



5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023-2027



Final Draft for Approval – January 3, 2023
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Thank you to the many staff members across the park system who contributed to the development of this plan.

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APPENDICES

- Appendix A. 2022 Oakland County Community Needs Assessment
 - Appendix B. 2022 Recreation Plan 30-Day Public Comment Period
 - Appendix C. 2022 Healthy Communities Research Report
 - Appendix D. 2022 Red Oaks Golf Survey
- All appendices are available at OaklandCountyParks.com/RecPlan

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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.

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 prepare 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, diverse, inclusive, 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 - Ground all actions and decisions in 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 and adaptation 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 OCPR 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: OCPR 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 will 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 waterparks 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 waterparks and examine alternatives to determine how to meet public need and be fiscally sustainable. See also Red Oaks and Waterford Oaks waterparks.

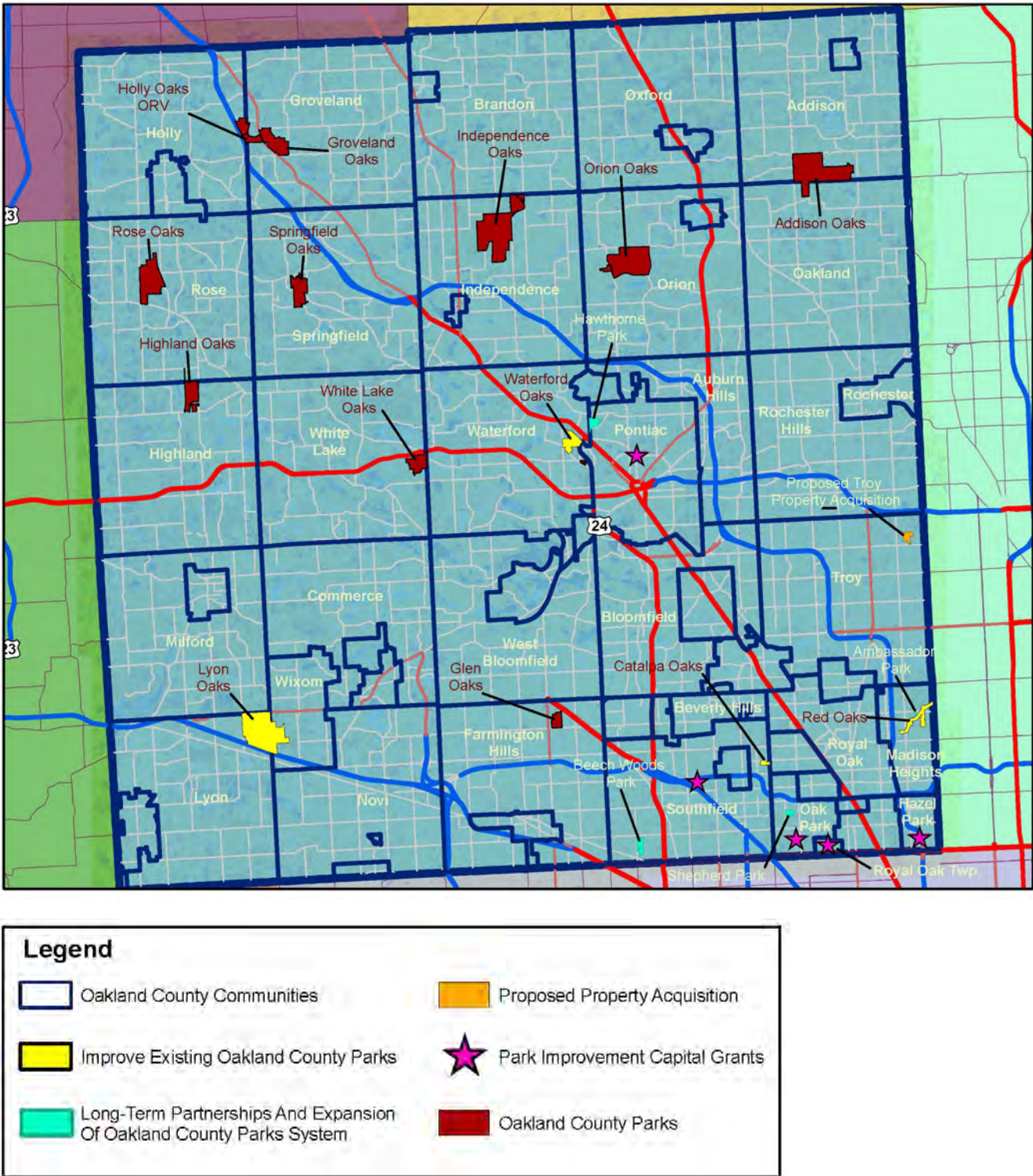
WATER ACCESS: Oakland County residents love their rivers and lakes. We want to continue to improve and expand access by improving beaches, shorelines, docks, and fishing piers, as well as offering kayak and canoe rentals and programs that get people out on the water. We will also work with our local 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 position within the park system, as well as a Sustainability Committee made up of staff and Commissioners guide sustainability practices and investments within the park system. Each of the Park Action Plans has a section on sustainability, and all projects have a sustainability review before making recommendations for scopes or bidding contracts.

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



Figure A: OCPR parks and projects



Community Description

Oakland County

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. See Natural Resources Inventory chapter for more information.

Within Oakland County, there are 30 cities, 21 townships, and 11 incorporated villages, in urban, suburban, and rural landscapes.

The Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are defined by the Centers for Disease Control as the “conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes”.¹ 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.

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.

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.²

The Black or African American population was 13% of Oakland County in 2022. Four communities have a majority population of Black persons – Lathrup Village, Oak Park, and Royal Oak Township. Evidence of historic underinvestment in parts of Oakland County can be seen in the 1930s Home Owners' Loan Corporation redlining maps that identified neighborhoods with minority occupants as dangerous or declining and therefore high-risk for mortgage lenders.³

The 2021 population of Hispanic persons in Oakland County was 5% of the county population. Higher percentages of Hispanic population are in Pontiac, Keego Harbor, Auburn Hills, Waterford Township, and Wixom.

Identification of Priority Equity Communities and Households

As a preliminary step in identifying communities and census tracts that are a priority for providing equitable park and recreation services, OCPR staff used the guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury in its Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Final Rule⁴. This method uses income levels to identify priority communities and is only a first step. We intend to collaborate with partners, particularly the Oakland County Health Division, to identify a more robust methodology that considers minority and other populations (such as LGBTQ+) where disparities may exist, and to identify households who may be underserved by parks.

The U.S. Department of Treasury's 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* identifies Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) as the primary indicator of areas disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.⁵ 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.

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. The following criteria identifies low- and moderate-income areas using the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)⁶.

- Use household size of 3 for services to a general geographic area
- 2022 FPG for household size of 3: \$23,030
- Low income: at or below 185% of FPG = \$42,606
- Moderate income: at or below 300% FPG = \$69,090

Community Data Tables

Data sources are the Southeast Michigan Council of Government's (SEMCOG) data portal⁷ and the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) data accessed via ESRI Business Analyst⁸.

Table 1 identifies the cities, villages, and townships in Oakland County and provides data on population trends and population density (populations per square mile) (SEMCOG Community Profiles). Table 2 explores population characteristics in each community – Median Household Income and percent population race and ethnicity. Table 3 identifies the census tracts in Oakland County that are QCTs or have low- or moderate-income and provides population, median household income, percent population race and ethnicity.

Figure B: Oakland County communities and recreation lands

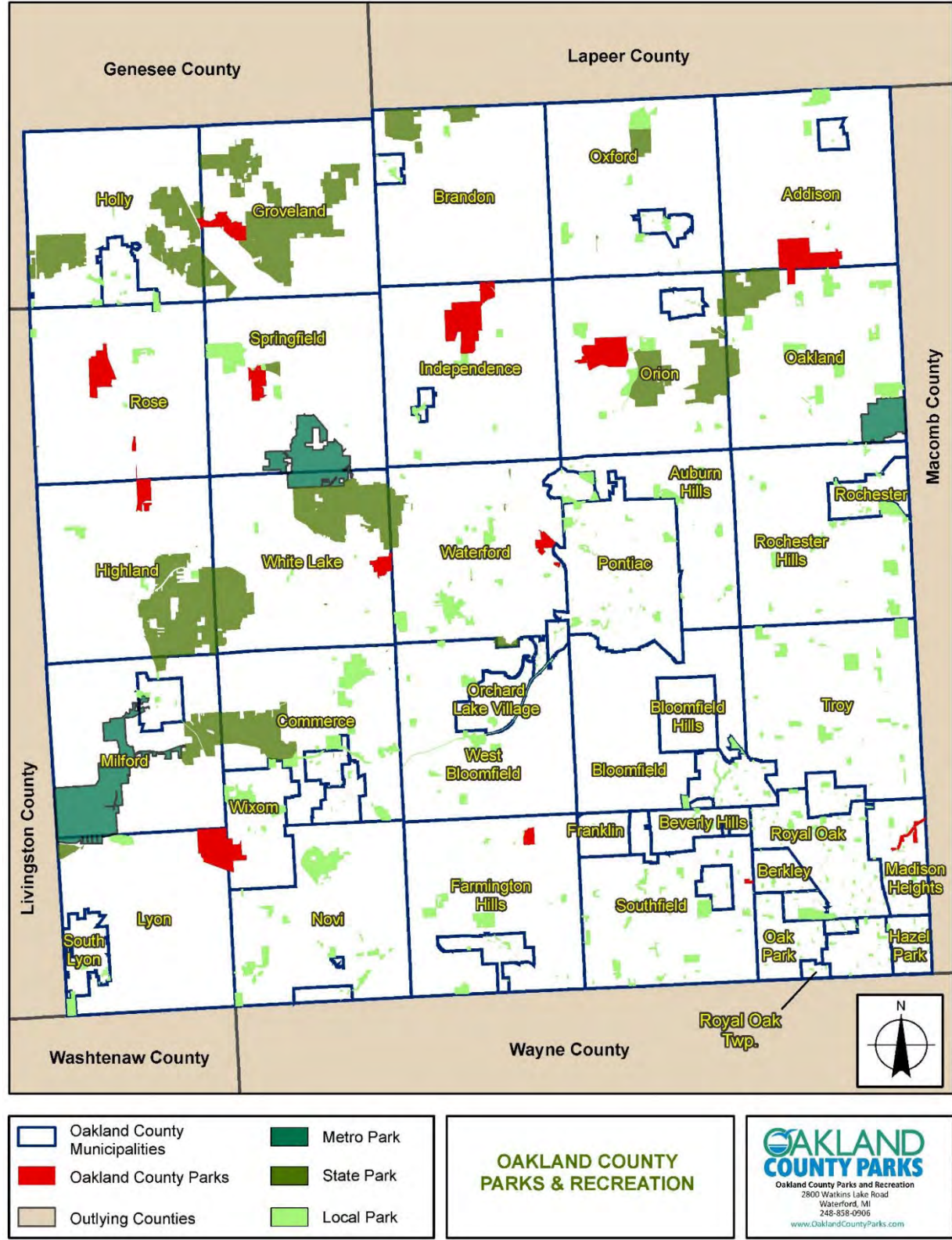


Table 1: Oakland County communities and population density (Source: SEMCOG Community Profiles¹)

Community Name	Community Type	Square Miles	2020 Census Population	Percent Change from 2010	2020 Population per Square Mile
Oakland County	County	907	1,274,395	6.0%	1,405
Addison Township	Township	35.6	5,879	-1.2%	165
Auburn Hills	City	16.7	24,360	13.8%	1,459
Berkley	City	2.6	15,194	1.5%	5,844
Beverly Hills	Village	4	10,584	3.1%	2,646
Bingham Farms	Village	1.2	1,124	1.2%	937
Birmingham	City	4.8	21,813	8.5%	4,544
Bloomfield Hills	City	5	4,460	15.3%	892
Bloomfield Township	Township	26.1	44,253	7.8%	1,696
Brandon Township	Township	34.9	14,008	2.0%	401
Clawson	City	2.2	11,389	-3.7%	5,177
Commerce Township	Township	28.2	38,514	7.4%	1,366
Farmington	City	2.7	11,597	11.8%	4,295
Farmington Hills	City	33.3	83,986	5.3%	2,522
Fenton ²	City				
Ferndale	City	3.9	19,190	-3.6%	4,921
Franklin	Village	2.7	3,139	-0.3%	1,163
Groveland Township	Township	36.1	5,912	8.0%	164
Hazel Park	City	2.8	14,983	-8.8%	5,351
Highland Township	Township	36.1	19,172	-0.2%	531
Holly	Village	3	5,997	-1.5%	1,999
Holly Township	Township	33.4	6,009	13.9%	180
Huntington Woods	City	1.5	6,388	2.4%	4,259
Independence Twp	Township	36.3	36,686	5.8%	1,011
Keego Harbor	City	0.5	2,764	-6.9%	5,528
Lake Angelus	City	1.6	287	-1.0%	179
Lake Orion	Village	1.3	2,876	-3.3%	2,212
Lathrup Village	City	1.5	4,088	0.3%	2,725
Leonard	Village	1	377	-6.5%	377
Lyon Township	Township	31.7	23,271	60.0%	734
Madison Heights	City	7.1	28,468	-4.1%	4,010
Milford	Village	2.5	6,520	5.6%	2,608
Milford Township	Township	32.6	10,570	10.6%	324
Northville (Oakland) ³	City	1	3,326	2.9%	3,326

¹ <https://semcog.org/data-and-maps/community-profiles/custom>

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

³ Northville is in Wayne and Oakland counties, data for the Oakland County portion is provided here

Community Name	Community Type	Square Miles	2020 Census Population	Percent Change from 2010	2020 Population per Square Mile
<i>Novi</i>	City	31.2	66,243	20.0%	2,123
<i>Oak Park</i>	City	5	29,560	0.8%	5,912
<i>Oakland Township</i>	Township	36.7	20,067	19.6%	547
<i>Orchard Lake Village</i>	Township	4.1	2,238	-5.8%	546
<i>Orion Township</i>	Township	34.6	35,330	9.0%	1,021
<i>Ortonville</i>	Village	1	1,376	-4.6%	1,376
<i>Oxford</i>	Village	1.5	3,492	1.6%	2,328
<i>Oxford Township</i>	Twp	33.9	18,927	10.7%	558
<i>Pleasant Ridge</i>	City	0.6	2,627	4.0%	4,378
<i>Pontiac</i>	City	20.1	61,606	3.5%	3,065
<i>Rochester</i>	City	3.8	13,035	2.5%	3,430
<i>Rochester Hills</i>	City	32.9	76,300	7.5%	2,319
<i>Rose Township</i>	Township	36.1	6,188	-1.0%	171
<i>Royal Oak</i>	City	11.8	58,211	1.7%	4,933
<i>Royal Oak Township</i>	Twp	0.7	2,374	-1.9%	3,391
<i>South Lyon</i>	City	3.7	11,746	3.7%	3,175
<i>Southfield</i>	City	26.3	76,618	6.8%	2,913
<i>Southfield Township</i> ⁴	Township				
<i>Springfield Township</i>	Township	36.7	14,703	5.5%	401
<i>Sylvan Lake</i>	City	0.8	1,723	0.2%	2,154
<i>Troy</i>	City	33.6	87,294	7.8%	2,598
<i>Village of Clarkston</i>	City	0.5	928	5.2%	1,856
<i>Walled Lake</i>	City	2.4	7,250	3.6%	3,021
<i>Waterford Township</i>	Township	35.3	70,565	-1.6%	1,999
<i>West Bloomfield Twp</i>	Township	31.3	65,888	1.9%	2,105
<i>White Lake Township</i>	Township	37.1	30,950	3.1%	834
<i>Wixom</i>	City	9.5	17,193	27.4%	1,810
<i>Wolverine Lake</i>	Village	1.7	4,544	5.4%	2,673

⁴ Southfield Township comprises the villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin. The unincorporated part of the township not included in the villages occupies 0.17 square miles with a population of approximately 20.

Table 2: Oakland County communities and population characteristics (Source: ESRI Business Analyst)

Community Name	Community Type	2022 Population	2022 Median Household Income	2022 Diversity Index ⁵	Percent of 2022 Population						
					White	Black / African American	Native American	Asian	Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic
Oakland County	County	1,284,183	\$88,531	53.3	70%	13%	0.3%	9%	2%	6%	5%
Addison Township ⁶	Township	6,293	\$106,068	20.9	91%	1%	0%	1%	1%	5%	3%
Auburn Hills	City	24,744	\$73,633	65.6	59%	16%	0.4%	14%	3%	7%	7%
Berkley	City	15,135	\$94,512	25.6	89%	2%	0.2%	2%	1%	7%	3%
Beverly Hills	Village	10,505	\$140,112	34.1	83%	7%	0%	3%	1%	6%	3%
Bingham Farms	Village	1,130	\$157,170	41.8	77%	11%	0%	5%	1%	6%	3%
Birmingham	City	21,760	\$145,314	30.8	86%	3%	0.2%	4%	1%	6%	3%
Bloomfield Hills	City	44,000	\$147,675	41.2	78%	6%	0.2%	10%	1%	5%	3%
Bloomfield Township	Township	4,419	\$200,001	31.8	84%	3%	0.1%	8%	1%	3%	2%
Brandon Township ⁷	Township	15,577	\$94,248	25.9	89%	1%	0.3%	1%	1%	7%	4%
Clawson	City	11,636	\$79,833	25.9	89%	2%	0.2%	2%	1%	6%	3%
Commerce Township ⁸	Township	43,424	\$105,335	31.5	86%	2%	0.3%	4%	1%	7%	4%
Farmington	City	11,670	\$83,761	60.1	60%	10%	0.3%	24%	1%	6%	3%
Farmington Hills	City	84,411	\$93,177	61.4	59%	18%	0.2%	16%	1%	6%	3%
Ferndale	City	19,656	\$77,357	36.7	83%	6%	0.3%	2%	1%	7%	4%
Franklin	Village	3,139	\$184,265	39.1	80%	6%	0%	7%	1%	6%	3%
Groveland Township	Township	5,878	\$102,133	23.1	91%	1%	0.5%	1%	1%	6%	4%
Hazel Park	City	15,031	\$45,419	46.1	75%	13%	0.5%	2%	1%	9%	4%
Highland Township	Township	18,850	\$95,039	18.4	93%	0%	0.3%	1%	1%	5%	3%
Holly Township ⁹	Township	12,390	\$76,096	25.9	89%	2%	0.3%	1%	1%	7%	4%

⁵ The Diversity Index from Esri represents the likelihood that two persons, chosen at random from the same area, belong to different races or ethnic groups. Ethnic diversity, as well as racial diversity, is included in Esri's definition of the Diversity Index.

⁶ Data for Addison Township includes the Village of Leonard

⁷ Data for Brandon Township includes the Village of Ortonville

⁸ Data for Commerce Township includes the Village of Wolverine Lake

⁹ Data for Holly Township includes the Village of Holly

Community Name	Community Type	2022 Population	2022 Median Household Income	2022 Diversity Index ⁵	Percent of 2022 Population						
					White	Black / African American	Native American	Asian	Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic
Huntington Woods	City	6,363	\$143,687	18.0	93%	1%	0.1%	1%	1%	5%	2%
Independence Twp	Township	36,366	\$103,397	30.1	88%	2%	0.3%	2%	2%	7%	5%
Keego Harbor	City	2,799	\$51,157	45.8	79%	6%	0.5%	3%	3%	9%	8%
Lake Angelus	City	293	\$92,951	33.1	86%	3%	0.3%	2%	2%	6%	6%
Lathrup Village	City	4,158	\$107,233	53.3	30%	63%	0.2%	1%	1%	5%	2%
Lyon Township	Township	23,804	\$125,615	36.1	83%	2%	0.2%	8%	1%	7%	4%
Madison Heights	City	28,325	\$57,975	43.7	77%	8%	0.3%	7%	1%	7%	4%
Milford Township ¹⁰	Township	17,171	\$105,099	24.0	90%	1%	0.3%	1%	1%	6%	3%
Northville (Oakland) ¹¹	City	3,323	\$129,314	31.1	86%	1%	0.2%	7%	1%	6%	4%
Novi	City	68,104	\$105,243	61.9	57%	8%	0.2%	27%	1%	6%	4%
Oak Park	City	29,888	\$57,389	57.4	37%	56%	0.2%	2%	1%	5%	2%
Oakland Township	Township	20,146	\$160,146	37.1	82%	2%	0.2%	8%	1%	7%	4%
Orchard Lake Village	Township	2,290	\$196,397	38.0	80%	6%	0.1%	8%	1%	6%	2%
Orion Township ¹²	Township	38,807	\$109,132	37.9	83%	3%	0.2%	4%	2%	8%	6%
Oxford Township ¹³	Twp	22,522	\$96,218	27.6	89%	1%	0.2%	2%	1%	7%	4%
Pleasant Ridge	City	2,622	\$132,365	23.8	90%	2%	0.0%	1%	1%	7%	3%
Pontiac	City	62,384	\$38,856	78.2	27%	48%	0.8%	2%	11%	10%	22%
Rochester	City	12,973	\$101,136	39.1	81%	3%	0.2%	8%	1%	7%	5%
Rochester Hills	City	77,242	\$103,316	49.9	72%	4%	0.3%	15%	2%	7%	5%
Rose Township	Township	6,213	\$84,073	23.6	90%	1%	0.2%	1%	1%	8%	3%
Royal Oak	City	59,117	\$89,904	31.6	85%	4%	0.2%	3%	1%	6%	4%
Royal Oak Township	Twp	2,399	\$33,445	21.7	5%	90%	0.0%	0%	1%	3%	2%
South Lyon	City	12,209	\$83,744	25.0	89%	1%	0.2%	3%	1%	6%	3%

¹⁰ Data for Milford Township includes the Village of Milford

¹¹ Northville is in Wayne and Oakland counties, data for the Oakland County portion is provided here

¹² Data for Orion Township includes the Village of Lake Orion

¹³ Data for Oxford Township includes the Village of Oxford

Community Name	Community Type	2022 Population	2022 Median Household Income	2022 Diversity Index ⁵	Percent of 2022 Population						
					White	Black / African American	Native American	Asian	Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic
Southfield	City	76,990	\$61,862	48.0	21%	70%	0.2%	2%	1%	4%	2%
Southfield Township ¹⁴	Township			35.8				4%			
Springfield Township	Township	14,766	\$104,652	25.3	90%	1%	0.3%	1%	1%	6%	4%
Sylvan Lake	City	1,787	\$94,390	25.6	89%	4%	0.4%	1%	0%	6%	3%
Troy	City	87,918	\$108,243	57.0	62%	4%	0.2%	28%	1%	5%	3%
Village of Clarkston	City	995	\$92,729	21.4	91%	1%	0.3%	1%	1%	6%	3%
Walled Lake	City	7,318	\$60,850	40.8	80%	7%	0.3%	4%	2%	7%	5%
Waterford Township	Township	70,557	\$73,473	42.4	82%	6%	0.4%	2%	3%	8%	8%
West Bloomfield Twp	Township	65,810	\$116,571	47.7	72%	13%	0.1%	9%	1%	5%	2%
White Lake Township	Township	31,151	\$94,555	25.4	89%	2%	0.3%	1%	1%	7%	4%
Wixom	City	17,497	\$55,302	54.0	69%	15%	0.3%	8%	2%	6%	5%

¹⁴ Southfield Township comprises three villages: Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin – all are listed separately in this chart. There is also a small unincorporated part that is not part of a village that occupies 0.17 acres with a population of approximately 20 persons.

Table 3: Oakland County census tracts identified as 2023 QCTs by HUD, are low-income, or are moderate-income and demographic data

CVT	Census Tract	2022 AMI	Low or Moderate Income	2023 QCT (HUD)	Percent of 2022 Population						
					White	Black / African American	Native American	Asian	Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic
Auburn Hills	261251401.01	\$66,682	Moderate		70%	10%	0.3%	8%	3%	8%	8%
Auburn Hills	261251403.01	\$58,738	Moderate		51%	19%	1%	19%	4%	7%	9%
Auburn Hills	261251405.00	\$65,908	Moderate		63%	15%	0.4%	7%	4%	11%	11%
Auburn Hills	261259815.00	\$68,712	Moderate		65%	15%	0.0%	8%	1%	11%	17%
Farmington Hills	261251666.00	\$58,788	Moderate		53%	24%	0.1%	16%	1%	5%	3%
Farmington Hills	261251673.00	\$56,410	Moderate		66%	18%	0.3%	5%	2%	10%	7%
Farmington Hills	261251674.00	\$55,662	Moderate		61%	23%	0.3%	5%	3%	8%	6%
Farmington Hills	261251689.02	\$56,832	Moderate		32%	24%	0.1%	39%	2%	4%	3%
Hazel Park	261251750.00	\$50,990	Moderate		80%	10%	0.4%	2%	1%	8%	4%
Hazel Park	261251751.00	\$38,482	Low	QCT	76%	13%	0.6%	1%	1%	9%	4%
Hazel Park	261251752.00	\$46,793	Moderate	QCT	75%	14%	0.3%	2%	2%	8%	5%
Hazel Park	261251753.00	\$48,395	Moderate		72%	14%	0.6%	2%	2%	11%	5%
Holly Village	261251245.00	\$60,308	Moderate		90%	1%	0.3%	0%	1%	7%	4%
Keego Harbor	261251542.00	\$51,157	Moderate		79%	6%	0.5%	3%	3%	9%	8%
Madison Heights	261251810.00	\$36,247	Low		50%	22%	0.3%	20%	3%	5%	5%
Madison Heights	261251813.00	\$62,586	Moderate		80%	7%	0.2%	5%	1%	7%	4%
Madison Heights	261251814.00	\$62,095	Moderate		82%	5%	0.4%	4%	1%	8%	4%
Madison Heights	261251815.00	\$51,254	Moderate		82%	7%	0.5%	2%	2%	7%	5%
Madison Heights	261251816.00	\$55,534	Moderate		78%	8%	0.5%	4%	1%	8%	4%
Novi	261251368.00	\$65,935	Moderate		71%	13%	0.1%	9%	2%	5%	5%
Oak Park	261251710.00	\$60,446	Moderate		75%	16%	0.3%	2%	2%	5%	2%
Oak Park	261251713.00	\$54,986	Moderate		18%	75%	0.2%	1%	1%	5%	2%
Oak Park	261251714.00	\$64,860	Moderate		29%	65%	0.2%	1%	1%	4%	2%
Oak Park	261251715.00	\$59,997	Moderate		5%	90%	0.1%	0%	0%	3%	1%
Oak Park	261251716.00	\$38,820	Low	QCT	40%	52%	0.3%	1%	1%	6%	2%
Oak Park	261251724.00	\$29,319	Low	QCT	26%	63%	0.1%	3%	2%	5%	4%

CVT	Census Tract	2022 AMI	Low or Moderate Income	2023 QCT (HUD)	Percent of 2022 Population						
					White	Black / African American	Native American	Asian	Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic
Pontiac	261251409.00	\$42,667	Moderate	QCT	34%	41%	0.4%	2%	12%	10%	24%
Pontiac	261251410.01	\$41,408	Low	QCT	37%	29%	1%	4%	18%	10%	31%
Pontiac	261251410.02	\$52,259	Moderate		26%	52%	1%	3%	9%	9%	15%
Pontiac	261251411.00	\$48,473	Moderate		43%	33%	0.8%	3%	8%	12%	20%
Pontiac	261251412.00	\$21,594	Low	QCT	26%	43%	1.2%	6%	10%	13%	23%
Pontiac	261251413.00	\$45,590	Moderate	QCT	45%	17%	2.0%	3%	19%	15%	40%
Pontiac	261251414.00	\$48,739	Moderate		30%	33%	1.2%	3%	18%	13%	35%
Pontiac	261251415.00	\$41,169	Low	QCT	17%	63%	0.4%	1%	10%	9%	20%
Pontiac	261251416.00	\$40,235	Low	QCT	26%	44%	0.4%	4%	14%	12%	27%
Pontiac	261251417.00	\$31,788	Low	QCT	29%	33%	1.1%	2%	19%	16%	38%
Pontiac	261251420.00	\$34,039	Low	QCT	32%	46%	0.4%	1%	11%	10%	20%
Pontiac	261251421.00	\$32,431	Low	QCT	26%	45%	0.5%	2%	13%	13%	25%
Pontiac	261251422.00	\$21,548	Low	QCT	13%	71%	0.4%	0%	9%	7%	14%
Pontiac	261251423.00	\$18,795	Low	QCT	15%	74%	0.6%	1%	4%	6%	10%
Pontiac	261251424.00	\$32,241	Low	QCT	11%	75%	0.6%	0%	7%	6%	13%
Pontiac	261251425.00	\$53,010	Moderate		20%	67%	0.1%	2%	4%	7%	9%
Pontiac	261251426.00	\$56,593	Moderate		47%	32%	1.1%	2%	6%	11%	13%
Pontiac	261251427.00	\$39,077	Low	QCT	8%	81%	0.3%	1%	4%	5%	8%
Rochester	261251911.00	\$66,705	Moderate		80%	5%	0.2%	5%	2%	7%	6%
Rochester Hills	261251933.00	\$66,428	Moderate		65%	8%	0.4%	18%	2%	6%	6%
Rochester Hills	261251935.00	\$63,384	Moderate		67%	4%	0.9%	9%	5%	13%	11%
Rochester Hills	261251945.00	\$41,006	Low		87%	4%	0.1%	3%	1%	5%	4%
Rochester Hills	261259813.00	\$60,207	Moderate		73%	19%	0.2%	2%	1%	4%	4%
Royal Oak (City)	261251830.00	\$66,004	Moderate		79%	7%	0.3%	6%	2%	6%	5%
Royal Oak Twp	261251725.00	\$33,445	Low	QCT	5%	90%	0.0%	0%	1%	3%	2%
Southfield	261251603.00	\$33,769	Low	QCT	20%	67%	0.2%	6%	2%	5%	4%
Southfield	261251604.00	\$48,129	Moderate		11%	80%	0.1%	4%	1%	4%	2%

CVT	Census Tract	2022 AMI	Low or Moderate Income	2023 QCT (HUD)	Percent of 2022 Population						
					White	Black / African American	Native American	Asian	Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic
Southfield	261251605.00	\$67,255	Moderate		37%	52%	0.4%	4%	1%	6%	3%
Southfield	261251609.00	\$60,118	Moderate		18%	70%	0.2%	6%	2%	4%	2%
Southfield	261251610.00	\$65,695	Moderate		13%	78%	0.8%	3%	2%	4%	1%
Southfield	261251611.00	\$47,771	Moderate		19%	76%	0.3%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Southfield	261251613.00	\$63,690	Moderate		32%	60%	0.1%	2%	1%	5%	3%
Southfield	261251614.00	\$55,808	Moderate		46%	49%	0.1%	1%	2%	3%	1%
Southfield	261251616.00	\$56,467	Moderate		20%	68%	0.1%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Southfield	261251618.00	\$52,844	Moderate		13%	80%	0.2%	1%	1%	4%	1%
Southfield	261251621.00	\$44,740	Moderate		2%	93%	0.2%	1%	0%	3%	1%
Southfield	261251622.00	\$47,988	Moderate		4%	89%	0.0%	1%	2%	3%	2%
Southfield	261251624.00	\$67,956	Moderate		18%	73%	0.1%	1%	1%	6%	3%
Southfield	261251625.00	\$54,865	Moderate		26%	64%	0.5%	1%	1%	6%	3%
Troy	261251974.00	\$59,192	Moderate		78%	5%	0.0%	7%	3%	7%	6%
Troy	261251981.00	\$32,102	Low	QCT	64%	9%	0.2%	20%	2%	6%	5%
Walled Lake	261251347.00	\$58,006	Moderate		78%	8%	0.3%	3%	2%	8%	6%
Walled Lake	261251349.00	\$64,827	Moderate		81%	6%	0.3%	5%	1%	6%	4%
Walled Lake	261251361.02	\$59,296	Moderate		59%	19%	0.2%	13%	2%	7%	6%
Waterford	261251447.01	\$48,731	Moderate		68%	12%	0.5%	2%	9%	10%	16%
Waterford	261251448.00	\$59,766	Moderate		79%	6%	0.5%	2%	3%	10%	11%
Waterford	261251449.00	\$45,445	Moderate		75%	11%	0.2%	3%	4%	7%	8%
Waterford	261251455.02	\$64,851	Moderate		82%	6%	0.7%	3%	2%	8%	7%
Waterford	261251457.00	\$65,220	Moderate		80%	4%	0.4%	2%	4%	9%	11%
Waterford	261251459.00	\$45,631	Moderate	QCT	63%	20%	0.5%	1%	5%	10%	13%
Wixom	261251331.01	\$36,656	Low		47%	34%	0%	9%	4%	6%	6%
Wixom	261251331.02	\$42,133	Low		59%	27%	0.3%	6%	2%	6%	7%

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Administrative Structure

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.

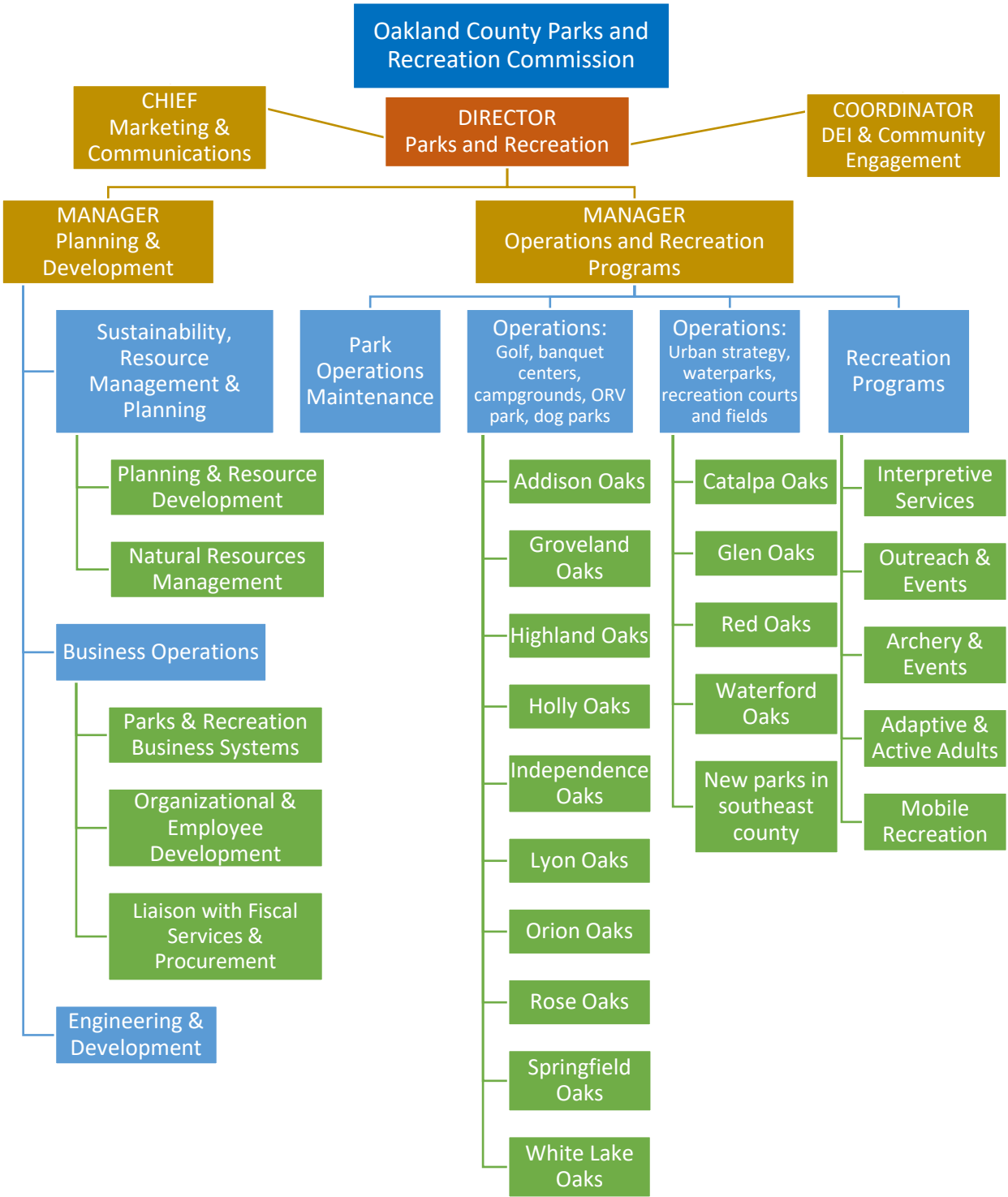
The Parks Commission is also responsible for recommending the acquisition of new parkland, the acceptance of grant funding, and the entrance into use agreements, all of which require the approval of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

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.

See Figure C: OCPR organizational chart.

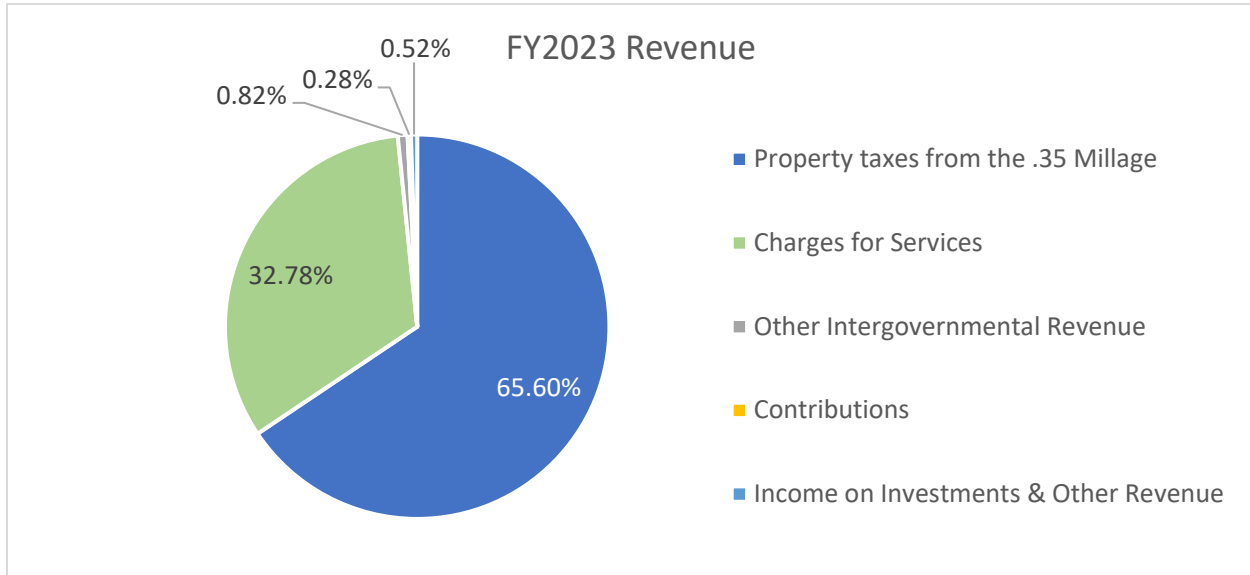
Figure C: OCPR organizational chart



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. The projected revenue in fiscal year 2023 is \$36,466,257. The chart below shows allocation among revenue categories.

Figure D: FY2023 Revenue allocation chart



Source: (OCPR September 7 2022)

Budgets

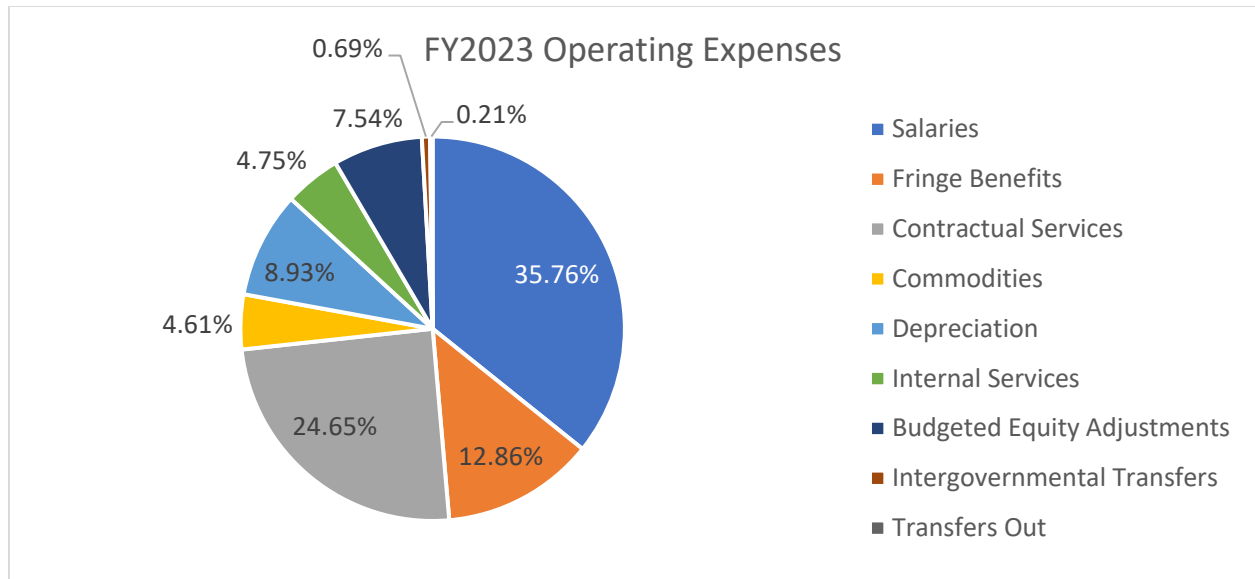
The Parks and Recreation budget is developed through a multi-faceted review of park operations and financial activity to produce a triennial budget. The process starts with staff reviewing financial and activity reports and making assumptions based on trends. Use of this on-going process where staff is asked to review current operations to ensure budget accuracy and provide programmatic changes to their budget streamlines the budget process.

On September 7, 2022, the Parks Commission approved the FY2023-2025 Operating Budget and the FY2023 Capital Improvement Program, Maintenance Management Plan, and Capital Equipment Plan. The operating expense budget in fiscal year 2023 is \$36,466,257. *Figure E shows the allocation of among expense categories.*

Budget Centers

A budget center is defined as a segment of a business for which revenues and expenses are separately calculated. Within Oakland County Parks, each budget center is a distinctly identifiable division of the agency whose managers are responsible for all its associated revenues and expenses and for ensuring adherence to its budgets. *Table 4 shows the budget centers and the 3-year operating budget for each.*

Figure E: FY2023 Operating Expense allocation chart



Source: (OCPR September 7 2022)

Table 4: Department and Program Chart and approved three-year Operating Budget forecast

Budget Center						
Abbrev.	Descriptions	Program	Program Description	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
ADD	PR Addison Oaks	160710	Campground	\$1,776,634	\$1,802,834	\$1,820,534
ADD	PR Addison Oaks	160720	Conference Center	\$225,073	\$226,173	\$226,973
CAT	PR Catalpa Oaks	160700	General Operations	\$253,726	\$256,126	\$257,726
FM	PR Facilities Maintenance	160700	General Operations	\$2,397,776	\$2,413,376	\$2,437,776
GLG	PR Glen Oaks	160010	Golf	\$1,115,867	\$1,135,967	\$1,149,867
GLG	PR Glen Oaks	160720	Conference Center	\$204,100	\$205,200	\$205,900
GRV	PR Groveland Oaks	160710	Campground	\$1,788,266	\$1,812,666	\$1,829,266
HGH	PR Highland Oaks	160700	General Operations	\$65,550	\$65,850	\$66,050
HRV	PR Holly Oaks	160700	General Operations	\$540,985	\$550,085	\$556,285
IND	PR Independence Oaks	160700	General Operations	\$1,277,079	\$1,297,579	\$1,311,479
LYP	PR Lyon Oaks	160010	Golf (Includes F&B)	\$1,785,681	\$1,809,781	\$1,826,581
LYP	PR Lyon Oaks	160700	General Operations	\$340,651	\$346,151	\$349,751
LYP	PR Lyon Oaks	160720	Conference Center	\$205,034	\$205,334	\$205,334
NR	PR Natural Resources	160431	Natural Resources	\$2,030,954	\$2,024,554	\$2,044,054
NR	PR Natural Resources	160432	Outreach (formerly NR - CISMA)	\$489,601	\$497,801	\$503,301
ORN	PR Orion Oaks	160700	General Operations	\$208,330	\$210,530	\$211,930
RDP	PR Red Oaks	160010	Golf (Includes F&B)	\$778,636	\$790,136	\$798,136
RDP	PR Red Oaks	160700	General Operations	\$365,070	\$371,470	\$375,970
RDP	PR Red Oaks	160740	Waterpark	\$1,955,204	\$1,986,704	\$2,008,104

<i>Abbrev.</i>	<i>Budget Center Descriptions</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>FY2023</i>	<i>FY2024</i>	<i>FY2025</i>
REC	PR Recreation Programs & Services	160700	General Operations	\$2,113,904	\$2,155,704	\$2,184,404
RSE	PR Rose Oaks	160700	General Operations	\$66,470	\$66,770	\$66,970
SPR	PR Springfield Oaks	160010	Golf (Includes F&B)	\$1,168,748	\$1,189,448	\$1,204,048
SPR	PR Springfield Oaks	160700	General Operations	\$652,712	\$660,612	\$665,912
WLG	PR White Lake Oaks	160010	Golf (Includes F&B)	\$1,151,910	\$1,173,210	\$1,188,210
WLG	PR White Lake Oaks	160720	Conference Center	\$169,841	\$170,141	\$170,141
WTR	PR Waterford Oaks	160500	Market	\$218,891	\$223,491	\$226,591
WTR	PR Waterford Oaks	160700	General Operations	\$783,800	\$795,200	\$802,900
WTR	PR Waterford Oaks	160740	Waterpark	\$833,520	\$847,920	\$857,720
	Planned use of balance	160666	Planned use of balance	\$2,670,370	\$3,552,538	\$4,227,288
ADM	Administrative Services	160000	General Services Admin Services	\$8,267,705	\$8,384,157	\$8,475,557
FSA	Fiscal Services	1820X0	Financial Planning	\$564,169	\$576,149	\$585,599
TOTALS				\$36,466,257	\$37,803,657	\$38,840,357
Capital Improvement Program				\$6,639,414		
Maintenance Management Plan				\$911,050		
Capital Equipment Plan				\$1,014,274		

Source: (OCPR September 7 2022)

Volunteers

The volunteer services unit supports current volunteers and recruits new volunteers. Every year, individual volunteers renew their Volunteer Agreement and sign off on their Waiver of Liability so that records are current and accurate.

Volunteer Recruitment

Recruitment efforts include online recruitment and tracking tools and external partnerships. Volgistics is a web-based tracking database which records volunteer hours, assignments, contact information and interest areas and allows Volunteer Services and volunteer supervisors to communicate directly with volunteers. Volunteer Match is a web-based volunteer program that acts similarly to a job board, reaching new volunteers by tapping into individuals already interested in and seeking out volunteer opportunities. Volunteer Services collaborates with Communications and Marketing to promote volunteer opportunities and recognize notable service through social media channels, e-marketing messages and press releases. We develop and maintain external relationships through participation in the Southeast Michigan Volunteer Coordinator Network, establishing relationships with local high schools and college programs and through corporate relationships with companies that seek to involve employees in volunteer service opportunities.

Volunteer Training

Volunteers receive training and orientation for their specific position responsibilities from the supervisor of the specific area in which they are serving. General information about the volunteer program is communicated through Volunteer Services.

Volunteer Opportunities

Oakland County Parks and Recreation offers individuals and groups a variety of opportunities to give back to their community, in areas such as:

Adaptive Recreation: Volunteers assist with events designed for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities, seniors, and veterans. Activities include special events, socials, tours, and adaptive sports for individuals with disabilities.

Campgrounds: Campground volunteers perform a variety of tasks that support customer service efforts, such as answering campers' questions, explaining rules, providing directions, assisting with check-in, maintaining flower beds, picking up trash, clearing trails, monitoring restroom cleanliness and assisting with arts and crafts, dances, games and events.

Corporate Workdays: As an increasing number of organizations are encouraging employees to volunteer and are often paying employees their regular salary to volunteer a certain number of hours each year, Volunteer Services receives frequent requests to accommodate large, corporate workdays. Park and/or program supervisors are able to request such a volunteer group to assist in completion of specific projects or assistance at events.

Golf Courses: Golf volunteers support one of five golf courses as a starter, ranger, player's assistant, or cart attendant.

History Corps: As one of our newest programs, the historical program is a growing area of interest. These volunteers learn about history and preservation while supporting the excavation, identification, research, documentation, and archiving Oakland County Parks historical assets. Activities include exploration and documentation of historical sites through mapping, surveying, excavation, soil sifting and tagging. Volunteers in the history center archives conduct asset inventory, restoration, library management and artifact preparation.

Nature Centers: Nature center volunteers assist staff by greeting guests; caring for captive animals; assisting with nature education programs, badge days and trail walks; preparing program and craft supplies; and maintaining gardens.

Natural Resources Stewardship: Individuals, schools and corporate workday groups support restoration and management of natural areas. They help to control and remove invasive plant species and to collect and disperse native plant seed. Volunteers for Citizen Science focus on monitoring bluebird nest boxes.

Scout Projects: Scouts requiring a service project as requirement for an award are often put in contact with a park supervisor and, when appropriate, have collaborated to complete a park-improvement project.

Ski Patrol: Independence Oaks provides cross county skiing opportunities and rentals when weather permits, and the Ski Patrol volunteers patrol trails, provide customer service and assist park staff in emergency response. Some of Oakland County Parks' ski patrollers are certified Nordic Ski Patrol volunteers, which requires special training and certification in backcountry emergency response.

Special Events: The uniqueness of Oakland County’s volunteer program rests largely on the fact that volunteers do not have to make long term commitments when they choose to help with one-day special events such as Fire & Ice Festival, the Great Marshmallow Drop as well as events held all over the County throughout the year.

Trails Ambassadors: Trails ambassadors patrol trails on foot to promote safe and proper use of the trails and to provide information to visitors about park rules and policies. They also identify and report areas of concern or maintenance needs to park staff.

Partnerships

OCPR has a variety of partnerships throughout the county with local communities, non-profit organizations, and the business community. Partnerships help us expand our reach into the communities and spread the word about the parks, facilities, and programs we provide. Strategic partnerships often develop around a specific need or goal that is shared by OCPR and our partner. OCPR currently benefits from a variety of dedicated partners who support park development, facility maintenance and management as well as recreation programs and services opportunities. Partners often provide educational resources, subject matter expertise and other resources to support OCPR’s core values and goals.

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Recreation Inventory

Oakland County is blessed with an abundance of high-quality natural resources, green spaces, public parks and recreational facilities - including approximately 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.

The Centers for Disease Control's Healthy People 2030^{ix} 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 do not 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. Parks also provide access to nature, which has been shown to lower stress levels and improve mental health.

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.

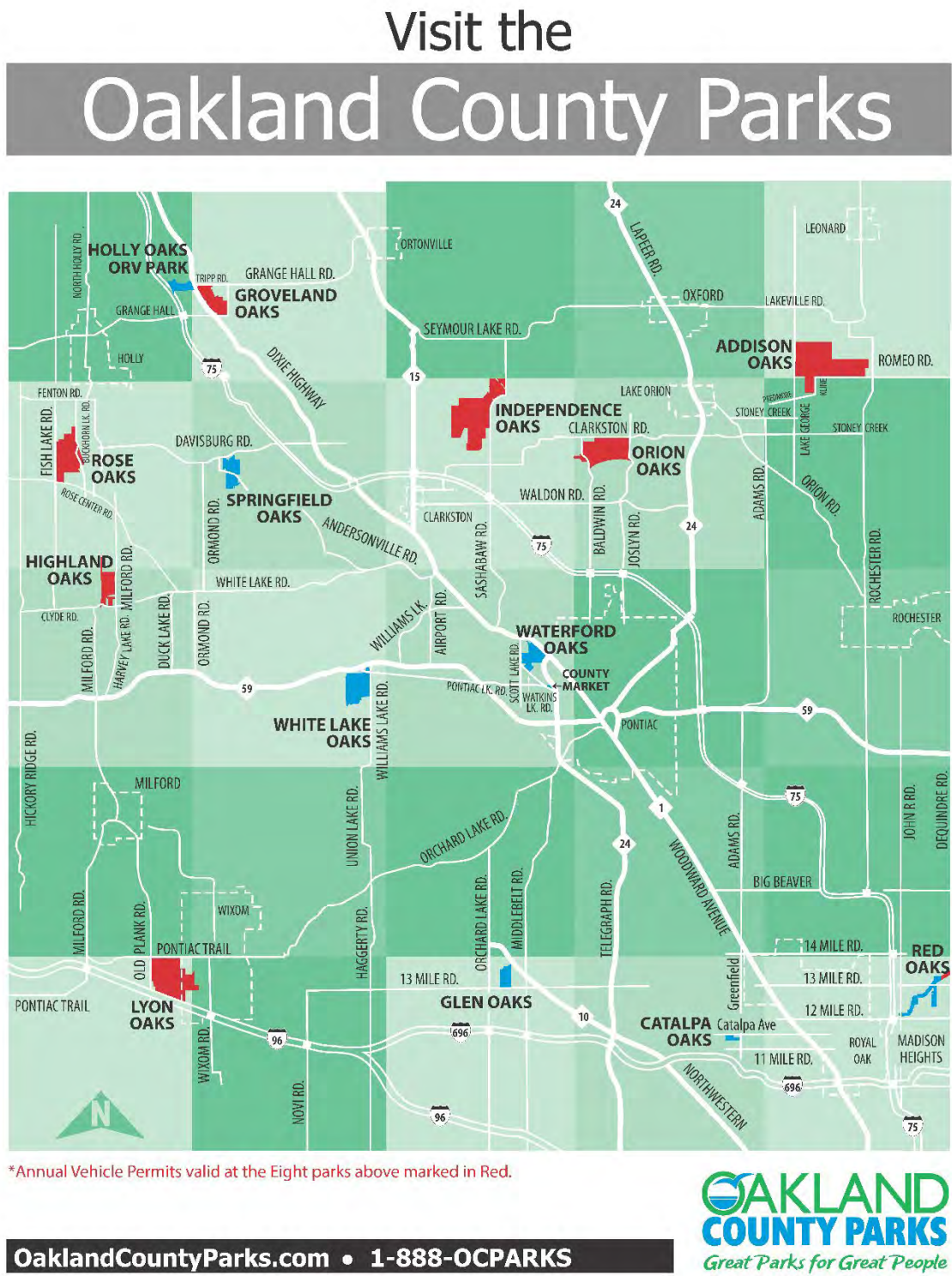
Table 5: Oakland County Parks and Recreation statistics and three-year trends

Statistic	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
<u>Geography</u>			
Number of parks	13 parks	14 parks	14 parks
Total park system acreage	6,748 acres	6,849 acres	6,851 acres
<u>Park System Usage</u>			
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%
<u>Park Assets</u>			
Total square feet of buildings	474,840	476,140	476,140
Total estimated replacement value of fixed assets	\$116,233,726	\$119,814,330	\$119,814,330

Table 6: 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
Facility Type	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	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Banquets, activity centers, concessions	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Beaches				✓			✓							
Biking and skating	✓			✓			✓			✓			✓	
Boating and fishing	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓		✓			
Camping	✓			✓			✓					✓		
Court games	✓			✓			✓						✓	
Disc golf	✓													
Dog park								✓	✓	✓				
Fairs and expositions												✓		
Farmers market													✓	
Field sports		✓						✓		✓				
Fitness equipment													✓	
Golf			✓					✓		✓		✓		✓
Historic and cultural features	✓		✓									✓		
Hunting and archery	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
Miniature golf				✓										
Natural areas	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nature centers							✓			✓				
Off-road vehicle						✓								
Open space areas	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Pavilions, stages, amphitheaters	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Playgrounds	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	
Trails	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Waterparks										✓			✓	
ACTIVITY TYPE														
Equestrian	✓				✓						✓	✓		
Winter	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

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



Recreation Programs and Services

In addition to and in support of our 14 park facilities, OCPH has a robust Recreation Programs and Services (RPS) unit that provides programming and support throughout the park system as well as to local communities, non-profit organizations and other partners. The RPS unit helps to activate our parks and facilities by providing unique and exciting programs and events that bring people to our parks.

Recreation Assistance Partnership Program (RAPP)

The RPS unit provides recreation services to local communities through our Recreation Assistance Partnership Program (RAPP). This program provides outreach services to local communities to enhance their recreational programs and activities.

Mobile Recreation

OCPH's Mobile Recreation section has a variety of mobile units that can be utilized throughout the county. We are constantly evaluating and managing our fleet of mobile units to meet the needs of local communities and park users. Historically mobile units could be rented for a fee and were also provided free of charge as part of the RAPP program. Current mobile units include:

- Inflatable bouncers and mazes
- Rock climbing tower
- Mobile stages
- Regional events
- Bleachers
- Inflatable movie screen
- GO! Adventure trailers (fishing, golf)

Park System Programming

OCPH operates 14 county parks with various amenities throughout the county. The RPS unit develops and provides programs, special events and activities throughout the park system that bring in visitors and provide unique experiences for park users. Example programs include campground recreation programs, nature hikes, history programs, seasonal/holiday programs, etc.



Adaptive and Active Adult Programming

OCPR is known throughout the region for having a robust adaptive and therapeutic recreation program. We have also increased programming for seniors (or active adults), as the demand for this type of recreational programming continues to increase. Staff partner with local communities across the county to provide adaptive and therapeutic recreational programs and events, as this is not always a service that communities are able to provide on their own. Adaptive programs range from adaptive sports clinics and off-road vehicle tours to social gatherings and dances for persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers. Active adult programming includes activities for adults and seniors that get people outside and active. Programs include the River Walk at Red Oaks Waterpark, as well as kayaking programs at the lakes in our parks.



Nature Education and Interpretation

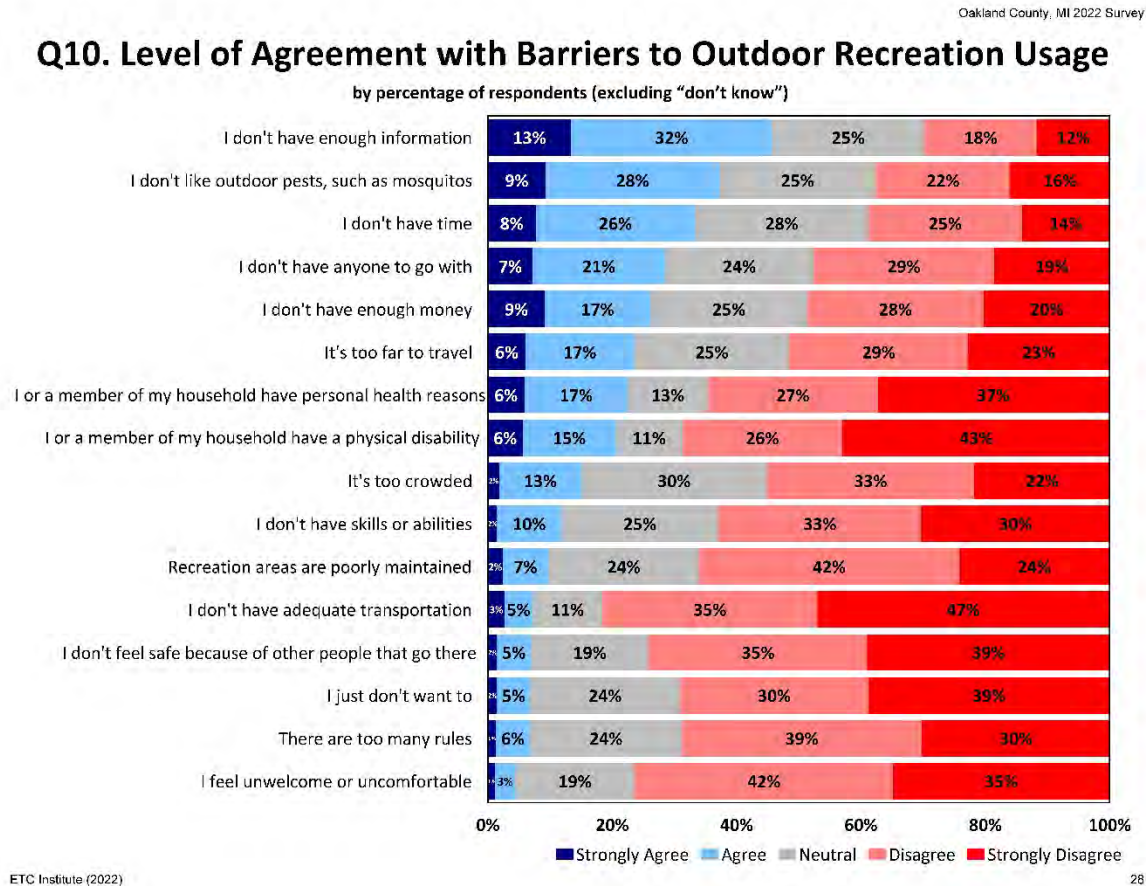
With this new Recreation Master Plan update OCPR has designated Nature Education as a core service. We will also be working to better integrate our nature center and nature education staff with our natural resources management team to provide even more nature and environmental education opportunities to our residents. Our nature education team provide services at two nature centers (Red Oaks Nature Center and the Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks). They also provide programs and activities within our parks and out in the communities as part of the RAPP program. Popular programs include nature hikes, animal programs, nature crafts, star-lab (inflatable planetarium), and the long-standing Tuning Your Tot into Nature program for preschool age kids. The nature education team also provides programs and activities for school groups through field trips our outreach visits, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts through badge days and other educational programs, and parties at the nature center.



Accessibility Assessment

The 2022 Community Needs Assessment (see Appendix A) included a question asking the level of agreement with a set of statements regarding barriers to participation. The top reasons indicated lack of information, outdoor pests, not enough time. Health reasons and physical disabilities ranked in the middle. Inclusion issues such as feeling unsafe, unwelcome, or uncomfortable ranked lower.

Figure G: 2022 Community Needs Assessment question regarding barriers to outdoor recreation



The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the need to provide universally accessible facilities and adaptive recreation opportunities to the aging population and those with disabilities. According to the U.S. Census, 7.5% of persons in the United States under 65 have a disability (U.S. Census Bureau 2022). With the retiring of the boomer generation and increased longevity, there will likely be an increase in the number of older persons developing some type of disability. The table below shows the age trends of Oakland County's population. The following sections describe our multi-pronged approach to providing facilities, programs and information that are accessible and inclusive.

Table 7: U.S. Census data showing trends in ages of U.S. population

Population Statistic	2000 U.S. Census Oakland County	2010 U.S. Census Oakland County	2020 U.S. Census Oakland County
<i>Population Total</i>	1,194,156	1,202,362	1,243,970
<i>Percent Change from previous census</i>		0.7%	3.5%
<u>Age</u>			
<i>Persons under 5 years</i>	6.7%	5.7%	5.2%
<i>Population younger than 18 years of age</i>	25.2%	23.5%	20.5%
<i>Population older than 65 years of age</i>	11.3%	13.2%	17.8%

Adaptive Recreation Programs and Services

The Adaptive Recreation Program at Oakland County Parks and Recreation was developed in 1980 to provide therapeutic recreation programs and services for individuals with disabilities. By forming partnerships with more than 30 non-profit agencies, schools, and disabled sports organizations, we can cooperatively provide unique recreation options.

Working with other park staff, adaptive recreation specialists develop alternative methods of providing programs or services that do not change the primary focus of the program or service and ensure that events are as accessible as possible.

Photo right: Friendship at OCPR's Youth Abilities Program

Adaptive Recreation Equipment

We offer specialized equipment to people with disabilities to assist them in exploring and recreating within the parks. This equipment is available to those needing it at a cost equal to similar rental equipment. This equipment includes golf carts, pedal boats, pool transfer chairs, hand-cycles, and cross-country skis.

ADA Transition Plans: 2006 and 2015 Update

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission contracted with consultants in 2006 to complete the *Oakland County Parks and Recreation Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Assessment and Master Plan*. The report created a list of all deficiencies within the parks that would need correction to bring the park system fully in compliance with ADA, as well as best practices recommendations.



Over the past 15 years, individual tasks have been prioritized and planned for as part of the annual capital improvement and maintenance management plans, generally associated with other facility updates and repairs. Facilities reach the end of their useful life are replaced to meet or exceed accessibility requirements, with the goal of meeting universal design standards.

Updated ADA Transition Plans were created in 2017, incorporating the federal Department of Justice 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

New Facilities and Universal Design

Universal design results in a built environment that allows independent use and inclusive participation by people with disabilities, without separating them from others. When building new facilities or replacing existing facilities, we strive to design facilities and structures that are easily used by all.

Photo right: Playgrounds are replaced with new installations that meet or exceed ADA guidelines



Website Accessibility

One of the highest priorities for Oakland County Parks and Recreation is to provide information in a format that can be readily accessed by people with disabilities. Oakland County websites are designed using standards provided by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), www.w3.org, an international community that develops open standards to ensure the long-term growth of the web, including web accessibility guidelines that are widely regarded as the international standard.

Participation in Planning by People with Disabilities

OCPRC understands that it cannot provide the facilities, programs, and services that individuals with disabilities want and need without their input into the planning process. As stated above, OCPR has formed a partnership with more than 30 non-profit agencies, schools, and disabled sports organizations. In addition, OCPR maintains a list of email addresses of about 150 people and organizations interested in accessibility issues. Using these means of communication, OCPR can quickly notify the disability community of events, public input opportunities, and other information of interest.

Accessibility Updates in 2023-2027

Update of the ADA Transition Plans, actions that correct ADA compliance issues, and development of universally accessible new and replacement facilities is a top priority for OCPR in the next 5 years. This has been addressed in Strategic Action Plan and in each individual Park Action Plan. The chart on the following page estimates the level of compliance and the application of universal design in the major types of facilities in OCPR parks and calculates an average score for each park and each facility type.

Table 8: OCPR Parks Accessibility Assessment

Park Name	Addison Oaks	Catalpa Oaks	Glen Oaks	Groveland Oaks	Highland Oaks	Holly Oaks	Independence Oaks	Lyon Oaks	Orion Oaks	Red Oaks	Rose Oaks	Springfield Oaks	Waterford Oaks	White Lake Oaks	Facility Average
Facility Type															
<i>Access routes and parking lots</i>	2	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	4	3	2	2	2	2.57
<i>Banquets, activity centers, concessions</i>	3		3	3			3	3		4		3	3	3	3.11
<i>Beaches</i>				3			3								3.00
<i>Camping and cabins</i>	3			3			2	3				2			2.60
<i>Dog park</i>								4	3	3					3.33
<i>Fairs and expositions</i>												2			2.00
<i>Farmer's market</i>													2		2.00
<i>Field sports</i>		2						2		3					2.33
<i>Fitness equipment</i>													2		2.80
<i>Golf courses</i>			3					3		3		2		3	2.80
<i>Nature centers</i>						3				3					3.00
<i>Pavilions and amphitheaters</i>	3	5		3		2	2	2	3	3		2	2		2.70
<i>Playgrounds</i>	5	5		3			3	2		5			5		4.00
<i>Trails</i>	3	5		3	3	2	3	3	2	5	3	1	3		3.00
<i>Water access, boating, fishing</i>	5			2	5	3		5	2		5				4.00
<i>Waterparks and spray parks</i>										3			3		3.00
Park Average	3.43	4.20	3.00	2.88	3.67	2.25	2.57	2.90	2.40	3.60	3.67	2.00	2.75	2.67	2.89

Facility Accessibility Grade

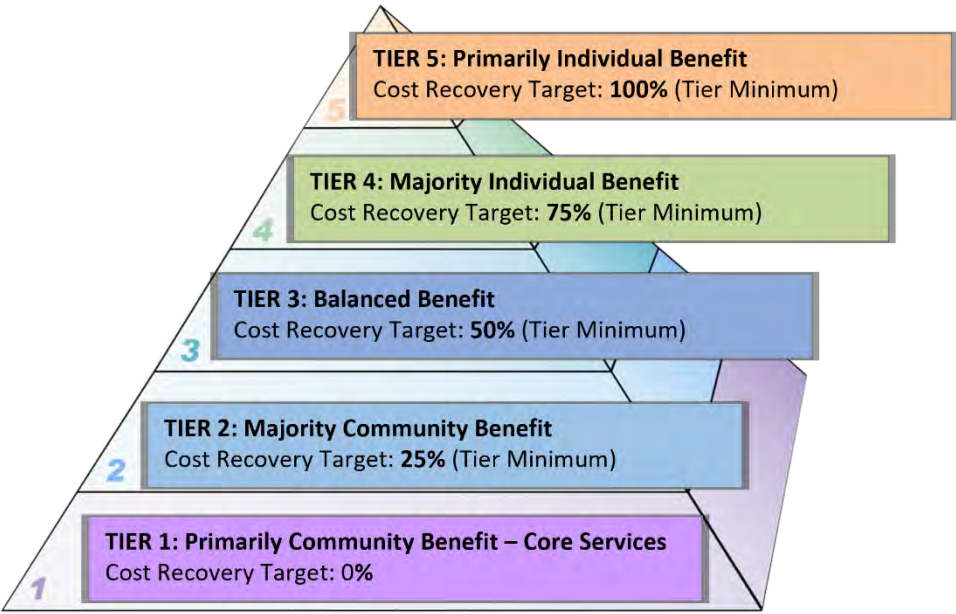
- 1 – None of the facility meets accessibility guidelines
- 2 – Some of the facility meets accessibility guidelines
- 3 – Most of the facility meets accessibility guidelines
- 4 – The entire facility meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 – The entire facility was developed using the principles of universal design

Grant-Assisted Parks and Facilities

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. Please see individual Park Action Plans for a list of grant projects. Grant compliance reports are submitted to the DNR separate from this document.

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 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.

Tier 5 – Primarily Individual Benefit

Cost Recovery Target = 100%

Event Centers

Event centers (formerly called conference centers) are facilities that are focused on providing a quality experience that includes providing food and beverage service to groups. Four event centers are provided below and are identified as a separate budget program. The Addison Oaks and Glen Oaks facilities are managed under contract by a private vendor who markets, schedules, and provides services to customers. OCPR is paid a set percentage of the vendor's net revenue per the contract. Building and grounds maintenance and capital improvements are funded by OCPR. Lyon Oaks and White Lake Oaks are in the process of converting to a model with OCPR marketing and scheduling the venue and the customer engaging their own caterer. Bar service may also be provided by OCPR in the future.

Budget Center	Program	Name
ADD	160720	Addison Oaks Event Center
GLG	160720	Glen Oaks Event Center
LYG	160720	Lyon Oaks Event Center
LYG	160720	White Lake Oaks Event Center

Golf Courses

Golf courses include golf carts, driving ranges, pro shop sales, and grill room food services. The golf courses across the system are generally performing at or near the 100% target.

Budget Center	Program	Name
GLG	160010	Glen Oaks Golf Course
LYG	160010	Lyon Oaks Golf Course
RDG	160010	Red Oaks Golf Course
SPG	160010	Springfield Oaks Golf Course
WLG	160010	White Lake Oaks Golf Course

Waterparks

Waterparks are enclosed facilities with pools and other water play features. Entry fee is required to use the waterparks. They are recognized as a separate budgetary program within two parks in the system.

Budget Center	Program	Name
RDP	160740	Red Oaks Waterpark
WTR	160740	Waterford Oaks Waterpark

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Areas

The off-road vehicle park is a specialized facility and, per the lease agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, is expected to full recover its costs.

Budget Center	Program	Name
HRV	160700	Holly Oaks ORV Park

Campgrounds

OCPR offers camping at Addison Oaks, Groveland Oaks, and Independence Oaks and includes rental of cabins and yurts. Campgrounds are not currently identified as separate program areas in the operating budget for cost recovery calculation, but these rentals would also be identified at Tier 5. KPIs to evaluate campgrounds are under development.

Other Tier 5 Services within Limited Access and Open Access Parks

The Limited Access and Open Access parks (see below) contain facilities and offer services that have cost recovery targets that are aligned with different tiers but are not easily separated into budget centers and program. For these services, we are developing separate methods of cost recovery calculation and/or identifying other KPIs to evaluate. These include:

- Concessions and Vending
- Long-Term Leases
- Merchandise for Resale

Tier 4 – Majority Individual Benefit

Cost Recovery Target = 75%

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market at Waterford Oaks rents stalls and provides services for vendors of fresh local produce and crafters. The Market is open to the public and offers free programming and access to fresh food includes acceptance of food assistance programs. Because of this public benefit, the Market is partially subsidized.

Budget Center	Program	Name
WTR	160500	Waterford Oaks Oakland County Market

Dog Parks

OCPR offers dog parks at Lyon Oaks, Orion Oaks, and Red Oaks. The dog parks are not currently identified as separate program areas in the operating budget for cost recovery calculation. These facilities are identified at Tier 4, because of the strong individual benefit to dog owners, with some community benefit due to the preservation of open space and the ubiquity of dog ownership. KPIs to evaluate dog parks are under development.

Other Tier 4 Services within Limited Access and Open Access Parks

The Limited Access and Open Access parks (see below) contain facilities and offer services that have cost recovery targets that are aligned with different tiers but are not easily separated into budget centers and program. For these services, we are developing separate methods of cost recovery calculation and/or identifying other KPIs to evaluate. These include:

- Equipment Rental
- Mobile Recreation Services Rental

Tier 3 – Balanced Benefit
Cost Recovery Target = 50%
Fairs and Expositions

The Fairgrounds, Ellis Barn and Activity Center at Springfield Oaks provide a venue for both private events, expositions, and community events, including the annual Oakland County Fair. It is considered to have an approximately even mixture of public and private benefits.

Budget Center	Program	Name
SPR	160700	Springfield Oaks Park

Recreation Programs (not included with RAPP)

Recreation programs are considered to provide an even mixture of public and private benefits. Individuals and groups register for the programs, which provide healthful activities that benefit the community. Recreation programs are not considered a separate program area from other services provided by the RPS budget center (Recreation Programs and Services). Others KPIs to evaluate recreation programs are under development.

Tier 3 Services within Limited Access and Open Access Parks

The Limited Access and Open Access parks (see below) contain facilities and offer services that have cost recovery targets that are aligned with different tiers but are not easily separated into budget centers and program. For these services, we are developing separate methods of cost recovery calculation and/or identifying other KPIs to evaluate. These include:

- Athletic Fields
- Rental Facilities – activity centers, meeting rooms, pavilions

Tier 2 – Majority Community Benefit
Cost Recovery Target = 25%
Limited Access Parks (Vehicle Permit Required)

The parks below require a vehicle permit to enter the park, limiting access to those who pay a fee. The fee is waived for veterans and resident seniors, who can receive a separate entry permit. Because of this barrier to entry, these parks have some individual benefit in addition to the very strong community benefit from providing open space and preserving natural resources and thus are expected to recover at least a quarter of their costs. Some of the parks also have other fee-based services, such as campgrounds, pavilion and lodge rentals, and dog parks.

Budget Center	Program	Name
ADD	160700	Addison Oaks Park (includes campground, pavilion, and lodge rentals)
GRV	160700	Groveland Oaks Park (includes campground and pavilion rentals)
HGH	160700	Highland Oaks Park
IND	160700	Independence Oaks Park (includes campground, nature center, and pavilion rentals)
LYP	160700	Lyon Oaks Park (includes dog park and athletic fields)
ORN	160700	Orion Oaks Park (includes dog park)
RSE	160700	Rose Oaks Park

Tier 1 – Primarily Community Benefit/Core Recreation Mission**Cost Recovery Target = 0%***Open Access Parks*

Three parks in the system do not require a vehicle permit and therefore have no barrier to entry. These parks also have other fee-based services, such as campgrounds, pavilion and lodge rentals, and dog parks.

Budget Center	Program	Name
CAT	160700	Catalpa Oaks Park (includes pavilion and athletic fields)
RDP	160700	Red Oaks Park (includes nature center)
WTR	160700	Waterford Oaks Park (includes pavilion, lodge, activity center and other rental facilities)

Recreation Assistance Partnership Program (RAPP)

OCPR provides programs and equipment free of charge to local communities based on community recreation need and equitable distribution of park and recreation services.

Nature Education Centers and Interpretive Programs

OCPR has nature education centers at Red Oaks and Independence Oaks and delivers interpretive programs throughout the county. A small fee may be charged for programs for the purpose of confirming registration.

Natural Resources Management

Preservation of natural resources has always been at the heart of the services OCPR provides to county residents by restoring natural habitats.

Administration and Support Services

Management of OCPR, as well as fiscal management, communications, and marketing, planning and resource development, information technology, and other services provides support for all aspects of the parks system.

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 9: 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
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

Tier	PIR Level	PIR Rating	Category of Service	Service
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, equipment	Bus trips
5	3 Lower	46	Banquet centers	Banquet facilities
5	3 Lower	48	Rental facilities, vehicles, equipment	Indoor event rental space
5	2 Medium	91	Rental facilities, vehicles, equipment	Kayak, canoe, paddleboard rentals
5	3 Lower	12	Rental facilities, vehicles, equipment	Mobile unit rentals
5	2 Medium	52	Rental facilities, vehicles, 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	Undetermined	Indoor aquatic centers
TBD	2 Medium	72	Undetermined	Indoor recreation centers
TBD	3 Lower	45	Undetermined	Indoor ice rinks and arenas

Service Strategies

Table 10: Service Strategy Table

Tier	PIR	High Alternate Coverage/ Meets KPI Targets	High Alternate Coverage/ Does Not Meet KPI Targets	Low Alternate Coverage/ Meets KPI Targets	Low Alternate Coverage/ Does Not Meet KPI 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

Alternative Coverage

We review whether other public or private agencies provide the service, and whether that coverage is 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, we will use the median drive-time area.

Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Targets

See Strategic Action Plan for a list of proposed KPIs. Further development of KPIs with baselines and targets will be done in the first year of the Recreation Plan. Development of the service includes an evaluation of whether the service is meeting its KPI targets. Not meeting the targets may trigger a decision to invest in the service or facility to enhance performance or a consideration of divestment to no longer provide that service.

Strategies

Core Services – Services that are essential to OCPR vision and values and typically benefit all community members including under-resourced 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 subsidized 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

Inventory of Regional and Community Parks in Oakland County

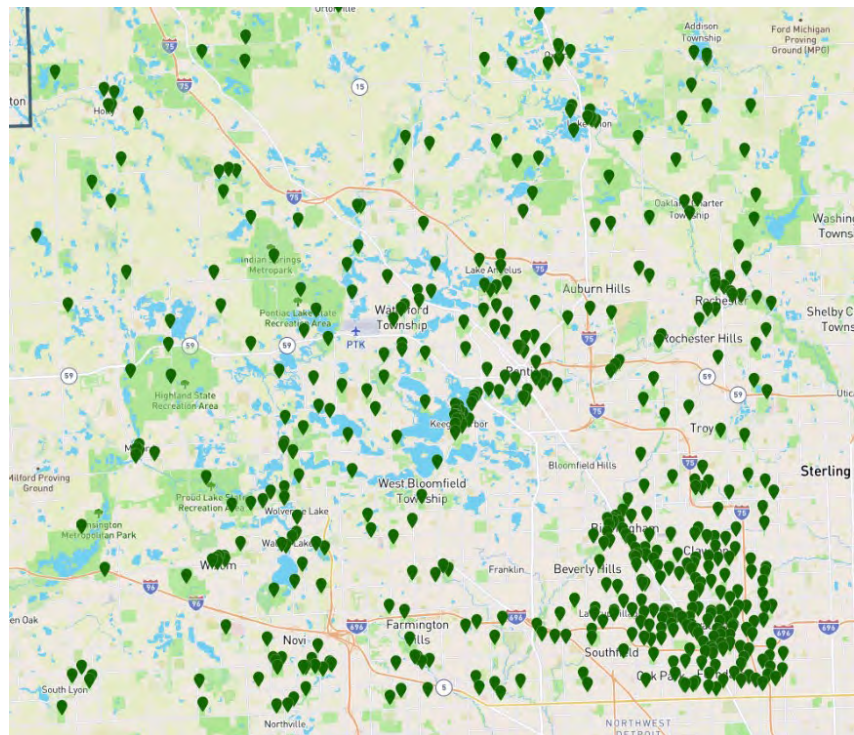
The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) supports local planning through its technical, data, and intergovernmental resources. The work SEMCOG does improves the quality of the region's water, makes the transportation system safer and more efficient, revitalizes communities, and spurs economic development.



The SEMCOG region includes the counties of Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne.

As a county parks agency, it is important for OCPD to understand the resources and capacity of other regional park agencies (Huron Clinton Metropark Authority (HCMA) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as well as local community parks and recreation agencies. We rely on SEMCOG's role as a clearinghouse for local and regional park information. The following inventory uses data assembled within SEMCOG's Park Finder data application.¹⁵

Figure H (right): Oakland County park and recreation resources identified by Park Finder



¹⁵ <https://maps.semco.org/parkfinder/?mcd=all+communities&county=Oakland>

Figure I: Oakland County recreation lands

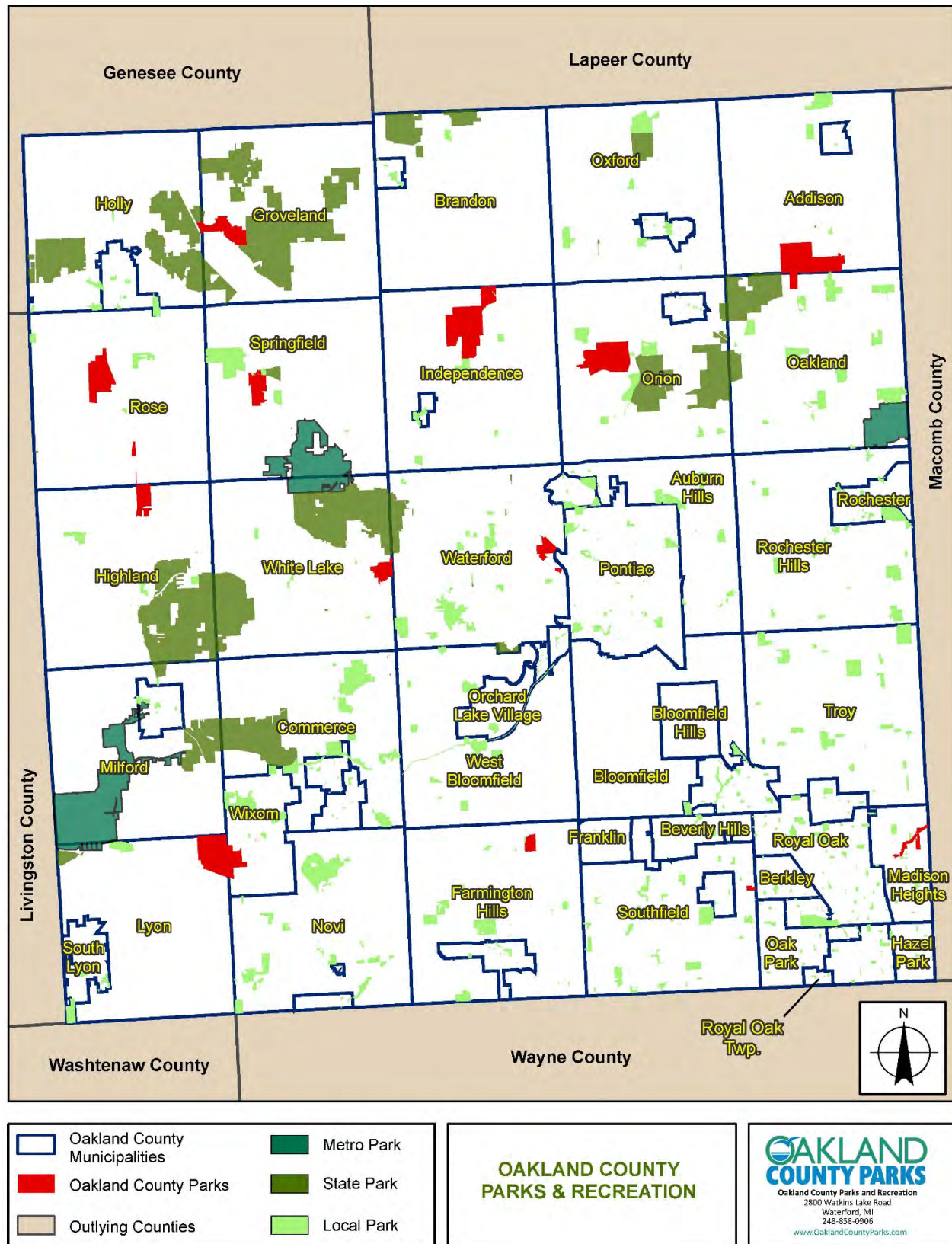


Table 11: Regional Park Assets – Huron Clinton Metropark Authority

PARK_OWNER	Huron Clinton Metropark Authority		
PARK_NAME	Indian Springs Metropark	Kensington Metropark	Stony Creek Metropark
PARK_LOCATION	Springfield Township	Milford Township	Shelby Township
ACRES	2,547.53	4,489.02	4,418.28
BALLFIELDS	✓	✓	✓
BEACH	•	✓	✓
BMX_AREA	•	•	✓
BOATING	•	✓	✓
CAMPING	•	✓	✓
CONCESSIONS	•	✓	✓
CROSSCOUNTRY_SKIING	✓	✓	✓
DISC_GOLF_COURSE	•	✓	✓
EQUESTRIAN_ACTIVITIES	✓	✓	•
FARM_GARDEN_ACTIVITIES	•	✓	•
FISHING	•	✓	✓
GEOCACHING	✓	✓	✓
GOLF_COURSE	✓	✓	✓
HIKING_NATURE_TRAILS	✓	✓	✓
HUNTING_TRAPPING_AREA	•	•	•
ICE_SKATING	•	✓	✓
INDOOR_EVENT_FACILITIES	✓	•	✓
KAYAKING_CANOEING	•	✓	✓
MONUMENT_HISTORIC_FEATURE	✓	✓	✓
MULTIPURPOSE_ATHLETIC_FIELD	•	✓	•
MUSEUM_INTERPRETIVE_CENTER	✓	✓	✓
MOUNTAIN_BIKING_TRAILS	•	✓	✓
NATURAL_AREA	✓	✓	✓
PICNIC_SHELTER	✓	✓	✓
PLAY_AREA	✓	✓	✓
RESTROOMS	✓	✓	✓
SHOOTING_RANGE	•	•	•
SLEDDING_HILL	✓	✓	✓
SNOWBOARDING	•	✓	✓
SOCCER_FIELD	•	•	✓
VOLLEYBALL_COURT	✓	•	✓
WALKING_BIKING_TRAILS_PAVED	✓	✓	✓
WATER_PARK_SPRAY_PARK	✓	✓	•
WILDLIFE_WATCHING	✓	✓	✓
ENTRY_FEE	✓	✓	✓

Table 12: Regional Park Assets - Michigan Department of Natural Resources

PARK_OWNER		Michigan Department of Natural Resources				
PARK_NAME	Bald Mountain State Recreation Area	Davisburg State Game Area (Trout Pond)	Dodge Brothers State Park No. 4	Dodge Brothers State Park No. 10	Highland State Recreation Area	Holly State Recreation Area
PARK_LOCATION	Orion Township	Springfield Township	Waterford Township	Highland Township	White Lake Township	Groveland Township
ACRES	4,724.58	99.71	95.87	126.76	5,850.90	7,763.77
BALLFIELDS	.	.	.	.	.	.
BEACH	✓	.	✓	.	✓	✓
BMX_AREA	.	.	.	.	.	.
BOATING	✓	.	✓	.	✓	✓
CAMPING	✓	.	.	.	✓	✓
CONCESSIONS	.	.	.	.	.	.
CROSSCOUNTRY_SKIING	✓	.	.	.	✓	✓
DISC_GOLF_COURSE	.	.	.	.	.	✓
EQUESTRIAN_ACTIVITIES	.	.	.	.	✓	.
FARM_GARDEN_ACTIVITIES	.	.	.	.	✓	.
FISHING	✓	.	✓	.	✓	✓
GEOCACHING	.	.	.	.	.	.
GOLF_COURSE	.	.	.	.	.	.
HIKING_NATURE_TRAILS	✓	.	.	.	.	✓
HUNTING_TRAPPING_AREA	✓	✓	.	.	✓	✓
ICE_SKATING	.	.	.	.	.	.
INDOOR_EVENT_FACILITIES	.	.	.	.	.	.
KAYAKING_CANOEING	✓	.	✓	.	✓	.
MONUMENT_HISTORIC_FEATURE	.	.	.	.	✓	.
MULTIPURPOSE_ATHLETIC_FIELD	.	.	.	.	.	.
MUSEUM_INTERPRETIVE_CENTER	.	.	.	.	.	.
MOUNTAIN_BIKING_TRAILS	✓	.	.	.	✓	✓
NATURAL_AREA	.	.	.	.	.	.
PICNIC_SHELTER	✓	.	✓	.	✓	.
PLAY_AREA	✓	.	✓	.	.	.
RESTROOMS	✓	.	✓	.	.	✓
SHOOTING_RANGE	✓	.	.	.	.	.
SLEDDING_HILL	.	.	.	.	.	.
SNOWBOARDING	.	.	.	.	.	.
SOCCER_FIELD	.	.	.	.	.	.
VOLLEYBALL_COURT	.	.	.	.	.	.
WALKING_BIKING_TRAILS_PAVED	.	.	.	.	.	.
WATER_PARK_SPRAY_PARK	.	.	.	.	.	.
WILDLIFE_WATCHING	✓	.	✓	.	✓	✓
ENTRY_FEE	✓	.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 13: Regional Park Assets - Michigan Department of Natural Resources, continued

PARK_OWNER		Michigan Department of Natural Resources				
PARK_NAME			Ortonville State Recreation Area	Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area	Proud Lake State Recreation Area	Seven Lakes State Park
	PARK_LOCATION	Maybury State Park	Brandon Township	White Lake Township	Commerce Township	Holly Township
ACRES		970.02	1,154.55	3,823.30	3,715.39	1,483.45
BALLFIELDS		✓	•	•	•	•
BEACH		•	✓	✓	•	✓
BMX_AREA		•	•	•	•	•
BOATING		•	✓	✓	✓	✓
CAMPING		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CONCESSIONS		•	•	•	•	•
CROSSCOUNTRY_SKIING		✓	✓	✓	•	✓
DISC_GOLF_COURSE		•	•	•	•	•
EQUESTRIAN_ACTIVITIES		✓	✓	✓	✓	•
FARM_GARDEN_ACTIVITIES		✓	•	•	•	•
FISHING		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GEOCACHING		•	•	•	•	•
GOLF_COURSE		•	•	•	•	•
HIKING_NATURE_TRAILS		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HUNTING_TRAPPING_AREA		•	✓	✓	•	✓
ICE_SKATING		•	•	•	•	•
INDOOR_EVENT_FACILITIES		•	•	•	•	•
KAYAKING_CANOEING		•	✓	•	✓	✓
MONUMENT_HISTORIC_FEATURE		✓	•	•	•	•
MULTIPURPOSE_ATHLETIC_FIELD		•	•	•	•	•
MUSEUM_INTERPRETIVE_CENTER		•	•	•	•	•
MOUNTAIN_BIKING_TRAILS		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NATURAL_AREA		•	•	•	•	•
PICNIC_SHELTER		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PLAY_AREA		✓	✓	✓	•	✓
RESTROOMS		•	✓	✓	✓	✓
SHOOTING_RANGE		•	✓	✓	•	•
SLEDDING_HILL		•	•	•	•	•
SNOWBOARDING		•	•	•	•	•
SOCCER_FIELD		•	•	•	•	•
VOLLEYBALL_COURT		•	•	•	•	•
WALKING_BIKING_TRAILS_PAVED		✓	•	•	•	•
WATER_PARK_SPRAY_PARK		•	•	•	•	•
WILDLIFE_WATCHING		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ENTRY_FEE		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 14: Community Park Assets ¹⁶

Community Name	Number of parks >100 acres	Total acres of parks >100 acres	Number of parks 15- 100 acres	Total acres of parks 15-100 acres	Number of parks <15 acres	Total acres of parks <15 acres	Total number of parks	Total acres of parks
Addison Township	2	1,369	3	159	3	17	8	1,545
Auburn Hills	1	263	3	169	4	12	8	444
Berkley					9	39	9	39
Beverly Hills			3	78	1	1	4	79
Bingham Farms								
Birmingham			7	210	13	47	20	257
Bloomfield Hills	1	138	1	45			2	183
Bloomfield Township	4	710					4	710
Brandon Township	1	1,154	1	48			2	1,202
Village of Clarkston			1	36			1	36
Clawson			1	35	5	11	6	46
Commerce Township	8	5,036	4	218	8	43	20	5,297
Farmington			1	18	5	22	6	40
Farmington Hills	3	501	8	451	5	21	16	973
Fenton ¹⁷								
Ferndale			2	44	12	40	14	44
Franklin								
Groveland Township	2	8,125					2	8,125
Hazel Park								
Highland Township	4	765	2	132	1	1	7	898
Holly					5	35	5	35
Holly Township	2	1,591	1	79			3	1,670
Huntington Woods					14	18	14	18
Independence Twp	4	2,112					4	2,112
Keego Harbor					13	11	13	11
Lake Angelus								
Lake Orion					9	16	9	16
Lathrup Village					5	7	5	7
Leonard					1	3	1	3
Lyon Township	6	1,263					6	1,263
Madison Heights			5	250	11	34	16	284
Milford	1	245	1	17	4	15	6	277

¹⁶ Source: SEMCOG ParkFinder filtered for publicly owned recreation lands, not including school lands

¹⁷ Fenton is in Genesee County with a very small portion extending into Oakland County

<i>Community Name</i>	<i>Number of parks >100 acres</i>	<i>Total acres of parks >100 acres</i>	<i>Number of parks 15- 100 acres</i>	<i>Total acres of parks 15-100 acres</i>	<i>Number of parks <15 acres</i>	<i>Total acres of parks <15 acres</i>	<i>Total number of parks</i>	<i>Total acres of parks</i>
<i>Milford Township</i>	1	4,489					1	4,489
<i>Northville (Oakland)¹⁸</i>					11	35	11	35
<i>Novi</i>	4	870	13	626	8	69	25	1,566
<i>Oak Park</i>	0	0	1	43	9	44	10	87
<i>Oakland Township</i>	9	1,616	5	332	2	12	16	1,960
<i>Orchard Lake Village</i>								
<i>Orion Township</i>	4	5,913	6	312	4	25	14	6,250
<i>Ortonville</i>			1	48	3	8	4	56
<i>Oxford</i>			1	48	1	1	2	49
<i>Oxford Township</i>	7	1,609	3	87	4	16	14	1,712
<i>Pleasant Ridge</i>					7	16	7	16
<i>Pontiac</i>	2	344	8	281	18	34	28	659
<i>Rochester</i>			4	130	5	26	9	156
<i>Rochester Hills</i>	6	927	10	442	6	52	22	1,421
<i>Rose Township</i>	1	622	2	158	2	16	5	796
<i>Royal Oak</i>			8	272	43	141	51	413
<i>Royal Oak Township</i>					4	12	4	12
<i>South Lyon</i>								
<i>Southfield</i>	3	418	14	452	11	68	28	938
<i>Springfield Township</i>	7	4,280	2	119	3	10	12	4,409
<i>Sylvan Lake</i>								
<i>Troy</i>	2	362	14	537	3	21	19	920
<i>Walled Lake</i>			1	17	4	8	5	25
<i>Waterford Township</i>	4	809	7	422	10	78	21	1,309
<i>West Bloomfield Twp</i>	7	1049	8	439	6	28	21	1,516
<i>White Lake Township</i>	4	9,976	1	29	6	41	11	10,046
<i>Wixom</i>	1	348	4	192	6	8	11	548
<i>Wolverine Lake</i>								

¹⁸ Northville is in Wayne and Oakland counties, data for the Oakland County portion is provided here

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 (MNFI), 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 CISMA's, 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 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 OCP 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.



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 and adaptation 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.

Facility Planning and Development

Facility planning and development includes an evaluation and prioritization process based on the core values as well as function, condition, and age of the facility and its associated assets. The annual planning and development process results in the identification and implementation of three types of projects with associated budgets.

1. Capital improvements identified in the Commission-approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that is funded through Net Position.
2. Maintenance actions identified in the Commission-approved Maintenance Management Plan (MMP) which is funded through the Facilities Maintenance Operating Budget. After the projects are closed, the costs are re-allocated to each park's Operating Budget
3. Operational maintenance actions that are directly funded out of the individual park's Operating Budget

Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan – FEBRUARY 2023 – DECEMBER 2027

The Recreation Plan provides the framework for planning and development with the Strategic Action Plan and its Core Values, Key Performance Indicators, Goals, and Objectives. The Recreation Plan provides the baseline for planning and development with the Park Action Plans.

Figure J: OCPR Planning and Development process



I. Park Action Plan Annual Updates – YEAR 1 OCTOBER

Planning and development staff meet with park operations staff to review progress in implementing each Park Action Plan, to update information on facility condition and function, review KPIs, and identify issues and needs for action. Each Park Action Plan is updated based on this review.

II. Evaluation: Project Core Values Impacts – YEAR 1 NOVEMBER through FEBRUARY

Each facility with associated assets is evaluated based on the opportunity to advance the core values. Also identified are the services provided by the facility (based on the Service Portfolio – see Recreational Inventory), the level of community benefit and the Priority Investment Rating (PIR) of those services. Also noted, is the facility’s status in meeting KPI targets. For some facilities, potential alternatives may be explored (e.g., increase in investment, change in operation, or divestment). The evaluation is performed for each of those potential alternatives.

III. Evaluation: Projected facility and operational impacts – YEAR 1 NOVEMBER through FEBRUARY

Proposed projects and actions are evaluated based on projected outcomes of doing the project. Will the action contribute to advancement of any of the core values and how (e.g., choice of sustainable materials)? Is the action needed for health and safety or compliance (regulatory or grant)? Each of the following outcomes are considered: improved structural integrity; replacements based on life cycle; operational efficiency and savings; enhancement of the facility for customer service improvements; and stabilization or enhancement of revenue.

IV. Recommended projects and forecasted timelines – YEAR 1 MARCH and APRIL

From the evaluations above, a list of recommended projects for the next fiscal year is generated. The process also results in a list of needs for further evaluation – i.e., facility condition assessments, design and engineering consultation, or Parks Commission evaluation of facility alternatives. The recommendations are generally provided to the Parks Commission in April for conceptual approval and adjustments as indicated.

V. Parks Commission budget approval – YEAR 1 SEPTEMBER and YEAR 2 AS SCHEDULED

The final list of recommended projects is provided to the Parks Commission for approval as part of the annual budget process. Specific projects will be brought to the Commission for approval based on budgetary thresholds or changes in scope or budget.

VI. Project design and implementation – YEAR 2/3 AS SCHEDULED

Design and implementation of projects is managed by the Engineering and Development unit with interdisciplinary support throughout the organization. The facility and project evaluations form the basis for an on-depth Planning Review (PR) for planned projects. The PR is part of the collaborative process that integrates staff and external resources and supports OCPR’s Core Values – DEI; Health and Wellness; Environmental Sustainability; and Fiscal Responsibility and Organizational Excellence.

VII. Evaluation: Completed project outcomes – YEAR 2/3 AS COMPLETED

The outcomes of completed projects will be assessed in relation to the project outcomes identified in the facility and project evaluations. This will include documentation of the project scope and an update of the Park Action Plan.

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Public and Community Engagement

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.

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.

Overview

The Oakland County Parks Commission was asked to complete an online survey (Crowd Signal) in preparation for the Visioning Workshop that will take place on April 6, 2022. The survey consisted of three questions:

1. How important do you feel are each of the following actions to the Oakland County Parks Commission in 2023-2027
2. Where should Oakland County Parks focus its investment of time and resources first? Please select 5
3. What is important to you as you consider the future of Oakland County Parks and Recreation?
4. Commissioners were also asked to provide their name and zip code (not included in this report).

Full Text of Action Statements

1. Manage freshwater and stormwater resources to protect water quality and reduce flooding
2. Deliver nature, education, and recreation programs that welcome everyone
3. Reduce waste by recycling and composting
4. Maintain roads, parking lots, and other park infrastructure
5. Provide equitable access to parks and nature
6. Buy land for new recreational facilities
7. Plant native trees and forests to improve regional climate resiliency and reduce carbon
8. Reach out to underserved communities with recreation programs and mobile recreation services
9. Increase four-season recreation opportunities
10. Make facilities accessible to persons of all abilities
11. Develop new recreational facilities and amenities
12. Renovate existing facilities to be carbon neutral and environmentally sustainable
13. Make walking, biking, or transit connections with neighborhoods and other parks
14. Manage natural areas to improve habitat and connectivity for wildlife
15. Buy land for open space, trails, and the environment
16. Reach out to local communities with support for parks, trails, and natural resources management
17. Provide education about and experiences with local history
18. Identify fiscally unsustainable facilities and assets and remove from service
19. Invest in the health and wellness of our communities with active outdoor programs
20. Improve and add features to existing recreational facilities and amenities

Figure K: Parks Commission survey ranking – top 5 selections

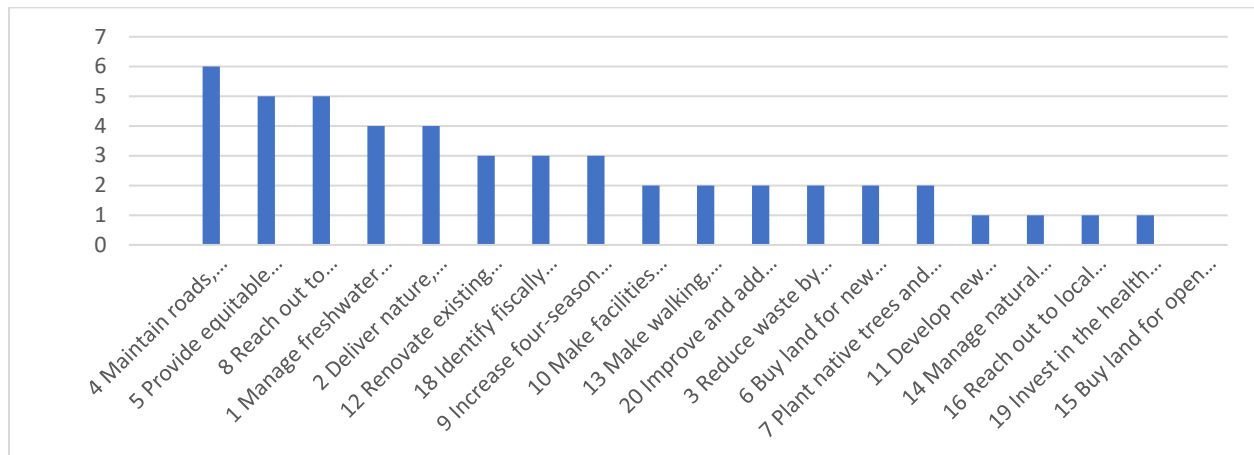
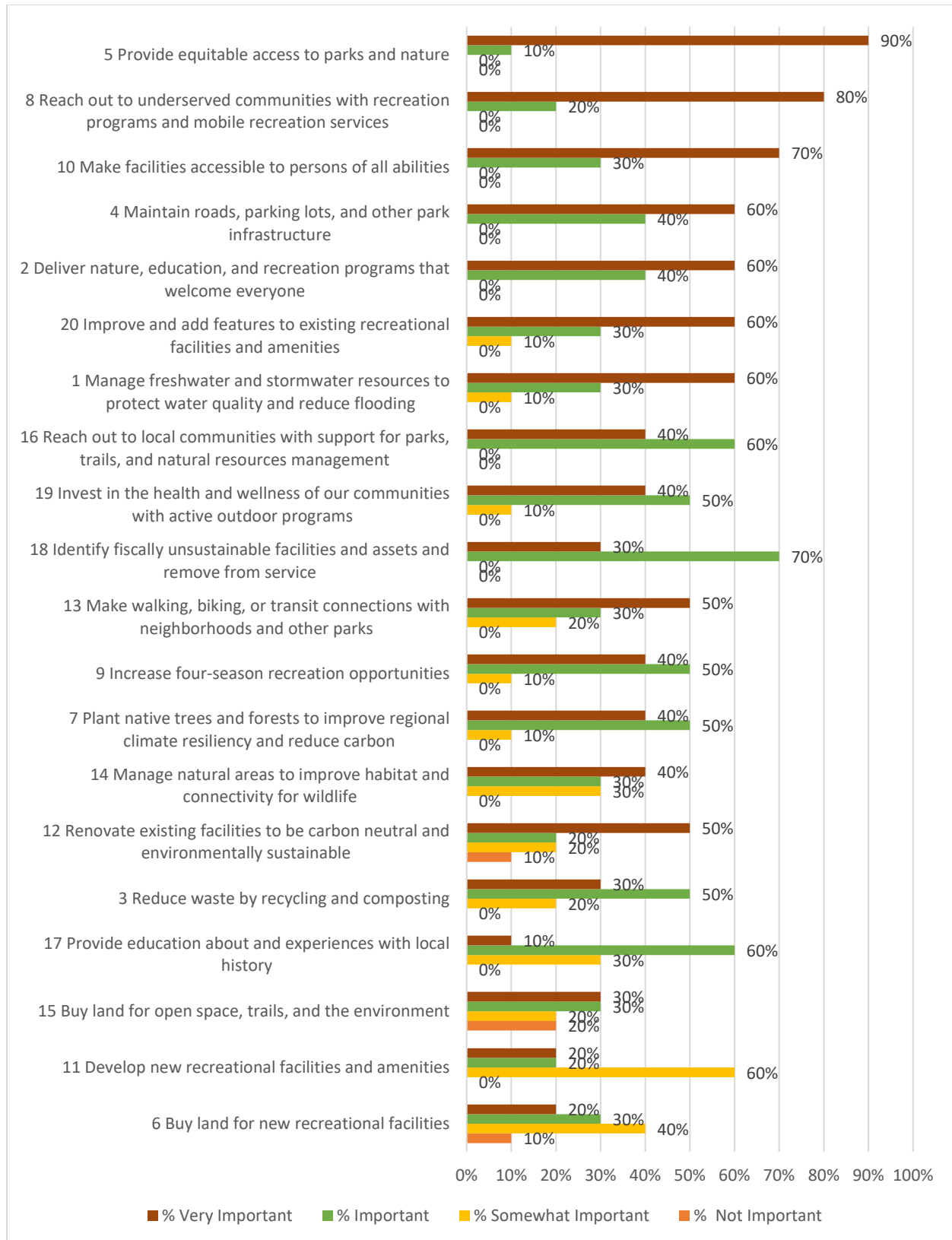


Figure L: Parks Commission Survey Ranking – Importance rating of each action



Survey comments from Parks Commissioners: What is important to you as you consider the future of Oakland County Parks and Recreation?

- Access, equity, and diversity of park portfolio/amenities.
- Environmental sustainability in all aspects of the Parks systems--including but not limited to--purchasing, operations, and community engagement/education, etc.
- Upgrade Catalpa Park. The way it currently exists is a statement of inequality in our County as well as an embarrassment.
- Ensure OCPR has programs that are inviting to seniors and youth. OCPR should consider taking activities and mobile trucks into the municipalities when it is possible. If an opportunity to collaborate with the local governments the department should. One of the goals is to give the citizens of Oakland County the best recreational experience within the county.
- Setting examples for sustainability and educating the public about sustainability, climate change, climate mitigation and resiliency.
- Provide more Family Recreational programing. Eliminate features that are under used and come up with new innovative ideas that will attract more people to our parks. Have some programs where we pick up families in their communities with our buses and take them out to one of our great parks (Nature Centers, Walking trails, Wave Pool, Beaches and Picnic areas all for \$15 per family to enjoy a "Day of Fun for the Family".
- I want to see visioning and investment in Catalpa. The park is primarily used by Soccer players and I would wager that most of them are not even from (residents/citizens) of Southfield/Oak Park or Berkley. What can be done with Catalpa? How can we engage the residents within a 3-mile radius of Catalpa? How can we include people from South Oakland in North Oakland parks (transportation; coordinating with SMART etc.) and vice versa.
- It is important to me that we invest equally in all areas and demographics making sure that all of Oakland County families have close access to a variety of recreational opportunities and that all those facilities are maintained with equal vigor and investment.
- We cannot be all things to all people. We should look at these options in terms of our Mission Statement. We also should examine who we are. We know we are not federal parks, state parks, metropolitan parks, or municipal parks. We have wrestled with the definition of a county park before in terms of size and service area. Additionally, our visioning should have an eye to the future. We should be looking out 25 years from now and thinking about what the County will look like, and what will be the role of parks and open spaces. County Executive, David Coulter, delivered his 2022 State of the County address Tuesday, March 15, 2022. His address included the following: "Green places-and-spaces also contribute to a quality life. Our 14 parks and 138 miles of trails provide everything from respite to recreation. They allow us to connect with nature and reconnect with ourselves. The voters of our County once again demonstrated their enthusiastic support by expanding the parks millage. Our parks system is vital to preserving our green space for future generations. Working in collaboration with local communities, I hope to have 400 miles of Oakland County trails linking our parks, our communities and our region for all to enjoy." This should be a top priority. The County Executive's speech also stated that, "Maintaining fiscal discipline and ensuring the county lives within its means is a fundamental principle of good government." Likewise, our visioning should include a priority of staying within our budget.

Parks Commission workshop discussion

The following narrative summarizes the discussion from April 6 by the Parks Commission. The top selections from both the importance rating and the priority rating were used as topics to guide the discussion.

TOPIC: "Provide equitable access to parks and recreation"

- Ranked 1 out of 20
- Selected in Top 5 by 5 people

Discussion:

- Parks are for all humanity.
- Parks help people to be healthy.
- Parks should be close to home and without obstacles.
- We need to provide the same standard of quality to parks across the entire county.
- We need to evaluate our parks for how welcoming they feel to diverse groups of people and know that access may mean different things to different people. Is the signage welcoming to everyone and the same across the county? Does the park feel secure and safe?
- When deciding what we offer in our parks, we need to be aware that stereotypes exist and ask people what they want instead of making assumptions based on age, race, or other characteristics.
- We want to help people access the benefits of nature and introduce kids to nature. We can work on getting people from the more urbanized parts of the county to our northern parks to experience nature by providing transportation. But we also need to understand that this is not the same as having nature close to home that you can access independently. Bussing alone is not the answer.
- We understand that not everyone may be comfortable driving from southern to northern Oakland County to visit our larger parks. Rural areas may feel less safe and not inviting to people of color. Everyone needs to feel safe and secure and welcome when visiting.
- We need to develop partnerships in underserved areas, sit down and talk with the local communities.
- We can look at land use in the local communities and at planning and zoning regulations to see what opportunities there are for further park development.
- We need to understand where the gaps are in equitable park access. One is regional trail connectivity.

TOPIC: "Reach out to underserved communities with recreation programs and mobile recreation services"

- Ranked 2 out of 20
- Selected in Top 5 by 5 people

TOPIC: "Deliver nature, education, and recreation programs that welcome everyone"

- Ranked 5 out of 20
- Selected in Top 5 by 4 people

Discussion:

- We have a role in supporting local special events and helping provide better access to events
- Events are the reason people visit parks and are how we introduce people to Oakland County Parks

- While it is important to provide services to communities, our main focus is getting people to our parks
- Food trucks at the parks are a great idea and provide one of the basic things people enjoy
- Kids are the main reason a lot of people visit our parks. We need to do focus groups with kids.
- We need to ask people what they want, what experiences they would like to have.
- We have a role in education and interpretation and working with schools.
- Accessing marketing tools that use geolocated data will help us understand people's needs and behaviors.
- We need to seek out culturally diverse opportunities and engage with new groups.

TOPIC: "Make facilities accessible to persons of all abilities"

- Ranked 3 out of 20
- Selected in Top 5 by 2 people

Discussion:

- We may need to prioritize accessibility of existing facilities. We should identify the main services the park provides and make those upgrades first.
- Plan our facilities for all ages and abilities. Consider the following:
 - Communication and signage: colors, braille, accessible language
 - Body sizes – seating options
 - Blind and low vision
 - Audio cues and audio interpretation
 - Translations for non-English speaking guests. Would this be park-specific depending on the population in the local community?

Commissioner input during 30-day comment period

Parks Commissioner Lance Stokes provided the following commentary regarding OCPR's draft Strategic Action Plan (12/9/2022):

Thank you for sending out the OCPR 5-Year Master Plan for 2023-2027. There are a number of areas that I can comment on, but I picked Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to provide some feedback on. I am pleased to see you have Diversity, Equity and Inclusion listed as the 1st Core Value. Anyway, the following are just questions and thoughts that I figured might be of worth to present.

I like the following definition of diversity: Understanding, accepting, and valuing differences in races, ethnicities, genders, ages, etc. It is also recognizing and respecting differences in education, skill sets, abilities, and experiences. Essentially, we have to get comfortable with being uncomfortable because achieving diversity, equity and inclusion is not easy.

Here are a few questions I have. These question are in no specific order, are simply my thoughts put into question form and being presented in the hopes that they may contribute to the success of our OCPR to fully achieve this Core Value.

1. What percentage of workers from diverse groups are employed by OCPR? What percentage are in key job functions? What percentage of residents near each of our parks are of diverse groups?
2. What specific programs do we have to retain diverse employees? Do we have any specific mentoring programs? How do we monitor participation among races/gender/ethnicity?

3. Does OCPR actively recruit diverse employees? Does OCPR require a diverse panel to interview job applicants? Does OCPR consider “2nd chance/previously convicted employees diverse?”
4. Over the past 4 years, what percentage of women and minorities have been promoted within OCPR?
5. How do individuals from diverse groups earn financial and non-monetary rewards for their work?
6. What program(s) does OCPR have to promote this first Core Value of DEI on an on-going basis?
7. Do we have/offer employees satisfaction surveys to determine if members of diverse groups feel they belong?
8. Who are OCPR’s suppliers? How much money is spent or how much business does OCPR do with supplier businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans, LGBTQ people as well as people with disabilities?
9. Space Accessibilities. Is there any benchmark data on accessible entrances of OCPR buildings for physically handicapped. How many gender-neutral bathrooms does OCPR have?
10. How well does OCPR take care of the diverse people that are currently employed by OCPR?
11. What does OCPR’s on-boarding program look like? Is Diversity and Inclusion discussed during on-boarding?
12. What training or coaching is given to existing managers in OCPR to help them welcome new diverse hires?
13. Does OCPR have a “safe” communication channel where diverse employees can voice their concerns without fear of being fired for speaking out?

Something you may want to note here: I have put a good deal of emphasis on the employees within OCPR. The reason is, the people within the communities who enjoy our parks see the employees and interact with OCPR employees. If OCPR employees do not reflect diversity and inclusions and/or are not comfortable with diverse groups, that will have profound impact on the community’s interpretation of our Core Value #1.

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

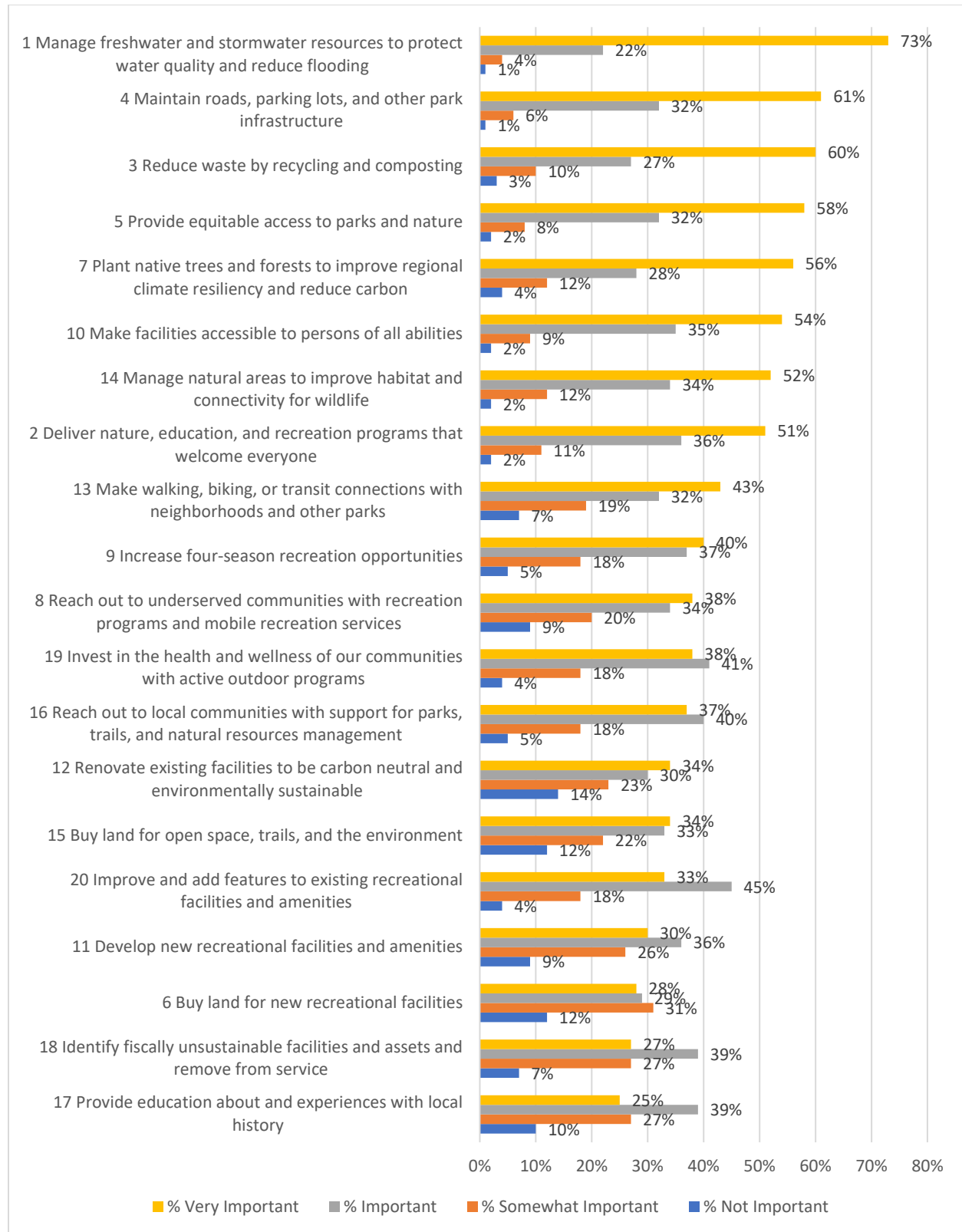
Like the last survey done in 2017, the highest-ranking items that people feel are most important include trails, beaches, and farmers markets. This year we added “Natural areas and open space” which was chosen as the 4th most important recreation facility. Dog Parks, playgrounds, campgrounds, and nature centers all still fall within the top 10 most important facilities identified in the survey. Waterparks dropped down slightly, and golf rose 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 survey administered to the Parks Commission on systemwide priorities was added as a new question to the 2022 survey. Below is a comparison of the responses from the Parks Commission and the randomized Community Needs Assessment survey and how the various actions ranked.

Table 15: Ranking of actions – Parks Commission and Community Needs Assessment responses

Parks Commission Rank	Community Needs Assessment Rank	Actions
7	1	1 Manage freshwater and stormwater resources to protect water quality and reduce flooding
5	8	2 Deliver nature, education, and recreation programs that welcome everyone
16	3	3 Reduce waste by recycling and composting
4	2	4 Maintain roads, parking lots, and other park infrastructure
1	4	5 Provide equitable access to parks and nature
20	18	6 Buy land for new recreational facilities
13	5	7 Plant native trees and forests to improve regional climate resiliency and reduce carbon
2	11	8 Reach out to underserved communities with recreation programs and mobile recreation services
12	10	9 Increase four-season recreation opportunities
3	6	10 Make facilities accessible to persons of all abilities
19	17	11 Develop new recreational facilities and amenities
15	14	12 Renovate existing facilities to be carbon neutral and environmentally sustainable
11	9	13 Make walking, biking, or transit connections with neighborhoods and other parks
14	7	14 Manage natural areas to improve habitat and connectivity for wildlife
18	15	15 Buy land for open space, trails, and the environment
8	13	16 Reach out to local communities with support for parks, trails, and natural resources management
17	20	17 Provide education about and experiences with local history
10	19	18 Identify fiscally unsustainable facilities and assets and remove from service
9	12	19 Invest in the health and wellness of our communities with active outdoor programs
6	16	20 Improve and add features to existing recreational facilities and amenities

Figure M: Community Needs Assessment question – importance rating of list of actions



The Community Needs Assessment final report is provided as Attachment A. (ETC Institute 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.

Healthy Communities Park Improvements 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)

Red Oaks Golf Course Survey

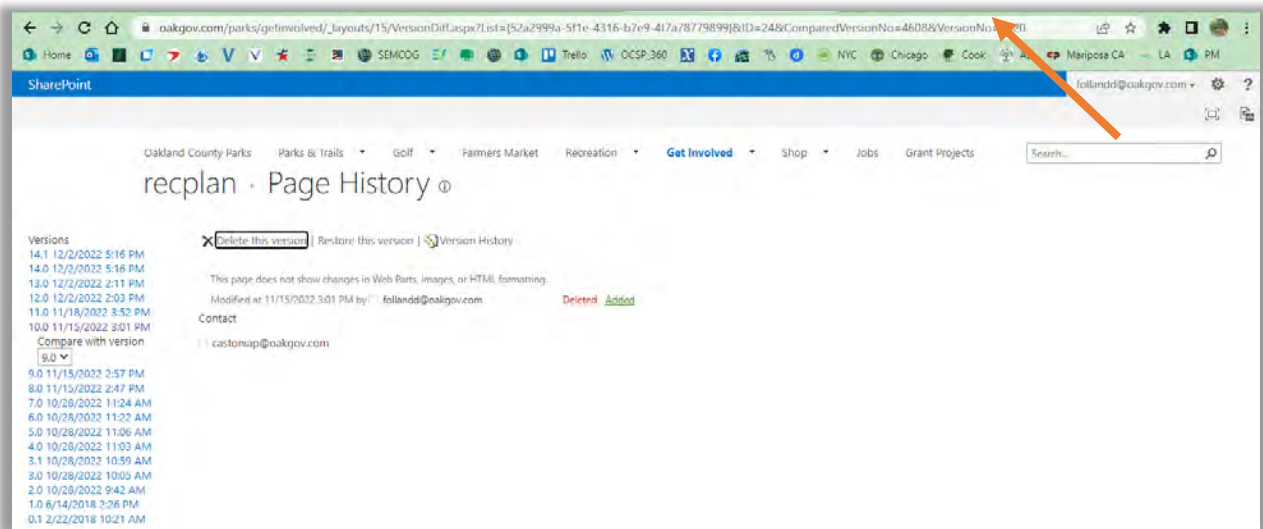
As part of the discussion about the Healthy Communities Park Improvements plan there was significant discussion around potentially closing Red Oaks Golf Course and converting it to a park including trails, playground areas, native gardens, etc. Initially a survey was put out social media asking people if they'd like to see the golf course remain, or see it converted to a park that could be utilized by more residents. The survey was shared to various groups and often taken multiple times by the same individuals, therefore not providing usable data. In an effort to get more accurate data, staff worked with ETC Institute to survey a statistically significant sample of individuals within the 15-minute drive time for Red Oaks. The majority of respondents (87.6%) supported a plan to convert the golf course. The Oakland County Board of Commissioners decided not to fund this project with ARPA funding, but this data will be utilized for potential future conversations about Red Oaks and other golf courses.

30-Day Public Review Period (November 17 to December 20, 2022)

The 30-day public review period was launched on November 17, 2022. The online survey received 391 responses, no paper surveys were completed returned, and 5 people commented by email and 3 by telephone. See Appendix B for complete information on survey responses.

November 15, 2022 – web site posting

Content and survey link was posted at [OaklandCountyParks.com/RecPlan](https://oaklandcountyparks.com/RecPlan) on November 15, 2022, at 3:01 p.m. Minor updates and corrections were made over the next couple weeks. The screen shot on the following shows the version that was posted on November 15 (Version “5120” is seen in the search bar in the Page History screen shot below and on the screen shot on the next page).



oakgov.com/parks/getinvolved/Pages/recplan.aspx?PageVersion=5120

SharePoint

follandd@oakgov.com

Info A-to-Z Careers Departments Services News & Media Search

Oakland County Parks Parks & Trails Golf Farmers Market Recreation Get Involved Shop Jobs Grant Projects

Oakland County, Michigan / Oakland County Parks / Get Involved / Recreation Plan 2023-2027

Oakland County Parks

Get Involved

- Parks Commission
- Media
- Natural Resources and Sustainability
- Planning
- Resources
- Volunteer
- Contact Us
- Events
- Community Outreach / Grant Programs
- Bench Program

Contact Info

Parks and Recreation Administrative Office

- 248-858-0906
- Info@OaklandCountyParks.com
- 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328

Social Networks

f t i y

Recreation Plan 2023-2027

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 current Recreation Plan 2018-2022 expires at the end of this year. The DRAFT Recreation Plan 2023-2027 has been prepared following the guidelines provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is now available for community and public review.

We invite you to give your input! There are **three ways** to let us know what you think:

- Online Survey:** Review the document by opening the link below in your browser and comment on the online survey.
- Call or Email:** Review the document by opening the link below in your browser and contact Donna Folland, Supervisor of Planning at Oakland County Parks
 - Phone: (248) 736-9087
 - Email: follandd@oakgov.com
- Come See Us!** Visit one of the following parks to review a printed copy and fill out a comment card:
 - Independence Oaks Park Office at 9501 Sashabaw Road in Independence Township MI 48348
 - Red Oaks Nature Center at 30300 Hales Road in Madison Heights MI 48071
 - Waterford Oaks Administration Office at 2800 Watkins Lake Road in Waterford MI 48328

[DRAFT Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023-2027](#)

[Appendix A - Data Tables \(not available - under development and review\)](#)

[Appendix B - Community Needs Assessment \(ETC Institute\)](#)

[Appendix C - Parks Commission Visioning](#)

[Appendix D - Healthy Communities Investment Plan Research Report \(OHM Advisors\)](#)

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 Community 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.

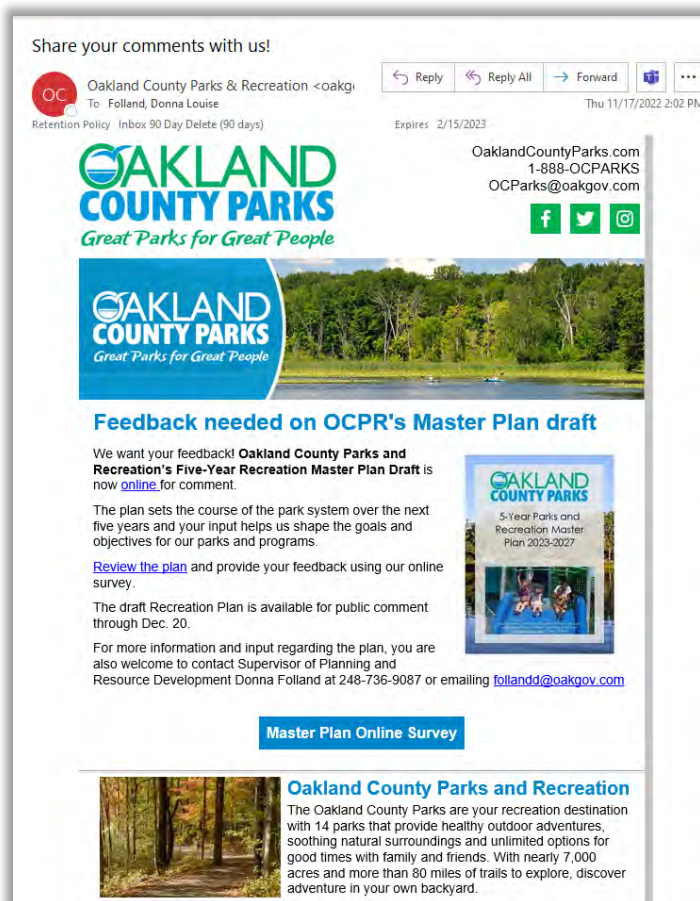
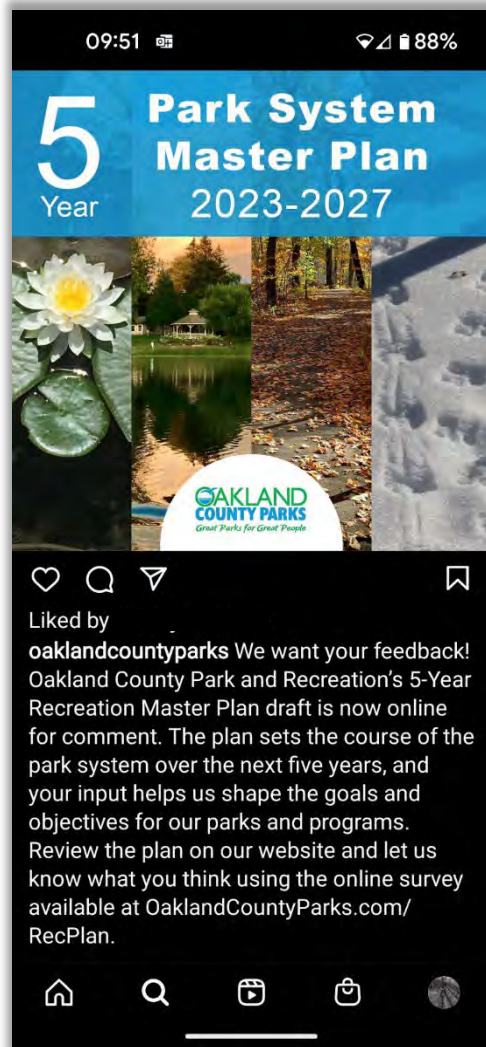
The draft Recreation Plan updates OCPR's strategic plan Vision and Mission, as well as adding four Core Values that interact to build a sustainable and resilient future for Oakland County Parks: Equity and social justice, environmental sustainability, health and wellness and the way we fund and manage our organization. Becoming equitable, sustainable and resilient is at the very core of the way we operate our parks, manage our assets and interact with people. The opportunity is now to build this future for our organization and parklands.

- 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.
 - 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.

We are looking forward to continued input from and collaboration with Oakland County residents and community partners. Please contact Donna Folland, Supervisor of Planning, at follandd@oakgov.com or (248) 736-9087 for more information or further discussion.

November 17, 2022 – social media and e-marketing

The Facebook and Instagram posts reached 2,051 people, received 20 reactions (likes, comments, and shares) and 33 people clicked on the survey link. On Twitter, there were 183 impressions and 16 engagements (retweets, likes, comments). The e-marketing message was sent to 25,251 recipients and had an open rate of 32 percent, which is excellent. Industry average is around 14 percent, and OCPR typically average 16-18 percent on programming emails. There were 297 unique clicks to the survey.



November 29, 2022

The news release was sent to 137 news organizations (radio, TV, print and digital) on Nov. 29. C and G Newspapers followed up with an article on December 7.

NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 29, 2022
Desiree Stanfield
248-705-4108

Oakland County Parks and Recreation seeks public input on five-year Recreation Plan

OAKLAND COUNTY – Oakland County Parks and Recreation's (OCPR) Five-Year Recreation Plan Draft is now [online](#) and open for public comment. The plan sets the course of the park system over the next five years and stakeholder input helps OCPR leaders shape the goals and objectives for parks and programs.

"The survey opened in mid-November, and we have been receiving great feedback so far," Supervisor of Planning and Resource Development Donna Folland said. "People are passionate about their local parks, and we know how much Oakland County residents rely on their parks for fitness, mental well-being, relaxation and personal recreation. The Recreation Plan outlines the values and goals that will guide us as a public park system to provide quality, equitable experiences for all."

The 2023-2027 Recreation Plan includes the addition of four Core Values that interact to build a sustainable and resilient future for Oakland County Parks:

- **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

Public comment is open until Dec. 20. Interested persons are invited to review the plan and provide feedback in one of four ways:

- Completing the [online survey](#)

- Calling Folland at 248-736-9087
- Emailing Folland at follandd@oakgov.com
- Visiting the Waterford Oaks Administration Office to review a printed copy and fill out a comment card. The office is located at 2800 Watkins Lake Road in Waterford

In addition to the public comment period, interested persons are invited to attend a public hearing for the Recreation Plan that will be held as part of the Oakland County Parks Commission's monthly meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023.

"We are grateful for the people who have participated so far. If you haven't yet done so, we hope that you will soon. We look forward to hearing from you," Folland said.

For information on other events, visit OaklandCountyParks.com. Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

December 5, 2022

The second Facebook post on the main OCPR page reached 1,735 people, received 15 reactions (likes, comments, and shares) and 21 people clicked on the survey link. On Twitter, there were 388 impressions and 15 engagements (retweets, likes, comments).

Facebook messages were sent out to individual pages for the four park where hard copy plans and surveys were available for comment:

- Addison: Reached 305 people; 2 reactions; and 9 link clicks
- Independence: Reached 571 people; 5 reactions; and 23 link clicks
- Red Oaks Nature Center: Reached 217 people; 2 reactions; and 8 link clicks
- Waterford: Reached 29 people; 0 reactions; and 1 link click

December 7, 2022 – C & G News article



The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department is asking for public feedback about what residents would like to see from their parks and community programs in the next five years.

Photo provided by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department

Oakland Parks and Rec asking for public input for five-year plan

By: [Brendan Losinski](#) | C&G Newspapers | Published December 7, 2022

OAKLAND COUNTY — The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department is asking residents to make their voices heard and share what they would like to see from their local parks and community activities.

The department's five-year recreation plan draft is now online and open for public comment.

The plan sets the course of the park system over the next five years, and stakeholder input helps Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department leaders shape the goals and objectives for parks and programs.

“This is a process we do every five years,” said Melissa Prowse, the department’s manager of planning and development. “What we are hoping for is people to read through the plan, look at our revised goals and objectives for the next five years, as well as look through the park action plans for any parks that they might have a particular interest in where they may want to provide some input.”

Department members said that public feedback is crucial for forming a plan that works for the community and fulfills the wishes of residents.

“The survey opened in mid-November, and we have been receiving great feedback so far,” Supervisor of Planning and Resource Development Donna Folland said. “People are passionate about their local parks, and we know how much Oakland County residents rely on their parks for fitness, mental well-being, relaxation and personal recreation. The recreation plan outlines the values and goals that will guide us as a public park system to provide quality, equitable experiences for all.”

Public comment is due by Tuesday, Dec. 20.

The draft is designed around four core values that the department wants to ensure are followed through with in the final plan. The first is diversity, equity and inclusion. The department wishes to 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. The second is health and wellness; or ensuring access to spaces and experiences that promote physical, mental and social health. The third is environmental sustainability and natural resources stewardship. This means caring for the natural environment, preserving land and open space for future generations, and meeting current recreation needs without compromising the future and building community resilience to climate change. The final core tenet is fiscal responsibility and organizational excellence. This means implementing the department’s mission with a robust, innovative and diverse parks and recreation organization while grounding decisions in sound fiscal policy.

“The four core values in the rec plan have always been, in some shape or form, part of our organization, but we’ve never codified it,” said Prowse. “We thought this was the right time to put it officially in the plan to demonstrate that this is what we value and this is the lens that we will view our plans (through) going forward.”

The four values were what the draft was designed around, but Prowse said they need to hear from residents before deciding what the department’s focus will be for the next five years.

“Health and wellness is especially important post-pandemic,” she said. “We want people to be able to get out and get active. Environmental advocacy and fiscal responsibility are always important as well.”

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation staff stressed the importance of that public feedback.

“This is the county residents’ plan. We put it together as a staff and commission, but we want it to reflect the needs and wants of all residents of Oakland County,” said Prowse. “This could be them wanting a new playground or amenity. This could be a new program they would like us to offer. They might have ways we could improve our services or customer service. We want to know what they think about our parks and recreation system.”

Those interested in contributing their perspectives can do so by completing the online survey at oakgov.com/parks/getinvolved/Pages/recplan.aspx. They also can call the department at (248) 736-9087 or email them at follandd@oakgov.com. Print copies of the survey and comment cards are available at the Oakland County Parks and Recreation office, located at 2800 Watkins Lake Road in Waterford.

In addition to the public comment period, interested people are invited to attend a public hearing for the recreation plan that will be held as part of the Oakland County Parks Commission's monthly meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4, also located at 2800 Watkins Lake Road in Waterford.

"We'll have a public hearing on Jan. 4 where people can directly share their feedback," said Prowse. "Hopefully, the plan will be approved afterward at that meeting, so the plan can then be submitted to the Michigan (Department of Natural Resources). ... This will shape what the next five years will look like for parks and recreation in Oakland County."

December 20, 2022

Public comment period was closed

Public Hearing (January 4, 2022)

December 21, 2022 – web site update for Public Hearing

Web site was updated with Public Hearing information.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Oakland County Parks website. The browser's address bar shows the URL oakgov.com/parks/getinvolved/Pages/Planning.aspx. The website has a dark blue header with the "Oakland County Parks" logo and a navigation menu including "Parks & Trails", "Golf", "Farmers Market", "Recreation", "Get Involved", "Shop", "Jobs", and "Grant Projects".

The main content area is titled "Planning" and includes a paragraph explaining the planning process. Below this, there are several blue buttons: "Recreation Plan", "Annual Report", "Dashboard and Data Book", "Grant Programs", "Asset Management", "Park Plans", "Access and Inclusion", and "Operating Budget".

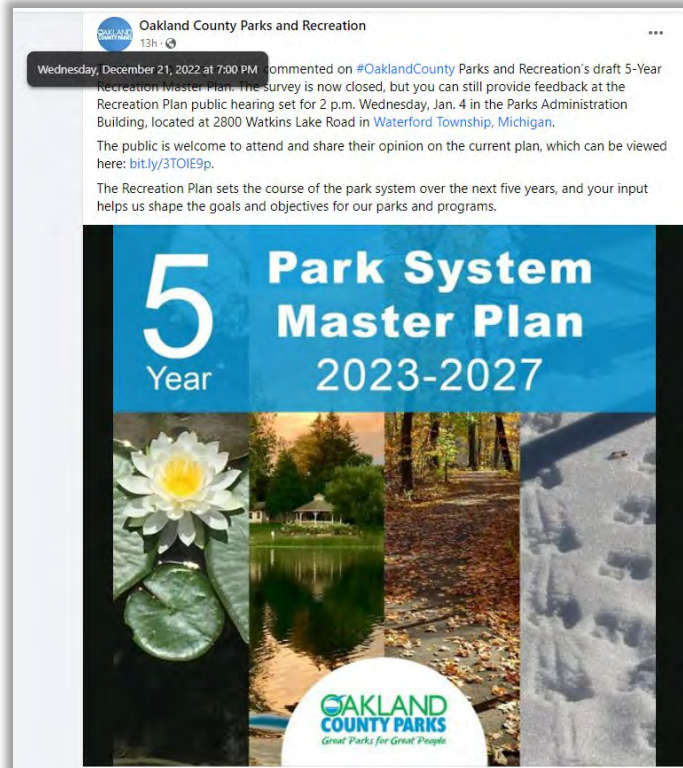
A section titled "PLANNING NEWS - Recreation Plan 2023-2027" features a large heading: "OCPR Parks and Recreation Master Plan PUBLIC HEARING: January 4, 2023 - 2:00 p.m.". The text below states: "The public hearing will be held as part of the regular meeting of the Oakland County Parks Commission Parks Commission Room, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328." It also mentions that the "DRAFT Recreation Plan 2023-2027" is available for review and that the 30-day public comment period closed on December 20, 2022.

On the right side of the page, there is a vertical stack of social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email. A red circle is drawn around the bottom right corner of the browser window, highlighting the system clock which shows "8:52 AM 12/22/2022".

The left sidebar contains a "Get Involved" section with links to "Parks Commission", "Media", "Natural Resources and Sustainability", "Planning" (which is highlighted), "Resources", "Volunteer", "Contact Us", "Events", "Community Outreach / Grant Programs", and "Bench Program". Below this is a "Contact Info" section for the "Parks and Recreation Administrative Office" with a phone number (248-858-0906), an email address (Info@OaklandCountyParks.c...), and a physical address (2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328). At the bottom of the sidebar is a "Social Networks" section.

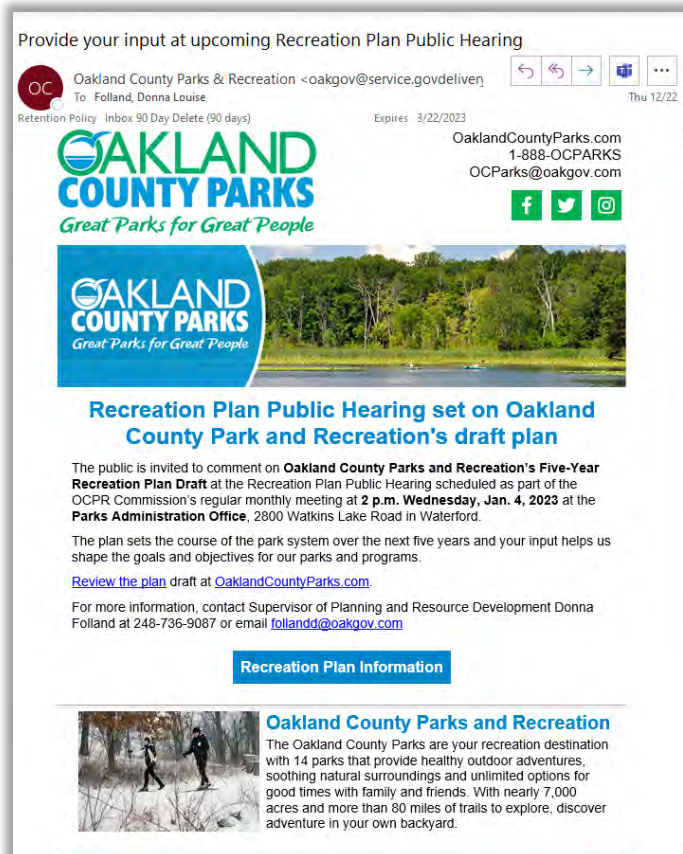
December 21, 2022 – social media

The Facebook post reached 904, received 4 reactions (likes, comments, and shares). On Twitter, there were 285 impressions and 8 engagements (retweets, likes, comments).



December 21, 2022 – email message

The e-marketing message was sent to 25,410 recipients and had an open rate of 31 percent. Industry average is around 14 percent, and OCPR typically averages 16-18 percent on programming emails.



December 22, 2022

The news release was sent to 139 news organizations (radio, TV, print and digital) on December 22.

The header features a green and blue gradient bar with the text "OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this bar, the words "NEWS RELEASE" are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 22, 2022
Desiree Stanfield
248-705-4108

Meeting set for public input on Oakland County Parks and Recreation's Recreation Plan

OAKLAND COUNTY – Interested persons are invited to attend the Recreation Plan Public Hearing for Oakland County Parks and Recreation's (OCPR) Five-Year Recreation Plan. The hearing will be held as part of the OCPR Commission's regular monthly meeting scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023 at the Parks Administration Office, 2800 Watkins Lake Road in Waterford.

The Five-Year Recreation Plan sets the course of the park system over the next five years and stakeholder input helps OCPR leaders shape the goals and objectives for parks and programs.

"The Recreation Plan outlines the values and goals that will guide us as a public park system to provide quality, equitable experiences for all," Supervisor of Planning and Resource Development Donna Folland said. "We are looking forward to hearing what residents think about the objectives and actions we have proposed for the next five years."

The 2023-27 Recreation Plan includes the addition of four Core Values that interact to build a sustainable and resilient future for Oakland County Parks:

- **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

An online survey that opened in mid-November and closed Dec. 20 provided robust feedback, but the public hearing gives residents the opportunity to have their ideas, questions, comments and concerns addressed in a public forum.

December 27, 2022 – social media reminder

The Facebook post reached 489, received 3 reactions (likes, comments, and shares).

December 29, 2022 – social media reminder

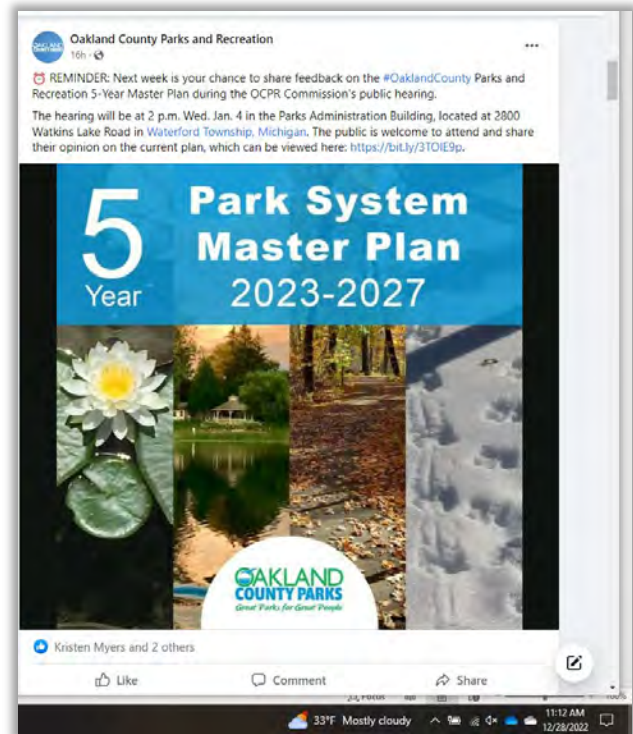
A reminder Facebook post reached 971, received 7 reactions.

December 29, 2022 – email reminder

The follow-up e-marketing message with a reminder about the Public Hearing was sent to 25,394 recipients and had an open rate of 29% percent.

January 4, 2023

A final reminder Facebook post was sent the morning of the Public Hearing.



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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.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Ground all actions and decisions in 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: Conduct surveys that identify gender, age, race, and ethnicity of park visitors and program participants and compare with U.S. Census data for the surrounding community.*
 - *KPI: Engage diverse groups of people, including those whose statistics are not captured by U.S. Census data (e.g., LGBTQ+ persons), and work with them to understand and respond to their recreational needs.*
2. Collaborate with partners to identify communities, households, and individuals with needs for equitably provided services (“priority equity communities, households, and individuals”) and ensure that OCPR-sponsored programs in these communities are properly supported and are reaching their intended audience.
 - *KPI: Track attendance at OCPR-sponsored programs within identified priority equity communities.*

3. *Invest in outreach to priority equity communities and individuals.*
 - o *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.*
 - o *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.*
 - o *KPI: Monitor the diversity of the staff and Parks Commission as related to the diversity of Oakland County.*
 - o *KPI: Track participation in trainings and workshops related to diversity, equity, inclusion, 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 and types of OCPR trails connected to local, county, and regional trails, non-motorized infrastructure, and transit lines.*
 - 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 ages and abilities have the confidence to be active, social, and connect with their surroundings.*
 - a. *KPI: ADA compliance for access routes between entrances, parking lots, recreation facilities, and restroom facilities – 100%*
 - b. *KPI: Track number of universally accessible recreation facilities and equipment in each park.*
 - c. *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 and adaptation to climate change.

1. *Responsibly steward the natural resources within the park system.*
 - o *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 and implement energy efficiency practices.*
 - *KPI: Percent of energy consumed from renewable sources*
 - *KPI: Percent of energy generated on site via renewable sources*
 - *KPI: Track fleet, buildings, and equipment electrification*
 - *KPI: Track energy efficiency upgrades and projects*
- 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, and transition to sustainable alternatives.*
- 6. *Waste management reduce waste, divert into recycling, compost, reduce consumption*
 - *KPI: Track and reduce tonnage of waste that goes to landfill*
 - *Track recycling composition and rates*

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. *KPI: Track percent of external funding against annually set targets*
- 4. *Provide excellent and well-supported customer service*
 - a. *KPI: Track percent of seasonal staffing goal met annually*
 - b. *KPI: Track percent of returning seasonal staff annually*
 - c. *KPI: Track volunteer hours annually*
 - d. *KPI: Track percent of responses to customer-service inquiries within one business day*
 - e. *KPI: 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 ages and 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. Provide opportunities for a learning experience to gain new skills and knowledge that people can use in their daily lives.
- E. Offer opportunities to engage with nature with programs for all ages and abilities, volunteer stewardship, and experiencing interpretive signs and installations.
- F. Provide spaces for hobbies and sports that align with our core values without duplicating local and regional opportunities.
- G. 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.
- H. Connect with the rich and storied history of Oakland County parks beginning with Indigenous Peoples with an inclusive approach that reflects multiple perspectives and a variety of themes.
- I. 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, sustainable, 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 alternative, no emission versions, use no-idle technology, and install electric vehicle 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 fiscal 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.
- F. Implement updated waste management practices to include appropriate receptacles for landfill, recycling, and organic waste.

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. Work with partners to identify priority equity communities, households, and individuals based on a data-driven understanding of the characteristics, demographic trends, access, and other 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. Identify gaps in equitable park access and assist priority equity communities, households, and individuals in accessing OCPR parks, programs, and services by increasing local trail and transit connectivity, providing transportation assistance, or offering free or discounted admission.
- E. Help communities and residents expand the use of natural landscapes to support regional biodiversity and stormwater mitigation.

- 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 preservation, restoration, and green infrastructure.

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

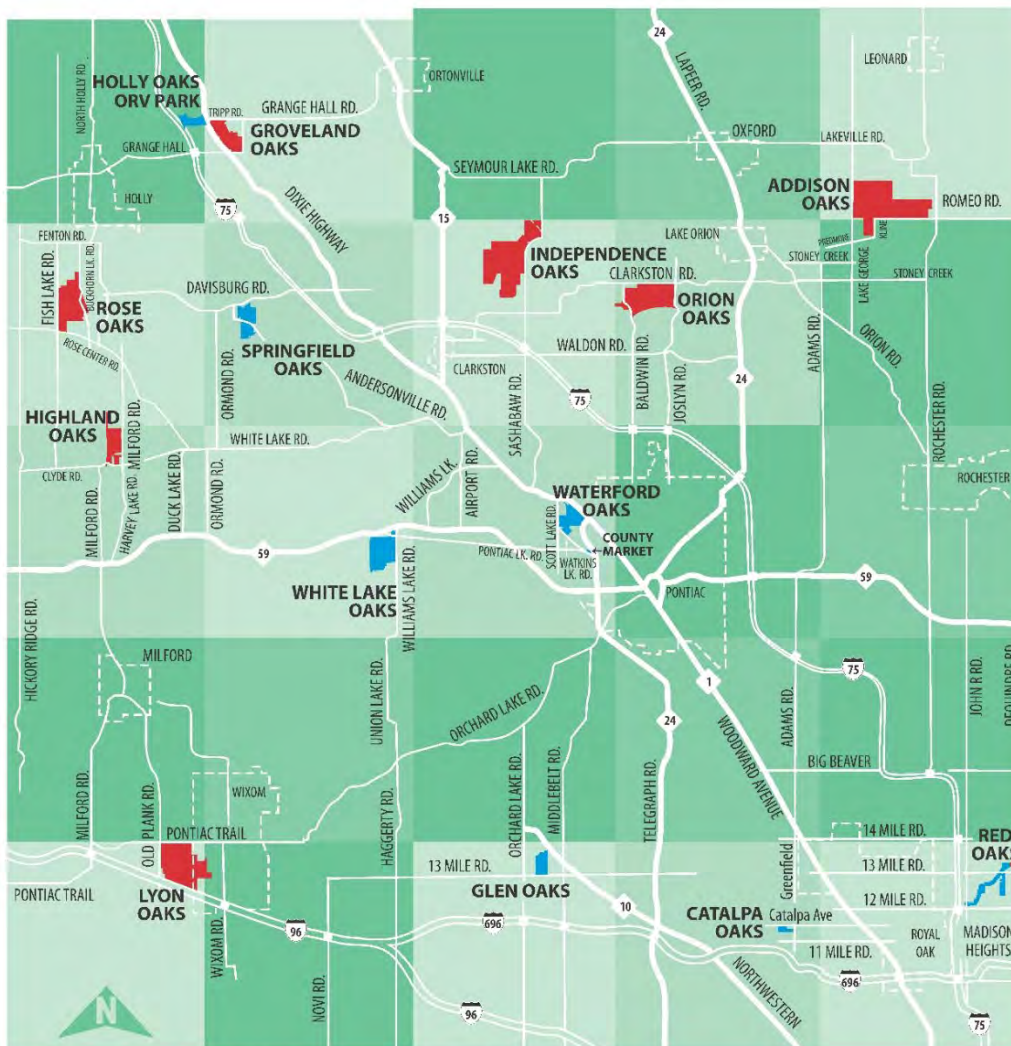
At the foundation of our work is a collaborative network of people who recognize that our world is changing, and we need to change with it to remain relevant and best serve our communities and residents. We are ready to take on the challenges of our vision and build a future where everyone "has access 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 diverse 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

Visit the Oakland County Parks



*Annual Vehicle Permits valid at the Eight parks above marked in Red.

OaklandCountyParks.com • 1-888-OC PARKS

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



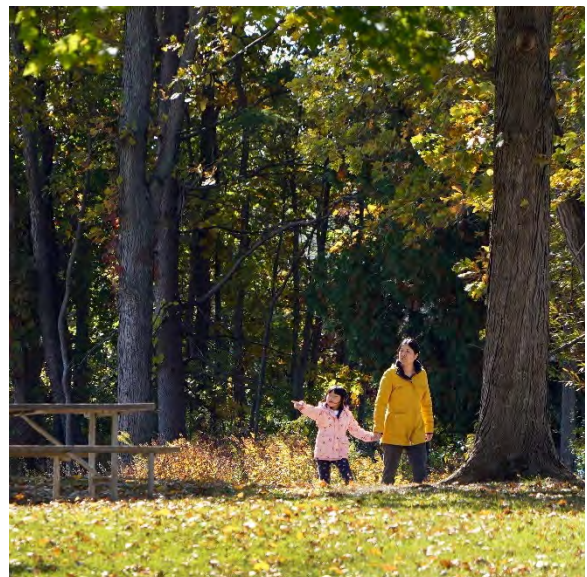
PARK FEATURES: Addison Oaks County Park is a natural oasis where visitors can recreate year-round. Guests can come in for the day, camp under the stars or explore the park's rich history. Campers can choose from individual sites or group camping areas, yurts, or cabins, with campground recreation activities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

Installed 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.

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
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

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
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 ADA 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 OCPR 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 use 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 N: Park Aerial

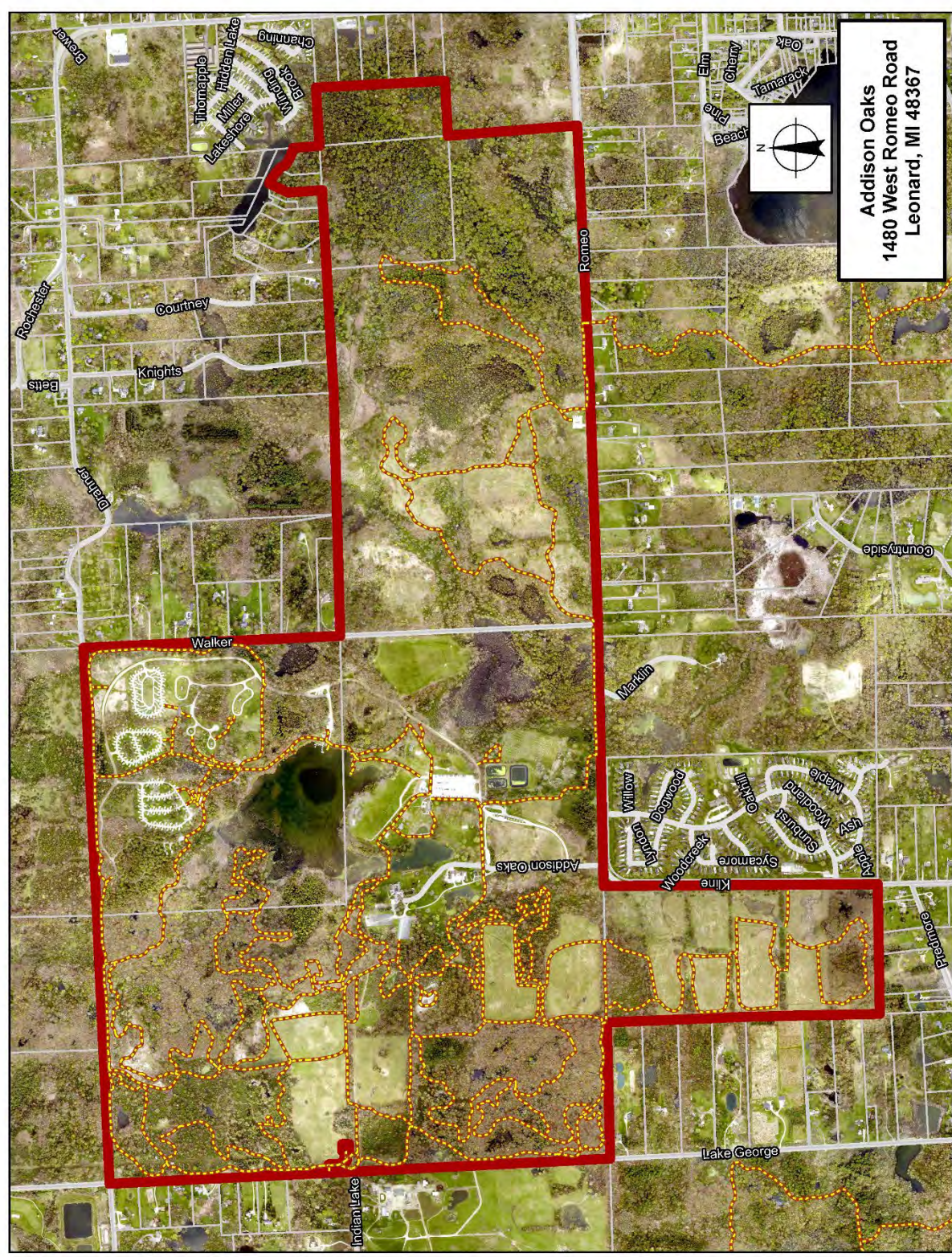


Figure O: Natural Resources Zone Map

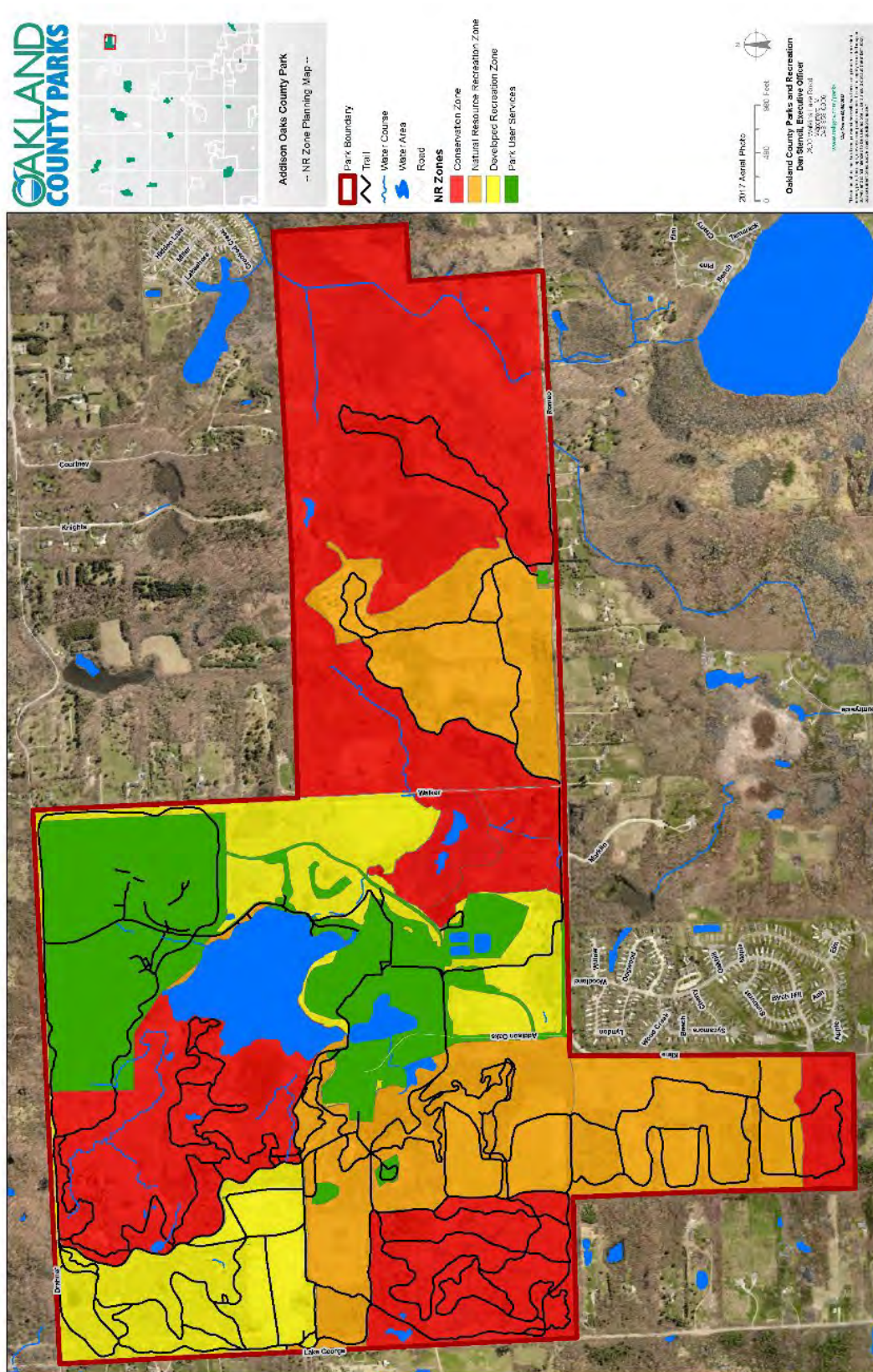


Figure P: Park Trail Map

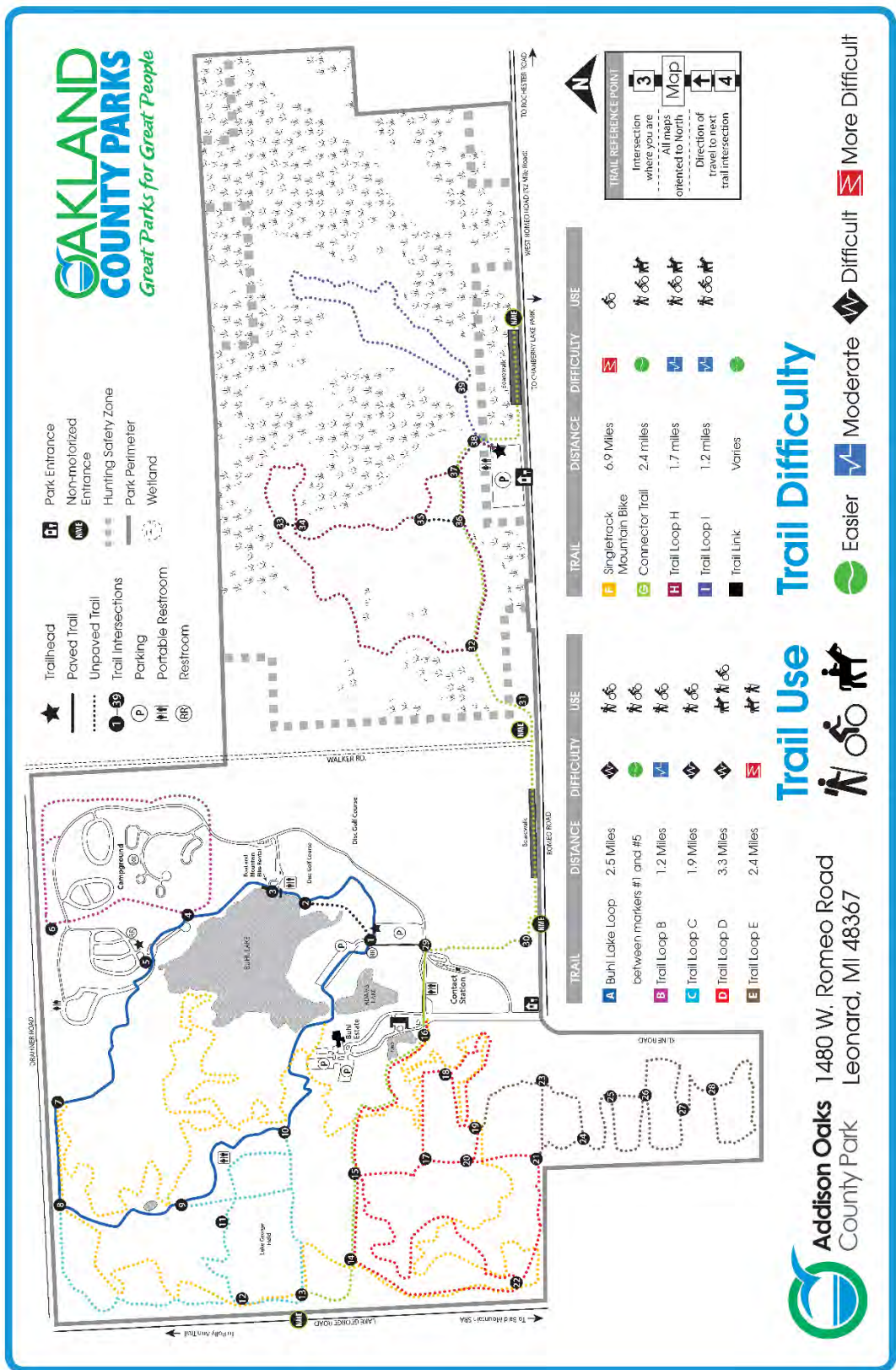
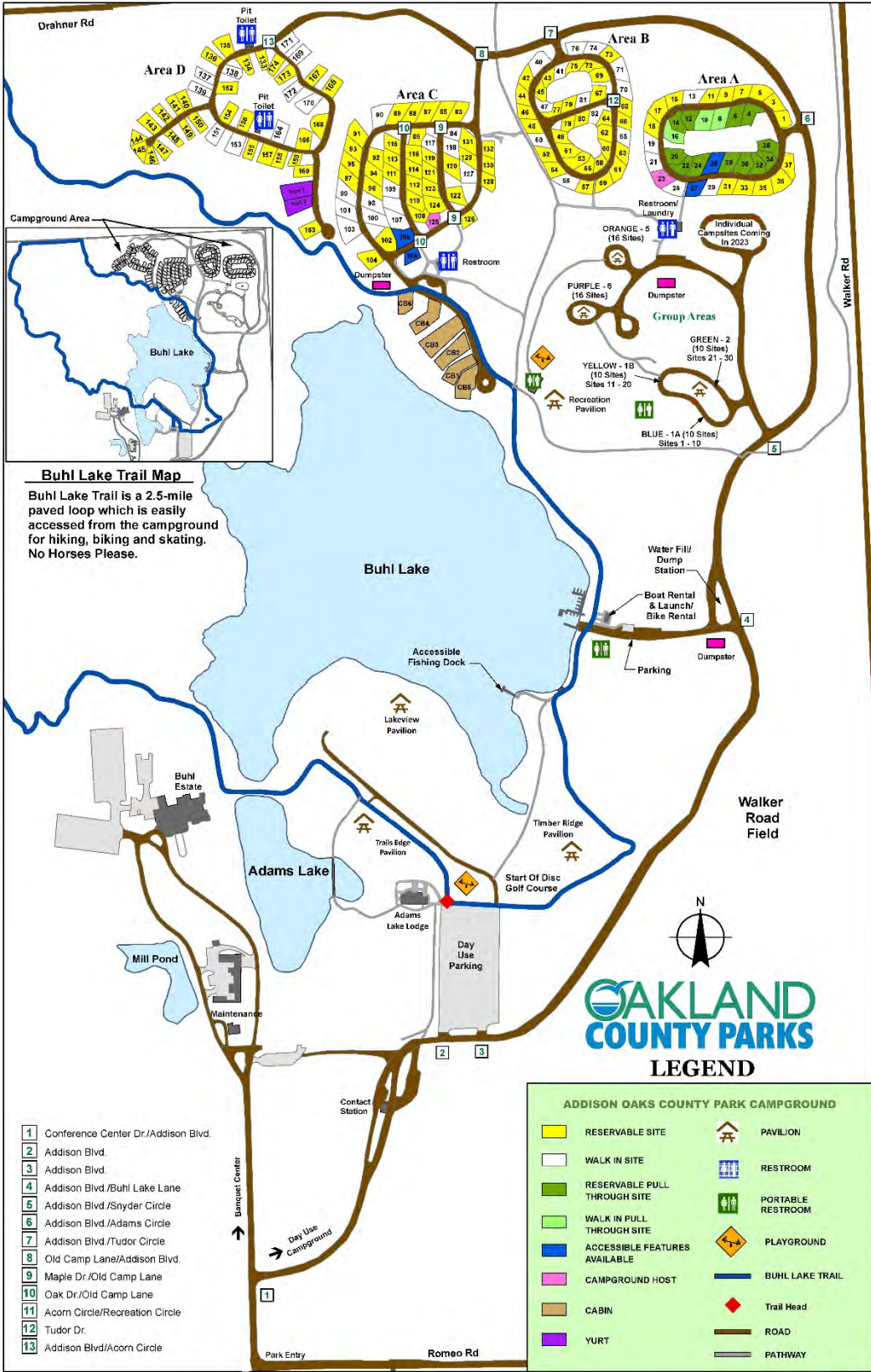


Figure Q: Campground Map



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 were transferred to OCPR and that same year Catalpa Oaks opened as the 12th park in the OCPR system.

Grant History

Not applicable

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the ADA 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 ¹⁹: 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 teams are 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.
- 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

¹⁹ 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.

- **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.

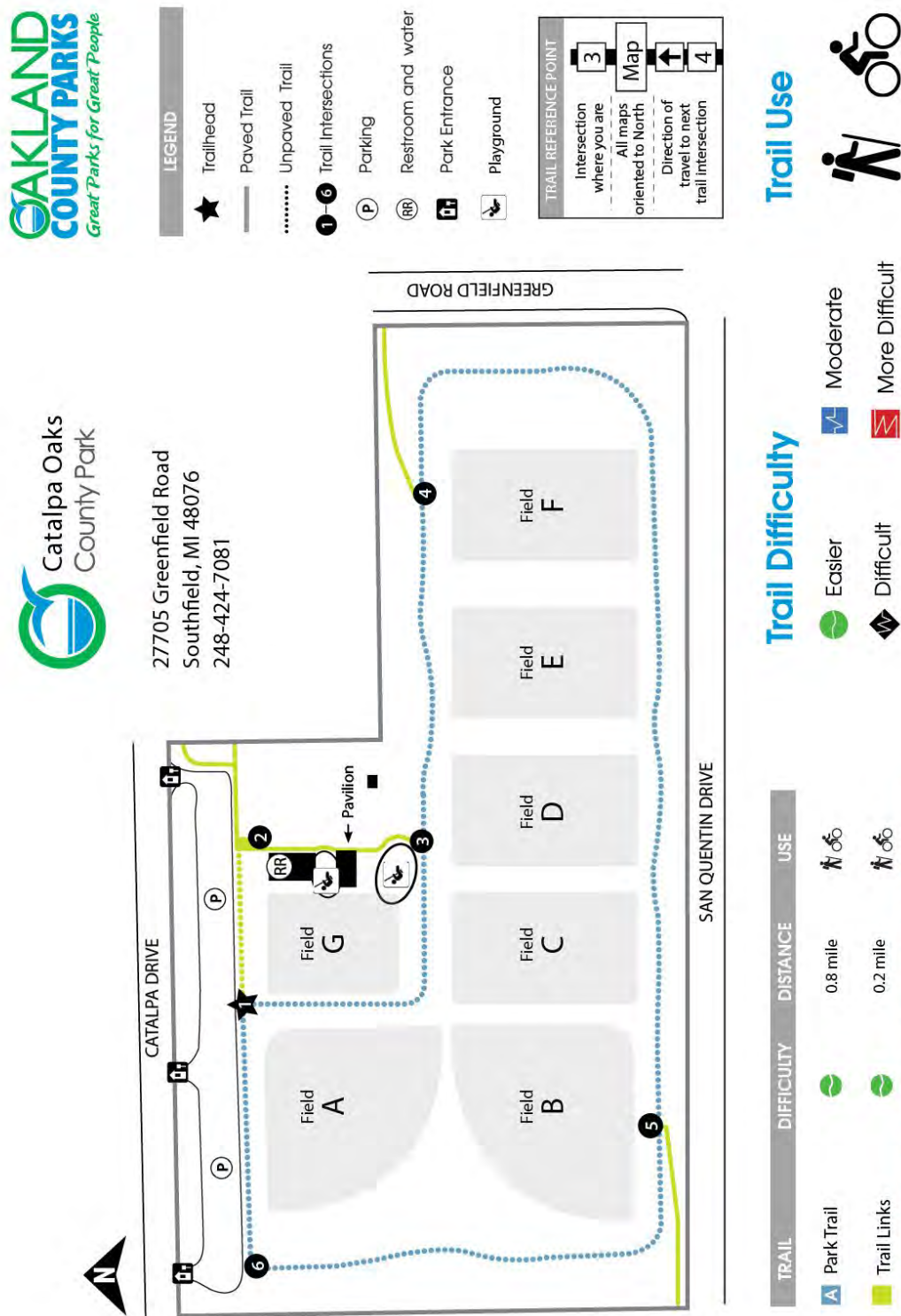
Key Performance Indicators

Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See Core Values for the master list of KPIs.

Figure R: Park Aerial



Figure S: 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.

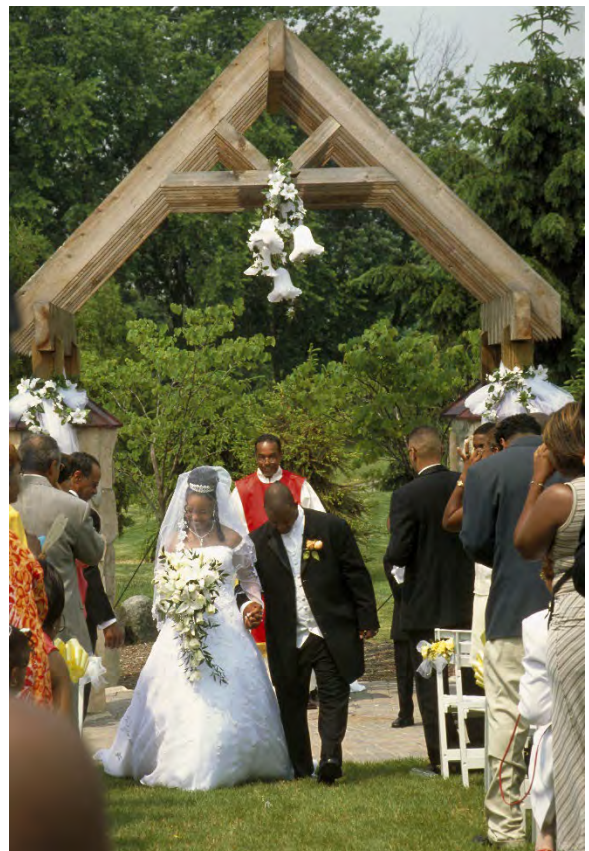
The historic stone clubhouse features an elegant banquet facility for 50-400 people with food service by Oak Management. Wedding couples love the formal wedding garden, panoramic view of the golf course from the main banquet room, and Bride's and Groom's rooms located on the second floor.

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.



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 ADA 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.

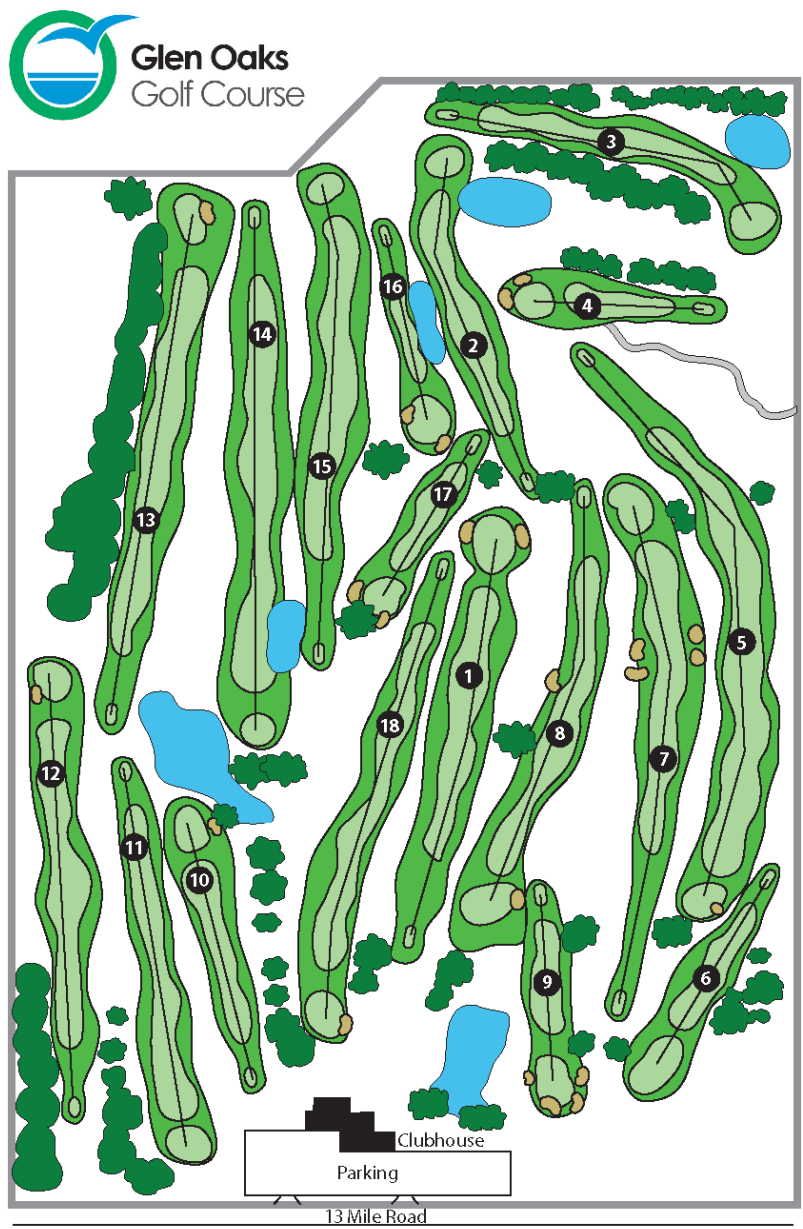
Figure T: Park Aerial



Figure U: Natural Resources Zone Map



Figure V: 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 kayaks. 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.



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

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
			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 ADA 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.

- o MNFI based Natural Community assessments and FQAs to document existing conditions
- o Surveys for priority invasive species and rare or unique native plants
- o Treatment and removal of priority invasive species
 - Shrub removals, lake viewsheds, campground
- o 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
- o 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.
 - o Water quality assessment of Stewart Lake and Thread Creek
 - o 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
 - o Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore, and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - o Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - o Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - o Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Campground
 - Playgrounds and pavilions
 - o Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore, and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - o Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - o Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - o 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. The 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. Components are failing:

- Implement structural repairs to the spillway
- Evaluate bridge for safety and evaluate access to this structure, which is not ADA-compliant
- Evaluate culvert under roadway and plan for replacement or a general restructuring of the area
- Acknowledge the history of the area as changes are made, consider interpretive signage

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 W: Park Aerial

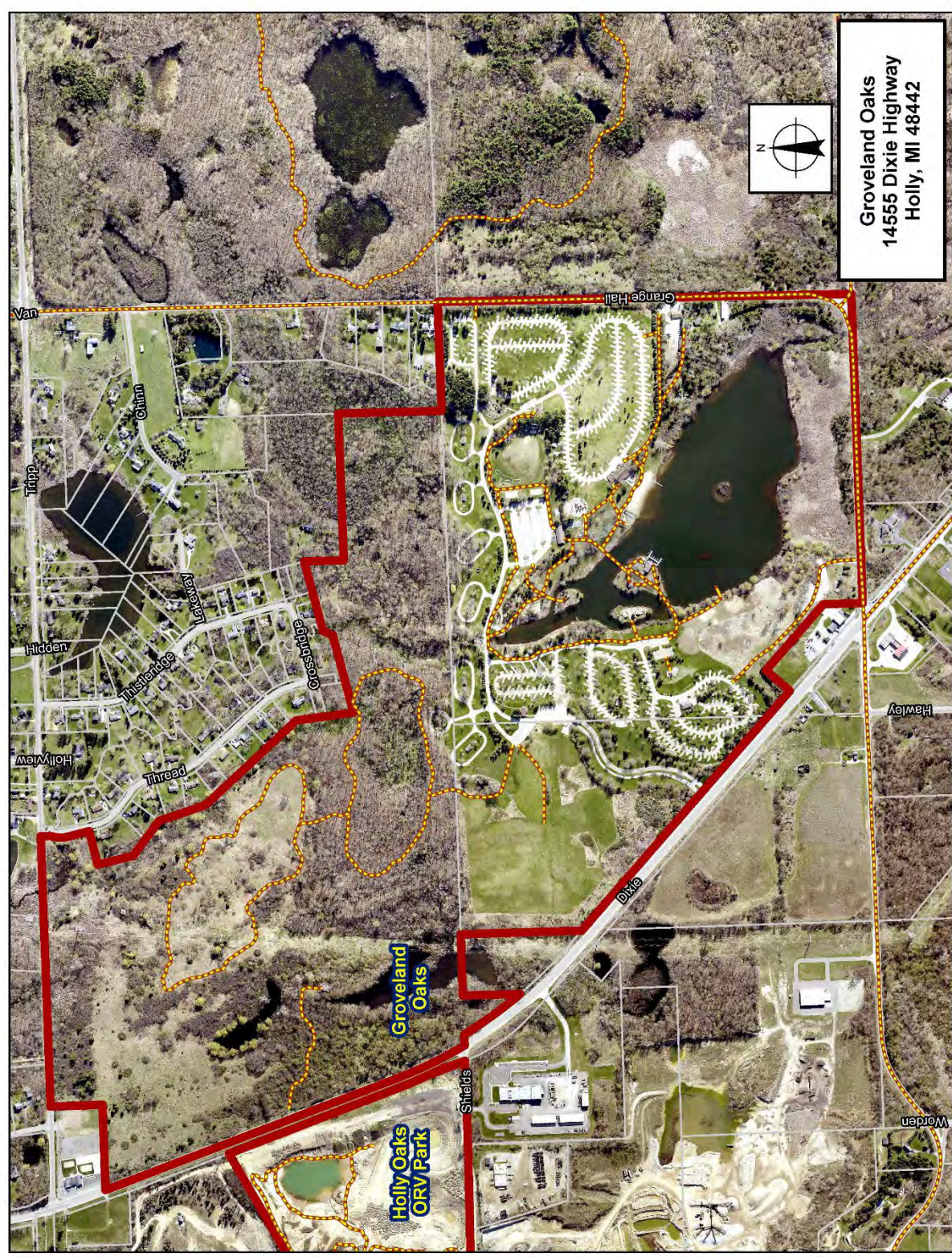


Figure X: Natural Resources Zone Map

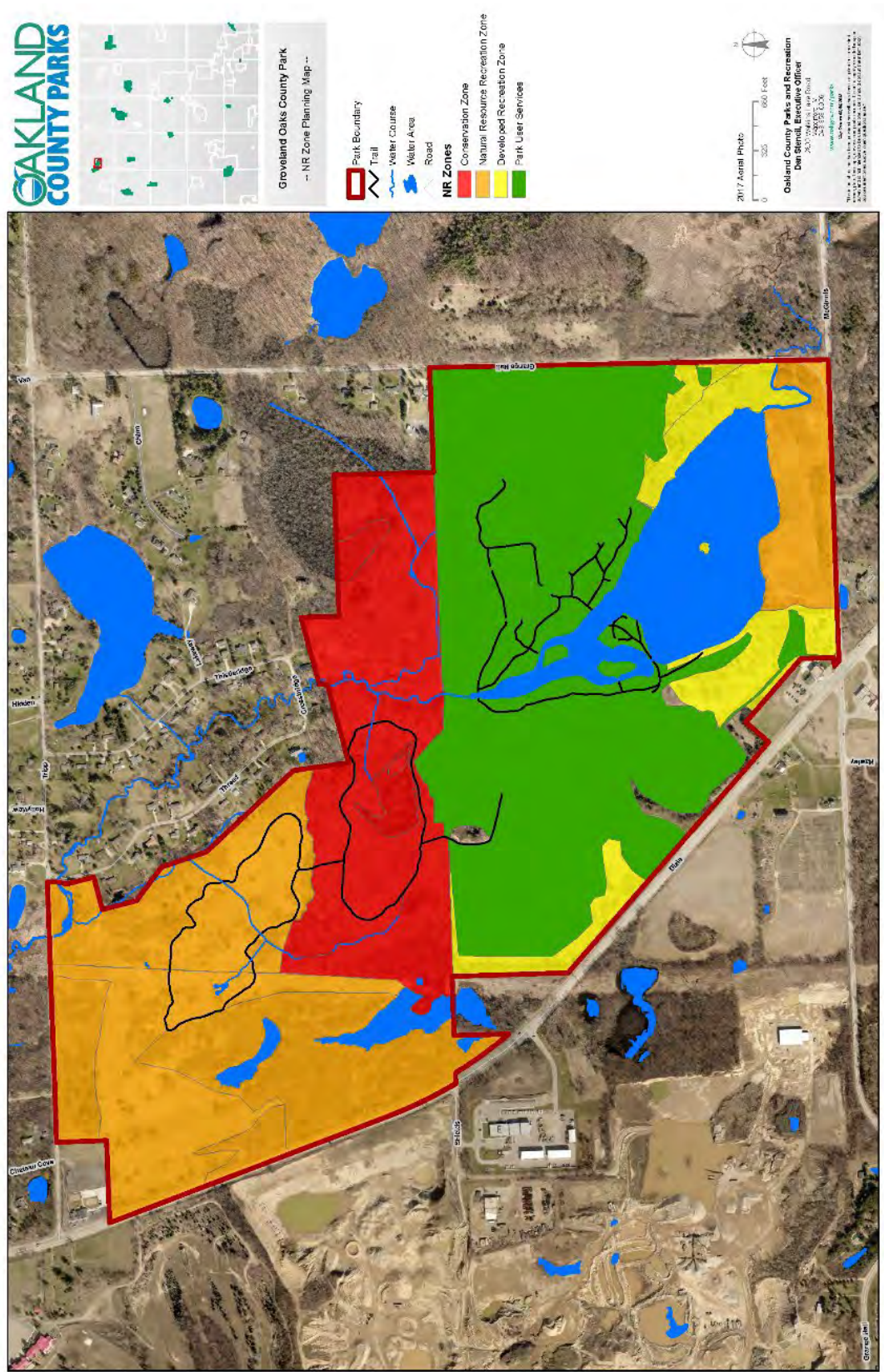


Figure Y: Campground Map



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.



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.

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 – Trails, 2 boardwalks and a floating pier (see also Lyon, Red, and Rose Oaks)

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the ADA 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, and upgrade from permanently located portable toilets.

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 Z: Park Aerial

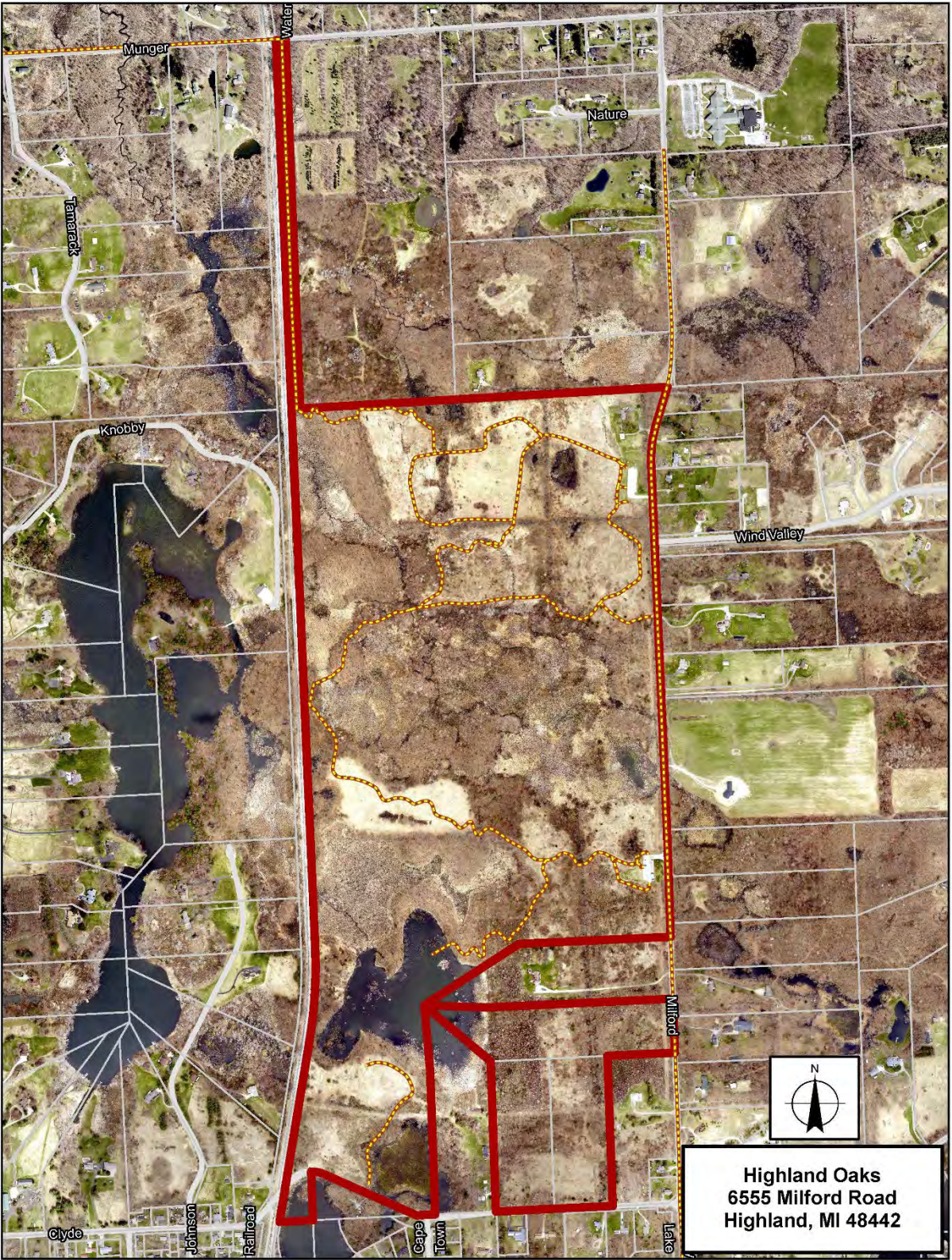


Figure AA: Natural Resources Zone Map

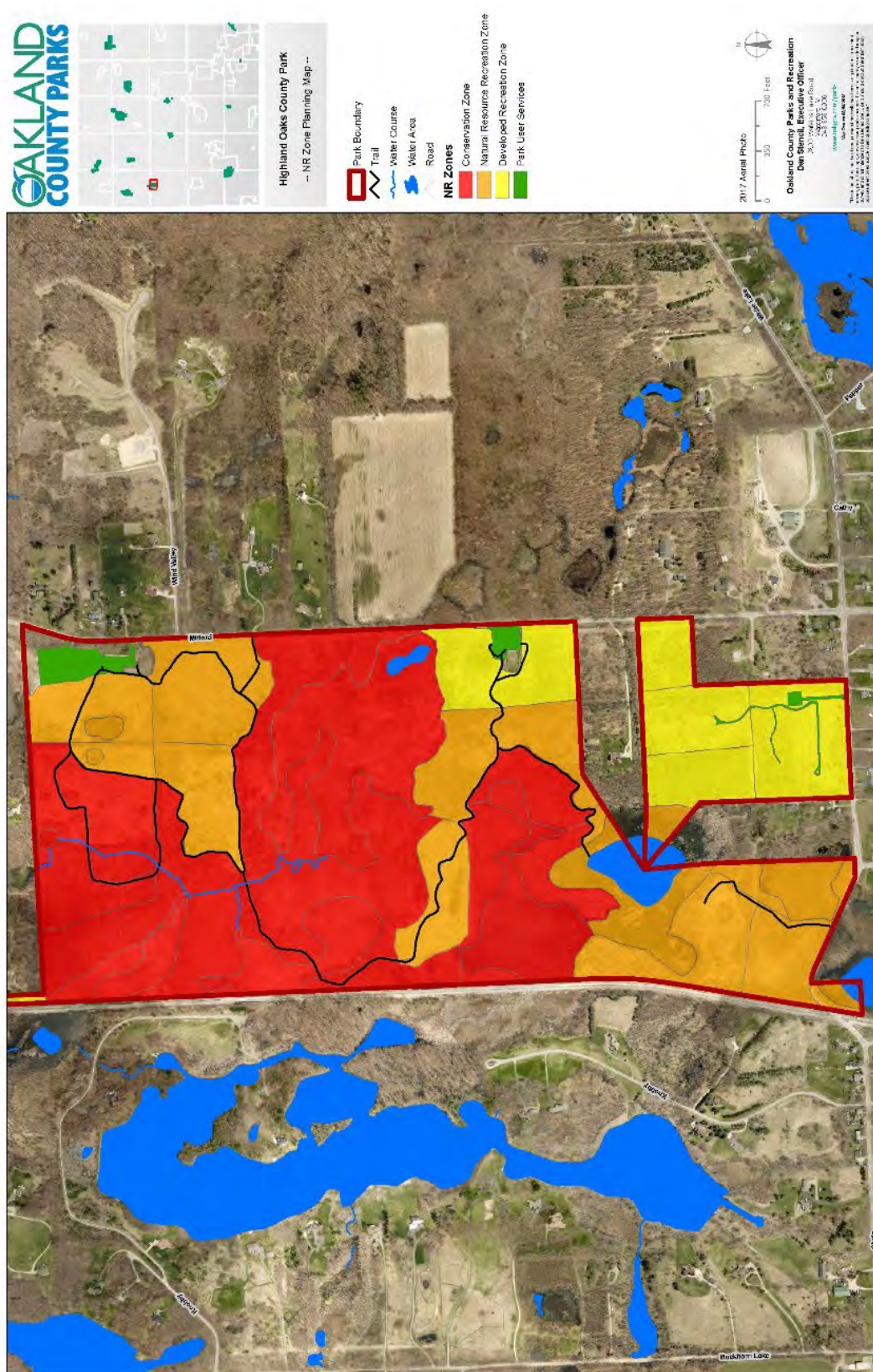
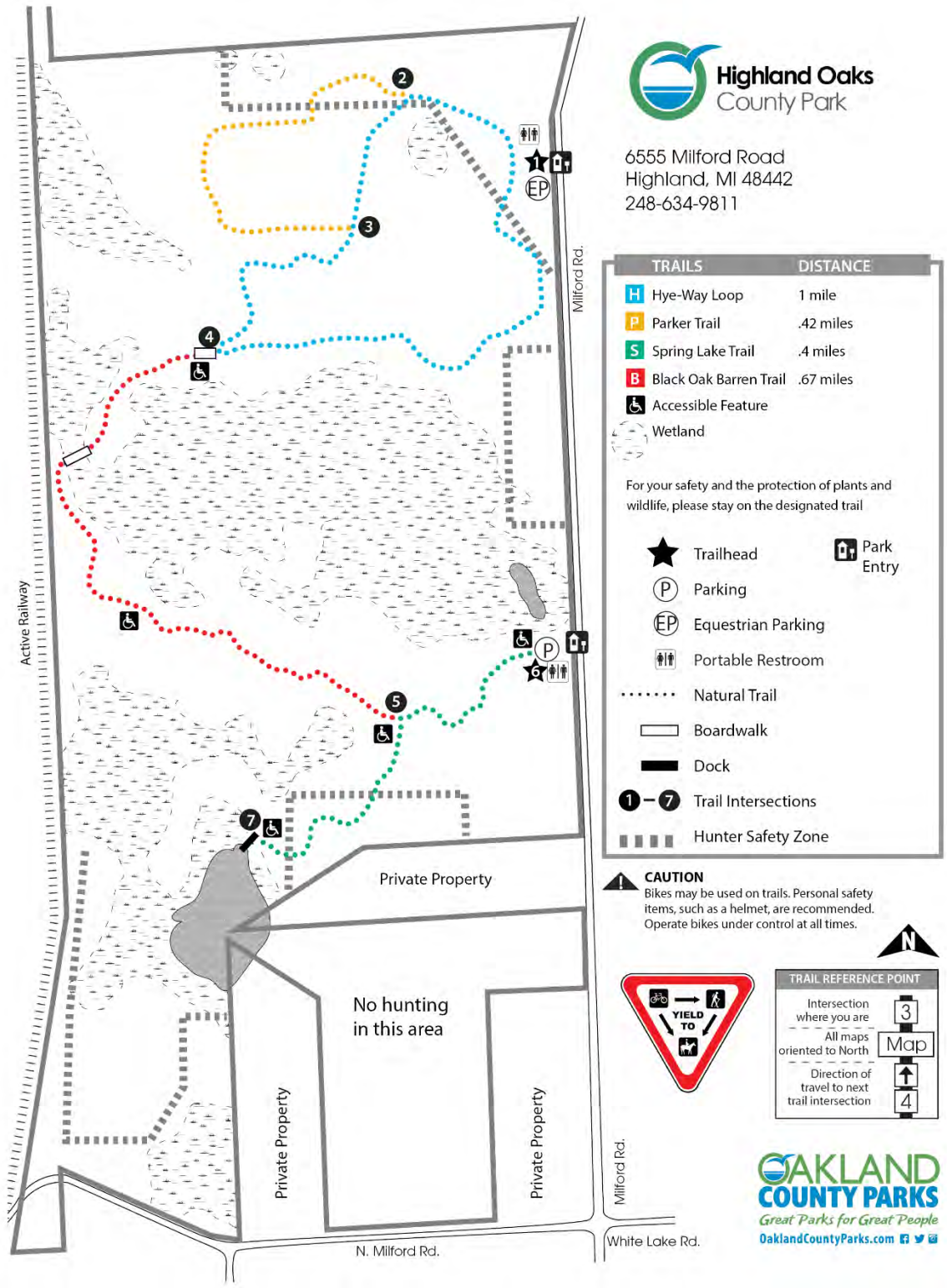


Figure BB: Trail Map



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 (-DNR) and is part of a 240-acre former and current gravel mining area owned by -DNR. OCPR operates the park under an operating agreement with -DNR. 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.

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

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the ADA 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 DNR 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. OCPD 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 CC: Park Aerial



Figure DD: ORV Map



Figure EE: 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 was not 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 more than 1200 acres, became the largest park in the OCPR system.

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 Oaks -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 ADA 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 is not 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 FF: Park Aerial

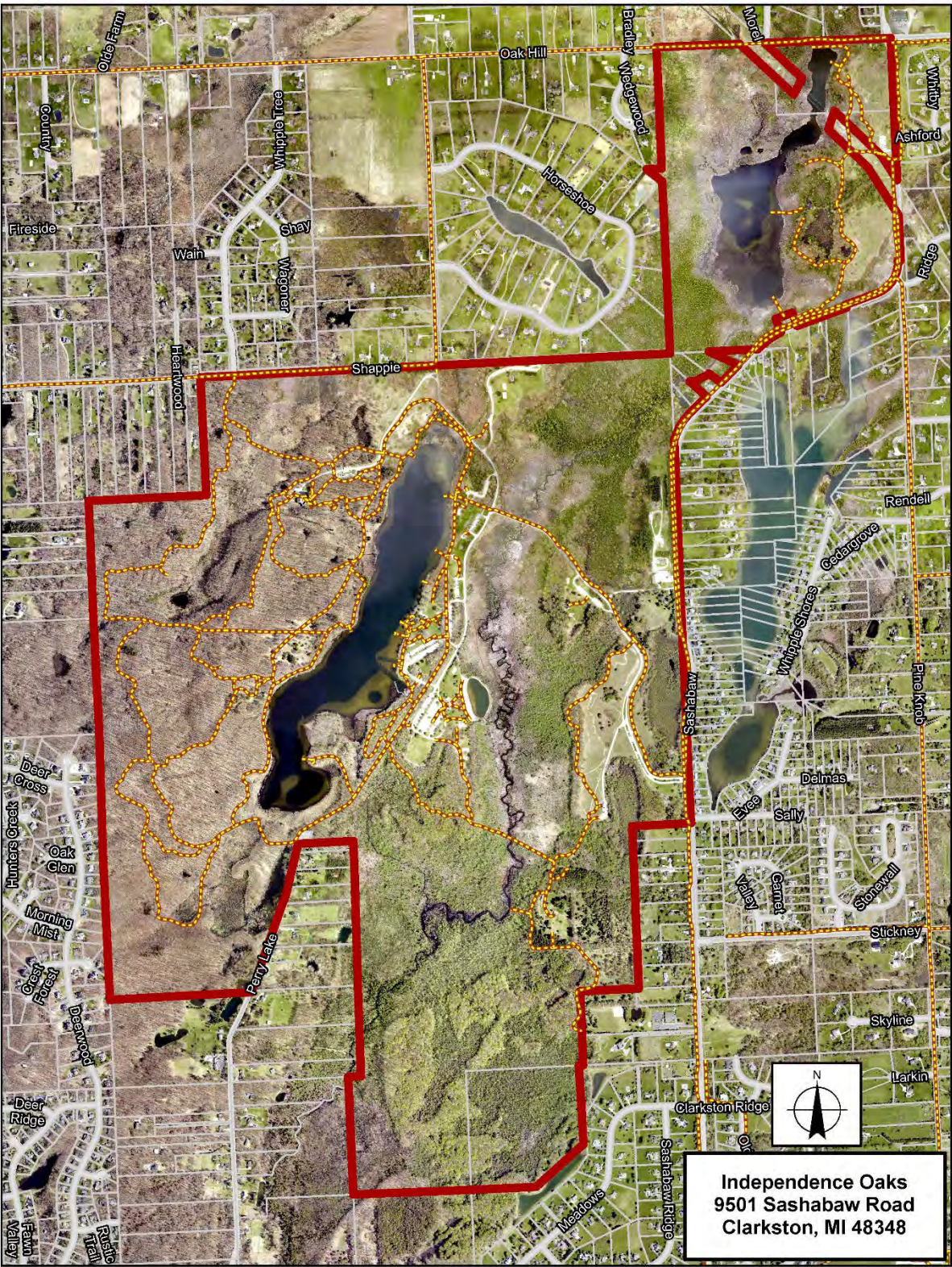


Figure GG: Natural Resources Zone Map

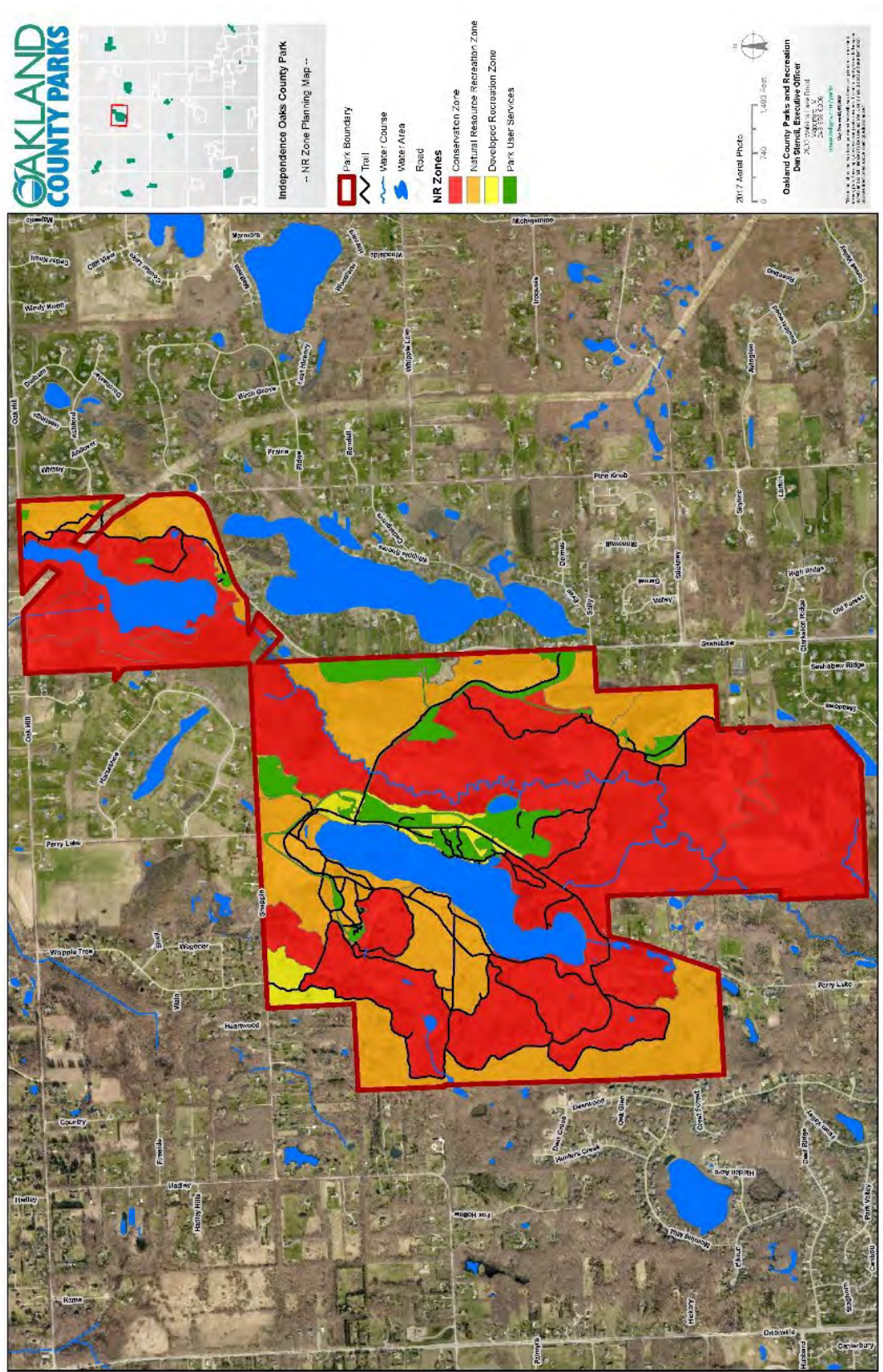


Figure HH: Trail Map

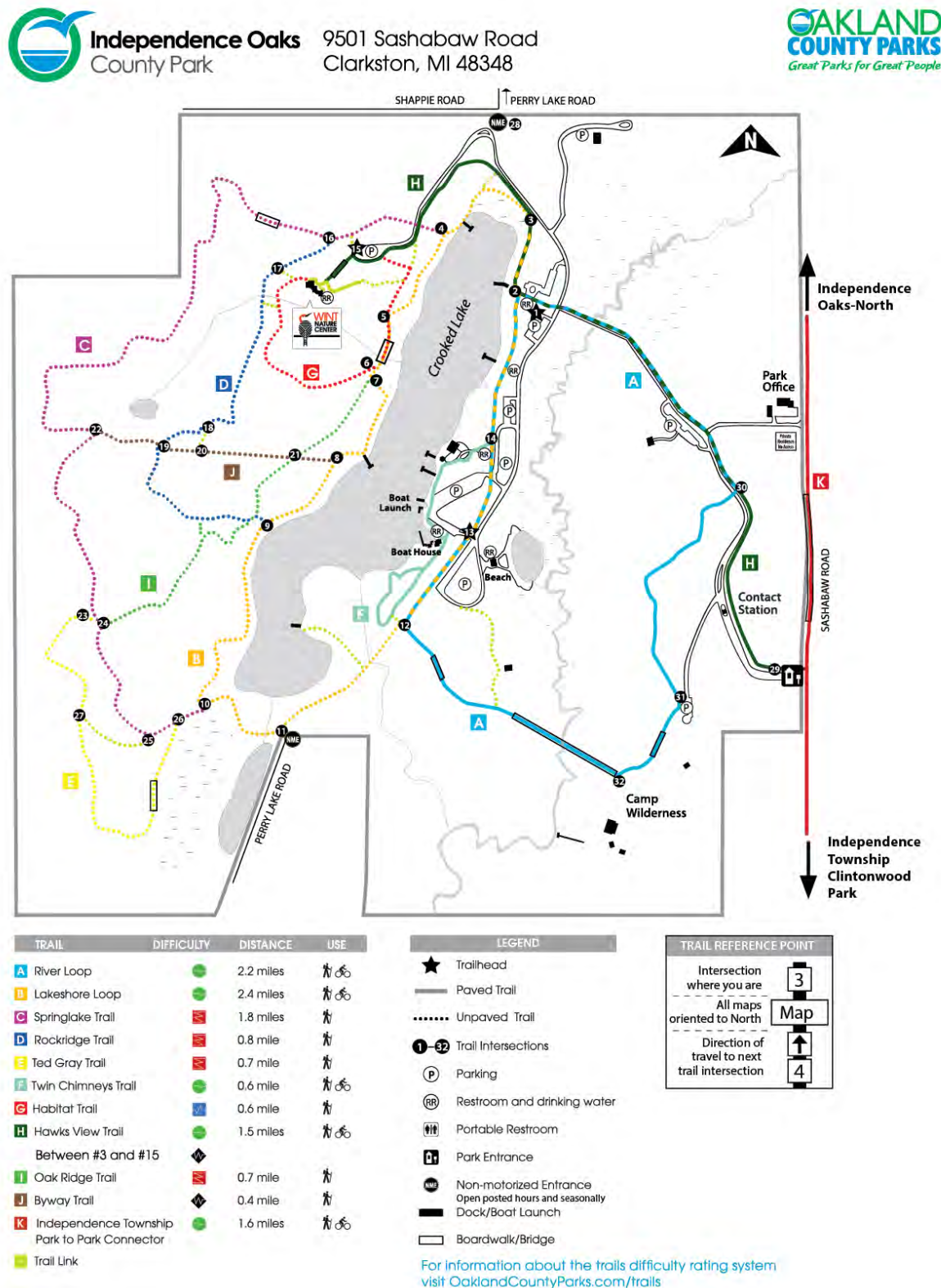
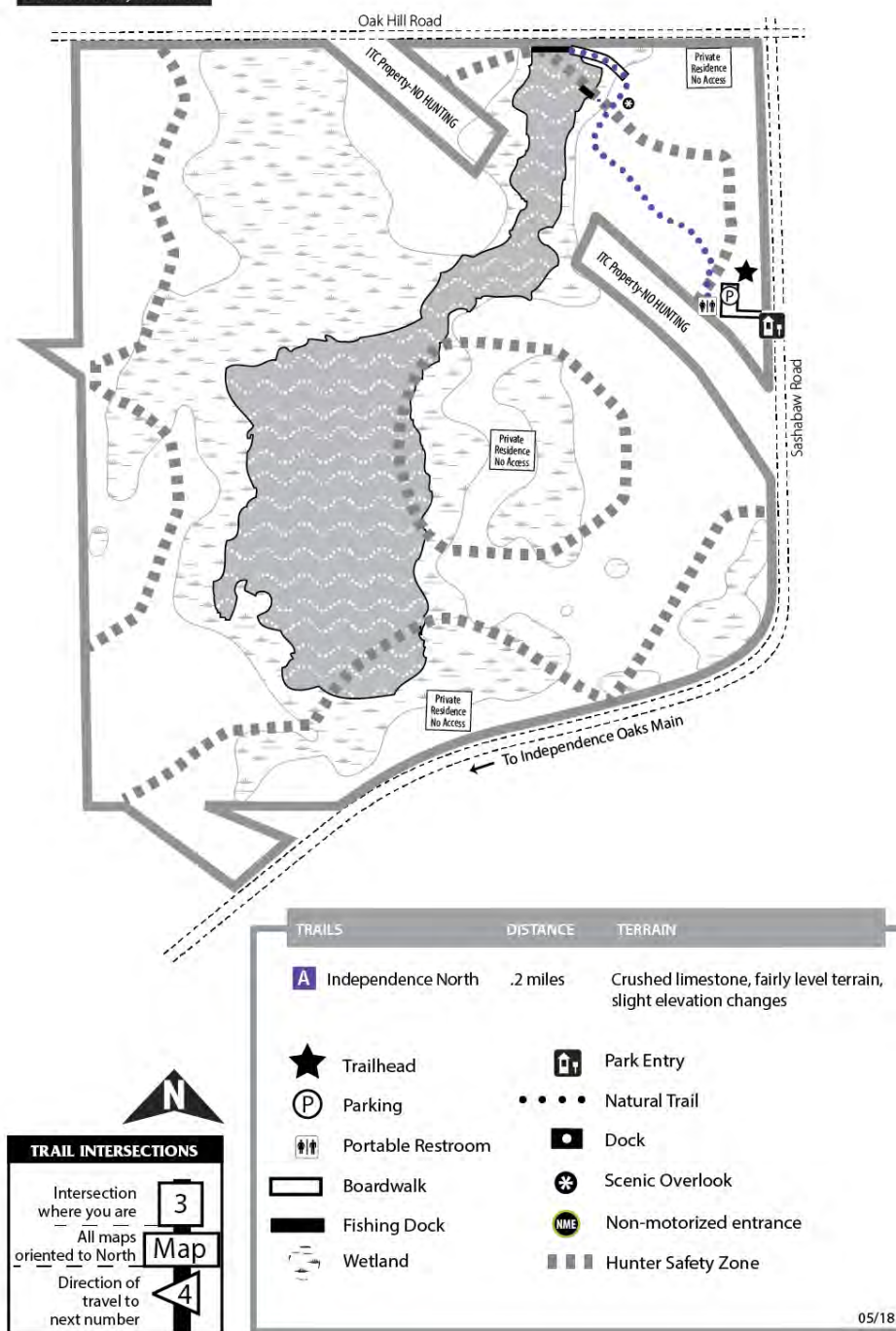


Figure II: Trail Map North



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, -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 more than 1,000 acres and then opened Lyon Oaks County Park in 2002.



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 – Boardwalk (see also Highland, Red and Rose Oaks)

Park System Priorities

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS: Continue to implement the ADA 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 PLAN ²⁰: Increase opportunities for outdoor recreation and quality of facilities to benefit the health and wellness of people living in an area that has



²⁰ 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.

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.

EVENT 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
 - 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.

- o Water quality assessment of Norton Drain and streams
- o Norton Drain restoration
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
 - Vernal pools restoration
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
- o Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore, and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - o Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - o Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - o Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Entrance drive
 - Golf course
 - Dog Park
 - Pavilions
 - o Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore, and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - o Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - o Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - o 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 JJ: Park Aerial



Figure KK: Natural Resources Zone Map

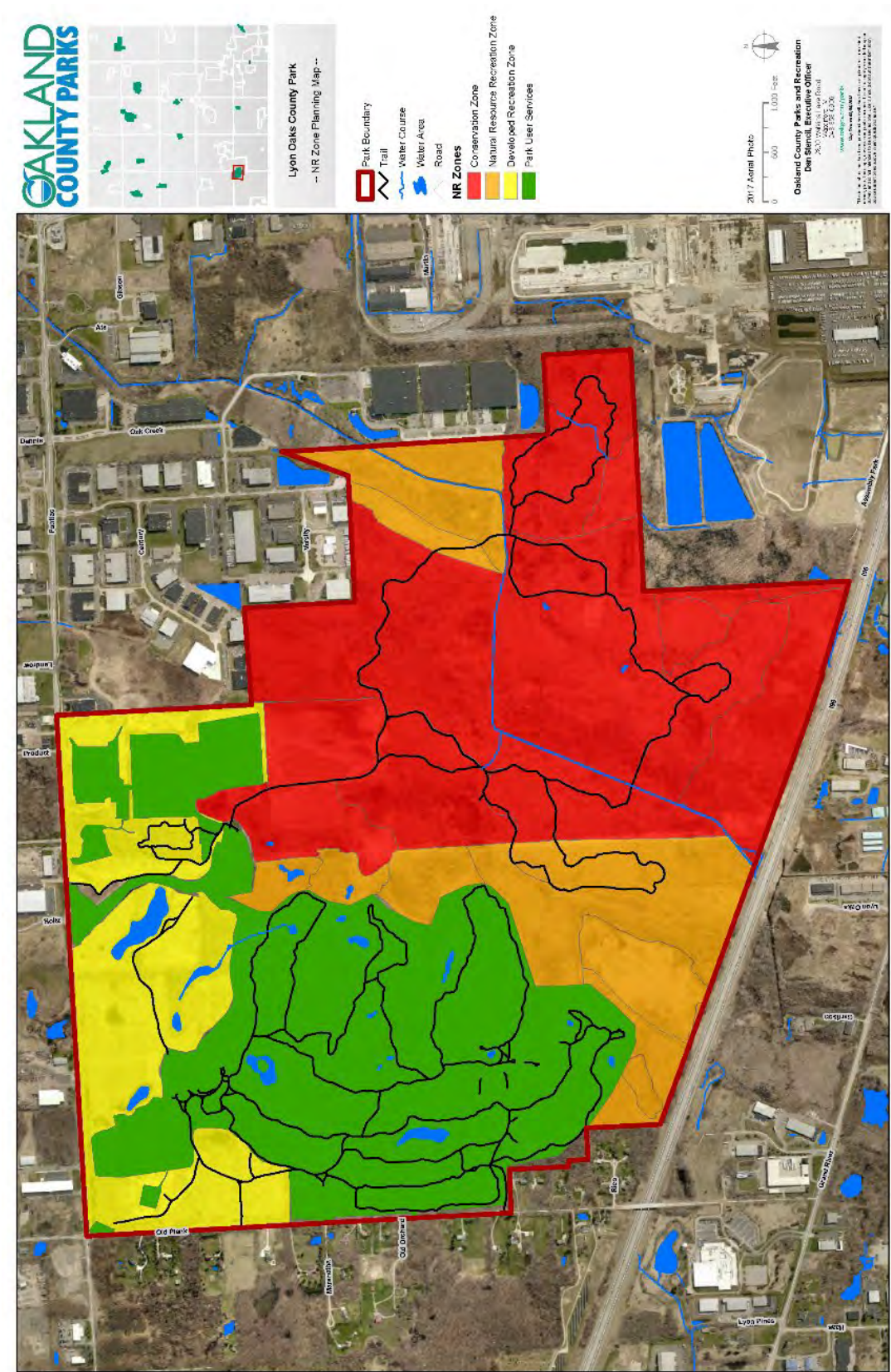


Figure LL: Park Trail Map

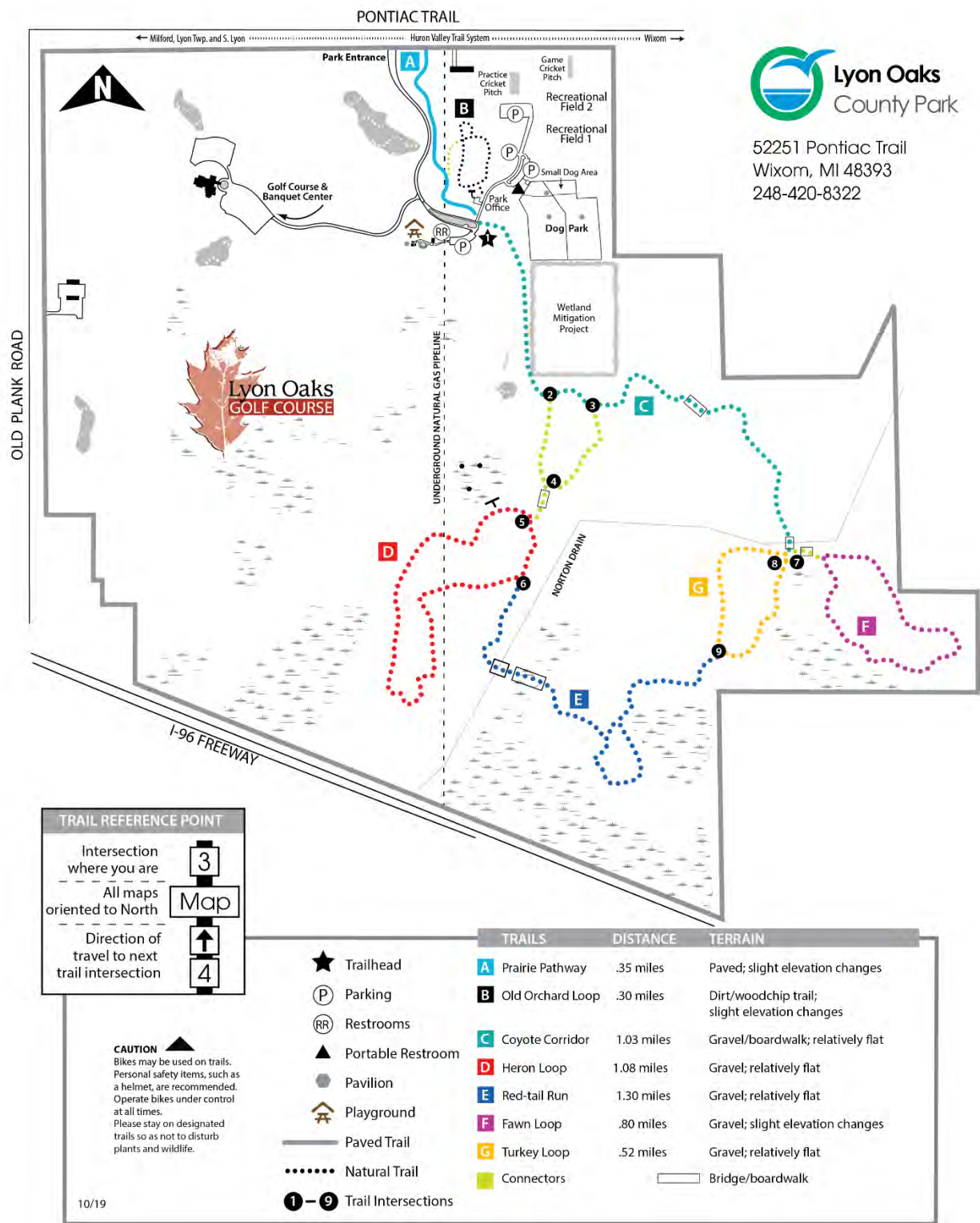


Figure MM: Golf Course Map



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

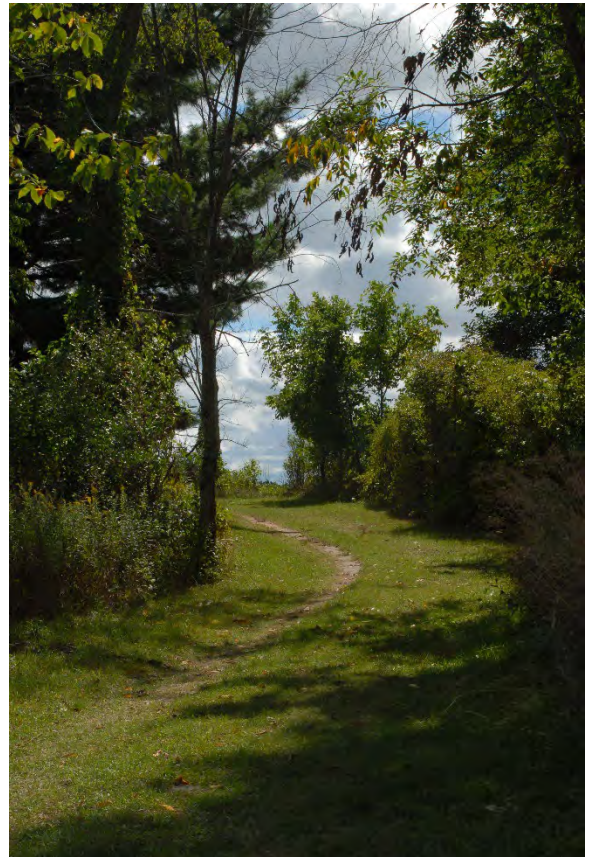
PARK FEATURES: Orion Oaks County Park's 916 acres feature 10 miles of hiking and mountain bike trails including bridges and boardwalks over wetland areas.

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 marsh 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.

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 ADA 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

- o 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.
 - o Water quality assessment of Lake Sixteen and streams.
 - Fish Population Study
 - o Lake Sixteen restoration
 - Wetland edge shrub removal and native planting; improvement of viewshed around lake
 - Vernal pools restoration
 - Improve wetland buffers for water quality
 - o Stormwater infrastructure assessment and monitoring
- Forestry: Protect, restore, and enhance diverse forest systems and shade trees for recreational users.
 - o Develop forest management plan for long term maintenance of tree diversity
 - o Monitor for forest pests and diseases and provide rapid responses to detections
 - o Tree maintenance and removals, tree planting and re-forestation
 - Dog park
 - o Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore, and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - o Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - o Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - o 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 NN: Park Aerial



Figure OO: Natural Resources Zone Map

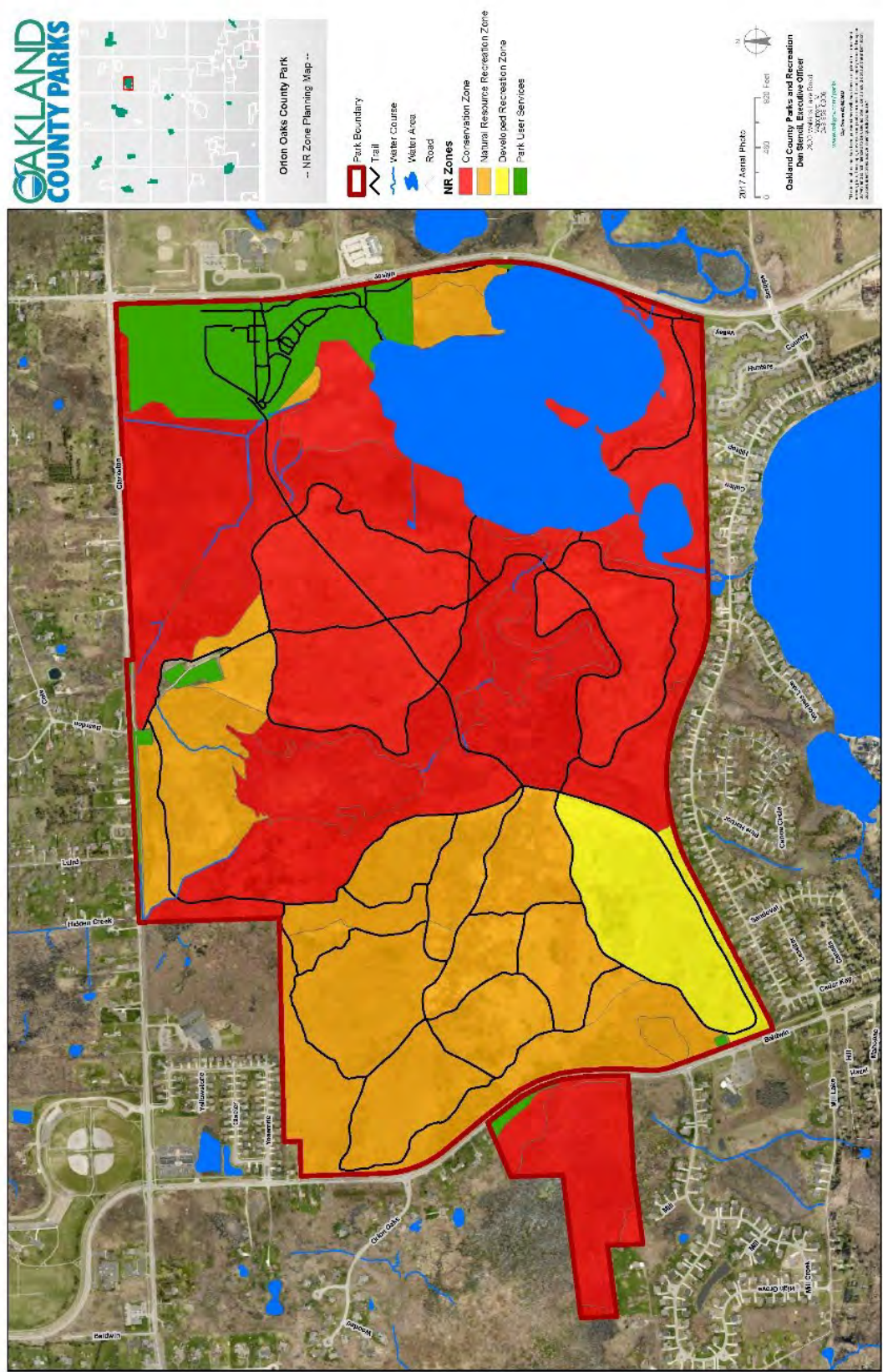
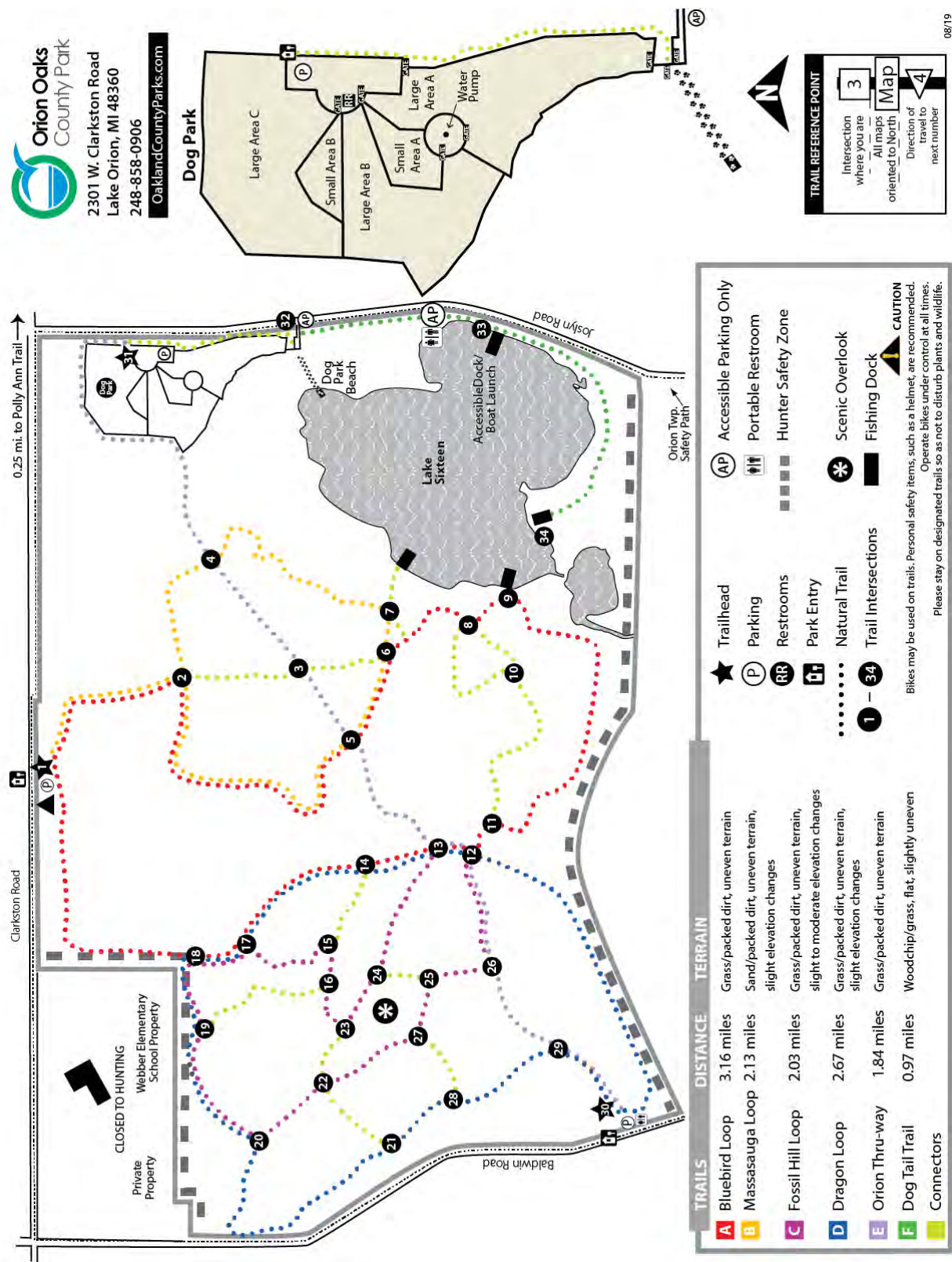


Figure PP: Trail Map



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 large Wave-Action Pool, spiraling triple-flume waterslides, a 990-foot-long River Ride, 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.

AMBASSADOR PARK: 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

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.

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 Highland, Lyon, and Rose 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 OCPH for capital projects approved by OCPH 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 OCPH.*
- CMH and OCPH 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 OCPH. *OCPH 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/OCPHRedBaseline.pdf>.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION INVESTMENT PLAN ²¹: 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

²¹ OCPH 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 OCPH's Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan. Projects must be completed by the end of 2026.

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 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
- 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 seniors, beginners, and junior golfers, as well as people taking advantage the physical exercise of walking the golf course instead of using a cart. 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 (included non-golfers) 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 waterparks, 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 QQ: Park Aerial

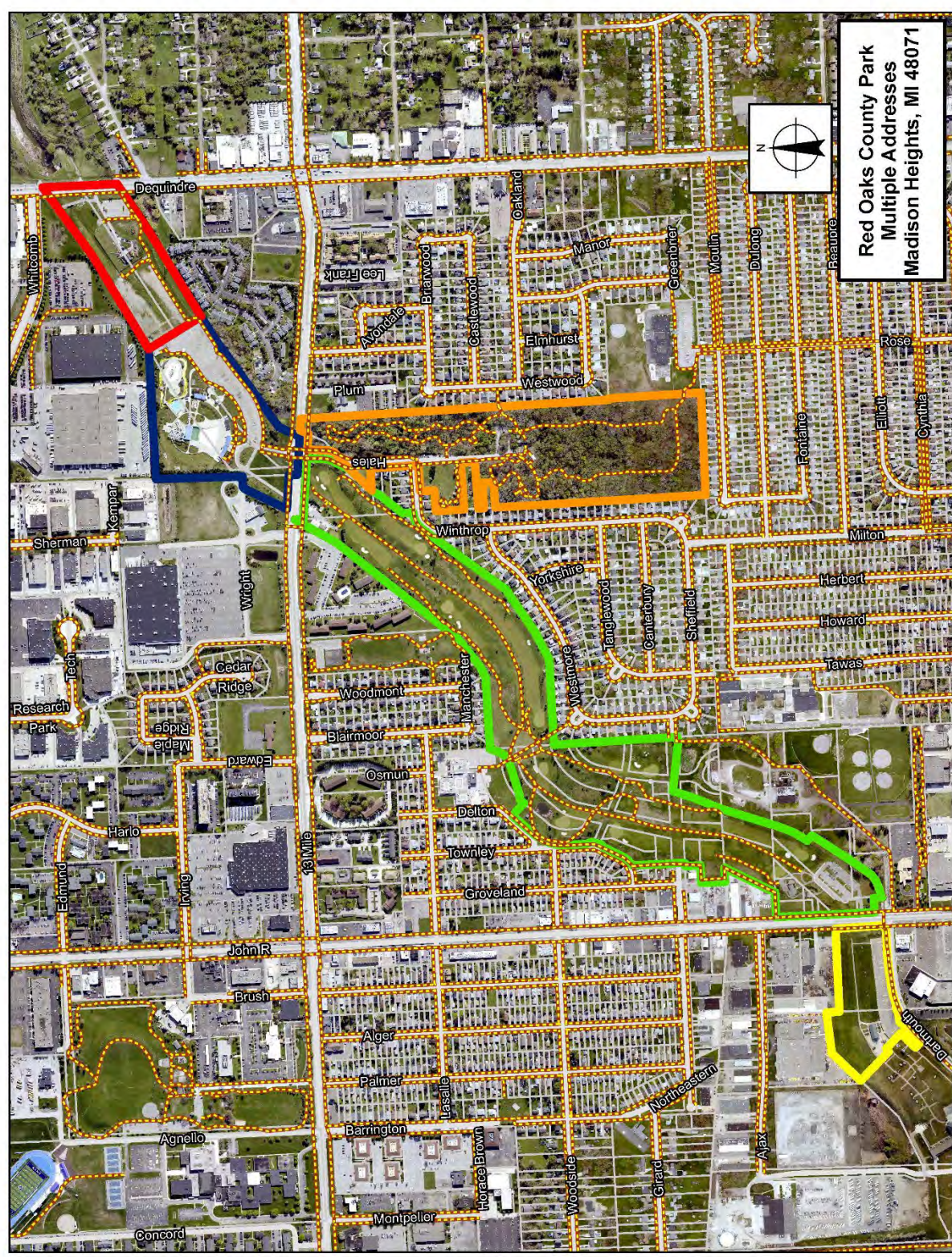


Figure RR: Ambassador Park Aerial



Figure SS: Natural Resources Zone Map

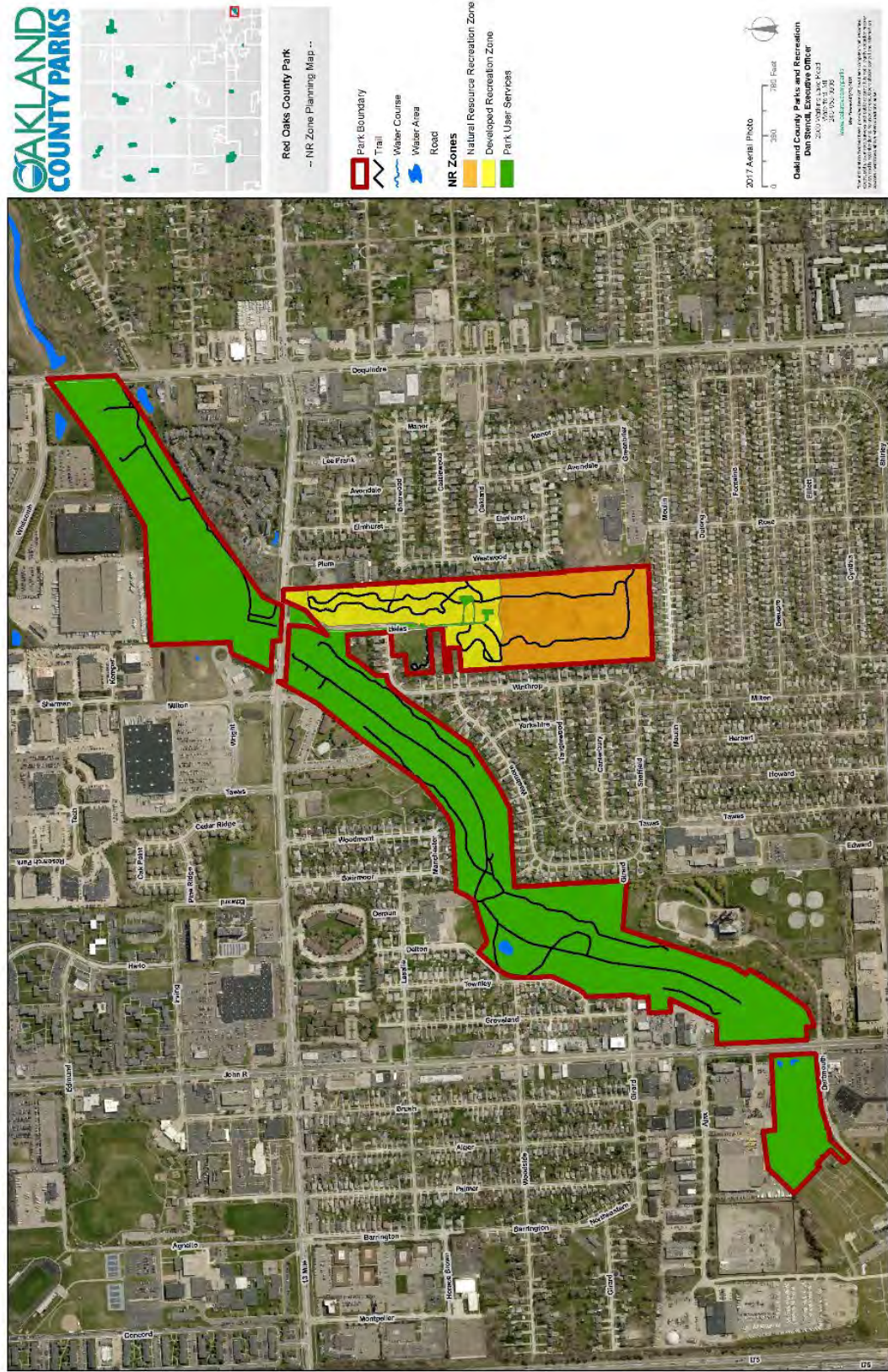


Figure TT: Park Trail Map

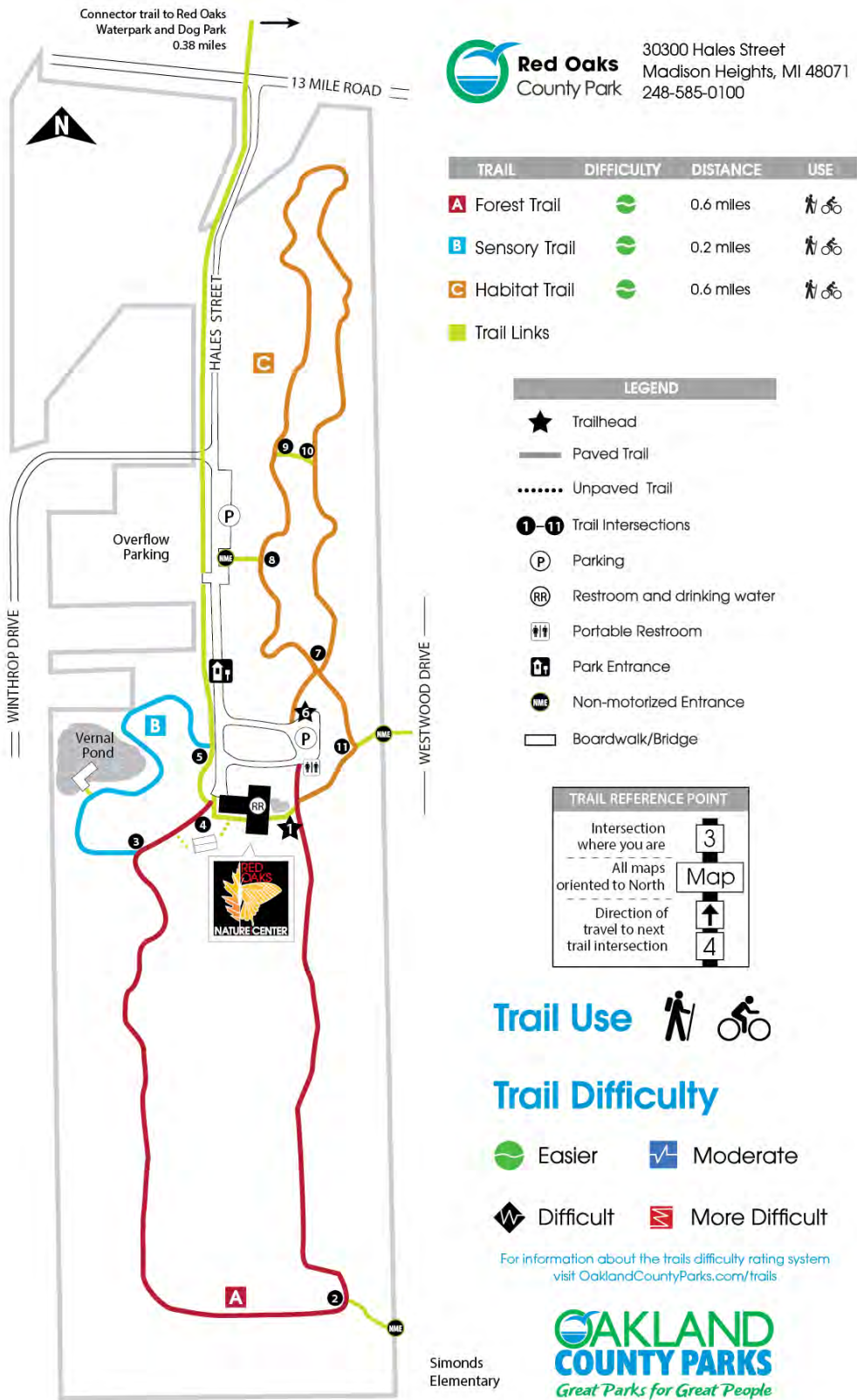


Figure UU: Golf Course Map



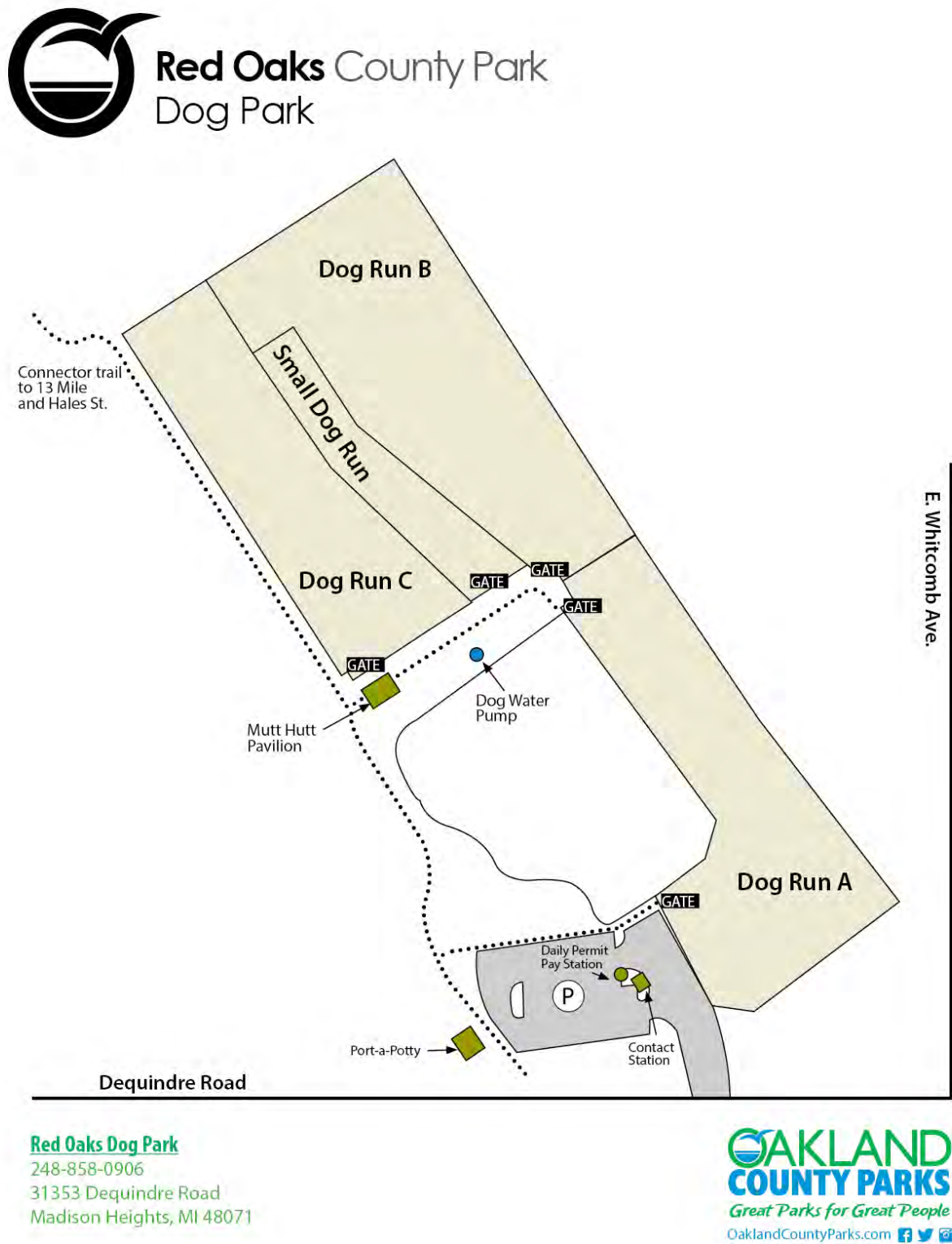
Red Oaks Golf Course
Park Supervisor: Matt Pardy
29600 John R Road
Madison Heights, MI 48071
Pro Shop: 248-541-5030
Park Features: 9-hole golf course, foot golf,
golf leagues, pro shop, clubhouse



Figure VV: Waterpark Map



Figure WW: 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.

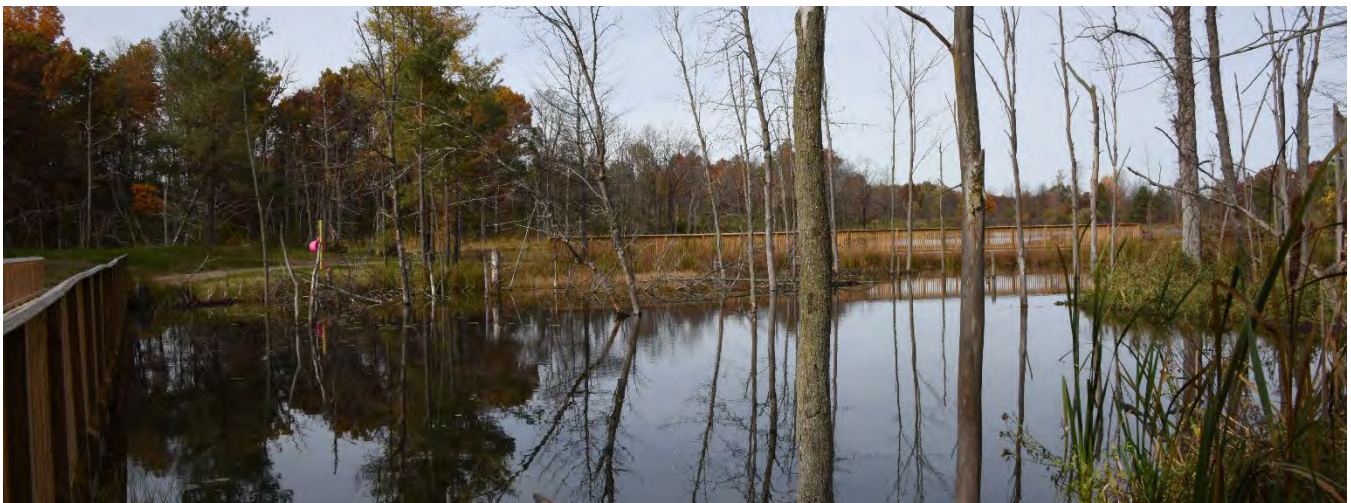
- Address: 10400 Fish Lake Road, Holly, Michigan 48442
- Township and Range: T4N R7E, Sections 9, 16, and 21

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.

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
TF10-098	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Acquisition	2010	Natural Areas Accessibility Improvements: Rose Oaks – Trails, 4 boardwalks, 2 piers (see also Highland, 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.

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 XX: Park Aerial

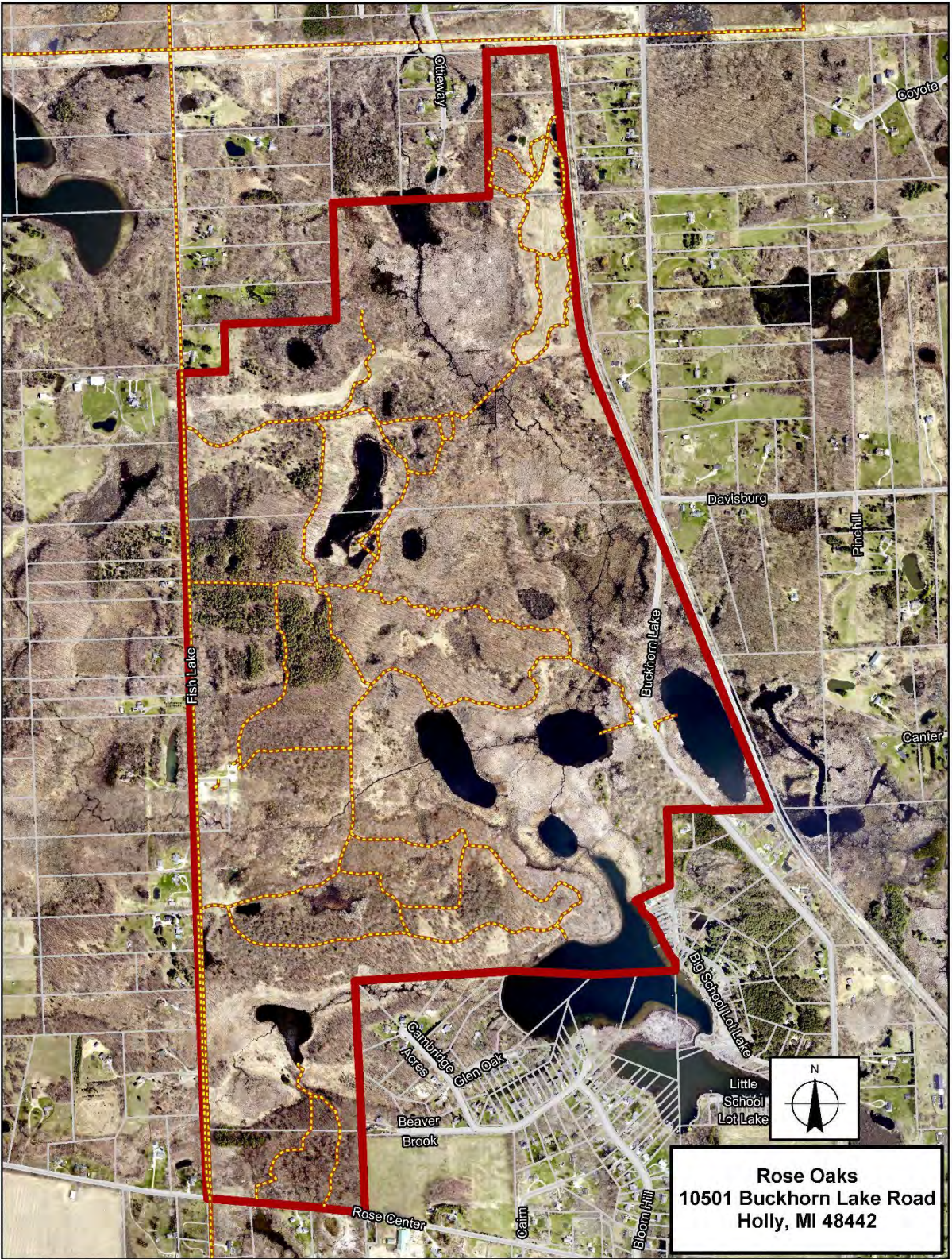


Figure YY: Natural Resources Zone Map

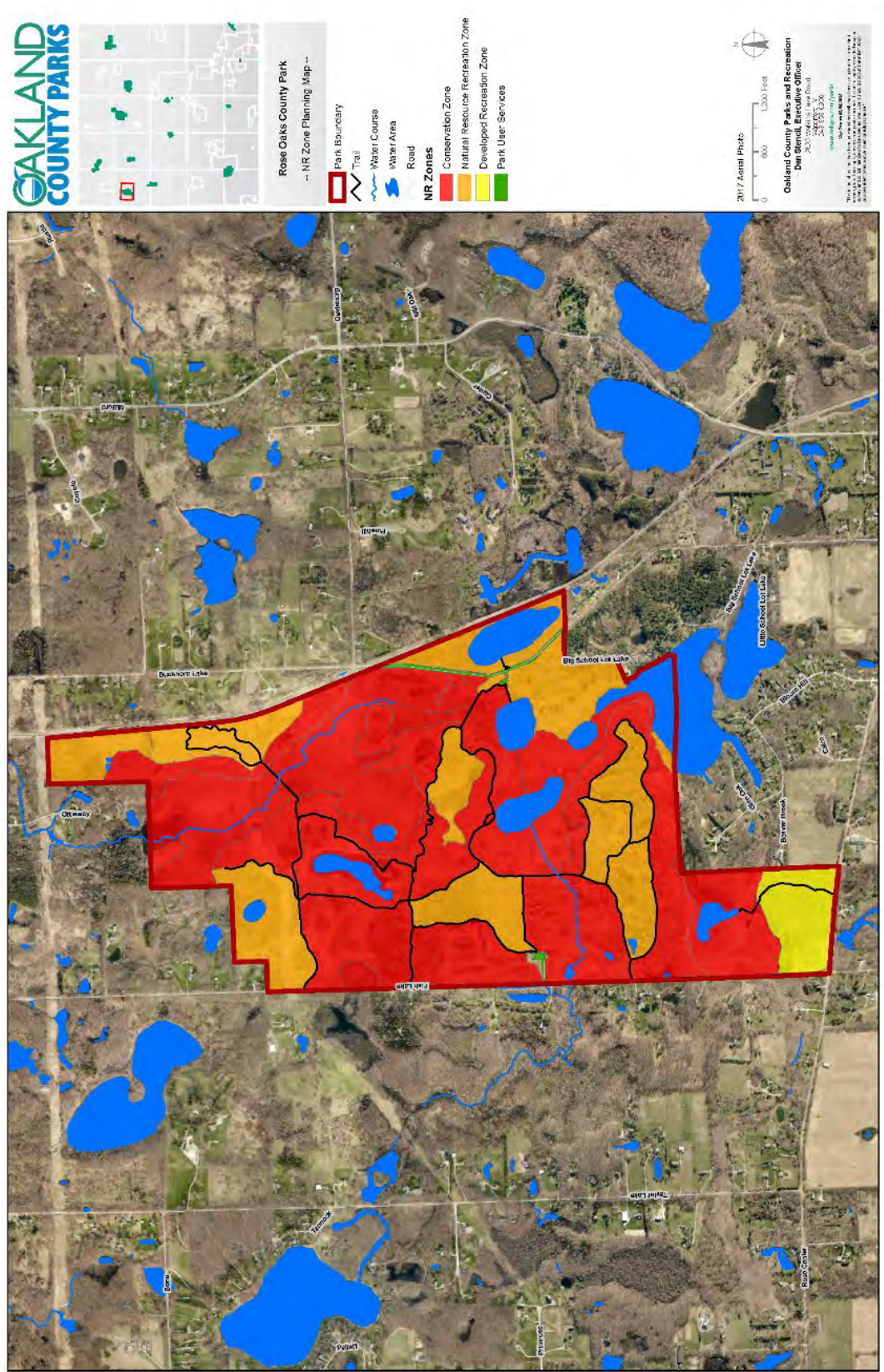
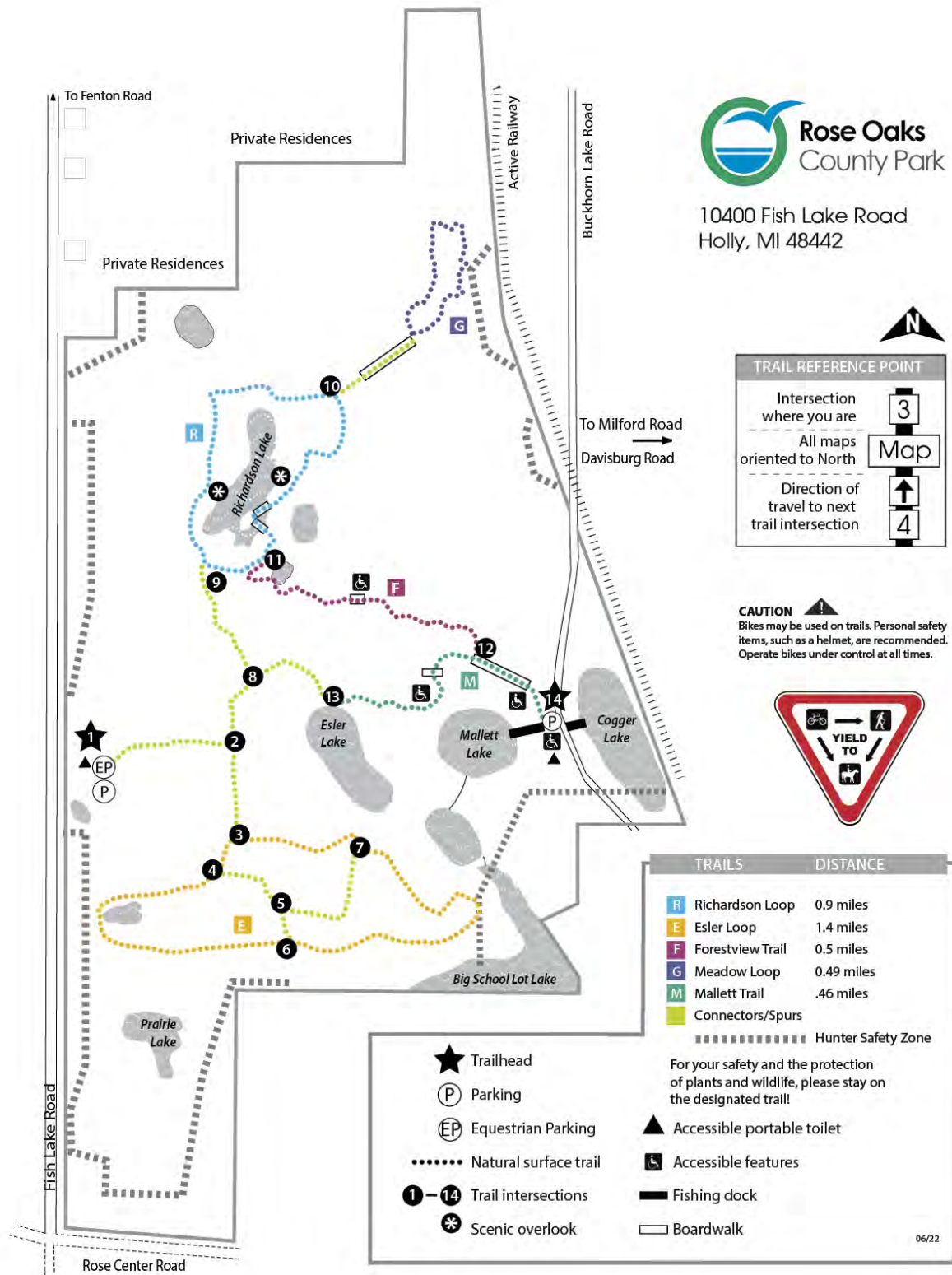


Figure ZZ: Trail Map



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.

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 AAA: 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.

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 ADA 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. OCPR 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 Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's office. Consider combining existing two ponds. Retaining walls around ponds are failing. Consider replacing sea wall with rip rap and naturalizing in consultation with Natural Resources.
- 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 for use and operation.



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 BBB: Park Aerial



Figure CCC: Natural Resources Zone Map

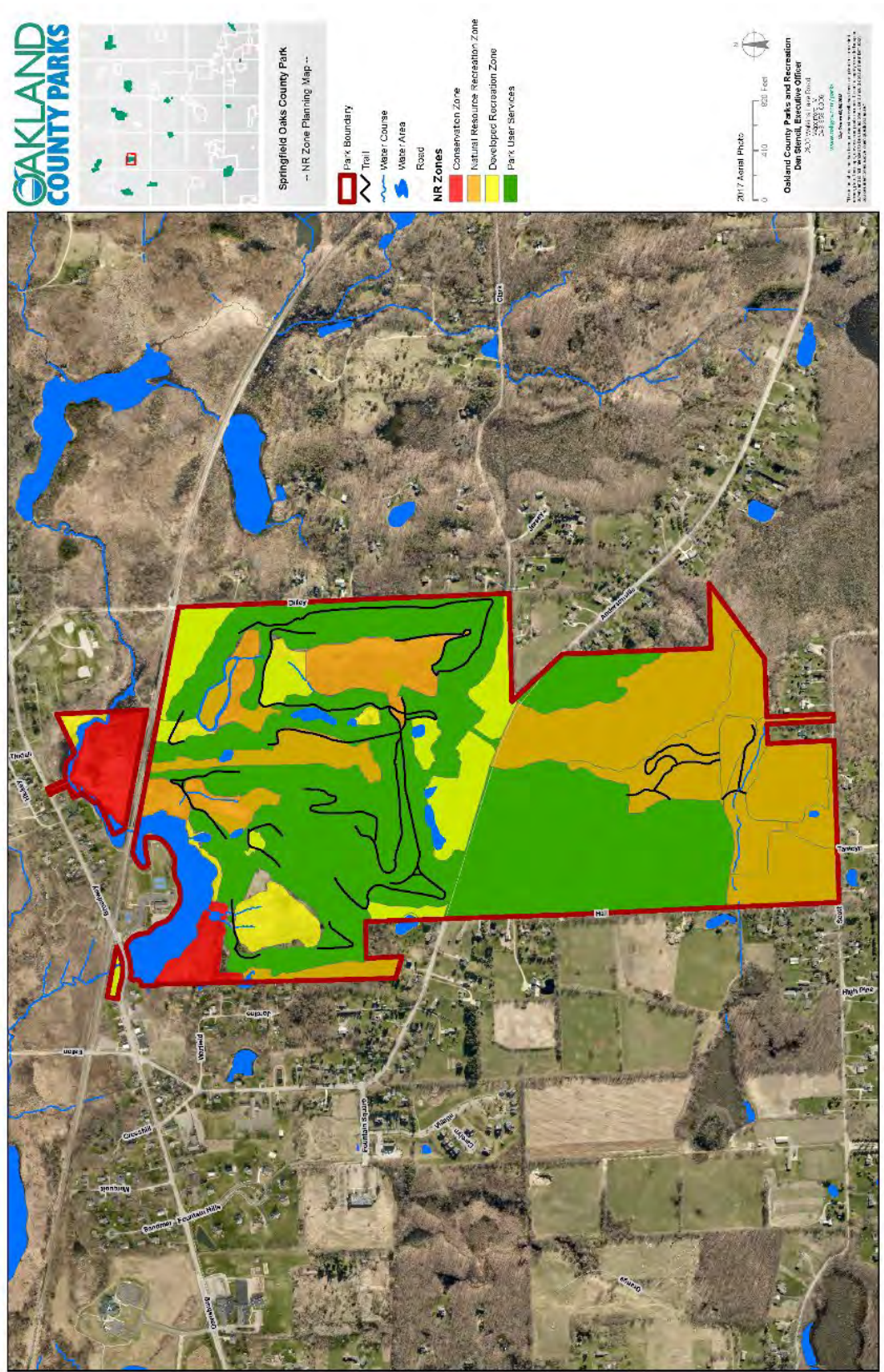


Figure DDD: Golf Course Map



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.



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
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

Grant Number	Source	Year	Summary
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 ²²: 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

²² 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.

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. Consider rebranding the building (lookout on the toboggan run no longer exists).

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
 - 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

- o Development and implementation of debris management plan
- Wildlife: Protect, restore, and enhance rare and unique native wildlife species and biodiversity.
 - o Survey for threatened, endangered, and special concern species along with priority native and non-native species.
 - o Manage nuisance and non-native wildlife
 - White-Tailed Deer
 - Non-native and nuisance waterfowl control
 - o 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.
- Explore trail entry/connection behind Lookout Lodge, highlighting wetland features
- 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 waterparks, 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 EEE: Park Aerial



Figure FFF: Natural Resources Zone Map

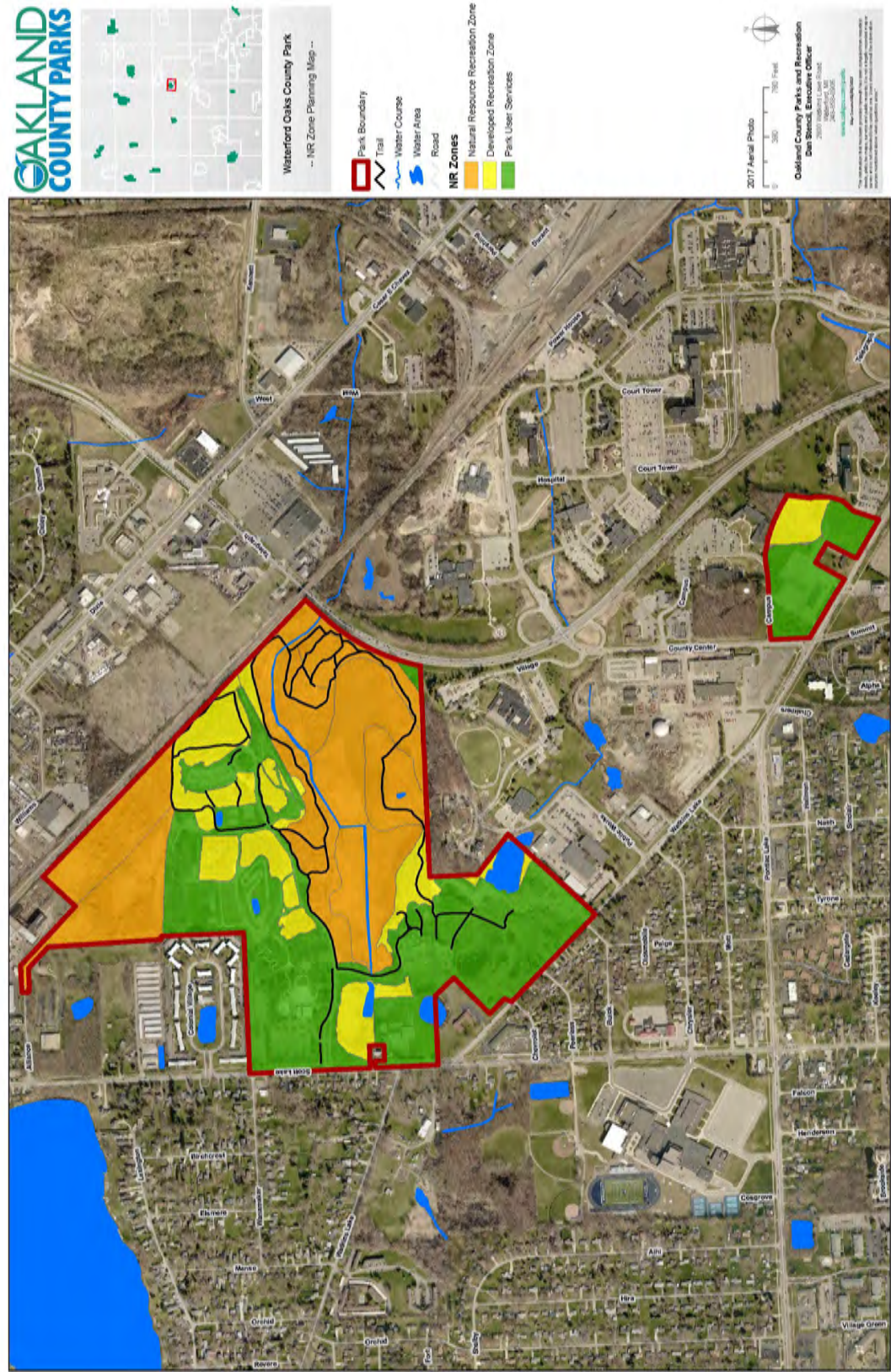
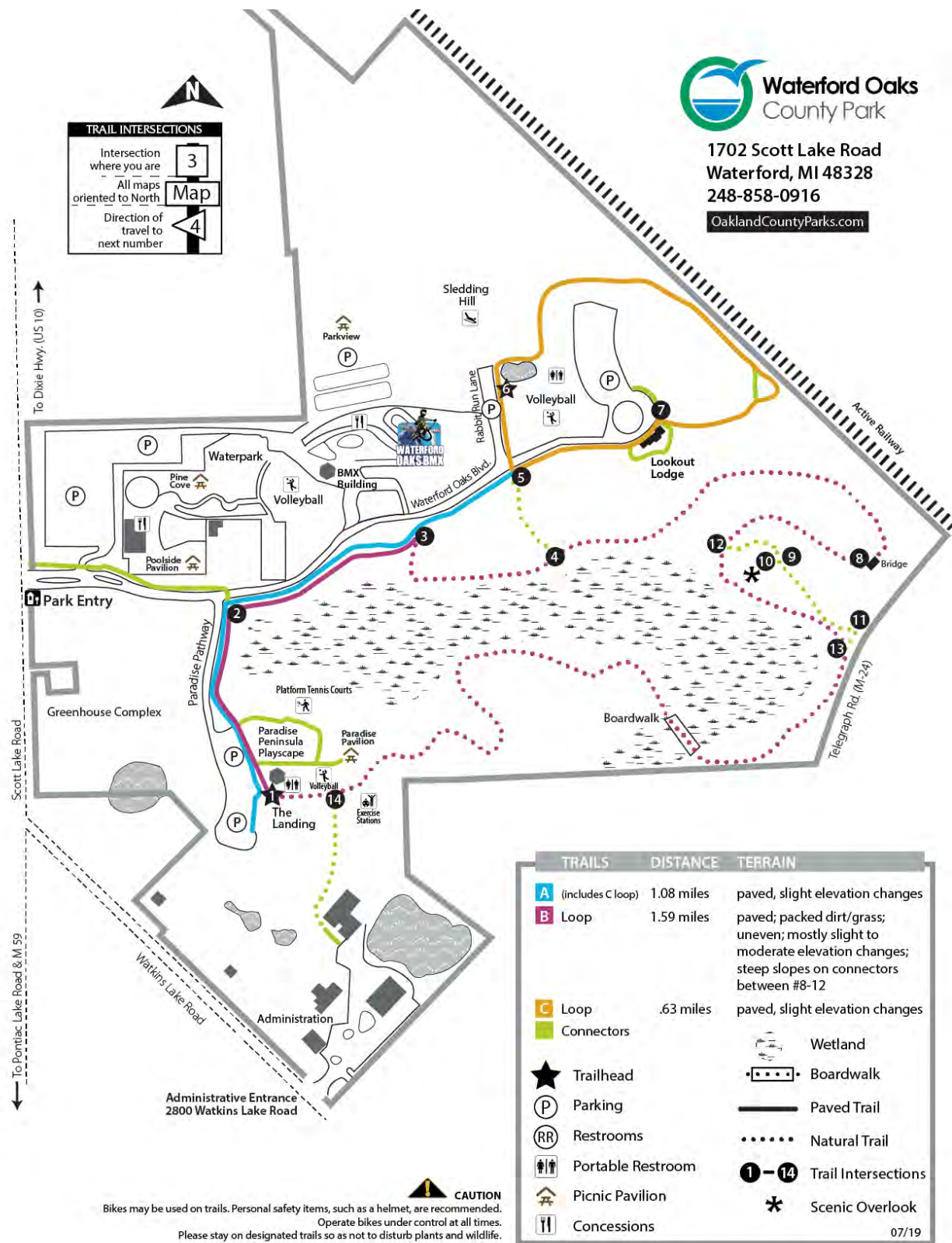


Figure GGG: Trail Map



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.



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.

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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 ²³:

- **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 will increase and promote access to healthy, nutritious food, while better supporting our 100+Michigan

²³ 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.

farmers. We will 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 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 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: Current capacity is 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. Evaluate allowing non-producer vendors; potentially allowing only 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; OCPD 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 for an outside non-profit to coordinate 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 – more than 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

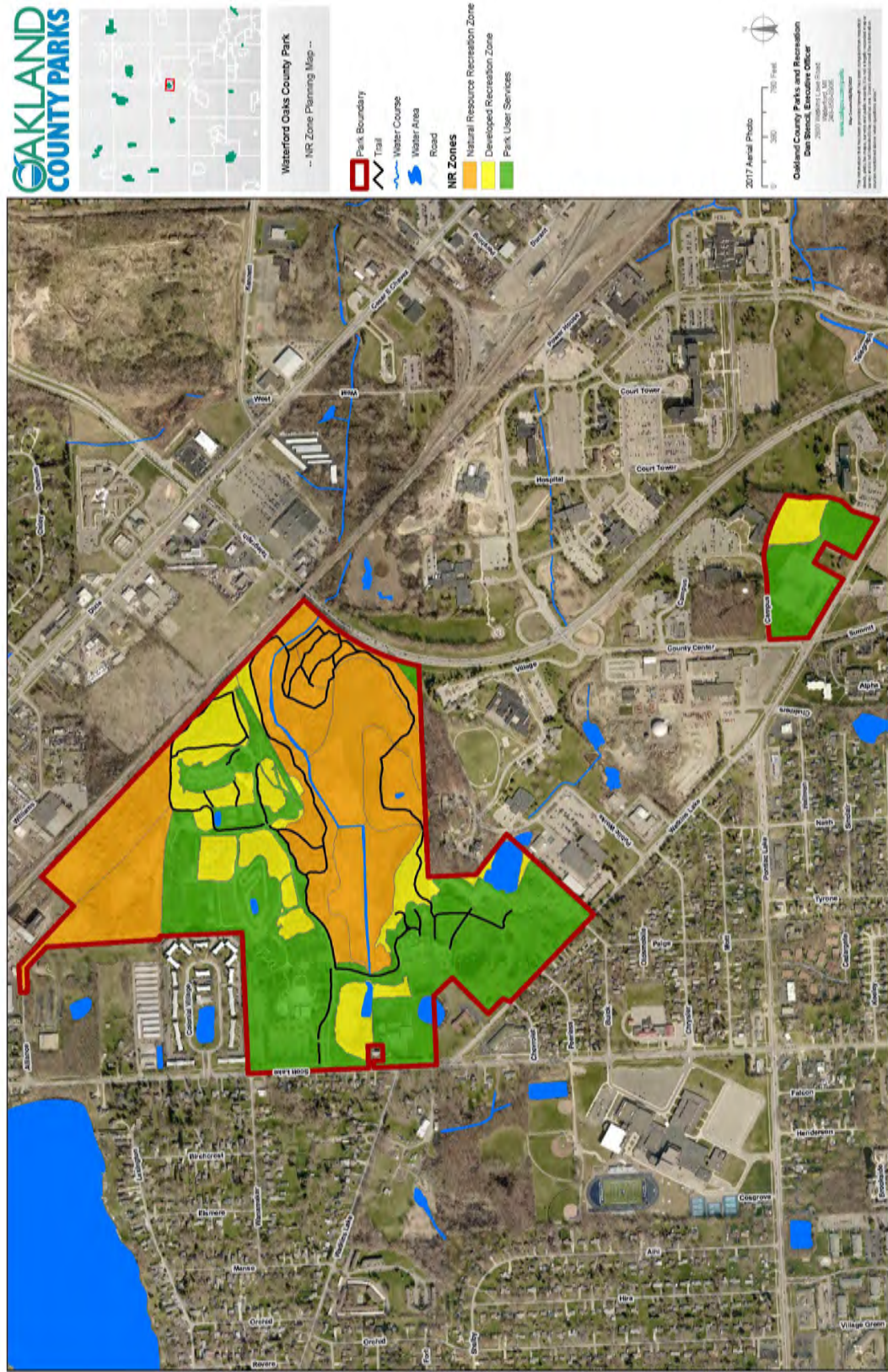
Identification of KPIs specific to this park is under development. See Core Values for the master list of KPIs.



Figure HHH: Park Aerial



Figure III: 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 OCPD in 1971. In 2016, OCPD 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 ADA 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 OCPH 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 JJJ: Park Aerial



Figure KKK: Natural Resources Zone Map

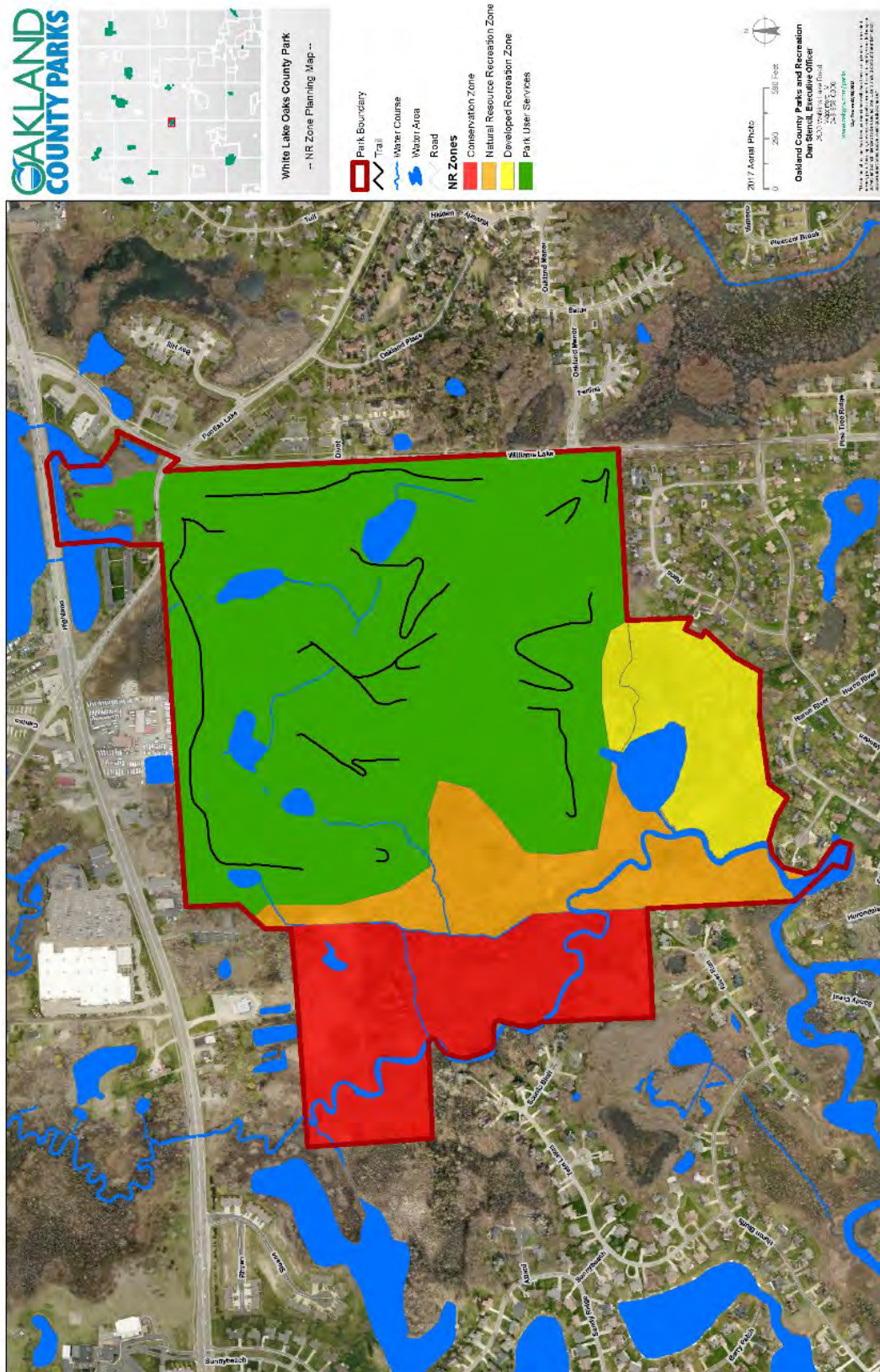


Figure LLL: Golf Course Map



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

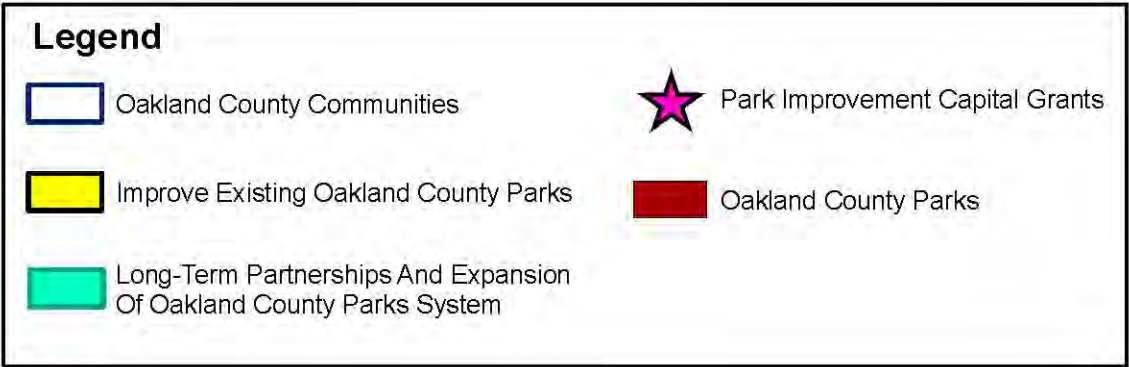
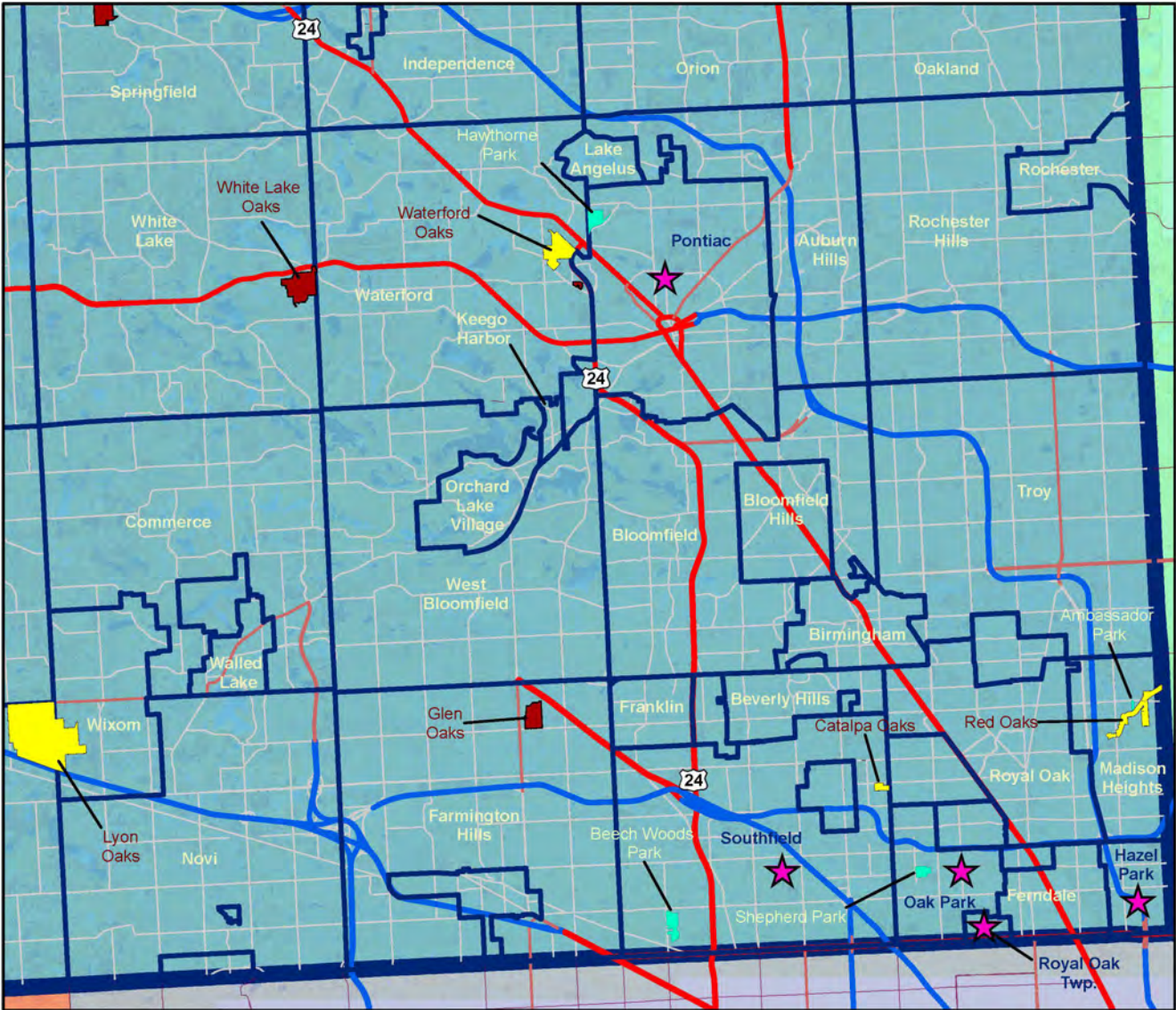


Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan

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 communities to address priority local park and outdoor recreation needs
- Rejuvenate and enhance four existing OCPR parks that serve 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 MMM: Healthy Communities project map



Improvements to Existing Oakland County Parks

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 communities that have been impacted by COVID. 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, restrooms, and a nature-themed playground. The vision for Red Oaks also includes the incorporation of Ambassador Park (owned by the city of Madison Heights) into Red Oaks County 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 may 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 and Royal Oak Township

Hazel Park

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.



Royal Oak Township

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

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.

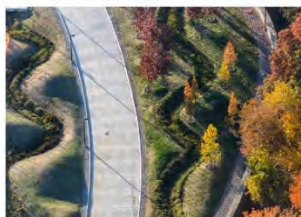
DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING: Manage data within a central repository and improve data collection and analysis through updated staff processes, replacement of equipment, and identification of new methods and sources.

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 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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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.



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 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 Pontiac 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.



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.

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.

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.



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 impacted by COVID. Focus investment on developing an open space gateway with accessible trails, seating and gathering areas, and the installation

of a nature-themed playground. Updates to existing pavilions and restrooms is under consideration.

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.



Property Acquisition: Troy Schools Property

Description and Background

LOCATION: Turtle Woods is a 70-acre parcel of property that is currently owned by Troy School District (TSD), which 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 OCPR 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 OCPR 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. Future grant funding may support trail and boardwalk development at the park.

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.

Park System Priorities

- **ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS:** Continue to implement the ADA 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.

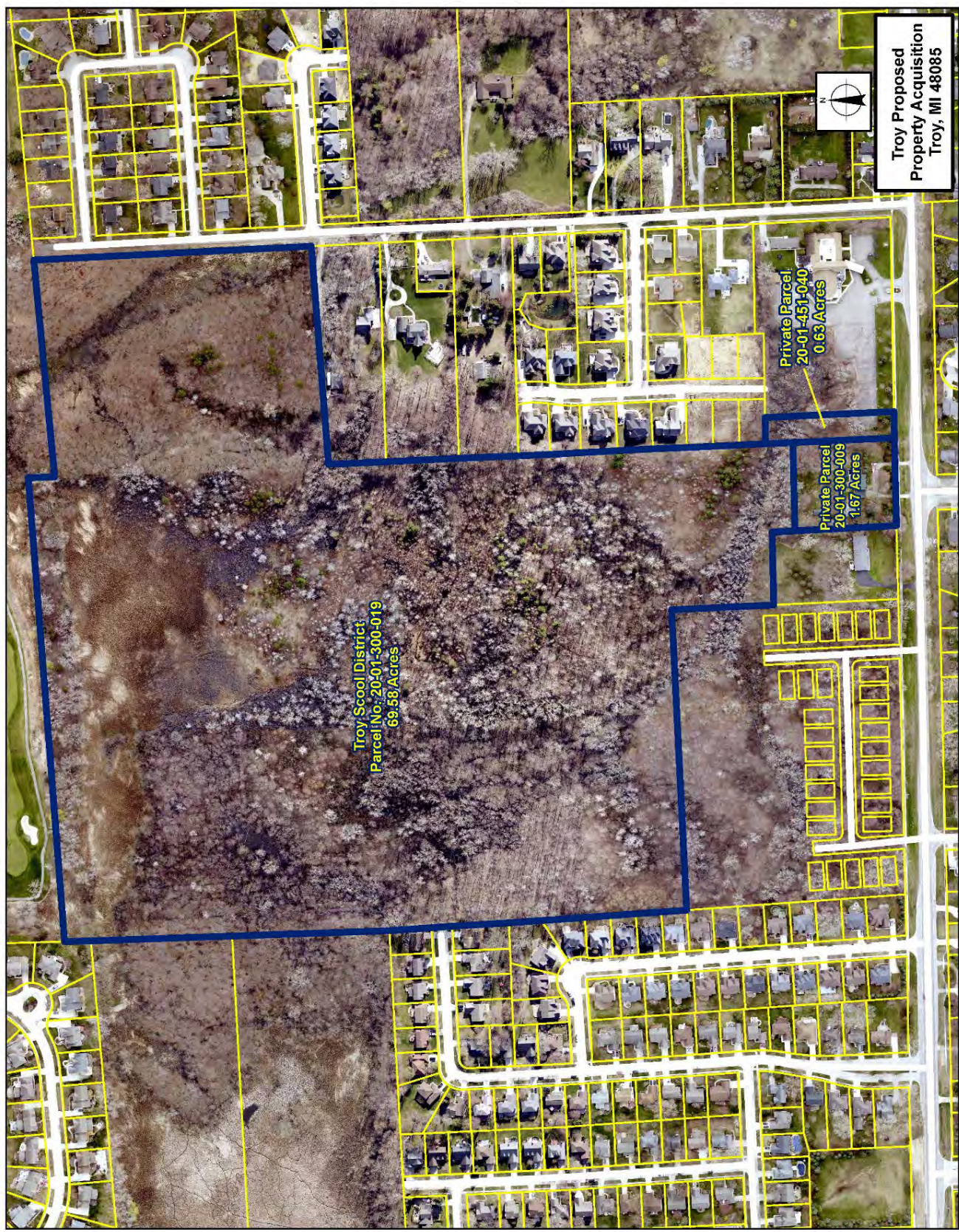
ROADS AND PARKING LOTS:

- 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.



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End Notes

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/about.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html>

³ The Home Owners' Loan Corporation was established in 1933 by the U.S Congress to refinance mortgages in default and prevent foreclosures. In 1935 they created residential security maps for 239 cities to indicate the level of security for real-estate investments. The maps were graded such as the newest areas, which were considered desirable for lending received a "Type A" grade. These areas were primarily wealthy suburbs on the outskirts of town. Still Desirable neighborhoods were given a "Type B" grade and older neighborhoods were given a "Type C" grade and considered Declining. Lastly "Type D" neighborhoods were regarded as most risky for mortgage lending. Robert K. Nelson, LaDale Winling, Richard Marciano, Nathan Connolly, et al., "Mapping Inequality," American Panorama, ed. Robert K. Nelson and Edward L. Ayers, accessed September 16, 2020, <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining>

⁴ <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/qct.html>

⁶ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

⁷ The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) supports local planning through its technical, data, and intergovernmental resources. The work SEMCOG does improves the quality of the region's water, makes the transportation system safer and more efficient, revitalizes communities, and spurs economic development. The SEMCOG region includes the counties of Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne. <https://semcog.org/>

⁸ ESRI Business Analyst is a mapping tool to access data for multiple geographies, from national to block group levels, for the entire United States. More than 2,000 variables on current-year estimates and five-year projection of US demographics, including population, households, income, age, and ethnicity; and data on education, marital status, and languages spoken. Data Sources: Esri, US Census Bureau, and American Community Survey (ACS). <https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-business-analyst/data-infographics>

^{ix} <https://health.gov/healthypeople>