

Comstock Park Downtown Development Authority

WORKING FOR YOU

What is a Downtown Development Authority

2011 DDA Board

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The State of Michigan passed the Downtown Development Authority Act (P.A. 197 of 1975) to give municipalities a tool for improving the quality of downtown areas. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) promotes economic growth and revitalization and encourages historic preservation within the central business district. The DDA seeks to reverse historical trends that have led to loss of population, jobs, businesses, and the quality of life within the downtown area.

The Comstock Park DDA is the development agency responsible for many improvements in the downtown area. Our DDA projects have contributed greatly to the growth and development of our downtown, those projects include infrastructure improve-

ments, streetscape improvements, landscaping maintenance, parking lot and sidewalk maintenance, replacement and repairs, marketing and grant programs.

The Comstock Park DDA Board meets at 8:00 A.M. on the third Wednesday of every month at the Comstock Park Schools Central Office located 101 School Street N.E., Comstock Park.

Comstock Park DDA
P.O. Box 333
Comstock Park, Michigan 49321
www.comstockparkdda.org



The Mill Creek Water Wheel located in Dwight Lydell Park

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Comstock Park and the Frederick Meijer White Pine trail are featured in the 2011 *West Michigan Trails Magazine*.

The White Pine Trail is the longest rail/trail system in



the state, connecting Grand Rapids (starting in Comstock Park) with Cadillac. It intersects the Pere Marquette trail in Reed City and there are plans for connections to the Fred Meijer Heartland trail and the Musketawa trail. It is a four seasons trail with year-round activities.

The White Pine Trail has had a very positive impact

on Comstock Park. The Trail has supported our community and businesses through eco-tourism, promotes health and fitness by providing affordable exercise and recreational opportunities to individuals and families, reduces crime and illegal activity through regular use and the high visibility of users, preserves the natural environment and it connects us to other communities.

Façade Improvement Grants

The Façade Improvement Program has been established by the Comstock Park Downtown Development Authority to encourage the preservation, restoration and/or renovation of significant building exteriors for properties located within the downtown district.

The DDA Board believes that the appearance of buildings in the downtown district is critical to maintaining the viability of the Comstock Park downtown district. It is also the Board's belief that an attractively

preserved downtown district will encourage pedestrian and vehicular traffic, thus improving economic conditions in the district.

Therefore, the DDA Board is making façade improvement grants available, in consideration and exchange for exterior building improvements made in the downtown district.

The Façade Improvement Program provides grants to help defray the costs of exterior work on buildings located within the

downtown district. The exterior work must be related to the restoration or renovation of the exterior of the building. Eligible costs include the costs of design, construction, removal and replacement of exterior elements. Improvements that would help a business comply with the American Disabilities Act are also considered eligible projects.

For program details and an application go to <http://www.comstockparkdda.org/Facade.htm>



Village Commercial District

The Plainfield Township Planning Commission is proposing a new zoning district for the Comstock Park commercial corridor.

The Village Commercial District (VCD) is a zoning classification intended to reflect the characteristics of our commercial corridor by providing a variety of retail, office, restaurant and entertainment activities. The VCD promotes the integration of business activity and

services, governmental functions and residential land use.

This district is specifically created to enhance the characteristics of the CPCC by bringing many of the existing commercial buildings into conformance with zoning and to make it easier to redevelop properties.

2010 DDA Projects

West River Drive Streetscape Project—The final touches were implemented which included the installation of decorative lighting, improved sidewalks, benches, bike racks, trash receptacles, center bollards, and banners from 4 Mile Road to Pine Island Drive.

DDA Meet and Greet—The open house was held at the 5/3 Ballpark Pepsi Stadium Club to get the business community acquainted with the DDA.

Sidewalks—New sidewalks and the repair of old sidewalks along West

River Drive from School Street to Division Street

White Pine Trail Loop—The WPT was extended by running it down the east side of Mill Creek Street to create a loop.

