

The DDA is focusing its resources on projects inside the downtown district - strengthening local business, improving public spaces, and giving visitors more reasons to stop and explore Pinckney.

\$10,000	\$21,000	4 seasons
tourism grant potential	Recast City training value	planned artistic treescapes

Gateway to Play

- The DDA received the first **\$5,000** installment of a tourism grant, with another \$5,000 available after required documentation and receipts are submitted.
- The project focuses on artistic bike racks, wayfinding elements and expanded Main Street holiday illumination.
- Its purpose is to connect trail users and outdoor visitors with downtown shops, restaurants and events, increasing foot traffic and visitor spending.

Artistic Treescapes

- A phased four-season concept would place permanent metal tree sculptures in selected downtown treescape areas as landmarks and photo opportunities.
- The first proposed winter tree has a preliminary installed estimate of **\$7,840-\$10,970**. Future spring, summer and fall pieces would move forward as funding and scheduling allow.
- Installation requires right-of-way coordination, MISS DIG, engineered foundations, anchoring and DPW support.

Bike Racks and Wayfinding

- The DDA is prioritizing functional, artistic bike racks that reinforce Pinckney's identity and help visitors move through downtown.
- Ideas also include You Are Here maps, kinetic elements, QR codes and regional visitor information connecting downtown with nearby recreation and attractions.

Community Garden

- Nearly all garden beds were rented for the 2026 season, participation increased, and food deliveries and produce sharing supported community food access.
- Improvements include the entrance arch, pathways, educational beds, children's activities, composting, the seed and book libraries, pantry expansion, landscaping and gathering space.
- The DDA recognized volunteers, donors and DPW for maintenance, mulch, materials and continued support.

Business Support

- The Pinckney Business Owners Group is connecting entrepreneurs with the Greater Brighton Area Chamber, the Small Business Development Center and Michigan Works Southeast.
- Available assistance includes counseling, website review, financial preparedness, banking readiness, business health assessments and growth planning.
- Meetings also create opportunities for established owners to mentor, connect and encourage newer businesses.

Economic Development Partnership

- The DDA approved a one-year, **\$10,000** partnership with the Economic Development Council of Livingston County for approximately 8-10 hours of professional support each month.
- Work will focus on business retention and expansion, new-business support, Recast City, workforce and financing connections, and Redevelopment Ready Communities certification.

Growth Tools and District Planning

- Pinckney was selected as one of six Michigan communities for Recast City, providing approximately **\$21,000 in training** focused on makers, artisans, small manufacturing and advanced-technology businesses.
- The DDA recommended Map B for a proposed district-boundary amendment. The minutes emphasized that this would not raise taxes; it would change where future captured value is directed. Final action requires the Village's public-hearing and ordinance process.
- A mural committee was formed to explore public art tied to America's 250th anniversary and Pinckney's 180th anniversary.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Community feedback and partnerships are guiding the DDA's work. Residents want Pinckney's small-town character protected while downtown becomes more active, walkable and economically strong.

60	83	75.3%
Recognition Dinner seats sold	Master Plan survey responses	satisfied with quality of life

What Residents Told Us

- Residents strongly value Pinckney's small-town identity and favor slow, managed growth.
- Leading downtown priorities were restaurants (67.1%), retail (48.1%), community events (40.5%), outdoor dining (38%), historic preservation and business attraction (30.4% each), and streetscape improvements (29.1%).
- Sidewalk improvement was the leading transportation priority. Crosswalk safety, bicycle accommodations, accessibility and road repair were also identified.
- Economic development received the lowest community rating, reinforcing the need for business support, downtown investment and clear communication about current work.

DDA Parades and Community Events

- St. Patrick's Day Parade:** The DDA's annual parade was held March 14 at noon on Main Street. [DDA Pinckney MI](#) invited businesses, community groups and local causes to march and connect with families, neighbors and visitors. Sponsorships began at \$100.
- Memorial Day Parade:** The DDA helped organize the May 25 parade and its commemorative program, including veteran tribute signs, the established downtown parade route, the War Dogs' 21-gun salute and Rick Beaudin serving as master of ceremonies.
- Food Truck Fridays and Rails to Reels movie nights created gathering opportunities and helped direct visitors toward local businesses.
- The September 26 Community Day combines a scavenger hunt, live music, food trucks, local activities, storyteller Steve Daut and an evening showing of *Hocus Pocus*.

Recognition Dinner

- The Great Gatsby-themed dinner sold **60 seats** and celebrated leadership, volunteerism and service across seven award categories. Sixty community members submitted nominations.
- DDA members donated raffle baskets valued from approximately \$100 to \$1,100, while local partners donated music, photography, awards, decor, wine, the venue and meals.
- Proceeds supported early Depot engineering through community fundraising. The Depot is outside the DDA district and is **not a DDA-funded project**.

Tourism and Promotion

- January discussions with Explore Brighton Howell identified a \$10,000 destination-development grant opportunity and confirmed that an earlier \$2,000 signage commitment remained available.
- The Community Tourism Action Plan identifies Pinckney's downtown, lakes, trails, camping, fishing, kayaking and outdoor-recreation identity as major assets.
- The strategy aims to move Pinckney from a pass-through location toward a day-use and overnight destination by improving connections between recreation and downtown merchants.
- A SEMCOG-produced promotional video features downtown, parks, trails, lakes, recreation and local businesses. The video was provided through the Village's SEMCOG membership at no additional production cost.

Seasonal Downtown Improvements

- The DDA is exploring expansion of downtown holiday lighting and reusable projected displays on building facades.
- Before any projection project moves forward, equipment, placement, traffic impacts, property-owner permission, upper-floor residents, operating hours and cost must be reviewed.
- The DDA continues to await DTE action on M-36 streetlight repairs and will keep the issue on its agenda.

Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 26 Community Day and Rails to Reels movie night
Oct. 24 | 6-8 p.m. Spooktacular
Nov. 28 | 4:30-8:00 p.m. Light Up the Park
Dec. 19 | Noon Wreaths Across America ceremony

Get Involved

- Shop local, attend downtown events, invite another business owner to a networking meeting, volunteer, sponsor a project, or share an idea during public comment at a DDA meeting.