

NEWS RELEASE

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Oakland County Parks, City of Southfield ask residents for input on Beech Woods Park rejuvenation plan

Public invited to participate in shaping future of park via online survey or at Southfield's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 5

PONTIAC, MI – Nov. 30, 2023 – Oakland County Parks (OCP) and the City of Southfield invite residents of the city and the surrounding area to provide their input regarding the future of Beech Woods Park by completing an online survey (bit.ly/Beech_Woods_Survey) and by visiting OCP staff at Southfield's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 5 to provide their feedback in person. The event will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the Southfield Municipal Campus front lawn (26000 Evergreen Road in Southfield).

"We are excited to talk with residents about how we can shape this new park to offer the recreation experiences they feel will add the most value to their lives and community," OCP Chief of Planning Donna Folland said. "We have already had an enthusiastic response to our survey and are looking forward to chatting with many more folks at the Tree Lighting Ceremony next week."

Earlier this month, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners granted final approval for a partnership between OCP and the City of Southfield aimed at improving recreational opportunities for residents of Southfield and the surrounding communities. Under the terms of the agreement:

- OCP will repurpose a 39-acre portion of the former Beech Woods Golf Course as a nature-centered public park to be named Southfield Oaks County Park, which will be located adjacent to the City of Southfield's Beech Woods Park.
- A total investment of more than \$7 million will be made at Beech Woods Park and Southfield Oaks County Park within three years to enhance recreational amenities and restore natural features utilizing a combination of federal, county and city funding sources.

The partnership was made possible under Oakland County's Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan, a \$20.2 million program aimed at enhancing park and recreation opportunities in communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds matched by OCP.

Beech Woods Park is home to the city's popular Recreation Center, driving range, tennis

and volleyball courts and a universally accessible playscape. Planned improvements include the construction of a new playscape, four season restroom facilities, picnic shelters and improved pedestrian walkways. The county will contribute \$1.5 million to support these projects.

For more information about Oakland County Parks, visit OaklandCountyParks.com. Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).