

Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission

2013 Annual Report

U N T A P P E D RESOURCES



DestinationOakland.com

 **OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS**

The Annual Report focuses on five initiatives that are components of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission’s 10-year Strategic Master Plan. The initiatives are based on county-wide surveys which consistently reveal residents want: more trails for walking, hiking, biking and equestrian use; excellent customer service; green space preserved for future generations; and highly maintained parks and facilities.



RURAL
RECREATION

SUSTAINABILITY



URBAN
RECREATION



HEALTHY
LIVING



NATURAL
RESOURCES



2013 Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission
Pictured left to right: Robert E. Kostin, Pecky D. Lewis *Chairperson Emeritus*, J. David VanderVeen *Vice Chairman*, A. David Baumhart III, Christine Long, John A. Scott *Secretary*, Jim Nash, Gerald A. Fisher *Chairman*, Gary R. McGillivray and Gregory C. Jamian.

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission was established by Public Act 261 of 1965. Founded in 1966, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission is the policy making board that oversees the system’s 6,700 acres. Commissioners are tasked with allocating resources over 13 parks, and making decisions about purchasing park land, constructing facilities, preserving maintenance standards and developing innovative programs and services.

Executive Officer

When researching ways to encourage participation in recreational activities and engage more of our residents in 2013, my staff concluded that what we were doing was working, we just needed to do more of it, and partner to reach out to new populations within the county.

We've all heard the cliché "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." So rather than change what we've been doing, Oakland County Parks reached out to partners and sponsors to leverage untapped resources and provide more of the services that our residents enjoy.

This past summer we partnered with Ford Arts, Beats and Eats to sponsor a "Salute to Veterans" tribute concert and provide 2,000 free admission passes to disabled veterans and their families. We know that recreation is about getting out and enjoying time with friends and family, and we are excited to continue our relationship with Arts, Beats and Eats into the future.


A generous donation of \$20,000 from BP's Fueling Communities Program funded our new Disabled Veterans Initiative including a concert in the park and a Paralympic Sports Expo at Oakland University.

Genisys Credit Union, the Oakland County Health Department and Michigan State University Extension came aboard to sponsor programs at the Oakland County Market. Health and nutrition educators hosted demonstrations with seasonal foods, and children's programs strengthened family ties in a fun, community setting.

For the annual Fire and Ice Festival, Oakland County Parks turned a Rochester city street into a tubing hill, collaborated with the Rochester Fire Department to create an ice rink, and hosted snowshoeing and cross-country ski clinics. I'd like to extend a huge thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers who brave the Michigan winter weather each year to make this three-day event possible for more than 70,000 people—2013 was the highest turnout so far!

We were also able to reach more than 100,000 residents through our Recreation Assistance Partnership Program. The Parks Commission approved \$150,000 in 2013 to provide recreational outreach opportunities to the 62 cities, villages and townships in Oakland County through recreation departments, schools, downtown development authorities and non-profit organizations. Grants through this program are allocated for outreach such as nature education and the use of OCP's Mobile Recreation units. They also provide bus transportation for events such as senior fall color tours, nature center and waterpark visits, and for community events and historic tours.

By collaborating with partners and enhancing services, we were able to serve a record 1.8 million guests in 2013. I'd like to thank the many partners and sponsors who have worked with us over the years to help provide the best services possible to our residents and guests. I'd also like to encourage those interested in working with us to reach out to me or my staff; we'd love to hear from you.



Daniel J. Stencil, Executive Officer, CPRE

For more information about the Oakland County Parks, click on DestinationOakland.com, find us on Facebook, follow us on [Twitter@destinationoak](https://twitter.com/destinationoak) or call 888.OCPARKS.



Urban Recreation

- *Hour Detroit Magazine* featured Red Oaks Waterpark as a must-visit summer destination in “101 Things Every Detroiter Should Do”.

Bringing a market to life

Recreation isn't just about parks, it's about social interactions and making connections with the community.

This year welcomed the first cultural event at the Oakland County Market in partnership with El Centro Multicultural de La Familia and the Oakland Parks Foundation. With the generous support of local donors, participants enjoyed a festive atmosphere with traditional Aztec dance, food and drink and tried their hand at contemporary art under the watchful eye of an award-winning Mexican-American sculptor.

As the market swung into high gear with the start of “flower season”, visitors were brought together in a series of hands-on workshops that demonstrated everything from soil preparation and planting techniques to artistic flower arranging and container gardening.

Sponsored with generous support from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan State University Extension, the Oakland County Health Department and Genisys Credit Union, these market programs provided unique learning opportunities and enhanced the market experience to cultivate a love of the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of Michigan's local food culture.

It was also a landmark year for stimulating the senses of market goers. For the first time an award-winning BBQ pit master took up regular residence. A lunchtime pilgrimage of county employees can be seen every Tuesday and Thursday drawn by the smoke to the Redwood Grill. Lunch meetings are now regularly diverted to the market where it is not uncommon to see ties slung over the shoulders of folks discussing budget forecasts while sharing a table with seniors catching up over a cup of coffee.

Oakland County Parks staff worked in partnership with the Waterford Chamber of Commerce to offer an after-hours market experience with the debut of Oakland Uncorked.

Under strings of carnival lights, jazz musicians from Oakland University created ambience for guests indulging in generous samples from more than a dozen local restaurants and some of the finest wines from Michigan and around the globe.



County Market at Waterford Oaks County Park





Expanding park services in south Oakland County

A live concert and outdoor movie officially opened Catalpa Oaks County Park on a sunny Friday evening in August. “Our special-needs group had another wonderful outing thanks to you,” Barb Parker of MiPeeps Special Olympics and 4-H Club said.

Prior to Oakland County Parks assuming management of the property in 2007, it had been used for 39 years by area schools and surrounding communities for soccer, baseball and softball activities. A lagging economy and construction issues delayed its opening.

Facilities at the 25-acre park include two playgrounds; soccer, softball and baseball fields; restrooms; a concession stand; a picnic shelter; and a connector path to Greenfield Road. To enhance guest services, the South District Recreation Programs and Services office of the parks system relocated to the adjacent Oakland County Health Department building.

Catalpa’s signature event, the popular springtime Marshmallow Drop featuring marshmallows showered onto the park via helicopter, draws 7,000 people annually.

Residents make new nature center a priority

The overwhelming response and enduring loyalty of volunteers continues to confirm the value of Red Oak Nature Center. The 4th Annual Red Oaks Nature Center Spring Clean-Up took place on a rainy April Sunday with 137 neighborhood residents and scouts painting, collecting winter brush and raking leaves. They also created a woodchip walk path to allow additional park access.

Boy Scouts assisted with the removal of invasive species, including garlic mustard and grapevines, cleared massive amounts of dead wood and conducted preliminary trail clearing and spread mulch in landscaped areas. A total of 548 service hours were donated.

The event complemented the interior building refurbishing that offers visitors new experiences. Additions included a children’s campsite complete with a tent and glow-in-the-dark campfire, a ‘hibernation station’ for quiet and imaginative play and even an area to promote literacy where visitors can ‘read to the turtles.’



Rural Recreation

- The Buhl Estate at Addison Oaks County Park was named “2013 Wedding Destination” by The Knot.

- To stay on trend and bring new experiences to visitors, four yurts were built at two campgrounds. Yurts have grown in popularity in recent years for camping.

Right project in another location A transparent conversation in three acts

Act One

Directives by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder and legislature sent Oakland County Parks on a mission to find a home for off-road vehicle use in Southeast Michigan. A 100-year-old gravel pit in Oxford was identified as a potential fit.

Under the proposal, about 860 acres of a 1,200-acre parcel owned by Koenig Sand and Gravel Mine would have offered ORV, equestrian and mountain biking trails, zip lines, aerial trekking, and a nature preserve/watershed protection area. The site's 69-acre manmade lake could have provided opportunity for aquatic sports like scuba diving, cabled water skiing and boat rental.

The land would have been acquired by the MDNR and funded in part by a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, but managed and operated by Oakland County Parks.

“The DNR made acquisition of this site its number one priority for 2013,” Executive Officer Dan Stencil said. “Although the DNR manages more than 29,000 acres in Oakland County, there is no legal public ORV riding here and more than half the state's ORV owners live in southern Michigan.”

The DNR's strategic land management plan focuses on collaboration with local units of government to expand recreational opportunities, according to Stencil.

Act Two

Staff began a public engagement process with an in-depth interview with *The Oxford Leader*.

“We stressed that if the project was to be successful it needed to be developed in close cooperation with the local community and recreational stakeholders. We made seven public presentations to representative councils in the Oxford community and Addison Township which bordered the property,” Stencil said. “We even hosted a booth at the Lone Ranger Days to gather opinions from hundreds of attendees.”

The project's opportunities and challenges were discussed during public forums. Some residents welcomed the increased recreation opportunities and revenue stream into the community while others voiced concern about the impact on noise, dust and traffic.

“Our research showed good design and proper operation could make this project viable,” Supervisor-Planning Jon Noyes said. “We proposed to conduct noise testing with each of the potential users. For years, the site has been used illegally with no buffers or controls which was their frame of reference. We wanted to demonstrate what is possible when something is done right.”

Act Three

In fact, “great project – just not in the most appropriate place”, was the opinion when the Oxford Township Board voted not to support the proposed adventure recreation park.

“The project was far from a failure. We gave it our best effort and lessons were learned about how we can fulfill the unmet recreational need for ORV users. The sport's enthusiasts told us they have been asking for a place to ride locally for years and that they would rather spend their recreation dollars close to home where it can benefit the communities in which they live and work,” Stencil said.

The parks system and DNR are continuing to consider other locations as well as joint initiatives that will bring the sport to Southeast Michigan.

When history and recreation collide magic happens

In Oakland County, residents are surrounded by rich history beneath some of the best places to recreate.

Oakland County Parks partnered with the Oakland County Historical Society, the Oakland Parks Foundation History Corps, the Waterford Schools History Center, and Oakland University to approach former Detroit Tigers player and donor of the Ellis Barn for permission to conduct an archeological dig at the original site of the Ellis Farmhouse off Dixie Highway in Clarkston. Guided by historical photographs, trained volunteers excavated the foundation of an old ice house that the Ellis Family had filled with refuse after the introduction of electric refrigeration in the early 1900s.

During an intensive three-day dig, volunteers removed more than 5,000 artifacts ranging from old leather shoes and European porcelain to oil lamps and the heads of china dolls. Although the process of cleaning, documenting, and restoring the artifacts will likely take years, the story they tell of the lifestyle of a prosperous Oakland County family adds to the rich history of the Ellis Barn.

The ice house artifacts and the associated research into the Ellis Family featured prominently in the 2013 Designer Showcase for the





Clarkston chapter of SCAMP (a non-profit camp for kids with special needs) at the Ellis Farmhouse. The showcase, which raises funds by charging admission to a historic home decorated by local designers, highlighted equestrian heritage in Oakland County and the role played by the Ellis Family in the creation of the Dixie Saddle Club and local riding competitions, many of which continue today at the Oakland County fairgrounds at Springfield Oaks County Park.

Multi-use connector trail caters to residents’ favorite activities

In response to residents consistently ranking trails as their number one recreation priority, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission dedicated the new 2.4-mile Addison Oaks Connector Trail in June.

The connector consists of two 10-foot-wide boardwalks totaling 1,276 feet along wetlands and an 8-foot-wide aggregate trail with grass shoulders. It runs adjacent to portions of West Romeo Road and through fields and forests, connecting to existing trails.

The connector provides direct access to trails at Cranberry Lake Park in Oakland Township and indirect access to trails at the nearby Bald Mountain State Recreation Area. Access gates along Lake George, West Romeo and Walker roads allow non-motorized access for pedestrians, mountain bikers and equestrians. Campers and visitors at Addison Oaks now enjoy expanded recreation opportunities within and outside the park.

Equestrians were invited to “test drive” existing boardwalks at another park and provide input on making access more horse friendly. Their feedback was used to develop shared pathways with wide surfaces, large clearings at perpendicular intersections, higher railings and the addition of mounting blocks.

The connector trail increased the parks system’s total trails to more than 65 miles as part of the Oakland County Pathways Concept of linked pathways and greenways throughout Oakland County and Southeast Michigan.

With expanded trail use, the first ever Camp and Ride equestrian-only camping event was hosted in October. “We were thrilled with how beautiful the park and trails were. The cabins were big hit and the park staff was friendly and accommodating,” Tracy Evans, Addison Oaks Trail Riders, said. “We had riders from Dexter and Ann Arbor and would love to host an event next year that will bring riders from even further away!”

The connector trail project was funded in part by a \$228,800 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Grant; Oakland County Parks and Recreation funded the remaining portion.

Grant bridges boardwalk dreams

Enduring winter conditions, staff constructed boardwalks and trails to create greater visitor access at two undeveloped sites—Highland Oaks and Rose Oaks county parks.

Funding the project was a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Grant of \$308,000 with an additional \$392,000 contributed by the parks system’s capital improvement program.

Universally accessible boardwalks, fishing docks and wildlife viewing platforms were built to connect and expand trail systems.

“This is an example of utilizing the strengths and talents of our employees to provide great customer service and facilities for visitors to enjoy,” Architectural Engineer II Zach Crane said.

During the next three years additional trail improvements will be made at Red Oaks and Lyon Oaks county parks as part of the same MNRTF development grant.

Spring Lake at
Highland Oaks County Park

Natural Resources and Environment



workshop prior to the count. Expert Dwayne Badgero presented key components to identifying skippers and larger species.

Butterflies are observed at sites within a 30-mile field radius to support butterfly conservation. Observers spent more than six hours capturing, identifying and then releasing the butterflies. New to the count this year was the Black Swallowtail Butterfly whose larvae feed on wild carrots. There were new high counts of Mustard White, Cabbage White, Edward’s Hairstreak and Appalachian Brown butterflies.

Information obtained at the event is sent to the NABA and then published in a report. The annual reports provide the geographical distribution and populations of the species counted; comparisons of the results over time; butterfly population changes and the effects of weather and habitat change on North American butterflies.

Chasing butterflies nets ecological data

Oakland County Parks Natural Resources Education staff, butterfly experts and volunteers have participated in the North American Butterfly Association annual count since 2007. This season’s butterfly observation identified 31 species, counted 189 butterflies and discovered 200 butterfly larvae.

A Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education mini grant partially funded a butterfly count and identification



Park doubles as nature’s classroom

Waterford Mott High School Honors Biology teacher Connie Gannon literally sends her students “up a creek”.

Twice a year, Gannon’s students visit Waterford Oaks County Park as part of the Clinton River Watershed Council’s Stream Leaders Program. They sample water from Pontiac Creek to perform physical and chemical tests that check for various environmental indicators. They concluded the park has a thriving wetland ecosystem with abundant plant and animal life.

“The best part of this partnership with the parks system is that my students get outdoors in nature and do field work,” Gannon said. “It’s exciting to see my students with their heads bent over magnifying glasses looking for invertebrates.”

The parks system provides water-testing kits and mentoring by Parks Education Resource Specialist Kathleen Dougherty. The field work is also supported by education staff members from the Clinton River Watershed Council.

More than 1.4 million people live in 62 cities, villages and townships in the watershed. The section students monitor is part of the 70-square-mile Clinton River Main, whose primary use is residential, commercial, and industrial.

Knee deep in nature are Mott students Valerie Taylor, Zhane Gamble and Leticia Salaiz.



Residents assist in protecting resources

As part of continued conservation efforts, the parks system creates an educational and engaging environment in which residents can become “citizen scientists” assisting with invasive species removal, nest box monitoring, wildlife counts and tagging.

Connections are facilitated across the region, among businesses, organizations, government, and educational institutions such as Michigan State University, to strengthen the parks system’s core mission to steward the environment. As a result, partnerships with national organizations often reap grants that bring in experts and provide training workshops.

Citizens are trained on which information to collect and then material is entered into a database to be accessed by scientists for further research and other uses.

Information gained about birds, butterflies, science and conservation is applied to scientific studies. Information can be collected over small and large geographical areas and timespans.

- Managed hunts resulted in 730 pounds of venison, valued at \$3,000, donated to Gleaners Food Bank as part of the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger Program. The hunts help reduce herd densities for healthy park ecosystems.



Sandhill cranes at
Lyon Oaks County Park

Healthy Living



Follow the sunflowers; healthy living is a SNAP

In 2010, Oakland County Parks commissioned a study by Michigan State University and the Michigan Farmers Market Association to evaluate the Oakland County Market and make recommendations for its operation. After a detailed survey of both shoppers and vendors, MSU concluded that if the market was to continue to be relevant in Oakland County (with the recent increase in small community markets) success would be dependent on education/information, access, and savvy small businesses.

With the help of a \$50,000 grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, OCP has been investing in the long-term sustainability of the market by increasing promotional signage and advertising, hosting special events to raise awareness, conducting cooking demonstrations in partnership with MSU Extension nutrition educators and the Oakland County Health Department, and even providing scholarships for business classes for up-and-coming market vendors.

One of the most exciting ways the grant has helped implement the recommendations is the installation of the EBT/SNAP card reader and use of “Market Tokens” which allow low-income patrons to apply their government assistance program dollars to the purchase of fresh local produce.

During the 2010 study, very few market patrons identified as living in Pontiac despite the relative close proximity of the market to the city limits and its location on a SMART transit route. MSU suggested that through a combination of increased outreach to lower income residents, convenient access to EBT/SNAP benefits, and the promotion of public transit options it would be possible to greatly increase market attendance and enhance the overall benefit that the market can offer to the community’s health.

The literal “vehicle” to accomplish this goal was to brand an entire bus route as a pathway to the Oakland County Market.

The team developed a sunflower icon they felt would represent the spirit of public markets and be easily recognizable from a distance. Signs emblazoned with the sunflower were installed at all 73 stops along the 752 bus route out of Pontiac and colorful ads were placed in all 85 Oakland County SMART buses to call attention to the market, OCP’s participation in the EBT/SNAP program and DestinationOakland.com.

SMART will evaluate the branding of the route 752 as a test run of the sunflower signs. Talks are underway to consider the use of the icon to identify not only the location of the county market on SMART bus maps but all public markets across the SMART coverage area.

“If this collaboration is successful, residents and visitors from across southeast Michigan will look for the sunflower to lead the way to not only the best of Michigan agriculture but also to the people, places, and culture that gives the community its real flavor,” Supervisor–Planning Jon Noyes said.



Zucchini blossoms are edible too!

- Oakland County Parks grew 8,030 pounds of squash in its community service garden in partnership with Oakland County Community Corrections.

- In 10 years as a Count Your Steps Partner, Oakland County Parks has provided 18,000 waterpark passes to support the program. More than 188,000 students who walked 17 billion steps have participated since the program's inception.



\$20,000 donation funds disabled veterans programs

Oakland County Parks received a \$20,000 donation from the BP Fueling Communities Program to fund a new Disabled Veterans Sports Initiative. The check was presented by Bob Barrick and his daughter Trish Barrick, owner of BP branded marketer Barrick Enterprises, Inc. prior to a Nashville in the Neighborhood concert hosted by Detroit's Country WYCD.

The donation helped fund the U.S. Paralympic Experience Sports Expo at Oakland University. The free event for veterans and individuals with disabilities featured hands-on sports clinics; team exhibitions; and resources for disabled veterans.

Sports clinics and other activities that will be funded in 2014 include fishing; archery; swimming; sit volleyball; and track and field.

The BP Fueling Communities Program was created as a means of giving back to local communities to support education, health, youth, food and housing.

Providing pet care via mobile program

Visitors of the four-legged kind were kept healthier thanks to a partnership with All About Animals Rescue offering vaccination clinics in the parks.

"We served a total of 1,273 dogs and cats on 10 different Saturdays," Laurie Stasiak, recreation program supervisor, said. "Vaccinations were given at discounted prices plus heartworm tests and micro chipping were offered."

At spring clinics, staff from the Oakland County Pet Adoption Center provided dog licenses for purchase.

"Collaboration with Oakland County Parks has been paramount in reaching the neediest of county residents and the grateful responses have been overwhelming," Catherine Garrett, director of Development and Marketing for All About Animals Rescue, said. "We can target the spay/neuter message and the kind of preventative care the traveling wellness clinics provide makes for a safer community."

Sustainability



Residents give direct input to park planning efforts

It was a landmark year for planning at Oakland County Parks. Restructuring the planning process to become more integrated will help OCP be a better steward of tax funds and maximize benefits to the taxpayer.

“Integrated planning brings multiple aspects together: organizational values, operational needs, community planning, public need, target market, relevant partners, grant opportunities and more,” Planning Project Advisor Donna Folland said. “What was once a sequential process of master planning, business plan development, grant management, partner development and project development and implementation has now become a collaborative effort to strategically choose and implement the park projects that will best serve residents.”

Three key milestones for integrated planning were adoption of the comprehensive Recreation Plan, development of a Service Portfolio, and continued improvements in the Park Master Planning and Public Engagement processes.

Recreation Plan

The Oakland County Parks Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2013–2018 (“Recreation Plan”) was adopted by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission and approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources this past spring. The Recreation Plan supports OCP’s sustainability by providing philosophies that guide how OCP plans parks and facilities, engages the public, provides universal access, and protects natural resources. These philosophies are aligned with national standards.

“The Recreation Plan also launched the development of a dashboard, which tracks the outcomes of implementation of planning efforts and will help decision-makers evaluate performance and make adjustments,” Folland said.

Service Portfolio

In early 2013, parks commissioners and staff worked with GreenPlay, LLC, a national parks and recreation consulting agency, to develop a Service Portfolio. This tool incorporates the needs of residents, as well as current recreation trends, market analyses and cost recovery.

“The first phase involved getting public input on ‘who benefits’ from the services we provide. This will ensure those services with the broadest community benefit are those that will continue to be supported with tax revenue,” Business Development Representative Melissa Prowse said. “Services that have a more individualized benefit should not be tax-supported, but rather should meet cost recovery goals through other means, such as fees and charges.”

The second phase took into account not only the newly developed cost recovery goals, but also OCP’s place in the market, competition, demand and current recreation trends.

Park Master Planning and Public Engagement

The Service Portfolio is the launching pad for park master planning. The master planning process starts by evaluating services currently offered at each park, and the physical assets (land, natural resources, buildings and infrastructure), and the human capital (employees, volunteers and contractors) who support those services.

“An exciting development is a new three-phase public engagement process that integrates input from park users and stakeholders throughout the entire master planning process,” Folland said.

This process was developed with the assistance of consultants from University of Michigan–Flint and aligned with the standards of the International Association for Public Participation. By framing park master planning around the Service Portfolio and a robust public engagement process, OCP ensures the resulting plan is focused on its mission to provide “quality recreational experiences that encourage healthy lifestyles, support economic prosperity, and promote the protection of natural resources”.



- Two initiatives to enhance guest services and cut staff costs were put in place. Electronic pay stations were installed at Lyon Oaks and Orion Oaks dog parks to allow visitors to purchase a daily permit onsite anytime and automatic gates at two campgrounds allow only overnight campers to enter the park after hours.

The rebirth of a Foundation

In 1982, the Oakland Parks Foundation was created as a private, non-profit organization for the purpose of raising money to support the continued development and programming of the Oakland County Parks. Through the generous support of donors and the efforts of volunteers, local businesses, and community leaders, the foundation was successful in funding a number of annual recreation programs, special events, and unique development projects.

Notable successes include the construction of the Cohn Amphitheater at the Wint Nature Center and the restoration of the historic Victorian style Buhl Milk House at the Addison Oaks Buhl Estate. The foundation was also instrumental in funding and guiding the 1989 Fundraising Planning Study for Orion Oaks, the first feasibility study on the use of capital campaigns to fund major development of recreational amenities in Oakland County.

In 1990, the Oakland Parks Foundation established the Oakland Land Conservancy for the purpose of setting aside land in a natural state. The conservancy later received separate 501(c)3 status and, because of its growing influence in Southeast Michigan, has changed its name to the Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy.

The foundation was inactive from 1994–2010 then Noreen Keating was named as its Executive Director and its federal tax exempt status restored.

The foundation has secured a new office in the historic Ernst Farmhouse, coordinated the first evening cultural event at the Oakland County Market, created the History Corps to support the preservation and interpretation of historical resources at the Oakland County Parks, and supported the archeological dig of the Ellis Farmstead Ice House.

Future efforts will continue to focus on leveraging public and private resources to improve access to recreational opportunities. Particular attention is being paid to projects that utilize historical preservation, gardening, and volunteerism.



Oakland Parks
FOUNDATION



Milk House at Addison Oaks

For more information about the Oakland Parks Foundation, visit www.oaklandparksfoundation.org

Ernst Barn at Waterford Oaks



Parks

ADDISON OAKS
W. Romeo Rd., Leonard
248.693.2432
Conference Center: 248.693.8305

CATALPA OAKS
Greenfield Rd., Southfield
For information–248.424.7081

GROVELAND OAKS
Dixie Highway, Holly
248.634.9811

HIGHLAND OAKS
Milford Rd., Highland
For information–248.858.0906

INDEPENDENCE OAKS
Sashabaw Road, Clarkston
Park: 248.625.0877
Nature Center: 248.625.6473

LYON OAKS
Pontiac Trail, Wixom
For information–248.858.0906

ORION OAKS
Clarkston Road, Lake Orion
For information–248.858.0906

RED OAKS
13 Mile Road, Madison Heights
Nature Center–248.585.0100
Waterpark–248.858.0906

ROSE OAKS
Fish Lake Rd., Holly
For information–248.858.0906

SPRINGFIELD OAKS
Andersonville Rd., Davisburg
248.634.7899

WATERFORD OAKS
Activity Center
Watkins Lake Road, Waterford
248.858.0913
Waterpark
Scott Lake Road, Waterford
For information–248.858.0906

Golf Courses

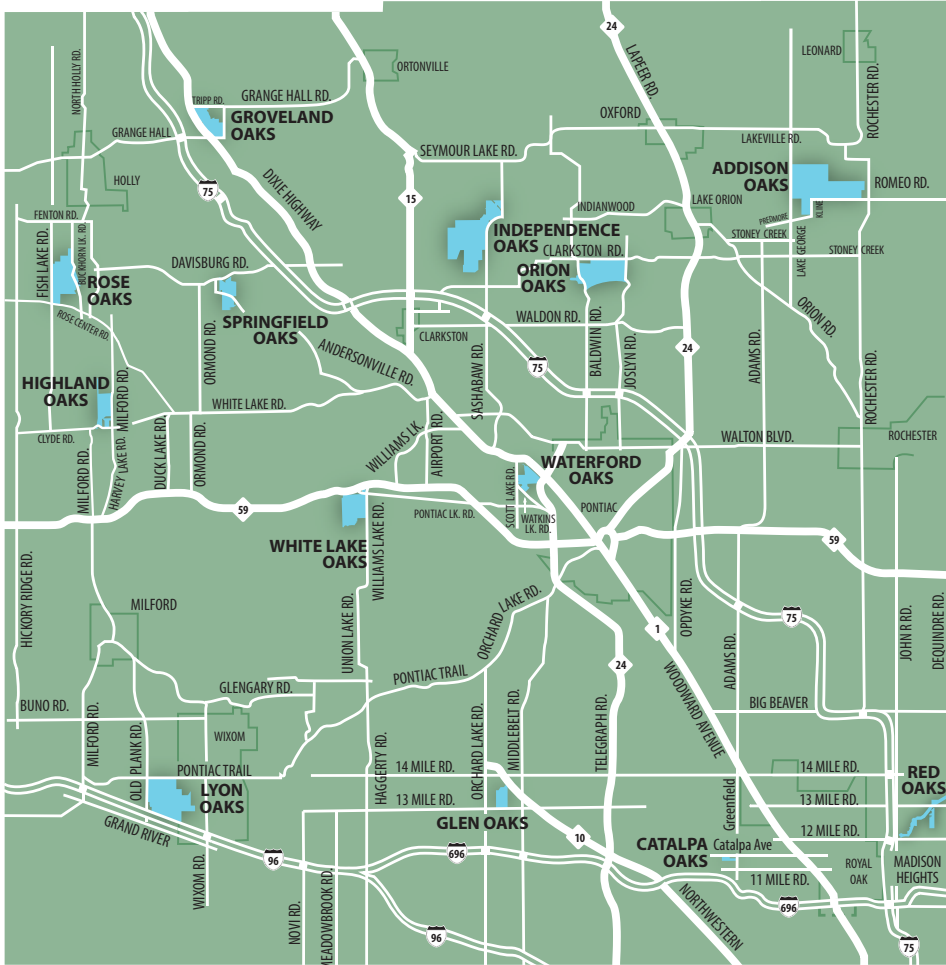
GLEN OAKS
13 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills
248.851.8356

LYON OAKS
Pontiac Trail, Wixom
248.437.1488

RED OAKS
John R, Madison Heights
248.541.5030

SPRINGFIELD OAKS
Andersonville Rd., Davisburg
248.625.2540

WHITE LAKE OAKS
Williams Lake Rd., White Lake
248.698.2700



Commissioners

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John A. Scott, Secretary
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A. David Baumhart III
Gregory C. Jamian
Robert E. Kostin
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Gary R. McGillivray
Jim Nash

Daniel J. Stencil, Executive Officer

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Awards & Recognition

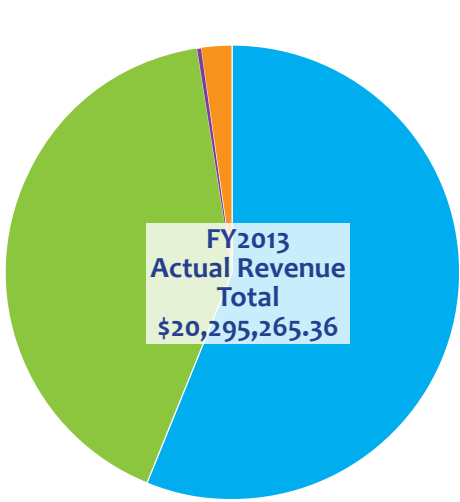
- Brittany Bird, Michigan Recreation and Park Association Park Resources Leadership Award
- Jeremy Brown, Market Manager Certification through the Michigan Farm Market Association
- Kathleen Dougherty, Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education Julian Smith Award
- Jon Kipke, inducted into the 2013 MRPA Hall of Fame
- Lifeguards Gold Medal – Ellis and Associates, International Aquatic Safety & Risk Management Consultants



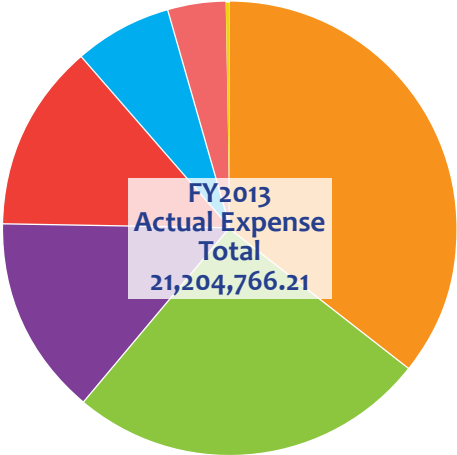
- Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education Volunteer Awards Joe Gall and Theresa Celusta
- MRPA Community Service Award winners: Eagle Scout Evan Reich, Red Oaks Nature Center volunteers and Steve Stroud of The Birdfeeder
- MRPA Innovative Park Resources Award for the Ernst Barn
- Michigan State University Extension–Oakland County 4-H Youth Development Friend of 4-H for Outstanding Support of the annual Oakland County Fair
- National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials: OCParks Express–Removing Barriers Initiative Award
- NACPRO: Red Oaks County Park – Parks and Recreation Facility – Class II Award for Best Facility Design

Testimonials

- "We played four courses in two days and by far, White Lake Oaks was the best! Unbelievable what shape your course is in and how nice the greens were—keep up the good work." Gary Cuddington, Howell
- "The market was one of the destinations I enjoyed when running errands with my mom on Saturday mornings. Now, 40 years later it's still one of my favorite places." Kimberly Moses, Waterford
- "We received many compliments from guests at our daughter's wedding at Addison Oaks. The grounds, facilities and staff were all amazing. The food was beautifully displayed and tasted delicious." Gary Mason, Dryden
- "I frequent Orion Oaks and Independence Oaks at least 4–5 times a week. I have three dogs and the variety of habitat and trails always provides me with a pleasant walking/ hiking experience. This week I was overwhelmed by the sheer beauty of the hardwoods and hills at this time of year. I feel truly blessed to be surrounded by such beauty and all within less than 10 miles of my home. Thank you for taking such good care of these properties. I am a thankful patron!" Jennifer LeMerise Bickel, Oxford
- Of her experience monitoring nest boxes, Volunteer Laura Bringman said, "When making my way to the nest boxes I feel like I'm walking in a postcard. Orion Oaks is so beautiful."



| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Taxes | \$11,398,103.55 | 56.2% |
| Charges for Services | \$8,402,115.50 | 41.4% |
| Investment Income | \$81,801.97 | 0.4% |
| Other | \$413,244.34 | 2.0% |



| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-------|
| Salaries | \$7,510,532.32 | 35.4% |
| Contractual Services | \$5,551,030.89 | 25.2% |
| Depreciation | \$2,969,344.20 | 14.0% |
| Fringe Benefits | \$2,779,971.66 | 13.1% |
| Internal Services | \$1,444,555.91 | 6.8% |
| Commodities | \$926,290.23 | 4.4% |
| Transfers | \$23,051.00 | 0.1% |

White Lake Oaks Golf Course



- Staff credits
- Project Manager:
Desiree Stanfield
- Graphic Design:
Melissa Wagner
- Writing:
Donna Folland
Jon Noyes
Melissa Prowse
Meagan Shafto
Desiree Stanfield
- Print Production:
Mary Zednik

Photography:
Patricia Lindsay

- Photo Credits
- Front Cover:
Tom Hughes
Springfield Oaks Golf Course, hole #3
- Natural Resources and Environment:
Kathleen Dougherty (girls in stream)
Mike Dougherty (butterfly count)
- Printed with vegetable-based inks on recycled paper by Dearborn Lithograph

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission provides equal opportunity employment, programs and activities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, marital status or handicap.

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and make reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities.

The owner of a \$175,000 home pays \$21 annually to support Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

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Air Fair at Groveland Oaks County Park

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 **OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS**