



Media Contact: Lisa Passalacqua
City of Auburn Hills
(248) 364-6726
lpassalacqua@auburnhills.org

Auburn Hills Downtown Public Square Honored with 2025 “Best Public Space Project” Award by the Michigan Downtown Association

Auburn Hills, MI.—November 11, 2025—The City of Auburn Hills is proud to announce that its Downtown Public Square has been awarded the 2025 Best Public Space Project by the Michigan Downtown Association (MDA). This prestigious recognition celebrates exceptional placemaking and design excellence in creating vibrant, community-centered public spaces across Michigan.

Opened in the Summer of 2025, the Auburn Hills Downtown Public Square has quickly become the heart of the city’s downtown district — a welcoming, multi-purpose gathering space for residents, visitors, and local businesses. The project transformed an underutilized municipal parking lot into a vibrant, multi-functional public square at the heart of downtown. Designed with flexibility in mind, the public square will accommodate year-round programming. What makes this project even more meaningful is its history. Before Auburn Hills was officially incorporated in 1983, back when we were still Pontiac Township, the site was designated as the township's Public Square. This project honors our past while looking to the future. The Public Square was designed to promote connection and improve the pedestrian experience.

“The Downtown Public Square represents our community’s vision for a lively, inclusive, and sustainable downtown,” said Brian Marzolf, Mayor of Auburn Hills. “We are honored to receive this award from the Michigan Downtown Association, which recognizes the teamwork, creativity, and civic pride that made this project possible.”

The Michigan Downtown Association’s annual awards program celebrates downtown projects and initiatives that contribute to the economic vitality, visual appeal, and sense of place in Michigan’s communities. The Best Public Space Project category highlights excellence in the design and use of outdoor spaces that promote social interaction and community engagement.

“With its artificial turf, pergolas, planter boxes, seating, and stage, there is no doubt that our new public square will be a place that creates lasting memories for years to come for our residents and visitors alike,” said Tom Tanghe, City Manager. “We look forward to programming many events in the space that will bring the community together,” he added.

The MDA Awards were presented during the organization’s 2025 Annual Conference, held in Rochester, MI, on November 6, 2025.

About Auburn Hills

The City of Auburn Hills is a distinguished leader in southeast Michigan, known not only for its 22 high-technology parks but also for having world-renowned retail, entertainment, and manufacturing. Home to more than 26,000 residents, it also serves as Michigan's global business address, with 80 international corporations from 32 countries, including many world and North American headquarters. Auburn Hills' residents enjoy the amenities of city and suburban living with parks, a revitalized downtown district, and a welcoming city complex with a library and community center. Additionally, the city has three colleges and universities, and Great Lakes Crossing Outlets, one of the state's largest destination shopping centers, providing a variety of cultural, social and educational opportunities to residents, workers, and visitors. Learn more at auburnhills.org.

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