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Why this small Michigan city feels like it's straight out of a movie

**[Brendel Clark](#)**

Detroit Free Press

Jan. 23, 2026, 7:01 a.m. ET



Top 5 fun day trips to Canada from Michigan

Here are five fast and enjoyable day trips to Ontario, the Canadian province that borders Michigan.

Key Points

Two distinct shopping districts offer places to shop, restaurants and more.

The city hosts more than 300 events annually.

Plymouth earned the nickname 'Air Rifle Capital of the World' in reference to King and Daisy products that once were manufactured there.

We're always working to improve your experience. [Let us know what you think.](#)

As part of the Detroit Free Press' ongoing series exploring Michigan communities, this week we turn our focus to the city of Plymouth in Wayne County.

Appeal: Plymouth is a charming, walkable city known for its historic character, tree-lined streets, and two distinct shopping districts that place shops, restaurants, and community events steps from residents' front doors.

The pedestrian-friendly downtown, often referred to as [Downtown Plymouth](#) (DTP), serves as the city's vibrant core. Decorative streetlights, brick pavers, and landscaped streetscapes frame historic buildings alongside newer condominium and loft-style developments, many of which incorporate office and retail space. The area reflects balance of small-town charm and modern conveniences.



A woman walks down Main Street past restaurants and small businesses in downtown Plymouth, Mich., on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026. *Kimberly P. Mitchell, Detroit Free Press*

Plymouth's second main shopping district is the [Old Village](#), one of the city's oldest neighborhoods. Located near the railroad line between Starkweather and Mill Streets and Main Street and Wilcox Drive, Old Village features a mix of residential, commercial and industrial buildings, along with classic homes that reflect the city's early roots.

Both districts offer a mix of retail shops, cafes, casual eateries, offices, seasonal outdoor dining, and residences.

The opening of [Westborn Market](#) in the former post office was a turning point for Plymouth, giving residents a walkable, in-town grocery option and helping the city blossom, according to Carrie Bake of Bake Real Estate in Plymouth. Growing interest in "walking to town," she said, has helped propel the city's real estate value.

At the heart of downtown is Kellogg Park, a central gathering place for concerts, children's programming, festivals, and civic activities. Across the street, the historic [Penn Theatre](#) adds to the city's entertainment offerings.

"Those who spend time here often remark that Plymouth feels like stepping into a classic movie scene, blending small-town charm with memorable experiences," said Linda Filipczak, Plymouth's mayor.



20 Photos**VIEW GALLERY****Spotlight on Plymouth: Take photo tour of charming Wayne County town**

Plymouth is a walkable city known for its historic character, tree-lined streets, and two distinct shopping districts that offer restaurants and more.

Facts: Founded in 1825, incorporated in 1867 and designated as a city in 1932, Plymouth spans 2.27 square miles and has a population of 9,370. The city is surrounded by Plymouth Township, which features more suburban-style neighborhoods.

Plymouth includes a designated [Historic District](#) encompassing properties surrounding and adjacent to Kellogg Park.

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Historically, the city earned the nickname "[Air Rifle Capital of the World](#)" after the Plymouth Windmill Company and Markham Air Rifle combined operations in 1895 to manufacture King and Daisy brand products.

Plymouth is located about 35 minutes from downtown Detroit and approximately 20 minutes from Detroit Metropolitan Airport. More

information is available at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

Development and growth: Recent and ongoing residential development includes the [Townes at Mill Street North](#) townhomes, the [Starkweather](#) School subdivision of single-family homes.

City officials also anticipate future multifamily proposals, including redevelopment of the former Lumber Mart site on Mill Street and Ann Arbor Trail, along with continued infill and single-family construction throughout Plymouth.

A few new commercial additions include [Plymouth Roast](#), which recently opened, while The Drift Restaurant, [Fourgrounds](#) coffee shop and Bode's Restaurant are under construction.



Muriel's Doll House and Toy Cottage has operated since 1972 in downtown Plymouth, seen on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026. *Kimberly P. Mitchell, Detroit Free Press*

More: WDIV-TV teaming with Great Lakes Coffee Roasting Company on coffee shop in Detroit suburb

Recreation: Plymouth is home to more than 16 parks featuring playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts, soccer fields and ballfields. Hines Park runs through and along the city's borders, providing a scenic greenway that connects Plymouth to neighboring communities, including Northville, Livonia and Westland.

City officials said Lions Club Park has received \$100,000 in funding from the [Lions Club of Plymouth](#) for park improvements, while the [Rotary Club of Plymouth](#) has also committed funds for upgrades at Rotary Park.

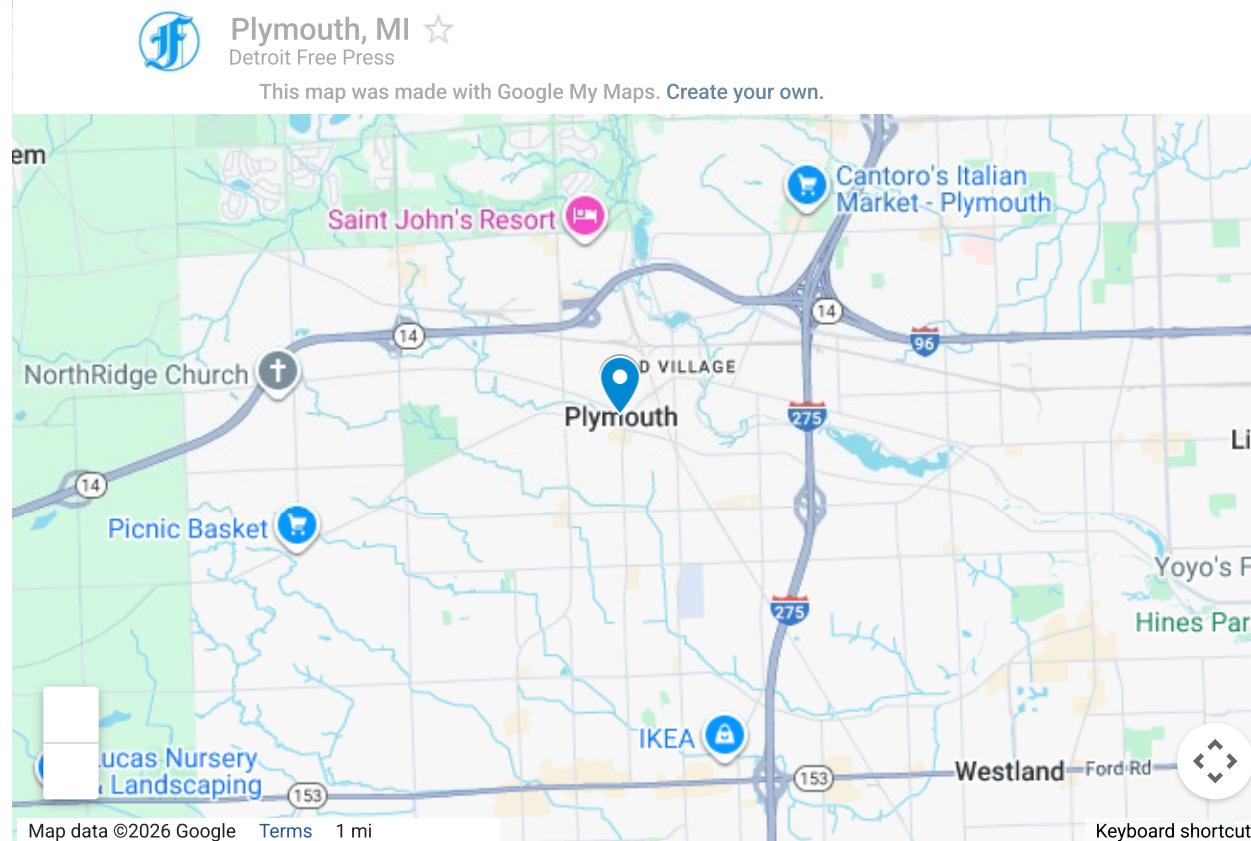
Community events: The city hosts more than 300 events annually reinforcing its strong sense of community. Highlights include the [Plymouth Ice Festival](#) (Jan. 30-Feb. 1), featuring 150 professionally carved ice sculptures, a new zip-line experience, petting zoo, warming stations, comedy juggling variety shows, and an ice bar and party tent. Other signature events include [Art in the Park](#) (July 10-12), [Plymouth Fall Festival](#) (Sept. 11-13), Christmas in Plymouth, [Music in the Air](#) concerts, and a seasonal farmers market.



A three-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath colonial at 1008 Roosevelt St. in Plymouth, built in 1939, sold for \$582,000. *Provided By BAKE Real Estate*

Homes: Plymouth offers a diverse housing stock shaped largely by infill development, ranging from early 20th-century Victorians, Colonials, Cape Cods, Tudors, Craftsman homes, bungalows, and ranches to newer single-family homes, condominiums, and apartments. Ongoing redevelopment includes teardowns, rebuilds, additions and remodels that bring modern amenities to historic neighborhoods. In 2025, single family homes sold from \$235,000 to \$2.25 million, according to Realcomp.

Taxes: Property taxes are \$40.97 per \$1,000 of taxable value in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district. A home priced at the median of \$418,200, with a taxable value of \$209,100, would have annual property taxes of approximately \$8,566.



Public transportation: The city offers [senior transportation](#) for residents age 60 and older, 734-459-8888.

Public safety: Plymouth police reported five burglaries, five vehicle thefts, four cases of criminal sexual conduct, no robberies and no

homicides in 2025.

Resident insight: After spending 20 years in San Diego, Kate Ellison, 44, said family ties drew her back to Michigan, and Plymouth was the only place she considered.

Ellison, her husband and their two daughters moved to the city two summers ago, drawn by its walkability, parks, restaurants and small-town feel.

"I always joke that it feels like I'm living in a Lifetime movie," she said. "It's just so picturesque."

Ellison said Plymouth's central location near Detroit and Ann Arbor, along with its year-round community events, made it an ideal place to raise a family while reconnecting with her Michigan roots.

Brendel Clark (previously published as Brendel Hightower) writes about real estate and other topics for the Detroit Free Press. Contact her at bclark@freepress.com.





Kate Ellison, a resident of Plymouth. *Provided By
Kate Ellison*