



CITY OF OAK PARK

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UM-Dearborn's iLabs' eCities Research Recognizes Oak Park for Supporting the Small Business Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 29, 2018

OAK PARK, MI – The City of Oak Park is proud to announce that it has been recognized for its successes and efforts in contributing to Michigan's entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the [annual eCities study](#) conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. Oak Park was honored as a five-star community along with 180 other communities across the state.

“We take great pride in the work we've done to make Oak Park a great place to do business in,” said Oak Park City Manager Erik Tungate. “Last year, we were a four-star community, and since then we've made progress in spurring business growth and economic development. It's great to see that our hard work is being acknowledged with this recognition.”

The eCities study analyzed publicly available data from 277 communities from 54 counties in Michigan. Researchers focused on the five-year changes in property values, community assets, and tax rates, which can demonstrate the growth, investments and cost of doing business within the community.

“While accounting for only about 15 percent of the cities and townships in Michigan, the 277 communities analyzed are home to 70 percent of the population and 85 percent of the state's commercial property,” said Tim Davis, Director of iLabs. “By analyzing these high-performing communities, our goal is to showcase what cities and townships are doing to spur growth and how we can continue to support their efforts in developing businesses and encouraging entrepreneurs.”

Oak Park was recognized at an [event](#) on the morning of Thursday, November 29, as part of the Executive Speaker Series, which featured a panel discussion on Michigan's economic development and growth. The event was hosted by WWJ Newsradio 950's Murray Feldman of the Feldman Report.

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About:

Situated within the southeast corner of Oakland County, the City of Oak Park has a long history of being an integral, inner-ring suburb of Detroit. With approximately 30,000 residents in 5.16 square miles, we pride ourselves on the richness of our cultural diversity and our safe, secure neighborhoods.

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