

# Oscoda Township Economic Development Director



Tammy Kline  
Township Superintendent  
Charter Township of Oscoda  
(989)739-3211  
[superintendent@oscodatownshipmi.gov](mailto:superintendent@oscodatownshipmi.gov)



[www.oscodatownshipmi.gov](http://www.oscodatownshipmi.gov)

**TAKE FLIGHT**



Just up Michigan's Sunrise Coast, past the speeding interstate, is a community where vacations begin and never end. A place where the sun is served fresh daily. A place people came because of the land, but stayed because of the water. A place that defended our country and protected the globe. A place where the legend of the lumberjack was born. A place where life on these sandy beaches thrives through all four seasons. We are Oscoda, and we are proud of this place we call home. This place where opportunity truly exists. We invite you to spread your wings and take flight.



Oscoda Township is located in the northeastern portion of Iosco County, in the upper lower peninsula of the State of Michigan. It is bordered by Lake Huron to the east, Plainfield Township to the west, Wilber Township and Au Sable Township to the south, and Alcona County to the north. It is a large rectangular-shaped Township, equating to three of Michigan's traditional 36-mile square townships.

The Oscoda-Au Sable area attracted early French explorers because of the abundance of natural resources and game. Oscoda is a Native American Indian term meaning "a pebbly prairie". The Au Sable River running through Oscoda was named by the French, and means a river of sand. Louis Chevalier was the first to establish a claim in this area. He built a trading post at the mouth of the river, and soon a small community grew.

Before becoming a settler's community, Oscoda was home to the Chippewa Indians. One of the few physical remnants of the tribe is the Chippewa Indian Cemetery on Indian Road. It is an artifact and historic record of the original Native American settlements in the area. Currently, the cemetery is administered by the Oscoda United Methodist Church.

As the first settlements grew into a more permanent community, the logging industry also contributed to significant growth in this area. The river served as an excellent means to transport logs to the mouth of the river where eight lumber mills were operational. The timber was then transported by ships from the docks on Lake Huron to the markets in Detroit and Chicago. By the early 1900s the lumber era came to a close, and in a massive fire both the Oscoda and Au Sable communities were almost totally destroyed.

The community is served primarily by US-23 and Business Loop US-23 as well as M-65. According to the Michigan Department of Transportation, US-23 through downtown has an annual average daily traffic count of 16,758 cars per day. The stretch of US-23 in Oscoda is part of the [US-23 Heritage Route](#).

Oscoda's advantage is a high quality of life for those who enjoy outdoor and waterfront activities and low cost of housing. It is a well-known vacation destination that thousands of families flock to every summer. It has a traditional downtown that is steps away from Lake Huron and ripe for reinvestment.

Since the early part of the 20th century, the military base has gone by many names; Loud-Reames Aviation Field, Camp Skeel, Oscoda Army Airfield, Oscoda Air Force Base and Wurtsmith Air Force Base. Regardless of its name, the base always played an important part in the ever-evolving National defense.

From the early days of bi-planes practicing bombing runs and landing on a frozen lake, training Tuskegee airmen, Air Defense Command fighter jets on alert, B-52s with Hound dog missile and in the end, KC-135 and B-52s with air launched cruise missiles on alert.

Today, the Wurtsmith Air Museum works to preserve the history of the men and women that served, so their stories and the history of aviation in northeastern Michigan can be shared with future generations.



In 1923, Major Carl Spatz came to Oscoda and proposed the construction of an airfield for army aircraft. Up until this point in history, this was the most significant event defining the development of the community. At its peak, the base military population was approximately 3,135 personnel plus dependents. The base was permanently closed in 1993 by the Department of Defense. Now called the Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport, in 1993 it was opened as a public airport, and in 1994 the Township took over the area as the Redevelopment Authority. The Authority's purpose was to operate and maintain the airport. In 1997, the Michigan Legislature created the Wurtsmith Renaissance Zone, a designation exempting businesses and residents within the 5,000-acre zone from all state and most local taxes. Over the years, different parts of the air base have been occupied by various private and public organizations and the former base has been redeveloped and integrated into the community.

Currently, the old base has a varied mixture of uses which include Kalitta Air, Phoenix Composite Solutions, Phoenix Flight Solutions, HAECO Americas Engine Services, and several other aviation-related businesses. There are several manufacturing facilities and a telecommunications company, and more than 40 other private businesses. In addition to the industry, there is also restored base housing, multiple family residential complexes, churches, a medical care facility, the public library, a community college, performing arts theater, and two museums including the Wurtsmith Air Museum and the Veterans Memorial Park of

Northeast Michigan. Overall, the entities at the former base provide over 1,300 jobs to the area and about 700 privately-owned residences.



## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Oscoda Township contains ample natural amenities such as lakes, rivers, woodlands, and beaches. More than 80% of the land in Oscoda Township is public forest land, most of which is densely wooded and wild. There are hundreds of miles of snowmobile and recreational vehicle trails located within the forests. There are 10 Township owned recreation properties and 2 leased properties, but these are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the recreation opportunities of Oscoda Township.

- Oscoda Township Beach Park
- Piety Hill
- Oscoda Huron Sunrise Park
- Oscoda Riverbank Park
- Furtaw Field
- Sports Complex
- Ken Ratliff Memorial Park
- Warrior Pavilion
- Foote Site Park
- Old Orchard Park



### POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES:

The Township has its own police department which provides continuous service for both Oscoda and Au Sable Townships. The department patrols 163 square miles and the staff consists of 10 officers- two Sergeants, 7 patrol officers, and the Chief of Police.

The fire service in the Township is provided by the Oscoda Township Volunteer Fire Department, which consists of 30 volunteers from the Oscoda and Au Sable communities. The volunteer fire department provides complete fire and rescue services for Oscoda and Au Sable Townships, and contracts for part of Wilbur Township. The Township fire station is located in the downtown business district of Oscoda.

### ALCONA HEALTH CENTER:

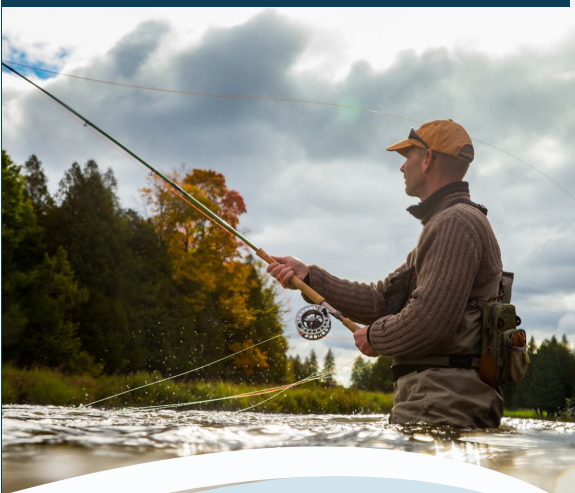
Services offered at the Oscoda Clinic include: Medical & Behavioral Health, Care Management, Community Health Worker, Lab Services, MAT/Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Telepsychiatry, Wellness Programs and Outpatient/Walk-in Lab Services (Provided by Quest Diagnostics).

### ASCENSION ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL:

Ascension St. Joseph Hospital, located 20 minutes South of Oscoda, is a full-service hospital with 24/7 emergency care and multiple outpatient care centers serving Northeast Michigan. Services include: Coumadin Clinic, Heart Center, Imaging Center, Joint Replacement Center, Lab Services, OB-GYN / Child Birth, Seton Cancer Institute, Sleep Medicine Clinic, Surgery Center.

### EMERGENCY DISPATCH SERVICES:

The population and government units of Iosco County depend upon 8 separate volunteer fire departments, interconnected by a Mutual Aid Agreement that includes membership from neighboring Ogemaw County. An enhanced 911 (E911) Authority was established and became operational in April of 1996. Dispatching services utilize state-of-the-art computer systems to receive emergency calls and to direct fire, police, and ambulance units to the emergency scene.



## Economic Development Director

The Charter Township of Oscoda (population 6,997), Iosco County, Michigan is seeking an experienced and progressive Economic Development Director. This will be a fulltime position as a Township employee which pays a salary range of \$60,000 to \$75,000 plus benefits.

### SUMMARY:

Plans, organizes and implements economic development functions from conception to completion, including business retention, business attraction and incentive programs, research, planning, organizational capacity and facility development; performs a variety of responsible administrative, professional and technical tasks. Implements economic development goals and objectives for the Township, interfaces and coordinates with the development community, local businesses and various Township departments and staff.



### Educational Opportunities:

Oscoda Area Schools contains 2 schools and 1,149 students, offering PK-12 instruction. Within Oscoda Area Schools, 100.0% of teachers are licensed, and 91.8% have three or more years of experience. The student-to-teacher ratio is higher than the state average, at 17:1. The district has 1 full-time counselor on staff. High school graduation rate 94.2%. Oscoda Schools are MSHAA rank C. Athletics offered include, baseball, basketball, football, swimming, sideline and competitive cheer, boys hockey, volleyball, outdoor track, bowling, soccer, wrestling, golf, softball and cross country. Band and Robotics are also offered in 7-12 grades.

Alpena Community College offers two-year degrees, one-year certificates, customized corporate training, and community education to all of Northeast Michigan. Smaller class sizes, affordable tuition, and the convenience of two campus locations, (Oscoda and Alpena), and online courses, make Alpena Community College a great choice whether you are starting college for the first time, or coming back to school for a new career or additional training.

Aviation courses are offered through Comprehensive Aviation Training and Kalitta Air Training Center in Oscoda.



Oscoda Township is a Council-Manager form of government. As described in Michigan law and Township policies, certain responsibilities are vested in the Township Board and the Township Superintendent. Basically, this form of government prescribes that a Board's role is that of a legislative policy-making body which determines not only the local laws that regulate community life, but also determines what public policy is and gives direction to the Township Superintendent to administer the affairs of the Township government in a businesslike and prudent manner.

The Township Supervisor serves as the Chairperson of the Board. All members, except for the Superintendent, are elected officials.

William Palmer, Supervisor - [supervisor@oscodatownshipmi.gov](mailto:supervisor@oscodatownshipmi.gov)

Jaimie McGuire, Treasurer - [treasurer@oscodatownshipmi.gov](mailto:treasurer@oscodatownshipmi.gov)

Joshua Sutton, Clerk - [clerk@oscodatownshipmi.gov](mailto:clerk@oscodatownshipmi.gov)

Timothy Cummings, Trustee - [oscoda@tlcummings.com](mailto:oscoda@tlcummings.com)

Jeremy Spencer, Trustee - [jspencer@oscodatownshipmi.gov](mailto:jspencer@oscodatownshipmi.gov)

Steve Wusterbarth, Trustee - [swusterbarth@oscodatownshipmi.gov](mailto:swusterbarth@oscodatownshipmi.gov)

Robert Tasiar, Trustee - [rtasiar@oscodatownshipmi.gov](mailto:rtasiar@oscodatownshipmi.gov)





## Essential Requirements for Employment:

Assume management responsibilities for all services and activities of economic development including attracting increased capital investments and expanding and diversifying employment opportunities; establishes and maintains a private/public partnership for positive long-term economic change and implementation of Oscoda Townships core strategies:

- Support Entrepreneurship Development
- Workforce Development
- Downtown Development
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Business Recruitment and Marketing.
- Knowledge of and Ability to Implement RRC

For Full job description or more information go to [www.oscodatownshipmi.gov](http://www.oscodatownshipmi.gov).  
Position will be posted until filled.

Interested Candidates shall send resume to:

Tammy Kline

Township Superintendent

Charter Township of Oscoda

(989)739-3211

Come live and work where you play! Discover all that Oscoda and Northeast Michigan have to offer, visit the following sites:

[www.oscodatownshipmi.gov](http://www.oscodatownshipmi.gov)

[www.us23heritageroute.org](http://www.us23heritageroute.org)

[www.northeastmichigan.org](http://www.northeastmichigan.org)

[www.upnorthtrails.org](http://www.upnorthtrails.org)

Talent Recruitment Brochure provided by NEMCOG:

