



# Wyandotte



## **PLAN TO INCREASE THE EXISTING LEVEL OF COOPERATION, COLLABORATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICES**

State of Michigan Economic Vitality Incentive Program  
December 2011

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As part of the State of Michigan's Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP) requirement to improve intergovernmental cooperation, the City of Wyandotte has developed this report for our residents. The report contains a chart that consists of three (3) components – Regional Initiatives, Local Initiatives, and Planned Local Initiatives. The chart is designed to show existing relationships that occur with other local governments within and beyond the Downriver area of southeast Michigan, as well as direct relationships that Wyandotte has with its neighboring communities. The third component shows the type of projects that the City will be working on in 2012.

Incorporated in 1867, the City of Wyandotte is often described as the 'Heart of Downriver' and is located approximately eleven (11) miles south of the City of Detroit. The current estimated population of 25,883 resides on 5.3 square miles where, in the 1700s, the Native American tribe known as the Wyandot, a part of the Huron Nation, established their village. A waterfront community, Wyandotte is rich in history and is known for its distinctive architecture, charming downtown district and variety of cultural offerings. The City has been awarded the designation of a Preserve America Community by the Federal Government.

The City of Wyandotte prides itself on our community. We offer excellent schools, quality public services, safe neighborhoods, a charming downtown business district, a scenic waterfront and work together for continued development and historic preservation in our city. Wyandotte is well known for its community events, beautiful historical museum, festivals and our annual Wyandotte Street Art Fair. Our cultural and special events combined with our appreciation for the arts makes Wyandotte a dynamic city for a both residents and visitors alike.

The City of Wyandotte hopes that you find this report helpful. If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact the City Administrator's office by contacting (734) 324-4566, or by emailing [tdrysdale@wyan.org](mailto:tdrysdale@wyan.org)

Sincerely,

Todd A. Drysdale  
City Administrator

**CITY OF WYANDOTTE ELECTED OFFICIALS**



**Mayor Joseph R. Peterson**

**City Council**

Todd M. Browning  
James R. DeSana  
Daniel E. Galeski  
Leonard T. Sabuda  
Lawrence S. Stec  
Sheri Sutherby-Fricke

**Elected Officials**

William R. Griggs, City Clerk  
The Honorable Randy L. Kalmbach, Judge  
Colleen A. Keehn, Assessor  
Andrew A. Swiecki, Treasurer

## **CURRENT SHARED SERVICES EFFORTS**

The City of Wyandotte has a long tradition of intergovernmental collaboration. For nearly half a century, the City has been working with neighboring communities and the local school district to improve services and reduce taxpayer costs. Wyandotte and its neighbors have undertaken joint cooperative efforts in areas of police and fire services, public works, general government, arts and culture, and facility management.

Beginning in 1967, Wyandotte and several Downriver communities organized what is now called the Downriver Mutual Aid (DMA) which consists of eighteen (18) communities and Wayne County Metro Airport. The purpose of this cooperative organization was to allow for the ability to quickly amass a large number of Police Officers or Firemen to assist communities facing emergency situations that required manpower needs that exceeded their local capacity. The written agreement automatically allows responding communities to become agents of the requesting City immediately upon radio transmissions or through the LEIN system. Today, it is also used to apply for grant funding from various sources. The DMA is the oldest Shared Service Agreement in the State of Michigan.

In 1977, the Downriver Community Conference (DCC) was created to provide an organized sharing of information and resources for Downriver municipalities. At that time, and still today, it was believed that a true collaborative atmosphere could greatly benefit the region as a whole. The DCC is governed by the mayors/supervisors (or their designees) of its twenty (20) member communities. The DCC is a public non-profit agency, providing both coordination/information sharing services to member communities, and as well as directly serving residents of their member communities with a variety of human service programs and services. For the past thirty-four (34) years, the DCC has stood as one of the most unique and successful examples of regional cooperation not only in the State of Michigan, but in the nation.

Many of the collaborative initiatives of the DCC cannot be quantified in terms of cost savings, but are viewed by member communities as “value-added” services for the communities and their residents. Communities can offer an increased level of service because of this cooperation.

The following chart contains examples of Shared Services carried out by the City of Wyandotte over the past 40 years. The list is not inclusive of all the cooperative efforts in Wyandotte’s history, but does outline a great number of them. The chart provides the participating departments, the name of the shared service, a brief description, other communities or organizations involved, and the estimated savings or benefit.

**City of Wyandotte**  
**Shared Services Summary**  
**December 2011**

<i>Regional Initiative</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Communities / Others Involved</i>	<i>Estimated Savings*</i>	
<b>Police &amp; Fire</b>	Downriver Mutual Aid (DMA)	1967 - Several Downriver communities banded together and formed what is now called the Downriver Mutual Aid (DMA) and consists of 18 communities and Wayne County Metro Airport. Its purpose is to have the ability to quickly amass a large number of Police Officers or Firemen to assist communities that find themselves in emergency situations and not enough manpower to handle them. There is a written agreement in place that automatically allows responding communities to become agents of the requesting City immediately upon radio transmissions or through the LEIN system. The DMA is also used to apply for grant funding from various sources. Oldest Shared Service Agreement in the State of Michigan.	18 Downriver Communities and Wayne County Metro Airport	Undeterminable Each Community Police Department received \$19,050 in the most recent round of grant funding (COPS)
<b>Police</b>	DMA Police	Downriver Mutual Aid is an agreement to provide police assistance to one another in case of emergencies at various times	18 Downriver Communities, Wayne County Metro Airport, MSP 25	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Police</b>	Downriver SWAT and Dive Team	Downriver SWAT and Dive Team	18 Downriver Communities and Monroe County SWAT	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Police</b>	Downriver Major Crimes Task Force	Downriver Major Crimes Task Force	18 Downriver Communities, MSP	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Police</b>	Downriver Major /Fatal Accident Investigation team	Downriver Major /Fatal Accident Investigation team	18 Downriver Communities, MSP	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Police</b>	Downriver Hostage Negotiations Team	Downriver Hostage Negotiations Team	18 Downriver Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Police</b>	Downriver Area Narcotics Organization (DRANO)	DRANO conducts surveillance, makes controlled purchases, serves search warrants and make arrests to keep drug activity out of participating communities.	18 Downriver Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Fire</b>	DMA Fire	Downriver Mutual Aid (DRMA) is an agreement to provide fire assistance to one another in case of emergencies at various times	18 Downriver Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service

<b>Fire</b>	HazMat Team	Downriver Hazmat Team	18 Downriver Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Fire</b>	Arson Task Force	Downriver Arson Task Force	18 Downriver Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Fire</b>	Health Emergency Medical Services Inc. (HEMS)	HEMS Inc. is a federally-recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of stakeholders in the Southeastern Michigan Emergency Medical Service community. Working together, hospitals, local and county government, EMS services, education and industry have created a world-class emergency care system for the citizens of western and downriver Wayne County. HEMS was established in 1980, and is delegated certain functions, authority and responsibility by the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services as a Medical Control Authority. HEMS also operates one of Michigan's busiest staffed EMS communications systems linking over 50 EMS services to fourteen hospitals, and providing an infrastructure for disaster communication and resource coordination.	33 Wayne County Community EMS, Wayne County Metro Airport, 8 Private Service Providers, 3 Company EMS and 14 Hospitals	Undeterminable
<b>Public Works</b>	DPW Mutual Aid	DPW Mutual Aid for manpower and equipment during emergency	18 Downriver Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Public Works</b>	DCC Cooperative Bids and Information Sharing	Joint purchasing collaboration among Downriver Community Conference (DCC) member communities to increase purchasing power and promote cost savings among the communities. Some department of public works (DPW) items include: road salt, water meters, cold patch and uniforms. DPW/S directors from member communities meet once a month to discuss needs, evaluate bids, communicate progress, and discuss other timely and relevant issues. DPW/S Directors take turns developing the RFPs for the commodities needed; DCC provides administrative support through recordkeeping and meeting facilitation. Communities may 'opt out' of any bid that does not meet their particular needs. This effort is expanding to collaborative purchasing and meetings with Public Works Directors from Western Wayne County Communities, and Operations Managers from 18 Downriver School Districts.	20 Downriver Communities plus six communities from the Conference of Western Wayne and 20 area school districts	Varies based on product purchased

<b>Public Works</b>	Downriver Municipalities Solid Waste Disposal Services	1990 - 14 Downriver communities entered into one contract with the Riverview Land Preserve to secure volume discounts on the tipping fees.	Allen Park, Ecorse, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, River Rouge, Rockwood, Southgate, Taylor, Trenton, Woodhaven, Wyandotte, and Grosse Ile Township	\$125,000 / year for 14 Communities
<b>Public Works</b>	Alliance of Downriver Watersheds (ADW)	Jointly with 23 communities - apply for various grants, maintain compliance with MDEQ on NPDES permit. Same concept and procedures as the ARC.	23 Wayne County Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Public Works</b>	Household Hazardous Waste Collection	Collection of Household Hazardous Waste at various locations throughout Wayne County	Wayne County Department of Environment	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Public Works</b>	E Waste Recycling	Collection of Electronic Waste at various locations throughout Wayne County	Wayne County Department of Environment	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>General Government</b>	Downriver Community Conference	1977 - Downriver communities formed the Downriver Community Conference (DCC) and now consists of 20 communities governed by their Mayors and Supervisors. The DCC provides many services, problem resolutions and grant opportunities that are shared by all the communities.	20 Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>General Government</b>	Downriver Area Brownfield Consortium	1995 - The Downriver Area Brownfield Consortium (DABC) became another consolidation venture of the DCC that allows communities to pool grant funds and take on larger remediation projects that may not have been feasible by the community alone.	15 Communities in 4 S.E. Michigan Counties	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>General Government</b>	Downriver Film Initiative	2010 - DCC communities formed the Downriver Film Initiative to create a uniform set of ordinances to enable production companies to have seamless access to the communities	20 Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>General Government</b>	DCC/Wayne County Weatherization	Program offers assistance to eligible homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient so that their utility bills are lower. Program also offers the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program grant from the Michigan Public Service Commission to provide direct energy bill payment assistance to eligible households.	DCC Communities and remaining Wayne County Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>General Government</b>	Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative (DLGI)	Regional non-motorized pathway vision incorporating a network of trails and greenways.	21 Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>General Government</b>	DCC/CWW Benefits Initiative	The DCC and CWW organized a bid proposal for various health related services, including dental, vision, life insurance, and long and short term disability coverage. Communities could opt-in for one service or all the services provided.	DCC Communities and CWW Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service



<b>General Government</b>	CWW Salary Survey	For 25 years, the Conference of Western Wayne (CWW) has been compiling salary data from the communities and preparing a Salary Survey.	DCC and CWW Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>General Government</b>	Bids	Utilize Mi-Deal state bids and MITN for major purchases	State of Michigan	Varies based on product purchased
<b>General Government</b>	The Senior Alliance (TSA)	The Senior Alliance (TSA) is a private non-profit agency that was established in 1980, and designated by the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging to operate as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the 34 suburban communities in Southern and Western Wayne County.	34 Communities in Wayne County	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>General Government</b>	Wayne County Urban County CDBG Program	Wayne County coordinates and administers the Urban County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This allows smaller communities to meet the HUD criteria to receive Federal CDBG funds that benefit their community. A number of Entitlement Communities participate in the program to have access to HOME funds.	34 Communities in Wayne County	Undeterminable / Value Added Service

\* Many of the collaborative initiatives of the Downriver Community Conference (DCC) cannot be quantified in terms of cost savings, but are viewed by member communities as "value-added" services for the communities and their residents. Communities can offer an increased level of service because of this cooperation.



<b>Local Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Communities / Others Involved</b>	<b>Estimated Savings*</b>	
<b>Police</b>	27th District Court	In 2003, the City of Wyandotte and City of Riverview merged their divisions of the 27th District Court into one consolidated court. The operation of the court is governed by a Joint Management Agreement that specifies the responsibilities of each city and a revenue sharing agreement that supports the operation of the court.	City of Riverview	\$200,000 annually
<b>Police</b>	Southern Michigan Information Alliance (SMIA)	In 2006, the City of Wyandotte leveraged the investment made by the City of Southgate in information technology software and hardware to form SMIA. Originally conceived to provide a common information platform for individual municipalities, it has grown to 13 members operating under a interlocal agreement. Costs are shared equitably and public safety service improvements were realized in addition to decreased annual costs.	13 Member Communities	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Police/Fire</b>	Downriver Central Dispatch (DCD)	As a result of migrating to a common public safety information technology platform (SMIA), the Cities of Wyandotte, Southgate, and Lincoln Park leveraged their investment in 2010 to form the Downriver Central Dispatch. Pursuant to PA 35 of 1951, an authority was established to manage the system. The DCD is housed in the City of Wyandotte Police Department and service is provided by dedicated dispatchers who are employees of the City of Wyandotte. The DCD is able to include future participants who wish to join which would result in increased savings in operating costs.	City of Southgate, City of Lincoln Park, City of Allen Park	\$120,000 annually
<b>Recreation</b>	Recreation Facilities	The City and the Wyandotte School District share recreation facilities including gymnasiums, ball fields, and exercise facility.	Wyandotte School District	Avoid \$25,000 annually plus capital costs
<b>Recreation</b>	Recreation Facilities	The City of Wyandotte and the City of Riverview provide resident rates to each other for the ice rink (Wyandotte) and golf courses (seniors at Riverview).	City of Riverview	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Recreation</b>	Recreation Facilities	The City of Wyandotte and the City of Trenton provide resident rates to each other for the golf course (Wyandotte) and swimming pool (Trenton).	City of Trenton	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Public Works</b>	Gasoline Purchases	The City of Wyandotte purchases bulk gasoline and diesel fuel, stores the material, sells the fuel to other governmental and non-profit agencies net of taxes allowed under state-authorized exemptions.	Wayne County, Wyandotte School District, others	Undeterminable / Value Added Service
<b>Public Works</b>	Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority (DUWA)	Authority established to jointly manage the Downriver Wastewater Treatment Plant which was owned by 13 communities.	12 Communities (all of the joint owners except Lincoln Park)	Undeterminable / Value Added Service

<b><i>Planned Local Initiative</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Communities / Others Involved</i></b>	<b><i>Estimated Savings*</i></b>	
<b><i>Police</i></b>	Downriver Animal Control Services	The cities of Wyandotte, Southgate, and Lincoln Park are in the plan and design phase of an initiative that will provide effective, lower cost animal control services to the participating communities. It is anticipated that response to citizen calls, animal apprehension, ordinance enforcement, and improved abuse prevention programs will result from this collaboration. The benchmark is to reduce costs by 20-30% of the total cost of delivering this service using the current individual city model. In addition, the participants will be able to offer an enhanced adoption and shelter agency that will increase service level to the residents. The Communities jointly applied for an EVIP Grant in the fall of 2011 to finance the necessary capital improvements for this initiative	City of Southgate, City of Lincoln Park	\$50,000
<b><i>Fire</i></b>	Regional Fire/Emergency Medical Response Services	Continue pursuit of a cooperative approach for the delivery of emergency medical services and fire suppression.	City of Southgate, City of Lincoln Park, City of Allen Park, City of Melvindale, City of Trenton	\$100,000-\$500,000
<b><i>Recreation</i></b>	Regional Ice Arena/Recreation Entity	The cities of Wyandotte, Southgate, and Lincoln Park are researching opportunities to unite ice arena management to provide for a cooperative management and marketing of three (3) municipally-owned ice arenas. It is anticipated that this common arena management entity would reduce administrative costs, maximize program participation, and mitigate excess capacity in the arenas resulting from the individual marketing and sale of ice time. Further, the creation of a comprehensive recreation authority could centralize all resources and program operations for greater efficiency, increased program offerings, and continued mitigation of excess capacity in current program offerings caused by an imbalance between supply and demand in the individual municipalities.	City of Southgate, City of Lincoln Park	\$95,000-\$220,000

## **PLAN FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION**

The City of Wyandotte has not rested on past successes relative to sharing services with neighboring communities. The City administration and elected officials are continually looking for opportunities to share services and reduce costs. While the City now does receive a financial benefit from sharing services through the Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP), the City has been cognizant of the necessity and logic behind pursuing such arrangements for years. Below you will find a list of collaborative initiatives being pursued by the City of Wyandotte. These initiatives are not all-inclusive but represent the areas which may be successful in the near future due to a number of quantitative and qualitative factors. Regardless, the City of Wyandotte will continue working with its neighboring communities on existing and potential shared service efforts.

### **NEW SHARED SERVICES BEING PLANNED**

#### **Downriver Central Animal Control Services**

The cities of Wyandotte, Southgate, and Lincoln Park are in the plan and design phase of an initiative that will provide effective, lower cost animal control services to the participating communities. It is anticipated that response to citizen calls, animal apprehension, ordinance enforcement, and improved abuse prevention programs will result from this collaboration. The benchmark is to reduce costs by 20-30% of the total cost of delivering this service using the current individual city model. In addition, the participants will be able to offer an enhanced adoption and shelter agency that will increase service level to the residents. The Communities jointly applied for an EVIP Grant in the fall of 2011 to finance the necessary capital improvements for this initiative.

Estimated Annual Taxpayer Savings: \$50,000

#### **Downriver Fire Authority**

The Cities of Wyandotte, Southgate, Allen Park, Melvindale, and Lincoln Park extensively researched the concept of creating a regional Fire Authority. The Authority would be responsible for providing emergency medical services and fire suppression to the participating municipalities. Although the initiative has not materialized, discussion continue with the identified past participants as well as with the City of Trenton relative to taking steps to ultimately regionalize the delivery of fire and emergency medical services.

Estimated Annual Taxpayer Savings: \$100,000 – \$500,000

### **Ice Arena and Recreation Authority**

The cities of Wyandotte, Southgate, and Lincoln Park are researching opportunities to unite ice arena management to provide for a cooperative management and marketing of three (3) municipally-owned ice arenas. It is anticipated that this common arena management entity would reduce administrative costs, maximize program participation, and mitigate excess capacity in the arenas resulting from the individual marketing and sale of ice time. Further, the creation of a comprehensive recreation authority could centralize all resources and program operations for greater efficiency, increased program offerings, and continued mitigation of excess capacity in current program offerings caused by an imbalance between supply and demand in the individual municipalities.

Estimated Annual Taxpayer Savings: \$95,000 - \$220,000