H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies

Visitor’s Guide
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Campus Map: [https://calvin.edu/map/](https://calvin.edu/map/)

The Meeter Center is located on the fourth floor of the Hekman Library, in room L415.
Meeter Center General Information

1. Meeter Center Hours
   • Summer Hours: M – F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
   • Fall and Spring Hours: M-F 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

2. Hekman Library Hours
   https://library.calvin.edu/hours
   • Summer Hours: M - Th 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
   • Fall and Spring Hours: M - Th 7:30 AM – 9:30 PM
   • Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
   • Fall and Spring Hours: Friday 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM
   • Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
   • Fall and Spring Hours: Saturday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

3. Campus Hours
   • Most offices Summer Hours: M - F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
   • Fall and Spring Hours: M – F 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
   • Mail Services: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
   • Financial Services: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
   • Calvin Campus Store
     • Summer Hours M-F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
     • Fall and Spring Hours: M/W/Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
     • Saturday closed
     • Fall and Spring Hours: T/Th 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
     • Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

4. To contact the Meeter Center:
The H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies
Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary
1855 Knollcrest Circle SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
USA
Phone: (616) 526-7081 Fax: (616) 526-7687
E-mail: meeter@calvin.edu Web: http://www.calvin.edu/meeter
Facebook: facebook.com/meetercenter Twitter: @MeeterCenter

5. Meeter Center Staff Emergency Contact Numbers:
   • Karin Maag, Director (616) 285-7046
   • Paul Fields, Curator (616) 897-8791
   • Deborah Snider, Program Coordinator (616) 526-7081
Setting Up Technology and Access

1. Please plan on going with a Meeter Center staff person shortly after your arrival to obtain your visitor ID from the Campus Safety office, located at the Mail and Printing Services Building 200 on Knollcrest Circle Southeast. This will give you check-out privileges with the library and printing/copying privileges at most printers on campus.

2. Library privileges: Using your ID card, you may check out up to 50 books and 5 media items, with a loan period of two weeks and unlimited renewals. See http://library.calvin.edu/policies/circ_all/loans for information about specific collections’ loan periods.

3. Internet access on campus and in on-campus apartments:
   To login using a phone number:
   a) Choose Calvin Guest from your list of available WiFi networks.
   b) Accept the Use Terms and Privacy Policy.
   c) When prompted, enter your phone number. You should receive a confirmation text message which will allow you to connect.
   To login using a personal (non-Calvin) email address:
   a) Choose Calvin Guest from your list of available WiFi networks.
   b) Accept the User Terms and Privacy Policy.
   c) When prompted, enter your email address. You should receive a confirmation email message which will allow you to connect.

   This information courtesy of Calvin Information Technology helpdesk. You may contact them at: 616.526.8555 or helpdesk@calvin.edu.

4. Printing and Copying
   If you need to print or make copies (including microfiche) at the Meeter Center, we charge 10 cents per page, payable at the end of your visit. If you wish to fax or scan items, you will need the help of Meeter Center Staff (at 5 cents per page).
Meeter Center Policies

1) Please sign in when you enter the Center. When you leave, record your end time plus the number of materials used.

2) Materials do not leave the Meeter Center (they may not be checked out). If you use books in your study area, please fill out a slip of paper and place it in a red plastic holder provided by the Center. Shelve the red marker in the spot where the book was located.

3) We charge to print an article or document. Please see item 4 page 5 “Printing and Copying.”

4) Photocopies from microfiche or microfilm in the Meeter Center will involve a 10 cent charge per page. Ask at the Center’s front desk for a card to run the machine.

5) If you are using one of the Center’s rare books, you may take digital pictures with your phone or camera for no charge. Please use only pencils when working with rare books.

6) Please use only pencils when working in the Center.

7) No food or drinks are allowed in the Center’s reading room.

Guidelines for Lodging at KE Apartments

Laundry Facilities/Cleaning Supplies
The laundry room is located on the first floor of the apartment building. Large garbage bags, toilet paper, and paper towels will be available in the apartment.

Emergency
If you have an emergency while at your apartment or elsewhere off-campus, please call Calvin Campus Safety at 616-526-3333. Emergencies such as these include fire, criminal activity, or severe and time-critical medical crises.
Garbage
Please remove garbage and dispose of it in the garbage dumpster located along the West side of the building. Michigan has a 10-cent refund for pop cans/bottles. Area grocery stores accept pop cans/bottles for refund.

Keys
You will receive a key and an ID (swipe) card upon your arrival at Calvin University. If you lose either of these items, contact the Meeter Center staff about a replacement. There is a fee for replacement cards/keys so please guard these carefully.

Maintenance Requests
If you have concerns about apartment maintenance, questions, or concerns with neighbors in the building contact the Meeter Center staff in the first instance.

Pets
With the exception of approved service dogs and small fish, pets are not allowed in your apartment.

Possession and Consumption of Alcohol
Calvin University prohibits the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages on university premises. In keeping with the spirit of that policy, consumption of alcohol is not permitted in your apartment. Thank you for your understanding.

Computers and Wireless Access in the Apartment
Wireless access is available in the apartment. See page 4 for details of connecting to the Calvin wireless network.

Check-out & Cleaning Instructions
It is your responsibility to make sure the rooms in the apartment are clean before you leave. Please check with Meeter Center staff about procedures for returning your key/key card/ID card.

Calvin University Campus Information

Emergencies
In emergencies on campus, dial 3-3333 from campus phones. Extension 3-3333 alerts Campus Safety and triggers alarms and red lights in their office. Using a cell phone you must dial 616-526-3333. You may also text: 33333@calvin.edu. Please do not dial 911 WHEN YOU ARE ON CAMPUS as the call bypasses the Campus Safety office; Campus Safety helps with the emergency and directs the emergency vehicles to the right location. If you have a less pressing situation, call the operator (0) or the Campus Safety Dispatch, 6-6452.

Security and Medical Campus Escort
The Campus Safety Department is located on the North side of campus, next to the Physical Plant.
  
  Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
  Campus Phone: 6-6452
Please contact Campus Safety regarding suspicious situations, theft, or lockouts. Campus Safety Officers are dispatched 24 hours a day for emergency situations as well as activated fire alarms. If you would like a security escort after dark, please call Campus Safety at 6-6452. Medical escorts are also available day and night by calling Campus Safety.

**Smoking**
Smoking on campus is not permitted.

**Mail**
Stamped outgoing mail can be given to the Meeter Center staff. Mail requiring postage must be taken to the Mail and Print Services Building on the far north end of the campus. If you wish to receive mail during your time at the Center, have it sent to the following address:

*your name*
c/o H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies
Hekman Library
1855 Knollcrest Circle SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
USA

**Borrowing Calvin-Owned Computers**
The Calvin Information Technology Center (ITC), located in the basement of the library, is open during library hours. A variety of Macs and PCs with a variety of software are available for your use with your ID.

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**Online Resources**

- [https://www.grpl.org/](https://www.grpl.org/) Grand Rapids Public Library
- [https://www.ridetherapid.org/](https://www.ridetherapid.org/) City Bus routes, times, trip planner, etc.
- [ExperienceGR](https://www.grnow.com/) Guide to events, downtown, restaurants
- [https://www.mlive.com/](https://www.mlive.com/) Guide to event calendar, downtown, nightlife
- [Visitor Information Portal](https://www.mlive.com/) Michigan news, Grand Rapids news

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**Points of Interest on Campus**

**Calvin University Center Art Gallery**
The Center Art Gallery located on the main floor of the Covenant Fine Arts Center. It is open in the summer Monday – Friday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. During the academic year, it is open
Monday and Friday 8:00 AM -- 5:00 PM, Tuesday – Thursday 8:00 AM -- 8:00 PM. It can also be visited by appointment by calling (616) 526-6271.  
https://calvin.edu/academics/departments-programs/center-art-gallery/

Ecosystem Preserve
We hope you take some time to simply tour the grounds and acquaint yourself with the campus. The Ecosystem Preserve, located north of the apartments (beyond Prince Conference Center and DeVos Communication Building), provides a lovely, peaceful setting for walks and relaxation. It is open from dawn to dusk. Check out their website at: 
http://www.calvin.edu/academic/eco-preserve

Campus Store
The Calvin Campus Store is open in the summer Monday to Friday 8:00 AM -- 4:30 PM. They are open in the academic year Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. They carry a variety of Calvin souvenirs, as well as books, school supplies, and a selection of toiletries and necessities.

Heritage Hall (University, Seminary, and Denominational Archives)
Heritage Hall located on the 2nd floor of the Hekman Library is open Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. During the academic year, it is open Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. 
https://library.calvin.edu/guide/collections/hh

Mail Services
Mail Services is located in the Mail and Print Services Building on the northern edge of campus. Its hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM during the school year, and Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM in the summer. They sell stamps and envelopes of all kinds and provide UPS, Federal Express, and other overnight delivery services. 
https://calvin.edu/offices-services/mail-services/

Sports Facilities
Your Calvin ID card gives you free access to the Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex located on the north side of campus. Unfortunately, visiting fellows’ family members will not have access as they are not issued an ID card. For a description of Spoelhof Fieldhouse facilities and updated hours, check out its website (below) or check the doors to these facilities. There is also a jogging/walking path around the perimeter of the campus is available for your use. 
https://calvin.edu/athletics/facilities/

Meal Options

Grocery Stores
A list of area grocery stores can be found on page 21. D & W carries a wide selection of foods and various other supplies; Meijer is a department store plus grocery store.
On-Campus Dining Links:
https://calvin.edu/offices-services/dining-services/places-to-eat.html

Restaurants
You can find many eateries in the two malls at the corner of the East Beltline and 28th Street. In fact, 28th Street is one continuous offering of stores and restaurants. See page 28 for a list of restaurants which are located close by. Another way to find restaurants is on the internet at: http://www.experiencegr.com or https://www.yelp.com/.

Vending Machines
Vending machines are available in various academic buildings on campus. (One example close to the Meeter Center: the south-side stairwell in the 3rd floor of Hiemenga Hall.)

Financial Concerns
Visiting scholars may open a temporary banking account at Calvin Financial Services (upper level of Spoelhof University Center). Checks up to $200/day limit may be cashed. Lake Michigan Credit Union has placed three ATMs on campus: a full-service machine in the lobby of the Commons Annex and the Spoelhof Fieldhouse lobby. A $1 service fee is applied for all non-Lake Michigan Credit Union customers. Your own personal bank may also apply additional fees. Contact the Program Coordinator if you would like to send or receive money by wire transfer.

Travel Arrangements

Gerald R. Ford International Airport
The airport is located at 5500 44th SE (on Patterson south of 28th St.). Meeter Center staff will make transportation arrangements for visiting scholars and their families to and from the airport.

Train and Bus Connections
The Amtrak station is on the corner of Wealthy and Market streets downtown at 431 Wealthy St. SW. Call 1-800-872-7245 for ticket information or visit http://www.amtrak.com. The local bus terminal is at 250 Grandville SW. You can visit http://www.greyhound.com for more information.

City Bus Services
Grand Rapid’s public bus system, The Rapid, operates fixed routes around Calvin University and the downtown area. There is a bus stop near the university entrance on Burton and a stop on Burton near the KE apartments. For schedules visit http://www.ridetherapid.org or call (616) 776-1100.

Calvin’s discount cards for the Rapid bus system are on the Rapid’s cashless Wave system. (For more information on the Wave, visit https://wave.ridetherapid.org/. Calvin students, staff, and faculty enjoy $0.50 one-way rides, paid for by tapping your pre-loaded Wave card, which will deduct the funds from
your account. Your accounts are personal and private, and allow you to load funds at whatever pace is right for you on their website or mobile app.

Rapid discount cards cost $5.00 to purchase with cash or check only and come pre-loaded with $2.00 so you can walk straight out the door to the bus stop without having to load your card first. Cards will be distributed out of the Service-Learning Center in Spoolhof Center 301. Contact Deborah Snider, Meeter Center Program Coordinator, to apply for your Wave card.

If you have any questions or experience any issues, please don't hesitate to contact Andrew Haggerty at afh4@calvin.edu.

**Cab Service**
The following is a list of local cab companies and their phone numbers:

- Yellow Cab Co. (616) 459-4646
- Calder City Taxi (616) 454-8080
- Metro Cab (616) 827-6500

**Rental Cars**
The following are nearby agencies:

- Avis – Gerald R. Ford International Airport (949–1720) or (1800-230-4898)
- Budget – Gerald R. Ford International Airport (233-6336) or (1800-527-0700)
- Hertz – Gerald R. Ford International Airport (233-6353) or (1800-654-3131)
- Enterprise – Gerald R. Ford International Airport (233-6341) or (1-800-261-7331)

**A Brief History of Grand Rapids**

By Gordon Olson

Since the days of the Mound Builders over 2,000 years ago, people have found the area around the rapids of the Grand River to be a pleasant place to live. Each summer the Mound Builders gathered on the rich flood plain along the west bank of the rapids to plant crops, fish, hunt, and construct large earthen burial complexes for their honored dead.

In more recent times, native people known collectively as the Three Fires--the Ottawa, Ojibwa (Chippewa) and Potawatomi--made West Michigan their home. Two hundred years ago, Ottawa villages stood on the river’s west bank, at each end of the rapids. Depending for their subsistence on hunting and fishing, supplemented by a small amount of farming, the Ottawa too, found the rapids of Grand River, which they called Owashtanong, an ideal place to live.

Life for the Ottawa changed in 1821 when, by the Treaty of Chicago, the United States acquired the land in Michigan south of the Grand River and opened it for settlement. Four years later Baptist missionary Isaac McCoy and fur trader Louis Campau established the first non-native settlement at the rapids of the Grand. McCoy arrived in the fall of 1825 and began building a mission complex on the west bank of the river where the Gerald R. Ford Museum now stands, consisting of a house and schoolhouse, each about
20x24 feet, a stable and a blacksmith shop. Campau followed the next spring with a trading post and fur warehouse directly across the river near the present location of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

Federal surveyors completed laying out township and section lines on the land around the rapids in 1831, opening it for purchase. Among the first to take advantage of the surveyor’s work was Louis Campau who paid $90 a 72-acre tract of land that would become the heart of downtown Grand Rapids. Soon after, land-lookers from New England and New York began making their way to the Grand River Valley.

The next summer Lucius Lyon, who had helped survey the area, bought a tract immediately north of Campau’s. With their property divided along a line midway between today’s Pearl and Lyon Streets from the river to Division Avenue, the two men laid out lots and competed for buyers. So intense was their competition that for several years the irascible Campau refused to permit construction of a street connecting the two tracts, effectively forcing people to go to Division Avenue each time they wanted to go from one development to the other.

Settlers from New England and New York followed close on the heels of McCoy and Campau. Seeing the same opportunities as those noted by Native Americans centuries earlier, the first easterners to settle along the rapids of the Grand River were members of the 60-person Dexter Colony, which came from Herkimer County, New York in 1833. Samuel Dexter had visited a year earlier, selecting 320 acres lying directly east of Division Avenue, between Wealthy and Leonard streets.

Dexter party members Joel and Abbie Guild built the area’s first frame house, choosing a site near what is now Rosa Parks Circle. Several other homes quickly followed, and by late fall, the new settlers were taking steps to establish a town government and a school. Nine men met in the Guild home on April 4, 1834 and elected Grand Rapids Township’s first government. A year later, on May 9, 1835, they established the township’s first school district, with the Guilds’ 17-year-old daughter Emily as its teacher.

Others followed the trail blazed by the Dexter party. By 1840 about 750 opportunity seekers had settled at the rapids of the Grand. Territorial leaders authorized the creation of Kent County in March of 1836, and a year later, as Michigan gained statehood, George Pattison published Grand Rapids’ first newspaper, the Grand River Times. A year after that, on April 5, 1838, the Village of Grand Rapids was incorporated by act of the new state legislature.

Newcomers continued to pour into the community, and by 1850 Grand Rapids’ population topped 2,500 causing the state legislature to change its status from village to city. Among the newcomers were William Powers and Ebenezer Ball who set up a furniture factory with an assembly line which, Ball boasted, permitted his workers to “throw whole trees into the hopper and grind out chairs ready for use.” To
prove his point, Ball announced that they had an order to produce 10,000 chairs to be sold in Chicago as well as shipping goods "back east."

In addition to furniture, the city produced cloth and carpets in its woolen mills, finished lumber and woodenware from over 40 different sawmills and small wood finishing shops, harnesses and leather goods from its tanneries and leather shops, agricultural implements from William Harrison's large west side factory, flour and grain from surrounding farms, other agricultural goods and even hoop skirts from one enterprising manufacturer.

Aiding Grand Rapids' growth as a Midwest manufacturing center was the arrival of the Detroit, Grand Rapids and Milwaukee railroad in 1858. A second line, the Michigan Southern pulled into town in 1869, followed by the Grand Rapids and Indiana a year later.

The importance of railroads, and the telegraph lines that accompanied them (stationmasters needed to carefully schedule arriving and departing trains that used the same track) was emphasized with the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. Railroads quickly moved regiments organized in West Michigan to the eastern theatre of war, and the telegraph brought news of battles to anxious friends and families in Grand Rapids shortly after they occurred. Kent County area sent over 4,000 of its sons to the war and 1 in 10 died in battle or from illness. A monument in the center of the city reminds succeeding generations of their sacrifice.

The river played a key role in Grand Rapids' development during the remainder of the 19th century. Even after the arrival of railroads, steamboats continued to ply its waters, and each spring lumber companies sent millions of board feet of logs downstream to sawmills and furniture factories in Grand Rapids. On more than one occasion, spring log drives broke loose and roared away until they jammed against downriver bridges. In 1883 a log jam of gigantic proportions roared through the city. For over two hours, a solid river of logs over five miles long roared through the city, tearing out bridges and destroying everything in its path. So great was the log jam that national newspapers covered the event, calling it the greatest log jam in the nation's history.

Logs were not alone in causing trouble to those who lived along the river. In spring, melting snow, early rains and ice jams often combined to flood homes and factories on the city's west side. The worst of these spring floods occurred in 1904, when thousands of people were forced from their homes. Damage estimates ranged above $500,000 (more than $10 million today), and city leaders voted to build flood walls to hold back future floods.

With its population reaching 90,000 by 1900, growth continued to be the city's watchword for the remainder of the 19th century. It was, however, growth with a difference. Instead of moving from the
eastern United States, the new residents came speaking Dutch, German, Irish, Swedish, Polish, Italian, and all the other languages of Europe. Expelled from their native countries by wars, famine, and a desire for democracy rather than monarchies, the new residents brought a willingness to work in order to make a better life for their children and grandchildren. They found work in large factories that sprang up to provide the American nation with the goods its growing nation demanded.

In Grand Rapids, following the lead established by Powers and Ball, beds, chairs, tables and similar goods for the home were the dominant product. Furniture companies with names like Widdicomb, Nelson Matter, Berkey and Gay, Phoenix, and Sligh became household names and Grand Rapids was known as the "Furniture City"—its products recognized world-wide for their elaborate designs and quality workmanship.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the city boasted more than 50 furniture factories, and as many as half of its labor force involved in furniture manufacturing and related industries such as sawmills, foundries making metal hardware, paint and varnish companies, and manufacturers of woodworking machinery.

Increasingly, these workers objected to the wages they were paid and the circumstances under which they worked. Tensions came to a head in 1911, when furniture workers throughout the city walked off their jobs for four months in a bitter strike that idled much of the city for the entire summer. Although the strike ended with little resolved, and both sides still unhappy, strikers did ultimately get the wage increases, improved working conditions and shorter workdays they sought.

In addition to its effect on the furniture industry, the strike had another impact on the city. Combined with the 1904 flood and a series of turn-of-the-century political scandals, the strike caused many community leaders to conclude that a more efficient form of government was needed. The result was the adoption of a new charter in 1916, providing for a commission-manager form of government in which the commissioners adopted policies that were then carried out by an appointed city manager. According to the new charter, the city was divided into three wards with two commissioners for each ward, and one other commissioner. At first, all commissioners were elected from the city at large, and the commissioners then elected one of their number mayor. A few years later the charter was changed to its current form in which commissioners are elected by the voters of the ward, and only the mayor is elected at large. Later, in the early 1920s, a city-planning department was created, and the city's first zoning ordinance was adopted with the view of inaugurating a comprehensive plan for beautifying the city and improving regulating residential, retail and manufacturing areas.

Grand Rapids' furniture industry dominated its economy until the late 1920s when the stock market crash and the onset of the Great Depression caused one of every two furniture factories to close their doors putting over 25% of the city's workers out of their jobs. Grand Rapids' suffering was especially severe because many Americans deferred furniture purchases as they struggled to meet basic needs. To alleviate the hardships its residents faced, Grand Rapids city manager George Welsh devised a plan that called for the city to provide jobs for its most needy residents, paying them with paper scrip money that they could redeem at city-run stores for food, clothing, and other necessities. Welsh's plan preceded the New Deal of President Franklin Roosevelt and lasted until replaced by the Federal program.
For most of the 1930s, many workers depended on government programs for the work they needed to support their families. It was only with the outbreak of World War II and the resulting war industries jobs that the Grand Rapids, like other cities, found its lines of unemployed workers disappear, instead, there were new lines of soldiers heading off to war.

Like the Civil War and World War I before it, World War II involved the entire community. In Kent County, over 30,000 men and women volunteered or were drafted to military service and over 1,000 made the ultimate sacrifice. At home, once empty furniture factories found new uses. Workers now produced gunstocks, gliders, parachutes and bullet molds where once they had made beds, dressers, dining tables and chairs. With many workers in the armed services, local women stepped in to work in factories, drive trucks and organize civil defense efforts.

The new status for women had important post-war implications. They wanted to retain the access to job market and leadership roles in business and government they had achieved during wartime, and although there was always resistance, pioneering women established themselves as professionals, took jobs in manufacturing and skilled trades and started their own businesses. They also made their voices and concerns heard in government. In 1961, Evangeline Lamberts became the first woman to serve on the Grand Rapids city commission and in the years since, others have followed.

As Michigan’s second city, Grand Rapids became West Michigan's center for health care and education. Calvin University which became, in 1921, the first local institution to offer a four-year degree, opened its doors in 1876 as a preparatory school and training program for ministers. It was followed by Aquinas College, which began life as a junior college in 1931, and offered its first four-year degrees in 1940. Grand Valley State University did not enter the scene until 1961, but is now by far the largest, with over 22,000 students and numerous undergraduate and graduate programs.

Three other schools round out the four-year programs in the area. Kendall College of Art and Design was founded in 1928 by Helen Kendall to honor her furniture-designer husband, David Walcott Kendall.

Davenport University began life as Grand Rapids Business College in 1866, and now offers two-year and four-year degrees, along with numerous specialized training programs. The Baptist Bible Institute, which opened in 1941 and merged with the Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music to become Cornerstone University in 1993, offers traditional undergraduate programs and a growing number of graduate programs.

Grand Rapids' position as a health care center began in the second half of the 19th century with the creation of Blodgett (1873) and Butterworth (1876) hospitals. Both institutions began as homes for the aged and indigent, and greatly expanded their services in the early 20th century thanks to the support of generous donors.
St. Mary's Hospital was established in 1893 by the Sisters of Mercy. Like its predecessors, it began in a house and moved to a new hospital building as demand for its services increased. The three early hospitals were joined by Metropolitan Hospital (originally known as Grand Rapids Osteopathic Hospital) in 1942. Since their founding, all four hospitals have expanded many times, adding specialty treatment and research centers. They have also been joined by other specialty hospitals including Mary Free Bed (orthopedic) and Kent Community Hospital (public health). In recent years, Blodgett, Butterworth and Kent Community were merged into the Spectrum Health organization.

The postwar years also brought dramatic changes to the physical look of the city. Seeking to establish homes and families, returning veterans seeking to establish homes and families, drove a suburban building boom that has continued to the present with little interruption. Once surrounded by open farmland, Grand Rapids today is ringed by suburbs and rapidly growing townships that now exceed the central city's population. Wyoming, Kentwood, Walker, Ada, Cascade and Grand Rapids Townships, Grandville programs and Jenison have all established their own identities in the past 50 years.

One reason for the suburban growth is the development of a highway network that permits rapid movement throughout the region. Begun with combined federal, state and local funding for U.S. 131 in the 1950s, the system now features interstate highways I-96 which swings around the north side of the city, I-196 through its center, and newly completed M-6 which forms a connector south of the city. Commercial, residential, retail and manufacturing developments have followed the course of all three highways.

While Grand Rapids remains the central and dominant feature of the much larger metropolitan area, its demographic makeup has also changed in the past 50 years. Along with other changes, the post war years also brought increased diversity to the city's population. African Americans, who had been a part of Grand Rapids since its earliest days, increased their numbers in the 20th century as families left the American south seeking job opportunities in northern cities. By mid-century, Grand Rapids black population stood at 7,000, grew to 12,000 a decade later, and had reached approximately 40,000 by the beginning of the 21st century.

Similarly, in recent years, Grand Rapids' Hispanic population has been the fastest growing segment of its population as they too, seek the opportunities the area offers. Initially established when several young men came to work at railroad jobs in the 1920s, the area's Hispanic community, primarily Mexican in origin, stood at more than 5,000 in 1980 and has now grown to nearly 20,000.

Further adding to the city's rich diversity have been the refugees from many lands who have sought new homes in Grand Rapids in the last half of the 20th
century. Immediately after World War II, the city welcomed Jews who survived German World War II death camps and eastern European refugees left homeless by the ravages of the war. From the 1950s through the 1980s, others came fleeing Communist oppression in Hungary, Cuba, and Vietnam. Most recently refugees from Bosnia, Albania and Croatia in Central Europe, and Liberia and the Sudan in Africa have sought to make new lives in West Michigan.

Supporting this new and larger population is an economy based on diversification, rather than dependence on a single industry--the furniture industry--that characterized the pre-war years. Today's community leaders understand the need for an economic balance between manufacturing, retail and service sectors, as well as the need for both heavy and light industry in the manufacturing sector. They realize that now, and in the future, a stable economy will continue to be the largest factor used to measure the community's success.

**Points of Interest in Greater Grand Rapids**

**Museums/Attractions**

- **Blandford Nature Center**
  This nature center offers 143 acres of walking trails and picnic areas. Blandford also has an active wildlife rehabilitation clinic, with many permanent wild residents on public display.
  1715 Hillburn NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
  Phone: (616) 735-6240
  [https://blandfordnaturecenter.org/](https://blandfordnaturecenter.org/)

- **Craig’s Cruisers**
  This family fun center offers outdoor go-karts, mini golf, bumper boats, laser tag, bumper cars, frog hopper, high ropes course, arcade games, and a pizza and pasta buffet.
  5730 Clyde Park SW, Wyoming, MI 49509
  Phone: (616) 530-2900
  [http://www.craigscruisers.com](http://www.craigscruisers.com)

- **Frederik Meijer Gardens**
  Discover the beauty and splendor of this botanical garden and internationally acclaimed sculpture park. Walk the outdoor nature trails and boardwalk, study world-class sculpture within the outdoor Sculpture Park, and enjoy endless hours of fun with the kids in the Children's Garden. Visit the indoor areas including special sculpture exhibitions, see the tropical conservatory and the Arid Garden and Carnivorous Plant House.
  100 East Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
  Phone: 1-888-957-1580
  [http://www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org)
• **Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum**
This museum honors the 38th U.S. president, a native of East Grand Rapids. The permanent exhibits are the core of the Museum's program. They allow visitors to participate in history, not just view it, while reviewing the highlights of the lives of President and Mrs. Ford. In addition to the permanent exhibits, a succession of temporary exhibits draw upon the rich holdings of the entire Presidential libraries system, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Archives, and others.
303 Pearl St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Phone: (616) 254-0400.
http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/

• **Grand Rapids Art Museum**
The GRAM offers a dynamic schedule of temporary exhibitions of art and design, as well as collection galleries that includes art and design by artists as diverse as Mathias Alten, Jennifer Bartlett, Alexander Calder, William Meritt Chase, Richard Diebenkorn, Asher B. Durand, Charles and Ray Eames, Hector Guimard, Stephen Hannock, Childe Hassam, Ellsworth Kelly, Rockwell Kent, George Inness, Max Pechstein, Rembrandt van Rijn, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, Joan Snyder, Frank Lloyd Wright and N.C. Wyeth.
101 Monroe Center NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 831-1000
http://www.artmuseumgr.org

• **Grand Rapids Children’s Museum**
An interactive hands-on experience perfect for all young children. Thursday nights are traditionally “Family Nights” with discounted admission and later hours. The museum is closed on Mondays.
11 Sheldon Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 235-4726
http://www.grcm.org

• **Grand Rapids Public Museum**
The GRPM is a living monument of artifacts, ideas and stories told through exhibitions, events and educational programming designed to inspire, motivate and celebrate human experiences of the wider world in a uniquely Grand Rapids context. This museum also features a planetarium. The current special exhibit is the “Robot Zoo.”
272 Pearl St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Phone: (616) 929-1700
http://www.grmuseum.org

• **John Ball Zoo**
The Zoo offers a variety of animals and sea life to observe as well as fun activities including a zip line, ropes course, and a petting zoo.
1300 W Fulton Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49501
Phone: (616) 336-4301
http://www.johnballzoosociety.org
• **Michigan’s Adventure Amusement Park**  
  Michigan’s Adventure is a Peanuts-character (Snoopy and the gang) amusement park featuring a large water park, roller coasters, giant gondola wheel, mini golf, and children’s rides.  
  4750 Whitehall Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445  
  Phone: (231) 766-3377  
  [http://www.miadventure.com](http://www.miadventure.com)

• **Reeds Lake, East Grand Rapids**  
  From fishing on quiet mornings to an afternoon of waterskiing with family, Reeds Lake and the surrounding parks, woods and trails draw people from miles around to enjoy the outdoor landscape. A large variety of restaurants, coffee shops, boutiques, and ice cream shops are great to visit and enjoy.  
  650 Lakeside Drive, East Grand Rapids, MI  
  [http://www.eastgr.org](http://www.eastgr.org)

• **USS Silversides Submarine Museum**  
  Situated on the south side of the Muskegon Lake Channel near beautiful Lake Michigan, the USS *Silversides* Submarine Museum has been the home of the World War II submarine USS Silversides since 1987. In addition to the Silversides, the USS *Silversides* Submarine Museum is also home to the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter McLane, a Prohibition-era Coast Guard Cutter that is one of the last of its class in existence.  
  1346 Bluff St, Muskegon, MI 49441  
  Phone: (231) 755-1230  
Urgent Care, Hospitals, and Pharmacies

Urgent Care
*Spectrum Health Urgent Care Center*
4100 Lake Dr. Ste 300
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 267-7000

Hospitals
*Spectrum Health Blodgett Campus*
1840 Wealthy St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 774-7444
https://www.spectrumhealth.org/locations/spectrum-health-hospitals-blodgett-hospital

*Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus*
100 Michigan St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 391-1774
https://www.spectrumhealth.org/locations/spectrum-health-hospitals-butterworth-hospital

Pharmacies
*Meijer, Knapp’s Corner Location*
1997 East Beltline NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 447-1564
https://www.meijer.com/services/pharmacy.html

*Meijer, Cascade Location*
5531 28th St SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512
(616) 949-4222

Area Grocery Stores and Shopping Malls

- **D&W**
  D&W is the closest grocery store and within walking distance of Calvin University. They carry groceries and a small selection of home goods.
  1814 Breton Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
  https://www.shopdwfreshmarket.com/

- **Meijer**
  Meijer is a one-stop megastore carrying groceries and health and beauty care to fashion, automotive, home décor, pharmacy, electronics, photo printing, and more. Two locations are located relatively close to Calvin University:
  - 5531 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512
  - 1997 E Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
  https://www.meijer.com/
• **Trader Joe’s**  
Trader Joe's is a neighborhood grocery store with amazing food and drink from around the globe and around the corner. Great quality at great prices.  
3684 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512  
[https://locations.traderjoes.com/mi/kentwood/707/](https://locations.traderjoes.com/mi/kentwood/707/)

• **Fresh Thyme**  
The spirit of a farmers’ market, the convenience of a neighborhood store, & the nutritious offerings of a natural food marketplace combined.  
2470 Burton St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
[https://www.freshthyme.com/](https://www.freshthyme.com/)

• **Harvest Health Foods**  
Harvest Health Foods carries a variety of fresh, natural, organic and whole foods with a large selection of gluten-free products.  
6807 Cascade Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
[https://harvesthealthfoods.com/](https://harvesthealthfoods.com/)

• **Aldi**  
Discount grocery store where you have to bag your own groceries.  
5114 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512  

• **Fulton Street Farmer’s Market**  
Old-school farmer’s market. Open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.  
1147 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
[https://www.fultonstreetmarket.org/](https://www.fultonstreetmarket.org/)

• **Woodland Mall**  
Large shopping mall with a food court and a number of restaurants in the parking lot; located just south of and within walking distance of Calvin University.  
3195 28th St SE #100, Grand Rapids, MI 49512  
[https://shopwoodlandmall.com/](https://shopwoodlandmall.com/)

• **Centerpoint Mall**  
Indoor/Outdoor mall also located within walking distance of Calvin University; situated across the East Beltline from Woodland Mall.  
3665 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512  
Area Parks

Ada Township Park
1080 Buttrick Ave SE, Ada, MI 49301
Ada Township Park provides a wide variety of both active and passive recreation. There are softball & soccer fields, tennis courts, a basketball court, playground, fishing pond and both paved and natural trails. Fishing is restricted to those under 12, senior citizens or physically challenged individuals. Plenty of tables & grills plus a pavilion and two gazebos provide ample opportunity for your picnic. [http://adamichigan.org/township/departments/parks-recreation/parks/ada-township-park](http://adamichigan.org/township/departments/parks-recreation/parks/ada-township-park)

Ah-Nab-Awen Park
220 Front Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Once the site of a Native American village, this park began as a bicentennial project which involved extensive public design input. The park exhibits numerous pieces of art and is often viewed in the context of the later addition to the site, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. The name Ah-Nab-Awen was proposed by the Elders of the Three Fires Council and means “Resting Place”. [https://www.michigan.org/property/ah-nab-awen-park](https://www.michigan.org/property/ah-nab-awen-park)
Comstock Riverside Park
2001 Monroe Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505
Located in downtown Grand Rapids, this park offers a refreshing and beautiful natural environment within the city. In addition to active sports, picnicking, and special event areas, the park provides river access for boats, extensive walking paths, and vistas overlooking the river. 
https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Directory/Places/Parks/Riverside-Park

John A. Collins Park
650 Lakeside Dr., East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Situated on Lakeside Drive, between the Grand Rapids Yacht Club and Rose's Restaurant, this lakefront park is within easy walking distance of Gaslight Village. It is named for John A. Collins, East Grand Rapids mayor from 1933 to 1956. The park was renovated in 2002 and features the only public access boat launch to Reeds Lake, as well as a lake shore walk, overlook decks, benches, rain gardens, picnic tables, event space/plaza and public restrooms. Despite its small size (2.7 acres), John Collins Park is the home to many events including concerts and movies. https://www.eastgr.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/John-Collins-Park-14

Manhattan Recreation Area
430 Manhattan Rd., East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
The park provides a range of active and passive recreation opportunities and is home to many activities hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department. Facilities include: a picnic shelter with grills and tables, playground, sand volleyball courts (4), softball diamonds (4), soccer field (1), tennis courts (2) and nature trails. Sledding during the winter on a smaller and larger hill. Natural area with rustic trails. https://www.experiencegr.com/listings/manhattan-park/9010/

Reeds Lake Trail
650 Lakeside Dr., East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
There is a designated 4.2-mile trail loop around Reeds Lake, which is popular with walkers, joggers and cyclists. The route utilizes an off-road bike/walking trail, existing of sidewalks, paved pathways and boardwalk. The trail is signed with maps at key locations. The trail passes through natural wooded areas, wetlands and residential areas, and links many of the City's park facilities and school facilities. https://www.eastgr.org/170/Parks-Trails-Reeds-Lake

Waterfront Park
2205 Reeds Lake Blvd., East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Waterfront Park, located on the west shores of Reeds Lake includes six acres of recently developed lakefront and 11 acres of undeveloped woodland and wetland. The park provides universally accessible trails with boardwalks, fishing decks, interpretive kiosks, shade shelters, picnic tables and benches. The popular Reeds Lake Trail runs through the property. The park features a 425-foot floating boardwalk system giving a unique perspective on the lakeshore environment. https://www.experiencegr.com/listings/waterfront-park/9011/
Area Beaches

Grand Haven State Park
Grand Haven State Park has a beautiful sandy shore on Lake Michigan along the west side of the park and the Grand River along the north side of the park. The park consists entirely of beach sand and provides scenic views of Lake Michigan and the Grand Haven pier and lighthouse.
1001 S Harbor Dr, Grand Haven, MI 49417
Phone: (616) 847-1309
https://www.michigan.org/property/grand-haven-state-park

P. J. Hoffmaster State Park
P. J. Hoffmaster State Park features over three miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, a 297-site modern campground, towering Lake Michigan dunes, and the Gillette Visitor Center. Miles of hiking and skiing trails offer stunning views of Lake Michigan and subtle beauty at every turn.
6585 Lake Harbor Road, Muskegon, MI 49441
Phone: (231) 798-3711
https://www.michigan.org/property/pj-hoffmaster-state-park

Holland State Park
Holland State Park offers an expansive, sandy beach along Lake Michigan, two large campgrounds and a beautiful view of sailboats and sunsets. The park is divided into two separate units, one along Lake Michigan and the other along Lake Macatawa.
2215 Ottawa Beach Road, Holland, MI 49424-2344
Phone: (616) 399-9390 https://www.holland.org/holland-state-park-0

Muskegon State Park
Muskegon State Park on the shore of Lake Michigan has over two miles of shoreline on Lake Michigan and over a mile on Muskegon Lake.
3560 Memorial Drive, North Muskegon, MI 49445
Phone: (231) 744-3480
https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?type=SPRK&id=475

Saugatuck Dunes State Park
A day-use park along a secluded strip of Lake Michigan shoreline, Saugatuck Dunes State Park offers 2.5 miles of shoreline. The park has fresh water coastal dunes that are over 200 feet tall. The park's terrain varies from steep slopes to rolling hills.
6575 138th Avenue, Holland, MI 49423
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Sleeping Bear Dunes offers magnificent sweeping vistas of Lake Michigan from atop high dunes, miles of perfect freshwater beaches, forested wilderness islands, hiking trails and a series of preserved historic farmsteads. Take a drive through the scenic route, stand on a bluff towering 450 ft. above Lake Michigan, hike the trails, or visit the beach.
Sleeping Bear Dunes Visitors Bureau
12 Wood Ridge Road, Glen Arbor, MI 49636
http://www.sleepingbeardunes.com

Tunnel Park
This 22-acre park with its extensive Lake Michigan beachfront is a great place for swimming, sunbathing and picnicking. In addition to the unique tunnel through a dune, this park has a children’s playground complete with a dune climb and a dune stairway with scenic views of Lake Michigan, picnic areas, two picnic shelters (contact county to reserve), four sand volleyball courts, modern restrooms, and seasonal concession with vending machines.
66 Lakeshore Drive, Holland, MI 49424 Phone: (616) 738-4810
https://www.holland.org/things-do/unique-activities/tunnel-park
| Assembly of God  
Grand Rapids First Assembly of God  
2100 44th St SW, Grand Rapids  
(616) 531-2100  
Worship: Sun 9am & 11am  
www.grandrapidsfirst.org | Baptist  
Calvary Baptist  
1200 28th St SE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 243-3674  
Worship: Sun 9:45am  
www.cbcgr.org | New Community Church  
2340 Dean Lake Road NE  
(616) 367-6014  
Worship: Sun 8:30, 9:45 & 11am  
https://www.nccwm.org/ |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Catholic  
St. Paul’s Catholic Church  
(WWD)  
2750 Burton SE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 949-4170  
Mass: Sat 5pm, Sun 9am & 11am  
St. Paul the Apostle – Grand Rapids, MI  
(spagr.org) | Evangelical Free  
First Evangelical Free Church  
(WWD)  
3950 Burton St SE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 949-5690  
Worship: Sun 10:30am  
Islamic  
Islamic Center & Mosque  
1301 Burton St SE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 247-8786  
http://islamiccentergr.org/ | Orthodox  
St. Nicholas Antiochian  
(WWD)  
2250 East Paris SE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 954-2700  
Vespers: Sat 5pm  
Divine Liturgy: Sun 10am  
https://stnicholasgr.com/ |
| Christian Reformed  
Church of the Servant CRC  
(WWD)  
3835 Burton SE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 956-7611  
Worship: Sun 10am  
https://www.churchoftheservantcrc.org/ | Lutheran  
Our Savior Lutheran  
(WWD)  
2900 Burton St SE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 949-0710  
Worship: Sun 8am & 11am  
http://www.oursavior-gr.org/church/ | Presbyterian  
Good Shepherd ECO Church  
(WWD)  
Calvin Seminary Chapel  
3353 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 805-3353  
Worship: Sun 10am  
https://goodshepherdpres.com/ |
| Woodlawn CRC  
(WWD)  
Calvin University Chapel  
(616) 942-8406  
Worship: Sun 9:30am & 5pm  
https://www.woodlawn crc.org/ | Methodist  
St. Paul’s United Methodist  
3334 Breton Rd SE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 949-0880  
Worship: Sun 10:15am  
http://www.grstpaulsumc.org/ | Christ Church PCA  
(WWD)  
2500 Breton Road SE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 949-9630  
Worship: Sun 9:30am  
https://christchurch pca.org/ |
| Sunshine Community Church  
1001 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 364-4242  
Worship: Sun 10am  
https://www.sunshine.church/ | Non-Denominational  
Ada Bible Church  
8899 Cascade Rd SE, Ada  
(616) 868-7005  
Worship: Sat 5:30pm, Sun 9am & 11am  
https://www.adabible.org/ | Reformed Church in America  
Central Reformed Church  
10 College Ave NE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 456-1773  
Worship: Sun 9:30am  
https://www.centralreformedchurch.org/ |
| Reformed Church  
(WWD)  
Calvin University Chapel  
(616) 942-8406  
Worship: Sun 9:30am  
https://www.woodlawn crc.org/ | Calvary Church  
707 East Beltline (at I-96)  
(616) 956-9377  
Worship: Sun 9am, 10:45am  
https://calvarygr.org/ | Immanuel Reformed  
(WWD)  
1300 East Beltline SE, Grand Rapids  
(616) 957-9117  
Worship: Sun 9:30am  
https://immanuelreformedchurch.org/ |
| Wesleyan  
Kentwood Community Church  
1200 60th St SE, Kentwood  
(616) 445-1740  
Worship: Sat 6pm, Sun 9:20am & 11am  
https://kentwoodcommunitychurch.com/ | Mars Hill Bible Church  
3501 Fairlanes Ave SW  
(616) 249-3337  
Worship: Sun 9am & 11am  
https://marshill.org/ | WWD: Within Walking Distance |
Restaurants within Walking Distance of Calvin University

Anna's House
2409 East Beltline NE
Grand Rapids MI 49546
616-551-0434
https://annashouseus.com/

Bar Louie
3191 28th Street Southeast
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
616-885-9050
https://www.barlouie.com/

Biggby Coffee
2500 East Beltline Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-285-7130
https://www.biggby.com/

Culver's
2510 East Beltline Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-940-1600
https://www.culvers.com/

Jimmy John's
2751 East Beltline Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-285-4700
https://www.jimmyjohns.com/

Old Chicago Pasta and Pizza
3333 28th St SE # 1
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
616-940-1111
https://oldchicago.com/locations/

On the Border (Mexican)
3195 28th Street SE R-101
Kentwood, MI 49512
616-466-7810
https://www.ontheborder.com/

Red Robin
3195 28th Street Southeast
Kentwood, MI 49512
616-957-1430
https://www.redrobin.com/

Rose's
550 Lakeside Drive
E. Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-458-1122
https://www.thegilmorecollection.com/roses/

Smashburger
2650 East Beltline Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-575-0070
https://smashburger.com/

Tea Garden
2500 East Beltline Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-575-9196
https://teagardengr.com/

T.G.I. Fridays
3345 28th Street SE
Kentwood, MI 49512
616-957-3911
https://www.tgifridays.com/

Uccellos Pizza Restaurant and Sports Lounge
2630 E. Beltline SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-956-6227
https://www.uccellos.com/

Woodland Mall – Food Court
3195 28th St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
616-949-0012
https://shopwoodlandmall.com/directory/#food/