

MICROSOFT CONSIDERS DATACENTER IN CALEDONIA

As Microsoft continues to invest in Racine County and across Wisconsin, the company is seeking to purchase approximately 244 acres west of Douglas Avenue and north of 7 Mile Road for a potential future datacenter development. Planning for a potential datacenter remains in the very early stages.

WHAT IS A DATACENTER?

Datacenters are secure, warehouse-like buildings that house thousands of computer servers and data storage devices connected to the internet. These facilities are vital for modern, daily life. **Every time you send an email, stream a show, or check your bank account, you're relying on a datacenter.**

Likewise, local businesses, government, hospitals, and schools rely on datacenters every day.

Unlike distribution warehouses or heavy industrial facilities, **datacenters do not generate much noise or light** – they're about as loud as a dishwasher or a vacuum cleaner and require minimal exterior lighting primarily in places like sidewalks and parking lots. Trees, foliage, and other natural structures can screen datacenters and further reduce noise and light.

As technology continues to improve, datacenters do not require as much water as in the past. **Outside air is leveraged to cool datacenters except on the hottest days**, when modest water use may be required. Put in perspective, **a modern datacenter may use in a year what an 18-hole golf course consumes in one week.**

BENEFITS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

ADDING TO THE TAX BASE

Because the proposed Caledonia site is outside of a Tax Increment District (TID), **property taxes generated by the project would immediately flow directly to the Village, County and school district** – strengthening local budgets, supporting essential services, and reducing the tax burden on residents. This could help enable the Village of Caledonia to maintain service levels for fire and police, make road improvements and consider investments in parks and recreation.

CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES

On average, datacenter investments have a nearly 1:4 multiplier effect – **for every job directly tied to a datacenter, nearly four additional jobs are created in the local economy** across IT, skilled trades, retail, food service, and professional services.

When the project kicks off, it is anticipated to create **300-400 construction jobs** in a variety of trades. When a datacenter is operating, between 50 and 200 direct, full-time jobs are anticipated in Caledonia.

JOB SPOTLIGHT

DATA CENTER TECHNICIAN

- **Minimum 2-year degree**
- **Training available locally at Gateway Technical College**
- **Six-figure salary** (according to the Wall Street Journal)

Datacenter operations create family-supporting jobs.

Each building requires about 50 full-time staff.