Grand Blanc, Michigan, is located in the southeastern portion of the state. Chippewa Native Americans originally settled the area. French traders arriving before 1800 named their area Grand Blanc, which translates to “Great White” in English. Pioneer families followed the traders; Jacob Stevens and his family were the first, arriving in the township in 1823. The advance of the railroad to the area later spurred growth. A four-square mile area in the center of the township was incorporated in 1930 as the City of Grand Blanc.

The Grand Blanc Heritage Museum occupies the former First Congregational Church of Grand Blanc. Exhibits include a variety of working musical instruments from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Other artifacts, collected from all over the Grand Blanc area, include displays of an old barber shop; a kitchen and other rooms in the home; and collections of swords, vintage quilts, photos, and military equipment. Several looms in the museum are used to produce rag rugs, which are available for sale.

Neighborhoods

Downtown Grand Blanc is a commercial and residential area. Homes in the historic Old Town were built in Colonial Revival and National Folk styles and date from the 1800s. The Indian Hill subdivision is located in the heart of downtown Grand Blanc. Most of the homes were built during the late 1960s through the 1980s, and housing styles range from large colonials to sprawling ranches.

Many traditional brick two-story homes in the Kings Point neighborhood were built in the 1970s, whereas a few were built this year. This neighborhood faces the Jewel of Grand Blanc golf club as does the newer Kings Fairway neighborhood, which has many available lots in addition to large, two-story, contemporary-style brick homes built on large lots. The Kirkridge neighborhood also borders the golf course and features ranch-style and traditional two-story homes on large lots. Development of this neighborhood mostly occurred in the 1960s and 1970s, but a few homes date from the 1990s.

Grand Blanc Township surrounds the City of Grand Blanc and contains many subdivisions, including Ottawa Hills and Holly Spring Estates, which were built during the 1970s; Sherwood Hills, Chatham Square, and Waters Edge, which date from the 1990s; Woodfield Farms, which was started in the 2000s; and Pine Hollow Estates, with homes built since 2010. These developments offer primarily traditional brick, single- and two-story homes in various sizes on winding streets. Several have lots available for new construction.

Parks and Recreation

The City of Grand Blanc has three parks. Grand Blanc Commons is a 137.5-acre nature preserve with many nature trails that have been enhanced with benches and bird and bat houses. Thread Creek runs through the preserve. Located in the heart of the city, Physicians Park offers a play structure and winding streets. A gazebo, a winter ice-skating rink, and a walking path and ground, tennis and basketball courts, a baseball diamond, bike trails, and the Children’s Garden. Walking trails wind around the park, and Thread Creek flows through it. Rust Park is also the location for the annual “Duck Classic” rubber-duck fundraising race as well as the “Press on Regardless” canoe race.

The township’s Creasey Bicentennial Park offers four soccer fields, a football field, ponds, playgrounds, baseball/softball fields, lacrosse fields, a sledding hill, pickleball courts, a splash pad, and a dog park.

Education

Grand Blanc Community Schools educate approximately 8,200 students from the City of Grand Blanc; Grand Blanc Township; Burton City; and Atlas, Holly, and Mundy Townships in nine elementary schools, two middle schools, and a high school.

Higher education is available at public and private universities, colleges, and community colleges in nearby Flint, Michigan: University of Michigan–Flint, Kettering University, Spring Arbor College, Mott Community College, Ferris State University at Mott, Davenport University, Central Michigan University Flint Center, and Northwood University.

Michigan State University–Flint Campus College of Human Medicine provides third- and fourth-year medical school training.

Health Care

Grand Blanc is served by the Ascension Genesys Hospital, with 400 licensed beds.

City Stats 2017

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<th>Category</th>
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Photograph courtesy of Christina Irwin.