Julia Pilarski
Project Manager, Real Estate & GIS

Julia Pilarski is Project Manager for the Detroit Regional Partnership's (DRP), Verified Industrial Properties (VIP) program. The DRP is a leading economic development nonprofit serving the 11-county Detroit Region. It uses the VIP by DRP program to simplify the site selection process providing corporate decision makers with an easily accessible online inventory of vacant industrial properties vetted by third-party civil engineers and maintains the necessary inventory to compete and win new projects.

As a member of the VIP by DRP team, Pilarski supports the Region's site readiness initiatives as the program expands with support from a four-year, $5.5 million Economic Development Administration Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant. She is responsible for project coordination between partners, collaborators, and specialty contractors as well as the daily execution of site readiness work. Skilled in GIS, spatial analytics, mapping, and database management, Pilarski also maintains the VIP property portal ensuring that site content is updated, accurate, and easily accessible for site selectors, external real estate brokers, and other key corporate decision makers.

In 2020 and 2021, Pilarski contributed to the development of award-winning interactive industry cluster story maps and business cases that allowed the organization to engage business attraction prospects virtually throughout the pandemic shutdowns. She joined the DRP as the associate manager of GIS and site intelligence before being promoted to her current position. Prior to that, Pilarski completed a GIS internship with the Road Commission for Oakland County where she sharpened her knowledge of geospatial technologies and cartography. She also studied language and literature for a summer in France and speaks French.

PAST EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION
- Associate Manager, GIS and Site Intelligence, Detroit Regional Partnership
- Intern, Road Commission for Oakland County
- Bachelor of Science, Economic Geography, Michigan State University
- Certified, Geographic Information Systems, Michigan State University
- French Language and Literature Specialization, L'Institut de Touraine

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
- Community, Economic, and Workforce Development Applied Research Award, "Fostering Collaborative Community/Regional Initiatives" Category, Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness, 2023
- Community, Economic and Workforce Research Award, Council for Community and Economic Research, 2021
- Certified Drone Pilot, 2021
- Proficient in French