

Complimentary Kalamazoo Relocation Guide – Everything You Need to Know Before Moving to Southwest Michigan



Welcome + Why Kalamazoo?

Welcome to Kalamazoo! We know that moving is more than just a change of address—it's the start of a brand new chapter. Our team has poured our local expertise into this guide to help you transition with ease and excitement. From discovering your perfect neighborhood to finding the best local spots for your family, we're here to help you feel at home before you've even unpacked your boxes. Let's make your move to Southwest Michigan an unforgettable experience.

– Kelli Scheffers & the Inspired Living Real Estate Team



Quick overview of what Kalamazoo is known for:

- A genuinely warm and welcoming community, offering the charm of a small town with big-city amenities.
- Strategically positioned between the dynamic hubs of Chicago and Detroit, providing convenient access to major metropolitan areas.
- A vibrant scene featuring an abundance of local restaurants, expansive parks, and a diverse calendar of year-round events for every interest

Neighborhood Options in Kalamazoo

Portage, Michigan

- The City of Portage is part of Kalamazoo and offers many housing, school, and event options. Portage is an urban city that offers different types of homes like new builds, condos, and typical modern housing and apartment complexes which makes it great for all families. With the diverse housing portfolio, there is something for all families, singles, and young couples. With a high population like Portage, it has many schooling options with 16 schools including elementary, middle, & high schools available for all aged children. Furry friends? No problem. Portage offers many local parks and walking trails for those high energy friends and individuals with an active lifestyle.



Celery Flats is one of the many walking trails found in Portage.

The trail is **approximately 3.5 miles** long and connects to various parks and recreational areas, making it an ideal spot for family outings, fitness activities, and leisurely rides. The trail is paved and well-marked, ensuring a smooth experience for all users.

Texas Township

- Texas Corners is a township within Kalamazoo County. This suburban area offers a mix of waterfront properties, trails, and Kalamazoo's own Kalamazoo Valley Community College right around the corner. What we love about this area is all of the opportunities for water sports or leisurely activities. Texas Corners is surrounded by seven lakes which include Eagle Lake and Paw Paw lake. It's also home to the Al Sabo Land Preserve, filled with 741 acres of woods featuring 25 miles worth of trails through diverse terrain. This area is also great for families who are looking for a quiet, quaint place to live. Parks around this area include playgrounds, trails, and a splash pad for all your outdoor fun! This area also offers a range of housing options that include rustic to suburban subdivisions. Slow Saturday and want something to do? This area has a few unique local restaurants with live entertainment and great food. Farmer's Markets also take place right in town if you're looking for produce straight from the farm. Don't forget to check out a few local boutique's while doing your shopping. Overall, Texas Corners is a great place for families with many opportunities and activities.



Downtown Kalamazoo

- Downtown Kalamazoo offers a wide variety of housing, activities, restaurants, and night life. This area is mostly known for its unique shops, local restaurants, and live entertainment; great for young couples who are looking for a fun night out or empty-nesters looking for a big city feel with many options for activities. Downtown offers many types of housing which include historical and modern houses, along with many historical and modern apartment options. Downtown Kalamazoo offers numerous opportunities for employment as there are many businesses in this area, great for young and established professionals.



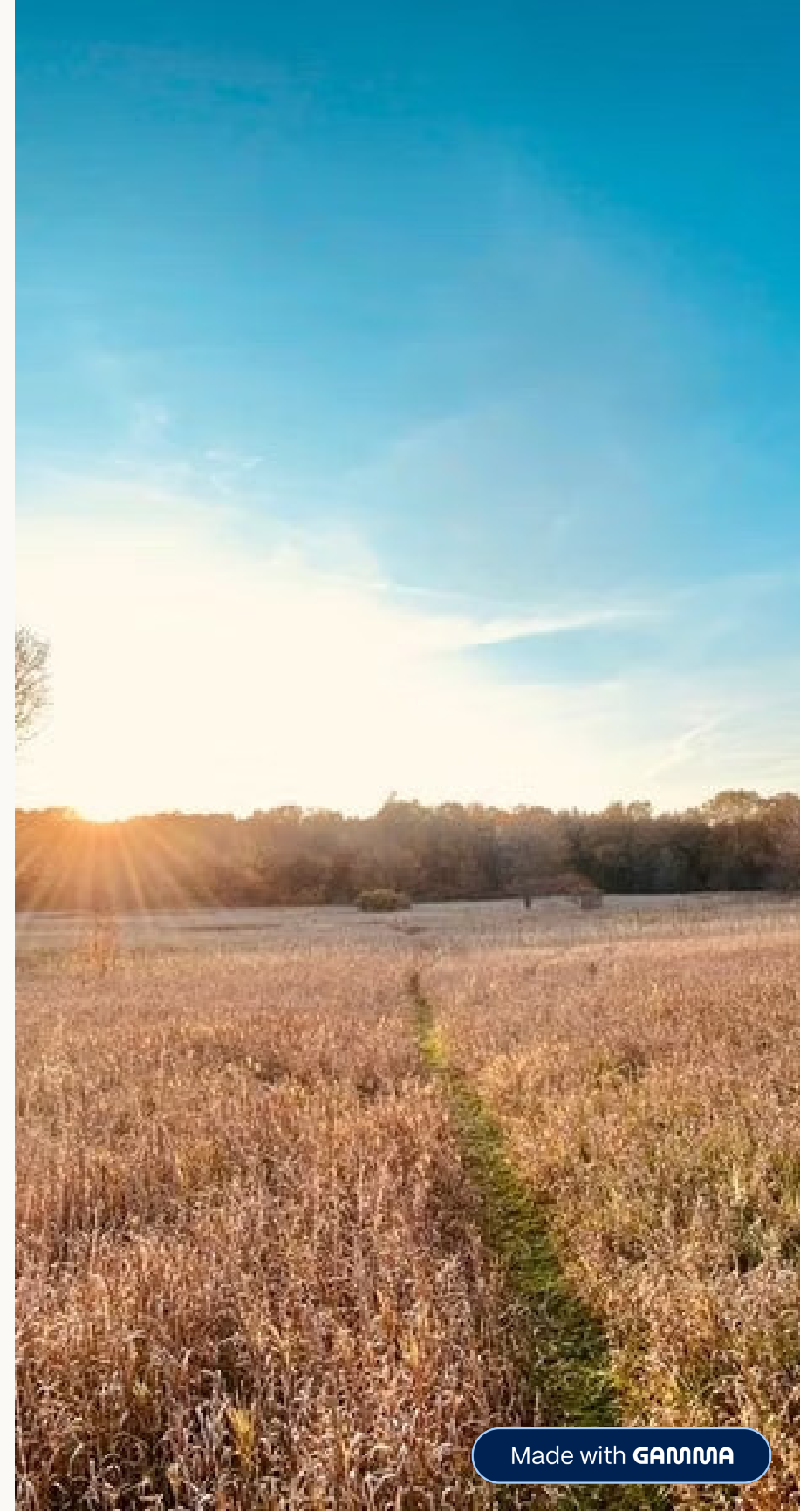
Cost of Living & Housing Overview

Kalamazoo offers an appealing financial landscape, with a general cost of living that is 14% below the national average. This means your hard-earned money goes further here, allowing for a higher quality of life and more opportunities to invest in your future. The city's cost of living index stands at 81, a full 19% lower than the national average, underscoring the exceptional value Kalamazoo provides.

The housing market in Kalamazoo is equally attractive. With an average home price of approximately \$229,329, prospective homeowners will find remarkable value compared to many other regions. This average can vary, of course, depending on crucial factors such as specific location, square footage, and property acreage, ensuring a diverse range of options for every preference.

At Inspired Living Real Estate, we are dedicated to helping you navigate Kalamazoo's vibrant market. Our expertise ensures you find a home that not only fits your budget but also perfectly matches your desired lifestyle and location. We go beyond just finding properties; we also assist in coordinating finance options, providing clear insights into what you can expect in different areas, and ensuring a seamless home-buying journey. Let us help you unlock the potential of Kalamazoo homeownership.

All information is general and subject to change. For up-to-date details, talk with a real estate professional or lender.



Schools, Healthcare, and Daily Life

Kalamazoo is an exceptional choice for families, offering a robust infrastructure that supports growth, well-being, and daily convenience. With a diverse array of educational and medical resources, the community is uniquely equipped to meet the needs of all its residents.

Educational Excellence

Our educational landscape is both vast and varied, serving approximately 35,000 students across 89 schools. Whether you are seeking comprehensive public education or specialized private and charter programs, Kalamazoo provides a strong foundation for learners from early childhood through high school.

Public School Districts:

- Kalamazoo Public Schools
- Portage Public Schools
- Vicksburg Community Schools
- Schoolcraft Community Schools

Private & Charter Options:

- Kalamazoo Christian Schools
- St. Augustine School
- St. Michael Lutheran School (K-8)
- Kalamazoo Covenant Academy

Comprehensive Healthcare

Peace of mind is integral to life in Kalamazoo. Residents benefit from access to high-caliber medical facilities, including two prominent hospitals and a wide network of primary and family care practices. With numerous urgent care centers strategically located throughout the area, quality medical support is always within reach.

- **Bronson Methodist Hospital:** A regional leader in specialized care.
- **Beacon Kalamazoo Hospital:** Providing dedicated, patient-centered health services.

Daily Convenience

Beyond essential services, Kalamazoo boasts a thriving retail environment designed for seamless living. From everyday grocery shopping to specialized home and agricultural supplies, the area offers unmatched convenience:

- **Grocery & General Retail:** Enjoy access to national retailers including Meijer, Walmart, Aldi, and Costco, with an upcoming Kroger expansion further enhancing local shopping options.
- **Specialized Supplies:** For residents with specific interests, local stores like Blain's Farm & Fleet and various tractor supply outlets ensure that all livestock and rural lifestyle needs are easily met.

Commuting & Transportation

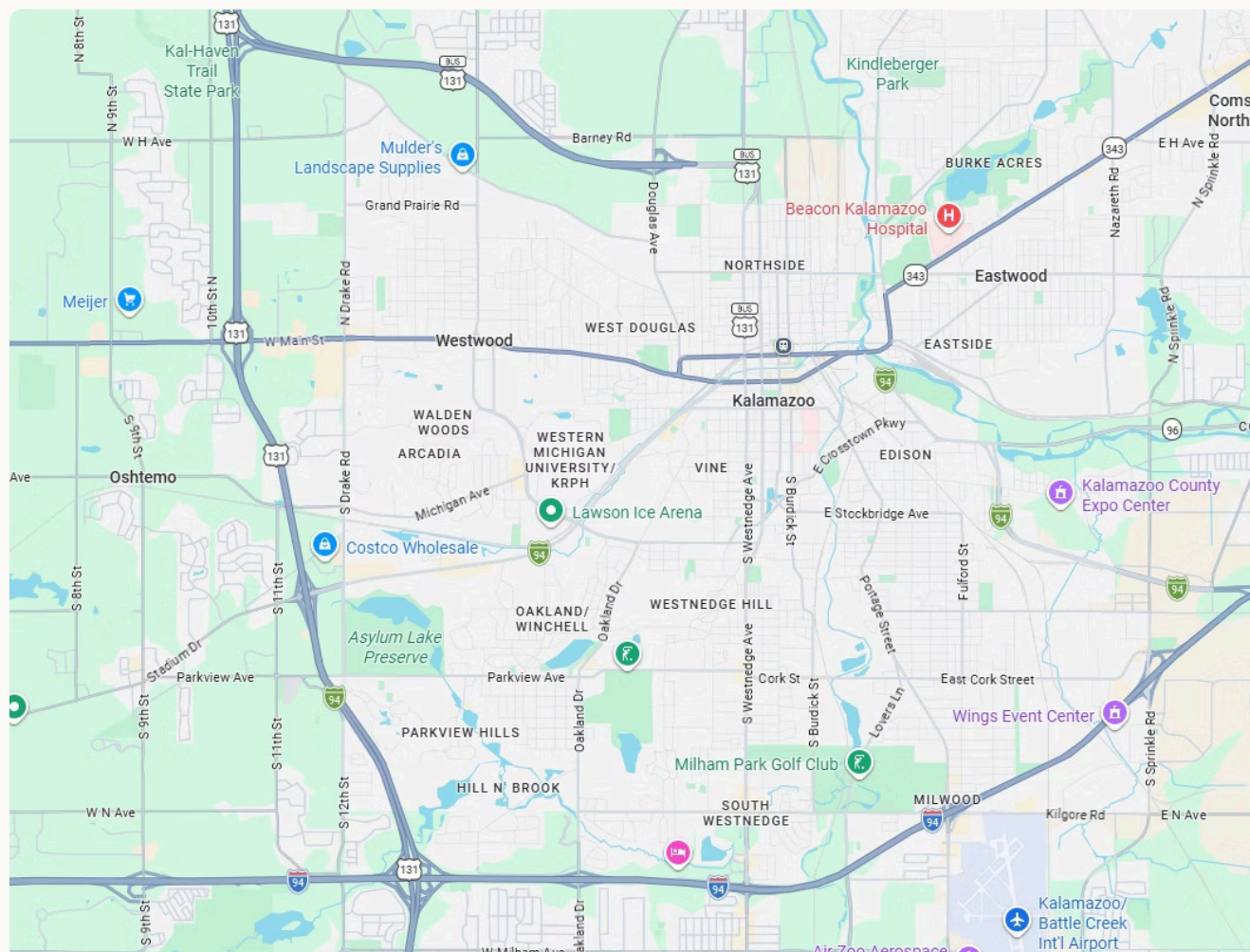
Strategically positioned at the crossroads of I-94 and US-131, Kalamazoo offers an ideal location for families balancing professional ambitions with a high quality of life. Our region serves as a central hub, providing streamlined access to major metropolitan centers, including Grand Rapids, Detroit, and Chicago, while maintaining the accessible, welcoming feel of a close-knit community.

Effortless Regional Connectivity

Whether for work or leisure, our infrastructure is designed to keep you moving efficiently:

- **Highway Access:** Major thoroughfares ensure reliable travel, with typical cross-town commutes within Kalamazoo taking approximately 10 minutes, and reaching neighboring Portage in just 15 minutes.
- **Public Transit:** The Metro bus system offers comprehensive coverage with 695 stops, providing a reliable alternative for daily commuting and local navigation.
- **Air Travel:** Residents enjoy the convenience of the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, complemented by easy access to major international hubs in Grand Rapids, Detroit, and Chicago for long-distance travel.

For families relocating to the area, this robust transportation network means less time in transit and more time enjoying the community. The ease of navigating between Kalamazoo and Portage removes the stress of daily travel, ensuring that work, healthcare, and social activities are always within easy reach.



Discovering Kalamazoo: Leisure & Local Flavors

Beyond its professional promise, Kalamazoo is a region that truly comes alive through its vibrant outdoor spaces and a deeply rooted local food scene. Life here is defined by moments spent in nature and the shared experiences of gathering around a great meal in our favorite local haunts.

Green Spaces & Community Anchors

Our parks are more than just scenery; they are the heart of community connection, offering residents a sanctuary for relaxation and recreation:

Celery Flats & Oakland Park

Whether you're looking for peaceful riverside trails or sprawling green space, these local gems provide the perfect backdrop for a weekend stroll or an afternoon escape into nature.

Milham Park

A perennial community favorite, Milham Park offers beautiful wooded settings and dedicated gathering spaces, serving as the go-to spot for family cookouts and vibrant seasonal celebrations.

El Sabo Preserve

Located in the charming Texas Corners area, this preserve offers a more rugged, tranquil experience for those looking to immerse themselves in the quiet beauty of our local landscape.

A Taste of the Region

The culinary landscape in Kalamazoo reflects the character of our community—welcoming, diverse, and undeniably bold. From historic brewing institutions to modern fine dining, our local favorites offer a true taste of home:

- **Brick & Brine:** An elevated dining destination that perfectly balances sophistication with comfort, ideal for special occasions.
- **Latitude 42:** A vibrant, high-energy venue that embodies the local spirit, offering a fantastic selection of craft beers and elevated pub fare.
- **Bell's Brewery:** Much more than a taproom, Bell's is a cornerstone of Kalamazoo culture, celebrated for its legendary craft brews and its iconic, bustling beer garden.

Of course, this is only the beginning. Downtown Kalamazoo is brimming with eclectic eateries and hidden culinary treasures waiting to be discovered, inviting you to turn every meal into an opportunity to explore the local flavor.

Some of Inspired Living Real Estate's "Kalamazoo Favorites"

- **Coffee Lovers** - Water Street Coffee, Parkview bookstore, Walnut & Park Cafe, Kalamazoo Coffee Co., 7 Brew which is coming to Kalamazoo soon!
- **Favorite Date-Night Spot** - Martell's, Brick & Brine, Four Roses (Plainwell), Principle Food & Drink
- **Family Activity** - Echo Valley, Revel & Roll, Airway Lanes Fun Center, Kids Empire, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Gull Meadow Farms, Air Zoo, Rollerworld, Millenium Park Ice Rink, Kalamazoo Nature Center

Partnering with Inspired Living Real Estate

Finding your way to Kalamazoo is more than just a change of address—it's the beginning of a new chapter. At Inspired Living Real Estate, we specialize in bridging the gap between where you are and the place you'll soon call home. Our team combines deep local expertise with a heartfelt, personalized approach, ensuring that your transition to Kalamazoo is seamless, informed, and truly enjoyable.

We understand that relocating can be a significant undertaking, which is why we've tailored our services to fit your busy lifestyle. Whether you are across the country or just across the state, we provide a sophisticated, concierge-level experience designed to give you absolute confidence in your decision:

- **Virtual Consultations:** We start with a meaningful conversation to understand your unique needs, lifestyle preferences, and long-term goals for your new home.
- **Curated Virtual Tours:** Experience the character of our neighborhoods and homes through high-definition, immersive video walkthroughs that bring the space to life.
- **Comprehensive Neighborhood Insights:** Beyond the home, we provide deep local knowledge—connecting you to the schools, parks, and communities that best align with your family's values.

Your move deserves a partner who cares as much about your future as you do. We invite you to reach out and start a conversation today—let us handle the details so you can focus on the excitement of what's ahead.



Inspired
Living

Real Estate Team

Thinking about relocating to Kalamazoo? We'd love to help you feel at home here.



Ready to start your journey?

Let's connect.

Email us at kelli@inspiredlivingrealestate.com