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Long-awaited Hilton Garden Inn opens in West Michigan

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The 144-room hotel features on-site dining at the Garden Grille and Bar, a swimming pool shaped like a map of Michigan with an indoor and outdoor hot tub, and an outdoor patio with stone fire table.(*Photo courtesy of Hilton Garden Inn*)

By Jim Harger

GRAND RAPIDS, MI - A long-awaited Hilton Garden Inn has opened along East Beltline SE north of Woodland Mall and Western Michigan University's suburban campus.

Aimed at business and leisure travelers, the 144-room hotel features on-site dining at the Garden Grille and Bar, a swimming pool shaped like a map of Michigan with an indoor and outdoor hot tub, and an outdoor patio with stone fire table.

Nightly room rates currently average between \$149 and \$209, according to General Manager Nick Haughton.

This is the first Hilton Garden Inns in Grand Rapids and the first time West Michigan hotel developer Suburban Inns has worked with the Hilton brand. The company also owns and operates six hotels in Grand Rapids, Holland and Midland.

Suburban Inns first got city approval to build a hotel on the property in 2006 and shelved those plans after Hilton remodeled its nearby hotel at Patterson Avenue and 28th Street SE. The company revived its plans in 2014.

Earlier this year, Suburban Inns broke ground on a new 246-room Embassy Suites by Hilton hotel at 710 Monroe Avenue NW. That project, located across the street from the city's Sixth Street Park, the hotel is expected to open in the summer of 2019.