

GRAND RAPIDS AREA

2018
COMMUNITY
PROFILE

COOPERATIVE FUNDERS



WHERE WE ARE



GRAND RAPIDS AREA IS A LOGISTICS HUB:

Duluth 80 Miles
Minneapolis 179 Miles
Chicago 547 Mile

The Grand Rapids area stands out as an area of growth in northern Minnesota.

It maintains its traditional economic base in mining, manufacturing, and forestry, but is also a regional service hub and tourism destination. Surrounded by over 1,000 lakes and millions of acres of forest, our home near the source of the Mississippi can be your source of business growth and an unparalleled quality of life.

That's why Grand Rapids is in Minnesota's nature.

MINING



MANUFACTURING



FORESTRY



TOURISM



WHO WE ARE



**POPULATION
GROWTH RATE
#2
IN NE MN**

The Grand Rapids area is a beacon of growth in rural Minnesota.

Thanks to its diverse economic base and natural beauty, our region trends in northern Minnesota with steady population growth and a population that has grown younger over the past decade. With loyal and welcoming residents, it's easy to see why so many who discover our area's assets will make the Grand Rapids area their forever home.

ARROWHEAD REGION POPULATION GROWTH/DECLINE 2010 TO 2016

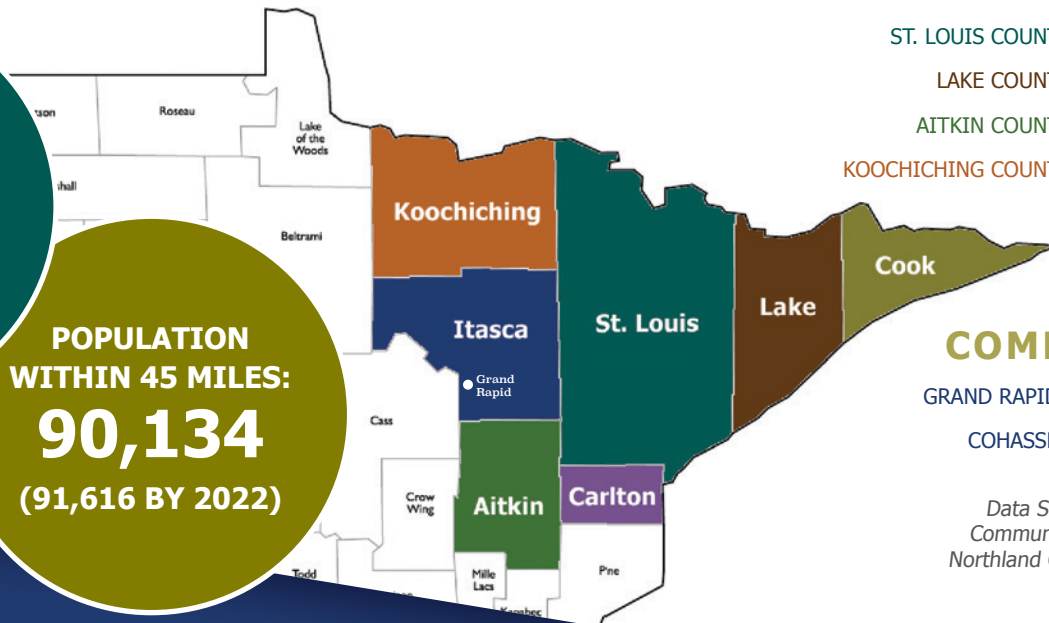
Source MN State Demographer

COUNTY

COOK COUNTY	+	1.70%
ITASCA COUNTY	+	1.36%
CARLTON COUNTY	+	1.01%
ST. LOUIS COUNTY	-	0.24%
LAKE COUNTY	-	2.21%
AITKIN COUNTY	-	3.65%
KOOCHICHING COUNTY	-	4.19%

**GRAND RAPIDS
POPULATION:
11,566
(11,949 BY 2022)**

**POPULATION
WITHIN 45 MILES:
90,134
(91,616 BY 2022)**



COMMUNITY

GRAND RAPIDS	+	5.21%
COHASSET	+	2.26%

Data Sources: American Community Survey, 2016; Northland Connection, 2018

EXCELLENT ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS



**ITASCA COUNTY
970
PERSONS
PER PHYSICIAN**



**MINNESOTA
1100
PERSONS
PER PHYSICIAN**



**USA
2030
PERSONS
PER PHYSICIAN**

Data source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings, 2017.



The Grand Rapids area also cares for its residents through all stages of life. Personalized care is the hallmark of our healthcare system, with more physicians per person than state and national averages. Escape the stress of city life in some of the purest waters in the nation, and enjoy the clean air and safe streets of a tight-knit, supportive community.

A DIVERSE ECONOMY

The secret is out: the Grand Rapids area is business friendly and will support growth in all sectors of the economy.

The Grand Rapids area grew up along with the forestry and mining industries that form the backbone of the northern Minnesota economy. These industries provide an important base, and offer jobs that support families and sustain communities. Today Itasca County has diversified with a holistic view of economic growth and improved quality of life. The area is home to first-rate education and healthcare institutions, and serves as a logistics hub for northern Minnesota. Leisure and hospitality reflects the strong tourism economy that's in Minnesota's nature.

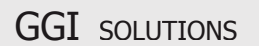


Itasca County Workforce, 2018

INDUSTRY	WORKFORCE	TOTAL PAYROLL
Education & Health Services	5,095	\$193,671,140
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,331	\$132,982,385
Leisure & Hospitality	1,751	\$28,535,058
Public Administration	1,332	\$63,323,139
Manufacturing	920	\$55,386,887
Professional & Business Services	850	\$26,976,733
Construction	708	\$36,712,803
Other Services	597	\$17,000,903
Natural Resources & Mining	550	\$39,944,667
Financial Activities	458	\$21,029,528
Information	147	\$5,313,244
All Industries	15,740	\$620,953,493



INDUSTRY LEADERS



Sources: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), 2018; Business North, 2018; AtoZ Databases, 2018.

BUSINESS IS IN OUR NATURE



The Grand Rapids area has a strong track record of regional partners.



ITASCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

Comprehensive business development support of approximately \$3 million in loans and investments in 2018

GRAND RAPIDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

GRAND RAPIDS EDA: loan funds and tax abatement options; commercial and industrial sites available



DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION

DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION:

a unique state agency with financial resources to support business development and expansion

COMMUNITY-BASED BANKS:

5 local banks with nearly \$1 billion in total assets

COHASSET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

COHASSET EDA: loan funds and tax abatement options; commercial and industrial sites available



APEX: Regional economic development.



SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER:

Supported 139 local businesses in 2018

GAP LENDERS such as the Northland Foundation, Entrepreneur Fund, and Arrowhead Regional Development Commission's Revolving Loan Fund



STRONG PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

for regional projects from organizations such as the Blandin Foundation -- \$7.9 M awarded in the Itasca area in 2018



GRAND RAPIDS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Over 480 members and strong advocacy arm

Infrastructure

Fiberoptics or Broadband: Some of the fastest available in Minnesota through **Paul Bunyan GigaZone**, **MediaCom** and **CenturyLink**

Electric: **Minnesota Power** and **Lake Country Power** have competitive rates and experience serving some of the nation's largest electric users

Natural Gas: Service to all cities through **Minnesota Energy Resources**

Water and Wastewater: Municipal service with additional capacity available in all county industrial parks



EDUCATION COMES 1ST



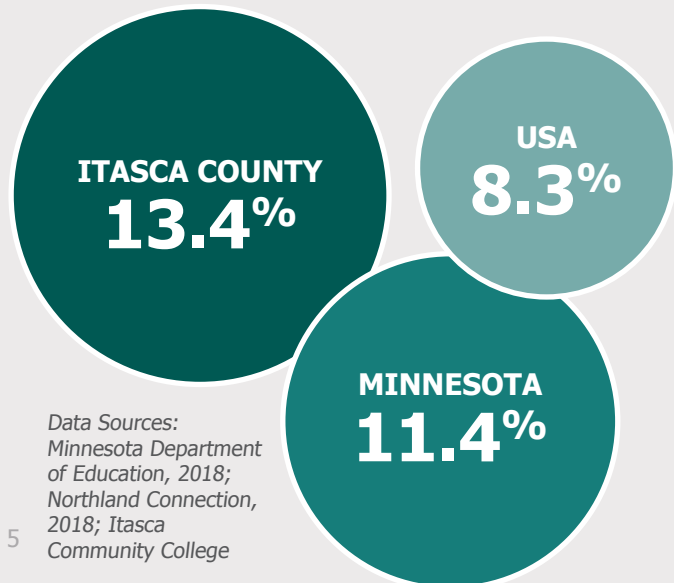
Education has always been a priority for Grand Rapids area communities.

The strong local public school system is the lifeblood of the community, and a recently passed referendum will add two new elementary schools.

The area is home to a technically skilled workforce with an unusually high concentration of associate's degrees.

Educated Workforce

% of Population over 25 with associate's degree



Data Sources:
Minnesota Department of Education, 2018;
Northland Connection, 2018; Itasca Community College



- **96% graduation rate** (13% higher than state average)
- **200+ graduates per year**
- **Applied Learning Institute (ALI)** offering vocational education through local community colleges
- Classes for college credit, including the **International Baccalaureate (IB) program, College in the Schools (CITS) classes**, and post-secondary enrollment options (PSEO)
- Itasca Area School Collaborative (IASC) ensuring **regional opportunities**



ITASCA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



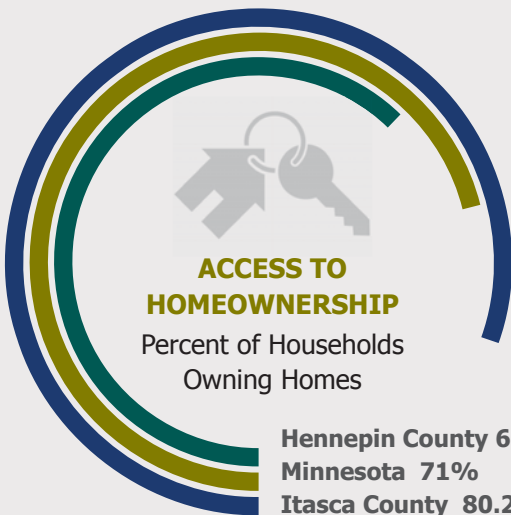
- **400 graduates per year**
- Progressive programs in **engineering, nursing, and forestry** reflecting the local economy
- The Advanced Minnesota specialized training program, providing **customized on-site training** to local businesses
- **2 year, 4 year and MBA programs**
University of Minnesota Extension and Duluth-based College of St. Scholastica

AFFORDABLE REAL ESTATE



A Haven of Affordable Living

Residents enjoy reasonable rents and home prices, and the homeownership rate is much higher than in the Twin Cities or the state as a whole. Escape long commutes, never sit in traffic, and enjoy homes that provide both easy access to a supportive community and your very own refuge in the woods or on a lake.



MEDIAN HOME VALUE (\$)

ITASCA COUNTY
\$155,400

MINNESOTA
\$191,500

HENNEPIN COUNTY
\$235,800

Data source: American Community Survey, 2016



Over 600 acres available in 4 Industrial Parks:

Grand Rapids

Cohasset

Nashwauk

Bigfork

LIFE AMID NATURE

In the Grand Rapids area, nature is everywhere, and that access is at the core of who we are.

Lakes in Itasca County remain free to access, giving everyone the opportunity to have their own little slice of lake life.

Peerless Natural Amenities:

- Chippewa National Forest
- Lost Forty virgin pine forest
- Tioga Recreation Area – 450 acres for biking
- Mesabi Trail – 155 mi. paved bike trail
- Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway

Rich Artistic and Cultural History:

- Children's Discovery Museum
- Judy Garland Museum
- Forest History Center
- Reif Performing Arts Center
- Macrostie Arts Center



**1 MILLION
ACRES**

OF PUBLICALLY ACCESSIBLE
FOREST LAND



MORE THAN

1,000 LAKES



OVER **2,000
MILES**

OF GROOMED TRAIL



300 MILES

OF MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

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