



5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023-2027



Draft for Review and Public Comment – October 28, 2022
Staff contact: Donna Folland, Supervisor of Planning
follandd@oakgov.com or 248.736.9087

Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission

Gary R. McGillivray, Chairman

J. David VanderVeen, Vice Chairman

Ebony Bagley, Secretary

Christine Long, Executive Committee Member

Yolanda Charles, Commissioner

Amanda Herzog, Commissioner

Andrea LaFontaine, Commissioner

Jim Nash, Commissioner

Nancy L. Quarles, Commissioner

E. Lance Stokes, Commissioner

Coordinated Management Team

Chris Ward, Director – Parks and Recreation

Melissa Prowse – Manager – Planning & Development

Jim Dunleavy – Manager – Parks and Recreation Operations

Brandy Boyd – Chief – Recreation Programs

Sarah Cook-Maylen – Chief – Sustainability, Resource Management and Planning

Zachary Crane – Supervisor of Parks Engineering & Development

Donna Folland – Supervisor of Planning & Resource Development

Thomas Hughes – Chief of Operations, South District

Stephanie Mackey – Supervisor of Organizational and Employee Development

Desiree Stanfield – Chief of Marketing and Communications

Aaron Stepp – Chief of Business Operations

Staff

Thank you to the many staff members across the park system who contributed to the development of this plan.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation
2800 Watkins Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328
OaklandCountyParks.com

Draft for Review and Public Comment – October 28, 2022

Staff contact: Donna Folland, Supervisor of Planning

follandd@oakgov.com or 248.736.9087

Contents

Executive Summary	1
Background	5
Community Description: Oakland County, Michigan	5
Priority Equity Communities and Households	7
Administrative Structure	9
Planning Process	11
Public Input Process	11
Natural Resources Inventory	15
Natural Resources in Oakland County	15
Natural Resources Outreach	16
Natural Resource Zones	16
Recreation Inventory	18
Park Inventory	18
Program Inventory	20
Service Portfolio	21
Strategic Action Plan	27
Vision	27
Mission	27
Core Values	27
Strategic Goals and Objectives	29
Park Action Plans	33
Addison Oaks County Park	33
Catalpa Oaks County Park	44
Glen Oaks County Park	51
Groveland Oaks County Park	59
Highland Oaks County Park	68
Holly Oaks ORV Park	75
Independence Oaks County Park	84
Lyon Oaks County Park	95
Orion Oaks County Park	105
Red Oaks County Park	113

Rose Oaks County Park	128
Rose Oaks County Park – Water Road	135
Springfield Oaks County Park	139
Waterford Oaks County Park	148
Waterford Oaks County Park / Oakland County Market	157
White Lake Oaks County Park	163
Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan	170
Improvements to Existing Oakland County Parks	172
Park Improvement Capital Grants: Hazel Park.....	173
Park Improvement Capital Grants: Royal Oak Township	174
Local Park Partnership: Beech Woods / Southfield	175
Local Park Partnership: Hawthorne Park / Pontiac.....	178
Local Park Partnership: David H. Shepherd Park / Oak Park.....	181
Property Acquisition.....	184
Troy Properties.....	184
References.....	188
Supporting Documentation.....	189

Appendix A. Data Tables – under development

Appendix B. [Community Needs Assessment](#)

Appendix C. [Parks Commission Visioning](#)

Appendix D. [Healthy Communities Research Report](#)



Executive Summary

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation (OCPR) *5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023-2027* ("*Recreation Plan*") will guide staff and the Parks Commission over the next five years to provide high-quality recreational opportunities to the residents of Oakland County.

The *Recreation Plan* updates and replaces the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2018-2022*, which expires on December 31, 2022. Preparation of this plan follows the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans* (MDNR 4/26/2021) provided by Grants Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Approval of this *Recreation Plan* by the MDNR qualifies Oakland County Parks and Recreation to apply for grants administered by the State of Michigan.

This draft of the *Recreation Plan*, dated October 28, 2022, is prepared for the Parks Commission for Concept Approval and authorization to open the 30-day public comment period. The planning team is grateful to the Parks Commission, OCPR staff, and our Oakland County and local community partners for your contributions into this draft *Recreation Plan*. We are looking forward to your continued engagement and to input from Oakland County residents as we prepared for the next five years of Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

The *Recreation Plan* updates OCPR's strategic plan Vision and Mission, as well as adding four Core Values that will help us build an equitable, sustainable, and resilient future for Oakland County Parks. The opportunity is now to build this future for our organization and its parklands, and for our communities.

Vision

Everyone in Oakland County has access to a park, public space or recreational opportunity to relax, be active, socialize and connect with nature.

Mission

We create and operate accessible, welcoming, and sustainable parks and public spaces, provide recreational and educational programs and opportunities, preserve open space and steward the environment to help all people be healthier and build resilient, connected communities in Oakland County.

Core Values

- ❖ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Evaluate all actions and decisions through the lens of equity and justice and provide parks and recreation services that feel safe and welcoming to everyone.
- ❖ Health and Wellness - Increase access to the spaces and experiences that promote physical, mental and social health for all.
- ❖ Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resources Stewardship - Plan, build, and operate our parks and services in a sustainable manner while collaborating with local communities. Care for the natural environment, preserve land and open space for future generations, meet current recreation needs without compromising the future and build community resilience to climate change.
- ❖ Fiscal Responsibility and Organizational Excellence - Implement our mission with a robust, innovative and diverse parks and recreation organization and ground our decisions in sound fiscal policy.



Recreation Plan 2023-2027 Highlights

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION INVESTMENT PLAN: In October 2022, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved a proposal from the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission for \$15M in Oakland County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in park and outdoor recreational spaces in areas that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID. Identified projects include improvements to Oakland County Parks – see [Catalpa Oaks](#), [Lyon Oaks](#), [Red Oaks](#), and [Waterford Oaks](#); long-term local partnerships that enhance parks and expand the O CPR park system – see [Beech Woods Park](#) in Southfield, [Hawthorne Park](#) in Pontiac, and [Shepherd Park](#) in Oak Park; and park improvement capital grants and partnerships with local communities – see [Hazel Park](#) and [Royal Oak Township](#).

OAKLAND COUNTY FARMER’S MARKET MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: O CPR has submitted a congressional appropriation request to fund major improvements to the market that will increase accessibility at the market for 200,000+ annual visitors, create new program space for educational activities (ours and many partners), develop a commercial kitchen for popular cooking demonstrations and possible incubator use, build accessible/family restrooms, and improve the overall site with storm water management and demonstration gardens. We’ll increase and promote access to healthy, nutritious food, while better supporting our 100+Michigan farmers. See [Oakland County Farmer’s Market](#).

NATURE PRESERVES: Natural resources preservation and management has long been a priority for the Parks Commission. With the *Recreation Plan*, we will designate our most precious natural parks as Nature Preserves and develop standards and protocols for management and access. This includes the planned acquisition of the 70-acre Turtle Woods property in Troy. See [Highland Oaks](#), [Rose Oaks](#), [Rose Oaks/Water Road](#), and [Troy Properties](#).

Photos Left: Lyon Oaks (top), Independence Oaks (middle), Oakland County Farmers Market (bottom)

Recreation Plan 2023-2027 Highlights

CLUBHOUSES AND CONFERENCE CENTERS: Oakland County Parks has several buildings that are costly to maintain and have limited or no usage by the public. We will review these facilities in detail and examine alternatives to determine how to eliminate subsidy of private events and increase the public's access, use, and awareness of these assets. Assets to be reviewed include the historic Buhl Estate Conference Center at [Addison Oaks](#); the historic Clubhouse at [Glen Oaks](#), the Clubhouse at [Lyon Oaks](#); Davis House, Activity Center, and Golf Clubhouse at [Springfield Oaks](#); the Activity Center at [Waterford Oaks](#); and the Clubhouse at [White Lake Oaks](#).

WATERPARKS: Red Oaks and Waterford Oaks waterpark are well-loved destinations that need significant investment, or a more modest investment coupled with an adjustment in focus and operation. We will review detailed facility condition assessments for both water parks and examine alternatives to determine how to meet public need and be fiscally sustainable. See also [Red Oaks](#) and [Waterford Oaks](#) waterparks.

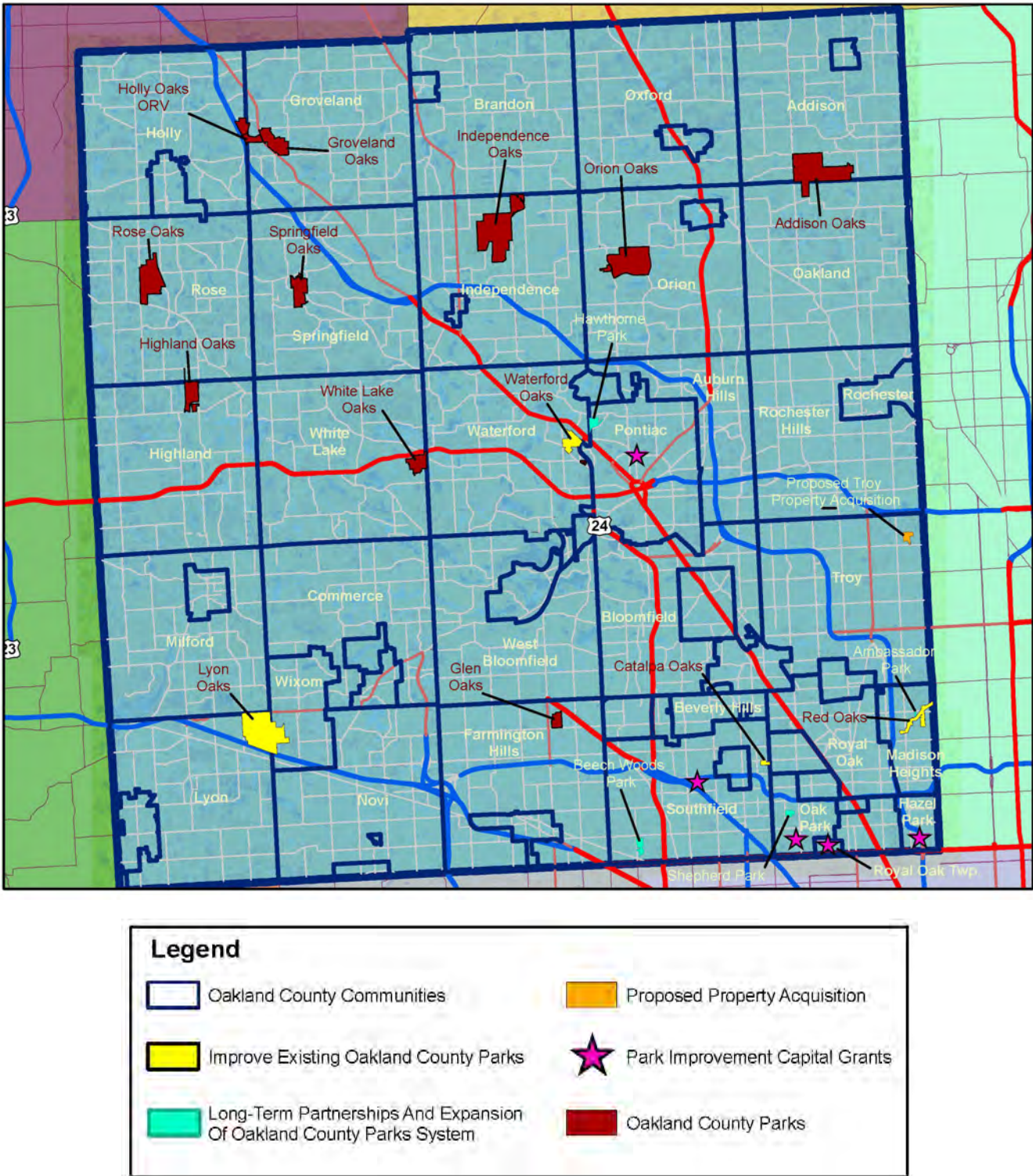
WATER ACCESS: Oakland County residents love their rivers and lakes. We want to continue to improve and expand access by improving beaches, shorelines, docks and fishing piers, as well as offering kayak and canoe rentals and programs that get people out on the water. We will also work with our local partners to identify new opportunities for kayak and canoe access. See water access at [Addison Oaks](#), [Groveland Oaks](#), [Independence Oaks](#), [Orion Oaks](#), [White Lake Oaks](#), [Beech Woods](#) in Southfield, and [Hawthorne Park](#) in Pontiac.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: In 2022 OCPR created a Chief of Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resources within the park system, as well as a Sustainability Committee made up of staff and Commissioners to help meet today's needs without compromising our future. Each of the Park Action Plans have a section on sustainability, and all projects have a sustainability review before recommendations for scopes or contracts are made. We've also added environmental sustainability and natural resources stewardship to our core values in this plan.

Photos Right: Red Oaks (top), Orion Oaks (middle), Catalpa Oaks (bottom)



Figure A: OCPR parks and projects





Background

Community Description: Oakland County, Michigan

Oakland County resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi.

Oakland County is in southeast Michigan, adjacent to Detroit, and covers 910 square miles. It is home to the headwaters of five major rivers, the Clinton, Flint, Huron, Rouge, and Shiawassee Rivers, all of which are important to the long-term health of the Great Lakes Ecosystem. Many diverse ecosystems are in the county due to the area's complex topography and geological history and are an important element in the character of the county.

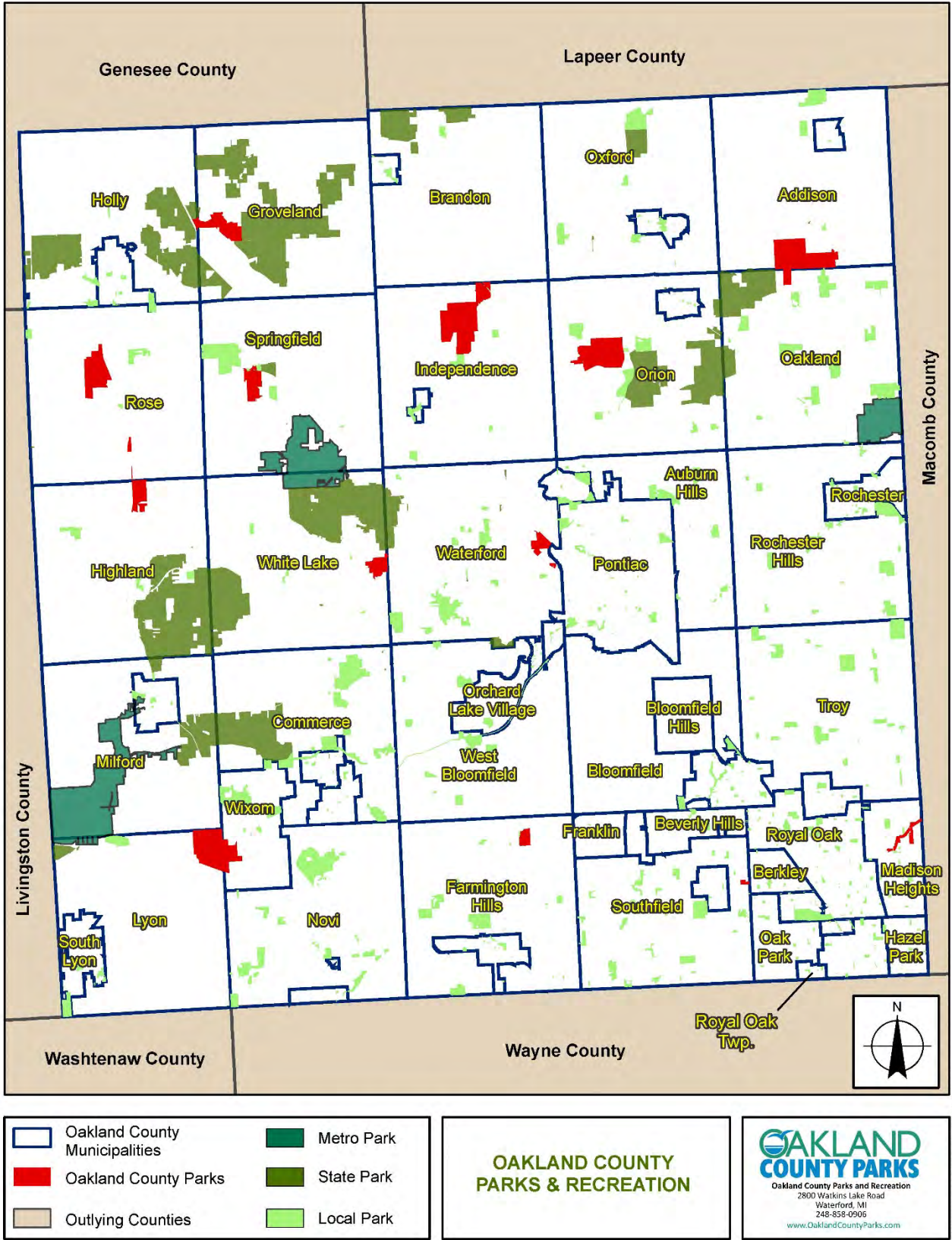
Within Oakland County, there are 30 cities, 21 townships, and 11 incorporated villages, in urban, suburban, and rural landscapes. For community demographic and economic information see Appendix A.

Community Name	Community Type	Community Name	Community Type	Community Name	Community Type
Oakland County	County.	Highland Township	Township	Ortonville	Village
Addison Township	Township	Holly	Village	Oxford	Village
Auburn Hills	City	Holly Township	Township	Oxford Township	Twp
Berkley	City	Huntington Woods	City	Pleasant Ridge	City
Beverly Hills	Village	Independence Twp	Township	Pontiac	City
Bingham Farms	Village	Keego Harbor	City	Rochester	City
Birmingham	City	Lake Angelus	City	Rochester Hills	City
Bloomfield Hills	City	Lake Orion	Village	Rose Township	Township
Bloomfield Township	Township	Lathrup Village	City	Royal Oak	City
Brandon Township	Township	Leonard	Village	Royal Oak Township	Twp
Village of Clarkston	City	Lyon Township	Township	South Lyon	City
Clawson	City	Madison Heights	City	Southfield	City
Commerce Township	Township	Milford	Village	Springfield Township	Township
Farmington	City	Milford Township	Township	Sylvan Lake	City
Farmington Hills	City	Northville (Oakland) ¹	City	Waterford Township	Township
Fenton ²	City	Novi	City	West Bloomfield Twp	Township
Ferndale	City	Oak Park	City	White Lake Township	Township
Franklin	Village	Oakland Township	Township	Wixom	City
Groveland Township	Township	Orchard Lake Village	Township	Wolverine Lake	Village
Hazel Park	City	Orion Township	Township		

¹ Northville is in Wayne and Oakland counties, data for the Oakland County portion is provided here

² Fenton is in Genesee County with a very small portion extending into Oakland County

Figure B: Oakland County map



Priority Equity Communities and Households

Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are defined by the CDC as the “conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes”.³ Two of the five areas of SDOH outlined by the CDC are especially relevant to parks and recreation agencies: social and community context, and neighborhood and built environment. SDOH disparity contributes to wide health inequities and lowers life expectancy relative to people who have access to conditions that support positive health outcomes.

According to the CDC, race and ethnicity are risk markers for underlying conditions that affect health. Underlying conditions include socioeconomic status, access to health care, and exposure to the COVID-19 virus related to occupation. Native American, Black, and Hispanic populations are at the greatest risk compared to White, Non-Hispanic persons, with Asian populations at a somewhat lower risk.⁴

The CDC’s Healthy People 2030 sets data-driven national objectives to improve health and well-being over the next decade. The objective for physical activity is relevant: Improve health, fitness, and quality of life through regular physical activity. Only one in four adults and one in five adolescents in the United States meet physical activity guidelines for aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities. Most people don’t get the recommended amount of physical activity and it can be especially hard for older adults and people with chronic diseases or disabilities.

Strategies that make it safer and easier to get active — like providing access to parks and programs — can help people get more physical activity.⁵ Parks also provide access to nature, which has been shown to lower stress levels and improve mental health.

Disproportionately Impacted Communities and Households

The U.S. Department of Treasury’s *Final Rule* acknowledges that pre-existing disparities magnified the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on certain households and communities and provides methodology for identifying those households and communities. The *Final Rule* further indicates that parks and other services that reach a general geographic area can measure the median income of the area being served (Area Median Income or AMI), instead of identifying individual households. (US Dept of Treasury 4/1/2022)

The *Final Rule* also identifies Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) as an indicator of areas disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.⁶ These census tracts are identified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as having lower income and a higher rate of poverty. QCTs were identified within the Low AMI and Moderate AMI communities.

OCPH used the Area Median Income method to identify areas with Low AMI and Moderate AMI were identified. Our analysis used the most recent American Community Survey data (2021) accessed through ESRI Business

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/about.html>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html>

⁵ <https://health.gov/healthypeople>

⁶ <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/qct.html>

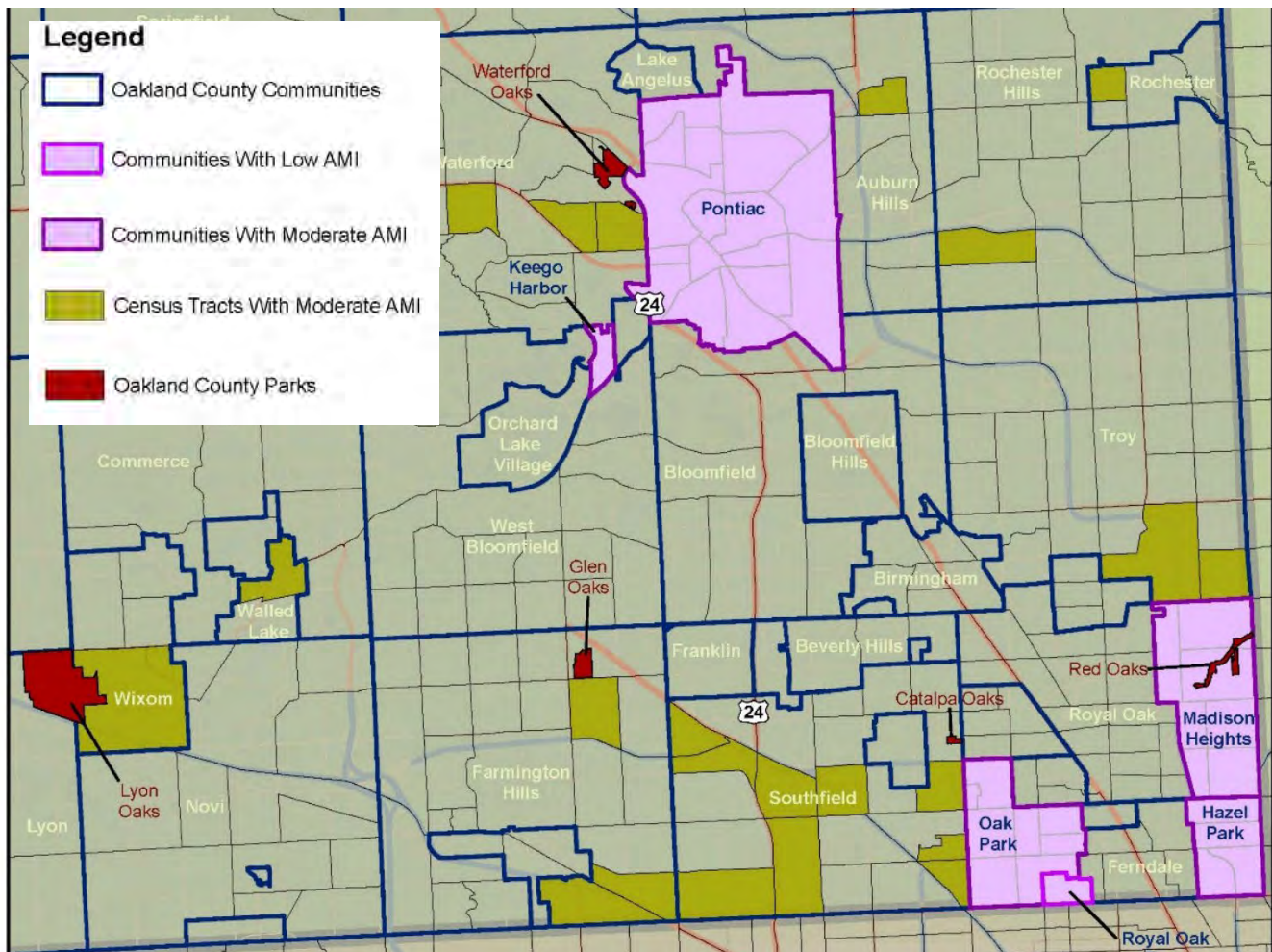
Analysist. Oakland County's 2021 AMI (\$81,981) was used for this comparison with Low AMI areas being below 40% county AMI (\$32,792) and Moderate AMI areas being below 65 percent of county AMI (\$53,288).

Table 1: Priority equity communities identified by economic status: Low- to moderate Area Median Income (AMI) and communities with Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)

	Communities with Low AMI <\$32,792	Communities with Moderate AMI <\$53,288	Number of QCTs
Oakland County	\$81,981	\$81,981	16
Hazel Park		\$38,751	2
Keego Harbor		\$45,480	
Madison Heights		\$52,586	
Oak Park		\$52,544	1
Pontiac		\$34,502	12
Royal Oak Twp	\$29,620		1

In addition to entire communities with low or moderate Area Median Income (AMI), the following communities contain census tracts with Moderate AMI (<\$53,288): Auburn Hills (1), Farmington Hills (2), Rochester (1), Rochester Hills (1), Southfield (9), Troy (2), Walled Lake (1), Waterford (3), and Wixom (1)

Figure C: Low AMI and Moderate AMI communities and Moderate AMI census tracts identified in Oakland County



For additional demographic and economic information see Appendix A.

Administrative Structure

Role and Authority of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks Commission was established in 1966 under Public Act 261 of 1965. The 10-member Parks Commission board is made up of six elected officials and four members of the public:

- Oakland County Executive or designee
- Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner or designee
- One member of the Road Commission for Oakland County
- Three members of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners
- Four members of the public appointed by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners

The Parks Commission is responsible for planning, developing, and operating parks and recreation facilities, making rules and regulations of the parks system, establishing a fee structure and approving budget expenditures.

The Parks Commission is also responsible for recommending the acquisition of new parkland, the acceptance of grant funding, and the entrance into use agreements, all of which require the approval of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Staff Description and Organizational Chart

Oakland County Parks is led by the Director of Parks and Recreation, who reports directly to the Parks Commission. Two managers oversee various aspects of the organization and report directly to the Director. An additional position reporting to the Director, Coordinator of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) and Community Engagement, has been created and will be filled this year.

Current Funding Sources

Oakland County Parks and Recreation (OCPR) is funded by a quarter-mill tax on property located in Oakland County, as well as through fees, grants, donations, and other income sources. OCPR's parks and recreation services are provided within the geographic boundaries of Oakland County and are open to county residents and all visitors to the county.

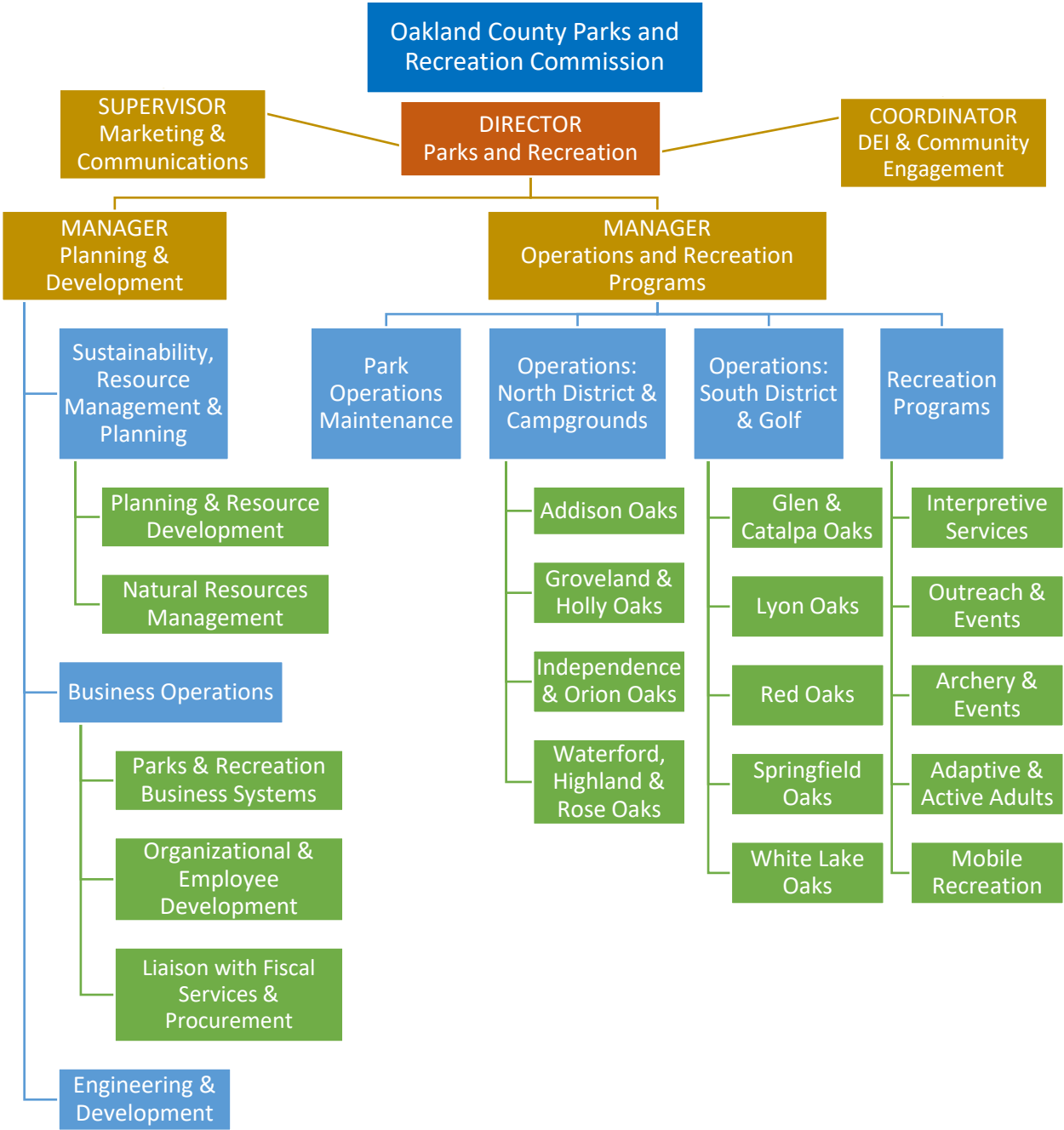
Role of Volunteers

To be developed

Partnerships

To be developed

Figure D (next page): OCPR organizational chart



Planning Process

Planning Methods

Oakland County Parks and Recreation employs multiple planning approaches in developing the Recreation Plan and in ongoing planning efforts.

Systems planning

As a county parks agency, we consider the community's needs for parks, open space, and recreational activities on both the county-wide and local community level. Many of OCPR's parks function as both regional and community parks. Our planning efforts are based on recreation trends and usage data on many levels and collaborative relationships with regional and community partners. Our goal is to provide services that have a regional draw and complement, not compete with, the services provided locally.

Equity-based planning

With this Recreation Plan and our renewed vision and core values, we are confirming our aspiration for every person in the county to have access to the health and social benefits of outdoor recreation. Using guidelines developed by the US Department of Treasury, we identified communities and census tracts with low or moderate Area Median Income (AMI) to assess locally available outdoor recreation opportunities and provide needed services that will have a positive impact on residents' health (US Dept of Treasury 4/1/2022). Partnership with county health and housing agencies will give us additional help to provide access and services to under-resourced households. A focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion means that we will evaluate all parks and facilities to ensure they are welcoming to everyone and are barrier-free. Sustainability initiatives will contribute to the resilience of our communities to climate change.

Conservation planning

Oakland County Parks works with local and regional partners to preserve and restore natural systems and open spaces across Oakland County. With this Recreation Plan, we establish a Nature Preserve designation for certain parklands and our land acquisition priorities focus on open land that will contribute to green infrastructure and trail connectivity. See [Natural Resources Inventory](#) for more information.

Public Input Process

The Recreation Plan is built on input from the public, local communities, regional agencies, and non-profits. One key component of the Recreation Plan update is the Oakland County Recreational Needs Assessment that is conducted every five years. This randomized survey asks Oakland County residents the types of parks, facilities, and programs they use and need and their satisfaction with the current selection in the county. The results will guide the Parks Commission on investment in existing and new recreational opportunities in the OCPR park system, as well as priorities as we partner with local communities who are delivering park and recreation services to their residents. Results from the Recreational Needs Assessment will also be available for community and public review in October 2022.

Public and community engagement is ongoing and will continue after the Recreation Plan is approved at the end of 2022 and as we update master plans for individual parks and facilities. The first focus for park master plans are the parks that serve areas with low to moderate median household income: Catalpa Oaks, Lyon Oaks, Red Oaks and Waterford Oaks. These parks are the recipients of funding through the American Rescue Plan Act in partnership with the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Surveys and other engagement within the service

areas of these individual parks will ensure we make investments people want and that provide opportunities to be healthier.

Community Needs Assessment

ETC Institute administered a needs assessment survey for Oakland County during the summer of 2022. ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Oakland County. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it on-line.

The goal was to obtain completed surveys from at least 1,000 residents. The goal was exceeded with a total of 1,048 residents completing the survey. The overall results for the sample of 1,048 households have a precision of at least +/-3.4% at the 95% level of confidence.

The findings report from ETC Institute contains the following:

1. Executive summary
2. Charts showing the overall results of the survey
3. Priority Investment Rating (PIR) that identifies priorities for facilities and programs
4. Benchmarking analysis comparing the County's results to national results
5. Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey
6. Open-ended responses
7. A copy of the survey instrument

Similar to the last survey done in 2017, the highest-ranking items that people feel are most important include trails, beaches and farmers markets. This year we added "Natural areas and open space" which was chosen as the 4th most important recreation facility. Dog Parks, playgrounds, campgrounds and nature centers all still fall within the top 10 most important facilities identified in the survey. Waterparks dropped down slightly, and golf rose up slightly, neither enough to be considered a significant change. Indoor aquatic centers are always a high-ranking recreation facility in this survey, even though it is not something provided by Oakland County Parks and Recreation, it demonstrates a community desire for more indoor aquatic recreation. An updated Priority Investment Ranking from the survey is incorporated into Table 4 on page 23, which sorts all OCPR services by Facility or and Service Category.

The Community Needs Assessment final report is provided as Attachment B. (ETC Institute 2022)

Parks Commission Visioning

On April 6, 2022, the Oakland County Parks Commission held a Visioning Workshop at the end of the regular Commission meeting. This workshop was the first step in a longer strategic planning process that is part of the Commission's update to the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Prior to the workshop, Commission members responded to a survey containing several statements that they were asked to rank the importance of each statement and select the top 5 for implementation. The results of the survey served as the structure for the Visioning Workshop discussion.

We are grateful to our three guest experts who presented information in the first half of the Workshop and participated in the discussion with the Commission:

- Robin Carter-Cooper, Oakland County Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
- Tyler Klifman, SEMCOG Planner, Economic and Community Vitality
- Erin Quetell, Oakland County Environmental Sustainability Officer

The panel provided information and perspective on equity, health, and environmental sustainability in Oakland County. The Parks Commission discussion focused on the role of Oakland County Parks and Recreation in having a positive impact on the well-being of our residents and the resilience of our communities.

The Parks Commission Visioning report is provided as Appendix C. (OCPR/PRD 2022)

Staff Strategic Action Plan Development

Over a two-week period, planning staff facilitated a series of Park Action Plan meetings with park supervisors, park staff members, members of the Coordinated Management Team, and other interested staff members. The purpose of the meetings was to benefit from the knowledge and experience of the staff who operate and manage our parks and gather their input for the Recreation Plan and asset management plans. Each 90-minute meeting focused on one park in the system. The agenda for the discussion consisted of:

1. Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis
2. Strategic Projects and Actions – a discussion of the big issues facing the park and the big projects that may be in the future.
3. Park System Priorities – a discussion of OCPR’s Vision and Core Values and the system-wide priorities and how they relate to each park. These are:
 - a. Accessibility and universal access
 - b. Building management
 - c. Sustainability improvements
 - d. Customer service improvements
 - e. Data collection and reporting
4. Asset Management Projects and Actions – in-depth discussion of the specific facility and asset needs, issues, or projects. This discussion will be integrated with development of our capital improvement program, maintenance management plan, and operations project planning.

Oakland County Healthy Communities Park Improvements Public Engagement

OCPR engaged OHM to conduct public engagement related to the identified Priority Equity Communities and the proposed park improvements at Catalpa Oaks, Red Oaks, and Waterford Oaks.

To better understand community parks and recreation needs the eight municipalities’ existing parks and recreation master plans were reviewed and summarized. In total, seven parks and recreation master plans were compared to the scope of work identified by OCPRC for their associated park system.

Local stakeholders identified by Oakland County Parks were invited to attend a series of two focus group meetings to guide the park improvement plans. Across the three parks, nearly 30 stakeholders were invited to participate in the discussions. Community members were invited from Oak Park, Southfield, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, Keego Harbor, Pontiac, and Waterford Township.

At the first focus group meetings, existing conditions maps for each of the parks were prepared and distributed to meeting attendees, in addition to a second map showing the proposed park improvements and potential uses. The discussions and outcomes of each meeting are described further on page 18. Taken together, the first focus group meeting engaged 26 stakeholders.

A public survey, from July 25 to August 5, 2022, collected community feedback on the proposed amenities for each park. Each survey received responses from non-Oakland County residents, but their responses were not

weighted in a different manner than Oakland County residents. Across all three parks, 2,438 survey responses were received and reviewed by the planning team.

The second focus group meetings followed this structure: review the key takeaways from focus group meeting #1, present and discuss the survey data (pages 19-21), display the draft conceptual plans, and mark them up with changes proposed by the group. Taken together, the second focus group meetings engaged 17 stakeholders. The final conceptual plans incorporated the feedback from these groups.

The OHM Healthy Communities engagement report is provided as Appendix D. (OHM Advisors 2022)

Engagement with Oakland County Departments and Non-Profit Agencies

To be developed

30-Day Public Review Period

To be developed

Public Hearing and Resolution of Adoption

To be developed

Natural Resources Inventory

Natural Resources in Oakland County

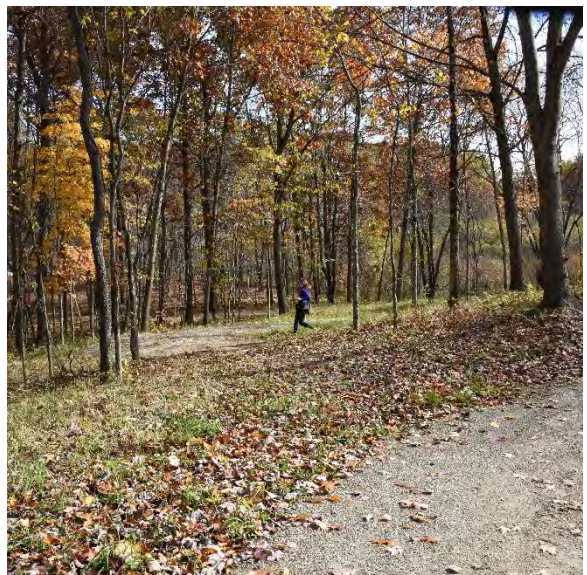
Oakland County Parks and Recreation's parkland intersects five watersheds, contains 1,200 acres of open water and adjacent wetlands, and houses more than 21 unique natural communities. The goal of the Natural Resources (NR) department is to manage Oakland County Parks' natural lands and waters for biodiversity, ecosystem services, and positive visitor experiences.

Natural communities, as classified by Michigan Natural Features Inventory, are assemblages of plants, animals and other organisms that are repeatedly found in similar climatic, topographic and soil conditions and maintained by natural disturbances like fire, flooding or windthrow. NR uses the historic distribution and structure of natural communities as a "gold standard" of ecological integrity against which we compare present-day assemblages observed in the field. We prioritize protecting areas of parkland with the highest ecological quality, by mitigating against new threats and tackling emerging ones through early detection and rapid response. Where appropriate, NR works to contain established threats and restore disturbed areas towards a version of their historic trajectory. We also aim to support recovery of threatened and rare species by improving their habitat.

Management of aquatic and terrestrial natural communities is necessary to mitigate against ecological threats like habitat fragmentation, altered disturbance (fire, grazing) regimes, pollution, climate change and invasive species. NR staff emphasize removing invasive plants, animals and pathogens because they outcompete native species, disrupt food chains, and alter nutrient and hydrological conditions which threaten natural communities. NR works to reintroduce or mimic landscape processes like fire, grazing, and species dispersal through prescribed burns, mowing, native seeding and tree planting. Maintaining biodiversity within the parks builds resiliency against climate change and other future threats.

Natural resources deliver important ecosystem services, which are processes that benefit humans without additional investment of infrastructure or labor. Native plants release oxygen, sequester carbon, support pollinators, and filter the air. Trees additionally provide shade, and cool urban areas through evapotranspiration. Natural streambanks, lake shorelines and wetlands filter stormwater runoff, reduce flooding, and prevent erosion. NR staff work to enhance ecosystem services throughout the parks by restoring ecosystems, promoting green infrastructure practices (like rain gardens, bioswales and tree plantings) in developed areas, and preventing stormwater pollution.

OCPR wants its visitors to safely enjoy the beauty of unique natural communities. Cutting down hazardous trees creates safer trails and campgrounds, while removing aquatic invasive



plants encourages optimal fishing conditions. OCPR also hosts outreach programs on topics like preventing rattlesnake interactions or coyote hazing so that the public can better understand wildlife in the Oakland County Parks.

Natural Resources Outreach

Oakland County Parks is committed to showcasing best practices in the work that occurs across park lands and to share information and resources within Oakland County to increase our collective impact as a community. As a result, OCPR provides a number of natural resources-based outreach opportunities throughout the year to improve habitat and biodiversity of our terrestrial and aquatic habitats including a native plant giveaway, boat cleaning stations at high use boat launches throughout the county and coordination of the Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (OC CISMA). The OC CISMA was created in 2014 as a collaboration between city, village and township (CVT) representatives, local non-profits and universities to address the growing threat of invasive species in Oakland County. Invasive species spread across jurisdictional boundaries and are most effectively managed with a collaborative approach, so CISMAs, such as the one in Oakland County, were formed across the state of Michigan with assistance from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The OC CISMA has grown to 45 partners that meet monthly to discuss invasive species related issues, collaboratively work on outreach and education strategies and plan community treatments. OCPR has funded community treatments across the county including surveys for early detection species, roadside treatments of priority species like phragmites and knotweeds spp. and priority treatments and restoration projects within communities across the county.



Natural Resource Zones

Natural Resources developed a land use scoring system based on the quality of natural systems, communities and ecosystem services recorded in an area. This system combines GIS layers to determine an area's relative ranking across the park system. The zone system showcases our most sensitive areas when pursuing development of trails and other infrastructure so we can continue to provide quality experiences for our park patrons.

See individual Park Action Plans for zone maps of each park.

Conservation Zone

The most essential areas of the park system for natural resource protection due to rare, threatened, or endangered species; rare or high-quality natural communities; and/or significant regional ecological connections. Often corresponds to MNFI Priority 1 areas.

- **Facility Recommendations:** No facility investments are recommended in these areas. The degradation caused by construction or use would significantly and permanently impact the resource and potentially violate state or federal law. Additionally, these areas provide significant ecological support to the rest of the park and enhance user experiences in other areas.

- Trail Recommendations: No trail types would be suitable within these areas.
- Recreation Recommendations: Staff guided recreation is recommended in these areas. Staff guided recreation would require an O CPR staff member to be on-site to provide guidance to users. However, these areas could be used unaccompanied for hunting, fishing, and trapping, in moderation, and as guided by Natural Resources staff.

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Treasured areas of the parks that connect critical habitats, provide seasonal or temporary protection to wildlife, have unique plant and wildlife specimens or populations, have moderately intact natural communities, and active restoration areas.

- Facility Recommendations: Facility investments are recommended to be minimal; natural resources should be prioritized over park development in this zone. New vectors for spreading invasive species or disease will be created through development and use, in addition to degradation of desirable habitats and unique plant and wildlife populations. Very significant natural resources investments would be necessary to manage facility investments in these areas.
- Trail Recommendations: Rustic, hiking or water trails may be suitable within these areas, but location and design should be in consultation with Natural Resources staff. Equestrian and mountain bike trails may occasionally occur within these areas but should be carefully routed to avoid sensitive ecological features.
- Recreation Recommendations: Passive recreation is recommended in these areas. Passive recreation includes hiking on rustic trails, hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing.

Developed Recreation Zone

Areas of the parks ideal for active recreation that foster positive natural experiences for users and represent a low threat to natural resources.

- Facility Recommendations: Facility investments in these areas could be balanced by additional natural resource management without significant degradation to resources.
- Trail Recommendations: ADA accessible trails, access routes, shared use paths, hiking trails, single track mountain bike trails and equestrian trails are all ideal in this zone.
- Recreation Recommendations: Active recreation is recommended in these areas. Active recreation includes hiking on multi-use trails, biking, horseback riding, swimming, etc.

Park User Services

Existing buildings, recreational facilities, campgrounds, pavilions, rental houses, golf courses, park roads, ornamental landscapes, playgrounds, and playing fields and/or courts. These areas are primarily used for operations, administration, and maintenance facilities. Land may benefit from natural resources best practices to enhance user experiences and protect undeveloped lands (ex: preventing spread of invasive species or disease).

- Facility Recommendations: Facilities are ideal in this zone.
- Trail Recommendations: All trail types are suitable for this zone.
- Recreation Recommendations: The highest level of recreational use is ideal in this zone.



Recreation Inventory

Oakland County is blessed with an abundance of high-quality natural resources, green spaces, public parks and recreational facilities - including more than 70,000 acres of federal, state, county and local parkland, 358 inland lakes, the headwaters of 6 major rivers, and more than 100 miles of regional trailways.

Parks and recreational spaces are core infrastructure that support the quality of life, economic prosperity, environment, and physical and mental health of our residents. Unfortunately, gaps exist in access to these benefits and the gaps disproportionately impact marginalized or underserved groups, including communities of color, people with physical or cognitive disabilities, low-income people, immigrants, and people in LGBTQ+ communities. These disparities are often greatest in urban and densely populated areas where local governments struggle to meet the recreational needs of the community due to chronic underfunding and aging infrastructure. In Oakland County, the location and distribution of parks in proximity to where people live, access to affordable and accessible transportation, perceptions of safety, the condition of park facilities and standards of maintenance are often major factors that create barriers for our residents seeking to access and enjoy recreation opportunities.

COVID-19 and resulting mitigation measures have highlighted the essential role that parks, trails, and natural spaces play in supporting the mental and physical well-being of our residents. As attendance levels skyrocketed, our parks and green spaces became a place of recovery, restoration, comfort, social connectivity, and physical activity.

Park Inventory

Inventory Method – Oakland County Parks

Oakland County Parks maintains a database of properties, assets, existing conditions, and projects. An annual data book reports data trends in park attendance, natural resources management, and other information.

Table 2: Oakland County Parks and Recreation statistics and three-year trends

Statistic	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
Geography			
Number of parks	13 parks	14 parks	14 parks
Total park system acreage	6,748 acres	6,849 acres	6,851 acres
Park System Usage			
Estimated total park visits	1,933,202	1,331,413	1,672,113
Percent increase in total park visits from previous year	-2%	-31%	26%
Park Assets			
Total square feet of buildings	474,840	476,140	476,140
Estimated replacement value of buildings	\$76,057,445	\$76,167,192	\$76,167,192
Estimated replacement value of park improvements	\$40,176,281	\$43,170,998	\$43,170,998
Total estimated replacement value of assets	\$116,233,726	\$119,814,330	\$119,814,330
Number of volunteers available	1,500	1,700	1,700

Source: (OCPR/PRD 2022)

Table 3: Facility inventory – Oakland County Parks and Recreation Parks

Park Name	Addison Oaks	Catalpa Oaks	Glen Oaks	Groveland	Highland Oaks	Holly Oaks	Independence	Lyon Oaks	Orion Oaks	Red Oaks	Rose Oaks	Springfield Oaks	Waterford Oaks	White Lake Oaks
Acres	1,144	24	122	361	301	170	1,288	1,040	916	141	670	333	197	238
Entry Fee	<			<	<		<	<	<	<	<			
FACILITY TYPE														
Banquets and concessions	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Beach areas				✓			✓							
Biking and skating	✓			✓			✓			✓			✓	
Boating and fishing	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓		✓			
Camping	✓			✓			✓					✓		
Court games	✓			✓			✓	✓					✓	
Disc golf	✓													
Dog park								✓	✓	✓				
Fairs and expositions												✓		
Farm and garden													✓	
Field sports	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓				
Fitness										✓			✓	
Golf			✓					✓		✓		✓		✓
Historic and cultural features	✓		✓									✓		
Hunting and archery	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
Miniature golf				✓										
Natural areas	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nature centers							✓			✓				
Off-road vehicle						✓								
Open space areas	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Pavilions, stages and amphitheaters	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Play lots and structures	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	
Trails	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Waterparks and spray parks										✓			✓	
ACTIVITY TYPE														
Equestrian	✓				✓						✓	✓		
Winter	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

Figure E: Location map of Oakland County Parks and Recreation parks

Accessibility Assessment for OCPR Parks

Under development. See individual park sections.

Grant-Assisted Parks and Facilities Status Report

See individual park sections for grant inventories.

Inventory of Regional and Community Parks in Oakland County

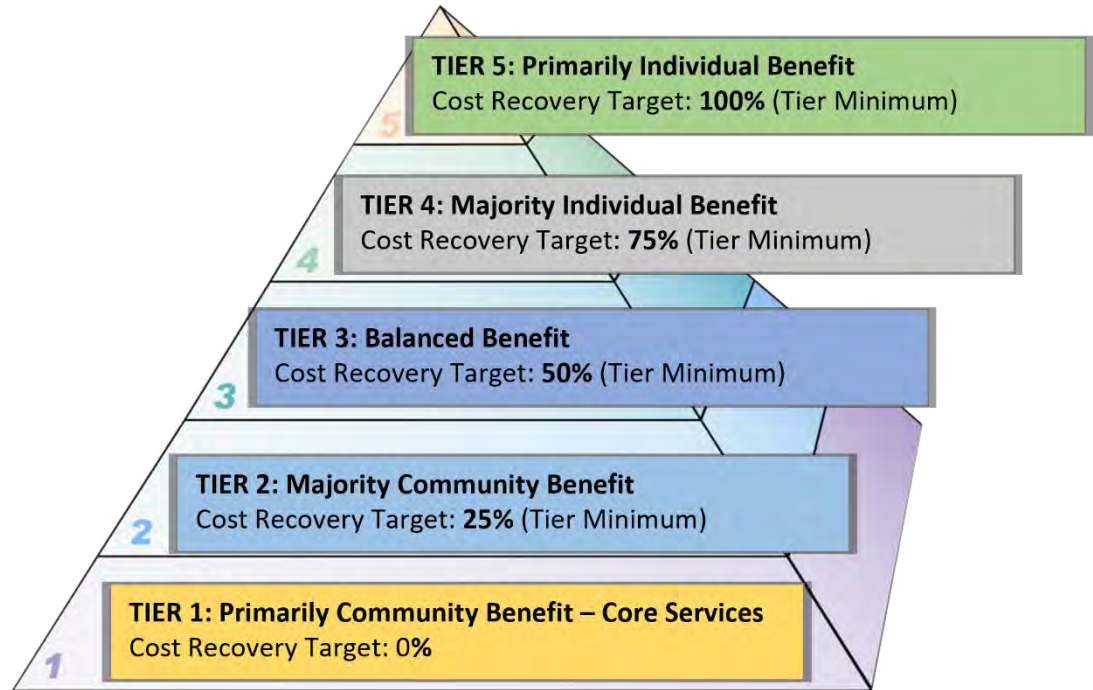
Under development. See Appendix D.

Program Inventory

Under development.

Service Portfolio

The Service Portfolio is an inventory of our recreational services with market and cost recovery analyses. The overarching goal is a clear understanding of the services we provide, who benefits from those services, and a determination of the appropriate level of cost recovery (and therefore



fees/charges, marketing efforts, partner/sponsor opportunities, etc.). This is intended to help the Commission and staff to design an optimal mix of recreation services that serve Oakland County residents and help sustain the park system financially into the future.

The Service Portfolio pyramid above was originally developed in 2012. It shows the five tiers of beneficiaries of OCPRC services and the target cost recovery for each tier at that time. Adjustments to the tiers and targets are proposed in 2022 to better reflect the operation of the park system and provide more measurable and actionable goals and targets.

Recreation Services Cost Recovery Targets

The chart on the next page outlines updated cost recovery targets for major recreation service categories with historic performance data. Target levels reflect the objectives set for each service area to be financially self-sufficient or to be supported by public funds. Services that provide greater benefit to individuals have increased expectations to achieve full cost recovery and to generate excess revenues that can be utilized to reinvest in facilities and equipment. Property tax revenues and other public funding sources are primarily dedicated to services that provide a broad community impact and fulfill the core mission of Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

Cost recovery levels are determined by assessing the total amount of revenues generated versus total expenditures (excluding non-cash depreciation expenses). Performance measurements are utilized in developing strategy, establishing user fee levels, and evaluating budget and capital investment decisions. Recreation facilities or service that perform substantially below cost recovery target objectives will be regularly reviewed by the Fiscal Sustainability Committee and staff to develop a fiscal improvement strategy and make recommendations to the Parks Commission.

Major Recreation Facilities and Services

Tier 5 – Primarily Individual Benefit

Cost Recovery Target = 100%

- Conference Centers
- Rental Facilities, Vehicles and Equipment
- Golf Facilities
- Campground Facilities
- Waterpark Facilities
- ORV Facilities
- BMX

Tier 4 – Majority Individual Benefit

Cost Recovery Target = 75%

- Public Pools
- Dog Parks
- Farmers Market

Tier 3 – Balanced Benefit

Target = 50%

- Special Community Events
- Recreation Programs (non-RAPP)
- Oakland County Fair
- Athletic fields

Tier 2 – Majority Community Benefit

Cost Recovery Target = 25%

- Limited access parks (vehicle permit required)

Tier 1 – Primarily Community Benefit/Core Recreation Mission

Cost Recovery Target = 0%

- Open access parks and nature preserves
- Open access recreation amenities (playgrounds, trails, picnic areas, fishing piers)
- Nature education centers and interpretive programs
- Natural resources management
- Administration and Support Services
- Recreation Assistance Partnership Program (RAPP)

Priority Investment Ranking (PIR)

The PIR is developed by ETC Institute and is part of their analysis of the Community Needs Assessment. The PIR equally weights the importance that residents place on facilities or programs and how many residents have unmet needs for the facility or program.

1 High – High priority facilities or programs have a PIR score of 100 or higher. This level tracks with OCPR's core services.

2 Medium – Medium priority facilities or programs have a PIR score from 50 to 99.

3 Lower – Lower priorities facilities or programs have a PIR score less than 50. It is important to note that a Lower PIR may reflect a facility or activity with a niche audience. When a lower PIR activity is pursued, evaluating Alternative Coverage will be especially relevant and making plans to reach a specialized audience is important.

Table 4: Priority Investment Rankings sorted by Facility or Service Category and Service

Tier	PIR Level	PIR Rating	Category of Service	Service
1	2 Medium	55	Administration and support services	Volunteer opportunities
3	3 Lower	23	Athletic fields	Baseball and softball diamonds
3	3 Lower	22	Athletic fields	Outdoor basketball courts
3	3 Lower	48	Athletic fields	Outdoor pickleball courts
3	3 Lower	29	Athletic fields	Outdoor tennis courts
3	3 Lower	23	Athletic fields	Sports fields – soccer and cricket
5	1 High	117	Campground facilities	Camping areas and cabins
4	1 High	111	Dog parks	Dog parks
4	3 Lower	25	Exclusive use	Equestrian centers and facilities
4	3 Lower	48	Exclusive use	Golf courses – 9-hole
4	1 High	157	Farmer markets	Farmers markets
5	2 Medium	53	Golf facilities	Golf course driving ranges
5	2 Medium	61	Golf facilities	Golf courses – 18-hole
2	2 Medium	43	Limited access	Archery range
2	3 Lower	36	Limited access	Disc golf
2	2 Medium	39	Limited access	Ropes course
2	3 Lower	14	Limited access	Trails – equestrian
2	3 Lower	47	Limited access	Trails – mountain biking
2	2 Medium	51	Limited access	Zip lines
1	2 Medium	77	Nature education and interpretation	Bird/wildlife watching programs
1	2 Medium	86	Nature education and interpretation	Nature education programs
1	3 Lower	42	Nature education and interpretation	Nature stewardship programs
2	1 High	106	Open access	Food truck rallies
1	2 Medium	80	Open access	River access for canoeing and kayaking
1	2 Medium	85	Open access	Sledding hills
1	2 Medium	84	Open access	Splash pads and spray parks
1 or 2	1 High	121	Open access or limited access	Adult fitness equipment
1 or 2	1 High	182	Open access or limited access	Beaches
1 or 2	2 Medium	78	Open access or limited access	Boating and fishing areas
1 or 2	1 High	114	Open access or limited access	Canoe and kayak launch sites
1 or 2	3 Lower	28	Open access or limited access	Hunting areas

Tier	PIR Level	PIR Rating	Category of Service	Service
1 or 2	1 High	132	Open access or limited access	Natural areas and open space
1 or 2	1 High	104	Open access or limited access	Nature centers
1 or 2	2 Medium	85	Open access or limited access	Picnic tables, grills, and benches
1 or 2	2 Medium	81	Open access or limited access	Playgrounds
1 or 2	2 Medium	61	Open access or limited access	Trails - accessible
1 or 2	1 High	166	Open access or limited access	Trails – hiking
5	3 Lower	23	ORV facilities	Off-road vehicle areas
3	3 Lower	29	Rec programs	Adaptive programs
3	1 High	175	Rec programs	Adult fitness and wellness programs
3	3 Lower	32	Rec programs	Archery programs
3	2 Medium	80	Rec programs	Art and photography programs
3	3 Lower	43	Rec programs	Before and after school programs
3	2 Medium	62	Rec programs	Campground programs
3	3 Lower	41	Rec programs	Citizen science programs
3	1 High	167	Rec programs	Farmers market programs
3	3 Lower	44	Rec programs	Fishing programs
3	2 Medium	60	Rec programs	Golf programs and events
3	3 Lower	23	Rec programs	Homeschool programs
3	3 Lower	29	Rec programs	Pre-school programs
3	3 Lower	17	Rec programs	Scouting programs
2	2 Medium	73	Rec programs	Water fitness programs
2	2 Medium	86	Rec programs	Winter programs
3	3 Lower	27	Rec programs	Youth fitness programs
3	3 Lower	38	Rec programs	Youth summer camps
3	3 Lower	45	Rec programs	Youth swim lessons
5	2 Medium	51	Rental facilities, vehicles and equipment	Bus trips
5	3 Lower	46	Rental facilities, vehicles, and equipment	Banquet facilities
5	3 Lower	48	Rental facilities, vehicles, and equipment	Indoor event rental space
5	2 Medium	91	Rental facilities, vehicles, and equipment	Kayak, canoe, paddleboard rentals
5	3 Lower	12	Rental facilities, vehicles, and equipment	Mobile unit rentals
5	2 Medium	52	Rental facilities, vehicles, and equipment	Outdoor pavilions to rent for events
3	1 High	110	Special community events	Art/antique/craft shows
3	1 High	128	Special community events	Community festivals
5	2 Medium	82	Waterpark facilities	Waterparks and waterslides

Facilities not in the OCPR park system:

Tier	PIR Level	PIR Rating	Category of Service	Service
TBD	1 High	127	Staffed park use	Indoor aquatic centers
TBD	2 Medium	72	Staffed park use	Indoor recreation centers
TBD	3 Lower	45	Staffed park use	Indoor ice rinks and arenas

Alternative Coverage

Do other public or private agencies provide the service? High or Low. We will update service area maps and identify other public and private facilities that provide a similar service. For day use parks, this will be the 10-minute driveshed. For golf, waterparks, campgrounds, and other facilities where zip codes are available from sales – use the median drive-time area.

Service Strategies

Table 5: Service Strategy Table

Tier	PIR	High Alternate Coverage/ Meets Targets	High Alternate Coverage/ Does Not Meet Targets	Low Alternate Coverage/ Meets Targets	Low Alternate Coverage/ Does Not Meet Targets
Tier 1	All PIR	Connect core services	Connect and promote core services	Invest in core services	Invest in and promote core services
Tiers 2 - 5	All PIR	Maintain	Divest	Invest	Evaluate to invest or divest

Core Services – Services that are essential to OCPR vision and values and typically benefit all community members including underserved populations. These are the basic services that park agencies provide to communities. OCPR strategy is to evaluate if the park system is providing the subsidized service in a cost-effective manner and that the services are known by the community and accessible to everyone.

This updated Service Portfolio identifies Core Services as Tier 1 services – i.e., those services that are of mostly community benefit, are completely by the Parks Commission, and the Community Needs Assessment has identified is needed by County residents. These are services with no or very low barrier to entry and are opportunities to improve the health of County residents through outdoor recreation. The *2016 Discovery Report* (Skidmore Studio 2016) noted that “People say they like to do simple, basic things at parks; people like clean, quiet parks that are close to home; and, when given a long list of options, residents choose typical park activities as their most preferred.”

Invest – Make improvements and promote to increase market share; evaluate pricing related to cost recovery and target markets. Consider expanding delivery of service. Consider improvements to associated assets beyond maintenance of critical systems and resolution of health, safety, and compliance issues.

Maintain – Maintain the service at its current level of investment. Maintain critical systems of associated assets and resolve health, safety, and compliance issues.

Evaluate to invest or divest – Evaluate if duplication of services exists with other agencies and what adjustments could be made to diversity services, connect services, and broaden the reach of all providers. If no duplication exists or if changes are made to diversify, Alternative Coverage will change to Low. – the service is not meeting its target may be a signal of underinvestment or underpromotion of the service and investment of resources is needed. Consider divestment when the community is well-served by other providers for this service and our resources are better invested elsewhere.

Divest – Stop providing this service



Strategic Action Plan

Vision

Our vision inspires us; it is aspirational and declares our intent and direction and states the long-term outcome of our work.

Everyone in Oakland County has access to a park, public space, or recreational opportunity to relax, be active, socialize, and connect with nature.

Mission

Our mission is a concise explanation of what we do and who we do it for.

We create and operate accessible, welcoming, and sustainable parks and public spaces, provide recreational and educational programs and opportunities, preserve open space, and steward the environment to help all people be healthier and build resilient, connected communities in Oakland County.

Core Values

The core values are our highest priorities, deeply held beliefs and fundamental driving forces. They are the lenses through which we plan and evaluate our work as a parks and recreation agency. They are our cultural cornerstones. We will measure the outcomes of our work using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that relate directly to the Core Values. KPIs are quantifiable measurements compared to realistic and strategic targets. (Goal is 3 per Core Value).

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Evaluate all actions and decisions through the lens of equity and justice and provide parks and recreation services that feel safe and welcoming to everyone.

1. Ensure that park attendance reflects the demographic profile of the surrounding communities.
 - *KPI: Identify gender, age, race, and ethnicity of park visitors and program participants and compare with U.S. Census data for the surrounding community.*
2. Ensure that O CPR-sponsored programs in priority equity communities are properly supported and are reaching their intended audience.
 - *KPI: Track attendance at O CPR-sponsored programs within priority equity communities.*
3. Investment in outreach to priority equity communities and individuals.
 - *KPI: Track percent of budget utilized for priority equity communities, households, and individuals.*
4. Decrease gaps in recreation access and improve parks and recreation use by priority equity communities.
 - *KPI: Number of unique transactions and program participants from zip codes of priority equity communities.*

5. *Ensure that the staff and Parks Commission reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of Oakland County and provide a positive and welcoming work environment.*
 - *KPI: Monitor the diversity of the staff and Parks Commission as related to the diversity of Oakland County.*
 - *KPI: Track participation trainings and workshops related to equity and workplace culture*

Health and Wellness

Increase access to the spaces and experiences that promote physical, mental, and social health for all.

1. *Grow and elevate awareness of programs and facilities that enhance wellness and are available for free.*
 - a. *KPI: Track participation numbers*
 - b. *KPI: Online and on-site surveys regarding use, satisfaction, and barriers.*
2. *Promote the county and regional network of trails, and track trail usage and satisfaction in our park trails*
 - a. *KPI: Miles of trails by trail type and connections with county and regional trails*
 - b. *KPI: Trail user counts*
 - c. *KPI: Online and on-site surveys regarding trail use, satisfaction, and barriers*
3. *Ensure ease of access into every park and between facilities within the park so people of all abilities have the confidence to be active, social and connect with their surroundings.*
 - a. *KPI: ADA compliance for access routes – 100%*
 - b. *KPI: Online survey regarding ease of park access and facility use and barriers*

Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resources Stewardship

Plan, build, and operate our parks and services in a sustainable manner while collaborating with local communities. Care for the natural environment, preserve land and open space for future generations, meet current recreation needs without compromising the future, and build community resilience to climate change.

1. *Responsibly steward the natural resources within the park system.*
 - *KPI: Number of acres being restored to improve biodiversity*
 - *KPI: Number of acres that are high-quality and are being managed to preserve existing resources*
2. *Use energy from renewable sources.*
 - *KPI: Percent of energy from renewable sources*
 - *KPI: Track fleet, buildings, and equipment electrification*
3. *Improve water management, such as reducing irrigation, restrooms, and other uses.*
 - *KPI: Track and reduce water usage*
4. *Manage stormwater through design and operational practices to improve regional water quality.*
 - *KPI: Track and reduce amount of impervious surface and turf.*
 - *KPI: Track and increase green infrastructure*
 - *KPI: Monitor and improve the quality of water bodies in our parks*
5. *Transition purchase of commodities to sustainable products.*

- KPI: Track and reduce usage of cleaning products, herbicides, promotional items, single use plastics
- 6. Waste management reduce waste, divert into recycling, compost, reduce consumption
 - KPI: Track and reduce tonnage of waste that goes to landfill

Fiscal Responsibility and Organizational Excellence

Implement our mission with a robust, innovative, and diverse parks and recreation organization and ground our decisions in sound fiscal policy.

1. Provide parks, programs and services that respond to community need
 - a. KPI: Track alignment of services with Community Needs Assessment and targeted public engagement
2. Ensure that facilities with mostly individual benefit meet cost-recovery targets.
 - a. KPI: Track cost-recovery for facilities with 75-100% targeted cost recovery
3. Leverage external funding sources for park and program development – i.e., grants, sponsorships, and donations
 - a. Track percent of external funding against annually set targets
4. Provide excellent and well-supported customer service
 - a. Track percent of seasonal staffing goal met annually
 - b. Track percent of returning seasonal staff annually
 - c. Track volunteer hours annually
 - d. KPI: Track percent of responses to customer-service inquiries within one business day
 - e. Track staff certifications relevant to delivery of parks and recreation services
 - f. KPI: Track non-compulsory training participation and sharing

Strategic Goals and Objectives

Our strategic goals are what we want to accomplish in the next five years. They are purpose-driven, long-term, forward-focused, actionable, and measurable. They are a roadmap for the individual objectives and actions that move us forward.

Goal 1: Offer Experiences and Places that Make a Difference

Experiences in a park or participating in an activity can change the character of your day or have an impact on your lifetime. Offer a wide range of experiences and places throughout the park system and provide diverse programming.

- A. Provide opportunities to be physically active with diverse places, programs and services for all abilities, for people to be active individually, in groups, or as a guided/unguided experience.
- B. Create opportunities to gather with other people in informal or organized groups in a comfortable and welcoming setting.
- C. Provide places for people to relax, recharge, and reconnect with nature and enjoy activities that lower stress levels.
- D. Offer opportunities to engage with nature with programs for all ages, volunteer stewardship, and viewing interpretive signs and installations.
- E. Provide spaces for hobbies and sports that align with our core values without duplicating local and regional opportunities.

- F. Incorporate a wide array of celebrations that reflect the diversity of the county and the local community including access to healthy food and food from other cultures.
- G. Connect with the rich and storied history of Oakland County parks beginning with Indigenous People with an inclusive approach that reflects multiple perspectives and a variety of themes.
- H. Create refuges from negative experiences, which may include places to cool off during heat events, safety from weather events related to climate change, and socially distanced recreation during health crises such as the COVID pandemic.

Goal 2: Operate Clean, Safe, and Welcoming Parks

Great park experiences are only possible because of the people who provide our places, programs, and services. Implement best practices and design standards that support the operation of parks that are equitable, resilient, and integrated into the community.

- A. Engage the park operations and program services staff in both site-specific and organization-wide planning
- B. Review all parks to identify and remove potential barriers to access and enjoyment.
- C. Review and update the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan and provide annual progress updates to the Parks Commission.
- D. Incorporate safety into park design and park upgrades.
- E. Implement an integrated plan for waste disposal – recycling, composting, litter, trash.
- F. Provide access to drinking water – without single-use plastic bottles.
- G. Provide access to restrooms and phase out permanent use of portable toilets – open existing restrooms with flush toilets; develop standards and design for green restrooms in rural parks
- H. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from equipment and vehicles – convert to electric versions, use no-idle technology, and install charging stations.
- I. Manage water usage through reduction of watering and water reclamation
- J. Select and purchase products for park operations that reduce harmful impacts to the environment, minimize necessary use of products that have harmful impacts such as road salts, coal tar sealing.

Goal 3: Sustainably Invest in Assets and Infrastructure

Invest in assets and infrastructure with regular maintenance, resolution of deferred maintenance, replacement of assets as they come to the end of their lifecycle, or new construction of new assets that create new experiences.

- A. Update Park Action Plans annually to identify actions to manage assets and assign actions to Capital Improvement Program, Maintenance Management Plan, Natural Resources Management, Park Operations, or Planning and Resource Development.
- B. Evaluate proposed investments into facilities and services based on fiscally sustainability, alignment with our core values, and the potential for a lasting positive impact for residents.
- C. Update building standards and processes, conduct an energy audit, and build new and update existing assets to net zero carbon emission standards and to reduce impact on the surrounding environment.
- D. Integrate alternative energy sources including identification of off-grid buildings in parks.
- E. Manage stormwater infrastructure effectively and in compliance with regulatory agencies.

Goal 4: Contribute to Thriving and Resilient Communities

Work in partnership with local communities, non-profits, and regional planning agencies and be ready to help when gaps in equitable park access are identified.

- A. Convene local communities and park and recreation agencies on a regular basis to share best practices and seek mutual benefits for parks and recreation in Oakland County.
- B. Identify gaps in equitable park access and focus community park investments based on a data-driven understanding of the characteristics, demographic trends, and the needs of diverse communities and households.
- C. Design and implement a comprehensive recreation programs and outreach to communities with emphasis on creating equitable access.
- D. Assist qualifying communities and residents in accessing OCPR parks, programs, and services by providing transportation assistance and free or discounted admission.
- E. Help communities and residents expand the use of natural landscapes to support regional biodiversity.
- F. Communicate with the public and communities about OCPR's environmentally sustainable practices to highlight the sustainability of OCPR park system and provide demonstration projects and examples to emulate.

Goal 5: Care for the Land and Natural Environment and Increase Green Infrastructure

Conserve land and advance green infrastructure to help mitigate the impacts of climate change and to ensure there are open spaces for future generations. Restore and manage natural communities to preserve biodiversity, protect water and air quality, support robust populations of wildlife, and connect people with high-quality experiences in nature.

- A. Implement OCPR's Natural Resource Zones system as the basis for system-wide management decisions.
- B. Create standards to define and establish Nature Preserve designation for parkland.
- C. Engage with Indigenous Peoples to learn about traditional/cultural land use and management.
- D. Expand and manage diverse, high-quality natural communities, habitats, and wildlife corridors including creating refuges and passage for plants and animals, and support climate resilience of our communities.
- E. Manage the native tree canopy to sustain healthy forests in our parks, improve shade for wildlife and people, and support climate resilience of our communities.
- F. Protect water quality for aquatic organisms, surrounding wildlife, recreational users, and downstream communities.
- G. Establish standards and targets for land acquisition that supports green infrastructure.

Goal 6: Engage the Entire Organization in the Aspiration of Our Vision

At the foundation of our work is a collaborative network of people who recognize that our world is changing, and we need to change with it to remain relevant and best serve our communities and residents. We are ready to take on the challenges of our vision and build a future where everyone "has access to a park or public space where they can relax, be active, socialize, and connect with nature".

- A. Employ a workforce that reflects the diversity of Oakland County and the communities we serve.

- B. Implement hybrid work schedules where possible to enhance staff productivity and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from staff travel.
- C. Continue the effort to recruit and retain seasonal staff.
- D. Update purchasing policies and evaluate all contracts through the lens of our Core Values.
- E. Update Parks Commission approval procedures to delegate lower-level funding decisions to management and to present alternatives based on our Core Values for funding decisions by the Commission.
- F. Support our commitment to equity and justice with a focused staff position and relevant training and Commission-adopted policies.
- G. Develop a portfolio of diverse funding sources and attempt to divest funds from petroleum-based and climate change advancing industries.
- H. Create one program responsible to coordinate all compliance efforts and to manage the actions of other entities (lessees, easement holders, etc.) on natural parkland.
- I. Provide training and resources to staff to implement our Core Values
- J. Update customer service portal and create method for tracking and evaluation.

Park Action Plans

Addison Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Addison Oaks County Park is a 1,140-acre park located in the northeast corner of Oakland County in Addison and Oakland Townships. The Addison East portion of the park is 350 acres.

- **Address:**
 - Main unit: 1480 West Romeo Road, Leonard, MI 48367
 - East unit: 700 West Romeo Road
- **Township and Range:**
 - Addison Township: T5N, R11E, Sections 33-35
 - Oakland Township: T4N, R11E, Section 4



PARK FEATURES: Addison Oaks County Park is a natural oasis where visitors can recreate year-round. Guests can come in for the day, camp under the stars or explore the park's rich history. Campers can choose from individual sites or group camping areas, yurts, or cabins, with campground recreation activities offered Memorial Day through Labor Day, plus Boo Bashes in October.

Year-round activities include a 20+ mile trail system for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and winter fat tire biking, boat and kayak launch, disc golf, fishing, geocaching, picnicking and group picnic shelters. Boat, kayak, and bike rentals are available in season. A 2.5-mile connector trail connects the main park to Addison Oaks-East and other nearby recreation areas. The Historic Tudor-style Buhl Estate hosts weddings, banquets, receptions, and business meetings, with food service by Oak Management.

A native wildlife habitat along the shoreline of Adams Lake supports bird, pollinator, turtle, and fish populations. A new boardwalk/deck now spans Adams Lake, allowing direct access from one side of the lake to the other, as well as fishing opportunities.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- **Natural Resources Zones:** Park contains Conservation Zone, Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Addison Oaks is part of the Clinton River Watershed and Stony Creek subwatershed.
- The three primary water bodies on the property- Buhl Lake, Adams Lake and Milkhouse Pond are hydrologically connected and were a former



stream/wetland system that were flooded into their current state. Tree stumps can still be found on the bottom of Buhl Lake.

- Water flows from the surrounding hillsides into the lakes, resulting in unique wetland complexes.
- The park was likely a combination of black oak barren, shrub swamp, emergent marsh, wet prairie, and mixed conifer swamp prior to the 1800s
- High quality dry-mesic southern forests within the park support many different types of wildlife including diverse salamander populations.
- Some of the natural community types that can currently be identified, and are being restored, include oak barren remnants, southern wet meadow, prairie fen, and southern hardwood swamp.
- There are many vernal pools on the property in forested pockets; these pools are monitored annually.
- Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes (EMR), a federally threatened species, utilize much of the park for their life cycle. EMR overwinter in wetlands and move to upland areas in the summer to give birth to live young.



PARK HISTORY:

- Addison Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes the existence of a village and burial ground on the shores of nearby Lakeville Lake, two significant trails, an ancient embankment and records of projectile points located when fields were plowed.
- In the 1830s Dennis Snyder and Peter Shoemaker became the first people to purchase the land that became the park. Both families maintained their farmland into the 1920s when it was purchased by Lawrence Buhl for a country estate. In the 1960s it was sold and became the Tudor Hills Gun Club and Game Preserve.
- OCPR acquired the land when it went into receivership in 1969. The park opened in 1971. Over time additional parcels, including one in Oakland Township, have been added to the park.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Demographic and economic summary is under development.

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
OSA-106	Open Space Grant Program	1966	Acquisition of 700 acres to create a new park

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
26-01023 R1	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Development	1977	With Groveland Oaks: Development of trailer campground and campsites, water and electrical sites, landscaping, play center, street lighting and gravel drive
TF89-002	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Acquisition	1989	Acquisition of 93 acres
BF91-025	Bond Fund, Development	1991	Sewage Lagoon Renovation, Lift Stations (2), Sewer Pipe, Sewage Irrigation
TF07-030	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Development	2007	Development of a 1.7-mile trail
RP12-406	Recreation Passport, Development	2012	Addison Oaks Park Accessibility Improvements: small boat launch, fishing pier, access route, permit fees

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Addison Oaks Facility Priorities

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with existing property restrictions: DNR grant agreements; USFWS Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Implementation Plan (EMRIP)

ADAMS LAKE LODGE: Adams Lake Lodge is offered as an event rental space. Update restrooms and add air conditioning to enhance marketability.

BOARDWALKS: Conduct structural inspections and replace aging boardwalks before they become unsafe and construct new boardwalks to increase accessibility and resolve trail /natural resource conflicts. Use alternative to pressure treated wood over water and incorporate wildlife crossings.

BOUNDARIES: Inventory and assess all park fences and determine appropriate materials for delineation and appropriate level of vegetation management.

BRIDGES: Inspect bridges every 5 years and repair as indicated by inspection reports.

BUHL ESTATE: The estate has multiple components that are part of an overall design that has its roots in the design of historic English estates that were designed to be informal, yet with carefully composed eye-catching views. See (Campbell 4/29/2014).

BUHL ESTATE ALTERNATIVES:

- Develop master plan to implement a more diverse recreational operating and business model with equitable public access, diverse programming, increased history and nature interpretation, and a fundraising program to help support maintenance of historic structures and landscape. Include alternative contingency plan to divest from facility if needed.
- Continue to operate the Conference Center as a privately managed banquet center with limited public access and public subsidy of private events.

BUHL ESTATE COMPONENTS:

- One-way drive and site circulation: The one-way entry drive is part of the original estate design. Preservation of the existing site circulation is recommended.
- Maintenance Building/former stables (1927): The former stables function well as the center for park maintenance. Painting and structural reinforcement of the building's wood pillars was recently completed. The maintenance yard has had paving and stormwater infrastructure improvements completed.
- Conference Center/former estate house (1927): The house is used as a conference center with a dedicated caterer. See Buhl Estate Conference Center Alternatives above. Several issues are needing attention:
 - The appearance of the exterior is important for the marketability of the facility for weddings and other events. Exterior is deteriorating and needs to be repainted. Evaluate need for major restoration.
 - Stucco is repaired annually
 - Flat roof liner and asphalt shingles may need repair or replacement
 - Upstairs storage rooms have damaged walls; make sure problems are not structural and that utilities are shut off
 - Deck needs replacement of railings and wood around base
- Pool House (1927): This building is a notable scenic feature, especially from the east side of Adams Lake. There are concerns about this building being a safety hazard, despite signage warning people away and a surrounding split-rail fence. The slate roof is crumbling and could become hazardous. Investment would be required to fully secure and stabilize building. If this is not feasible and the building were to be removed, the timbers are of the same vintage as the estate house and could be used in restoration of house.
- Milk House (1927): This small building has been restored, is secure, and contributes to the scenic estate landscape.

- Skating Pond: Part of the original estate landscape. Currently used for fishing, skating is not allowed.
- Former caretakers house (1928): This house was used as a rental for many years but is now vacant. It will be converted into a new Park Office, with accessible parking and entrance to greet visitors to the park. With the former Park Deputy office removed, the building will be visible from the entrance road that approaches the estate.
- Water Tower (1925): The water tower was originally installed for fire suppression at the estate buildings. It is not used and is a familiar landmark to trail users. Consider removal if structural inspection indicate it is deteriorating.
- Formal Garden: This area appears to be a walled garden in aerial photographs back to 1940. It needs an update, including the front entrance landscaping and entry way materials (brick pavers), which are a trip hazard and must be fixed for safety. Update the site design, incorporating native plants where appropriate, and implement in collaboration with Natural Resources Management. The irrigation system needs repair; evaluate system and configure to only water formal garden and lawn areas; replace and repair components as needed.
- Former Park Deputy office/former contact station (1990): This was built by OCPD as a contact station when the park first opened and mimics the half-timber style of the estate. It is currently used as an office for the park's Deputy. Relocation of the Deputy office to the Maintenance Building is proposed. Because this building obscures the view of the estate from the entrance drive, removal of this building is proposed when it is no longer in use.

CAMPGROUND AND CABINS – evaluate usage of campsites, cabins and yurts and plan for updates that accommodate modern recreational vehicles and demand for full hook-ups, Wi-Fi, and various sizes of cabins or yurts. Plan for updates to restrooms. Incorporate ADA-compliance and universal access.

- Cabin lookout docks (proposed): Three lookouts are proposed to increase the attractiveness and rentability of the cabins on Buhl Lake. Area is too shallow and mucky to support boat launch. Natural Resources Management will do feasibility study to recommend locations.
- Section A Restroom: In good shape with general maintenance and building equipment replacements as indicated by life cycle and condition.
- Section C Restroom: In good shape with general maintenance and building equipment replacements as indicated by life cycle and condition. Installation of water softener is recommended.
- Section D Pit Toilets: Replace with sustainable restroom buildings.
- Section D update: Consider providing campsites for mid-size campers and not just tents and small popups.
- Winter camping: Consider developing winter camping opportunity, will need to provide year-round open restroom facilities and clean drinking water location.
- Recreational opportunities for campers: Evaluate need for additional recreational facilities within campground such as a basketball court.
- Dog Park (proposed): Consider small dog park for use by campers.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- Natural Areas Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants

- Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Shrub removals, lake viewsheds, campground
- Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Restoration of old fields to prairie habitat for wildlife including Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.
 - Remnant prairie fen
 - Oak-Pine barrens restoration
- Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
 - Around built infrastructure and in campground
- Freshwater Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Water quality assessment of Buhl Lake, Adams Lake, pond, and streams.
 - Adams Lake and Buhl Lake restoration
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
 - Vernal pools restoration
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
 - Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Campground
 - Buhl estate
 - Playgrounds and pavilions
 - Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.
 - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat improvement

NON-RECREATIONAL FEATURES: Cell Tower occupies 0.29 acre including ingress/egress on the west side of the park. Revenue from the tower contributes to the park's annual operating budget. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management Section has confirmed that the cell tower is not considered a conversion and complies with existing grant agreements (MDNR 10/17/2022).

PARK ENTRANCES, ROADWAYS AND PARKING: Conference Center paved parking lots are in very poor condition and various unpaved roadways have erosion issues; backups along park road due RVs waiting to us dump station remains an issue:

- Conference Center parking lots: Improvements or replacement is needed soon; plan projects based on Commission decisions regarding future uses of the Conference Center and calculation of parking needs
- Campground road: Road is in poor condition with erosion issues and significant loss of surface material. Evaluate and propose potential solutions, and estimated costs.
- Park road to dump station: Design and estimate costs for realignment of park road to eliminate traffic congestion at dump station
- Maintenance Drive to Materials Storage: This drive is located east of the Buhl Estate and starts at the northern Conference Center parking lot. Materials (dirt, gravel, etc.) are stored away from public view. Road is in poor condition and not able to support fully loaded truck traffic.

PAVILIONS: Move pavilion from former Group Campsites 3/4 to former waterslide location to provide an additional rental opportunity.

PLAYGROUNDS: Playgrounds have been replaced and universally accessible. Look at further additions to Adams Lake Playground to enhance the play and sensory experience and increase draw to the park. Consider addition of a spray/mist element.

TRAILS: In addition to winter mowing and general trail maintenance, the following priorities are identified:

- Buhl Lake Loop: Continue with asphalt repairs as needed.
- Bald Mountain Connector: Complete and implement plan; route will need to shift per US Fish & Wildlife Service review.

WATER ACCESS: Addison has had the installation of several new water access structures in the past 5 years, including the Adams Lake fishing bridge, Buhl Lake Boathouse, accessible fishing pier and kayak launch.

- Boathouse: Complete Boathouse with installation of seasonal restroom. Evaluate capacity of sewage lagoon to support additional restroom and feasibility of creating connection to lagoon.
- Cabin lookout docks (proposed): Three lookouts are proposed to increase the attractiveness and rentability of the cabins on Buhl Lake. Area is too shallow and mucky to support boat launch. Natural Resources Management will do feasibility study to recommend locations. (See also Campgrounds and Cabins).

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure F: Park Aerial

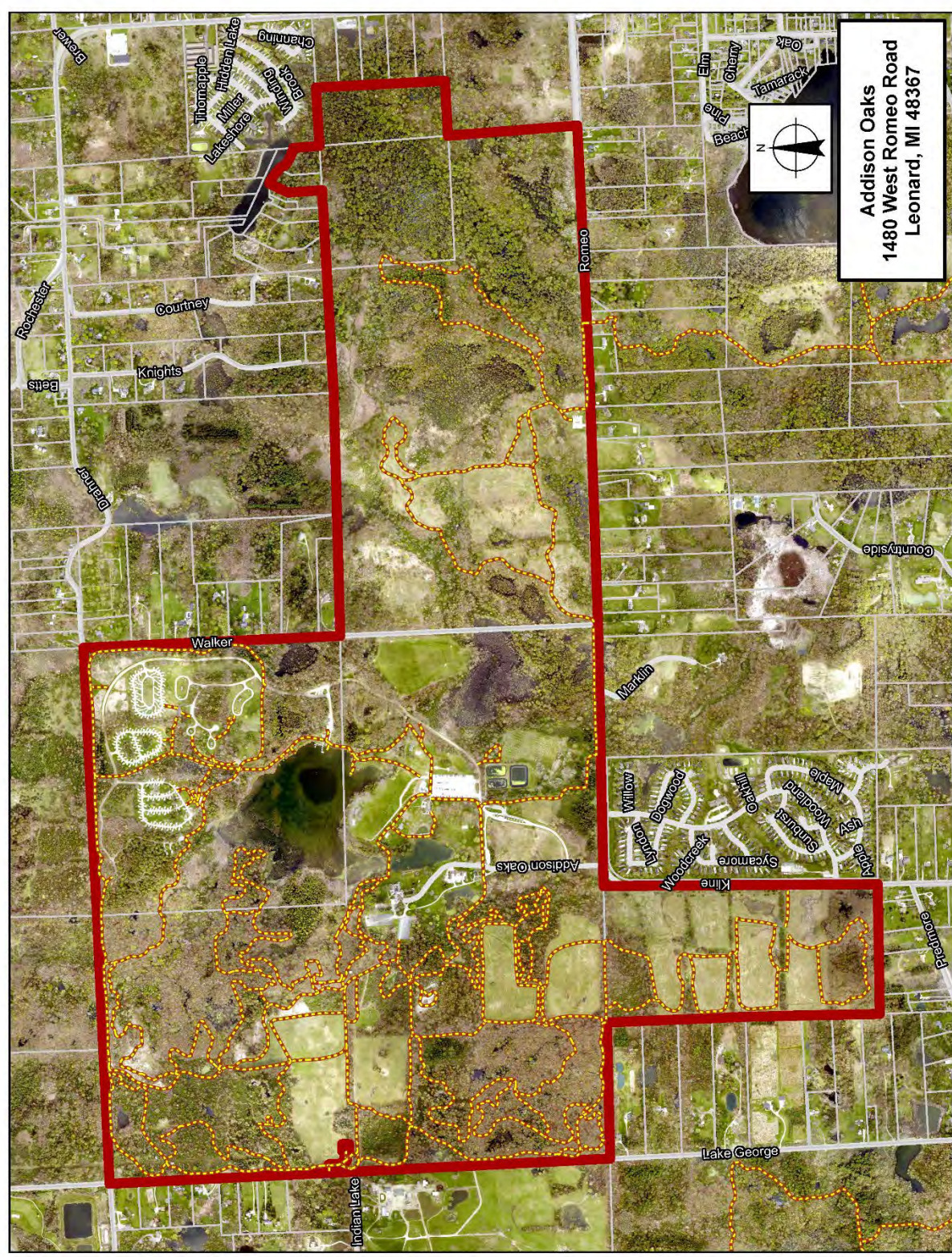


Figure G: Natural Resources Zone Map

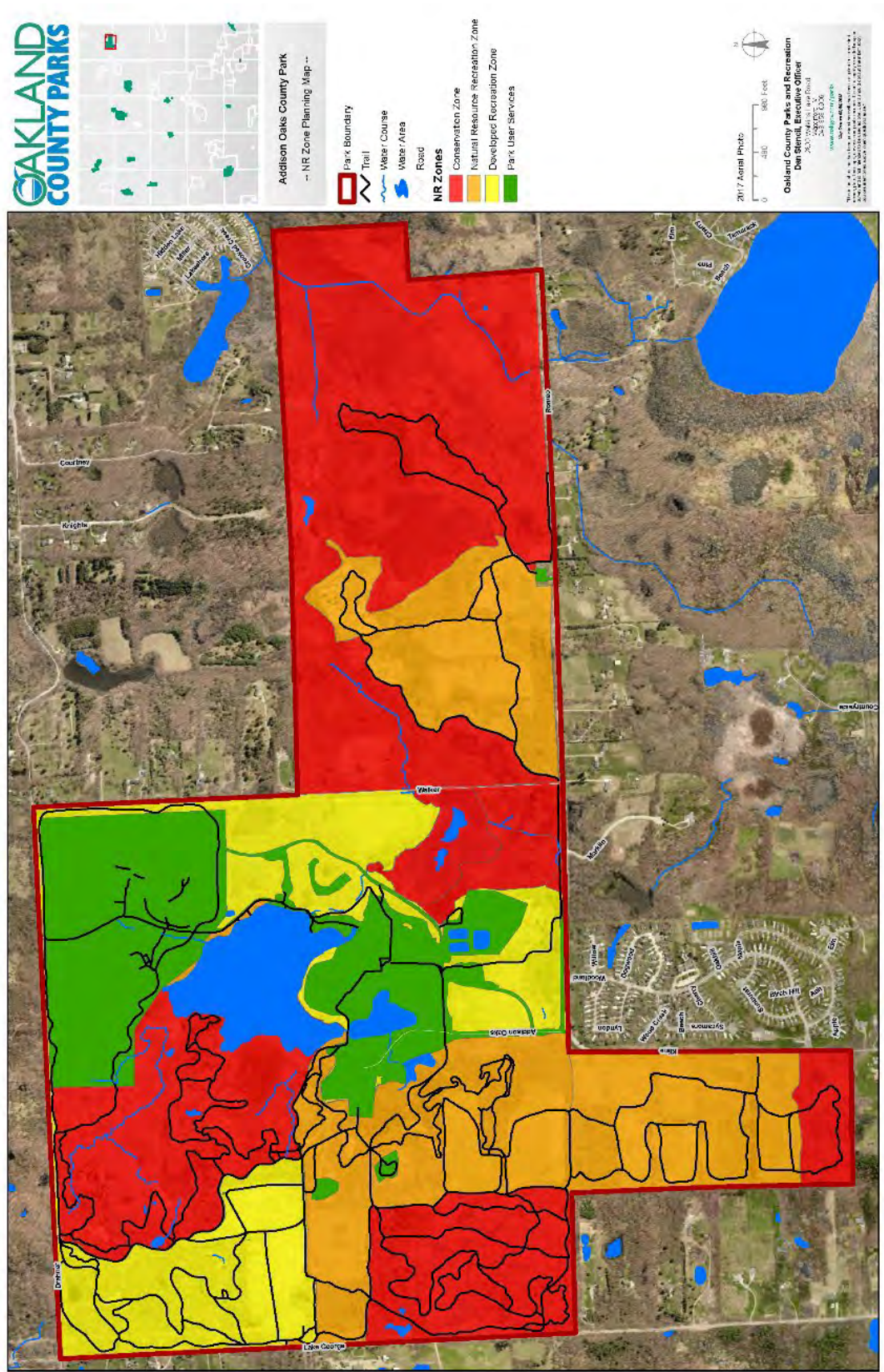


Figure H: Park Trail Map

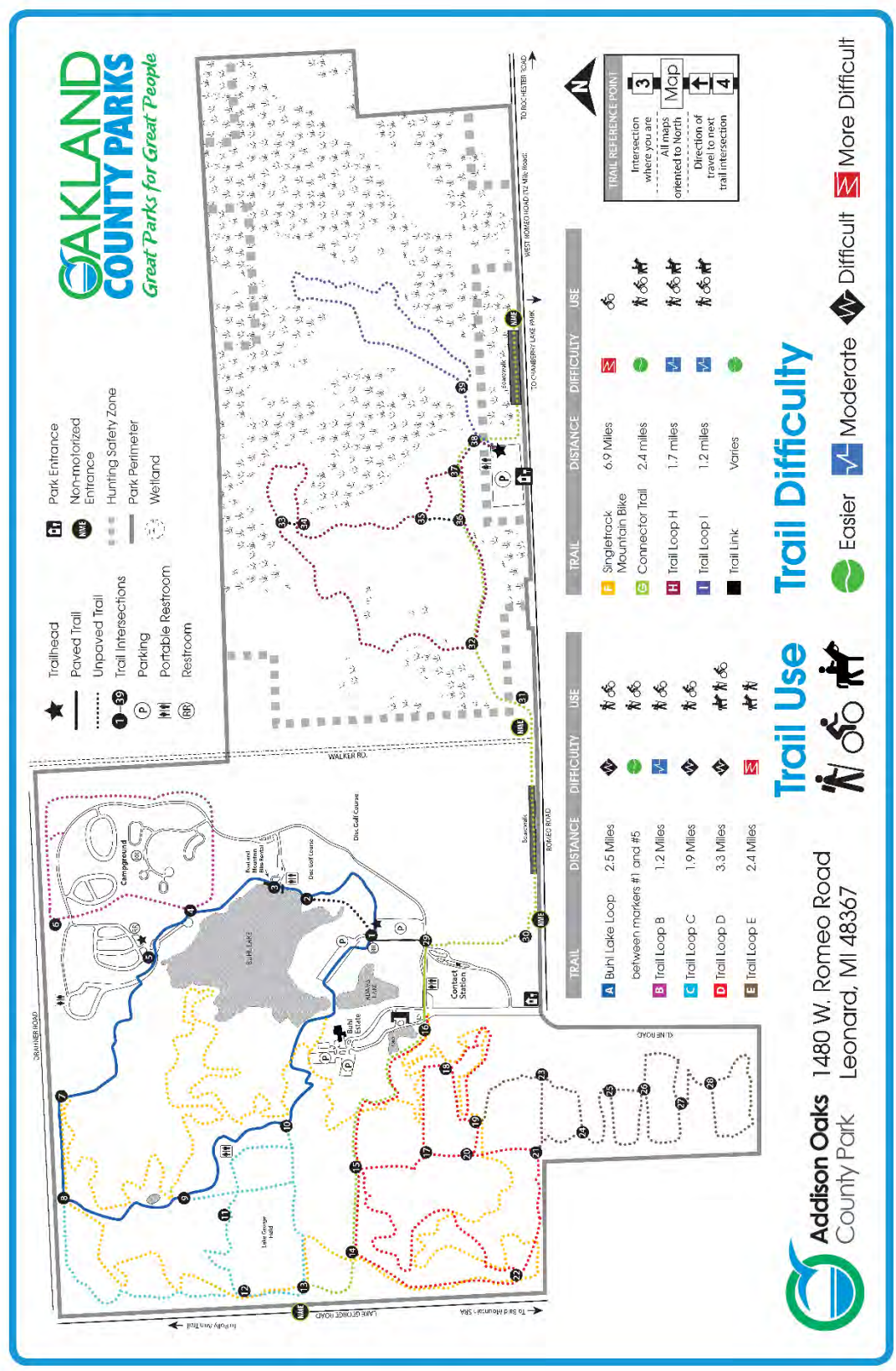
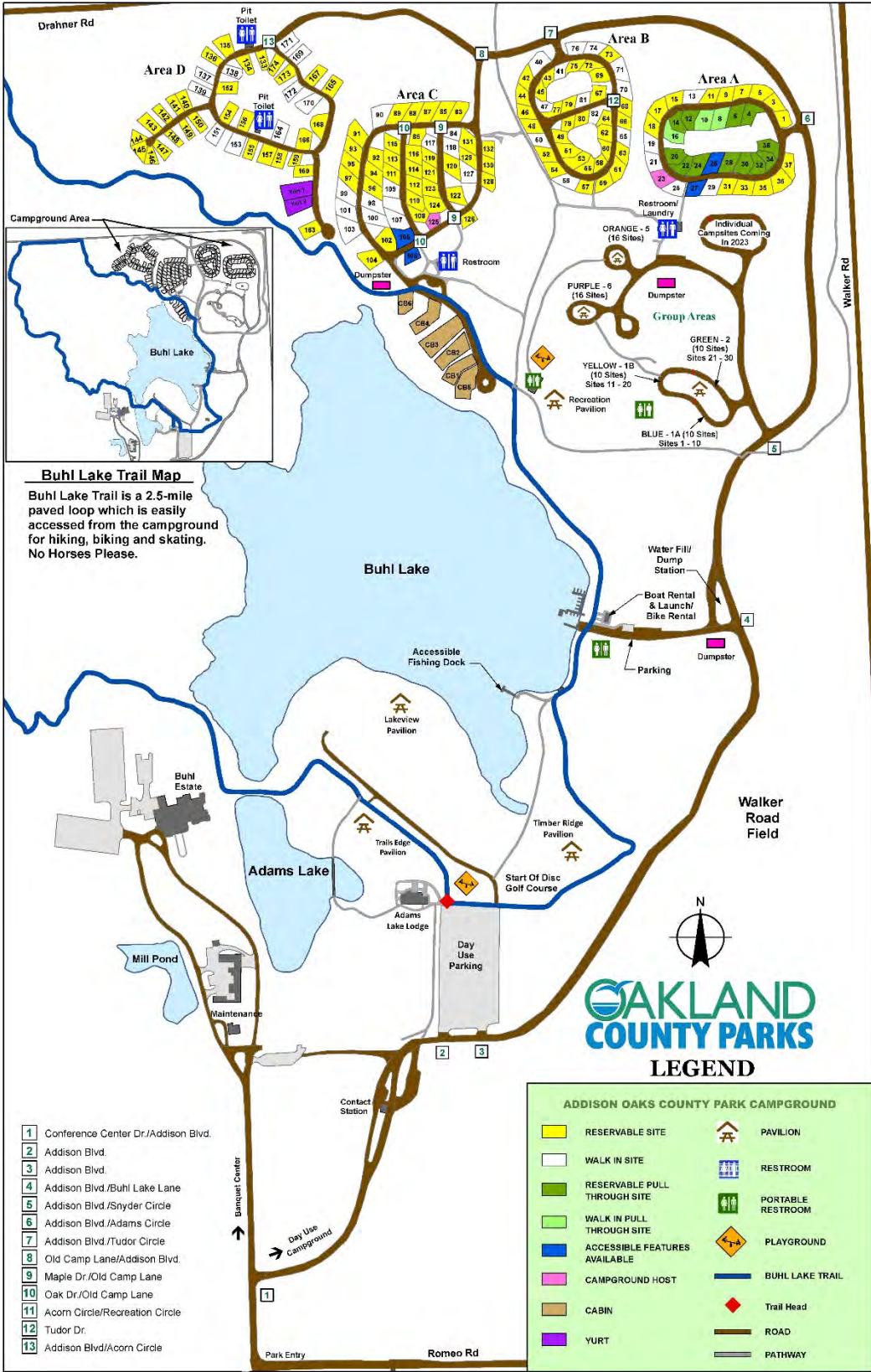


Figure I: Campground Map



Catalpa Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Catalpa Oaks County Park is a 24-acre park located in the southeast corner of Oakland County in the City of Southfield. The South Oakland Health Department building is adjacent.

- Address: 27705 Greenfield Road, Southfield, Michigan 48076
- Township and Range: T1N R10E, Sections 13, north ½ of southeast ¼

PARK FEATURES: Once owned by the City of Southfield and operated as a neighborhood park, Oakland County Parks and Recreation acquired Catalpa Oaks in 2007 as the 12th Oakland County Park. Improvements were made and the park was officially dedicated in 2012.



Catalpa Oaks preserves 24 acres of green space in Southfield, adjacent to the South Oakland Health Department. The park is home to the Annual Great Marshmallow Drop, a spring event drawing 5,000+ participants who watch 15,000 marshmallows drop from a helicopter and enjoy games and activities.

The park teems with activity, thanks to five soccer fields, two baseball fields and two playgrounds, including one universally-accessible playscape with swings for all abilities. A pavilion offers picnic table seating for 100 people, and modern restrooms are on site.

A new .8-mile aggregate walking trail completed in 2020 loops around the perimeter of the park and includes wheelchair-accessibility from Greenfield Road as well as neighborhood streets. Connector trails off the main loop lead to the fields and the playground /pavilion area.



NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Park User Services Zone only. See [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Catalpa Oaks is part of the Clinton River Watershed and the Red Run subwatershed
- The park was likely a mixed hardwood swamp prior to the 1800s
- Development of Interstate 696 changed the soil and plant community composition of the park significantly. The trees and plants currently on the property were planted in the 20th and 21st centuries
- Native trees planted in the park by OCPR and the City of Southfield provide refuge for local bird and wildlife populations by providing green space, shelter and food sources



PARK HISTORY:

- Catalpa Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes the existence of two significant Potawatomi villages, Tonquish and Seginsiwini, which became Reservations following the 1807 Treaty of Detroit. Both were located in Southfield Township.
- In the 1830s the McClelland and Taylor families became the first people to purchase the land that became the park. Both families were members of the nearby Reformed Presbyterian Church whose congregation is documented as being actively involved in the Underground Railroad. In the 1960s Oakland County purchased what had been the two farms.
- In 1978 the City of Southfield negotiated an agreement with Oakland County to manage 25 acres of the county property as a city park. In 2007 the park and its management was transferred to OCPR and that same year Catalpa Oaks opened as the 12th park in the OCPR system.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: 10-minute drive time service area includes several census tracts with Low or Moderate Area Median Income in Southfield, Oak Park, and Royal Oak Township

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Not applicable

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements.

Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Catalpa Oaks Facility Priorities

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION INVESTMENT PLAN ⁷: Increase opportunities for outdoor recreation and quality of facilities to benefit the health and wellness of people living in an area that has been disproportionately impacted by COVID. Focus investment on increasing opportunities for active outdoor recreation with pickle ball and basketball courts and flexible open space for exercise. An accessible plaza with shaded gathering and seating areas will welcome visitors to the park and provide opportunities to socialize and relax. Added trail connectors to city sidewalks will increase pedestrian access to the park.

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: High cost of water and sewer is limiting to irrigation and other recreational water uses. As we make improvements at Catalpa that are beneficial to the local community, open a discussion with City of Southfield regarding the potential for an agreement for Catalpa to be billed for water use only.

BALL FIELDS – CONVERSION TO OTHER RECREATION: Baseball and softball field were present when park was acquired in 2008. Baseball team is no longer committed to the space and the fields are mainly used for pick-up games. These fields can be removed; this is the primary area for conversion to other recreational features, e.g., pickle ball, basketball, second pavilion, etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: We can reduce the Catalpa Oaks' carbon footprint and provide visible sustainability examples.

- Explore partnership with DTE for carport solar panels (construct in association with parking lot upgrades).
- The site is often windy and maybe appropriate for a small wind generator that doubles as an attractive park feature.
- Revisit pavilion and bathroom building plans that included green roofs on these buildings.

⁷ OCPR has requested an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriation of \$15 million from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to support projects and park improvements outlined in the OCPR's Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan. Projects must be completed by the end of 2026.

- Design Plaza with sustainable elements (see Plaza)

MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE: Mowing and other maintenance is contracted. The park is not continually staffed. The new storage shed was completed – it houses an electric utility vehicle and various materials, not enough room for mowers. We need to evaluate maintenance and storage needs related to the proposed increase in general park usage.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- Natural Areas Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
 - Around built infrastructure
- Freshwater Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Playground and pavilion
 - Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.
 - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat improvement

PARK ENTRANCES, ROADWAYS AND PARKING: Develop a new parking plan that has the requisite number of parking spaces, including accessible and van-accessible, stormwater management, as well as lighting and other safety features. Reduce parking lot along Catalpa Road, renovating reclaimed areas with native plantings or recreation features. Utilize Oakland County Health Division parking lot as main parking lot for the park, improving as needed in cooperation with Oakland County Facilities, Maintenance & Operations. Create accessible entrance into the park on the east side into the proposed Plaza. Identify food truck route and parking area that provides service to the Plaza. Note that on-street parking is not allowed. Revisit entrance signage and consider changes that make it clearer from Greenfield Road that the entrance is on Catalpa Road.

PAVILION AND RESTROOM (former concession) BUILDING: Park buildings were constructed in 2012 and have similar design features. The pavilion is frequently rented for group gatherings. The concession building is used for public restrooms (outside entrance), storage, and equipment for irrigation system. Concession window and some equipment are unused but still in place. Change how we reference internally to “Restroom Building”. In both buildings, bird nests in ironwork of overhanging eaves are a problem; resolve bird control problem when the building is painted. Both buildings were constructed to support green roofs, consider installation as a sustainability improvement. Alternatives are identified:

- Continue to use building as described above.
- Seek partnerships with soccer organizations to play a larger role in maintaining and investing in the improvement of fields, with reopening the former concessions building providing an excellent opportunity for these organizations to raise money to support field improvements. In this event, alternative storage space may need to be identified.

PAVILION – NEW: Construct a second pavilion with storage for programming and events, as well as rentals. Locate strategically in relation to parking and pathways for access, and to existing pavilion and sports areas to prevent user conflicts.

PLAYGROUNDS: Playgrounds were installed in 2012: north area for 1–5-year-old children and south area for 6–12-year-old children. Improve surface of playgrounds (currently mulch) with poured-in-place surface, which is lower maintenance and provides an accessible surface. Include planning for lifecycle and future replacement of surface.

PLAZA: Construct an accessible plaza with shaded gathering and seating areas to create a visual identity for the park, welcome visitors, and provide opportunities to socialize and relax. Locate strategically in relation to parking lot, accessible parking, and food truck area. Look at sustainable options in permeable paving and native vegetation.

SPORTS FIELDS – SOCCER: Drainage, grading and irrigation were completed in 2019 for the western 2 fields (C and D). Implementation of project for eastern 2 fields (E and F) are not anticipated because of the high expense of City water and sewerage. When not rented, the fields are used as unprogrammed open space for pick-up games, exercise groups, kite-flying, and other play. Alternatives for the future of soccer usage are identified:

- Continue to evaluate soccer use, high cost of water, and level of subsidy for rentals and whether it would be preferable to convert to open space for fully subsidized open park use.
- Seek partnerships with soccer organizations to play a larger role in maintaining and investing in the improvement of fields, with the concessions building providing an excellent opportunity for these organizations to raise money to support field improvements.

TRAILS: Aggregate walking trail was completed in 2020 and is well-used. Additional neighborhood connectors are proposed as part of the Healthy Communities project. When planning additional features for adults and seniors (e.g., pickle ball), consider proximity to parking and need for additional accessible routes.

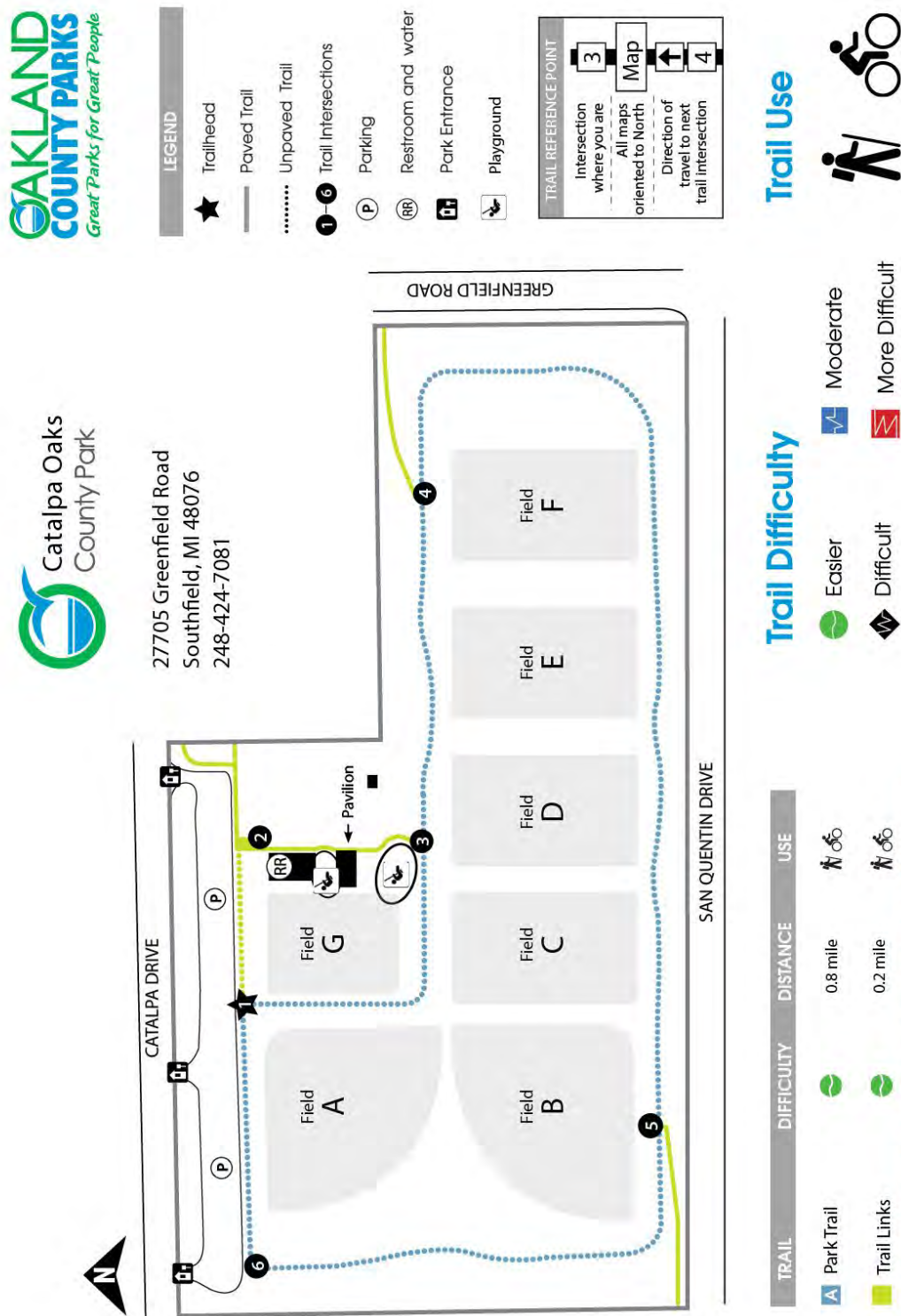
Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure J: Park Aerial



Figure K: Park Trail Map



Glen Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Glen Oaks Golf Course is a 122-acre park located in southern Oakland County in Farmington Hills.

- Address: 30500 13-Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334
- Township and Range: T1N R9E Section 2, SW ¼

PARK FEATURES: Spanning 122 acres, 18-hole, par 70 Glen Oaks Golf Course offers a variety of settings to create a challenging course environment. From streams, sand traps and nearly 24,000 feet of cart paths to a full-service Pro Shop and Grill Room, Glen Oaks is popular with leagues and ideal for outings.

The historic stone clubhouse features an elegant banquet facility for 50-400 people with food service by Oak Management. Wedding couples love the formal wedding garden, panoramic view of the golf course from the main banquet room, and Bride's and Groom's rooms located on the second floor.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Glen Oaks contains two sections of Pebble Creek, a tributary of the Rouge River.
- The park was likely primarily a beech-maple forest and black oak barren prior to the 1800s.
- A portion of the property serves to capture stormwater overflow during high water events.
- Suburban wildlife (such as coyote, deer, and Canada geese) can be seen using the golf course as a refuge from surrounding residential and commercial development.
- In the early 2000s Glen Oaks Park Supervisor Skip Roche, now retired, utilized his herding dogs, Chase and Madison, to control the goose population on the golf course.
- Glen Oaks is certified by the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program for exceeding requirements to protect natural resources.

PARK HISTORY:

- Glen Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the



Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes the existence of several significant trails in the area including the Shiawassee Trail, the Grand River Trail and an unnamed trail that passed just to the west of the park.

- In 1831 Daniel and James Benjamin became the first people to purchase the land that became the park. In 1923 a private golf club called Glen Oaks was built on the former Benjamin farm. The Clubhouse was designed by Emily Butterfield, the first woman to become a licensed architect in Michigan.
- Glen Oaks became an Oakland County Park in 1978 when the county purchased the golf club property. In 1986 the Glen Oaks Clubhouse was designated an official Michigan Historic site.



COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Demographic and economic summary is under development

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
PA 475	Recreation Bond Fund	1978	Acquisition of Glen Oaks golf course (137.5 acres)

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Glen Oaks Facility Priorities

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Clubhouse is listed as a historic landmark; changes to the building exterior should be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office.

BOUNDARIES: Inventory and assess all park fences and determine appropriate materials for delineation and appropriate level of vegetation management. Priorities for replacement are the Wedding Garden enclosure fence and the fence between the Clubhouse and Maintenance Building.

BRIDGES: Inspect bridges every 5 years and repair as indicated by inspection reports.

CLUBHOUSE ALTERNATIVES:

- Develop master plan to implement a more diverse recreational operating and business model with equitable public access, diverse programming, increased history and nature interpretation, and a fundraising program to help support maintenance of historic structure. Convert Grill Room to in-house operation. Include alternative contingency plan to divest from facility if needed.
- Continue to operate the Conference Center as a privately managed banquet center with limited public access and public subsidy of private events. Continue operation of Grill Room by private vendor. Improve service when vendor is not on site by having staff provide coffee and snacks to early golfers.

CLUBHOUSE ROOF: Slate roof assessment was completed in 2022 and indicates need for replacement of entire roof. Coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding replacement that is compliant with historic status. Note that the Addison Oaks Buhl Estate roof was replaced with synthetic slate 10 years ago and it is in good condition and does not detract from the historic appearance of the building.

CLUBHOUSE WEDDING GARDEN: Redesign landscape. Update plantings, coordinating native plantings with traditional formal plantings. Update hardscape for appearance and accessibility. Commence annual review of all formal landscapes in park system.

GOLF COURSE CART PATHS: Schedule repair and replacement as indicated by condition of pavement.

GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION POND AND PEBBLE CREEK: Portions of the golf course provide stormwater retention for the surrounding community during flood events. The irrigation pond is located within the watercourse of Pebble Creek, a tributary of the Rouge River and a regulated drain.



Relocation of the pond out of the watercourse is proposed. This would allow the river to be restored to more natural flow conditions and restoration to occur along the streambanks, it would also reduce siltation in the irrigation pond (from upstream sources) and subsequently reduce the need for periodic dredging. Conduct sediment testing prior to any project design to understand full options for project. Follow relocation project with implementation of Pebble Creek restoration and shoreline habitat improvements.

Testing of soil sediments in 2012 showed Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons present in all samples, with the Benzo(A)pyrene above the allowable human direct contact criteria. The subsequent dredging project in 2013 was more complex and costly than anticipated because of the requirement for contaminated sediments to be removed from the site.

GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION SYSTEM: Schedule maintenance of irrigation system and replacement of component parts as indicated by condition and life cycle.

GOLF COURSE PIT TOILETS: Replace with sustainable restroom buildings.

MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS / CHEMICAL MIXING BUILDING: Replace to comply with regulations and to improve staff working conditions.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- **Natural Areas Stewardship:** Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
 - Around built infrastructure
- **Freshwater Stewardship:** Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Water quality assessment of Pebble Creek
 - Pebble Creek restoration
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
 - Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- **Forestry:** Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Golf course
 - Development and implementation of debris management plan
- **Wildlife:** Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer

- Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
- Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.

SIGNS AND WAYFINDING:

- Replace main entrance sign to meet brand standards and in compliance with Farmington Hills sign ordinance and historical structures ordinance; electronic sign not needed.
- Consider additional interpretive plaques within the Clubhouse with historical information such as the building being designed by Emily Butterfield, the first woman to become a licensed architect in Michigan.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

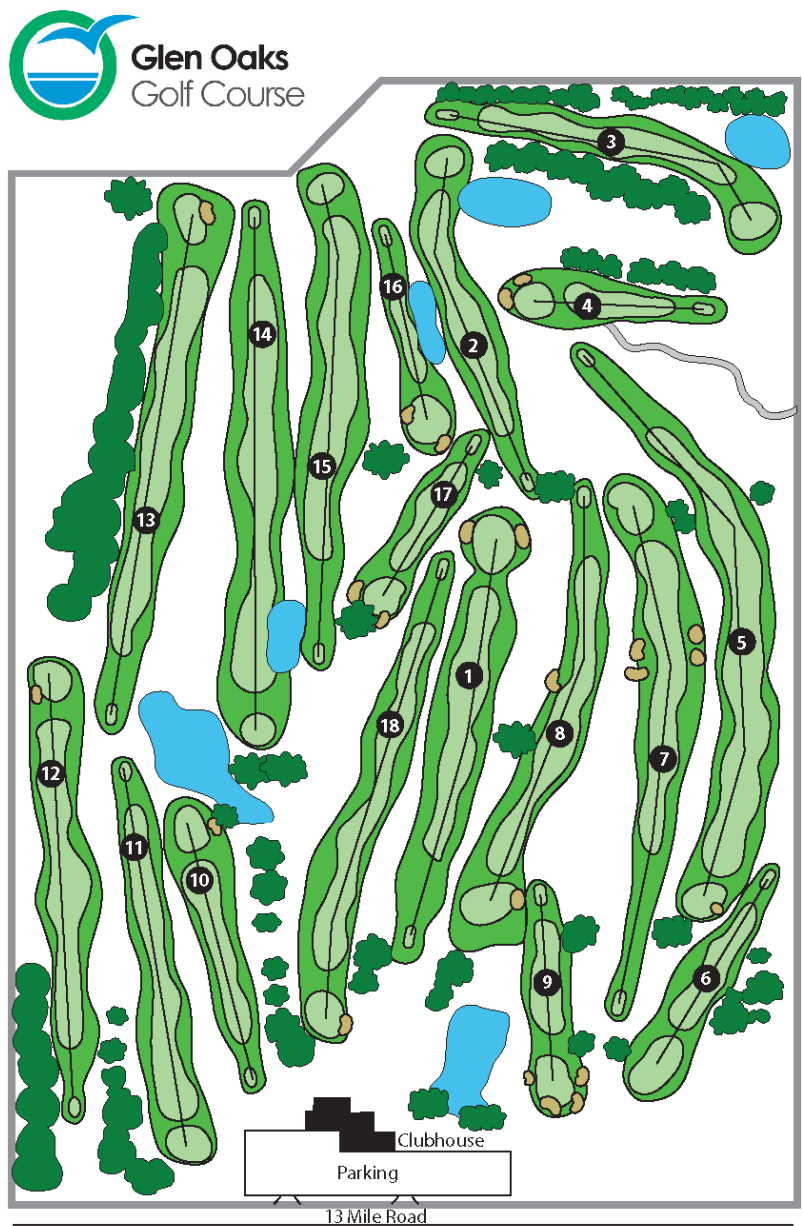
Figure L: Park Aerial



Figure M: Natural Resources Zone Map



Figure N: Golf Course Map



Glen Oaks Golf Course
Park Supervisor: Doug Ammon
20500 Thirteen Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Pro Shop: 248-626-2600
Park Features: 18-hole golf course, golf leagues, pro shop, clubhouse
Banquets: 248-626-2600



Groveland Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Groveland Oaks County Park is a 361-acre park located in northwest Oakland County in Groveland Township. Located on Stewart Lake just 1.5 miles east of I-75 in Holly,



- Address:
 - Park: 14555 Dixie Highway, Holly, MI 48442
 - Maintenance: 5990 Grange Hall Road, Holly, MI
- Township and Range: T5N R8E, Section 19 E ½ and SE ¼ and Section 20 SW ¼ and NW ¼

PARK FEATURES:

- Three of the four islands on Stewart Lake offer recreational opportunities.
 - ❖ Paradise Island connects both sides of the park via the paved Park Trail Loop and is home to the boathouse (with arcade), boat rental, and pavilion.
 - ❖ Cottage Island, featuring two yurts, is linked by trail to the west side of Stewart Lake
 - ❖ Mathews Island is linked to the east side of Stewart Lake and offers a picnic pavilion.
 - ❖ Honeymoon, or Windmill Island – is no longer accessible except by boat; it previously featured a windmill that was iconic to the former private campground.
- The paved Park Trail Loop links the concession areas, beach and islands. Three bridges along the Park Trail Loop connect to Paradise Island, Cottage Island, and Mathews Island.
- Built in 2006, the one-mile paved Thread Creek Trail runs through the natural area north of the campgrounds. The Wildlife Loop, a mowed grass trail connected to Thread Creek Trail, was created in 2012 through the fields west of the main entrance drive section of Groveland Boulevard.
- The campground has 267 individual and 13 group sites, as well as eight cabins and four yurts.



- Campground recreation programs held on weekends are targeted to campers and families.
- The general recreational area, on the east side of Stewart Lake, serves both day-use visitors and campers. It includes the day-use parking lot, picnic areas, activity pavilion, skate park, playground, basketball courts, volleyball courts, activity stage, gaga ball pit, pedal boats, bike rental and mini-golf, plus an area to launch your kayak. Swimming is available at the beach. There are no lifeguards on duty.



NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Conservation Zone, Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Thread creek runs from south to north through the park and is part of the Flint River watershed
- The former golf course now has prairie fen remnants re-emerging. Prairie fens are globally rare wetlands found in southern Michigan that are fed by groundwater springs and are home to some of our parks' most unique plants.
- Fringed gentian, small yellow lady-slipper and shrubby cinquefoil are some of the interesting and unique plants found on the property.
- The park was likely primarily an oak-hickory forest prior to the 1800s.
- Groveland Oaks was the first park in Michigan to be certified by the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program (MTESP) which promotes best practices for stormwater management.

PARK HISTORY:

- Groveland Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes its location along the Saginaw Trail, one of the most significant trails in Michigan, as well as a series of prehistoric ceremonial mounds that once existed just to the northeast of the park.
- Over time the land became the farms of the Lennon, Stewart and Hawley families. In the mid-1940s Dr. Lamar Mathews purchased the former farm lands and developed them into a large working farm of his own. Later he turned his farm into a recreation area called Groveland on the Dixie which offered swimming, camping, picnicking and even a small zoo.
- In 1968 Dr Mathews sold his land to Oakland County and it was developed into Groveland Oaks County Park.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Demographic and economic summary is under development

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
OSA-100	Open Space Grant Program, Acquisition	1969	Acquisition of 43 acres to expand park
26-01023 R1	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Development	1977	With Addison Oaks: Development of trailer campground and campsites, water and electrical sites, landscaping, play center, street lighting and gravel drive
26-01104 M2	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Development	1980	20 campsites w/ water & electricity, parking & access drive, 2 pedestrian bridges, landscaping
26-01335	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Development	1984	Boat rental, docks & decking, pedestrian bridge, retention wall, landscaping
TF1048	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Acquisition	1985	Acquisition of 165 acres with access to Simpson Lake and Thread Creek
TF1046	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Acquisition	1985	Acquisition of 165 acres
26-01452	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Development	1986	40 campsites w/ water & electricity, roadway lighting, landscaping
26-01499	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Development	1990	Playground equipment, play surfacing, walkways, site furnishings, waterline, landscaping
TF14-0066	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Development	2014	Universally Accessible Fishing Pier at Groveland: fishing pier, pathway, paved parking lot

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include

directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Groveland Oaks Facility Priorities

COMPLIANCE WITH PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with existing property restrictions: DNR grant agreements; USFWS Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Implementation Plan (EMRIP)

BOUNDARIES: Replace damaged or deteriorated fences, gates, and other boundary delineation, including golf course nets, based on results of regular staff inspections. Plan boundary delineation with appropriate materials with consideration for wildlife movement and the welcoming appearance of the park.

BRIDGES: Structural inspections are conducted every 5 years or more frequently if indicated; annual repairs as indicated by inspection reports.

- Cottage Island Bridge: Continue to inspect and maintain as indicated.
- Mathews Island Bridge: Continue to inspect and maintain as indicated. Assess need for replacement.
- Paradise Island Long Span Bridge: Assess need for replacement. Boat rentals are expected to move off Paradise Island.
- Paradise Island Short Span Bridge: Continue to inspect and maintain as indicated. Assess need for replacement, tied directly to Paradise Island Long Span Bridge.

CAMPGROUND – evaluate usage of campsites, cabins and yurts and plan for updates that accommodate modern recreational vehicles and demand for various sizes of cabins or yurts. Plan for updates to restrooms. Incorporate ADA-compliance and universal access.

- Pines Restroom: In poor condition. Has been maintained with painting and new countertops. Fixtures are old and tiles in poor condition. Needs ADA update.
- Section A Restroom: In worse condition than Pines – priority for renovation. Needs ADA update.
- Section C Restroom: Reconstructed in 2015. In good shape with general maintenance and building equipment replacements as indicated by life cycle and condition. Updates are being made in-house to the laundromat.
- Yurts: Build cost estimate and schedule for canvas replacement. Determine feasibility of continuing to add yurts. Explore solar-powered yurt concept.

CONTACT STATION: Improve staff working conditions and efficiency by improving traffic flow around building, enlarging overhang over customer window, and making it ADA compliant, expanding the building to install year-round bathroom for staff and create more comfortable and better functioning workspace.

FORMER GOLF COURSE: Create master plan for former golf course – potentially focused on mountain biking, BMX, pump tracks, with connections to Holly Oaks ORV Park. Evaluate potential for ORV crossing from Groveland Oaks to Holly. Look at potential for siting alternative energy (wind, solar) in this area.

MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS AND YARD:

- Maintenance Building: Bathroom update is needed for good working conditions; garage doors need to be replaced; conduct annual roof repairs as needed
- Maintenance Carpenter Building: in good condition; conduct annual roof repairs as needed

- Maintenance Cold Storage Building: in good condition; evaluate roof for replacement
- Maintenance “Duck House”: in good condition; has metal standing seam roof

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: Priorities include the following:

- Natural Areas Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Shrub removals, lake viewsheds, campground
 - Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Restoration of old fields to prairie habitat for wildlife including Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.
 - Remnant prairie fen
 - Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
 - Around built infrastructure and in campground
- Freshwater Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Water quality assessment of Stewart Lake and Thread Creek
 - Stewart Lake and Thread Creek restoration
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
 - Vernal pools restoration
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
 - Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Campground
 - Playgrounds and pavilions
 - Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.
 - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat improvement

PARK ENTRANCES, ROADWAYS AND PARKING: Continue ongoing concrete repairs as needed. Plan Entrance Drive improvements to coincide with construction of Northwest Oakland Interceptor (see Utilities). Evaluate cost and feasibility of paving road from Campground to Maintenance Yard.

RECREATION PAVILION: Evaluate for roof and door replacement.

PLAYGROUNDS: Three playgrounds are in good condition. Maintain ADA compliant surfaces and structures. Explore adding features and sensory elements to enhance experience.

THREAD CREEK SPILLWAY: At the north end of Stewart Lake is a small dam where Thread Creek enters Stewart Lake. Implement structural repairs to the spillway. Evaluate bridge for safety. Spillway includes a structure that was in place when the park was acquired in 1968 and has historically been used by families with children as a wading pool. Evaluate access to this structure, which is not ADA-compliant.

TRAILS: Priorities include the following:

- Wayfinding: Update wayfinding signs and trail map
- Asphalt trails: Conduct annual asphalt repairs as needed
- Proposed new trails: conduct field observations per Trail Standards to evaluate feasibility and impact on natural resources

UTILITIES: Priorities include the following:

- Septic system: Maintain septic field and consider capacity when planning updates to campground utilities.
- Northwest Oakland Interceptor: Continue to follow planning for proposed Northwest Oakland Interceptor and anticipate cost and feasibility of associated needs for upgraded park utility infrastructure. Plan Entrance Drive improvements to coincide with construction of Interceptor.
- Solar power: evaluate potential for using mowed field west of contact station for a solar array to provide energy for the campground
- Generator connection at Park House: Park House shares water supply with Maintenance Building. Install a quick connection for a portable generator to power well pump and ensure Park House has water when there is a power outage.

WATER ACCESS: Proposal to move boat rental off Paradise Island to the bike rental area on the northeast side of Stewart Lake and to expand water access with an accessible kayak launch.

- Paradise Island boathouse and pavilion: Consider alternative use for boathouse, such as private cabin rental with own boat launch; need to resolve lack of restroom; evaluate pavilion rental history
- Combined boat and bike rentals: Review data and confirm need for continued boat rentals and what types of boats to include, when confirmed evaluate the following:
 - Identify process for moving docks from island to lake shore
 - Current bike rental shed will work well for both rentals; evaluate needs for technology and for working conditions for staff
 - Bike storage shed may need to be expanded
- Universally accessible kayak launch: Expand opportunities for water access; include access route from paved path

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure O: Park Aerial



Figure P: Natural Resources Zone Map

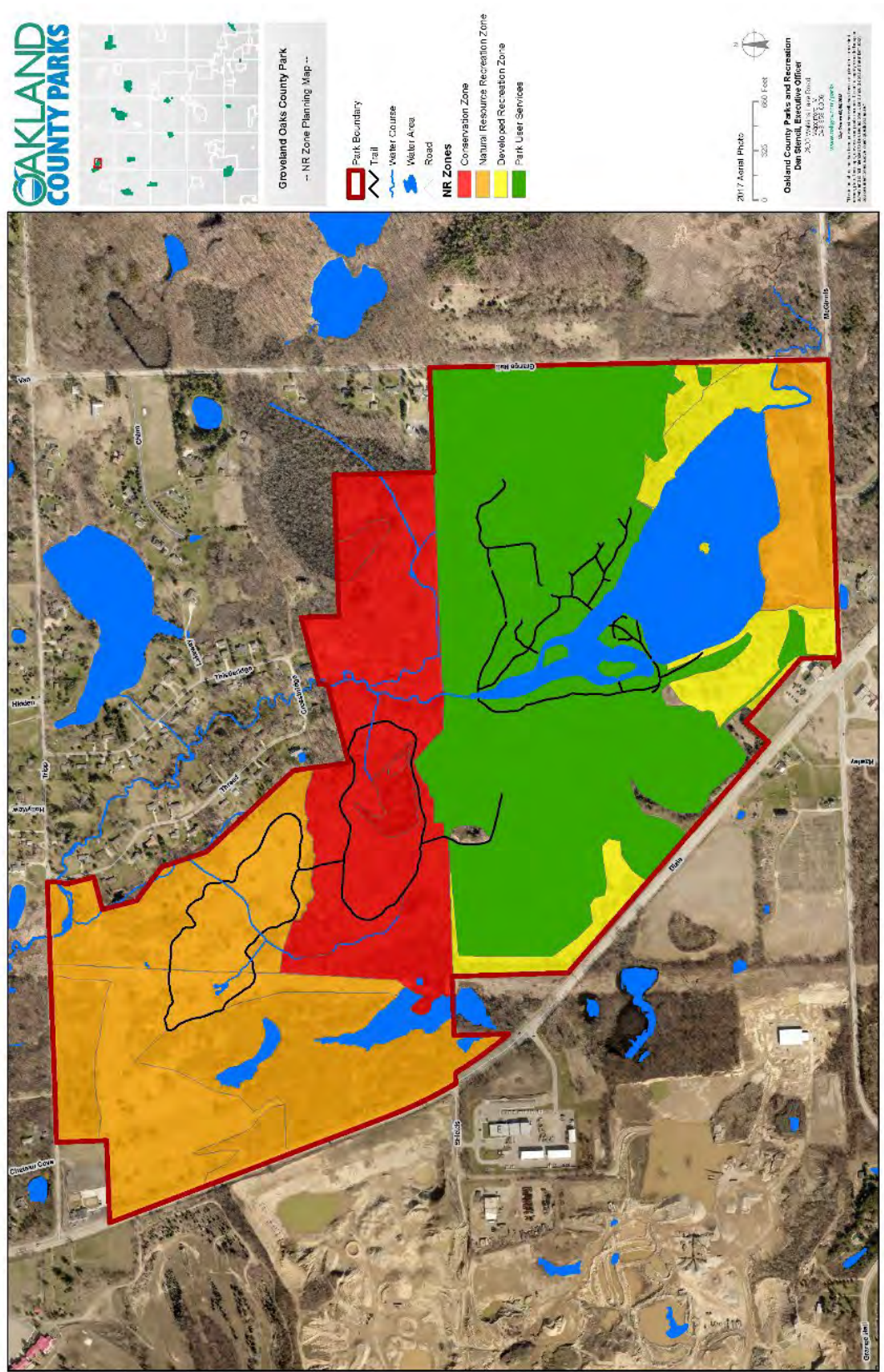


Figure Q: Campground Map



Highland Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Highland Oaks County Park is a 302-acre park located in western Oakland County in Highland Township. A small portion of the park is in Rose Township.

- Address: 6555 Milford Road, Highland, MI
- Township and Range: T3N R7E, Sections 2 and 3 and T4N R7E, Section 34

PARK FEATURES: Acquired in 2007, Highland Oaks County Park offers picturesque rolling hills, wetlands, and old pastures. Highland Oaks County Park preserves sensitive habitat while providing recreational experiences in a natural setting.



Hikers, geocachers, equestrians, mountain bikers and cross-country skiers enjoy 2.5 miles of multi-purpose trails. The trails are primarily mowed grass with accessible boardwalks spanning wetland areas. Spring Lake, a five-acre kettle lake, features an accessible floating dock and is a popular fishing spot. The park also allows archery deer hunting in season.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Conservation Zone, Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).



- Highland Oaks is part of both the headwaters of the Shiawassee River Watershed and the Huron River Watershed
- Two creeks flow through the property along with a small lake, often called Spring Lake. An intermittently-flooded wetland is located downstream from the lake.
- The park was likely a combination of mixed conifer swamp, wet prairie, and black oak barren prior to the 1800s.
- While most of the open areas of the park were historically converted for agricultural use there are remnant prairie plants that can still be found on site including big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass, butterfly weed, smooth aster, round-headed bush clover, wild bergamot, northern dewberry and black-eyed Susan.
- Some of the natural community types that can currently be identified, and are being restored on the property, include southern wet meadow, wet mesic prairie and oak barren remnants.
- Robust beaver populations on the property result in dams and tree thinning around the lake and wetland.
- The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (EMR), a federally threatened species, utilize much of the park for their life cycle. EMR overwinter in wetlands and move to upland areas in the summer to give birth to live young (they hatch their eggs inside their bodies in a process called ovoviviparity).



PARK HISTORY:

- Highland Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes its location near the Shiawassee Trail as well as an unnamed trail that crossed near its northeast corner. In addition, the park is both the headwaters of the Shiawassee River Watershed and the Huron River Watershed which served as significant water highways.
- Over time the land was purchased and farmed by several different people including Jacob Van Valkenburg, Morris Wheeler and Isaac Doty. Old pastures from these farms are still evident in the park. In the 1870s a railroad, which forms the western boundary of the park, was built through the area. The town of Clyde, just to the southwest of the park, developed as a result.
- The land that became the park was acquired in 2007 creating 302-Acre Highland Oaks County Park.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Demographic and economic summary is under development

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
TF05-032	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Acquisition	2005	Acquisition of 260 acres
TF10-098	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Development	2010	Natural Areas Accessibility Improvements: Highland Oaks – 2 boardwalks and a floating pier (see also Lyon and Red Oaks)

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Highland Oaks Facility Priorities

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with existing property restrictions: DNR grant agreements and USFWS Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Implementation Plan (EMRIP).

NATURE PRESERVE: Create standards to define and establish Nature Preserve designation for parkland. Designate this park as a Nature Preserve.

BOARDWALKS: Conduct structural inspections and replace aging boardwalks before they become unsafe and construct new boardwalks to increase accessibility and resolve trail /natural resource conflicts. Use alternative to pressure treated wood over water and incorporate wildlife crossings.

BOUNDARIES: Replace damaged or deteriorated fences, gates, and other boundary delineation, including golf course nets, based on results of regular staff inspections. Plan boundary delineation with appropriate materials with consideration for wildlife movement and the welcoming appearance of the park.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- **Natural Areas Stewardship:** Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Restoration of old fields to prairie habitat for wildlife including Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.
 - Oak knob preservation
 - Oak savannah restoration
- **Freshwater Stewardship:** Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Water quality assessment of Spring Lake and streams.
 - Spring Lake restoration
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
- **Forestry:** Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Trails
 - Development and implementation of debris management plans
- **Wildlife:** Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.
 - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat improvement

TRAILS: Winter trail edge mowing and reroute of trails that impact wetlands and vernal pools in compliance with existing property restrictions.

SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING: Replace trail wayfinding signs and map after rerouting of trails has been completed.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure R: Park Aerial

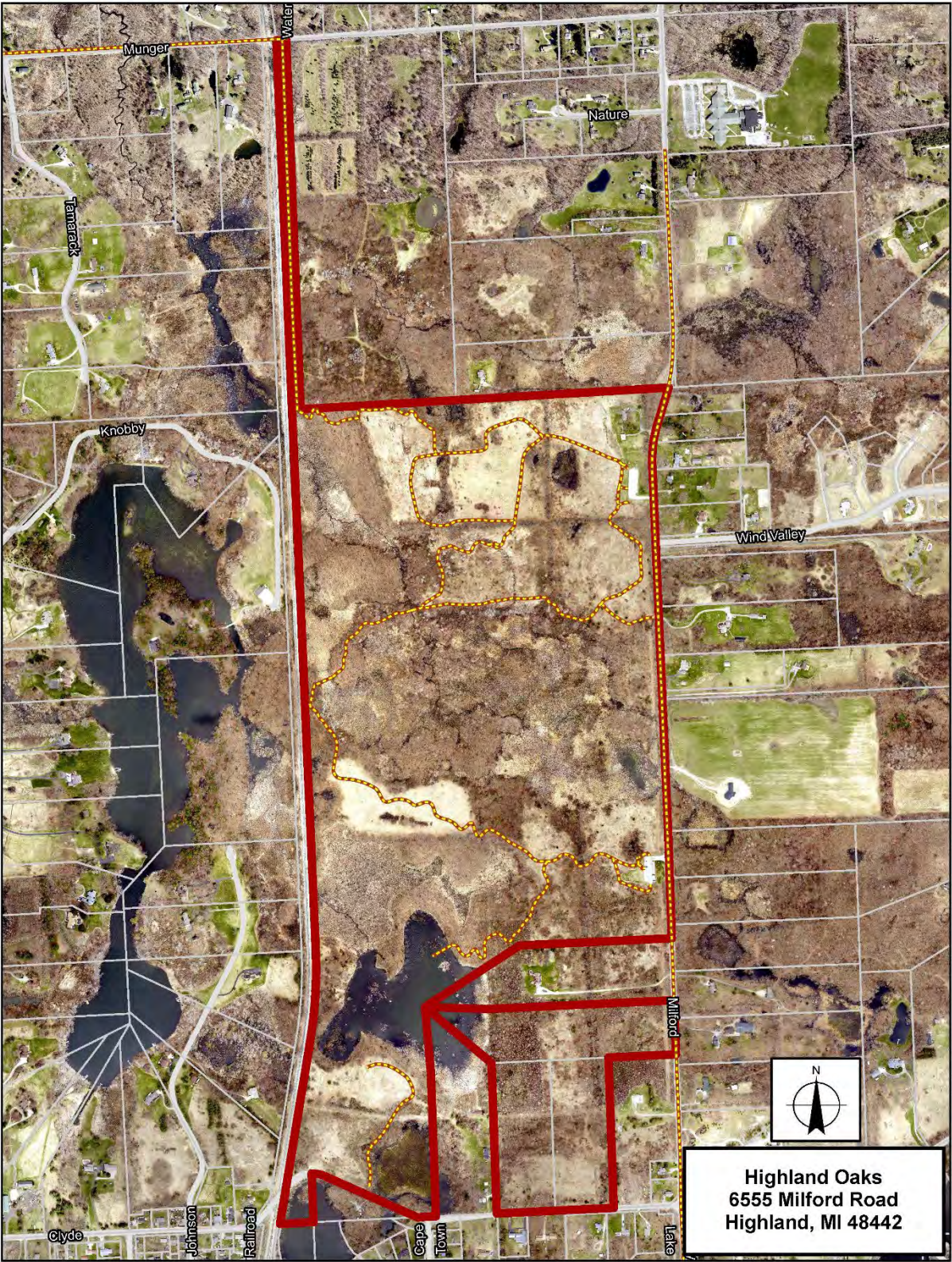


Figure S: Natural Resources Zone Map

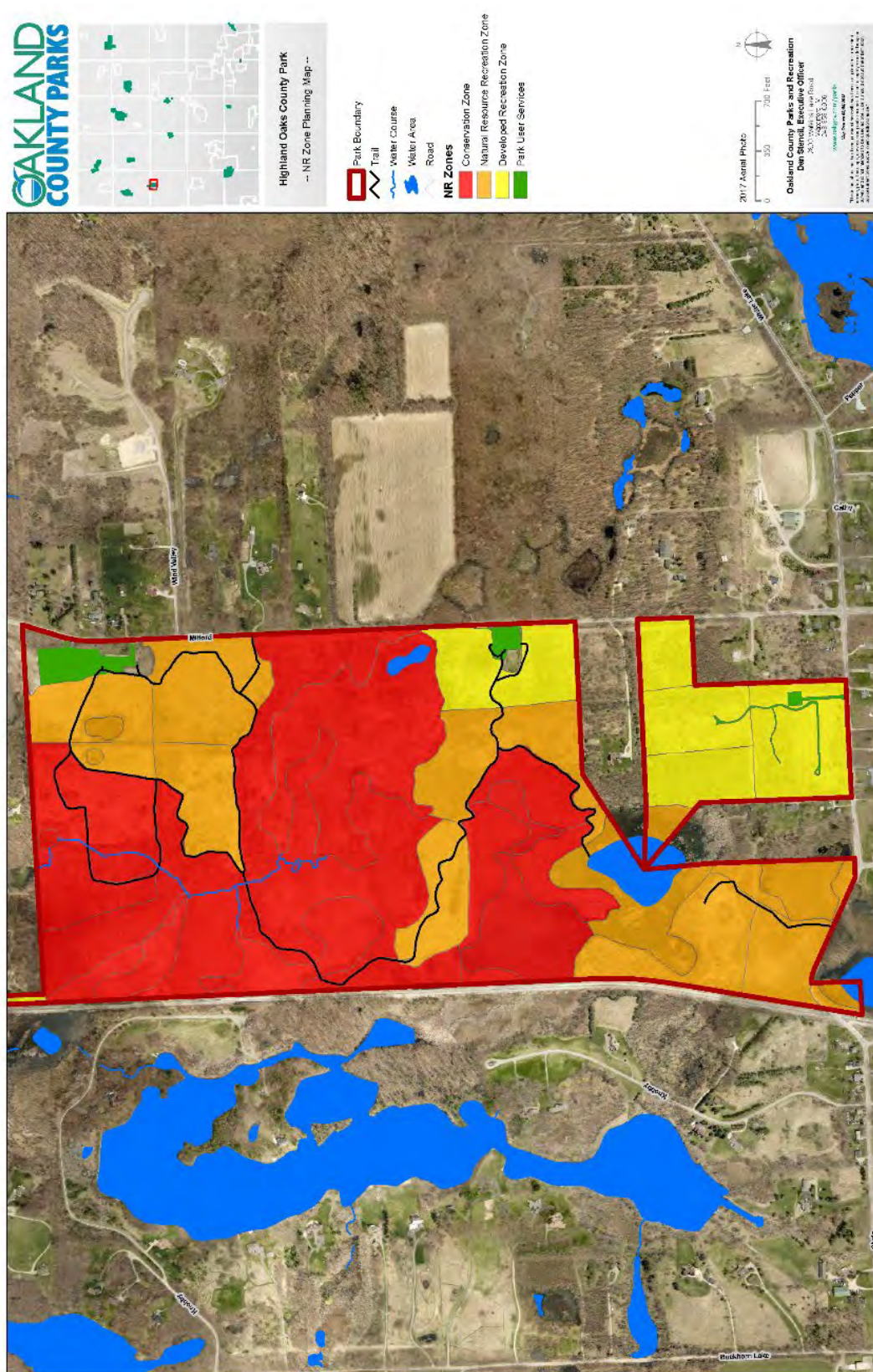
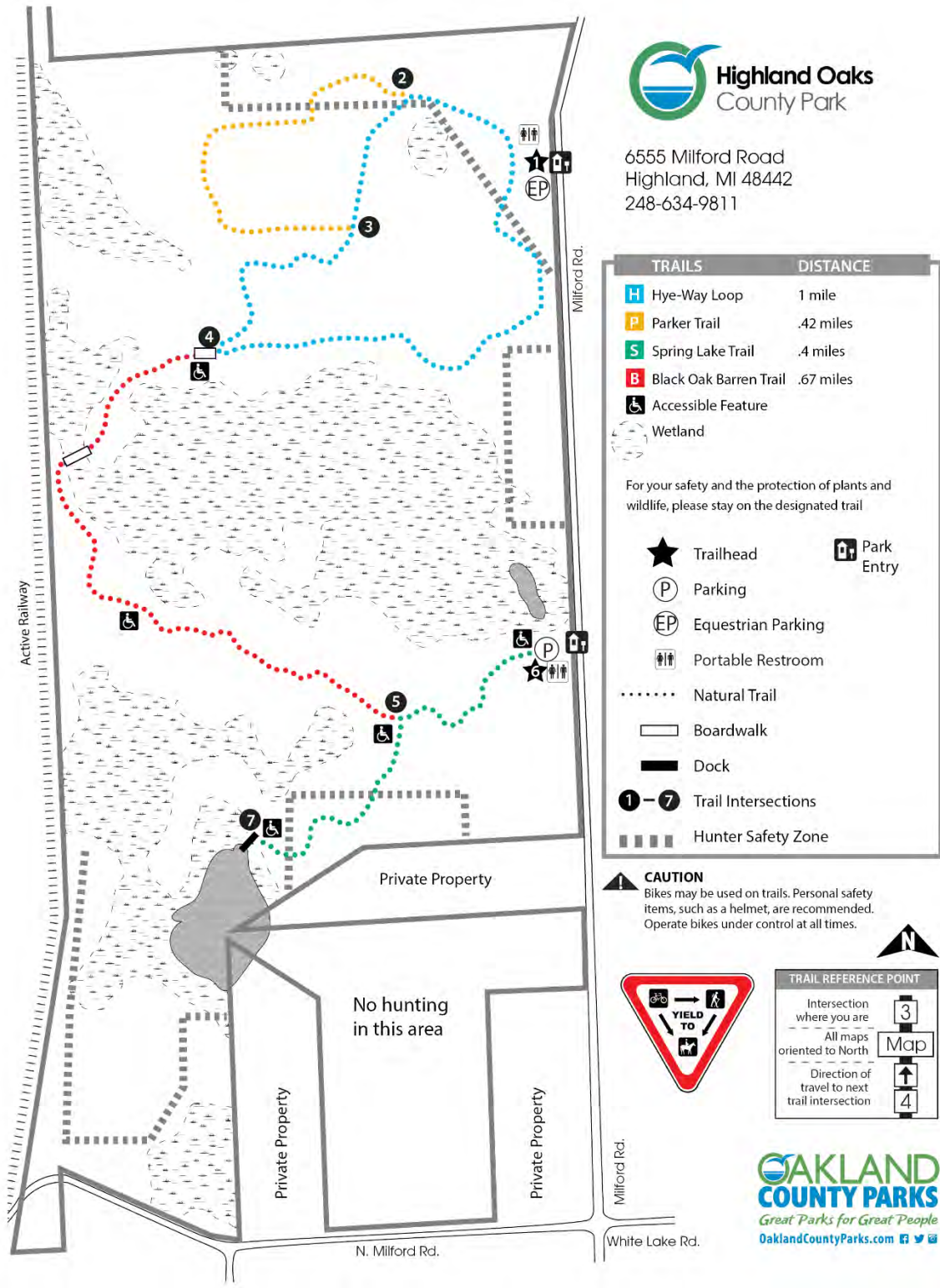


Figure T: Trail Map



Holly Oaks ORV Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Holly Oaks ORV Park, a 170-acre park located in the northwest Oakland County in Groveland and Holly townships, opened September 17, 2020. The North 60 section opened in 2022. The ORV Park is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and is part of a 240-acre former and current gravel mining area owned by MDNR. OCPR operates the park under an operating agreement with MDNR. Additional acreage will become available for public riding as mining operations are phased out.

- Address: 13556 Dixie Highway, Holly, Michigan, 48442. The entrance is located at Shields Road.
- Township and Range: T5N R8E, Section 18 (southwest C) and Section 19 (north ½); T5N R7E, Section 13 (southeast ¼) and Section 24 (northeast ¼)

PARK FEATURES: Part of a long-term goal of the Statewide Trail ORV Plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), together with Oakland County Parks and Recreation (OCPR), has created an opportunity for legal, public off-road vehicle recreation.

Oakland County was selected as a prime area to develop such an opportunity because it has the highest percent of licensed ORVs in the state, but no legal public riding areas, up until now. The park is a joint State-County project, operated by OCPR in partnership with the DNR via a 20-year operating agreement (with a 10-year renewal).

Consisting of former and active sand and gravel mines, Holly Oaks welcomes all types of ORVs, including full-size vehicles, side-by-sides, all-terrain vehicles or ATVs, and motorcycles. Approximately 170 acres are open with



additional acres coming online as mining is completed on the remaining property. The full 240 acres is expected to be operational by 2026. There is a daily entry fee per vehicle and an ORV license and trail permit are required.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Park User Services Zone only. See [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Holly Oaks has been extensively mined and none of the original natural features can be found on the site.
- Pooling of water and seed introductions have resulted in small ponds and vegetated areas across the property which are monitored by natural resources management staff.
- The park was likely a combination of Black Oak Barren and Oak Hickory Forest prior to the 1800s.



PARK HISTORY:

- Holly Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes its location along the Saginaw Trail, one of the most significant trails in Michigan, a series of ceremonial mounds nearby in Groveland Township and to the north just over the Genesee County border the existence of the Gainey stone tool site where some of the oldest archaeological evidence of Paleo-Indians in Michigan has been found.
- In the 1830s people began to purchase the land and over time it became the farms of the Ludington, Hadley and Holdridge families. By the 1960s a dramatic change in land use occurred when the area became the center of sand and gravel mining operations.
- Land use changed once again when OCPR turned this area of former and active sand and gravel mines into an off-road vehicle park which opened in 2020.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Demographic and economic summary is under development

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
	MDNR ORV Trail Improvement Fund	2017	Planning/development (\$160,000 awarded to MDNR)
	MDNR ORV Trail Improvement Fund	2019	Development (\$250,000 awarded to MDNR))
21-067	MDNR ORV Trail Improvement Fund	2021	Dixie Ledge Parking Lot Development (\$199,000)
22-	MDNR ORV Trail Improvement Fund	2022	Youth Riding and Development Area (\$100,000)

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Holly Oaks Facility Priorities

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with existing property restrictions: DNR lease and DNR grant agreements.

PARK OPERATIONS VISION: Holly Oaks ORV Park will be fiscally and environmentally sustainable. Operation of the park will be revenue positive and flexible to adapt to fluctuations in ORV use. Park features will be resilient and adapted to the landscape, the climate, and the changing market for ORV experiences. We will effectively manage dust and noise and be an environmentally responsible neighbor in Groveland and Holly townships. We will have a positive economic impact on the community and its businesses.

- Park will be revenue positive by end of its fifth year of operation (September 2025) per Holly Oaks ORV Park Plan
- Features, trails, and infrastructure will be resilient and adaptable
- Noise will be managed through park design and operation
- Dust will be managed through park design and operation
- Implement a flexible operation plan that is adjustable based on weather and ticket sales
- Design and implement storm event protocols for each feature and for entire park
- Incrementally develop remaining property as mining operations cease
- Create annual marketing plans that align with OCPR standards

BOUNDARIES: Replace damaged or deteriorated fences, gates, and other boundary delineation based on results of regular staff inspections. Plan boundary delineation with appropriate materials with consideration for wildlife movement and the welcoming appearance of the park. Align standards with MDNR and MDOT specifications as required.

BUILDINGS: Contact station and storage buildings make use of shipping containers and work trailers, which is currently adequate. Continue to evaluate building needs and ensure they meet the needs of the park and expectations of park users.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- Freshwater stewardship: Manage artificial water features on site for drainage and recreation; monitor to ensure contamination from vehicles is not an issue; maintain spill response protocols in compliance with Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes and Energy regulations. Holly Oaks ORV Park is currently working cooperatively with Mt. Holly during the spring thaw to capture the snow melt water run-off to divert it to Steve's Lake inside the ORV park. This helps replenish the water in the lake and avoids dumping large amounts of water into the small ditching along Dixie Hwy.
- Natural areas stewardship: Invasive species function as pioneer species in this highly disturbed location. Manage to prevent spread beyond the park. Site receives ditch dirt from the Road Commission of Oakland County, which is a source of invasive species, but concentrates its deposition in a controlled and managed location.
- Forestry management: Trees in Holly Oaks are mainly pioneer species, primarily cottonwood and black locust. Pioneer species are beneficial to the park because they are fast-growing, adaptable to different soil types and have root systems that withstand flooding, sediment loading and other disturbances. In the mining setbacks there are second/third growth mixed hardwood stands that are prized for creating tight and winding trails through the woods. Evaluate wooded areas to identify areas with oaks and segregate ORV use from oak trees to prevent scraping and risk of spreading Oak wilt.
- Wildlife management: Promote movement of wildlife through site without being trapped or harmed; evaluate types of wildlife on site (e.g., cliff swallows, raptors, insects) and encourage species that can tolerate or thrive on the site

ORV FEATURES: Design and construct additional ORV features that are sustainable (physically, fiscally, and environmentally) and that meet user needs and current trends.

- Beginner and youth riding area: With the large number of ORV ownership in southern lower Michigan and limited training facilities for beginners and youth, there is a need for to promote the sport to new participants and for a facility to provide driving and safety training. Design and construction of a beginner and youth riding area for the purpose of promoting and training individuals in the sport of Off-Road Vehicle driving.
- Existing features: Continue to evaluate condition and sustainability of existing features and adjust or replace as indicated.
 - Replenish sand at The Big Easy
- New climb features: Consider sponsored signature features that could appear in social media posts and commercial advertisements. Focus on climbs that are stable and require little to no maintenance. They are open to all vehicle types and produce little noise or dust.
 - Concrete climb concepts include Magna Spires, Lion's Back, Display Knobs, Oasis Falls (detailed concepts are on file.)
 - Vegetated climb concepts include Deadwood and Headcase Hill Climb (detailed concepts are on file.)
 - Other climb concepts include Hollywood Hill (detailed concept on file.)
- New gathering spots: Consider new gathering spots for users and protection during storm events. Concepts include No Mad Overlook Pavilion (detailed concepts are on file.)
- New mud features: Mud continues to be an attraction for a certain market segment. Consider the creation of a custom designed sponsored "mud bog" that is more sustainable, reliable, and predictable as a recreational feature. Concepts include Soggy Bottom Bog (detailed concepts are on file.)

RESTROOM BUILDING: Upgrade available restrooms from portable toilets to permanent sustainable restroom building, potentially integrated into a future pavilion located near the entrance. Flush toilet trailer is a potential interim solution.

ROADS, PARKING, AND PARK ENTRANCES:

- Main entrance/exit: The primary access to the park for the public and corporate renters is the Shields Road entrance. We have no restrictions upon entering the parking lot with the current configuration. Stacking has not been a problem.
- Mt. Holly entrance: Rental agreement with Mt. Holly Ski Resort for their access road and parking lot has been discontinued. Mt. Holly access and parking is still used by special events and coordinated directly between our renters and Mt. Holly. OCPR has maintained a good relationship with Mt. Holly so that overflow parking can still be accommodated.
- The Ledge parking lot: Continue to monitor parking capacity and maintain barriers to control traffic and guide parking and maintain materials for absorption of runoff, slope stabilization, and sound absorption. Identify and sign accessible parking spaces.
- Internal roads and circulation within park: We retained all the haul roads from the previous mining operations to serve as internal roads (ORV Routes) most are a full 22' wide but other some are only one lane (but with bi-directional traffic)
- Drainage – Dixie Highway: There is continued concern about sheeting of water from the park and across Dixie Highway, which has caused icing on the road.
- Drainage – Shields Road: Drainage along Shields Road has been improved in cooperation with Road Commission of Oakland County and a new culvert installed under the park driveway entrance.
- Drainage – internal roads and circulation: Flooding has an issue on many of the haul roads in the Lower Main; North 60 drains well. Most flooding issues have been resolved through the construction of deep side ditches along the haul roads. The goal was to divert and store water for later use in dust control. It had the secondary benefit of providing a lower area that could seasonally flood without disrupting park operations. Yet another benefit has been that when flooded they create amphibious or mud running options, when dry they function like canyons or dry streams out west.
- Maintenance and emergency access: Maintenance gate access to the park is provided via CMI drive. Emergency drive access through the new 4-acre parcel to create access from Holdridge Road to the northwest corner of the North 60.

SIGNS AND WAYFINDING: Maintain park identification signage per brand standards. Internal signage is managed appropriately to the site and usage.

- Wayfinding signs: High-visibility signs that align with the park trail map are important for safety of drivers. Install at each intersection point. Incorporating salvaged tires into sign base minimizes damage to vehicles if they hit the signs.
- Trail difficulty ratings: Ratings are based on the three color/shape symbols used by ski resorts.
- Information kiosks: Construct two information kiosks that display park maps and park notices.
- Event signs: Develop a variety of promotional signs in the park that can be rented as part of our corporate rentals and sponsored events. These range from billboards (5x8, 5x10, 5x16), to feature signs (5x8), to banners on parking lot wood fences.

TRAILS:

- Access routes: Provide access routes for persons of all abilities from the parking lot to the contact station and to pedestrian viewing spots. Develop protocols to ensure that the asphalt milling surfaces in areas with pedestrian use remain compact and free of rocks, debris, asphalt chunks, and ponded water.
- ORV trails: Due to available equipment (tractor and 3-point implements), all trails have a minimum width of 96". It has not been feasible to segregate trails for smaller vehicles and hand-cutting smaller trails is not feasible. Sliding gates are a solution that has been investigated with limited success. Continue to evaluate the need to segregate smaller vehicles and plan on investment in smaller equipment (for example, ATVs or trail dozers) in the future to address this need.
- New trail features: Consider new trail features that increase available length of various ORV trail types and experiences and create opportunities for spectators. Concepts include Borderlands, Wonder Wall, Rim Runner, The Dragon expansion, and Rubicon Experience Trail (detailed concepts are on file.)

UTILITIES: Current 200-amp service does not meet the needs of the park. Proposed 600-amp service would connect to a series of 6 pedestals and provide enhanced service to a covered pavilion. Investigate grants for solar and wind power pumps to draw water in the park and move it for use in dust control and ORV features. Investigate feasibility of engineered septic/drain system and continue to monitor progress in the development of a municipal water and sewer system.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure U: Park Aerial



Figure V: ORV Map



Figure W: ORV Map North



Independence Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Independence Oaks County Park is a 1,286-acre park located in northern Oakland County in Independence Township. The park has two units with separate entrances: the 1,096-acre main unit contains Crooked Lake and Hidden Springs Lake; the 190-acre north unit is the location of Upper Bushman Lake.

- Address: 9501 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, MI 48348
- Township and Range: T4N R9E, Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, and 16

PARK FEATURES: Independence Oaks County Park is the largest in the parks system, at 1,286 acres. The Wint Nature Center offers interactive exhibits, interpretive programs and Scout Badge Days. Camp Wilderness, a youth group overnight camping area, features platform tents and a modern bathhouse.

The 12+ miles of natural and paved trails feature stands of oak, hickory, and maple trees. It's not unusual to see walkers, jogger, skaters, bikers, and parent with strollers on the trails year-round. Nearly 10 miles of groomed and marked trails are open during winter to cross-country skiers of all abilities and two miles of paved trails are open exclusively to hikers in winter.

Independence Oaks also offers a new archery range, volleyball courts; boat launch (non-motorized boats); and swimming beach. Twin Chimneys Shelter provides a sweeping view of 68-acre Crooked Lake and is popular for outdoor wedding ceremonies and receptions.

Independence Oaks-North, which opened in 2011, offers hiking, fishing, picnicking and is also open for archery deer hunting in the fall. Anglers can portage and launch canoes, kayaks, or other non-motorized boats. No vehicular boat launch is provided.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Conservation Zone, Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Independence Oaks is part of the headwaters of the Clinton River; the Clinton River itself runs through park from Upper Bushman Lake to the south.



- Crooked Lake is likely a kettle lake that was formed by receding glaciers and is now spring-fed. Crooked Lake is 68 acres and flows into the Clinton River at the south end of the lake.
- Part of the Clinton River, 38-acre Upper Bushman Lake is a designated catch-and-release-only lake, which allows for interesting and diverse fish populations.
- An old-growth mesic southern forest can be found on the south end of the property where trees are estimated to be between 200-300 years old, one of the few areas in Michigan (and Oakland County) that wasn't timbered in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Hardwood conifer swamp surrounds sections of the Clinton River and is one of the most southerly occurrences of this natural community in Michigan. These areas support species like tamarack, white pine, and cedar along with rare plants such as bog bluegrass, bishop's cap and small yellow lady's slipper.
- A bog on the east side of the property along Sashabaw road is an uncommon sight in southeast Michigan. The ground layer of this bog is made up of sphagnum moss, a thick mat that supports other species such as bog rosemary and large cranberry.
- The oak forest on the west side of Crooked Lake is a remnant Oak Barren, providing a window into what Oakland County primarily looked like prior to European settlement. Large oak trees are interspersed with open prairie plants.
- Other interesting natural community types that can currently be identified, and are being restored on the property, include prairie fen, dry mesic southern forest, and southern wet meadow.



PARK HISTORY:

- Independence Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes its location just south of an important east-west trail, the existence within its borders of the headwaters of the Clinton River, a very significant water highway, and a large collection of projectile points found on the land by a former resident.
- Beginning in the mid-1830s the land became the farms of several different families including the Bailey, Baldwin and Belitz families. In 1917 much of the land was purchased by Franklin Bushman who used it for recreational purposes. In 1944 it was purchased by the Palmer-Bee Company and much of the land was once again used for farming in addition to cattle raising. In 1960 the land was purchased by Irwin I. Cohn who leased much of it to Glen Acres Hunt Club.
- Beginning in 1968 OCPR began to purchase the land and with additional acquisitions Independence Oaks, with over 1200 acres, became the largest park in the OCPR system.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Demographic and economic summary is under development

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
26-00129	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Acquisition	1968	Acquisition of 337 acres
26-00230	LWCF, Acquisition	1971	Acquisition of 421 acres with one mile of shoreline on Crooked Lake
26-00502	LWCF, Acquisition	1973	Acquisition of 22.6 acres
26-00514	LWCF, Development	1973	Main park road, 2 entrance ways, contact station, bathhouse/concession building, shelter/restroom at Pine Grove, shelter/restroom at Lakeview, boat launch ramp, beach area, primitive campground, parking – pine grove, parking – Lakeview, parking – beach area, utilities, landscaping
26-00749	LWCF, Development	1976	Parking & road - Moraine Knoll; shelter/restrooms & utilities - Moraine Knoll; picnic equipment - Moraine Knoll (23) and Twin Chimneys (13); shelter - Twin Chimneys; boat rental building; piers/docks; landscaping
26-00780	LWCF, Acquisition	1976	Acquisition of 50 acres
TF603	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Acquisition	1982	Acquisition of 256 acres
26-01259	LWCF, Development	1983	Nature Center, access road and parking, walkways, access bridge, lighting, landscaping
BF93-036	Bond Fund, Development	1983	Nature Center expansion to include two classrooms and enlarged exhibit area
TF95-052	MNRTF, Development	1995	Addition of restroom at boat house for accessibility
TF01-22	MNRTF, Development	2001	Construction of youth camp: Septic field, wall, shelters (2), boardwalk, trails, wooden tent platforms, security lighting, restroom/shelter
No id#	William G. and Myrtle E. Hess Charitable Trust	2002	Development of 3,000 feet of trail
No id#	William G. and Myrtle E. Hess Charitable Trust	2003	Continued development of youth camp
TF04-003	MNRTF, Development	2004	Youth camp pedestrian bridge, trail, boardwalk
TF06-199	MNRTF, Acquisition	2006	Acquisition of 188 acres (Independence North acquisition)
TF13-033	MNRTF, Development	2013	Independence Oaks County Park Universal Access Boat Launch: kayak/canoe boat launch, access route, additional accessible parking spots, permit fees, MNRTF sign

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Independence Oaks Facility Priorities

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with existing property restrictions: DNR grant agreements and USFWS Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Implementation Plan (EMRIP).

ARCHITECTURAL UPDATE: Evaluate 1970s-era buildings that are original to the park and develop a long-term plan for update and/or replacement; buildings include Contact Station, picnic pavilions and restrooms, Boathouse, and Hidden Springs Beach Concession and Bathhouse.

BOARDWALKS: Conduct structural inspections and replace aging boardwalks before they become unsafe and construct new boardwalks to increase accessibility and resolve trail /natural resource conflicts. Use alternative to pressure treated wood over water and incorporate wildlife crossings.

BOUNDARIES: Replace damaged or deteriorated fences, gates, and other boundary delineation as needed. Plan boundary delineation with appropriate materials with consideration for wildlife movement and the welcoming appearance of the park.

BRIDGES: Inspections of structures such as bridges, docks, dams, and towers are conducted by a qualified engineer to monitor structural integrity and identify potential maintenance and safety issues. Inspections commence 15-25 years after construction and are repeated every 5 years. More frequent inspections, repair and/or replacement will be scheduled based on results of the inspection report. Inspections of infrastructure such as water systems and septic fields are conducted by a qualified professional in accordance with the requirements of the relevant regulatory agency.

CAMPGROUND: Upgrade Camp Wilderness restrooms; plan for camping system to replace deteriorated tents. Look for ways to increase use of this unique group camping facility, which is currently only utilized about 6 times/year by non-profit youth groups. Consider additional amenities/activities at Camp Wilderness that groups could utilize but that do not require additional OCPR staff. Possibly incorporate a fort-building activity and/or opportunities for learning primitive skills.

HIDDEN SPRINGS BEACH, GAZEBO, CONCESSION AND BATHHOUSE: Depending on results from current study (2022/2023) of beach area and water quality, consider: increasing circulation in swim pond by adding floating pumps; implement accessibility upgrades to beach area; replace old grills and add new grills and ash cans; consider the need to update/replace beach buildings (concession/restroom) from original 1970s structures.

LAKEPOINT PAVILION: Continue annual maintenance and inspection of pavilion.

MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS AND YARD: Replace garage doors on Maintenance Building. Additional cold storage is needed; add pole barn to Maintenance Building.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- Natural Areas Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Shrub removals, lake viewsheds
 - Oriental Bittersweet Management
 - Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Restoration of old fields to prairie habitat for wildlife including Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake
 - North Park Scots Pine Removal and Replacement
 - Old Fields Restoration North
 - Prairie Fen Restoration
 - Bog Invasive Shrub Removal
 - Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
 - Around built infrastructure including nature center
- Freshwater Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Water quality assessment of Crooked Lake, Upper Bushman Lake and Clinton River, pond, and streams.
 - Fish population study
 - Crooked Lake, Upper Bushman Lake and Clinton River restoration
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
 - Vernal pools restoration
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
 - Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.

- Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
- Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
- Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Nature center
 - Playgrounds and pavilions
- Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.
 - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat improvement

PARK ENTRANCES, ROADWAYS AND PARKING: Repair/replace pavement as needed.

PLAYGROUNDS: Replace playgrounds as needed. Consider (for new and existing playgrounds) the addition of communication boards at each playground to encourage a more inclusive play environment. Consider the addition of sensory play pieces at new and existing playgrounds.

RESTROOM BUILDINGS: Evaluate all restroom buildings and locations and determine which to keep open year-round. Twin Chimneys restroom has heat, consider for use as year-round restroom.

TRAILS:

- Winter trail edge mowing and reroute of trails that impact wetlands and vernal pools in compliance with existing property restrictions.
- Crack sealing and repair of asphalt trails.
- Trail G Habitat Trail: Evaluate the need for two parallel bridges on this trail. Both are in good condition and used, but may not be necessary to have two adjacent routes with bridges. Consider part of a larger landscape project around the nature center including the amphitheater and other areas immediately adjacent to the nature center that are heavily utilized.

TWIN CHIMNEYS PAVILION, GAZEBO, RESTROOM AND LANDSCAPE: Pavilion roof is leaking, consider sustainable alternatives.

UPPER BUSHMAN RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Create a master plan for the development of the residential house (Manor House) site. Residence is currently used for storage of materials and supplies for carpentry and other volunteer projects. Remove house and restore site for recreational use potentially including: pavilion/rental area, seating areas, deck/dock, fishing pier, boat launch, trail connections, etc. Remove both garages on the drive in to the house. Construct new barns/garages for storage of equipment/supplies as needed. Consider options for parking/access to the site from Sashabaw Road.

UTILITIES:

- Replace well pump at Contact Station to provide water to bathroom at Contact Station before it fails (already limited use for irrigation)
- Boathouse back-up generator

WATER ACCESS: Docks on Crooked Lake are being replaced in 2023.

- See Hidden Springs section – beach and architectural improvements
- See Upper Bushman Recreational Development

WINT NATURE CENTER, COHN PAVILION AND LANDSCAPE: Rebuild the front entrance roof (consider with next scheduled roof replacement) – currently a flat roof that has drain that needs frequent cleaning. Consider opportunities for water recapture and incorporating into newly restored native and pollinator gardens. Nature Center gardens being restored in late 2022 early 2023.

WOOD BURNING UNIT AND SHED: The wood burning unit at the nature center is not currently being used. While unique and theoretically a sustainable option for heating the building, without trusty crews to regularly split and stack wood, it has been difficult to manage. There are also challenges with the staffing of the nature center and the timing of needed heat. The building cools overnight and often isn't warm again until late-morning after the heater has been fired up. Consider opportunities to auction or repurpose this equipment.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure X: Park Aerial

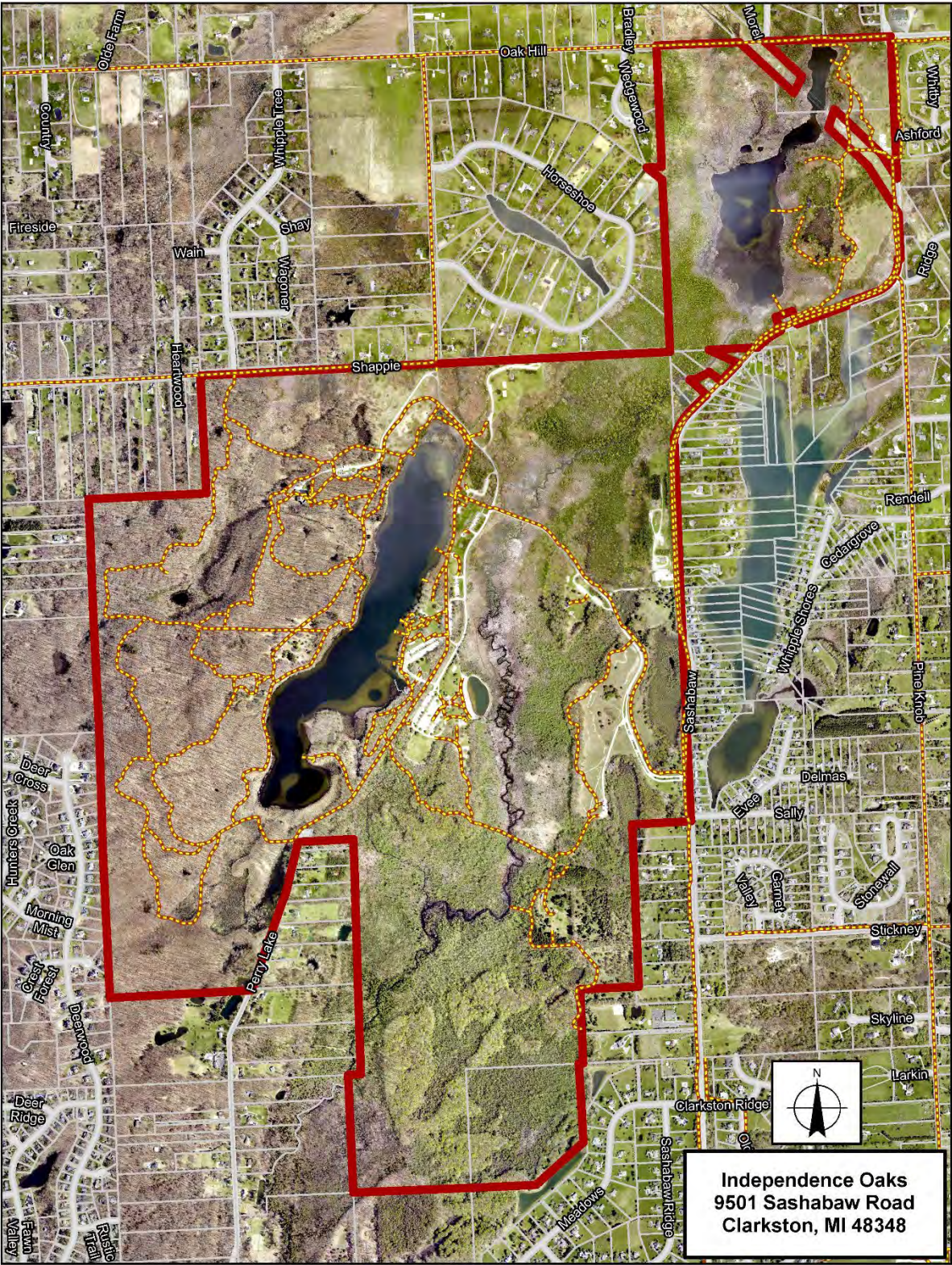


Figure Y: Natural Resources Zone Map

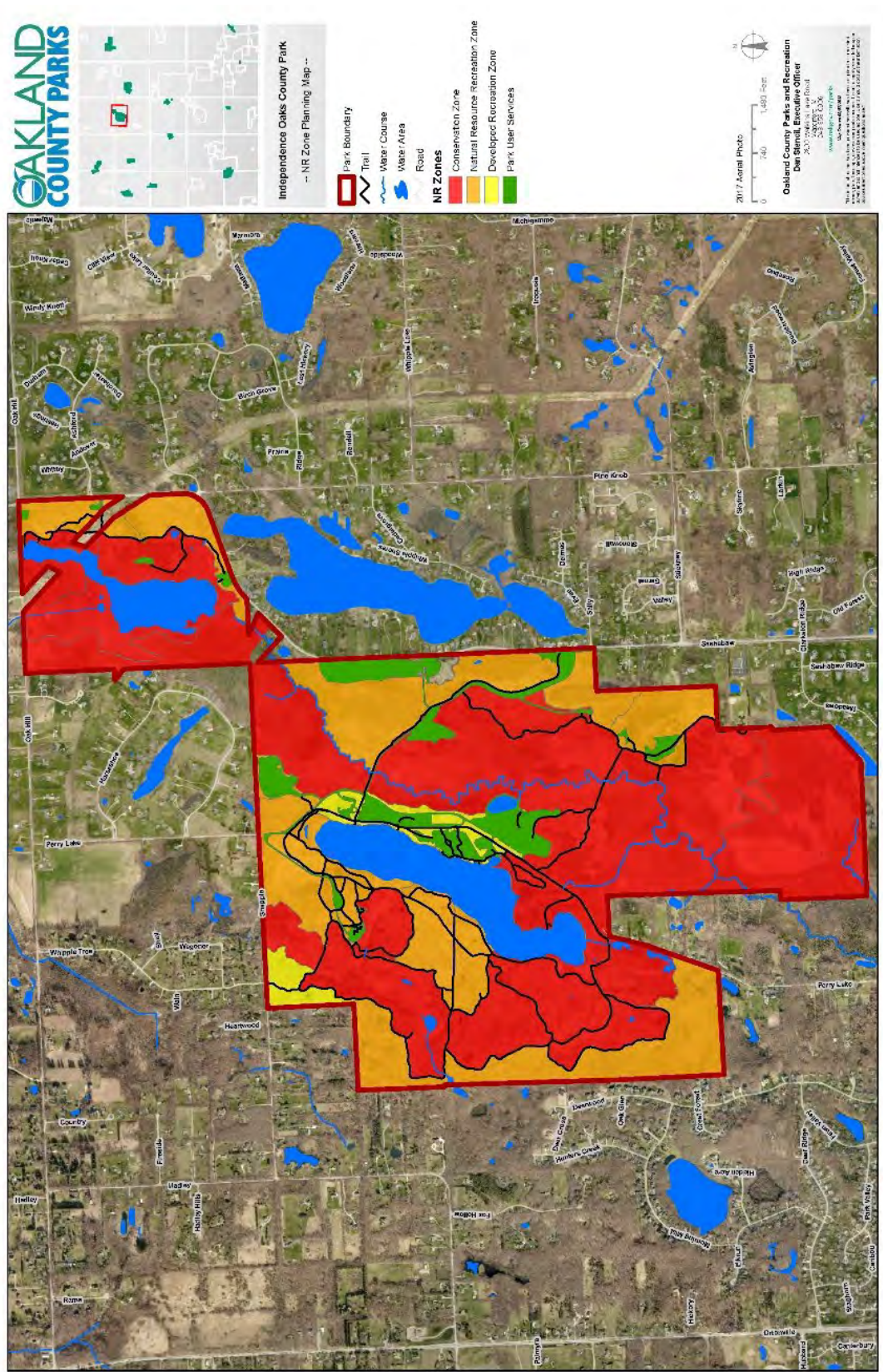


Figure Z: Trail Map

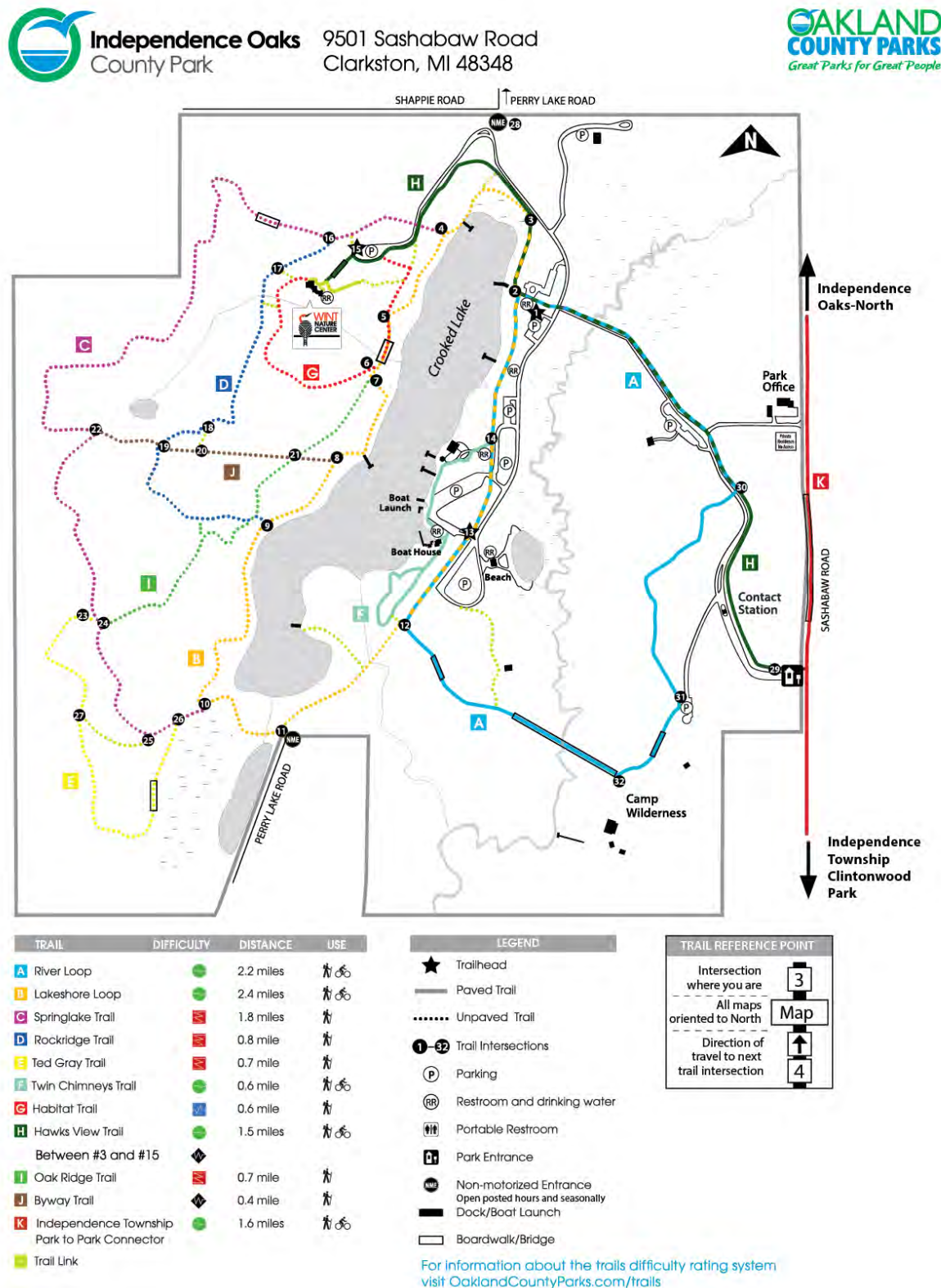
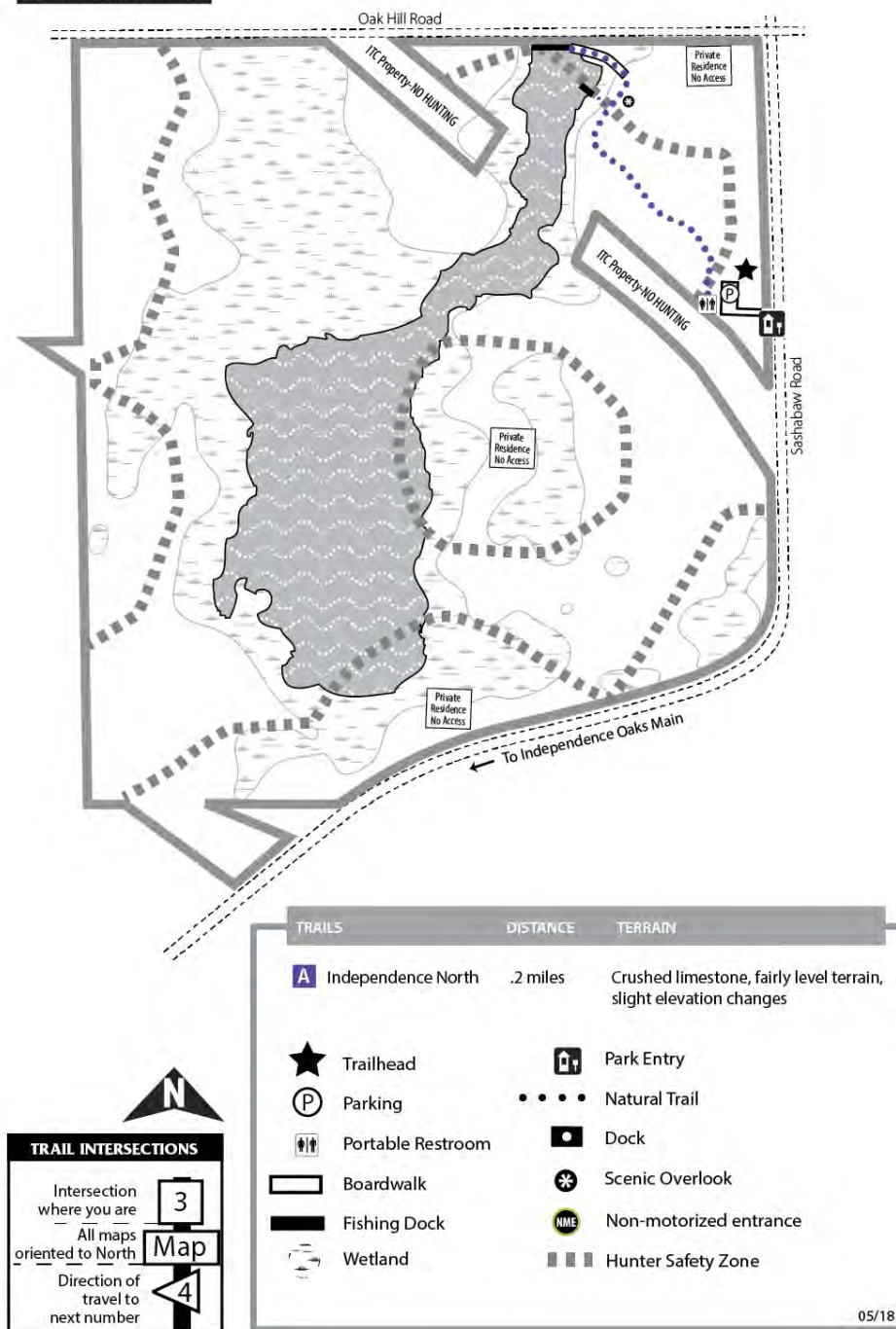


Figure AA: Trail Map North



10089 Sashabaw Rd
Village of Clarkston, MI 48348
248-625-0877
OaklandCountyParks.com



Lyon Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Lyon Oaks County Park is a 1,041-acre park in southwestern Oakland County in Lyon Township and the City of Wixom.

- Address: 52221 Pontiac Trail, Wixom, MI 48393
- Township and Range: T1N R7E Sections 1 and 12; T1N R8E Sections 6 and 7

PARK FEATURES: Opened in 2002, Lyon Oaks County Park preserves 800 acres of environmentally-sensitive wetlands within a 1,041-acre park. Lyon Oaks marks the first park in the system that was created for both day-use and a golf course.



The park's day-use area offers a picnic shelter, playground and restrooms; volleyball, horseshoes pits, and soccer and cricket fields; and six miles of natural trails for biking, cross-country skiing and on-leash dog walking.

Lyon Oaks Dog Park features a 13-acre fenced enclosure with small dog area, benches, shelter with picnic tables, doggie drinking water and field training area.

The challenging Arthur Hills-designed 18-hole golf course on 230 acres features an "up north" feel with wide fairways, wetlands and ponds. A practice facility includes driving range, target greens and sand traps. The grill room provides food service for golfers and outings, and the banquet center is perfect for weddings, banquets and educational seminars.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

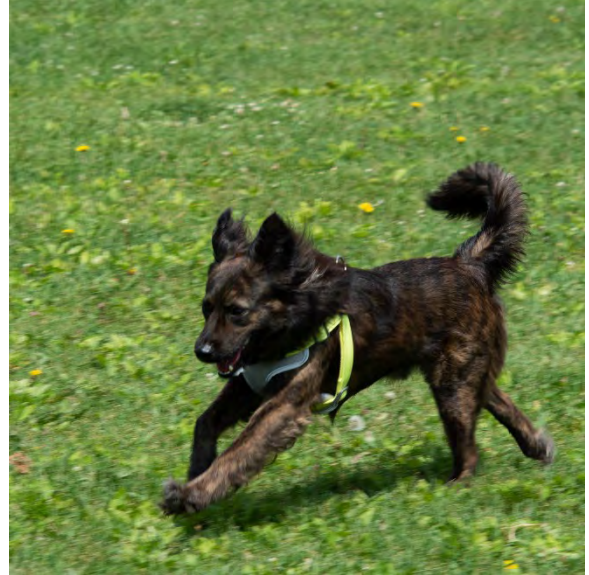
- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Conservation Zone, Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Lyon Oaks is part of the Huron River Watershed and the Kent Lake subwatershed.
- While Lyon Oaks is primarily known for its recreational facilities, 800 of the 1000 acres of Lyon Oaks is classified as a wetland. Also, Norton Creek Drain, a tributary of the Huron River, runs through the park.
- Wetlands on the property extend into the forests which are comprised of forested swamps, dry-mesic southern forests, and mesic southern forests.
- A 470-acre wetland mitigation project was installed in the fields between the dog park and the forest to the south. This project removed drainage tiles, created a 13-acre wetland and planted numerous native prairie species.



- The park was likely a combination of Oak-Hickory Forest, Shrub Swamp/Emergent Marsh, Beech-Sugar Maple Forest, Mixed Hardwood Swamp and Wet Prairie prior to the 1800s.

PARK HISTORY:

- Lyon Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes its location just north of the intersection of two significant trails, the Grand River Trail and the Pontiac Trail, as well as the existence of two nearby villages, one on the shores of Kent Lake and one where the city of South Lyon is located today.
- Eventually early settlers moving out of the Detroit area followed the Grand River Trail, which had become a rough wagon road, and purchased farmland along the way. By the late 1830s the trail had also become a stage coach route and the little town of Hicksville, located just southwest of the park, developed as a stage coach stop. By the 1870s the Marlatt, Renwick and Lake families had built houses and begun farms on what would become Lyon Oaks.
- Between 1992 and 1997 OCPR purchased ten parcels of land equaling over 1,000 acres and then opened Lyon Oaks County Park in 2002.



COMMUNITY CONTEXT: 10-minute drive time service area includes Lyon Township and the City of Wixom. The park is in both communities. The east half of the park is in a moderate Area Median Income census tract in Wixom.

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
TF89-003	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Acquisition	1989	Acquisition of 500 acres
TF91-026	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Acquisition	1991	Acquisition of 296 acres
TF93-037	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Acquisition	1993	Acquisition of 188 acres
TF96-026	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Acquisition	1996	Acquisition of 14 acres
TF10-098	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Development	2010	Natural Areas Accessibility Improvements: Lyon Oaks – pedestrian bridge (see also Highland and Red Oaks)

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Lyon Oaks Facility Priorities

COMPLIANCE WITH PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with existing property restrictions: DNR grant agreements; USFWS Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Implementation Plan (EMRIP); MDNR conservation easement; EGLE wetland easement.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION INVESTMENT PLAN⁸: Increase opportunities for outdoor recreation and quality of facilities to benefit the health and wellness of people living in an area that has been disproportionately impacted by COVID. Focus investment on increasing opportunities for active outdoor recreation such as a destination playground, flexible open space for exercise, adult exercise equipment, and trail connectivity to the Huron Valley Trail.

BRIDGES: Inventory and schedule structural inspections.

CONFERENCE CENTER: Banquet vendor contract ends in 2022. Implement activity center model with rental space for private events, with renters bringing own caterer and liquor license. Put facility improvements on hold until new operating model can meet annual cost recovery targets.

DAY USE LAYOUT AND OPERATIONS UPDATE: With the proposed development of new features (playground, restroom, parking expansion), we need to review the overall layout of the day use area, including dog park and sports fields, to determine best locations for new features and look for improvements in vehicle and non-motorized traffic flow, visibility of facilities and trails, and separation of uses.

DOG PARK: Engage in park-system wide review of Dog Park Standards and feasibility evaluation of converting to a key fob system with an annual subscription. This could lead to elimination of vehicle permit fees and associated staffing issues, but also may introduce new problems related to expectations of customers. Single-day permits could be generated by a pay station that opens the gate with payment.

GOLF COURSE AND DRIVING RANGE:

- Engage designer to update golf course master plan from original Arthur Hills design to adapt to new information, adjust to trends, and plot the future of the golf course and driving range. Include feasibility of redesigning driving range and adding an indoor training facility.
- Shorter-term improvements include replacement of boardwalks and replacement of worn flooring in grill shop and pro shop. Relocation of tee box at Hole 14 to improve sight lines, playability, and pace of play will include continue management of Phragmites and conversion to shorter-height native plants.
- Maintain irrigation systems by scheduling replacement of components as they age out and maintaining clear lines between well and pond.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- Natural Areas Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Continued management of Phragmites throughout the golf course and management of invasives
 - Prairie and old fields restoration

⁸ OCPR has requested an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriation of \$15 million from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to support projects and park improvements outlined in the OCPR's Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan. For Lyon Oaks \$200,000 in ARPA funds and \$200,000 in OCPR capital improvement funds have been identified. Projects must be completed by the end of 2026.

- Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Winter trail edge mowing and reroute of trails that impact wetlands and vernal pools
- Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
 - Around built infrastructure
- Freshwater Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Water quality assessment of Norton Drain and streams
 - Norton Drain restoration
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
 - Vernal pools restoration
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
 - Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Entrance drive
 - Golf course
 - Dog Park
 - Pavilions
 - Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.
 - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat improvement

NON-RECREATIONAL FEATURES: Remove former nature center (modular building). Note existing septic system at site may be usable for other development projects. Relate to Day Use Layout and Operations Update above.

PARK ENTRANCES, ROADWAYS AND PARKING: Pavement is in poor condition throughout the park.

- Replace entrance roads and golf course and conference center parking lots. Due to lower usage, consider reducing the footprint of the conference center parking lot (North Lot) and use of permeable pavement (with plan and schedule to maintain pavement).
- Consider expansion of parking for soccer fields in existing overflow parking area. Relate to Day Use Layout and Operations Update above.
- New contact station is in place. Technology resources will be relocated from former nature center to contact station. Staff will be directed to use pavilion restroom once former nature center is removed (see Non-Recreational Features).

PAVILIONS: No changes proposed to the existing Woods Edge Pavilion.

PLAYGROUNDS:

- Woods Edge: Retain existing playground at Woods Edge Pavilion as an associated amenity.
- New: Identify location for new destination playground in proximity to soccer fields and associated with future restroom building; consider adult fitness equipment and flexible open space in same area. Relate to Day Use Layout and Operations Update above.

RESTROOM BUILDINGS: Plan for restroom building that serves sports fields, dog park, and new playground. Eliminate portable toilets. Relate to Day Use Layout and Operations Update above.

SPORTS FIELDS – CRICKET: Components are in good shape. Usage is first-come/first-serve or reserved rental, need to revisit operational model for rentals. Relate to Day Use Layout and Operations Update above.

SPORTS FIELDS – SOCCER: Tournament play has transitioned to larger private multi-field facilities. Lyon Oaks fields are in high demand for practices and training and are consistently rented. Irrigation system is associated with golf course system and is functioning well.

TRAILS: Priorities include the following:

- Winter trail edge mowing and reroute of trails that impact wetlands and vernal pools in compliance with existing property restrictions.
- Wayfinding signage and maps have been updated. Trailheads are not clearly visible and need to be called out better. Emphasis connectivity with Huron Valley Trail. Relate to Day Use Layout and Operations Update above.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure BB: Park Aerial



Figure CC: Natural Resources Zone Map

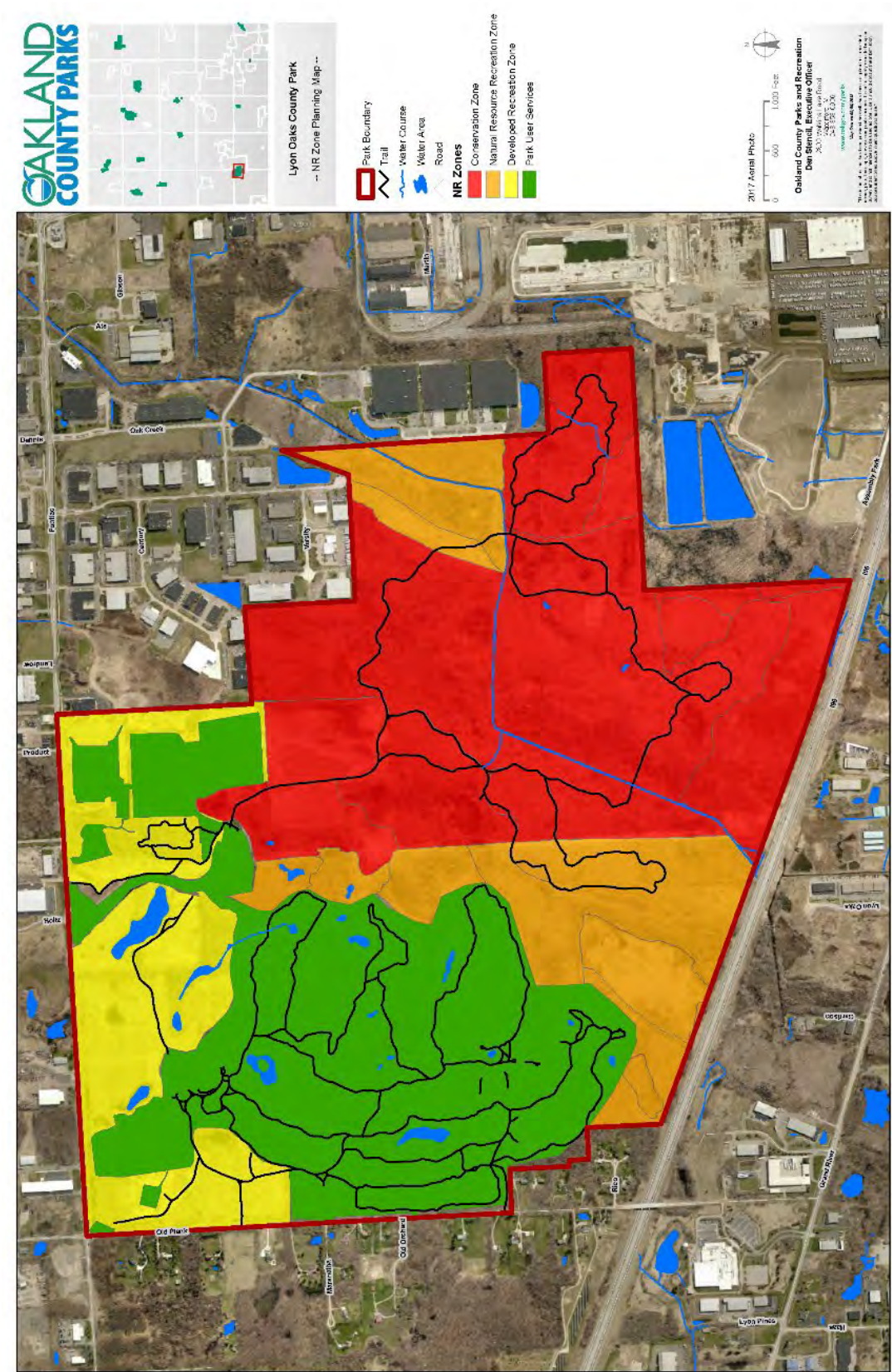


Figure DD: Park Trail Map

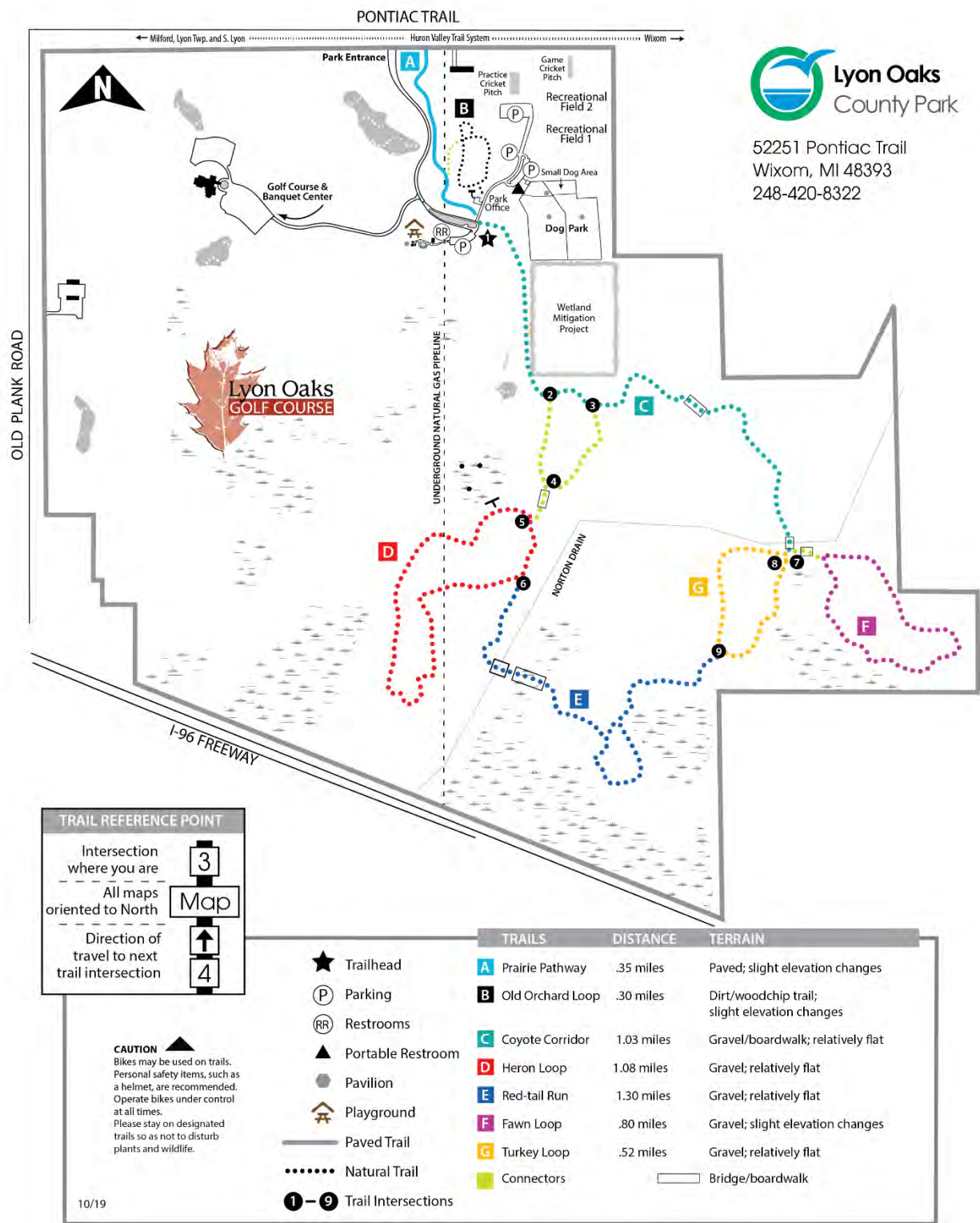


Figure EE: Golf Course Map



Lyon Oaks Golf Course

Park Supervisor: Aaron Bush

52251 Pontiac Trail

Wixom, MI 48393

Pro Shop: 248-437-1488

Banquets: 734-930-4270

Park Features: 13-acre fenced dog park, cricket field, soccer fields, playground, hiking, biking, geocaching, archery deer hunting, 18-hole golf course, driving range, golf leagues, pro shop, Bunkers Bar & Grill



Orion Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Orion Oaks County Park is a 916-acre park located in northeastern Oakland County in Orion Charter Township.

- Address: 2301 Clarkston Road, Orion, MI 48362
- Township and Range: T4N R10E, Sections 16, 17, 18, 20 and 21

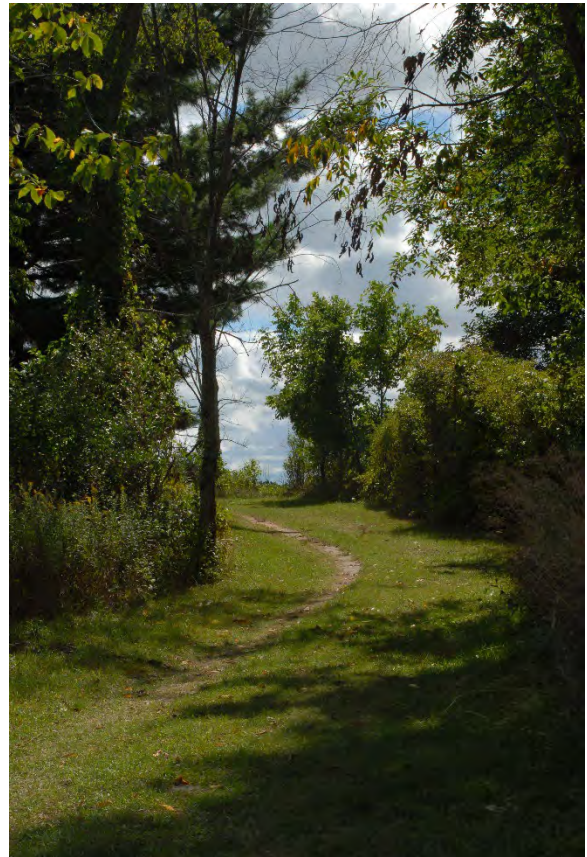
PARK FEATURES: Orion Oaks County Park's 916 acres feature 10 miles of hiking and mountain bike trails including bridges and boardwalks over wetland areas.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation's first dog park opened at Orion Oaks in 2000. Ranked third in the top 12 dog parks in Michigan according to Rover.com, the popular dog park features a 24-acre enclosed area for off-leash play and a "dog dock" with water access for dogs-only swimming.

Lake Sixteen's 91 acres feature canoe and kayak access as well as fishing docks and an accessible fishing pier where anglers can fish in 10 feet of water. The park offers archery deer hunting in season, in designated hunting zones. Winter activities at the park include cross-country skiing, ice fishing and ice skating.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Conservation Zone, Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Orion Oaks is part of the headwaters of the Clinton River, and Sashabaw Creek (a tributary to the Clinton River) runs through the park.
- Orion Oaks' combination of upland and wetland habitats are crucial for the life cycle of the federally-threatened Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, a reclusive snake that can be found on the property.
- The park land was likely a combination of conifer swamp, oak savannah and emergent march prior to the 1800s.
- Some of the natural community types that can currently be identified, and are being restored on the property, include southern hardwood swamps, oak barren remnants, prairie fens and southern wet meadows.
- Grassland restoration at this site increases crucial habitat for grassland birds including northern



bobwhite, eastern meadowlark, eastern bluebird, bobolink, American woodcock, dickcissel and grasshopper sparrow.

- There are a handful of vernal pools on the property in forested pockets that are monitored yearly by natural resources staff.

PARK HISTORY:

- Orion Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes its location directly west of a north-south trail which intersected with numerous other trails in Orion Township, as well as a series of prehistoric ceremonial mounds that once existed just to the southeast of the park.
- Most of the eastern part of the land that became Orion Oaks was originally the farm of the Cole family. The land remained in the family until the early 1900s. Most of the western part was originally the farm of the Lomerson family. Their farmstead was located on the north side of the park. Beginning in 1916, William Scripps, son of the founder of the Detroit News and radio station WWJ, began to purchase farms in Orion Township including the Lomerson and Cole farms. Scripps eventually owned about 3,500 acres of land and called his estate Wildwood Farm
- The 916-acre Orion Oaks County Park was acquired by the OCPR in 1980. It was purchased from the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, who had acquired the property with the assistance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.



COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Demographic and economic summary is under development

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
26-01099	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Acquisition	1980	Acquisition of 916 acres

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Orion Oaks Facility Priorities

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with existing property restrictions: DNR grant agreements and USFWS Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Implementation Plan (EMRIP).

BOUNDARIES: Develop and implement a plan for boundary management at the park. Currently the park is being accessed in several unofficial locations by nearby residents.

DOG PARK: Engage in park-system wide review of Dog Park Standards and feasibility evaluation of converting to a key fob system with an annual subscription. This could lead to elimination of vehicle permit fees and associated staffing issues, but also may introduce new problems related to expectations of customers. Single-day permits could be generated by a pay station that opens the gate with payment.

Provide more education about rattlesnake conflicts with dogs and greater enforcement regarding off-trail/off-leash dogs.

DOG PARK RESTROOM: The length and depth of the water line to the nearest well causes issues with freezing in the winter. Dig a new well closer to the building or bury the line to the existing well deeper.

MAINTENANCE YARD AND BUILDINGS:

- Add cold storage building or addition to existing Maintenance Shed for equipment.
- Run water and electrical to Maintenance Shed (see Utilities below).

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- Natural Areas Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species

- Lake Sixteen Phragmites removal
 - Lake Sixteen wetland edge shrub removal
 - Oriental bittersweet control
- Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Restoration of old fields to prairie habitat for wildlife including Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.
 - Old fields restoration
- Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
 - Around built infrastructure and in campground
- Freshwater Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Water quality assessment of Lake Sixteen and streams.
 - Fish Population Study
 - Lake Sixteen restoration
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
 - Vernal pools restoration
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
 - Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Dog park
 - Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.
 - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat structure installation, log placement in fields in progress

PARK ENTRANCES, ROADWAYS AND PARKING:

- Dog Park parking lot: This lot is heavily used and in poor condition. Entrance pavement repairs have been made to prevent further washouts. Reconfigure entrance and exit and resurface parking lot.
- Baldwin Road parking lot: Needs to be regraded.

RESTROOM BUILDINGS: Replace portable toilets with sustainable restroom buildings with timed automatic locks.

SIGNS AND WAYFINDING:

- Park Identity Signs: Develop separate identities for Dog Park and (proposed) Nature Preserve areas. Comply with brand standards.
- Trail Wayfinding Signs and Map: Update
- Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake signs: Update
- Hunting signs: Update signs. Update map to show hunting separation for Dog Park.

TRAILS:

- Lake 16 Trail: Dead ends at Lake 16. Formerly a dock was the destination, it failed and was removed. Consider creating a new destination, such as a lookout on Lake 16.
- Trail D Dragon Loop: Update to accessible trail from Baldwin Road to the Dog Park has not been approved by US Fish & Wildlife (per EMRIP). For approval, we need to identify a conservation benefit, such as closing other trails.
- Winter trail edge mowing and reroute of trails that impact wetlands and vernal pools in compliance with existing property restrictions.
- Simplify trail layout, close/stop maintaining cut-through trails and remove from trail map
- Update wayfinding signage and maps.

UTILITIES:

- Supply water and electricity to Maintenance Shed. Also, will support charging electric vehicles and equipment.
- Install new well to service the Dog Park, located close to the Dog Park Restroom. Alternatively, bury line deeper to existing well.

WATER ACCESS:

- Lake 16 boat ramp and dock: Maintained by staff. Continue to evaluate for replacement need.
- Lake 16 dog dock: installed in 2020.
- Lake 16 fishing pier: Maintained by staff. Continue to evaluate for replacement need. Investigate potential for installation of kayak vending machine (internet connectivity needed).

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure FF: Park Aerial



Figure GG: Natural Resources Zone Map

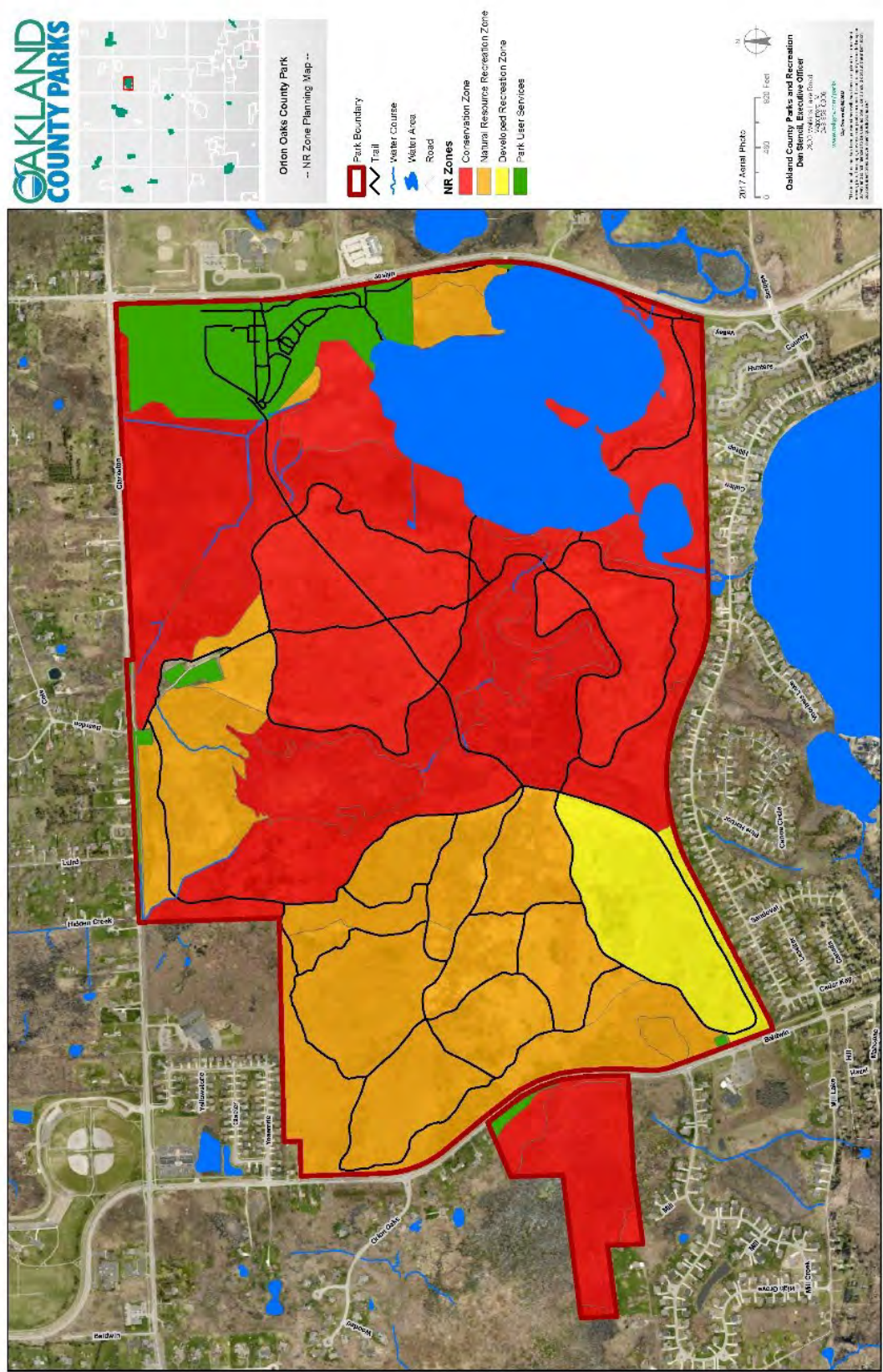
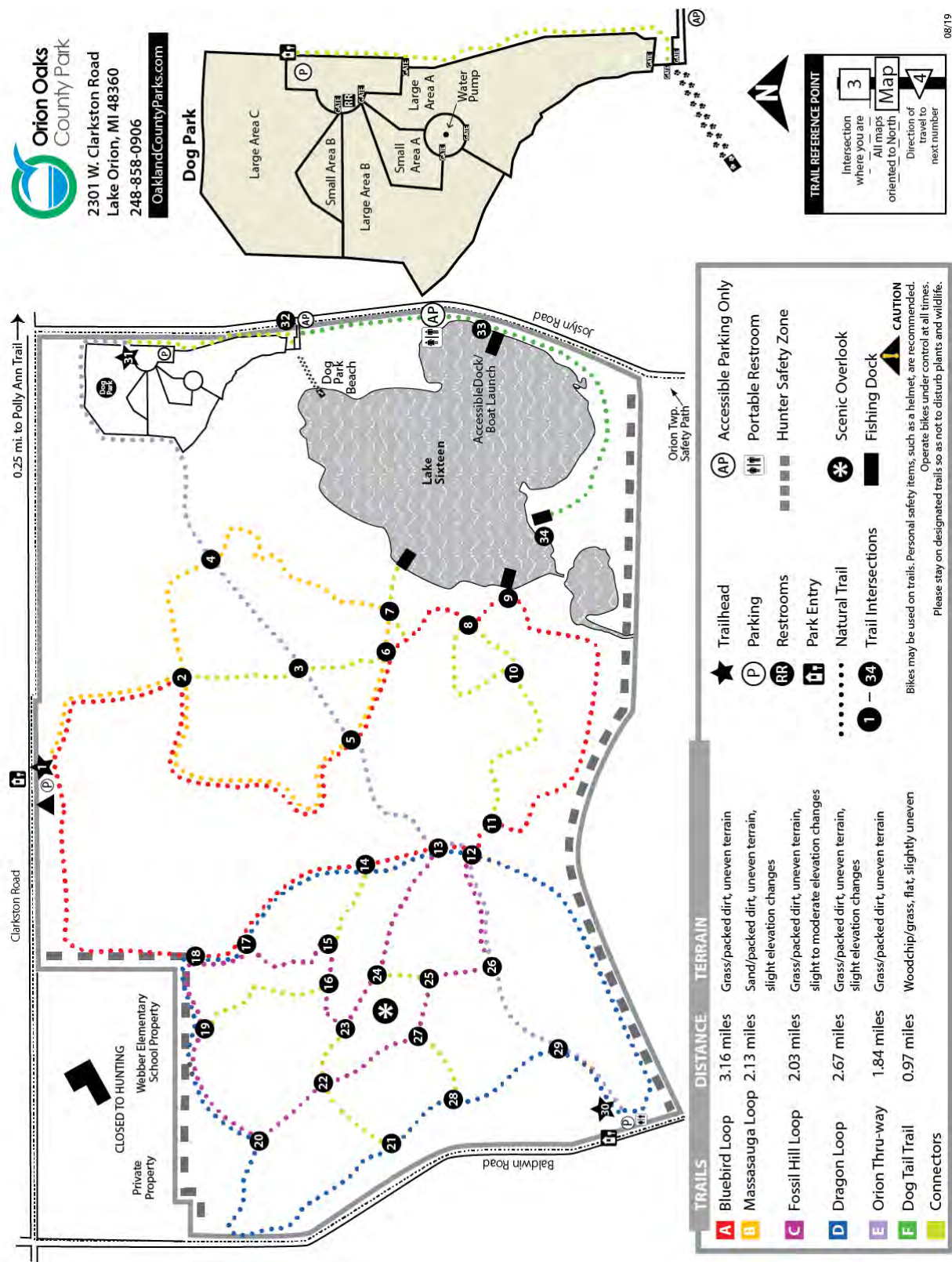


Figure HH: Trail Map



Red Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Red Oaks County Park is a 141-acre park located in southeastern Oakland County in the City of Madison Heights.

- **Address:**
 - Dog Park: 31353 Dequindre
 - Golf Course: 29600 John R; 248-541-5030
 - Nature Center: 30300 Hales; 248-585-0100
 - Soccer Complex: 29601 John R; 248-589-2294 (operated by City of Madison Heights)
 - Waterpark: 1455 East 13-Mile; 248-858-0918
- **Township and Range:** T1N R11E, Sections 1 (SE $\frac{1}{4}$), 11 (SE $\frac{1}{4}$), and 12 (N $\frac{1}{2}$)



PARK FEATURES: Red Oaks County Park and its five facilities are within three distinct areas separated by major roadways. The 1.6-mile-long park includes a Dog Park and Waterpark on the north side of 13 Mile Road. On the south side of 13 Mile Road is the Golf Course and Nature Center/George Suarez Friendship Woods separated by John R Road from the Youth Soccer Complex.

The park is a unique example of repurposing otherwise unusable urban land for recreational use – the Jerry Matthews-designed Red Oaks Golf Course was built atop the George W. Kuhn Drain, a 62-million-gallon underground reservoir and drain system, servicing several surrounding communities. A golf course was a good build option since the surface of the drain could not tolerate substantial weight. Deemed an executive course, Red Oaks offers 9 holes of traditional golf as well as FootGolf.

Nestled in a unique 38-acre oasis of rich natural habitat amid the thriving urban Madison Heights area, Red Oaks Nature Center's 2,400 square-foot log cabin building features seasonal displays and live native animals in a cozy atmosphere. Friendship Woods offers a 1.3-mile paved trail for exploration, including a unique Storybook Trail.

Red Oaks Youth Soccer Complex, located across John R Road from the golf course, offers six soccer fields as well as a pavilion, restroom building and a playground.

North of 13 Mile Road, Red Oaks Waterpark features a wave-action pool with spiraling triple waterslides and a new (completed in 2021) Family Splash Pad.

The parks system's third dog park opened in 2010 at Red Oaks. This 5.2-acre site, accessible from Dequindre Road, offers four fenced enclosures including one for smaller dogs.



NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Red Oaks is in the Clinton River Watershed and a portion of the park is located above the underground George W. Kuhn Drain (formerly Red Run Drain).
- The wet mesic flatwoods community that covers most of the forested nature center property results in seasonal flooding, including vernal pools.
- Native and non-native shrubs and trees on the north side of the nature center property provide refuge for local and migrating birds, including rare species such as Kirtland's Warbler.
- The park was likely a combination of mixed hardwood swamp, beech-sugar maple forest and wet prairie prior to the 1800s.
- Native swales have been planted at the dog park and golf course to assist with stormwater runoff and provide habitat for native pollinators.
- Some of the natural community types that can currently be identified, and are being restored on the property, include wet mesic flatwoods and mesic southern forest.



PARK HISTORY:

- Red Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes the existence of the Red Run which flowed through the area and was an important waterway, a burial site discovered along the banks of that river and reports of nearby cultivated areas with irrigation ditches which existed before White settlement in the area.
- Early land purchases included those of George Dawson, Archibald Lamphere and a widow, Elizabeth McBride, who came to the area from Ireland with her five children. The Red Run, a river with several tributaries, ran through the land when these farmers made their purchases beginning in the 1830s. The river is mentioned in many early historical records. However, the river can no longer be seen at Red Oaks because it is now underground. Because of flooding and other issues its south branch was buried in the mid-1930s and the north branch in the late 1960s, becoming part of a storm and sanitary drain system for the fast-growing northern suburbs.
- In 1974-75 the creation of Red Oaks County Park was enabled by an Oakland County Board of Commissioner's resolution requesting OCPR to establish a county park on the then Southeastern Oakland County Sewage Disposal System property located between Campbell and Dequindre roads in the Cities of Royal Oak and Madison Heights. Over time the park has become home to a golf course, a nature center, a waterpark, and a dog park.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: The 10-minute drive time service area was identified for the purpose of identifying low to moderate income communities for the Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan. This area includes the City of Madison Heights and the northern half of the City of Hazel Park which both have moderate Area Median Income. Red Oaks facilities such as the golf course and waterpark draw from a larger

area that includes many visitors from Detroit, Wayne County, and Macomb County, as well as other areas of southeast Michigan and Canada.

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Madison Height’s Ambassador Park is a 7-acre park located adjacent to the Red Oaks Golf Course in Madison Heights. It is owned and operated by the City of Madison Heights

- Park Location: 600 E 13 Mile Rd, Madison Heights, MI 48071
- Features: a track, play structure, picnic tables, small sled hill, soccer field, tennis courts
- OCPR Area of Interest: incorporate entire park into Red Oaks with a long-term lease

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
TF10-098	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Development	2010	Natural Areas Accessibility Improvements: Red Oaks – connector trail (see also Lyon and Red Oaks)

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements.

Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.



CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Red Oaks Facility Priorities

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with existing property restrictions. See Grant History section for grant agreements.

- George W. Kuhn Drain (GWK) Golf Course lease: 50-year lease – May 1, 2004 – May 1, 2054.
- GWK Golf Course lease 1st amendment: Executed September 18, 2007; added property
- GWK Golf Course lease 2nd amendment: Executive March 9, 2011; added property
- GWK Waterpark lease: 50-year lease – May 1, 2004 – May 1, 2054.
- GWK Waterpark lease amendment: September 18, 2007; added “overflow parking and dog park” areas
- City of Madison Heights (CMH) Red Oaks Nature Center lease: 25-year lease originally executed in 2012, was renewed May 3, 2022 and expires December 31, 2046. *Desired improvements at the Nature Center may be limited by this agreement and CMH capacity to provide percentage of capital funding required by the agreement. Consider restructuring agreement to allow greater funding by OCPR for capital projects approved by OCPR and CMH. Continue to schedule annual forecast and operations meetings with CMH (generally in January). Discuss with CMH the need to do prescribed burns to effectively manage the Nature Center area natural resources.*
- CMH and GWK license, use and maintenance agreement: Executed May 14, 2007; Soccer Complex. *Revisit this agreement to determine the optimal and most cost-effective involvement of OCPR.*
- CMH and OCPR Letter of Intent to negotiate a lease for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of CMH-owned Ambassador Park.
- The 2003 Baseline Environmental Assessment notes the due care responsibilities of OCPR. *OCPR should exercise due care before commencing a project that involves any moving of soil on the Golf Course. The property owner, WRC, should be consulted and a determination made whether further environmental analyses are needed to protect recreational users, park staff, and adjoining neighbors. Additionally, if re-purposing of the Golf Course is considered at some future point, alternative uses appropriate for a site of environmental contamination should be considered. Because of the history of old dump sites along the*



Red Run Drain, and the industrial history of surrounding areas, this precaution should be maintained throughout the Red Oaks County Park and not just in the areas where known contamination has been documented. See summary environmental history at

<https://www.oakgov.com/parks/getinvolved/Documents/OCPRRedBaseline.pdf>.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION INVESTMENT PLAN⁹: Increase opportunities for outdoor recreation and quality of facilities to benefit the health and wellness of people living in an area that has been disproportionately impacted by COVID.

- Initial Proposal Focus – Golf Course Conversion to Open Park: The initial proposal focused on the proposed conversion of golf course to parkland with no entry fee or vehicle permit required (except dog park), with conversion of cart paths to trails that provide a non-motorized connection from John R to 13-Mile Road to Dequindre and multiple neighborhood trail connections. An amendment was approved by the Board of Commissioners removing this proposal from the Healthy Communities Plan.
- Updated Proposal Focus: The updated focus is on improvements to the Nature Center and Ambassador Park to improve access and quality of experience for community members. Golf course improvements will focus on increasing access, full recovery of operating costs, and piloting Red Oaks Golf Course as a model sustainable golf course. See detail below.

AMBASSADOR PARK: Addition of Ambassador Park to Red Oaks provides opportunities with land that is not located over GWK and could support new infrastructure. Major concerns: future of soccer use at the site (and responsibility for soccer if it continues), negotiating maintenance responsibilities, potential increased costs for City water and sewer, and capacity of staff to maintain existing park with additional parkland. Two areas of Ambassador are identified:

- Tennis courts area: Replace existing tennis courts with pickle ball courts and a green restroom.
- Open space area: There are two potential concepts for the open space area (both are dependent on soccer moving to another location):
 - Construct pavilion for events, programs, and rentals; update playground; and install native plantings and trees.
 - Move dog park to this area; add agility equipment and shade structures. Remove playground and build new nature playground at Nature Center. Research dog parks and other recreation functions in urban areas and noise abatement.

ONE PARK: Explore ways to better link facilities together to have an identify as one park with multiple facilities.

BOUNDARIES: Inventory and assess all park fences and determine appropriate materials for delineation and appropriate level of vegetation management. At Golf Course, reduce conflicts between golfers with stray golf balls and residential properties bordering the Golf Course.

DOG PARK: Engage in park-system wide review of Dog Park Standards and feasibility evaluation of converting to a key fob system with an annual subscription. This could lead to elimination of vehicle permit fees and

⁹ OCPR has requested an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriation of \$15 million from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to support projects and park improvements outlined in the OCPR's Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan. Projects must be completed by the end of 2026.

associated staffing issues, but also may introduce new problems related to expectations of customers. Single-day permits could be generated by a pay station that opens the gate with payment. Consider two alternatives:

- Continue Dog Park in Current Location. Replace contact station now to relieve working conditions. Replace portable toilets with green restroom. Research synthetic turf. Proceed with conversion of dog run to Waterpark parking
- Move Dog Park to Ambassador Park: Repurpose area for Waterpark parking, pole barn for longer-term and cold storage; one-way exit from Waterpark.
- Discontinue Dog Park: Repurpose area for Waterpark parking, pole barn for longer-term and cold storage; one-way exit from Waterpark.

GOLF COURSE: The shorter 9-hole golf course is ideal for beginner and junior golfers. Footgolf is working well. The course has a strong customer base and provides a valued service for golfers in the region as the number of courses open to the public has declined. The Parks Commission has set a long-standing goal for golf facilities to achieve financial self-sufficiency. The operating losses experienced at Red Oaks Golf Course in the past have fallen short of the cost recovery objectives set by the Commission. A resurgent interest in golf has resulted in increased revenues and reduced the operating loss for the current year. Elimination of the taxpayer subsidy required to operate this facility is a priority.

The following steps have been identified with a goal of achieving long-term financial sustainability at the course, increasing access/use of the course and reducing environmental impacts:

- Increase access and use of golf course:
 - Provide educational opportunities with a teeing area.
 - Provide lessons at less busy times of day.
 - Accessible carts and adaptive programming to increase opportunities for persons of all abilities.
 - Evaluate opportunities for trailway next to golf course; look at existing connectivity and how/if trails would enhance routes.
 - Evaluate rates and fees and evaluate non-resident rates. Consider how to benefit residents without losing existing non-resident user groups.
- Reduce city water use for irrigation to conserve water and reduce costs:
 - WRC flushes the main drain line located below the pond with fresh water. Currently this fresh flush water is lost, but it could be flushed into the pond and used for irrigation.
 - Retention pond needs to be dredged and enlarged to accommodate flush water. Will need to investigate soil contamination first.
 - Install pond cover to reduce loss to evaporation.
- Green infrastructure:
 - Research industry standards for sustainability of golf courses.
 - Solar power to charge golf carts and power other parts of golf course.
 - Change to electric mower.
 - Look at permeable concrete when we add parking.
 - Increase no-mow areas; install native plantings

Closure of the facility and the conversion of the property to a public park is another alternative for the site that may be considered if the objectives set for the facility are not met and funding is available for the project. A statistical representative survey of residents of the service area of the park indicated strong public support for

this proposal. A change from the current use may result in improved services that have broader impact in meeting community needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- Natural Areas Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Shrub removals
 - Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
 - Around built infrastructure and in waterpark entrance drive
- Freshwater Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Restoration of wet-mesic flatwoods
 - Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Nature center woods
 - Golf course
 - Dog park
 - Waterpark
 - Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Targeted bird population studies
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.

NATURE CENTER: Focus improvements on increasing and diversifying access to the Nature Center and trails. Resolve limitations caused by inadequate/poor quality parking, pedestrian circulation issues, and lack of restrooms for visitors. Revisit lease agreement with City of Madison Heights to resolve funding limitations (See Property Agreements and Restrictions section).

- Nature Center Building: Continue to maintain building. There are severe shortages of office and storage space that can only be resolved by expanding resources in other parts of the park.
- Landscape Update: Complete updates to area immediately surrounding Nature Center.
- Parking Lot: Revisit 2013 design for parking lot and update to current needs. Include plan for delineating overflow parking lot – consider use of permeable pavers. Identify funding and schedule.

- Boundary: Work with City to understand boundary location and fenceline ownership and determine the appropriate level of management and who is responsible.
- Trails: Improve Nature Center trails as park features with more activities and photo opportunities; be cognizant of user groups and their needs at different areas of the trails.
- Birding Destination: Develop Nature Center as a regional birding destination; understand birders and how/where they use the Nature Center; plan restoration specifically for birding.
- Nature Education Teaching Pavilion: Construct a universally accessible pavilion with restrooms, storage for programs and events, and closable sides to enable use during inclement weather. Include ADA-compliant access routes. Locate at current tent location.
- North side on 13-Mile Road: Increase ease of access to Nature Center trails from public sidewalks.
- Hales Street/Nature Playground: Increase ease of access to Nature Center trails. Consider construction of a nature playground that goes into the woods with the entrance on Hales. Consider locating green restroom nearby. Consider need for additional parking and a buffer to separate the playground from adjacent residential properties.

PARK OFFICES, MAINTENANCE, AND STORAGE: Maintenance building, yard, and parking lot (located at north end of Golf Course) does not meet need for current park operation and entrance is too short for safe entrance and exit of delivery trucks – develop concepts to expand building and redesign yard to meet staffing, work space, equipment storage and traffic flow needs and free up valuable space in the Nature Center. See Dog Park for additional concepts for storage.

WATERPARK: Review two waterparks in the OCPR system, Red Oaks and Waterford Oaks waterpark, at the same time and evaluate feasibility of operating and funding capital improvements for the two waterparks. See also [Waterford Oaks](#).

Red Oaks Waterpark: Aging infrastructure needs update and modernization if it is to function as a regional waterpark. Additional features need to be those that only require minimal staffing such as waterslides with zero-depth exit. Organizational decision is needed on the future of both waterparks and where investment and resources (such as limited staffing) should be focused.

- Facility Condition Assessment: Determine condition of existing assets and the cost of maintenance, replacement, or removal. A similar report was completed for Waterford Oaks Waterpark in 2019.
- Fiscal Sustainability Committee: Review of Assessment and alternatives for the future of the waterparks; development of recommendations to the Parks Commission.
- Parks Commission: Determination of future operation and development.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure II: Park Aerial

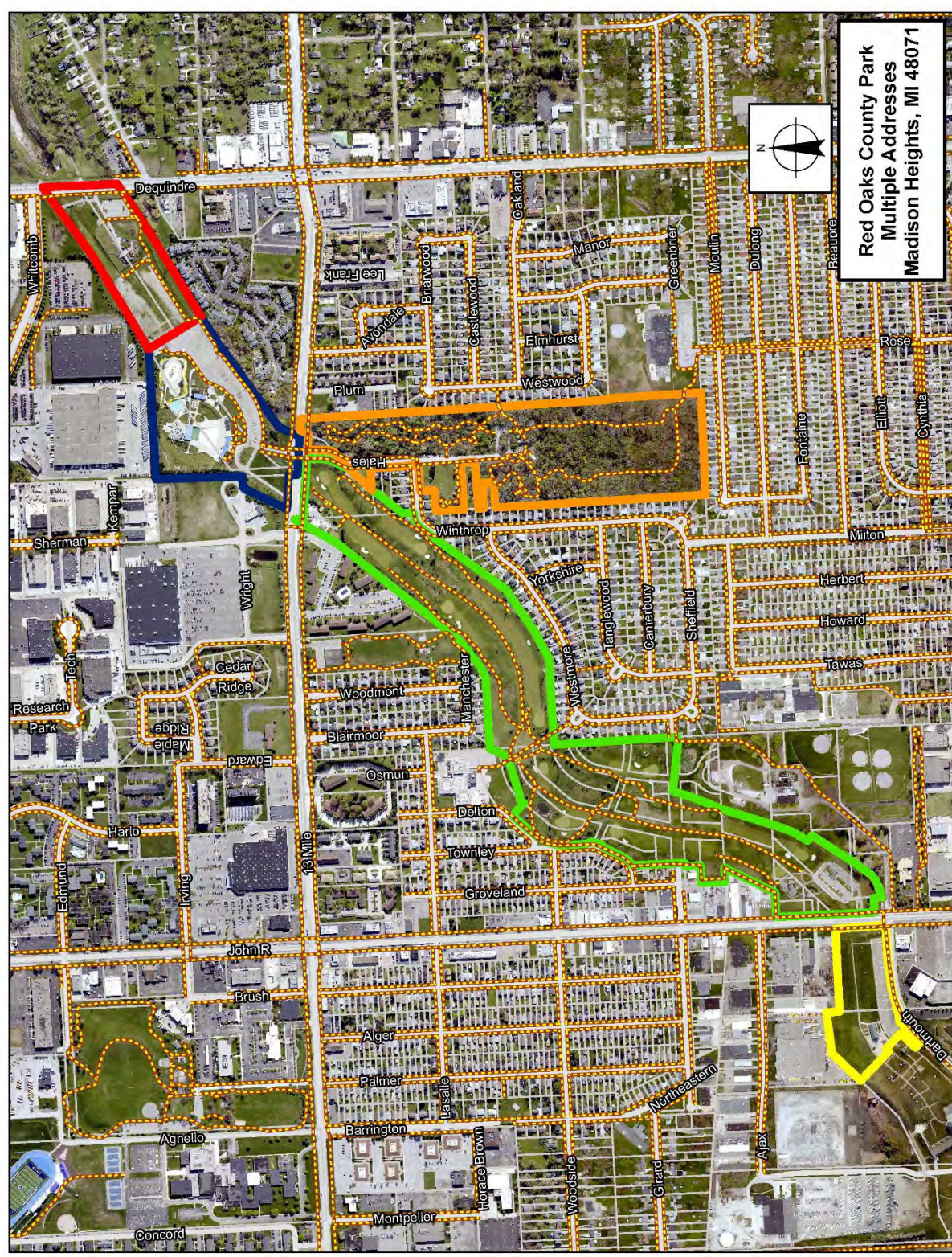


Figure JJ: Ambassador Park Aerial



Figure KK: Natural Resources Zone Map

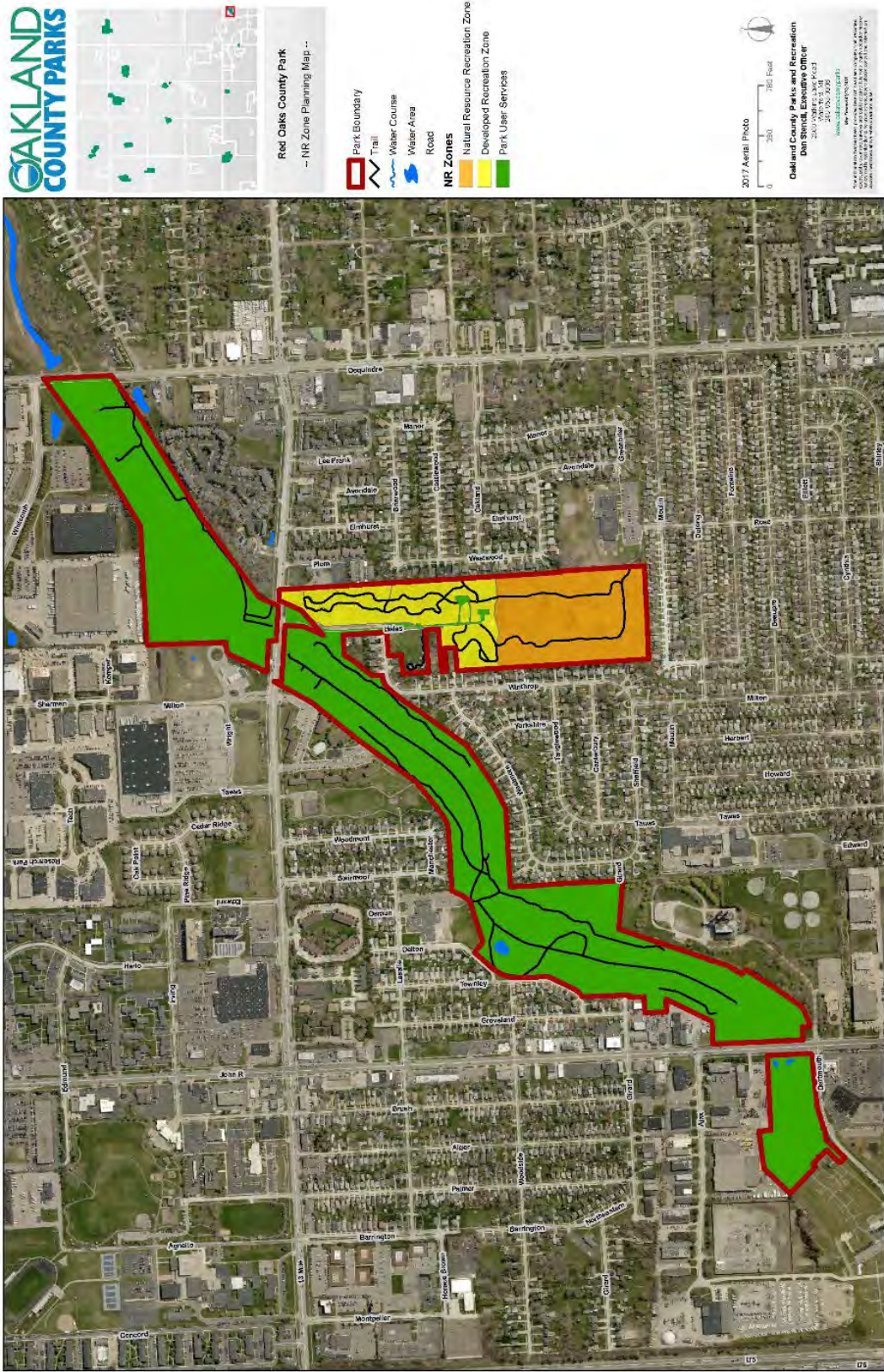


Figure LL: Park Trail Map

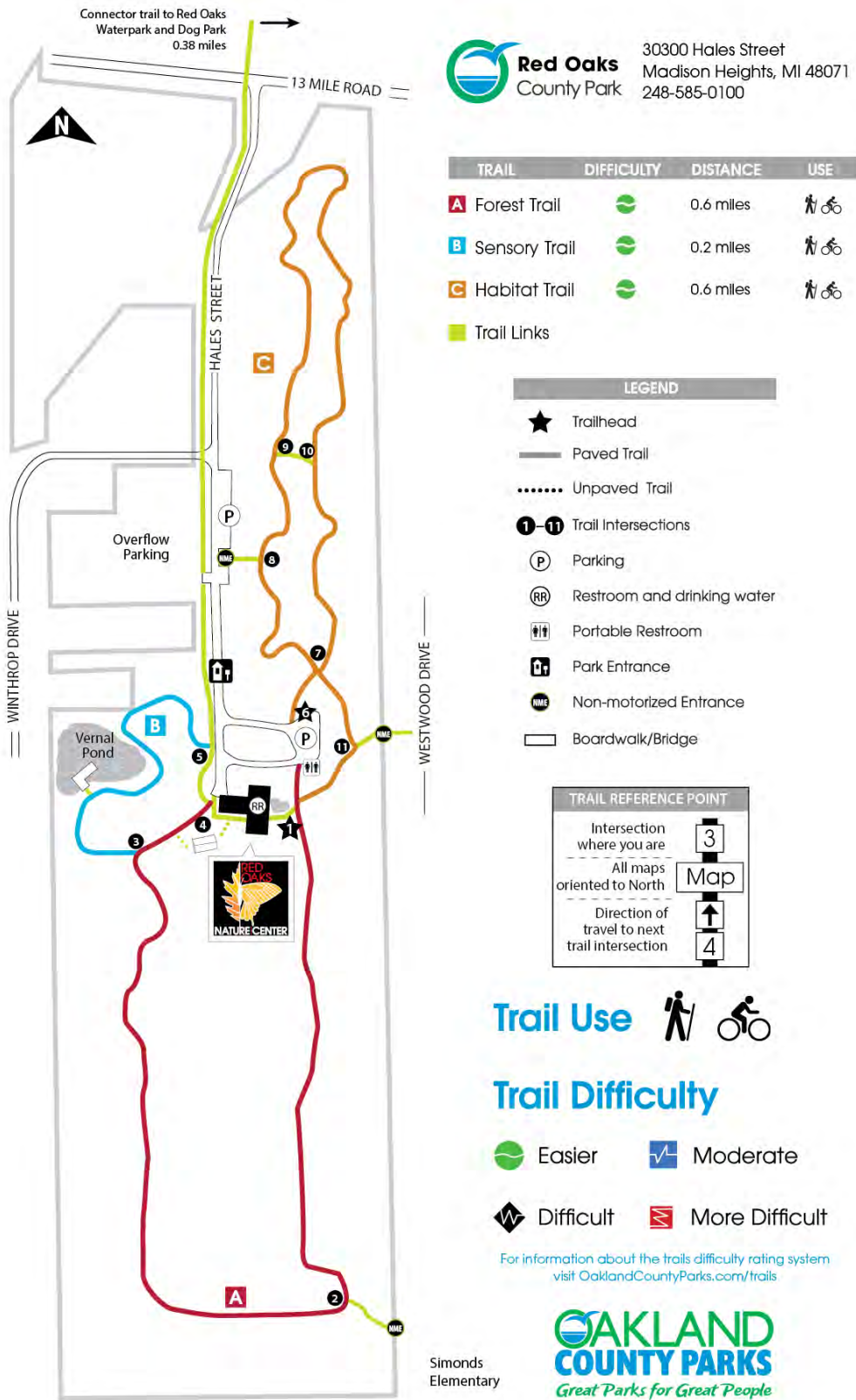


Figure MM: Golf Course Map



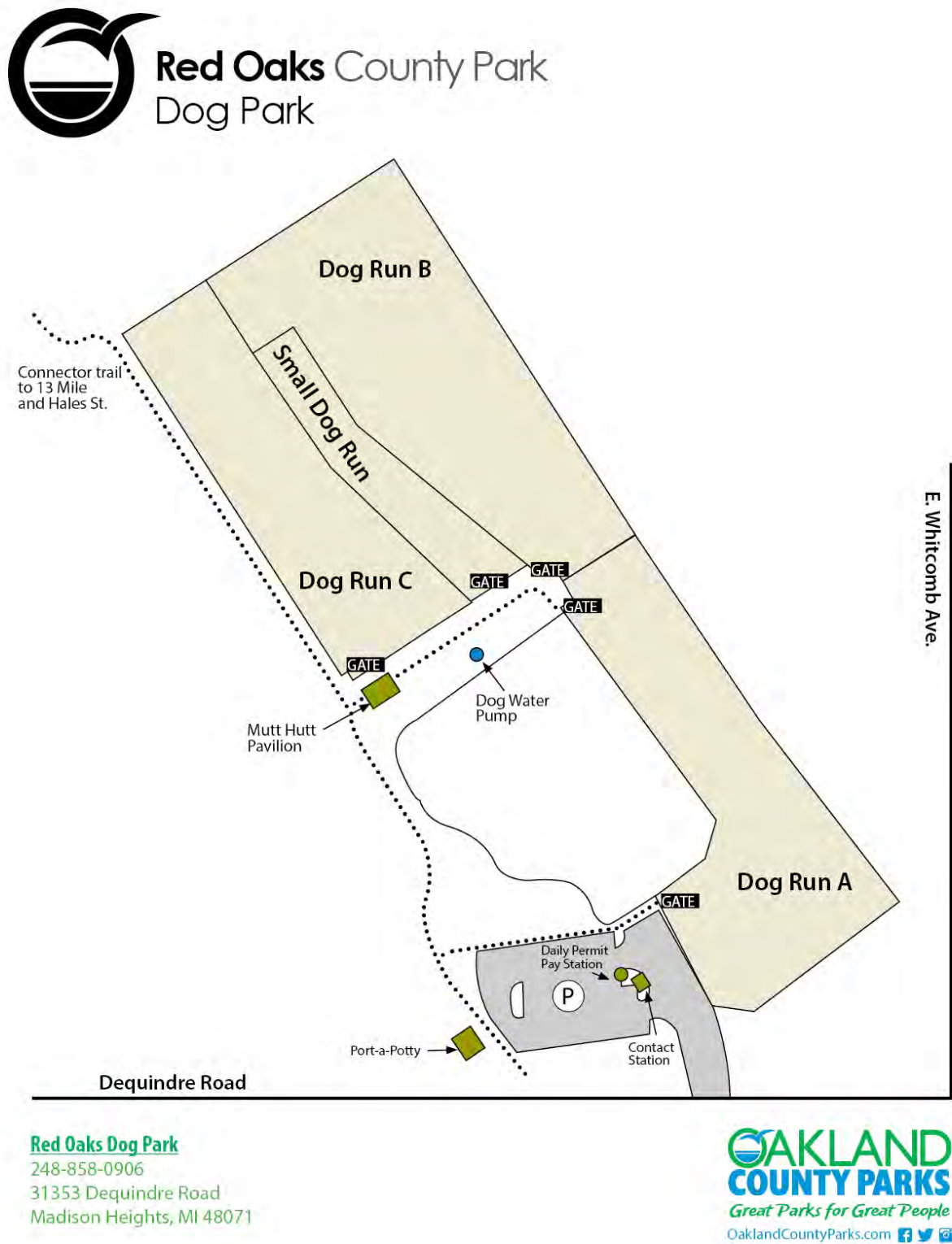
Red Oaks Golf Course
Park Supervisor: Matt Pardy
29600 John R Road
Madison Heights, MI 48071
Pro Shop: 248-541-5030
Park Features: 9-hole golf course, foot golf,
golf leagues, pro shop, clubhouse



Figure NN: Waterpark Map



Figure OO: Dog Park Map



Rose Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Rose Oaks County Park is a 640-acre park located in the northwest corner of Oakland County in Rose Township.

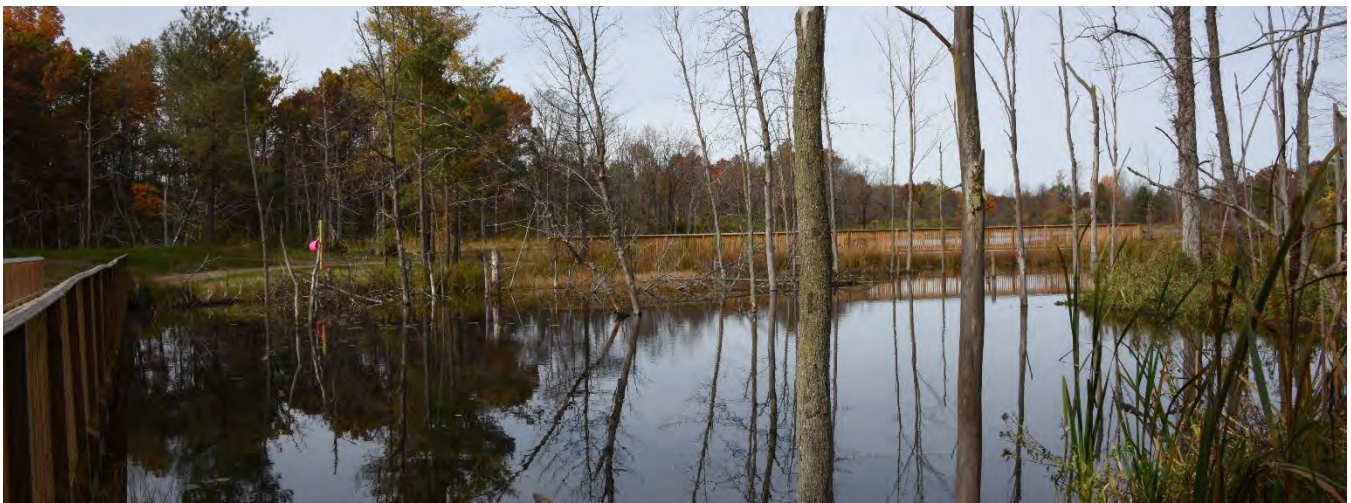
- Address: 10400 Fish Lake Road, Holly, Michigan 48442
- Township and Range: T4N R7E, Sections 9, 16, and 21

PARK FEATURES: Several glacial lakes within Rose Oaks provide contrast to the gently rolling open meadows and wooded uplands. This undeveloped park is a favorite of equestrians who explore its five miles of trails including accessible boardwalks and floating docks, which are also shared by hikers, cyclists, geocachers and cross-country skiers. Fishing is permitted; non-motorized boats and electric-motor boats are allowed (carry-in only). The park also offers archery deer hunting in season.



NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Conservation Zone, Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Rose Oaks is in the Shiawassee River Watershed and contains the headwaters of Buckhorn Creek, a tributary to the Shiawassee River.
- There are many lakes, ponds and wetlands at Rose Oaks including Richardson, Big School Lot, Esler and Cogger lakes.
- The east portion of the park contains 150 acres of a contiguous wetland made up of southern wet meadow, emergent marsh, shrub-carr, and southern swamp.
- Blanding's turtle and Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, respectively a state species of concern and federally threatened species are both found at Rose Oaks. High quality wetland and upland habitats support a variety of herptofauna populations within the park.



- The park was likely a combination of black oak barren, white oak-hickory forest and wet prairie prior to the 1800s.
- Some of the natural community types that can currently be identified, and are being restored, on the property include wet mesic prairie, emergent marsh, tamarack swamp and dry-mesic southern forest.
- The wet mesic prairie at Rose Oaks is such a prime example of that natural community that it was added to the Michigan Natural Features Inventories' state-wide database. At the time (2004) there were only nine other examples of this community type in Michigan.
- A population of northern wild rice, known as Manoomin by the Anishinaabek, grows within Rose Oaks. This plant was, and is, important to Native American communities that used and managed this property long before European settlement.
- The extensive wetlands on the property support diverse wildlife populations including the often-seen beavers and muskrats.



PARK HISTORY:

- Rose Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes its location near two significant trails, one on the southern border of the park and one on the eastern border. In addition, a multi-component archaeological site to the northeast shows evidence of occupations occurring over hundreds of years.
- Over time the land became the farms of the Esler, Mallet, Fillingham and Richardson families. Wheat, corn and oats were grown on these farms and livestock consisted mainly of sheep. Old fields and foundations of these farms still remain in the park as well as tree rows and rock piles.
- In the 1990s OCPR purchased these former farms to establish Rose Oaks County Park, a 600-acre park with glacial lakes, gently rolling open meadows and wooded uplands.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Demographic and economic summary is under development

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
TF91-024	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Acquisition	1991	Acquisition of 610 acres

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Rose Oaks Facility Priorities

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with existing property restrictions: DNR grant agreements and USFWS Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Implementation Plan (EMRIP).

NATURE PRESERVE: Create standards to define and establish Nature Preserve designation for parkland. Designate this park as a Nature Preserve.

BOARDWALKS: Conduct structural inspections and replace aging boardwalks before they become unsafe and construct new boardwalks to increase accessibility and resolve trail /natural resource conflicts. Use alternative to pressure treated wood over water and incorporate wildlife crossings.

BOUNDARIES: Replace damaged or deteriorated fences, gates, and other boundary delineation based on results of regular staff inspections. Plan boundary delineation with appropriate materials with consideration for wildlife movement and the welcoming appearance of the park.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- Natural Areas Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Eastern old fields restoration
 - Scots pine removal and restoration
 - South end restoration
 - Prairie fen restoration
 - Invasive black locust clone removal and restoration
 - Holly Schools property restoration

- Freshwater Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Water quality assessment of Richardson, Esler, Big School Lot and other lakes and ponds
 - Richardson, Esler, Big School Lot and other lakes and ponds
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
 - Vernal pools restoration
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
- Forestry: Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
- Wildlife: Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.
 - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat improvement

TRAILS: Winter trail edge mowing and reroute of trails that impact wetlands and vernal pools in compliance with existing property restrictions.

SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING: Replace trail wayfinding signs and map after rerouting of trails has been completed.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure PP: Park Aerial

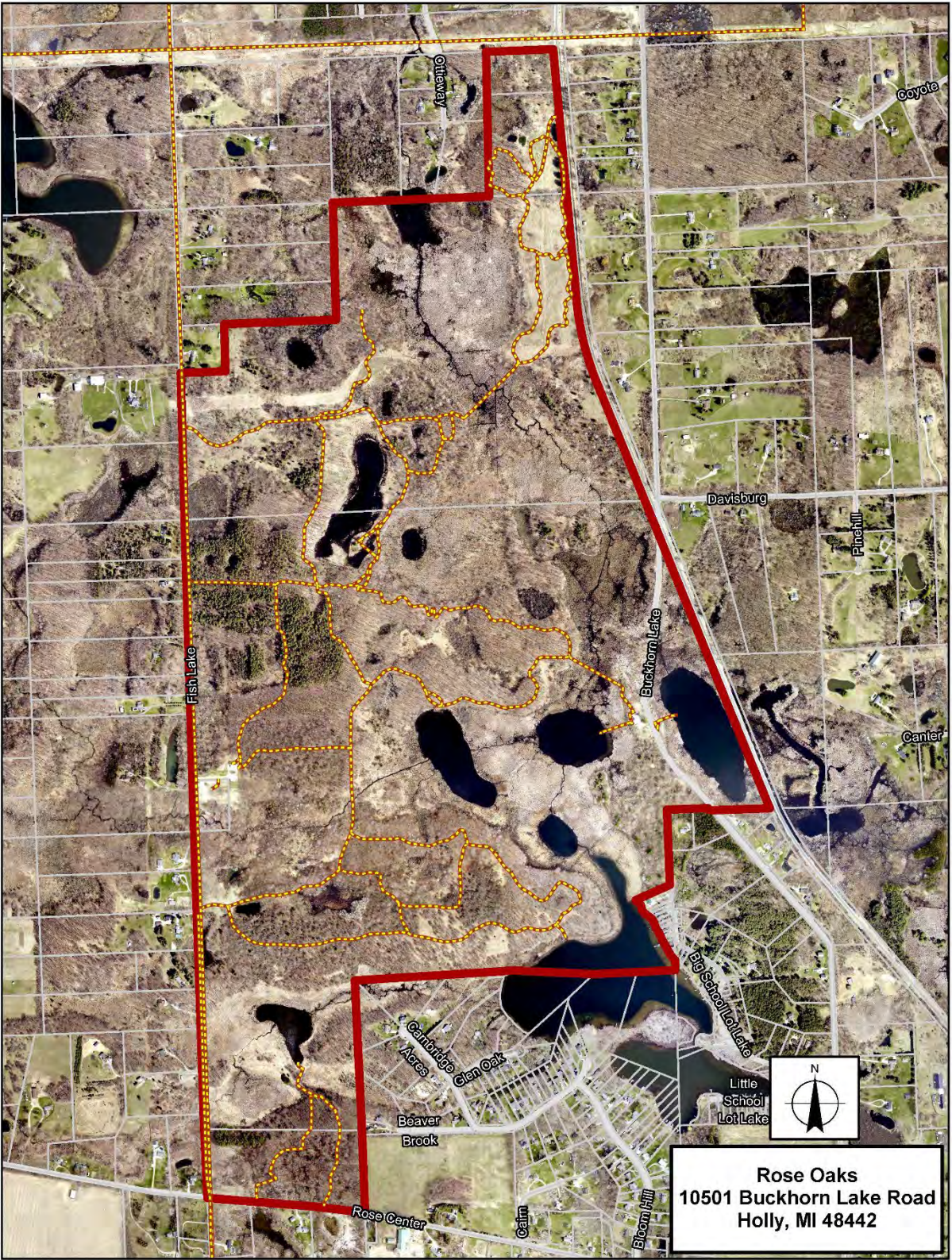


Figure QQ: Natural Resources Zone Map

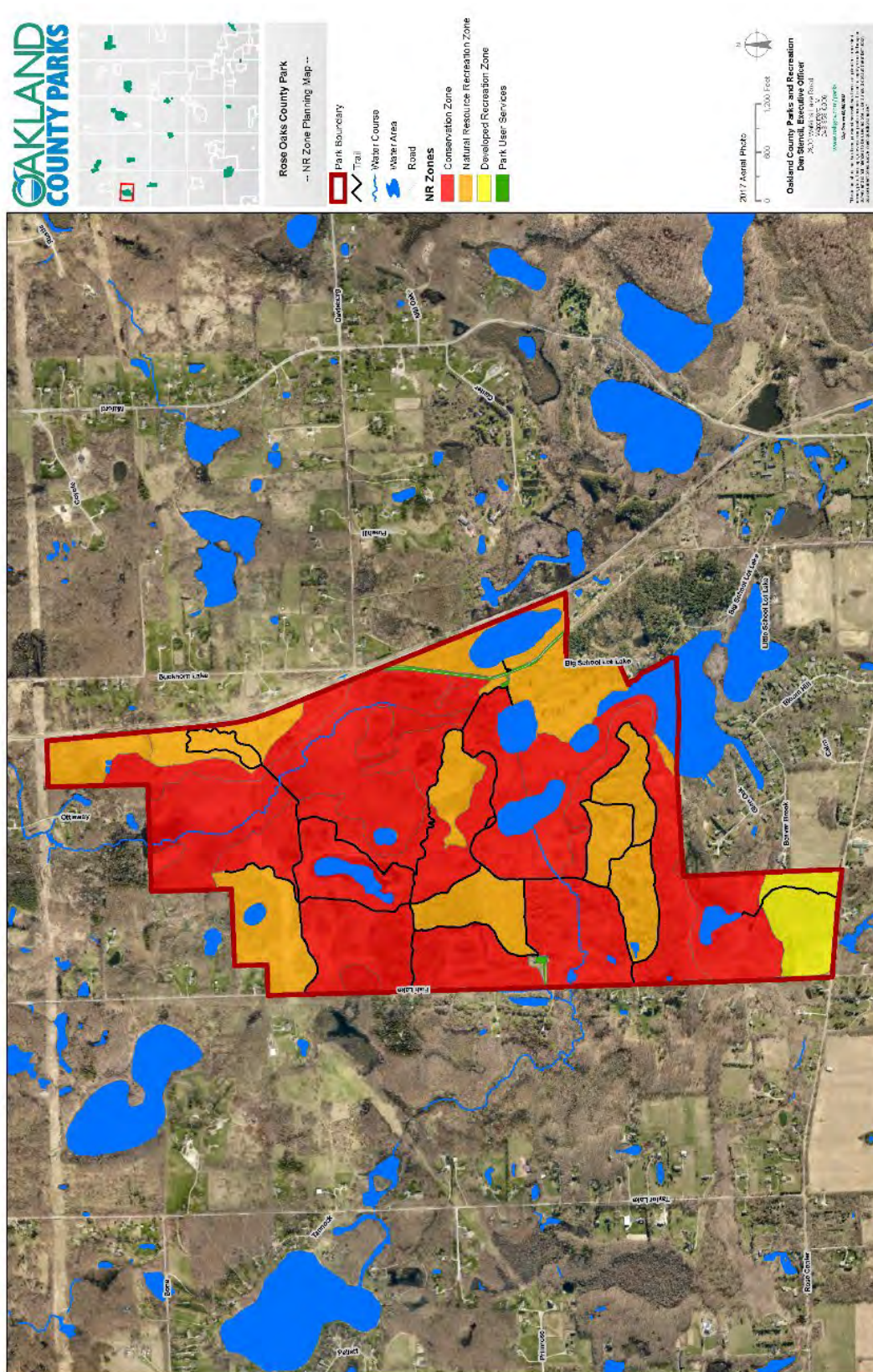
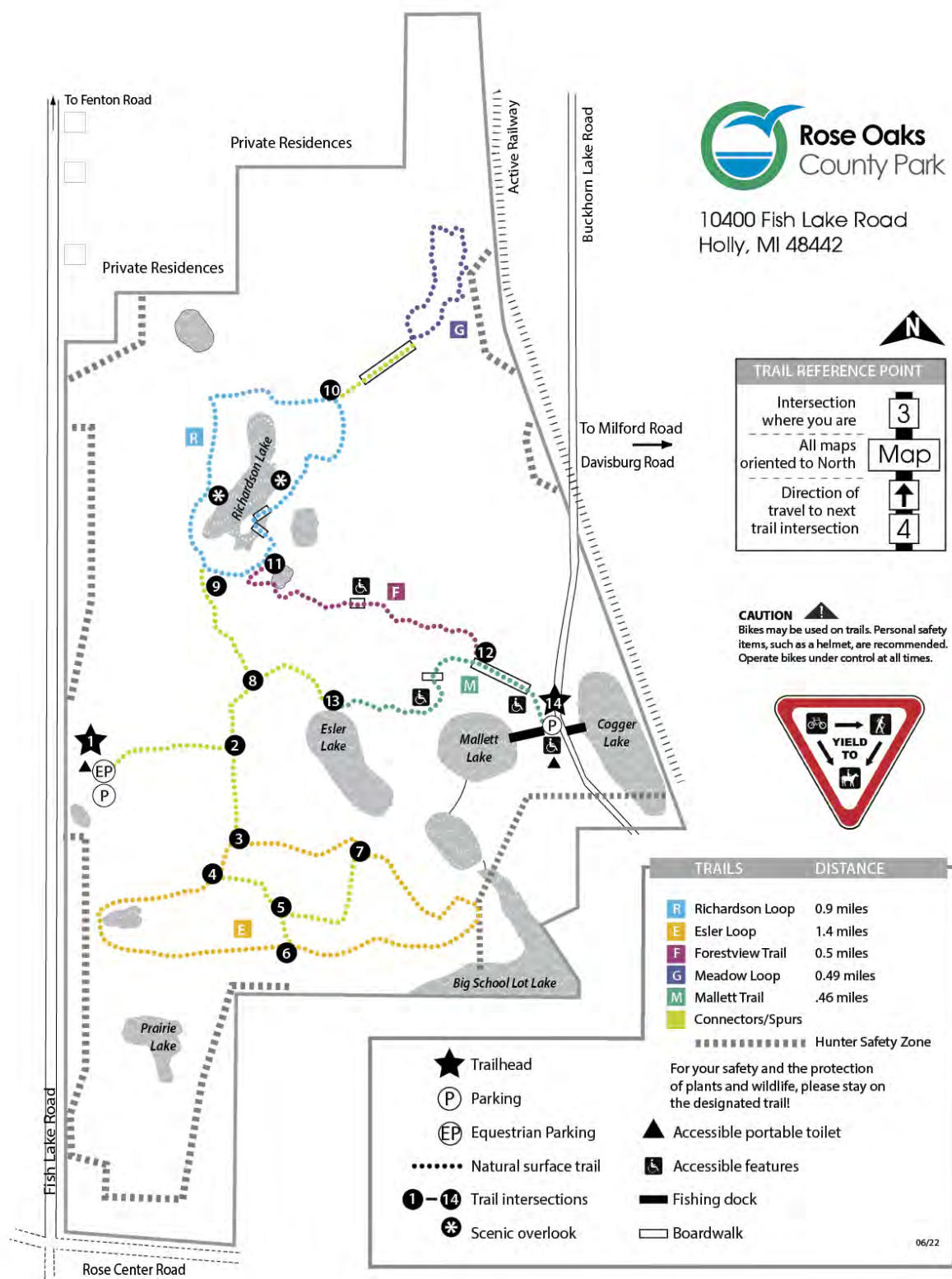


Figure RR: Trail Map



Rose Oaks County Park – Water Road

Description and Background

LOCATION: The 33-acre Water Road property was donated to OCPR in 2021 and is protected by a conservation easement held by the Michigan Nature Association (MNA). It is managed in conjunction with Highland Oaks and Rose Oaks.

- Parcel: 06-27-377-001

PARK FEATURES: The park is undeveloped and public access has not yet been established. It will be included in OCPR's new Nature Preserve designation. Park development will be minimal: one hiking trail loop, a viewing platform for visitors to enjoy the view overlooking MNA's Big Valley Preserve.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: under development
- Detailed inventory is under development

PARK HISTORY: under development

- Native history under development.
- Under development.
- In the 2021, Kurt and Maura Jung donated the Water Road property to OCPR to manage the natural resources in perpetuity and to open it for enjoyment by the public.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Demographic and economic summary is under development

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: The property is not yet available for public access.

Grant History

Not applicable

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Rose Oaks – Water Road Facility Priorities

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with the Conservation Easement.

NATURE PRESERVE: Create standards to define and establish Nature Preserve designation for parkland. Designate this park as a Nature Preserve.

BOARDWALKS AND OVERLOOK PLATFORM: Construct viewing platform that overlooks Big Valley Preserve, sited and constructed in compliance with Conservation Easement. Conduct structural inspections and replace aging boardwalks before they become unsafe and construct new boardwalks to increase accessibility and resolve trail /natural resource conflicts. Use alternative to pressure treated wood over water and incorporate wildlife crossings.

BOUNDARIES: Replace damaged or deteriorated fences, gates, and other boundary delineation based on results of regular staff inspections. Plan boundary delineation with appropriate materials with consideration for wildlife movement and the welcoming appearance of the park.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- **Natural Areas Stewardship:** Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Swallowwort spp.
 - Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Restoration of old fields to prairie habitat for wildlife including Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.
- **Freshwater Stewardship:** Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
- **Forestry:** Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
- **Wildlife:** Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.

- Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat improvement

TRAILS: Determine trail routes per Natural Resources Management standards with seasonal observations to minimize natural resource impacts. Construct trail per Hiking Trail specification. Site and construct and maintain all trails in compliance with Conservation Easement.

SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING: Design and install entrance and wayfinding signage.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure SS: Park Aerial



Springfield Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Springfield Oaks County Park is a 333-acre park located in the northwest quarter of Oakland County in Davisburg.

- Address: 12450 and 12451 Andersonville Road, Davisburg, MI 48350
- Township and Range: Township T4N R8E, Sections 17 and 20

PARK FEATURES: Springfield Oaks is home to the historic Ellis Barn and annual Oakland County Fair. The Springfield Oaks Activity Center offers the Grand Hall and Carousel Hall for weddings, banquets, reunions, and seminars.

On the grounds of Springfield Oaks are several animal barns, a pavilion, and outdoor arenas. The park is alive with activity during the annual Oakland County Fair as 100,000 visitors delight in live animal and 4-H exhibits, including the Miracle of Life Barn.

Unpaved trails through woodlands on the southeast part of the park are open for hiking year-round as well as (ungroomed) cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter.

The 1884 Ellis Barn's 14,000 square feet features an indoor riding arena, box stalls, mechanical exercise ring and cavernous second floor for hay and straw. The Ellis Barn represents a significant period of Michigan's agricultural and transportation history and provides unique educational opportunities. Learn more about the Ellis Barn's history here. (tinyurl.com/yy7bz6s9) The barn was moved from its original location on Dixie Highway to Springfield Oaks in 2005. Today, it is a popular DIY wedding venue.

Across the street from the Activity Center and Ellis Barn lies Oakland County Parks and Recreation's first golf course. Springfield Oaks is a scenic 18-hole, par 71 course. The front nine is open and hilly, and the back nine is tighter, with more trees and water. The grill room annex offers food service for golfers. Springfield Oaks Golf



Course is certified by the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program for exceeding requirements to protect natural resources.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Conservation Zone, Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Springfield Oaks is part of the headwaters of the Shiawassee River Watershed. The Shiawassee River runs along the northern edge of the park.
- The streams, creeks and wetlands that run through the park help protect water quality on the property and in the Shiawassee River.
- The park was likely a combination of black oak barren and mixed conifer swamp prior to the 1800s.
- While most of the property is occupied by the golf course and fairgrounds, Springfield Oaks is also home to some of OCPR's most interesting prairie fens, a wetland community that contains host plants for unique wildlife such as the federally endangered Poweshiek Skipperling. This butterfly is currently found downstream from Springfield Oaks.
- The oak-dominated forests at Springfield Oaks are largely in good condition but the fungal disease oak wilt has started to impact red oaks on the property. These trees are being actively managed to prevent spreading the fungus.
- Springfield Oaks contains a large population of little brown bats that occupy many of the buildings within the fairgrounds complex.



PARK HISTORY:

- Springfield Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes its location in the headwaters of the Shiawassee River Watershed, an important waterway system, as well as three inventoried archaeological sites within two miles of the park. These prehistoric sites were identified in 1980 during surveys for a proposed highway project. Two of the three sites are artifact scatters while the remaining site is an isolated findspot consisting of fire cracked rock.
- A large part of the park was once the James H. Davis farm. At one time it included two barns, pig pens, poultry houses, a grainery, tool sheds and a buggy shed. Today only the house remains. The park is also home to the historic Ellis Barn which was built in 1884 on Dixie Highway. In 2005, the barn was disassembled, moved and reassembled at Springfield Oaks by barn wrights from Indiana. The barn opened to the public in 2007.
- The original Springfield Oaks property, equaling 170 acres, was donated to Oakland County in 1926 by Manley Davis. He was the great-grandson of Cornelius Davis, the founder of Davisburg. Over the years additional land was purchased, and today the park encompasses 322 acres, with the golf course comprising 169 acres.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Demographic and economic summary is under development

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
OSA-026	Open Space Grant Program	1966	Acquisition of 65 acres
26-00189	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Acquisition	1969	Acquisition and transfer of Mill Pond property
26-01068	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Acquisition	1979	Acquisition of 50 acres

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Springfield Oaks Facility Priorities

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with existing property restrictions: DNR grant agreements and USFWS Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Implementation Plan (EMRIP).

ACTIVITY CENTER: Siding is in poor condition. Replace with metal siding. Siding on Activity Center is priority over Barns. Review usage and consider alternatives for this building.

BOARDWALKS:

- Hole #10 Boardwalk Construction. See below
- Evaluate proposal to construct boardwalk from former community garden to equestrian area. Compare costs for a range of solutions. Would help with maintenance of the Activity Center to transport mowers and other equipment from the storage shed and eliminate having to use roadway.

BOUNDARIES: Replace damaged or deteriorated fences, gates, and other boundary delineation as needed. Plan boundary delineation with appropriate materials with consideration for wildlife movement and the welcoming appearance of the park. Golf Course fence at the Davis House is in poor condition and needs to be replaced.

DAVIS HOUSE: Revisit agreement with family. OCPH maintains but does not have access or use of building. It is rarely used by family.

ELLIS BARN: Continue maintenance in cooperation with SHPO.

FAIRGROUNDS BARN AND PAVILION: Buildings are aging and in need of new siding and roofs. Cupolas on barns could be removed when roofs are replaced.

FAIRGROUNDS, CAMPGROUND, AND ELLIS BARN RESTROOMS: Replace existing

FAIRGROUNDS LANDSCAPE: Fair Board has installed a garden and gazebo. Need to follow up on ADA-compliance requirements and ensure no invasive species are present.

GOLF COURSE: Reconfigure starting area to improve flow and safety. Construct boardwalk.

GOLF COURSE CART PATHS: Replace as needed.

GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE:

- Irrigation pond needs dredging. Locate wet well inlet. Will need to be cleaned out. Getting sands in heads. Check with WRC. 2 Could ponds be combined? Retaining walls around ponds are failing. Do riprap instead of sea wall? Eliminate when not needed and naturalize. NR follow up.
- Inventory culverts and plan for replacements
- Maintain irrigation system and replace components

GOLF COURSE CART BARN: Evaluate need for building expansion and feasibility of charging stations for electric carts.

GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE: Consider alternatives.



MILL POND DAM REMOVAL AND RESTORATION: The Mill Pond Dam was constructed in the 1830s to power the Davisburg Mill. The mill was removed after the turn of the century, but the dam and the resulting mill pond have remained. A 2015 video inspection of the dam identified spillway pipe deficiencies - a portion of the pipe is crushed and therefore decreasing flow. The dam also does not meet 100-year-storm capacity and has caused the pond to overtop Davisburg Road during heavy storm events.

A feasibility study done in 2018 (in partnership with Springfield Township) identified several options for the dam going forward. The dam cannot be repaired due to the way it is constructed underneath Davisburg Road. In this situation, the entire dam would need to be removed and reconstructed. Given that the dam is an impediment to the natural flow of this portion of the headwaters of the Shiawassee River, and that the mill pond was continually filled with invasive species, eliminating its use as a recreational asset, Springfield Township and OCPR agreed in 2019 that removing the dam and restoring the natural river was the best option.

The project will restore a half-mile of this section of the Shiawassee River and restore approximately 12 acres of manmade mill pond to wetlands (hanging prairie fen). The project includes the installation of an open-bottom culvert over the river underneath Davisburg Road. This will also provide pedestrian access under Davisburg Road, connecting Mill Pond Park with Rotary Park and up into downtown Davisburg. Just upstream of the project the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is removing its Trout Pond Dam, furthering the reach of what will be a newly connected stretch of the Shiawassee.

When the project is complete, new property lines will be drawn delineating the Township's Mill Pond Park and Springfield Oaks County Park. The intent is also to have Springfield Township take over ownership and operation of Rotary Park, just on the downstream side of the dam. Oakland County Parks and Recreation has had a long-standing relationship with Springfield Township and has worked jointly with the township in the planning and fundraising for this important project. The project was bid in November 2022 with anticipated construction in the spring of 2023.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- **Natural Areas Stewardship:** Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Shrub removals, river viewsheds
 - Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Restoration of prairie habitat for wildlife including Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.
 - Prairie fen
 - Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
 - Around built infrastructure and in campground
- **Freshwater Stewardship:** Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Water quality assessment of Shiawassee River and wetland
 - Shiawassee River and pond restoration
 - Mill Pond Dam removal and associated restoration
 - Enhancement of prairie fen habitat along the river corridor

- Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
 - Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Golf course
 - Fairgrounds
 - Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.
 - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat improvement

PARK ENTRANCES, ROADWAYS AND PARKING:

- Replace pavement to access barns and incorporate stormwater improvements per OCPR plan.
- Golf course entrance road culvert has failed and needs to be replaced
- Equestrian Drive culvert needs to be replaced

TRAILS: Trails behind the Activity Center are used on regularly. Develop a trail plan to create an accessible loop and create wayfinding signs and map. Be aware of EMR restrictions.

UTILITIES: Utility poles at Fairgrounds and Activity Center are deteriorating and could present a safety risk. Evaluate all poles for replacement as soon as possible.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure TT: Park Aerial



Figure UU: Natural Resources Zone Map

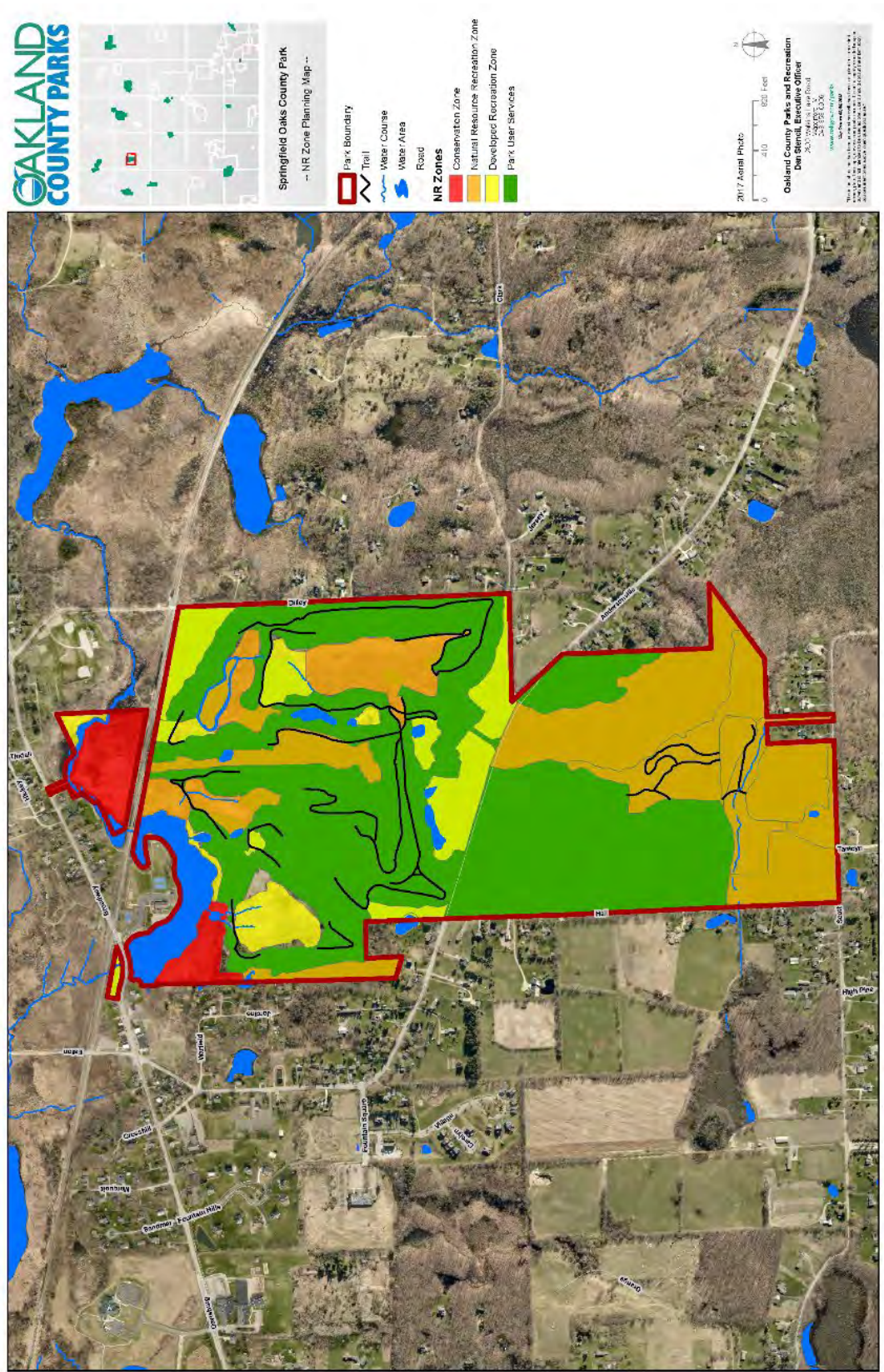


Figure VV: Golf Course Map



Springfield Oaks Golf Course
Park Supervisor: Steve Whaley
Golf Course
12450 Andersonville Road
Davisburg, MI 48350
Pro Shop: 248-634-2261
Park Features: 18-hole golf course, golf leagues, pro shop, Bunkers Bar & Grill



Waterford Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Waterford Oaks County Park is a 199-acre park located in the center of Oakland County in Waterford Township. Acreage includes the 13-acre Farmers Market area.

- **Address:**
 - 1702 Scott Lake Road (Main Park Entrance, Waterpark, BMX Track)
 - 2800 Watkins Lake Road (Activity Center and Administrative Complex)
 - 2350 Pontiac Lake Road (Farmers Market)
- **Township and Range:** T3N R9E, Sections 13 (west ½ and southeast ¼) and 24 (northwest ¼)



PARK FEATURES: Waterford Oaks County Park features Waterford Oaks Waterpark; the Waterford Oaks Bicycle Motocross (BMX) Track; more than three miles of hiking trails; the universally accessible Paradise Peninsula Playscape; two platform tennis courts; a winter family sledding hill; and outdoor fitness equipment. The Lookout Lodge, Activity Center and picnic shelters are available for rent.

The park is also the headquarters of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission and Administrative Offices; Facilities, Maintenance and Operations; and Recreation Programs and Services.

Around the corner on Pontiac Lake Road is the 13-acre Oakland County Farmers Market, which offers grower-direct fresh produce, flowers and hand-made goods year-round. The market also hosts educational programs and special events.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- **Natural Resources Zones:** Park contains Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- Part of the Clinton River Watershed, Waterford Oaks contains the origins of Pontiac Creek, which flows through the park and is surrounded by wetlands.
- Wet depressions throughout forests have been identified as vernal pools and are monitored annually.
- A series of rainwater swales and a water retention system was installed around the Administrative complex and Paradise Peninsula Playscape to naturally mitigate stormwater on the property.
- Some of the natural community types that can currently be identified, and are being restored,



include dry southern forest, dry-mesic southern forest, and southern wet meadow.

- The park was likely a combination of Black Oak Barren, Mixed Conifer and Mixed Oak Savanna prior to the 1800s.

PARK HISTORY:

- Waterford Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes its location along the Saginaw Trail, one of the most significant trails in Michigan, and accounts of a Native American family that lived on the shores of Silver Lake next to the Oliver Williams homestead.
- In 1819 the Williams family purchased land that became the northern part of the park. Other families like that of the Stevenson's and the Kellogg's soon followed. By the early 1900s the Nye family had a dairy farm on the former Kellogg farm. In 1942 the farm became the home of the Stephan Ernst family who had come to the United States from Germany. It then passed to Stephen Ernst, Jr., whose family was the last to live on land that became Waterford Oaks. The Ernst family greenhouses were well-known and people from all over the Waterford area remember buying their vegetable flats, geraniums, and other flowers there.
- Between the years 1967 and 1975, OCPR acquired 157.768 acres of land for Waterford Oaks County Park. Additional small parcels were acquired in 1984, 1990, 2008, and 2009, bringing the total park acreage to 184.46 acres. The addition of the Oakland County Farmers Market in 2012 added 14 acres of area managed by OCPR and a total park acreage of 199 acres.



COMMUNITY CONTEXT: 10-minute drive time service area includes several census tracts with Low or Moderate Area Median Income in Pontiac, Waterford Township, and Keego Harbor.

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Unless otherwise noted, all grant-funded facilities and improvements listed in the table below remain open to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
OSA-080	Open Space Grant Program	1966	Acquisition of 111 acres to create park
BF21-9544	Bond Fund, Development	1975	Wave-producing pool, bathhouse
26-00882	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Development	1977	Entrance & access road, parking, tennis courts (8), deck tennis courts (4), horseshoe courts (10), shuffleboard courts (10), shelter/restroom building, paths, landscaping

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
BF90-115	Bond Fund, Development	1990	Toboggan run-refrigerated, warming shelter, roadway improvement, parking area, utilities, landscaping
CM00-002	Clean Michigan Initiative, development	2000	Wave pool replacement w/ wave-making equipment, pool lights, gutters
2007-0123	Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Non-Point Source Pollution Grant (3019/CMI)	2007	Development of 3 detention areas, a retention area, pervious storm lines, porous pavers and vegetated swales and berms
No id#	Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Access to Recreation, Accessible by Design Program	2007	Development of a universally-accessible playground (Paradise Peninsula playground)

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Waterford Oaks Facility Priorities

PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Coordinate all design and new uses with existing property restrictions: DNR grant agreements and USFWS Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Implementation Plan (EMRIP).

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION INVESTMENT PLAN ¹⁰: Increase opportunities for outdoor recreation and quality of facilities to benefit the health and wellness of people living in an area that has been disproportionately impacted by COVID. Focus investment on increasing opportunities for wintertime active outdoor recreation with sledding hill improvements (synthetic surface) and an ice rink. A spray park will extend the season for water play. Pickle ball courts and flexible open space for exercise will further increase outdoor recreation activities. An accessible plaza with shaded gathering and seating areas will welcome visitors to the park and provide opportunities to socialize and relax. A new trail and additional connectors to township sidewalks will increase overall trail mileage and access in the park.

DOG PARK: Review potential sites in this park for a dog park. Engage in park-system wide review of Dog Park Standards and feasibility evaluation of converting to a key fob system with an annual subscription. This could lead to elimination of vehicle permit fees and associated staffing issues, but also may introduce new problems related to expectations of customers. Single-day permits could be generated by a pay station that opens the gate with payment.

LOOKOUT LODGE: Address condition of the deck, consider two options: replacement with similar structure or removal and replacement with a sidewalk/trail.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- Natural Areas Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Shrub removals, wetland viewsheds
 - Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Restoration of old fields to prairie habitat for wildlife including Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.
 - Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
 - Around built infrastructure and in campground
- Freshwater Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Water quality assessment of wetlands and streams.
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
 - Vernal pools restoration
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
 - Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity

¹⁰ OCPD has requested an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriation of \$15 million from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to support projects and park improvements outlined in the OCPD's Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan. Projects must be completed by the end of 2026.

- Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
- Tree maintenance and removals
 - Playgrounds and pavilions
 - Waterpark
 - Lookout Lodge
 - BMX
 - Paradise Peninsula
 - Administrative Complex
- Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity.
 - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat improvement
- PARADISE AREA: This is a popular destination for lunchtime for many county employees and nearby workers. Make improvements to create a more functional, welcoming area for people to gather adjacent to the parking lot. Consider inviting food trucks and market as a lunchtime event. Replace current system of yellow barricades that stop people from driving on lawn with a more attractive solution.
- Landing Building: Identify the area around the Landing as the hub of this area of the park. Make it attractive and welcoming and identify other destinations clearly. Call it out as the trailhead for the park and highlight trail locations. Open bathrooms during working hours; install automatic locks and a security camera. This is the park staff's break area – may need to relocate.
- Paradise Peninsula Playground: Replace Paradise Peninsula playground or update with exciting new components to make it a destination. Add a misting element or a hand pump water feature (not a full spray park). Adults who bring their children need seating and shade around the playground.
- Parking Lot: Plenty of parking. Need to clarify where to go from the parking lot. Address with wayfinding update. Consider additional interpretive signage about water retention/storage and permeable parking spaces.
- Exercise Equipment: Move this to integrate with the trail system more. Current area may be needed for future covered storage for Rec Programs storage and workspace for Natural Resources Management.
- Platform Tennis Court: Consider phasing out and restoring site or integrating into trail hub/gathering area.
- Open Space: Area next to Maintenance Yard is important for Recreation Programs staff to stage equipment to take on the road. It is also ideal for overflow parking and big tent events. Future location for covered storage for Rec Programs storage and workspace for Natural Resources Management.

PARK ENTRANCES, ROADWAYS AND PARKING: This section is under development

RESTROOM BUILDINGS: Upgrade available restrooms from portable toilets to permanent sustainable restroom building; provide access to existing flush toilets during open hours.

TRAILS: Add new trail loop/connection in the northern portion of the park. Add new trails/connections as identified in the Healthy Communities plan for Waterford – connect any newly developed amenities with new trails. Map out and advertise a 5K route within the park – often requested for 5K walking and running events. Create more distinct and accessible trailheads and trail signage throughout the park. Work to incorporate trail specifications into existing trails at the park.

WATERPARK: Review two waterparks in the OCPR system, Red Oaks and Waterford Oaks waterpark, at the same time and evaluate feasibility of operating and funding capital improvements for the two waterparks. See also [Red Oaks](#).

Waterford Waterpark: Lack of investment in recreational features and infrastructure combined with difficulties with recruiting and maintaining adequate staffing have resulted in declining attendance levels, interruptions in services and increasing operating losses. The removal of the waterslide and raft ride features contributed to significant declines in attendance as the facility no longer offers amenities patrons associate with a waterpark experience.

The future of the Waterpark has been a focus of the OCPR Fiscal Sustainability Committee over the past four years. The Committee has recommended an updated and more sustainable concept for the waterpark area that is integrated into the overall vision for Waterford Oaks. The vision for Waterford Oaks cited in planning documents is an accessible and open park experience that ties together all aspects of Waterford Oaks and can be sustainably staffed and maintained in the long-term. This could include phasing out the waterpark and could feature a transition to a spray pad that is integrated into the whole park experience. It could also include provision of parking that links multiple facilities (OCPR/PRD 1/7/2019).

A condition facility assessment (FCA) was conducted in 2021 and presented the Parks Commission. The FCA identified an estimated \$2M in repairs were needed immediately to bring the facility up to code and safety standards (OCPR/PRD/JFR Architects 1/19/2021).

The Fiscal Sustainability Committee (10/24/2022) has revisited the recommendations for Waterford Waterpark and is considering the following alternatives and their alignment on the Service Portfolio Pyramid:

- A. Remove children's feature, phase out wave pool, and replace with spray pad that has minimal staffing requirements and is open to the public without charge. By providing healthy activity and outdoor recreation to the public with barriers, we could fund this project through the Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan. (Tier 1 – 0% cost recovery target)
- B. Remove children's feature and transition from waterpark to public pool that provides family swims, swimming lesson, and other services. This would realign the pool on the Service Portfolio Pyramid to Tier 4 with the lower 75% cost recovery target. (Tier 4 – 75% cost recovery target)
- C. Continue current operation with limited investment until equipment fails (Tier 5 – 100% cost recovery target)
- D. Make significant investment to rebuild the Waterpark as a regional recreation feature (Tier 5 – 100% cost recovery target)

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure WW: Park Aerial



Figure XX: Natural Resources Zone Map

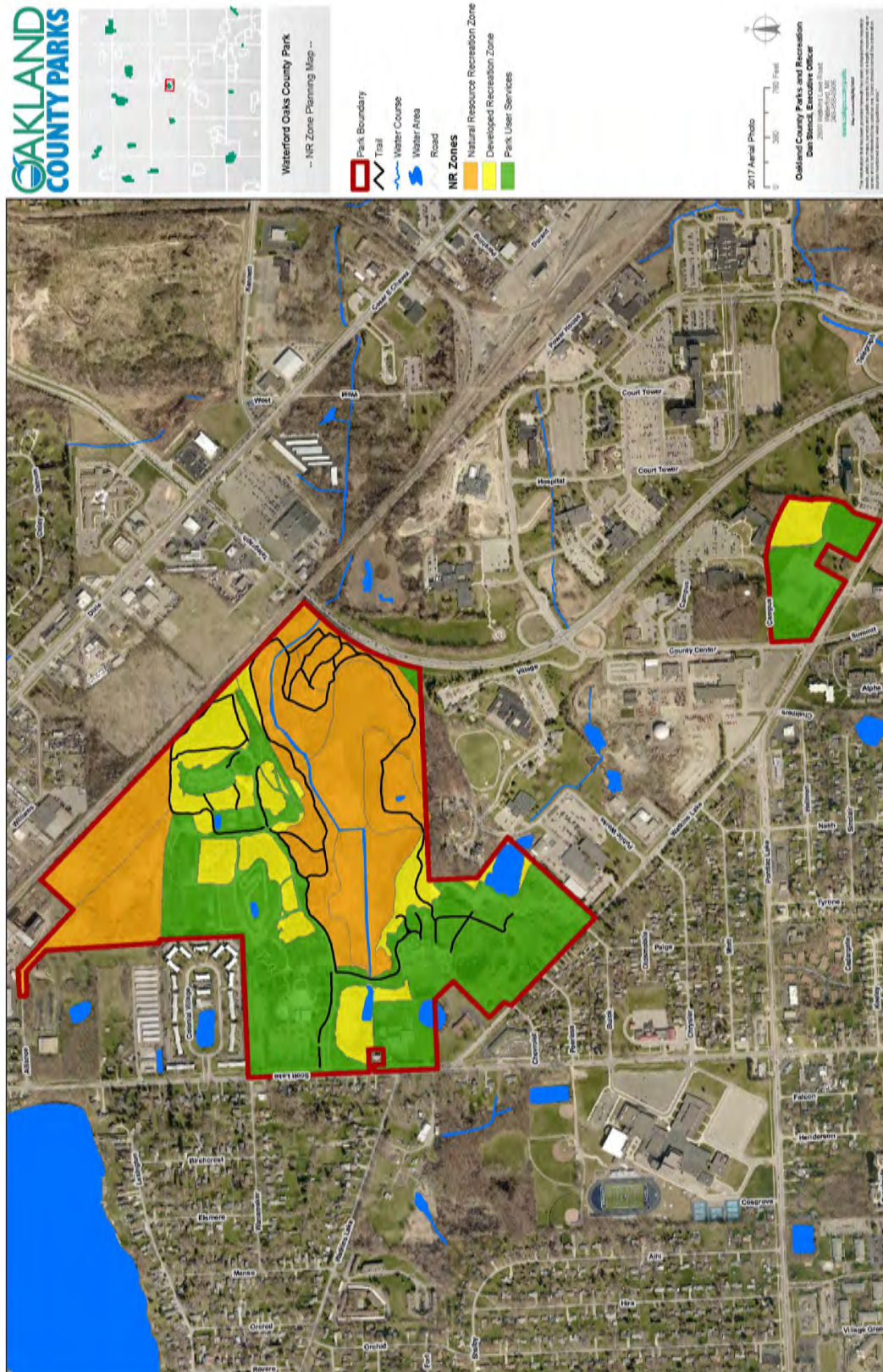
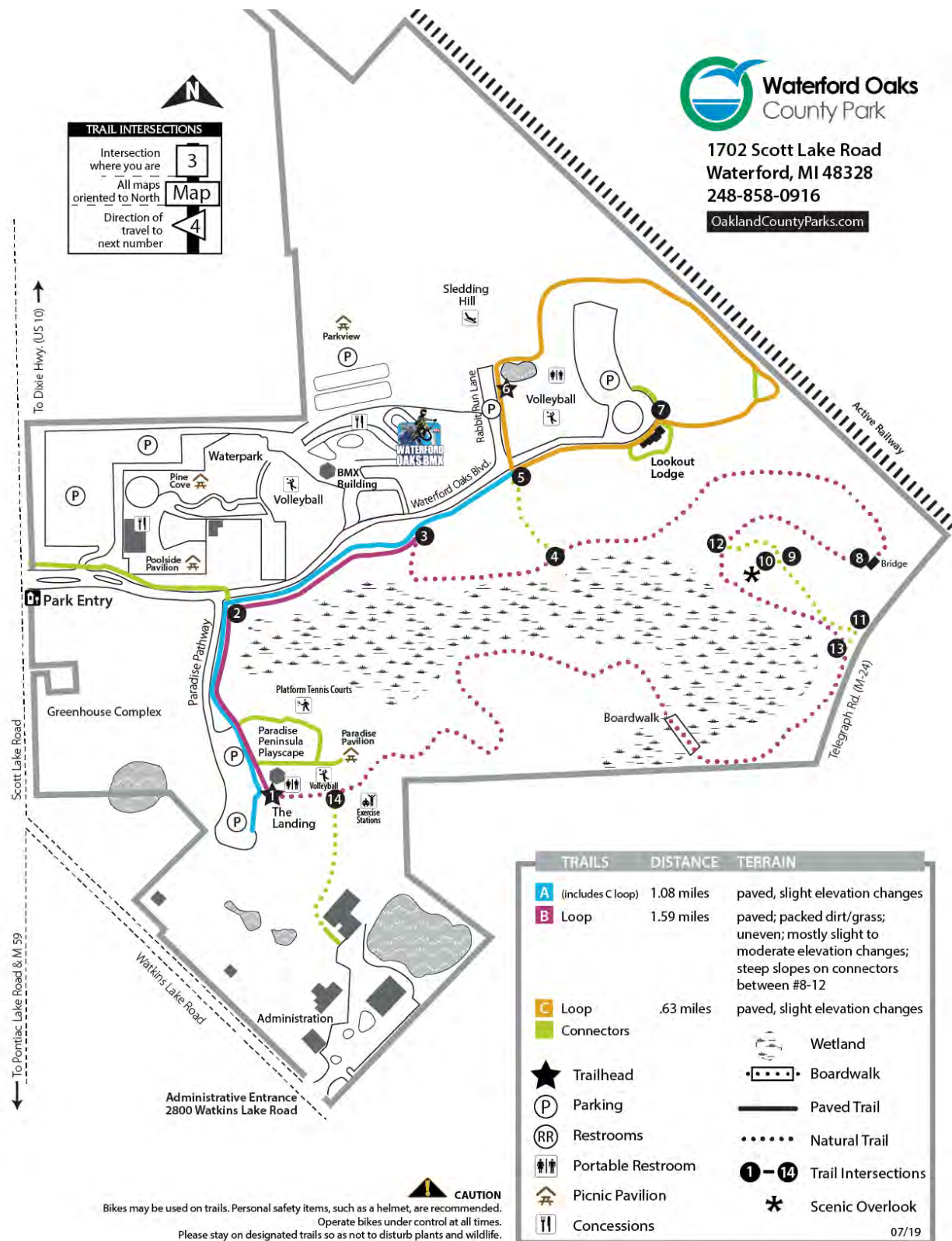


Figure YY: Trail Map



Waterford Oaks County Park / Oakland County Market

Description and Background

LOCATION: The 14-acre Oakland County Farmers Market is part of the 199-acre Waterford Oaks County Park located in the center of Oakland County in Waterford Township.

- Address: 2350 Pontiac Lake Road

PARK FEATURES: Farmers Market building and canopy, parking lot and programmable open space.

NATURAL FEATURES: Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).

PARK HISTORY:

- Waterford Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes its location along the Saginaw Trail, one of the most significant trails in Michigan, and accounts of a Native American family that lived on the shores of Silver Lake next to the Oliver Williams homestead.
- History of market area under development
- Management of the Oakland County Farmers Market was transferred from Oakland County Facility, Maintenance and Operations to OCPR in 2012, adding 14 acres of area to the area managed by OCPR and a total park acreage of 199 acres.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: 10-minute drive time service area includes several census tracts with Low or Moderate Area Median Income in Pontiac, Waterford Township, and Keego Harbor.

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Not applicable

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of

vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.



Oakland County Market Facility Priorities

COMPLIANCE WITH PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS: Review management agreement with County.

OAKLAND COUNTY FARMER'S MARKET MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ¹¹:

- **Purpose:** The overarching goal is to engage with more people in new and exciting ways at the Oakland County Farmer's Market (OCFM). We will increase accessibility at the market for 200,000+ annual visitors, create new program space for educational activities (ours and many partners), develop a commercial kitchen for popular cooking demonstrations and incubator use, build accessible/family restrooms, and improve the overall site with storm water management and demonstration gardens. We'll increase and promote access to healthy, nutritious food, while better supporting our 100+Michigan farmers. We'll provide new opportunities for health and fitness with dedicated accessible space for classes and a new accessible walking path around the market.
- **Use for Funds:** Construction - renovations to the market building and pavilion (accessible restrooms and exterior doors, energy efficient windows, commercial kitchen, new roof), construction of an accessible programming/educational pavilion, parking lot replacement (and safety improvements) and stormwater management, new trail around the market and connecting to overflow parking, and electrical and utility upgrades to support vendors and programs.
- **Public Need:** We participate with multiple food assistance programs: SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks through the Fair Food Network, WIC Project Fresh, Senior Market Fresh and the Prescription for a Healthy Oakland Program. Our goal is to increase accessibility and participation in all of these programs while providing activities and education around nutrition and cooking, health & wellness, and conservation and natural resource stewardship. The market supports more than 100 farmers from

¹¹ FEDERAL EARMARK APPROPRIATION: OCPD has submitted an appropriation request from Congresswoman Haley Stevens, for \$2.4M from the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill for the Oakland County Farmer's Market Modernization and Improvement Project, with OCPD providing an additional 10% and any additional match needed to complete the project. Funding decision is expected December 2022 / January 2023.

across the state of Michigan (17 counties) who travel from as far as St. John and Sault Ste. Marie each week to sell their produce in Oakland County.

- Justification for Use of Public Funds: This project will increase access to fresh, healthy, local produce by improving access and expanding educational opportunities. It supports more than 100 Michigan farmers and provides access to low-income residents through food assistance programs. It will provide dozens of accessible, educational, family-friendly programs and activities throughout the year on a wide variety of topics, fostering a community that appreciates local agriculture and environmental stewardship and sustainability.

ALTERNATIVES FOR FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS: Consider Core Values in comparison

- Update Current Site: Update buildings at current site; consider adding second level; make entire site more usable and programmable. Existing building needs: Accessible restrooms and exterior doors; energy efficient windows; new roof; air conditioning
- Build on New Site: Consider other County-owned locations, look for shared parking lots; opportunity to build a larger park experience with playgrounds and picnicking that encourage people to stay longer and shop with vendors. With new location, current site can stay open while new facility is built.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Wi-Fi is available for vendors and guests in Market Building – need to analyze availability at Canopy

OPERATIONS:

- Capacity: We have room now for 100 vendors – evaluate need and feasibility of increasing vendor capacity.
- Producer Vendors: May to December preferential to producer vendors: This makes our market unique. Do we consider allowing non-producer vendors? Potentially you can only bring outside produced items not provided by producer vendors (e.g., bananas).
- Arts and Crafts: Handcrafters; art shows; sells out stalls – depends on season. However, preferentially rent to produce vendors in season.
- Food Trucks: Consider renting food truck space – food truck row – demand is there – weekdays without opening building
- Cost Recovery: Plan to be revenue positive

COMMERCIAL KITCHEN:

- Licensed facility for vendor food prep; OCPR maintains compliance
- Demonstration kitchen – can serve what is made; plan for 100 people to attend
- Ovens for bakers
- Incubator for new businesses and to try new ideas
- Include grease and oil disposal

LOADING/UNLOADING:

- Docking station for vendors to load and unload
- Designated area for pick-up/drop-off of orders and vendors bring to car (parking spot #s and call vendor). Vendors already do it but designated area. Developed with COVID.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
- Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring

PAVILIONS:

- Enclosable vendor pavilion with garage doors – retrofit current Canopy or new site
- New accessible programming/educational pavilion

ROUTES TO MARKET AND PARKING:

- Vehicles: Parking lot replacement (and safety improvements) and storm water management. EV charging stations.
- Trails: Revisit plans for trail development: pathway connections to EOB and Waterford and recreational trail loop. Relate to remote work – fewer people are shopping from work.
- Transit: SMART stop not very visible or accessible; assess location and usage; consider addition of covered bench
- Other: Alternative routes to Market to consider include ride share drop off lanes, bike racks, we do get groups on buses (hard to navigate our parking lot)

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS AND IMPROVEMENTS:

- Showcase Sustainability: New building: LEEDS certification / Old facility: improved sustainability
- Waste Management: Demonstration composting site. Review overall recycling program for Market and the partners in place or needed: innovative options include plastic recycling for flower pots; food reuse program – provide an area for food donation bins where outside non-profit coordinates with vendors.
- Native Landscapes: incorporate native plants and no-mow areas.
- EV Charging: Incorporate into parking; also charging for maintenance equipment.
- Solar Panel Parking Area: Utilize solar pavilions for charging and parking shade structures.

UTILITY UPGRADES:

- Electrical and utility upgrades to support vendors and programs

TIMELINE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT:

1. Draft Rec Plan concepts and meet internally to review in November
2. Market and pricing analysis of county and farmers markets – over 1200 in state
3. Vendor – surveys (January survey; work with staff to develop survey in November) and charettes (sync with design timeline)
4. Public on-site and online surveys (April and May)
5. Update counting technology and methods (baseline with surveys).

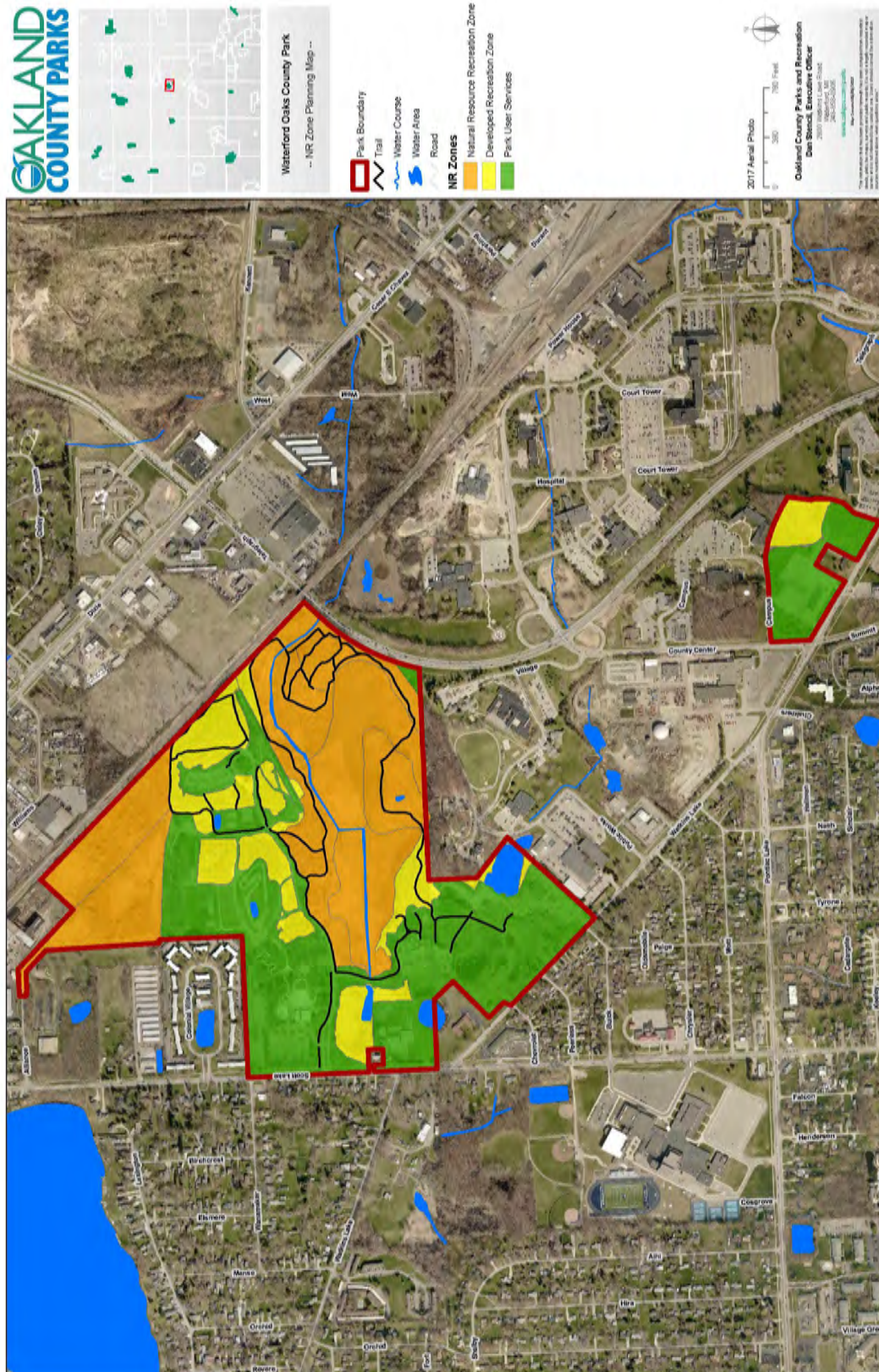
Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure ZZ: Park Aerial



Figure AAA: Natural Resources Zone Map



White Lake Oaks County Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: White Lake Oaks County Park is a 236-acre park located near the center of Oakland County in White Lake Township. A small portion of the park (less than a half-acre) is in Waterford Township.

- Address: 991 North Williams Lake Road, White Lake, Michigan 48386
- Township and Range: T3N R8E, Sections 13 and 24; R9E Section 18

PARK FEATURES: White Lake Oaks Golf Course is a scenic 18-hole, par 70 course. The player-friendly layout features an open front nine and tight back nine featuring woodlands and wetlands. The clubhouse features a pro shop, grill room, and garden patio. White Lake Oaks is certified by the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program for exceeding requirements to protect natural resources.



NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resources Zones: Park contains Conservation Zone, Natural Resources Recreation Zone, Developed Recreation Zone, and Park User Services Zone. See Zone Map and [Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- White Lake Oaks is part of both the Huron River Watershed and the Clinton River Watershed.
- Almost half of White Lake Oaks is wetlands. The Huron River flows along the western side of the property.
- The park was likely a combination of Black Oak Barren and Mixed Hardwood Swamp prior to the 1800s.
- There are many old oak trees on the property which are susceptible to the fungal disease oak wilt. The trees are currently being monitored and treated onsite.
- Many species of wildlife, including coyotes and foxes, live in the wetlands adjacent to the golf course and can often be seen at dawn or dusk.

PARK HISTORY:

- White Lake Oaks resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Evidence of a Native presence on and near the land includes its location in both the Huron River Watershed and the Clinton River Watershed, two historically significant watersheds. In addition, several prehistoric artifacts were discovered on the Korpak farm which was just south of the park. These include fluted projectile points estimated to be 10,000 years old and a quartz spear point estimated to be 5,000 years old. A copper projectile point was also located just a bit north of the park near Pontiac Lake.
- For many years the land was the farm of the Vantine family. In the 1920s Elmer Vantine and a few associates purchased several farms around tiny Lime Lake which was located just northwest of the Vantine farm. Then, with the help of a dam on the Huron River, huge Pontiac Lake was created. Mr. Vantine hoped to cash in on the growing interest in recreation in Oakland County. This was the reason he also turned his farm land into a golf course in 1930.
- Elmer Vantine's Twin Lakes Golf Course eventually became White Lake Oaks Golf Course when the property was purchased by the OCPR in 1971. In 2016, OCPR acquired a 40.2-acre property in White

Lake Township from the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan, increasing the size of the park to 236 acres.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Demographic and economic summary is under development

ACCESSIBILITY RANKING: Under development; ranking of 1 through 5 per DNR guidelines, note individual needs in the document.

Grant History

Not applicable.

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.



SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS:

Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

White Lake Oaks Facility Priorities

BOUNDARIES: Inventory and assess all park fences and determine appropriate materials for delineation and appropriate level of vegetation management.

- Williams Lake Road Fenceline: Visible from busy road and a priority for replacement. Current fence is topped with barbed wire; replace with an alternative that looks friendlier and is easier to maintain.

CLUBHOUSE:

- Pro Shop and Grill Room: Improve flow for golfers between these two locations.
- Activity Center/former Conference Center: Implement activity center model with rental space for private events, with renters bringing own caterer and OCPR holding the liquor license and providing beverage service. Put facility improvements on hold until new operating model can meet annual cost recovery targets.

GOLF COURSE:

- Starting Area: Reconfigure Hole #1 to improve flow and visibility; reorienting the hole will reduce damage from balls flying into the parking lot; calculate optimal changes without affecting par. Collaborate with Natural Resources Management for tree removals and swale management.
- Irrigation System: Replace heads, half of the heads are over 20 years old and can no longer be repaired.
- Drainage and Stormwater: Complete inventory of infrastructure and evaluate function and need for each. Replacement of failed structures and restoration to a functional system will improve the quality of the course for play and benefit water quality in the Huron River Watershed.
- Cart Barn: Cart barn has multiple issues. New cart fleet was acquired in 2022 and barn needs to be insulated to preserve the batteries. Evaluate roof for repair or replacement need. Sky lights leak and should be removed, potentially at the same time as insulating or replacing roof. Siding at ground level nearest the Clubhouse is rotting.
- Cart Paths: Continue to make repairs as needed; evaluate condition of entire path system and schedule replacements as part of the Paved Pathway Replacement Program.
- Restroom Buildings (2): Replace drinking fountains with bottle filling stations.

MAINTENANCE BUILDING AND YARD: Siding repairs are needed at north cold storage section. Evaluate with Cart Barn. Assess building equipment for replacement needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- Natural Areas Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance unique natural communities and promote biodiversity across the landscape.
 - MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
 - Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
 - Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Restoration of priority natural communities and habitats through prescribed burning, native seeding and winter shrub removals.
 - Forested wetlands and forested west side of property
 - Installation of no-mow zones, turf conversion, and landscape conversions to native plants
 - Around built infrastructure
- Freshwater Stewardship: Protect, restore and enhance open water and wetland habitat and associated aquatic organisms.
 - Water quality assessment of Huron River, irrigation pond and streams.

- Huron River, irrigation pond and streams restoration
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
 - Vernal pools restoration
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
- Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - Tree maintenance and removals
 - Golf course
 - Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - Restoration of priority habitat for wildlife to increase habitat connectivity
 - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat improvement

PARK ENTRANCES, ROADWAYS AND PARKING:

- Pontiac Lake Road Crossing Safety Improvements: High priority to improve this crossing. Collaborate with Road Commission.
- North Parking Lot: Continue to maintain. Planning for improvements will wait for results of new Activity Center operating model.
- Maintenance Parking Area: Expand and reconfigure to accommodate periods of higher staffing. In-house project.

SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING:

- Main Entrance Sign: Sign does not meet OCPD brand standards. Difficult to replace due to proximity to road. There is interest in a digital sign; establish protocol system-wide for digital signs.

WATER ACCESS: See West Park

WEST PARK: Establish official access points, connectivity, and recreational use of the former Girl Scout property. Consider establishing hunting opportunities and revisiting opportunities for water trail connectivity. Determine protocol for Natural Resources Management staff to access the property via Maintenance Road through Golf Course and how to alert golfers to the traffic.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

Figure BBB: Park Aerial



Figure CCC: Natural Resources Zone Map

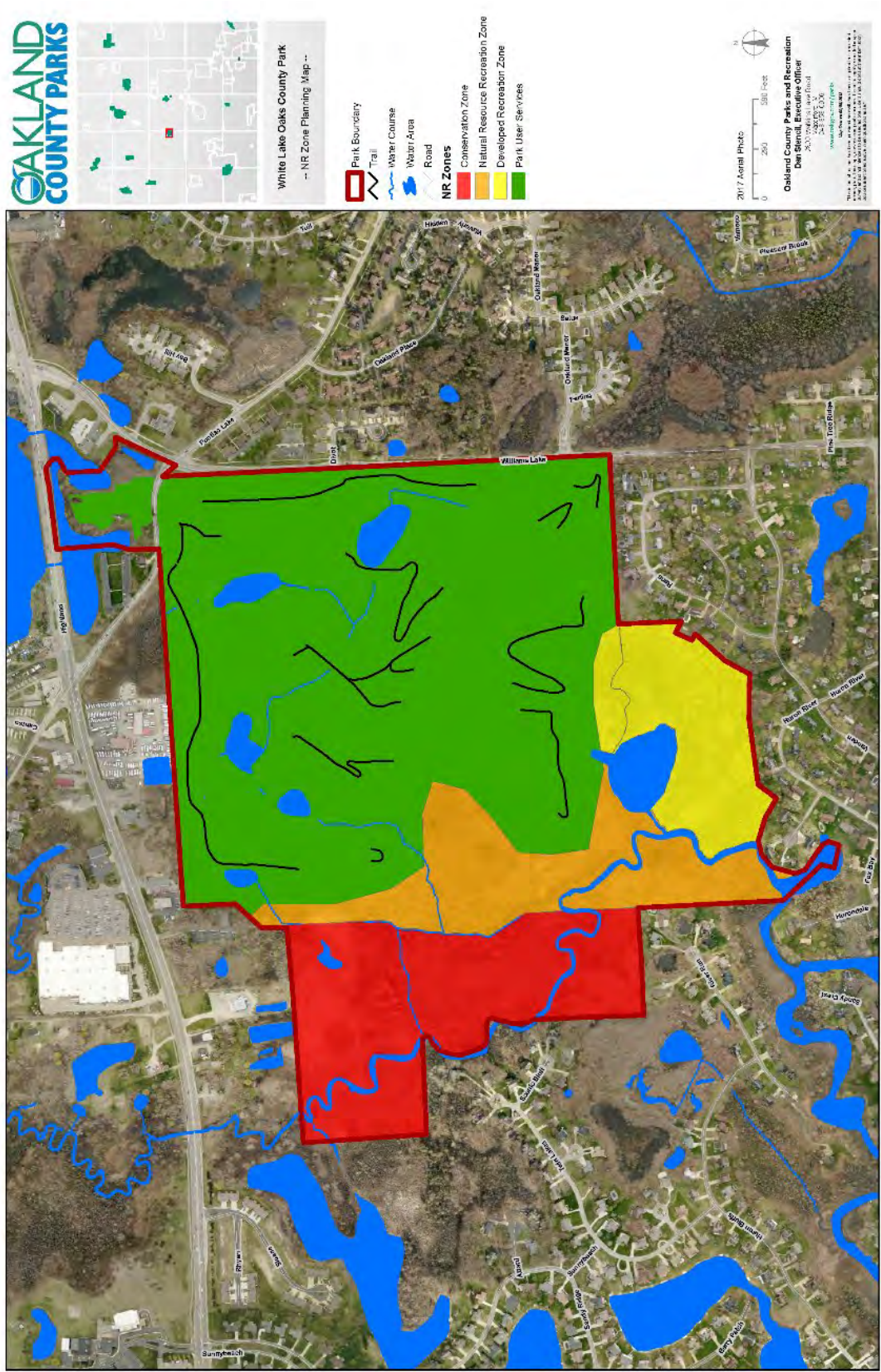


Figure DDD: Golf Course Map



White Lake Oaks Golf Course
Park Supervisor: Darlene Rowley
991 Williams Lake Road
White Lake, MI 48386
Pro Shop: 248-698-1233
Park Features: 18-hole golf course, golf leagues,
pro shop, Bunkers Bar & Grill
Banquets: 248-392-2100



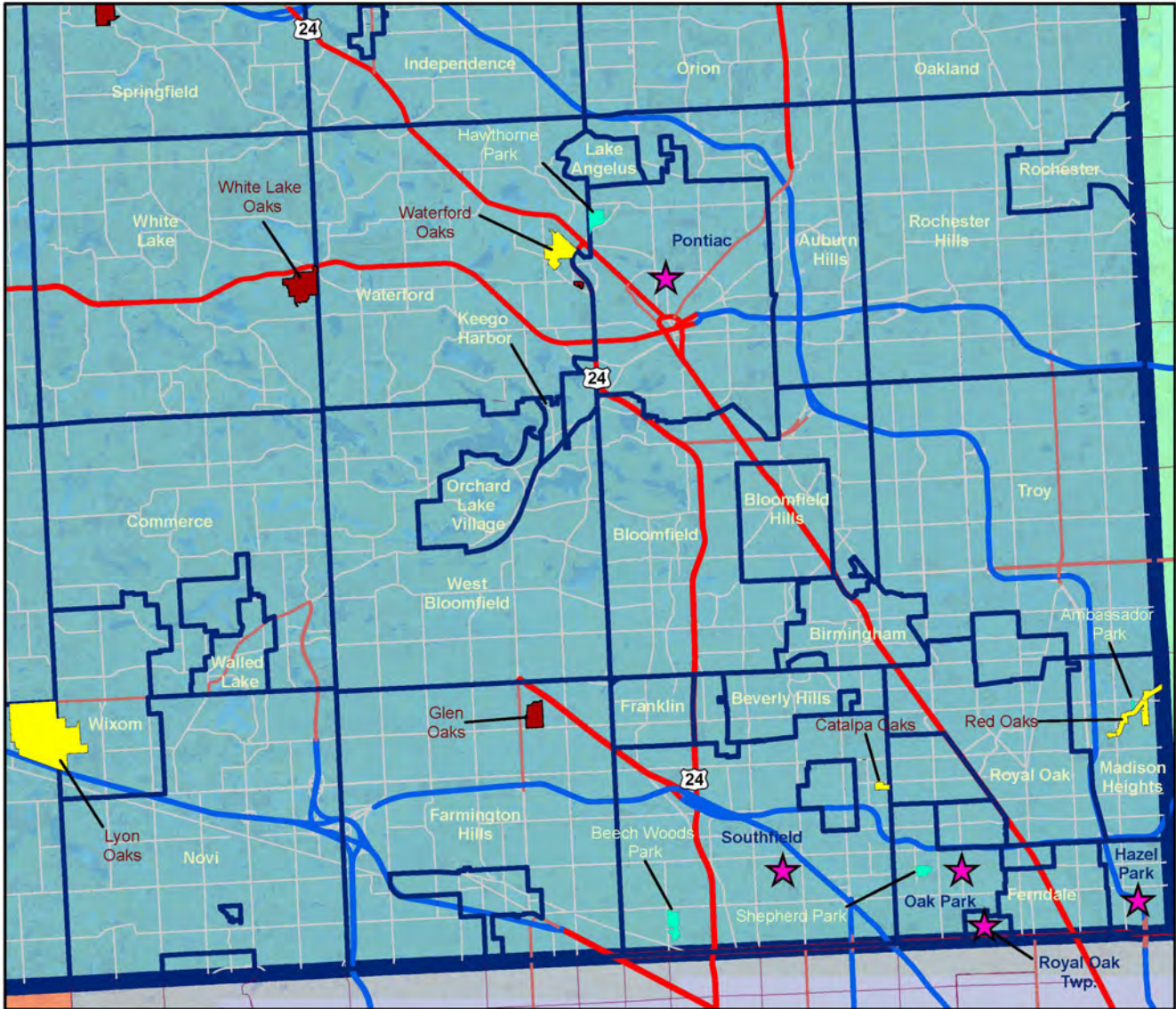


Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan


In October 2022, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved a proposal from the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission for \$15M in Oakland County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in park and outdoor recreational spaces. Oakland County Parks and Recreation (OCPR) has developed a comprehensive proposal that will:

- Rejuvenate municipal parks that are underutilized due to existing conditions that compromise accessibility, participation, and use by residents, including outdated or inoperable recreation equipment and facilities, deteriorating infrastructure, and disinvestment and underutilization of natural resources/park amenities
- Sustain the one-time investment of ARPA funding through partnerships that will incorporate four existing municipal parks into the Oakland County Parks system, securing long-term, ongoing investments from OCPR in park facilities and maintenance
- Transform and eliminate historic inequities in the distribution of the benefits of the Oakland County Parks system and significantly enhance our capacity to serve residents of densely populated, diverse core urban cities
- Expand accessibility and use of existing community park facilities to serve regional recreational needs
- Make investments in park infrastructure that will have the greatest impact in improving the health and well-being of our residents
- Provide much needed financial aid to chronically underfunded, disproportionately impacted communities to address priority local park and outdoor recreation needs
- Rejuvenate and enhance four existing OCPR parks that serve disproportionately impacted populations through investments in park infrastructure, amenities and facilities targeted at improving health outcomes and social connectivity
- Leverage the investment of county ARPA funding with a commitment by OCPRC to make a minimum \$5.2 million investment in park improvement projects to support the plans outlined in this proposal

Figure EEE: Healthy Communities project map



Legend

-  Oakland County Communities
-  Improve Existing Oakland County Parks
-  Long-Term Partnerships And Expansion Of Oakland County Parks System
-  Park Improvement Capital Grants
-  Oakland County Parks

Improvements to Existing Oakland County Parks

Description and Background

One component of the Healthy Communities Parks and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan is the investment in improvements to four existing Oakland County Parks that provide outdoor recreation services to disproportionately impacted communities. These parks include Catalpa Oaks, Lyon Oaks, Red Oaks, and Waterford Oaks.

Catalpa Oaks

Located in the city of Southfield, the 24-acre Catalpa Oaks County Park features four soccer fields, two baseball fields, playgrounds, a large pavilion and a .6-mile loop around the park for walking/running. The vision for Catalpa Oaks in the Healthy Communities proposal is to increase opportunities for active outdoor recreation including pickleball and basketball courts and flexible open space for exercise. An accessible plaza with shaded gathering and seating areas will welcome visitors to the park and provide opportunities to socialize and relax. Added trail connectors to city sidewalks will increase pedestrian access to the park. For additional information see the [Catalpa Oaks Park Action Plan](#).

Lyon Oaks

Located in Wixom, the 1,040-acre Lyon Oaks County Park features an 18-hole golf course, dog park, soccer complex, cricket pitch, picnic pavilion with restroom and playground, paved and rustic trails and natural areas. The vision for Lyon Oaks in the Healthy Communities proposal is to increase opportunities for active outdoor recreation with pickleball and a destination playground, as well as flexible open space for exercise. Additional trail connections from the park entrance may be included as well. For additional information see the [Lyon Oaks Park Action Plan](#).

Red Oaks

Located in Madison Heights, the 163-acre Red Oaks Park includes a nine-hole golf course, nature center including woods/trails, waterpark, dog park, and youth soccer complex. The vision for Red Oaks in the Healthy Communities proposal is to improve areas for programming, events and gathering at the Nature Center with the addition of a new pavilion, seating and restrooms. The vision for Red Oaks also includes the incorporation of Ambassador Park (owned by the city of Madison Heights) into Red Oaks Park. Oakland County Parks and Recreation will make improvements to Ambassador Park and operate it as part of Red Oaks County Park. Improvements to Ambassador Park will include a restroom facility, pickleball courts, native garden, playground and a pavilion. For additional information see the [Red Oaks Park Action Plan](#).

Waterford Oaks

Located in Waterford and containing the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administrative complex, the 199-acre Waterford Oaks Park includes a wave pool, bicycle motocross (BMX) track, hiking trails, playscape, two platform tennis courts, a sledding hill, and outdoor fitness equipment. The vision for Waterford Oaks includes increasing opportunities for winter active outdoor recreation with sledding hill improvements and an ice rink. A spray park will extend the season for water play. Pickleball courts and flexible open space for exercise will further increase outdoor recreation activities. An accessible plaza with shaded gathering and seating areas will welcome visitors to the park and provide opportunities to socialize and relax. A new trail and additional connectors to township sidewalks will increase overall trail mileage and access in the park. For additional information see the [Waterford Oaks Park Action Plan](#).

Park Improvement Capital Grants: Hazel Park

Description and Background

The City of Hazel Park will receive \$400,000 for the development of a universally accessible playground at Green Acres Park, as well as assistance from Oakland County Parks and Recreation in developing park standards and wayfinding for pocket parks throughout the city. Oakland County Parks and Recreation is also working with the city of Hazel

Park to provide \$300,000 toward improvements to the Hazel Park Community Center, which will incorporate space for an OCPR office and shared recreation programming space.



Park Improvement Capital Grants: Royal Oak Township

Description and Background

Royal Oak Township will receive a grant of \$300,000 for the construction of a universally accessible playground at Mack-Rowe Park. Oakland County Parks' planning staff will continue to work with Royal Oak Township to plan for continued improvements and to update their Recreation Plan.



Local Park Partnership: Beech Woods / Southfield

Description and Background

LOCATION: Beech Woods Park is an 82-acre park owned by the City of Southfield. OCPD area of interest encompasses the former golf course part of the park, 40-55 acres, the precise boundaries to be determined

- Address: 22200 Beech Rd, Southfield, MI 48033

PARK FEATURES: Driving range, community center, golf course ceased operation in 2019

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: City of Southfield

- Area: 26.28 square miles
- Population: 74,120
- Area Median Income: NA
- Qualified Census Tracts: no
- Race and Ethnicity
 - White: 22 %
 - Black/African American: 71%
 - Hispanic: 2%
 - Asian: 3%
 - American Indian: 0.19%
 - Two or more races: 3%
- Adopted 5-Year Recreation Plan: yes

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Census Tract 26125162500

- Population: 3,441
- Area Median Income: \$44,472 (Moderate)
- Qualified Census Tracts: no
- Race and Ethnicity
 - White: 33%
 - Black/African American: 61%
 - Hispanic: 3%
 - Asian: 2%
 - American Indian: 0.41%
 - Two or more races: 4%

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Beech Woods Facility Priorities

Increase opportunities for outdoor recreation and quality of facilities to benefit the health and wellness of people living in an area that has been disproportionately impacted by COVID. Focus investment on providing quality experiences in nature with accessible trails, boardwalks, and access to the Rouge River in a restored

grassland and forest habitat. Gathering and seating areas will provide opportunities to socialize and relax in a natural setting.

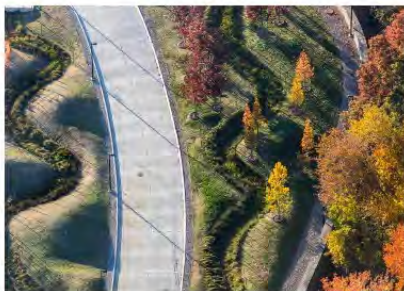
NATURE PRESERVE: Create standards to define and establish Nature Preserve designation for parkland. Designate this park as a Nature Preserve.

As part of the Healthy Communities plan, the city of Southfield will also receive a cash grant of \$500,000 for the development of a splash pad aquatic play feature and universally accessible playground at Beech Woods park.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

PROPOSED PARK IMPROVEMENT CONCEPTS



BEECH WOODS PARK ELEMENTS

Top row (from left): Wooded trail, example of boardwalk river outlook with seating and shade.

Middle row: Hammock station and other seating along enhanced trails.

Bottom row: Tree plantings and native/pollinator gardens.



Local Park Partnership: Hawthorne Park / Pontiac

Description and Background

LOCATION: Hawthorne Park is a 77-acre park owned by the City of Pontiac.

- Address: 1400 Telegraph Rd, Pontiac, MI 48340

PARK FEATURES: Disc golf course, three horseshoe pits, a playground, picnic area, pavilions, a boat launch, and fishing area.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Pontiac Community Statistics (2021)

- Area: 20.29 square miles
- Population: 60,867
- Area Median Income: \$34,502 (Moderate)
- Qualified Census Tracts: 12 out of 17 census tracts are identified as QCTs
- Race and Ethnicity
 - White: 32.51%
 - Black/African American: 50.67%
 - Hispanic: 20.13%
 - Asian: 3.46%
 - American Indian: 0.58%
 - Two or more races: 5.22%
- Adopted 5-Year Recreation Plan: yes

Park System Priorities

- ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.
- BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.
- SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.
- CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.
- DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Hawthorne Park Facility Priorities

Increase opportunities for outdoor recreation and quality of facilities to benefit the health and wellness of people living in an area that has been disproportionately impacted by COVID. Focus investment on improving and replacing deteriorated buildings and amenities and increasing accessibility to provide a safe and welcoming environment. Management of shoreline vegetation and invasive species will provide clear views of Silver Lake and visitors will be able to fish and launch canoes and kayaks off a new accessible dock. The already popular disc golf course will be updated with signage and maps. Trail improvements, natural area restoration and forest management will provide quality experiences in nature.

As part of the Healthy Communities plan, the City of Southfield will also receive a \$500,000 grant for municipal park improvements identified by the city.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

PROPOSED PARK IMPROVEMENT CONCEPTS

HAWTHORNE PARK ELEMENTS

Top right: New pavilion at entrance
Below: Examples of enhanced boat launch and disc golf course.
Bottom left: Shaded seating near play structures.





Local Park Partnership: David H. Shepherd Park / Oak Park

Description and Background

LOCATION: Shepherd Park is a 43.39-acre park owned by the City of Oak Park. The OCPR area of interest is approximately 20 acres, with the precise boundaries to be determined.

- Address: 24198 Church St, Oak Park, MI 48237

PARK FEATURES: Pavilions, basketball courts, play structures, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, nature trails.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Oak Park Community Statistics (2021)

- Area: 5.18 square miles
- Population: 29,880
- Area Median Income: \$52,544 (Moderate)
- Qualified Census Tracts: 1 out of 8 census tracts is identified as QCTs
- Race and Ethnicity
 - White: 35.12%
 - Black/African American: 58.09%
 - Hispanic: 1.86%
 - Asian: 2.30%
 - American Indian: 0.22%
 - Two or more races: 3.71%
- Adopted 5-Year Recreation Plan: yes

Park System Priorities

- ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.
- BUILDING MANAGEMENT: Maintain an annually updated inventory of building roofs (materials, colors, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) and building equipment (manufacturer information, inspection results, installation, and repair dates) in the park and forecast timeline for upgrades and replacements. Transition building practices, equipment, materials and supplies to sustainable alternatives to meet sustainability targets and decrease impact on surrounding environments.
- SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.
- CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS: Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.
- DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Shepherd Park Facility Priorities

Increase opportunities for outdoor recreation and quality of facilities to benefit the health and wellness of people living in an area that has been disproportionately impacted by COVID. Focus investment on developing a welcoming gateway to a valuable urban woodland by removing unused tennis courts and outdated playground and developing an open space gateway with accessible trails, seating and gathering areas. Conversion of the existing cable building to a nature center will create a hub for nature education and outreach in southeast Oakland County.

As part of the Healthy Communities plan, the city of Oak Park will also receive a \$500,000 grant to remove the existing putt-putt course and construct a splash pad aquatic play feature.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.

PROPOSED PARK IMPROVEMENT CONCEPTS

SHEPHERD PARK ELEMENTS

Top right: Open play area with hills.

Below: Examples of nature-themed play structure.

Bottom left: Pavilion and plaza for visitors at the park entrance.





Property Acquisition

Troy Properties

Description and Background

LOCATION: Troy Schools property (Turtle Woods) and the two parking lot properties and options. General description of location. Turtle Woods is a 70-acre parcel of property that is currently owned by Troy School District (TSD), who purchased it in the 1960s as a potential future expansion location. TSD no longer plans to develop the property for a future school and is looking to sell the property. The School District is very interested in seeing it maintained as a nature area or park, as they know this is important to the community and ecologically significant. The property is located on Square Lake Road, just east of John R. It is bordered by Square Lake Road on the south, homes on the west and east, and a golf course (Sylvan Glen) to the north.

PROPERTY FEATURES: While not formally managed by TSD or the City of Troy as a park, the property has acted as such for the past several years. Trails have been cut in by residents and stewardship activities have taken place on the property over the years

NATURAL RESOURCES: The property is a combination of woods and wetlands – retaining open space and natural lands in the urban environment is important in sustaining natural resources and improving quality of life through services such as stormwater filtration, forest carbon mitigation and habitat for native pollinators. To retain 70 undeveloped acres in this area would secure a significant amount of green infrastructure.

Of the 70 acres, approximately 43 are wetlands. Parts of the property are heavily wooded, with approximately 1.5 miles of trails cut in by residents.

Several species of turtles have been found during past property assessments (hence the name), including the Blanding's turtle, a State species of special concern.

Rare plant species of State special concern have also been found in past assessments, including wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*) and seedbox (*Ludwigia alternifolia*).

Rare habitat types identified on the property in previous studies include Southern Hardwood Swamp and Wet Mesic Prairie. Southern Hardwood Swamp is under threat from glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) and is listed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory as vulnerable habitat. The Wet-mesic Prairie is under threat of Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) and the natural succession of woody species and is listed in the Michigan Natural Features Inventory as critically imperiled habitat. The habitat is also home to many other amphibians and migratory bird species.

Open space and natural lands in the urban environment are critical to sustaining natural resources and improving quality of life through services such as stormwater filtration, forest carbon mitigation and habitat for native pollinators. Additionally, green space will become critically important to potential plant and wildlife migrations and stormwater mitigation as climate change continues to progress both at the local and global level. Acquisition of new land should be balanced with the ability of OCPD to fund management, but the preservation of this open space, even in a degraded state, provides benefits to native species and local communities. The Natural Resources Management Unit of OCPD would strive to inventory the property, mitigate threats on site (such as invasive species and shrub encroachment) and manage the property through regular management activities such as prescribed burning.

PROPERTY HISTORY: Turtle Woods has been owned by the Troy School District since the 1960s when it acquired the property as a potential school expansion site. While the site has never been a formal part of the Troy School District, it has been utilized by the local community and sometimes the schools since the 60s. The property has been one of interest to OCPR and local land conservancies since the 1980s for its rare natural communities and potential habitat for endangered species.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Turtle Woods has been adopted informally by the surrounding neighborhoods and local interested citizens and has been used as a place to walk trails for many years. It has become a “hidden gem” in Troy and is seen by many as a respite from this busy area of the county. Over the years Boy Scouts and others have completed small boardwalk and trail projects on the property, and it has been studied by many environmentalists and ecologists for its unique natural features. OCPR has been working with the Troy School district as well as the City of Troy on the acquisition of this property.

Grant Plan

TSD is interested in selling the property at 75% of the appraised value, so that the 25% of value donated could act as match for a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. This would mean that the acquisition could be almost entirely grant funded with little out-of-pocket for OCPRC.

Because Trust Fund dollars cannot be utilized to acquire property already held by a public agency, Six Rivers Land Conservancy has offered to act as an intermediary landowner, purchasing the property from TSD and holding it until such time as OCPRC could secure grant funding to purchase it. A next step, if the Commission chooses to move forward, would be finalizing and approving a Letter of Intent with Six Rivers outlining the process and steps for a multi-phase acquisition.

Park System Priorities

- **ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS:** Continue to implement the Transition Plan, which identifies accessibility improvement needs throughout the park; incorporate universal access design principles as new facilities are constructed and improvements to existing facilities are made.
- **SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS:** Invest in the park system to prepare for meeting environmental sustainability targets including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing or installing renewable energy, electrification of vehicles and equipment, improving water quality and access, reducing water, herbicide and disposable product use, improving stormwater resilience, and reduction and management of waste.
- **CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS:** Evaluate all customer-facing components of the park and take actions that improve and modernize customer interactions and make the park welcoming to everyone; include directional signage, monument signage, point-of-sale, contact stations, upgrade from permanently located portable toilets, and for parks with modern restrooms, availability during open hours.
- **DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING:** Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

Troy Properties Facility Priorities

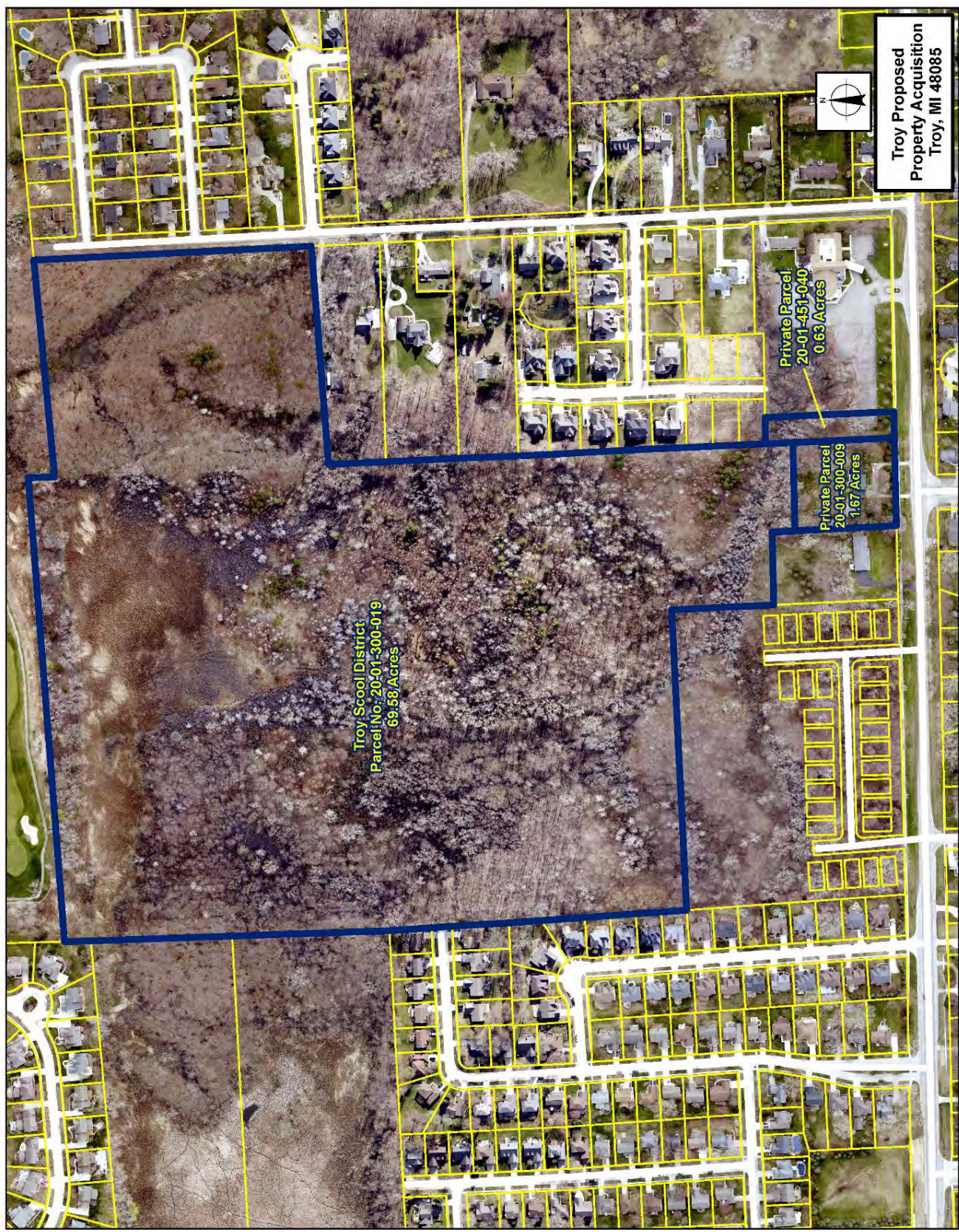
NATURE PRESERVE: Create standards to define and establish Nature Preserve designation for parkland. Designate this park as a Nature Preserve.

ROADS AND PARKING LOTS:

- Subdivision parking lot: TSD recently sold approximately 12 acres of the Square Lake Road frontage of the property to Robertson Brothers Homes, who is developing a small subdivision which will include a dedicated public parking lot providing access to Turtle Woods. However, the parking lot will only be for 14 vehicles, which is not large enough to service a county park. Finding and securing additional parking will be an important part of this project and completing the acquisition of the property.
- Adjacent private lots: There are residential parcels on Square Lake Road that may be appropriate for providing parking and access to the property. Additional discussions and planning will be undertaken to determine the viability of these lots for parking.
- Church parcel: The Evanswood Church sits at the corner of Square Lake and Evanswood Road, adjacent to the southeast corner of the Turtle Woods property. There may be some opportunity to collaborate with the church for parking and access.

Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See [Core Values](#) for the master list of KPIs.





References

- Campbell, Ron. 4/29/2014. *Design Inspiration and Characteristics of the Buhl Estate at Addison Oaks*. Waterford MI: Oakland County Economic Development and Community Affairs.
- ETC Institute. 2022. *Oakland County Parks Community Needs Assessment Findings Report*. Waterford MI: Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.
- MDNR. 10/17/2022. *Addison Oaks Park - Cell Tower Review for 26-01023 R1, TF89-002, BF91-025, TF07-030, RP12-406*. Lansing MI: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management Section.
- MDNR. 4/26/2021. *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*. Lansing MI: Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management.
- OCPR/PRD. 2022. *Annual Data Book and Dashboard FY2021*. Annual Report, Planning and Resource Development, Oakland County Parks and Recreation, Waterford MI: Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.
- OCPR/PRD. 2022. *Parks Commission Visioning Report*. Waterford MI: Oakland County Parks and Recreation.
- OCPR/PRD. 1/7/2019. *Waterford Waterpark Transition Concept*. Planning Review , Waterford Michigan: Oakland County Parks and Recreation.
- OCPR/PRD/JFR Architects. 1/19/2021. *Waterford Oaks Waterpark Facility Condition Assessment Presentation*. Commision Presentation, Waterford Michigan: Oakland County Parks and Recreation.
- OHM Advisors. 2022. *Oakland County Parks American Rescue Plan Act Parks Improvement Planning*. Waterford MI: Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Skidmore Studio. 2016. *Discovery Report*. Waterford MI: Oakland County Parks and Recreation.
- US Dept of Treasury. 4/1/2022. *Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule*. Washington DC: Office of the Federal Register. <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>.



Supporting Documentation

The following required documentation will be included in the final *Recreation Plan*:

- Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports
- Early Input Before the Draft Plan is Written
- Notice of the Draft Plan for 30 Days of Public Comment
- Notice of the Public Hearing
- Minutes from the Public Hearing
- Minutes from the Meeting to Pass a Resolution of Adoption
- Transmittal Letters to the County and Regional Planning Agencies
- Resolution to Adopt Plan

