



NEWS RELEASE

Desiree Stanfield
Communications & Marketing Supervisor
248-705-4108 | stanfieldd@oakgov.com

Oakland County Parks launches three Agents of Discovery missions

Augmented reality game combines nature, technology to create fun learning experiences

OAKLAND COUNTY – May 14, 2024 – Become more engaged with nature thanks to Agents of Discovery, an augmented reality game now available at Oakland County Parks. This free, educational app is designed to ignite curiosity and encourage people of all ages to discover unique outdoor experiences close to home.

Participants transform into Agent Oakie, and work to solve a myriad of challenges during their visit. Using the app's geo-location services, the challenges are posed to participants at appropriate times as they walk along the trail. Upon mission completion, participants earn USBees, which are in-game reward points.

"This is a fun and exciting way to explore the parks in person, bringing together elements of the outdoors with the power of technology," Recreation Program Coordinator Libby Soncrainte said. "Oakland County Parks offers one of the only opportunities in the state of Michigan to play Agents of Discovery, which has proven to be wildly popular around the country."

Two different missions are currently available, one on the All Visitors Loop at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston and one at Red Oaks Nature Center in Madison Heights. A third mission will debut during the O.A.K. in the Hills event on May 18 in Rochester Hills.

To get started:

- Download the free Agents of Discovery app from the Google Play store or Apple App store. Tip: Download the app while connected to WiFi before coming to the park to save time and data. The game can be played without WiFi on location
- Select the Missions button and search through the available missions
- Choose Agent Oakie, who will share a greeting and explain the current mission. Upon completion of this step, USBees (in-game points) will be earned and players will be eligible for a reward (this varies depending on the mission)
- Have fun exploring the parks in a whole new way

The app tracks the number of missions completed, USBees collected and time spent in the app for those who create an account. Participants can easily review the progress they've made, see completed missions and track badges earned.

“With summer just around the corner, this is a wonderful way for children, along with their caregivers, parents and grandparents, to immerse themselves in an entertaining learning activity that is sure to cultivate a greater appreciation for nature. For adults, the Agents of Discovery app offers a variety of strategies to slow down and take in the sights and sounds all around,” Soncrainte said.

Agents of Discovery is easy for people of all ages and abilities to use. There is a text-to-speech feature that can be opened in the app’s settings as well as Spanish translation available.

The missions at Red Oaks Nature Center and along All Visitors Loop are paved, and most visitors find them easy to traverse. Try out Agents of Discovery by visiting Oakland County Parks at the O.A.K. in the Hills Outdoor Adventure Kickoff from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. May 18 at Spencer Park. All ages are welcome and admission is free.

New missions will be introduced each season at various Oakland County Parks, providing opportunities to interact with nature throughout all four seasons.

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