



Inspiring Innovation. Creating Commerce.

Location Is Everything

As is your business. Your employees. And your family.

Finding the perfect location that satisfies all that is important to you can mean the difference between success and failure.

Where you choose to do business and raise a family revolves around important location factors like what an area has to offer. St. Clair County is home to many outstanding business and lifestyle advantages that you can't find anywhere else. An international border crossing with world-class infrastructure? We've got that, and a series of multi-modal assets to make it work for you.

We also have a widely diversified school community, award-winning healthcare services and unparalleled four-season recreation opportunities to satisfy both your workers and their families.





Connecting Business with Opportunity

One of the most in-demand locations in the Midwest, St. Clair County is centrally located and situated near key suppliers in the U.S. and Canada. Our international border location and multimodal assets provide excellent connections to meet your transportation needs.

- Deep-water port access to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system
- Two Class-1 railroads with double-stack capacity into Ontario
- Highway accessibility to Canada
- Cargo and international passenger airports nearby

Additionally, our abundant skilled workforce and business-friendly climate provide the support you need to get your business off the ground or onto the international stage. From small to Fortune 500 companies, businesses look to St. Clair County as an economic partner that can facilitate the development, relocation and expansion of their operations. With a strong entrepreneurial culture and experience with global brands, our economic development team utilizes business incubators, workforce training programs and incentives to support the needs of our business community.

Building Communities

St. Clair County is far enough from the bustle of a big city to be relaxing, but close enough to enjoy the amenities. That is why more than 160,000 residents call it home. In addition to affordable housing and business costs, St. Clair County features a diversified and high-performing K-12 school system as well as colleges offering four-year degree programs. It also is an excellent place to raise a family, with numerous free or affordable entertainment and recreational opportunities.

Recreation and Entertainment

As one of Michigan's best-kept vacation secrets, St. Clair County is home to more than 140 miles of crystal blue shoreline. Endless recreational opportunities abound in the area, which is known for boating, fishing, golfing, hunting, windsurfing, jet-skiing, sailing, camping and more. The Blue Water area also offers museums, quaint downtown boutiques and diners as well as access to bigger cities like Sarnia and Detroit.

It is also an outstanding location for travel and tourism-related development opportunities, with access to both the U.S. and Canadian consumer markets and strong demographics.

Ideal for aspiring entrepreneurs and small to Fortune 500 companies.

Discover what St. Clair County has to offer you!

www.edascc.com

Toll-free 877.982.9511



Region's Top Employers

Healthcare

Port Huron Hospital, St. Joseph
Mercy Hospital, St. John River
District Hospital

Education

Port Huron, East China and
Marysville school districts; St. Clair
County Community College;
St. Clair County RESA, Baker College

Utilities

DTE Energy (electric),
SEMCO Energy (natural gas)

Successful manufacturers in St. Clair County include

SMR Automotive Systems,
International Automotive
Components, Johnson Controls,
ZF Group, Chrysler, Dana
Corporation, Domtar, Keihin,
ALD Thermal Treatment, GMA Cover
Corporation, Cargill, Intertape
Polymer Group and more.

Business Services

From site location to marketing,
St. Clair County provides a range of
services to help your business
prosper.

- Expedited permitting
- Market research
- Site location database
- Workforce recruitment & training
- Business-to-business online portal
- Incubator, small business program
- Incentives for downtown
development, infrastructure,
redevelopment or green field
development
- International trade services

The Intersection of Commerce

St. Clair County is home to leading employers in many industries, including healthcare, education, utilities, manufacturing and banking. Within this group are many medium-sized, multinational manufacturing companies that are leaders in both our community and their respective markets. In addition, St. Clair County is home to several companies with a global footprint, including those headquartered in Canada, Germany, Japan and India.

Site Selection checklist. We can meet your needs.

- ✓ Strong Highway accessibility
- ✓ Affordable occupancy and construction costs
- ✓ Affordable labor costs
- ✓ Availability of skilled labor and workforce training
- ✓ Availability of land
- ✓ Energy availability and affordability
- ✓ Proximity to major markets
- ✓ Favorable corporate tax rate – new 6% flat tax!

“SEMCO ENERGY has had great success in St. Clair County recruiting a skilled workforce, including engineers, accountants and human resource professionals, as well as field technicians and customer service support.”

Jim Larsen, President of SEMCO Energy Gas Company

SEMCO Energy Gas Company provides natural gas services to 280,000 customers throughout approximately 80 Michigan counties. It is a leading employer in St. Clair County with about 400 employees.

“We believe in St. Clair County and attribute much of our success to local governance and partnerships with other organizations in the county. Local business leaders help us determine our direction based on the needs of the community.”

Thomas DeFauw, FACHE, President & CEO of Port Huron Hospital

Port Huron Hospital is the Blue Water area's leading healthcare complex, providing a wide range of clinical, diagnostic, rehabilitative, therapeutic, supportive and educational services to the residents of St. Clair and Sanilac counties.



We're Well Connected. You Can Be, Too.

As with all real estate decisions, location is of the utmost importance. For a business, the site location can greatly impact the ease of doing business and determine a company's success. Establishing connections can be difficult, which is why factors like transportation and infrastructure can increase the value of a site's location.

Our region is well connected by water, land, air and rail, and it is well equipped to meet the needs of international business. St. Clair County boasts excellent highway accessibility, with both U.S. and Canadian connections to nearby Detroit, Chicago, London and Toronto. In addition, our region offers stable, state-of-the-art infrastructure and multi-modal assets to support global commerce.

Land

- Major expressways include I-94, I-69 [U.S.]; and Highway 402 [Canada]
- International Blue Water Bridge accommodates both cargo and passenger vehicles
- Two Class-1 railroads with double-stack cargo capacity into Ontario [CSX, CN North America]

Air

- St. Clair County International Airport, plus two major nearby airports: Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Flint Bishop International Airport

Water

- 24' deep-water port access with rail spur [no dredging required]
- 220 miles of surface water
- St. Clair River connects Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair, forming our border with Ontario, Canada, and serving as the Great Lakes shipping channel to the St. Lawrence Seaway and Atlantic Ocean. Approximately 5,000 vessels pass through the St. Clair River annually

Invest in Blue, See Green

In addition to well-connected transportation links, St. Clair County's HubZone and Foreign Trade Zone designations can help your business thrive as a global competitor by saving you time and money.

What is a Foreign Trade Zone?

St. Clair County has been awarded status as a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ), a designation that helps companies achieve dramatic savings related to international commerce. Some of the key advantages of an FTZ can include relief from inverted tariffs; duty exemption on re-exports; duty elimination on waste, scrap and yield loss; weekly entry savings; and duty deferral.

What is a HUBZone?

The Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) Empowerment Contracting program stimulates economic development and creates jobs in urban and rural communities by providing federal contracting preference to small businesses. Relocating your small business to St. Clair County is the first step in reaping the benefits of this lucrative program.

For more information about HUBZone or Foreign Trade Zone, contact the St. Clair County EDA at 877.982.9511 or eda@edasc.com.



Port Huron's Seaway Terminal facility is one of only three U.S. deep-water ports on the Eastern Great Lakes, featuring 24' of docking designed to accommodate all types of watercraft and large ships.

\$200 Million

in regional infrastructure & border crossing enhancements planned through 2015.

Nearly half of the Fortune 500 industrial companies are head-quartered in the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes region.

Business Beyond Borders

Mobility is one of the most important characteristics of economic activity within a region. As the northern entry point of the NAFTA corridor, St. Clair County makes moving goods, materials and people easy. With multi-modal assets supporting travel by highway, water, air and rail, St. Clair County provides quick and easy access to larger markets in the U.S. and Canada as well as access to key suppliers in the automotive, alternative energy and defense industries.

ROAD

Two major interstate highways originate at the Blue Water Bridge and provide express service to Detroit, Flint, Chicago, Toronto and Upstate New York.

Interstate 69

I-69 runs west to Flint, Michigan, and south to Indianapolis, Indiana and Texas via I-70.

Interstate 94

I-94 is the primary east-west freeway route through Michigan, extending through Chicago into the western United States.

RAIL

St. Clair County offers two class-1 railroads with double-stack capacity:

CN North America

CN North America connects with Canadian carriers via the international tunnel and to southern railways via the Chicago Hub.

CSX

CSX connects as far west as Chicago, as far south as Florida, and to Canadian railroads via the international tunnel.

PORT

One deep-water port with potential for a second multi-modal port of 24'.

Seaway Terminal

The Seaway Terminal accommodates various-size vessels and shipments and offers excellent highway access and a nearby regional airport.

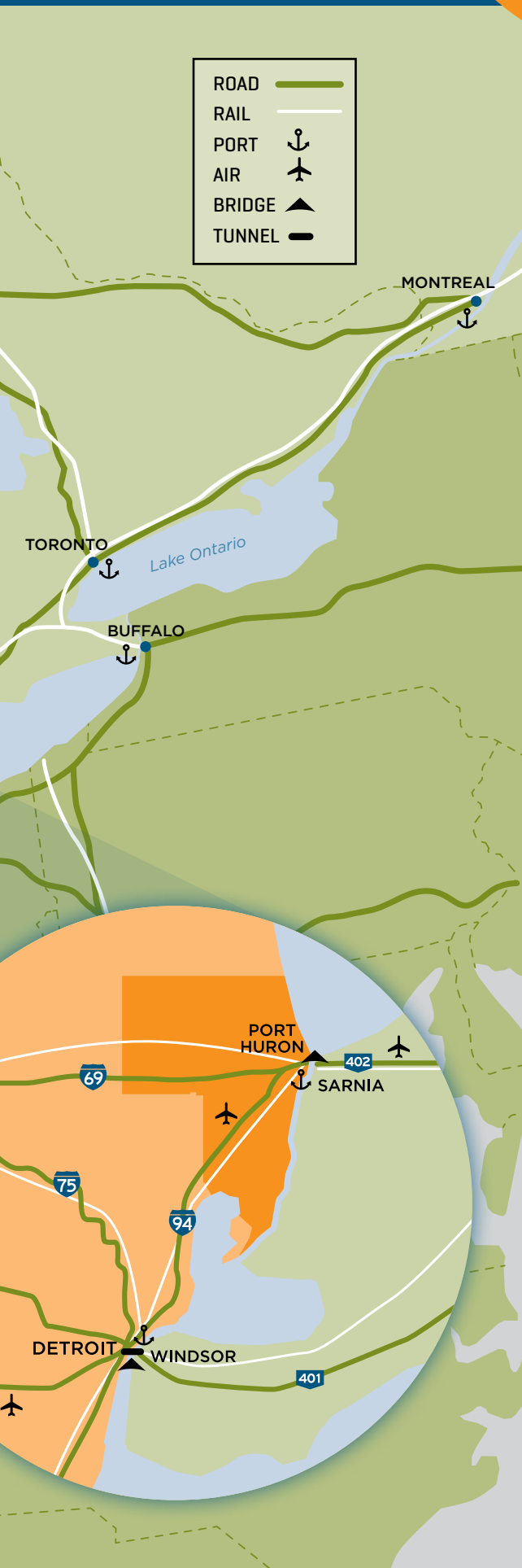


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Almost a quarter of the traffic in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system travels to or from overseas ports.

45,000 jobs

Shipping activity in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system directly generates more than 45,000 U.S. jobs and \$2 billion in personal income.



AIR

An international airport serves as a port of entry, offering U.S. Customs and Immigration services.

St. Clair County International Airport

St. Clair County International provides air cargo transportation and complete aircraft services. It is equipped with two 5100' and one 4000' paved runways and parallel taxiways with lights, NDB, DME, PAPI and instrument landing system.

Passenger airline service for domestic and international travel is available within an hour or less at Flint Bishop International Airport (FNT) or Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), which services more than 160 non-stop destinations around the globe. Also, Great Lakes Airport located in Sarnia, Ontario, offers connecting service to locations throughout Canada.

PORT-SPECIFIC

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system provides access to global shipping destinations via Port Huron's Seaway Terminal. There are more than 65 ports throughout the system, including 15 major international ports.

Port of Toledo	116 statute miles
Port of Cleveland	170 statute miles
Port of Buffalo	322 statute miles
Port of Toronto	361 statute miles
Port of Milwaukee	506 statute miles
Port of Chicago	571 statute miles
Port of Montreal	675 statute miles

DISTANCES FROM ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Downtown Detroit	61 miles
Flint Bishop Airport	71 miles
Detroit Metro Airport	75 miles
Toledo, Ohio	120 miles
Toronto, Ontario	184 miles
Grand Rapids, Michigan	180 miles
Chicago, Illinois	340 miles
Buffalo, New York	213 miles

photo courtesy of Paul Kania



A Playground for All Seasons

More than 140 miles of vibrant, scenic shoreline define St. Clair County, its rich maritime history and the bounty of activities in the area. Visitors from across the U.S. and Canada come to the Blue Water area to enjoy our rich natural resources, quaint downtowns, historical attractions and family-friendly events. From a relaxing day at the beach to a night on the town, St. Clair County has it all.

See St. Clair by Water

The Blue Water area is abundant with activities for the water lover in you: narrated river cruises, fishing charters, kayak or canoe rentals, sailing and windsurfing. Even land lovers can enjoy the view by simply sinking their toes into one of our many public beaches.

Explore the Shore

Spend a day inland touring wineries and orchards, visiting museums and farmers markets, or exploring our downtown shops and bistros. You can even plan your schedule to coincide with one of our many signature events or seasonal festivals. Want to get away? Head to one of our parks, set up camp and invite a few friends around for a night of campfire stories and s'mores.

Signature Events

Cities within the county offer weekly and seasonal events such as farmers markets, art festivals, holiday parades and riverfront concerts. In addition, St. Clair is home to several signature events.

Port Huron to Mackinac Sailboat Race

Sailing from Port Huron to Mackinac Island, this race is one of the largest freshwater sailing events of its kind in the world.

Offshore Powerboat Races

The St. Clair River converts to a raceway during this exciting powerboat event, the second largest race of its kind in the United States, held annually since 1995.

Blue Water Film Festival

The Blue Water Film Festival is an annual event that brings Hollywood to Port Huron. In addition to celebrating local actors, the festival features many films made in Michigan.

Miss Michigan USA Pageant

St. Clair County is proud to be a repeat host for this internationally recognized competition that supports the personal, humanitarian and career goals of young women across the state.

Silver Sticks International Hockey Tournament

Junior hockey teams from across the United States and Canada compete each winter in the much-anticipated Silver Sticks tournament of champions held each year in St. Clair County.

PURE MICHIGAN®





St. Clair County was recently named one of Michigan's best-kept vacation secrets by the Chicago Tribune.

Set Your Sights on These Great Attractions

Port Huron Museum

The Port Huron Museum is the area's largest cultural institution, with exhibitions and public programs dedicated to fine arts, decorative arts, natural history, local history and Great Lakes maritime lore.

phmuseum.org

Fort Gratiot Lighthouse

The Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, which was the first in Michigan, marks the entrance to the St. Clair River from Lake Huron. It is surrounded by a public park and beach in addition to an active Coast Guard facility.

Thomas Edison Depot

Built in the actual depot out of which Thomas Edison worked as a "news butcher" selling snacks and newspapers, the museum is filled with interactive exhibits about Edison's life and inventions.

Studio 1219 Art Incubator

The largest public art facility in Michigan's Thumb Region and a community event space, Studio 1219 is home to a fine art gallery, pottery studio, solo artist gallery, gallery gift shop and several small arts-related businesses.

studio1219.com

Blue Water Bridge

The Blue Water Bridge is a major international crossing between the U.S. and Canada as well as an architectural marvel that joins a renovated crossing from 1938 with a modern span.

Boat Tours

Take the opportunity to enjoy some of the most beautiful stretches of water in Michigan. Hop aboard one of the many boat tours throughout the region, from single-person kayaks to dinner cruises.

www.bluewater.org





700,000

As an international border crossing, St. Clair County receives more than 700,000 Canadian visitors each year.

\$50M

Canadian visitors who frequent St. Clair County typically spend more than \$50 million per year.

Close to Home, Far from Ordinary

Our events and activities surely will be enough to keep you busy, but if you find yourself looking for something different, St. Clair County's central location provides quick access to events throughout Michigan and Canada.

Festivals & Events

Sarnia Bayfest, Detroit Jazz Festival, North American International Auto Show, Motown Winter Blast, Sarnia Snowfest

Sporting Events

Detroit Tigers Baseball, Detroit Lions Football, Detroit Red Wings Hockey, Sarnia Sting Hockey

Cultural Experiences

Detroit Institute of Arts, Cranbrook Institute of Arts, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Henry Ford Museum

Family Fun

Detroit Zoo, Bluewater Fun Park (Sarnia), Detroit Science Center

A Natural Leader

St. Clair County is home to over 130 city, county and state parks. With more than 140 miles of shoreline, the area boasts beautiful public beaches, lush greenery, boardwalks, trails and waterways.

The area is perfect for the outdoor enthusiast, with activities including:

Walking	Hiking
Bicycling	Horseback riding
Fishing	Canoeing
Kayaking	Windsurfing
Paddleboarding	Jet-skiing
Sailing	Camping
Hunting	Ice fishing
Ice skating	Nordic skiing
Sledding	Snowmobiling

How Our Resources Can Impact Your Business

St. Clair County is an outstanding location for travel- and tourism-related development opportunities. With access to both the U.S. and Canadian consumer market, there are strong demographics within the crucial 180-mile radius ring.

Waterfront acreage with development and redevelopment opportunities for hotel and leisure, high-rise mixed-use tenancy, condominiums, loft-style living or industrial facilities (with port access) are abundant in the area.



It's All About the Lifestyle

The place you choose to locate your family is just as important as the place you choose to locate your business. St. Clair County has built a solid foundation for family life, with outstanding healthcare and recreation, strong schools, a deep sense of community and an impressive variety of housing. It's easy to see why St. Clair County is a great place to call home.

Housing

Whether your preference is for classic architecture or modern design, waterfront cottage or inland estate, we have a stunning variety of choices for every budget and lifestyle.

Both hourly employees and salaried executives will find it easy to select the perfect St. Clair County home. Transitional employees and those not ready to commit to home ownership will also find quality rental stock ranging from modest and affordable apartments to luxury waterfront properties and loft-style flats.

Education

From kindergarten to college, St. Clair County is home to a widely diversified school community with innovative education initiatives. Our K-12 school system offers the region's popular "school of choice" option, which means that no matter where you reside within the county, you can choose the school that is best for you and your child.

Higher education offerings include associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctorate programs from Baker College, St. Clair County Community College, and several affiliate colleges and universities.

Healthcare

In St. Clair County, you can take comfort in knowing that our award-winning hospitals are consistently recognized nationally and regionally for patient safety and quality of care.

- Port Huron Hospital, porthuronhospital.org
- St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, mercyporthuron.com
- St. John River District Hospital, stjohn.org

Entertainment

In addition to affordable housing and quality education, St. Clair County offers numerous recreational opportunities, quaint downtowns and multiple retail outlets, including an 800,000-square-foot regional shopping mall.

Housing by the Numbers*

163,040	Residents
65,677	Households
\$156,100	Median home value, 2005-2009

* 2010 U.S. Census





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