Woods Park, which is a natural wooded area that features all-season trails, open space, and play equipment. Central Park is the home of the Ted Nicholson band shell, playground equipment, and 4 tennis courts. Ned S. Arbury Centennial Park is home to the "Centennial Passage" sculpture that symbolizes the interwoven history of Dow Chemical and the city. Redcoats Complex hosts 9 softball fields. The 12-acre Sunrise Optimist Park offers 4 softball fields and play equipment. Riverside Park features a boat launch for access to the Tittabawassee and Chippewa Rivers.

Established in 1899 by Herbert H. Dow, the 110-acre Dow Gardens consists of 7 garden areas: Pollinator Garden, Stream Walk, The Herb Garden, Color Garden, Pineside, Children's Garden, and Rose Garden. The Dow Gardens Conservatory was designed by Alden B. Dow and is home to many nonnative species. Pines Home, the former home of Herbert H. Dow, is also located here. The Whiting Forest is closed until 2018 for the construction of Canopy Walk and Connectivity Walk Project.

The Great Lakes Loons is Midland's minor league baseball team.

EDUCATION

Midland Public Schools educate 7,700 students in 7 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and 2 high schools.

Higher education is available at Northwood University, a nonprofit institution with a focus on business that offers undergraduate and graduate degrees. Located in neighboring communities, Saginaw Valley State University in University Center and Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant offer undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Delta College is a 2-year community college located in University City with a campus in Midland that offers general education courses.

HEALTH CARE

Midland is served by the MidMichigan Medical Center-Midland with 328 licensed beds.

CITY STATS

2015

City Population	42,200
County Population	83,632
Per Capita Personal Income, Midland County	\$44,954