Lansing, the capital of Michigan, is located along the Grand and Red Cedar Rivers. Settlers from Lansing, New York, made the settlement for their home village. In 1847, the Michigan state legislature moved the capital to Lansing, which was a more centralized and protected location than the original capital of Detroit. The invention and manufacture of the automobile led to the city’s development.

Lansing was the home of Ransom E. Olds, who invented the Oldsmobile. The R.E. Olds Transportation Museum showcases Olds’ collection of cars and memorabilia, including the first Oldsmobile. Unique vehicles and automotive memorabilia as well as aircraft, bicycles, and carriages are displayed. Impression 5 Science Center offers interactive activities. The Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors Institute shares the story of the surveying and mapping of Michigan. Exhibits at the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center explain the judicial branch of state government. Located in the downtown area, the Michigan Walk of Fame consists of bronze plaques embedded in the sidewalk that display information on the inductees’ lives and contributions. Other local museums include the Michigan Historical Museum and the Michigan Women’s Historical Center & Hall of Fame. All Around the African World Museum and Resource Center showcases people of African descent and their impact and influence throughout history.

The State Capitol Building was designed by Elijah E. Myers, one of the foremost architects of public buildings during the Gilded Age. The Turner-Dodge mansion was built in 1858 in the Classical Revival style and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Located over Lansing’s border in East Lansing, Michigan State University offers many cultural institutions. The new Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum presents international contemporary art across all media and thematic exhibitions that investigate contemporary works within a historical context. Michigan State University Museum is a science and culture museum with an emphasis on the Great Lakes region. Other campus attractions include the Abrams Planetarium, Bug House, Michigan State University–Athletics Hall of Fame, and Beaumont Tower with its clock and 49-bell carillon.

The Lansing Civic Players Guild, All-Of-Us Express Children’s Theatre, Riverwalk Theatre, Peppermint Creek Theatre Company, and the Starlight Dinner Theatre offer a broad spectrum of theatrical performances. Other performing arts organizations include the Greater Lansing Ballet Company and Lansing Symphony Orchestra. The Lansing Community College’s Performing Arts program annually presents musical, theatrical, and dance productions. Summer Circle Theatre presents free outdoor theater on the banks of the Red Cedar River. The Michigan Princess, a paddle-wheeled riverboat, offers theatrical and musical entertainment.

Located on the Michigan State University campus, the Wharton Center for Performing Arts is Michigan’s largest performing arts venue with four unique stages (Cole Great Hall, Pasam Theatre, MSU Concert Auditorium, and Fairchild Theatre). Wharton Center hosts Broadway-touring shows, classical musicians, dance companies, and other entertainers. In addition, theatrical, dance, and musical performances by faculty and students are held on these stages, as well as at other university venues. The Wharton Center also promotes non-athletic events at the Breslin Center, which is home to the men’s and women’s basketball teams.

**Neighborhoods**

Downtown Lansing contains multistory office and commercial buildings with apartments available on the upper floors. Prudden Place and those in the Stadium district are new constructions, but others, such as Motor Wheel Lofts in the former Prudden Wheel Factory, are renovated historic buildings. The downtown area has several recently constructed row house developments, such as On the Grand Condominiums, Printers Row Condominiums, and Pere Marquette Condominiums. The nearby historic Cherry Hill neighborhood contains the largest number of 19th century brick and clapboard Victorian homes, mostly in the Italianate and Queen Anne styles.

Other neighborhoods include the Moores River Drive area, which features estate-style, custom designed single- and two-story homes located on large lots along the Grand River. In the Westside neighborhood, brick and stucco homes were built between the late 1800s and 1960s. This neighborhood features winding streets lined with mature shade trees. Single-family homes in Colonial and ranch styles dominate the suburban Groesbeck neighborhood that was established during the 1960s. The Miller-Marscot neighborhood contains ranch-style houses from the mid-to-late 20th century.

**Parks and Recreation**

Lansing’s 114 designated park facilities have amenities that include swimming pools; baseball, football, and soccer fields; tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts; playgrounds; golf courses; boat ramps and docks; an off-leash dog park; skateboard park; indoor ice rink; and sledding and skating areas. The city has 4 community centers and operates the Fenner Nature Center, which features 130 acres of mixed habitat with approximately four miles of trails through maple groves, pine forests, swamp forests, old fields, and three different ponds. The Kenneth A. Hope Soccer Complex is a premier soccer complex in the tri–county area. The 13-mile River Trail system is a scenic walkway that connects parks, historic sites, and urban activity centers.

The 204-acre Crego Park is the city’s largest park and offers nature areas and opportunities for fishing, canoeing, and kayaking in Fidelity Lake. Hawk Island Park’s facilities include a 35-acre lake, swimming beach, bath house, boat rental, fishing, playgrounds, volleyball courts, ball diamonds, paved trails, and a winter sports area for cross-country skiing, snow tubing, and snowboarding. Adado Riverfront Park was designed as a festival park and is bisected by the Grand River. Potter Park, which is located along the banks of the Red Cedar River, features many gardens and is also home to the Potter Park Zoo, with its more than 160 species of animals. Planet Walk begins outside the Impression 5 Science Center and ends near the Potter Park Zoo. This two-mile walk present exhibits about the planets in the solar system.

Michigan State University features the W.J. Beal Botanical Gardens and the Horticultural Gardens and Butterfly House.

The Lansing Lugnuts (baseball) play in the Cooley Law School Stadium.

**Education**

The Lansing School District educates approximately 11,000 students in 11 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 4 high schools, 4 pre-kindergarten through grade 8 themed academies, and 3 specialty schools. Magnet school options include STEM, STEAM, Spanish Immersion/Global Studies, and New Tech High. Michigan State University offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs, including medical degrees from the College of Human Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Davenport University is a private, nonprofit, multicampus university that offers graduate and undergraduate programs in business, technology, and health professions. The Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School is an independent private, nonprofit college of law. Lansing Community College offers career and workforce development, general education, developmental education, and personal enrichment.

**Health Care**

Lansing and East Lansing are served by the following hospitals:

- McLaren Orthopedic Hospital: 53 licensed beds
- McLaren Greater Lansing: 310 licensed beds
- Sparrow Health System–St. Lawrence: 50 licensed beds
- Edward W Sparrow Hospital: 573 licensed beds
- Sparrow Specialty Hospital: 30 licensed long-term acute care beds

**City Stats**

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<td>Lansing City Population</td>
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<td>Per capita personal income, Lansing-East Lansing, MI, MSA:</td>
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