

Northfield Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Façade Improvement Grant Program

History of the DDA of Northfield Township

On May 14, 2002 by action of the Northfield Township Board the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) of Northfield Township was formed. A formal public hearing was held on April 24, 2001.

In establishing the DDA, the Northfield Township Board determined that the DDA was necessary for the Township to:

“...halt property value deterioration, eliminate the causes of that deterioration, increase property tax valuation where possible in the business district of the Township, and promote economic growth.”

For many years the business owners and residents of the community have expressed concern over the deteriorating property values in Washtenaw County’s only lake front community. Many businesses have seen significant turnover in ownership, and, despite the presence of three freeway interchanges, little traffic found its way to the hamlet of Whitmore Lake.

In 2000, the Township Board acted to extend sanitary sewer to new parts of the Township, which form the southern portion of the newly establish DDA. The formation of the DDA represents a commitment on the part of the community to ensure that the benefits of these potential new business locations accrue to the entire business district.

Specific goals of the DDA are to:

- 1. Establish an identity for the hamlet of Whitmore Lake.*
- 2. Improve traffic patterns throughout the District, including access to and from US-23.*
- 3. Support public improvements necessary to ensure the success of businesses in the District.*
- 4. Support business attraction efforts, as appropriate, to help ensure a healthy and successful business community.*

Mission Statement of the DDA of Northfield Township

On May 8, 2002, the DDA of Northfield Township adopted the following Mission Statement to guide its efforts:

“The Mission of the Northfield Township Downtown Development Authority is to undertake public improvements and activities that have the greatest impact on strengthening the business district and attracting new private investments.”

All efforts of the DDA are to be tested against this Mission Statement to determine their validity.