



2025
ANNUAL REPORT



**Greater
Sandusky
Partnership**

Regional Growth. Vibrant Communities.

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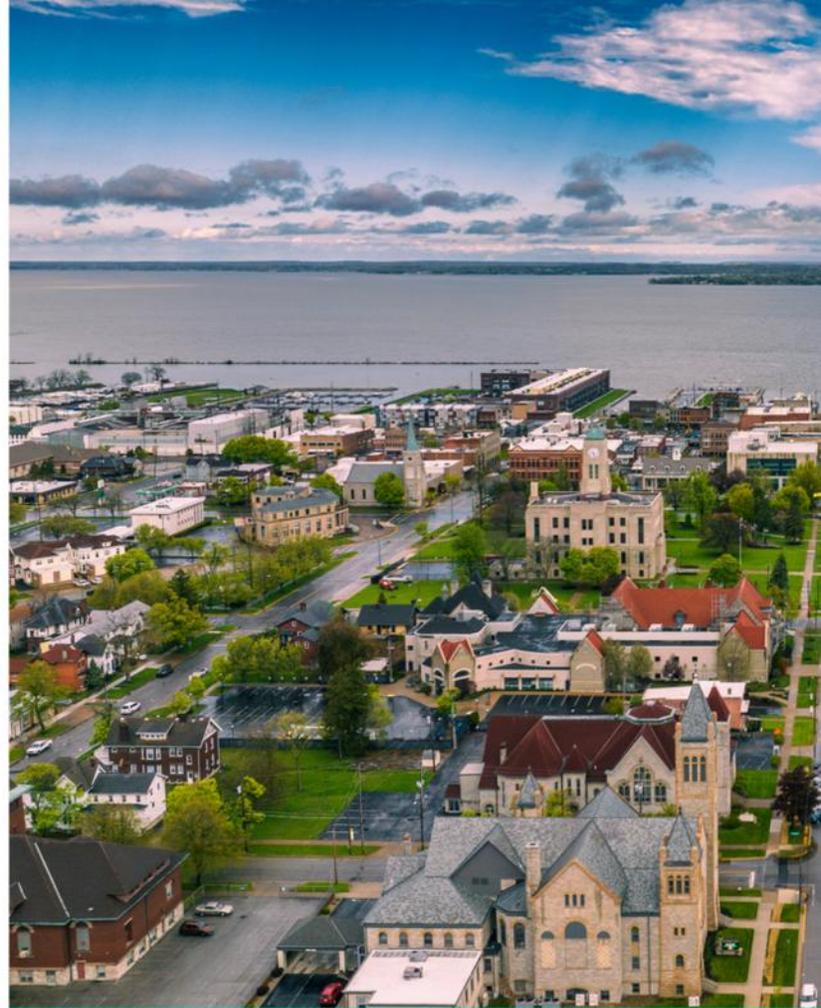
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Rachael Summerfield | Events Coordinator
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A MESSAGE FROM GSP

This past year has underscored the strength of collaboration and the importance of shared vision. We celebrate the momentum created through our collective efforts. With gratitude for our partners, we remain dedicated to advancing prosperity and opportunity across our region.

Sincerely,

Duff Milkie
Chairman of the Board

Eric Wobser
Chief Executive Officer



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STAY CONNECT WITH GSP

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ABOUT GREATER SANDUSKY PARTNERSHIP

Greater Sandusky Partnership is both the regional chamber and the economic development hub for the Greater Sandusky Bay Region. By bringing together business services, workforce initiatives, entrepreneur support, and community development, GSP provides a single point of connection for growth and collaboration.

We promote, engage, and develop across business, talent, and community. From helping companies expand and entrepreneurs launch, to attracting and retaining talent, to fostering community events and partnerships, GSP works every day to strengthen the region's economy and advance opportunities that make our area a vibrant place to live and work.

[GREATERSANDUSKY.COM](https://www.greatersandusky.com)



2025 AT A GLANCE

\$245.8M CAPITAL INVESTMENT

from 11 business retention and expansion projects resulting in 524 jobs created and 1,671 jobs retained. Companies who utilized the Erie County Port Authority (administered by GSP) collectively saved \$3.7M with over \$400K distributed to economic development agencies in other counties.

110 DAYS OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

produced and supported by GSP including 25 Farmers Markets which supported 144 unique small business vendors.

667 BUSINESS MEMBERS

GSP has grown business membership by 50% since integrating with the chamber in 2023. Additionally, GSP has 161 individual members including 155 young professionals through the North Coast Young Professionals program.

32 COLLEGE INTERNS

2,369 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

15 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

80+ EMPLOYERS

engaged through talent programs like Summer on Sandusky Bay Internship Experience, Career Showcase, RISE Student Pitch Challenge, Student Career Camps and more.

30 BUSINESS CELEBRATIONS

Including ribbon cuttings, grand openings and milestone celebrations like anniversaries or new product launches.

896K ACCOUNTS REACHED

with Destination Sandusky and Destination Huron's Social Media.

GROWTH & BUSINESS VITALITY

About Our Members

667 BUSINESS MEMBERS

a 20% increase in one year

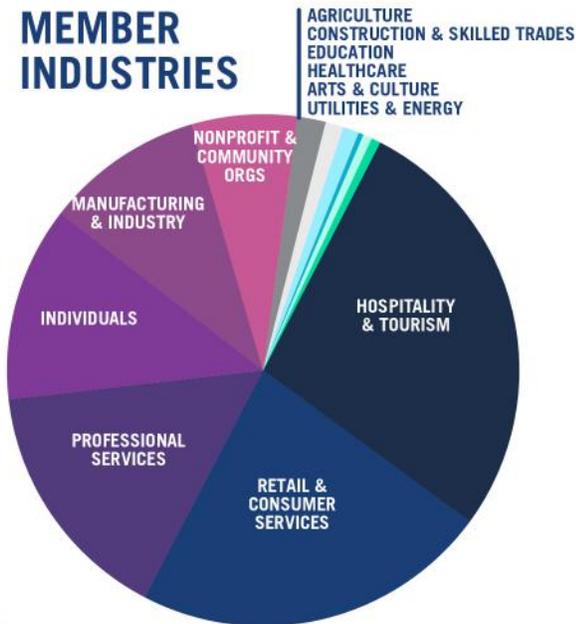
155 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

an increase of 330% since North Coast Young Professionals joined GSP

58 UNIQUE COMMUNITIES

represented in our membership including communities in Erie, Huron, Ottawa and Sandusky Counties

MEMBER INDUSTRIES



Member Engagement

7 MEMBER MIXERS

hosted this year which engaged 298 attendees

30 BUSINESS MILESTONES

celebrated this year including 23 ribbon cutting and grand openings and 7 anniversaries

163 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

engaged through North Coast Young Professionals' 2025 YP Week

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



BUSINESS EXPANSION, ATTRACTION & RETENTION

Economic development is more than job creation. It's about building the systems and relationships that allow our region to adapt, compete, and grow in a changing world.

\$245,877,000

TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT
from 11 business expansion projects

2,195 JOBS

created and retained

\$2,575,000

IN GRANTS OR LOW INTEREST LOANS
secured through JobsOhio for
economic development projects

\$400K STATE GRANTS

secured for economic
development projects

EHOVE CAREER CENTER BOND LEVY

Voters passed a 2.2-mill, 36-year bond levy to fund a campus renovation and expansion. GSP supported the effort by sponsoring local news coverage and speaking publicly about the positive impact this project would have on regional workforce development.

\$210M

Campus renovation & expansion

ERIE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

The ECPA, administered by GSP, is a tool to promote investment and job creation in the region and can provide significant savings on construction projects

\$3,727,862

SAVED BY BUSINESSES
who utilized the ECPA programs

\$400,000

DISTRIBUTED TO PARTNERS
in economic development in other counties



TALENT DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- **Career Showcase:** An annual event designed to connect high school students in the region with local employers
- **RISE Pitch Challenge:** An annual competition for high school students in the region to develop and present business ideas, fostering entrepreneurial thinking and skills. A partnership between GSP and Huron County Growth Partnership.
- **Student Career Camps:** These camps, a collaborative effort between GSP, Erie County Business Advisory Council and North Point Educational Service Center, offer hands-on experiences, business tours and workforce readiness lessons to introduce high school students to local career opportunities
- **Young Women LEAD:** A multi-county initiative for freshman girls in the region offering tools and resources to build self-esteem, confidence and leadership skills.
- **Young Men Innovate:** A multi-county initiative for freshman boys highlighting the innovative technologies shaping every day careers.

2,369
STUDENT
ATTENDEES

15
SCHOOL DISTRICTS
REPRESENTED

80+
EMPLOYERS
ENGAGED



BUILDING A PIPELINE

HIGH SCHOOL:
CAREER
EXPOSURE



COLLEGE:
GAIN EXPERIENCE
& BUILD
CONNECTIONS



YOUNG
PROFESSIONAL:
MEANINGFUL
EMPLOYMENT

SUMMER ON SANDUSKY BAY INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

The pilot program for *Summer on Sandusky Bay* began in June 2025. The program is a 6-week experience for college-level interns from local companies in Erie and Ottawa Counties to build professional skills and network while learning about the region.

32 COLLEGE INTERNS **18 REGIONAL EMPLOYERS**

Regional exploration was a critical piece of the program, and interns visited multiple communities, companies and local landmarks.

NORTH COAST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

From High School to College, and then as Young Professionals, GSP seeks to engage and develop talent across multiple stages.

North Coast Young Professionals integrated with GSP at the start of 2025. Since then, NCYP membership has grown 330% with 155 professionals in the network.

YP WEEK 2025

During the week, NCYP and GSP host a variety of activities for young professionals, offering opportunities for networking, professional development, and civic engagement.

163 YP WEEK ATTENDEES



I thought this program was really fun and a good way to teach us about the area. My opinion has definitely changed about the area and changed my mind on wanting to move away.

Summer on Sandusky Bay Intern



COMMUNITY VIBRANCY

110 DAYS OF PROGRAMMING

GSP produced and supported 110 days of community events this year

\$42.2K ADDITIONAL PRIVATE INVESTMENT RAISED for community events

896K ACCOUNTS REACHED with Destination Sandusky & Destination Huron social media (+ 7.8M Views)



free!
PARTY AT THE PIER + LANGE TRUST
SUMMER CONCERTS

Party at the Pier is a free summer concert series at the Jackson Street Pier in Sandusky, Ohio, produced by the Greater Sandusky Partnership in collaboration with the City of Sandusky. The annual event features a variety of live music, including tribute bands and high-energy acts, and is a popular community event for enjoying the waterfront.

16.2K ATTENDEES
2025 Concert Series

2801 ATTENDEES
Largest Concert
The Menu



NEW THIS YEAR!

SANDUSKY SUNSET CELEBRATIONS

A free program produced by GSP in collaboration with the City of Sandusky's Public Arts and Culture Commission. Held every Wednesday evening in the summer, the event takes place at Jackson Street Pier to watch the sunset, appreciate the waterfront, enjoy live music and performances, and participate in communal art projects.

144 FARMERS MARKET VENDORS

Unique small business vendors who attended the Huron and Sandusky Farmers Markets

SANDUSKY FARMERS MARKET

a weekly market held every Saturday from 8 AM to noon, running seasonally from June to October. Located at 100 E. Washington Row in downtown Sandusky, it offers a variety of local produce, baked goods, artisan crafts, and other handmade items. The presenting sponsor of the SFM is Firelands Health.

BENEFITS NOW ACCEPTED AT MARKET

The Sandusky Farmers Market now accepts SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits, as well as the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).

SANDUSKY RESTAURANT WEEK

This annual event, done in March, supports and promotes the local restaurant scene during a slower time of year. The 2025 event expanded to Perkins Township and featured **27 restaurants in the 44870 area code.**

HURON LAKE FRONT MARKET

The 2025 event featured over **60 unique small business vendors.**

HURON FARMERS MARKET RETURNS

Relaunched this summer and supported by Stack Heating Cooling Plumbing & Electric, the market returned to Lake Front Park on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from June - August.



MAJOR INITIATIVES

SANDUSKY BAY PATHWAY

GSP formed a Steering Committee to advance the completion of the Sandusky Bay Pathway, a visioned 100+ mile multimodal trail system. This committee is comprised of representatives across the region who are actively seeking ways to build portions of the path. The purpose of the committee is to guide development, promote the pathway, foster partnerships and monitor progress.



NASA AS A MAJOR REGIONAL SITE

The available acreage at the NASA Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility is a critical site to bring to market. The 500+ developable acres will be an opportunity to diversify industry in our region.



CONNECTING COLUMBUS TO OUR REGION

The Ohio Department of Transportation conducted a Strategic Transportation & Development Analysis which is a statewide study to examine demographics, economic development, transportation systems, and travel needs over the next several decades. GSP is advocating for more efficient travel from Columbus to Sandusky.



SANDUSKY STATE THEATRE

GSP was created in part to bring the experience and perspective of the business community to help solve complex regional challenges like the reopening of the Sandusky State Theatre. GSP commissioned a report in by Einhouse Consulting LLC to conduct an independent, fact-based report to outline the progress and process toward the reopening of this vital asset. Read the report online at greatersandusky.com

SANDUSKY STATE THEATRE RESTART REPORT

An independent assessment of current conditions, challenges, and pathways to reopening



SUPPORTING THE DOWNTOWN SANDUSKY MASTER PLAN

GSP seeks to support efforts to complete the Downtown Sandusky Master Plan which included the completion of the Columbus Avenue Streetscape completed in 2025.



LOOKING AHEAD



HOUSING SYMPOSIUM

Efforts continue to develop a global housing development strategy for our region. Earlier in the year, GSP hosted a housing charrette to begin drafting a plan. This plan will be refined over the fall in anticipation of its release during the Housing Symposium in early December.



**THANK YOU TO OUR
CHARTER BENEFACTORS**



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