

CLAWSON RESIDENT GUIDE

CITY OF CLAWSON

Welcome to the "Little City with a Big Heart!"



CLAWSON
— MICHIGAN —

City of Clawson | Oakland County, Michigan



CLAWSON RESIDENT GUIDE | CITY OF CLAWSON

We are so excited to welcome you to the City of Clawson! The Clawson Resident Guide will help get you acquainted with the City services that allow our city to function. In Clawson you will find a strong community with safe neighborhoods, successful businesses and quality city services. We intend this guide will allow you to know and understand almost any and everything that is needed to be an engaged citizen in our wonderful community.

Thank you for choosing Clawson, we can't wait to get to know you!

WHAT WILL YOU FIND?



Everything you need to know to get acquainted with the City of Clawson!

The **City of Clawson** is best described as a *community of neighbors that offers a friendly, small-town atmosphere where all amenities are within walking distance in our 2.2 square mile community.*

We work together to be a desirable place to live, work and raise a family. We enjoy great places to eat and the ability to shop locally. Visitors are drawn to our signature events including: our weekly, seasonal outdoor *Summer Sunday Market* through the summer and an indoor market during the winter; our acclaimed *Fourth of July* celebration; *Fall Festival*; *Lion's Club Car Show*; *Cinema in the Street* and many more. Our annual traditions and many programs help enrich daily living that contribute to the appeal of Clawson being a destination for entertainment and fun.



HISTORY OF CLAWSON

The area known as **Clawson** today, has been **inhabited by settlers since 1823**. The 2.2 square mile city was once split between Troy and Royal Oak, Michigan. North of 14 Mile (which was Clawson Road until the 1940's) was Troy Township, and South of 14 Mile was Royal Oak. The area began as various farm lands and started to develop with the saw mill industry in the early to mid 1800's. By the early 20th century, the area became a comfortable place for blue-collar workers to call home after working long days in Detroit's auto plants.



The commute for auto workers was made possible by the **Interurban Railroad** (also known as the *D.U.R.*). The railroad ran from Detroit to Pontiac passing through Clawson along Main Street until 1929 when cars were in abundance and the demand for the railway was gone.

Prior to its name; the Clawson area had several nicknames like **Pummychug** (*Pumachug*), after the sounds that the mills made; **The Corners** in Downtown; **Bowers Mill** (after Henry Bowers who owned a mill in the area) as well as **Blair Mill** (for the Blair family's mill). The most likely origin is believed to derive from the misspelled name of "C. Lawson" after the **Lawson** family who once lived in the area. The origin of the "C" in Clawson is still an unknown mystery. In 1880, residents grew tired of retrieving their mail from the neighboring city of Royal Oak and decided the solution would be to have a local post office. And to have a post office, the area would need its own name. There are several different rumors as to how Clawson got its name and no one is exactly sure which rumor is the truth but none-the-less, Clawson was submitted and approved.

Clawson officially **became a village in 1920**, which allowed the ability to obtain water services, electricity, and other public works. In the 1920's, roughly 3,000 residents called the area home and then grew to 4,000 residents when Clawson **became a City in 1940**. Clawson continued to grow through the 1970's at its peak population with over 17,000 residents. Clawson has made a name for itself with its quaint but growing downtown that has been around since the early 1900's. Clawson is also known for its 4th of July celebration since it **started in 1933** (with exceptions during WWII and the 2020 Pandemic). Clawson is home to many historical homes dating back to the mid 1800's, 1910's, 1920's, and 1930's. The *Gramer Funeral Home* is believed to date back to 1827 or 1829. **Notable residents** of Clawson vary from; the *prolific painter* Leon Evarts, *NFL football players*; Jon Jansen, and Mark Campbell, *NHL hockey player and 2010 Olympian* known as Tim Gleason, as well as *film directors*; David Robert Mitchell and Dan Scanlon of Pixar.

Visit the *Clawson Historical Museum* for more information.



BLAIR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

About the Library

Since 1929, the Blair Memorial Library has been serving patrons of all ages and interests. Books may be signed out from the library's juvenile, young adult, adult, or large print collections. Our collection also includes; **audio books**, **eBooks** and **eMagazines**, **CDs**, **magazines**, and **DVDs**. Patrons may loan items from libraries in *The Library Network* or throughout the state. Our computer terminals allow patrons to access the internet as well as a variety of databases. **Wi-Fi** is accessible from laptops and other wireless enabled mobile devices available 24/7, free of charge.



Special programs are offered throughout the year at Blair Memorial Library. Adults are welcome to hear guest speakers in programs sponsored by the *Friends of Blair Memorial Library*. Children may attend *preschool story hours*, craft programs and summer reading program activities. Young adults are welcome to attend special programs and participate in **Teen Read**, our summer reading program for middle and high school students.



Library Card

City of Clawson residents, property owners, and employees are eligible to get a *Clawson Library Card*. Provide proof of your residency/employment by bringing valid photo ID's, property deeds, or paystubs to the circulation desk for verification.

Be a Friend!

Friends of Blair Memorial Library is a non-profit organization of citizens who share the belief that a strong library is crucial to the growth and vitality of a community. **New members are always welcome!**

Feel free to contact the Blair Memorial Library for any questions at (248) 588-5500.

Visit the *Blair Memorial Library* for more information.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



The Clawson Chamber of Commerce (**CCC**) was established in 1958, and is dedicated to fostering business growth and community development. Collaborating closely with local entities, including businesses, schools, government, and residents, the chamber strives to create a supportive environment for success. The organization actively promotes economic growth and enhances the quality of life in Clawson.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Downtown Development Authority (**DDA** or simply *Downtown Clawson*) is an independent body within city government mandated with the economic development of the downtown. By capturing tax revenue from within the district, that would otherwise leave the area, the DDA is able to invest directly in physical improvements, add amenities and provide business support through programs, marketing and events making the downtown a vibrant hub attracting residents and visitors alike.





THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Voting

If you are a new resident or voter you may **register to vote** at the City Clerk's Office or with the Michigan Secretary of State. Clawson has **five polling locations**. *For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office.*

Parking

The City of Clawson has a parking ordinance that **prohibits on-street parking** between the hours of **2:00 A.M. to 6:00 A.M.** Permission to park on the street may be granted for various reasons. *Call the Non-Emergency Dispatch at (248) 524-3477 prior to the evening that you wish to park on the street.*

Bonfires

In order to have a **bonfire**, residents are required to obtain a **Recreational Fire Permit** from the city. Permits cost \$15 and last up to 5 years. *To obtain a permit, visit the Building & Planning Dept.*

Vegetation

Residents are required to keep their property *(and surrounding areas up to ten feet outside of property lines)* free of any growth of **weeds, grass, or other form of harmful vegetation**. The height of **lawns** must be **less than eight inches on average**.

Trash, Waste, & Recycling

Waste removal; including **trash, recycling, and yard waste** is picked up on **Wednesdays** throughout the city. We ask the community to put out waste on **Tuesday evenings**.

***Note:** *More information on waste removal can be found under the DPW tab on www.CityofClawson.com.*

Tax Information

Summer Tax bills are mailed on **July 1st** of each year and are **due by July 31st**. Winter Tax bills are mailed on **December 1st** of each year and are **due by February 14th**.

Assessing Information

The City of Clawson uses the Oakland County Equalization Department for all assessing services. You can access your Clawson *(or other Oakland County properties)* tax information, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via phone at (888) 600-3773. You will be required to use your 10-digit property tax identification number *(Parcel I.D. number)*.

Payment of Taxes and Water Bills

There are various ways to pay taxes and water bills:

- **Drop Box** – The Drop Box is available 24/7 and is located at the south entrance of City Hall in the vestibule. Check or Money Order only, no cash will be accepted.
- **U.S. Mail** – You can mail in your payment. Postmarks and Check dates are not accepted as the date for on time payment.
- **Online Payment** – Make payments online at www.CityofClawson.com. A 3% convenience fee will be added to the total cost(s).
- **Direct Debit** – Payment for Water bills can be direct debited from your Checking or Savings bank account. Authorization forms are located at the Treasurer's Office in City Hall or can be accessed online at www.CityofClawson.com.

Visit www.CityofClawson.com for more information.



PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE

What is a Building Permit?

A building permit grants the permission to start construction after plans are reviewed and approved by the City Building Official. A building permit review helps ensure that building project meets minimum safety, zoning, and aesthetic requirements. The fees charged for building permits are used to defray the cost of code administration and inspections.

Types of Building Permits

- **Building Permits** – For new construction, renovations, and demolition of residential and commercial properties.
- **Electrical Permits** – For all electrical work done within the city.
- **Mechanical Permits** – For new installation of furnaces and air conditioners or additions to the heating/cooling system.
- **Plumbing Permits** – For new installation, alteration or addition to the plumbing, water heater replacement, or sewer repair.
- **Zoning Permits** – For driveways and sheds under 200 sq feet, etc. that don't require a building permit.

Code Enforcement

The City's Ordinance Code Enforcement division is responsible for ensuring that properties are maintained in compliance with laws adopted by the City Council. Common code issues include but are not limited to blight, graffiti, violations of property maintenance, and rats.

Contact Code Enforcement at (248) 435-4500 (Ext. 113).

Do I Need a Permit?

It's ideal to contact the City of Clawson if you are considering construction, mechanical, electrical, or plumbing projects. Meaning; if you are building, enlarging, altering, repairing, adding/removing walls, replacing exteriors, replacing windows/doors, moving, converting, or demolishing something, you may need a permit. Permits are generally not required for replacing kitchen cabinets, installing carpet, or other floor coverings, installing wallpaper/paneling on finished surfaces, or redecorating without a structural change.

Planning and Zoning

The Building Department is committed to providing our residents with quality development in our city, which starts with proper planning, zoning, and land use regulations. Through urban planning, we seek to preserve, enhance, and diversify developments and design of land use in the City of Clawson.



Call (248) 435-4500 (Ext. 121) for Building & Planning information.



PUBLIC WORKS



The **Department of Public Works (DPW)** maintains all of the City of Clawson's infrastructure, including water and sewer, roads and streets, and all municipal buildings and properties. The DPW also performs seasonal duties such as curbside leaf collection and snow removal. *The Department of Public Works is located at 635 W. Elmwood Avenue. Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 7:00 AM-3:30 PM.*

Waste Trash Collection

Residents can provide their own trash containers or purchase containers from *Tringali Sanitation* for a fee. City wide trash collection is on Wednesdays throughout the year, holidays could affect collection date.

Recycling

Recycling collection is provided throughout the year. Yard waste is provided from April-December, starting and ending dates may vary. Yard waste will be collected in dedicated yard waste containers or brown paper bags. Shrubs with roots removed and branches in 4 foot sections wrapped in twine will also be collected.

Water & Sewer

The DPW maintains the water distribution system and the storm and sanitary sewer systems of the city. Water bills are distributed quarterly.

Parks

The DPW maintains all city properties including parks and athletic fields. DPW also maintains the city trees on these properties and in the city right of way. For severe weather events that affect a large area of the city, the DPW will provide a courtesy storm clean up if designated.

Roads & Streets

The DPW maintains all city roads and streets. The DPW also conducts curbside leaf pick up in the fall. Residents are encouraged to place leaves in the street on their collection day. The DPW maintains city roadways throughout the winter in the event of snow and ice. Typically, 12 hours after a significant snow event all Clawson roads are plowed, salted, and clear for travel.

Visit www.CityofClawson.com for more information.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Clawson Police Department

The Clawson Police Department (CPD) is responsible for patrolling and protecting a population of over 11,000 residents, 2.2 square miles of land, 24-hours a day, 365-days of the year. The Police Department's current authorized strength is seventeen officers. The Police have several community programs including; a Citizens Police Academy, Vacation Home Watch, Clawson Schools Liaison Scholarship and much more!



Clawson Fire Department

The Clawson Fire Department (CFD) provides fire protection to the citizens and businesses of Clawson. The department consists of thirty part-time paid volunteer fire fighters, who are all highly trained and skilled. All members of our fire department complete state certified Fire Fighter I and II training courses, along with completing a state monitored written and practical exam. Additionally, all members must complete a minimum of 100 training hours per year.



Visit www.CityofClawson.com for more information.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

Clawson Public Schools

Clawson Public Schools (CPS) serve more than 1,100 students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade, currently at Baker Building and Central Campus (Clawson Elementary School, Clawson Middle School, and Clawson High School). As one of Oakland County's smallest districts, Clawson is a caring community dedicated to the pursuit of excellence where every person is valued and learning is celebrated. Through innovative programs and state-aligned curricula, Clawson Public Schools provides an exceptional college preparatory experience for our students.

Learning Institutions

- [Clawson High School](#)
- [Clawson Middle School](#)
- [Clawson Elementary School](#)
- [Clawson Preschool](#)
- [Clawson Childcare Center](#)



Clawson High School

We embrace the fact that we are a small school that prides itself on knowing our students and their individuality but doesn't lose sight of the larger purpose: to create self-sufficient students with curious minds. Graduating students from Clawson High School will be prepared to face the future as enlightened, resilient, contributing members of their community.

Clawson Middle School

We offer an engaging and inclusive learning environment where students are supported by a collaborative staff, driven to work with all stakeholders for the betterment of our children.

Clawson Elementary School

We will inspire and empower students to grow, learn, lead, and achieve in the global community.



Visit www.ClawsonSchools.org for more information.



PARKS & RECREATION

Parks

Residents and visitors of Clawson have access to **six city-owned parks** to use for recreational and leisure activities. *Clawson City Park* is the **city's largest outdoor recreation area** and hosts various events, from the *4th of July* festivities and the *Fall Festival* every September. The park hosts a turf football and soccer field surrounded by a rubberized track, an additional soccer field, baseball and softball field, skatepark, tennis and sand volleyball courts, children's play structures, a pavilion available for rent for festivities, and much more!

List of Parks

- [Clawson City Park](#)
- [Grant Park](#)
- [Hunter Park](#)
- [Memorial Park](#)
- [Parkland Park](#)
- [Rotary Park](#)



Recreation & Senior Services

Parks, Recreation, & Senior Services offer a variety of services to residents and members of the surrounding areas. Transportation is available for City of Clawson older adult residents aged 55 and older or residents living with a permanent disability.

Transportation Boundaries

Our regular boundaries are; Long Lake Road to the north, 11 Mile Road to the south, Ryan Road to the east, and Southfield Road to the west. The extended boundaries are for medical appointments only and include South Boulevard to the north, 9 Mile Road to the south, Van Dyke Avenue to the east, and Telegraph Road to the west.

Daily Lunch for older adults is provided from Monday through Thursday at Noon. *To place an order, contact the Senior Center at (248) 583-6700. Orders must be placed no later than 9:00 AM on the day lunch is served.*



Visit Recreation.CityofClawson.com for more information.

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GOVERNMENT & CONTACT INFORMATION

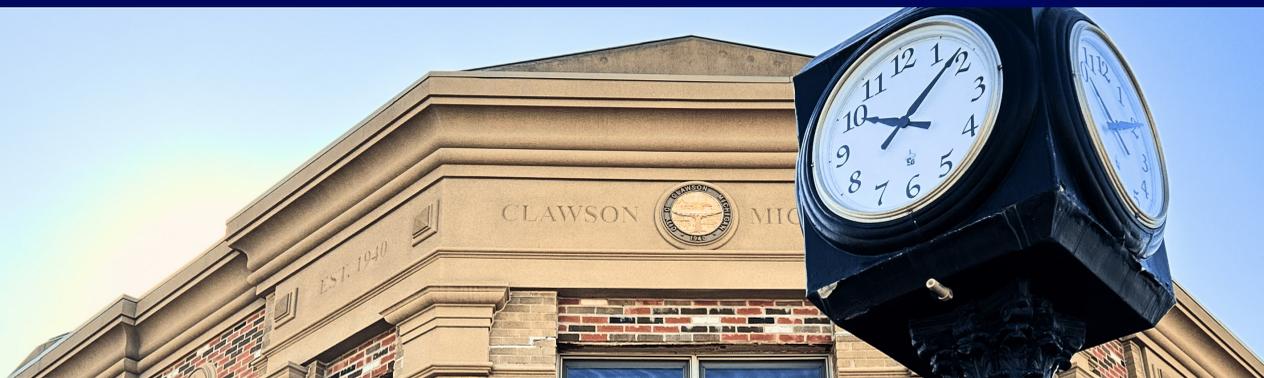
Council-Manager Form of Government

The City of Clawson operates under the *Council-Manager Form of Government*. The City Council is comprised of five members. The Mayor is elected every two years and the other four members are elected every four years with staggering terms. The City Council employs a City Manager who is the chief administrative officer of the city of Clawson, Michigan.

Emergency

Blair Memorial Library	(248) 588-5500
Chamber of Commerce	(248) 435-6500
City Municipal Offices	(248) 435-4500
Dept. of Public Works	(248) 288-3222
Downtown Clawson	(248) 435-5299
Historical Museum	(248) 588-9169
Parks & Recreation	(248) 589-0334
Police/Fire (Non-Emergency)	(248) 524-3477
Senior Services	(248) 583-6700
SOCCRA	(248) 288-5150

911



CONNECT WITH THE CITY

The City of Clawson strives to provide excellent city services and communication to the community. Explore the many different avenues of getting in touch with us below;



(248) 422-2800



Text "CLAWSON"
to 91896



CityofClawson.com



@CityofClawson



@CityofClawsonMI



@CityofClawsonMI