

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Brief History

Midland's quality of life and richness of parks and outdoor recreational opportunities can be attributed to the history of how the community has grown and developed since the time of the first Chippewa Indian settlements. They settled at the confluence of the Chippewa and Tittabawassee Rivers, and they lined the riverbanks with Wikkiups, round huts made of bent saplings covered with skins and bark. By 1856, the City of Midland was created and the era of white anglers, fur traders, and farmers was at its peak. In 1874, the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad was completed and serviced the City. As 1890 approached, the economic vitality of Midland was threatened by the extensive clear-cutting of forests throughout Michigan. But as 1890 drew to a close, Herbert Henry Dow had arrived in Midland and began capturing brine salts from the ground. He later founded the Dow Chemical Company and his success enabled Midland to survive the end of the logging era and to grow to its present size. Today, Midland is the global headquarters of both the Dow Chemical Company and the Dow Corning Corporation, and is also home to the Midland Co-generation Venture. The successes of Herbert Henry Dow and the generosity of Dow Chemical employees have enabled Midland to develop an abundance of recreational assets that are unmatched within Michigan.

Location

The City of Midland is located in the mid-section of the mitt of lower Michigan (Figure 1), typically called the Tri-City area. This refers to the relative close proximity of the three main cities in this region of the State: Bay City, Saginaw, and Midland. Together, these three communities offer many employment opportunities that contribute to the overall economic strength of the region. These communities also tend to work together by sharing facilities and infrastructure, such as the MBS International Airport, Delta Community College, Saginaw Valley State University, and major freeways like I-75 and US-10. This interdependence establishes a recreation service area that is centered on Midland, yet extends to outlying communities that encompasses over 145,000 people.

Population and Housing Characteristics

Population According to Census 2000 data, the City of Midland grew by 9.5%, or 3,632 people, between 1990 and 2000 (Figure 2). Midland County also grew at the same rate. However, both Bay City and the City of Saginaw lost population during this same period, allowing the City of Midland to move up from the 3rd to the 2nd largest city in the region. Although the City of Saginaw lost over 11%

of its population, it still remains the largest city in the region. In terms of gender demographics in the City of Midland, the split is 52.1% female to 47.9% male.

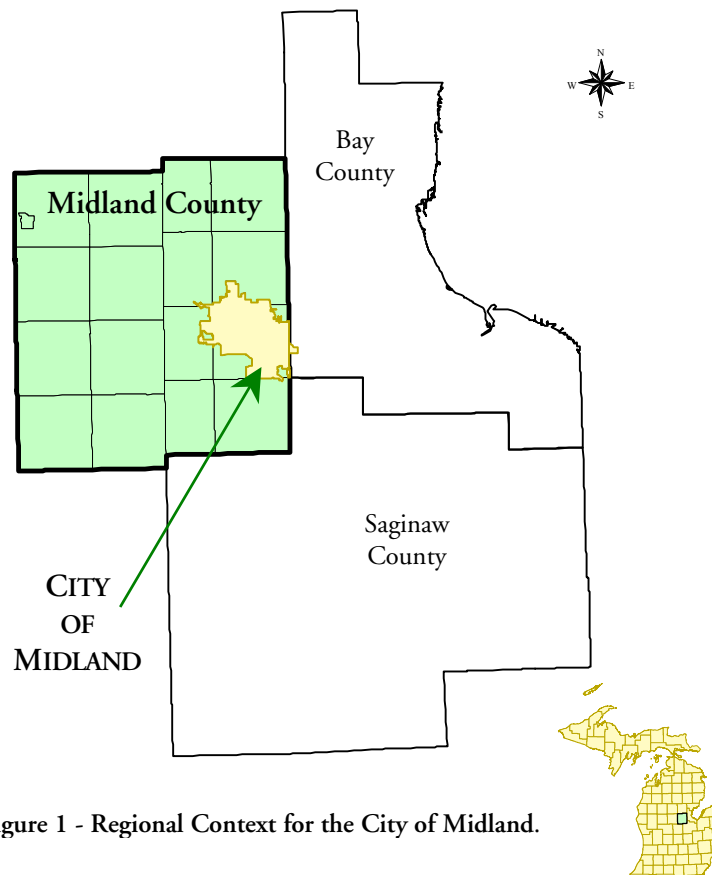


Figure 1 - Regional Context for the City of Midland.

	1990	2000	Change	Rate
City of Midland	38,053	41,685	3,632	9.5%
Midland County	75,651	82,874	7,223	9.5%
Bay City	38,936	36,817	-2,119	-5.4%
City of Saginaw	69,512	61,799	-7,713	-11.1%

Figure 2 - Population Change Comparison of population changes over a 10-year period in the Tri-City region. (Data: U. S. Census)

Age During the period between 1990 and 2000, Midland saw the most growth in its 45 to 64-year-old demographic, growing nearly 3% (Figure 3). The 65 and over group also saw some growth, but only at 2%. Because this is prime retirement age, it is worthwhile to note where this group tends to reside

within the City. Figure 4 shows that the 65 and over group is concentrated in the southeastern area of town. The other age group in Midland that also grew was those aged between 0 to 19 years, by only 1%. The only group to lose population was the 20 to 44-year-olds, dropping by 5.7% between 1990 and 2000. This trend is similar to statewide demographic changes that indicate Michigan has been getting older while not being able to retain the younger demographic groupings (Figure 5).

City of Midland	1990		2000		Change
	Population	%	Population	%	
0 to 19 years	10,799	28.4%	12,232	29.3%	1.0%
20 to 44 years	15,338	40.3%	14,428	34.6%	-5.7%
45 to 64 years	7,392	19.4%	9,247	22.2%	2.8%
65 and over	4,524	11.9%	5,778	13.9%	2.0%
Total Population	38,053	100%	41,685	100%	9.5%

Figure 3 - Changes in Age Groups for the City of Midland
 Distribution of different age groups between 1990 and 2000. See Figure X for the spatial distribution of the 65 and over population throughout Midland during 2000. (Data: U. S. Census)

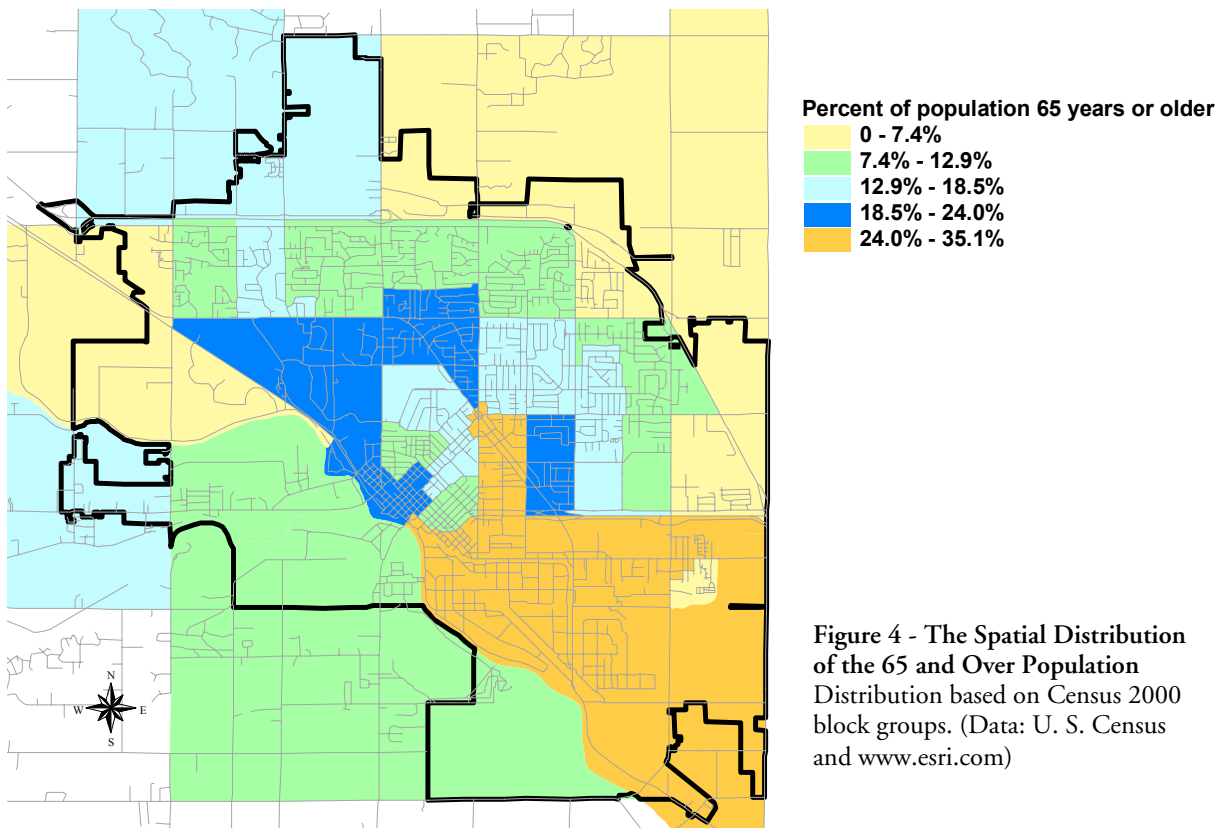


Figure 4 - The Spatial Distribution of the 65 and Over Population
 Distribution based on Census 2000 block groups. (Data: U. S. Census and www.esri.com)

Michigan	1990		2000		Change
0 to 19 years	2,908,731	31.3%	2,884,065	29.0%	-2.3%
20 to 44 years	3,535,263	38.0%	3,604,383	36.3%	-1.8%
45 to 64 years	1,742,842	18.7%	2,230,978	22.4%	3.7%
65 and over	1,108,461	11.9%	1,219,018	12.3%	0.3%
Total Population	9,295,297	100%	9,938,444	100%	6.9%

Figure 5 - Changes in Age Groups for the State of Michigan Distribution of different age groups between 1990 and 2000. (Data: U. S. Census)

Income The median household income for City residents in 1999 exceeded the median for both Midland County and the State of Michigan (Figure 6), however the differences are small. Nevertheless, these data demonstrate the considerable resources available to Midland residents. This earning power is detailed in Figure 7, which shows the distribution of household income in 1999 for City residents. The income groups that are most representative of Midland residents include the \$35,000 to \$74,999 earners, which represent 30% of total households, and those who earned over \$100,000, or 20% of Midland households.

	Median Household Income	Households	Average Household Size	Total Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units
City of Midland	\$48,444	16,743	2.42	17,773	5.8%
Midland County	\$45,674	31,769	2.56	33,796	6.0%
State of Michigan	\$44,667	3,785,661	2.56	4,234,279	10.6%

Figure 6 - Household Data City of Midland, Midland County, and State of Michigan compared for selected household characteristics in 2000, including median household income and average household size. (Data: U. S. Census)

Housing Also shown in Figure 6 are the number of households in Midland at the time of the 2000 Census. At that time, the City had 16,743 households and the average household size was 2.42. This is slightly smaller than the average for Midland County and the State of Michigan, both at 2.56. The City of Midland also had fewer vacant housing units in 2000 than both the County and the State (Figure 6). Together, these data demonstrate the overall stability and strength of Midland, its residents, and neighborhoods.

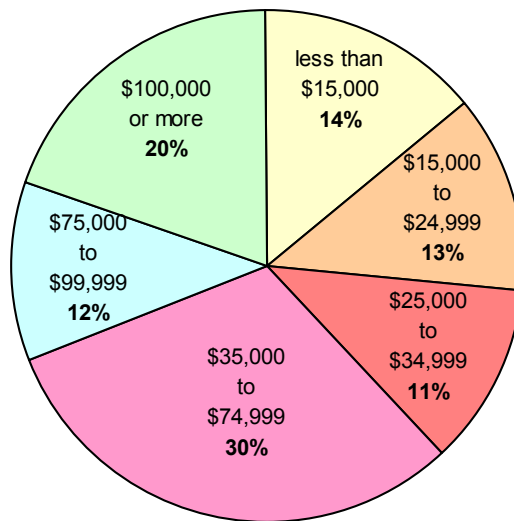


Figure 7 - Income Distribution for the City of Midland
Breakdown of 1999 household income. (Data: U. S. Census)

Race While the City of Midland remains predominantly white, Figure 8 shows Midland is indeed becoming slightly more diverse. The black, Asian, and Hispanic or Latino populations have increased slightly since 1990, while the white and American Indian populations have decreased. While it appears that the white demographic has increased in actual population size, its relative size to the growth in the

Race	1990 Population		2000 Population		Change
White	36,362	95.6%	38,924	93.4%	-2.2%
Black	654	1.7%	760	1.8%	0.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	135	0.4%	122	0.3%	-0.1%
Asian	728	1.9%	1,123	2.7%	0.8%
Some Other Race	174	0.5%	260	0.6%	0.2%
Two or More Races	-	-	496	1.2%	-
<i>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</i>	638	1.7%	802	1.9%	0.2%
Total Population	38,053	100%	41,685	100%	9.5%

Figure 8 - Race Racial distribution and changes in the City of Midland. Note: "Two or More Races" was not tracked by the Census in 1990, and the "Hispanic or Latino (of any race)" category is not included in the total population calculation due to differences in the manner in which the question was posed in 1990 and 2000. Further, the total population calculation for both 1990 and 2000 reaches 100% without the Hispanic or Latino data because the Census did not include these values in their overall total population calculation for race. (Data: U. S. Census)

overall City population has actually decreased, from 95.6% in 1990 to 93.4% in 2000. The changes in the racial distribution between 1990 and 2000 for the City of Midland might be an indicator of possible future trends in the racial and ethnic character of Midland.

Populations with Unique Needs: Special Focus on Disability In terms of the population in the City of Midland that is disabled, the U.S. Census Bureau data show that 13.6% of the population is disabled (Figure 9). The Census defines *disability* as "a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business." For this statistic, the Census calls it the *disability status of the civilian non-institutionalized population*. This means the Census counted only individuals who are not in the military and people not under formally authorized, supervised care or custody in institutions and typically classified as "patients" or "inmates." Figure 9 shows the non-institutionalized population to be 38,578 persons. That leaves about 3,107 of the 41,685 persons (7%) living in Midland to be included in the institutionalized population. Put more simply, of the 38,578 persons that qualified for the Census disability count in Midland, only 5,248 persons, or 13.6%, claimed to have a disability. Since the Census data provide only general numbers for individuals with a disability, it is uncertain which specific types of disabilities are most common to residents in the City. Therefore, any assessment of providing recreational opportunities for individuals with a disability must depend on work that accounts for direct communication with these populations and the professionals who serve them. Midland County as a whole, has a disability rate of 15.1%, approximately 1.5% greater than the City. The State of Michigan is even higher, at an 18.7% disability rate. Midland's neighbors

Jurisdiction	Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	Disabled Population	Percent
City of Midland	38,578	5,248	13.6%
Midland County	76,957	11,589	15.1%
City of Saginaw	55,873	13,462	24.1%
Saginaw County	192,821	39,204	20.3%
State of Michigan	9,138,340	1,711,231	18.7%

Figure 9 - Disability Status of the Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population The total population in the City of Midland for 2000 that is considered part of the non-institutionalized population is 38,578. (Data: U. S. Census)

to the south, Saginaw County and the City of Saginaw, also have high disability rates, 20.3 % and 24.1%, respectively. When compared to the region and to the State, the City of Midland has a small disabled population. Nevertheless, it is good planning technique to ensure accessibility to all parks for City residents, regardless of one's ability.

Employment According to the 2000 Census, 32,222 of Midland's residents aged 16 and over are considered eligible to be part of the workforce. Of that group, only 64% (20,640) are actually in the labor force (Figure 10). Unemployment, at the time when the 2000 Census was conducted, was at

	1990	2000	Change
Over 16 in the workforce	19,097	20,640	1,543
Unemployed	985	863	-122
Percent unemployed	5.2%	4.2%	-1.0%

Figure 10 - Change in Unemployment City of Midland residents in the workforce, both in 1990 and 2000, and the percent unemployed at the time each Census was conducted. (Data: U. S. Census)

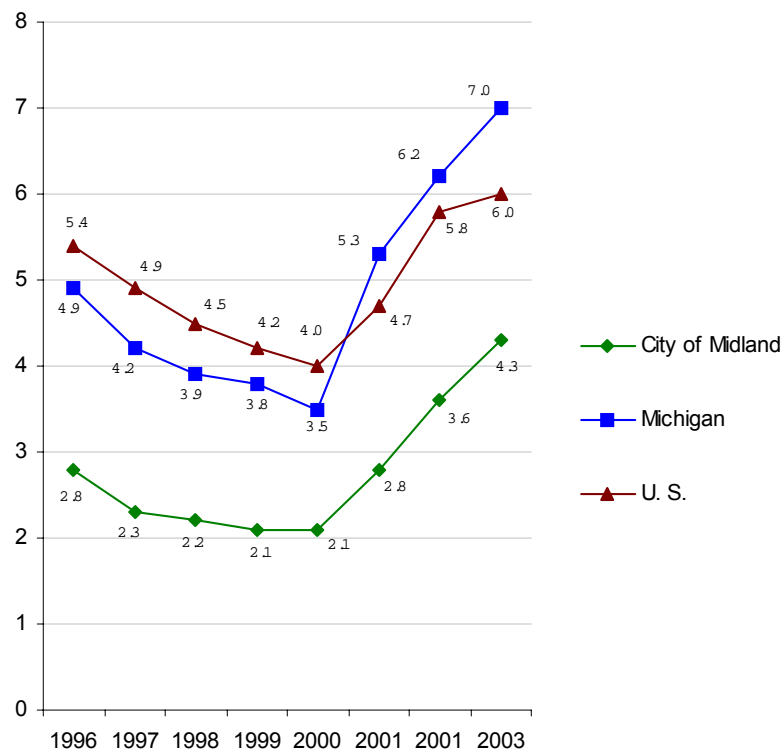


Figure 11 - Unemployment Comparison of unemployment trends between the City of Midland, State of Michigan, and the nation. Not seasonally adjusted. (Data: Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth - Employment Service Agency, www.michlmi.org)

4.2%, and during the 1990 Census, it was at 5.2%. However, statistics from the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth show a somewhat different picture. According to Figure 11, unemployment in the City of Midland during 2000 was only 2.1%. The unemployment rate in 2003 was 4.3%. During the eight-year period from 1996 to 2003, the City of Midland consistently maintained a lower unemployment rate than the rates for Michigan and the entire nation. Relatively speaking, Midland's economy continues to be strong, yet has wavered in recent years due to changes in the manufacturing climate within Michigan. Figure 12 shows that over 27% of Midland's residents are employed at manufacturing industries. This sector is Midland's largest employer, which is probably attributable to the number employees who work at Dow Chemical and Dow Corning, however, those employed by the educational, health, and social services industries come in at a close second, with 24% of the workforce in the City.

Industry	Number	Percent
Manufacturing	5,399	27.3%
Educational, Health, and Social Services	4,766	24.1%
Retail Trade	1,875	9.5%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services	1,764	8.9%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	1,429	7.2%
Construction	970	4.9%
Other Services (except public administration)	871	4.4%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, and Rental and Leasing	800	4.1%
Information	506	2.6%
Public Administration	479	2.4%
Wholesale Trade	442	2.2%
Transportation and Warehousing, and Utilities	406	2.1%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining	40	0.2%
Total	19,747	100%

Figure 12 - Where People Work Industries worked by City of Midland residents. Note: These data are not occupations. Instead, the data relate to the kinds of business conducted by a person's employing organization. (Data: U. S. Census)

Service Areas Midland's extensive park system serves an area that extends outside the City limits (Figure 13). Midland's central location in the Tri-City area plays an important role in providing recreational opportunities to a portion of the region's residents. Many participants come from the surrounding towns to use Midland's parks and recreational sites, as documented by the Parks and Recreation staff. These communities comprise a total population of 145,110 potential users of recreation in the City of Midland (Figure 14). This population has grown by 8.3% since 1990, adding over 11,000 potential users. Among the facilities that serve both the primary and secondary service areas include the beach at Stratford Woods Park, the Pere Marquette Rail Trail, City Forest, and the Trilogy Skate Park. Others, such as the Gerstacker Spray Park, serve the County but not the entire secondary service area. Most of the other facilities have been developed to serve nearby neighborhoods or groups of neighborhoods.

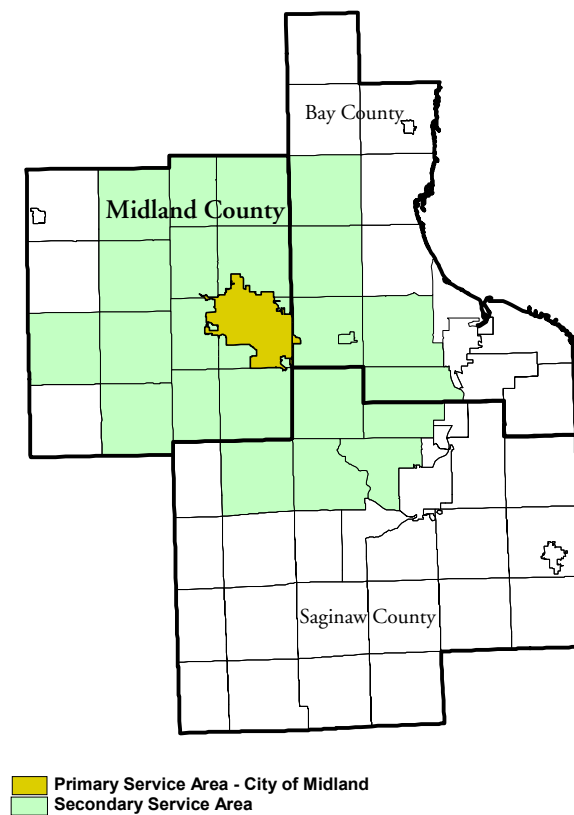


Figure 13 - Map of Midland's Recreation Service Areas The primary recreation service area is the City of Midland. For a list of the communities that are considered part of the secondary recreation service area, see Figure 14.

Together, the diverse range of parks that comprise the City's extensive park system, are distributed in a relatively even fashion throughout the neighborhoods, and yet, the overall spatial arrangement and individual park amenities allows the City to meet the needs of certain segments within the community. While the needs of certain user groups often overlap, some specialization in park amenities is possible, such as meeting the needs of a mostly elderly neighborhood, or providing play equipment in areas that are predominately families with many young children.

		1990	2000	Change
Primary	City of Midland	38,053	41,685	9.5%
Secondary	Edenville Twp	2,367	2,528	6.8%
portions of Midland County	Jerome Twp	4,470	4,888	9.4%
	Greendale Twp	1,495	1,788	19.6%
	Lee Twp	4,017	4,411	9.8%
	Porter Twp	1,140	1,270	11.4%
	Hope Twp	1,223	1,286	5.2%
	Lincoln Twp	1,807	2,277	26.0%
	Homer Twp	4,235	3,924	-7.3%
	Mt. Haley Twp	1,656	1,654	-0.1%
	Mills Twp	1,635	1,871	14.4%
	Larkin Twp	3,588	4,514	25.8%
	Midland Twp	2,218	2,297	3.6%
	Ingersoll Twp	2,788	3,018	8.2%
portions of Bay County	Beaver Twp	2,810	2,806	-0.1%
	Garfield Twp	1,736	1,775	2.2%
	Monitor Twp	9,512	10,037	5.5%
	Williams Twp	4,278	4,492	5.0%
	Frankenlust Twp (half)	1,263	1,265	0.2%
	City of Auburn	1,855	2,011	8.4%
portions of Saginaw County	Richland Twp	4,177	4,281	2.5%
	Thomas Twp	10,971	11,877	8.3%
	Tittabawassee Twp	4,627	7,706	66.5%
	Kochville Twp (half)	2,740	1,621	-40.9%
	Saginaw Twp (half)	19,334	19,829	2.6%
Secondary Area Subtotal		95,942	103,425	7.8%
Total		133,995	145,110	8.3%

Figure 14 - City of Midland Recreation Service Areas Population for all communities in Midland's primary and secondary recreation service areas. See Figure 13 for a map of these areas. (Data: U. S. Census)