



## NEWS RELEASE

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

### **Oakland County Parks to participate in free fishing, ORV weekend** *Activities include a Fishing Derby at Pontiac Oaks County Park*

**OAKLAND COUNTY – May 31, 2024** – The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is hosting a Free ORV and Summer Free Fishing Weekend June 8-9 and there are plenty of opportunities to join in these fun activities at Oakland County Parks (OCP).

As part of the Summer Free Fishing Weekend, a Fishing Derby will be held from 9 a.m.-noon June 8 at Pontiac Oaks County Park in Pontiac. During this catch-and-release event, there will be prizes and goody bags for registrants.

"The Fishing Derby promises to be a lot of fun and Pontiac Oaks has a beautiful new pier. We're looking forward to introducing fishing to people who have never tried it before as well as welcoming experienced anglers to the park," Recreation Program Coordinator Nathaniel Brech said. "Participants can bring their own equipment to use or borrow some of ours."

Since this is a free fishing weekend, fishing licenses are not required, but there is a \$5/person program fee. The event will be held rain or shine and all ages and abilities are welcome. Adaptive fishing equipment will be available for individuals with disabilities. Preregister by calling 248-858-0916 during business hours.

In addition, Oakland County Parks offers close-to-home fishing at seven parks: Addison Oaks near Rochester, Groveland Oaks in Holly, Highland Oaks in Highland, Independence Oaks in Clarkston, Orion Oaks in Orion, Pontiac Oaks in Pontiac and Rose Oaks in Holly. Participants will need a daily park pass or a vehicle permit for entry at these parks except for Pontiac Oaks.

Addison Oaks County Park has two fishing lakes that offer an array of fish for anglers to enjoy, Park Supervisor Kate Pardy said.

"Our regulars love the wonderful fishing at Addison Oaks," she said. "Adams Lake is the smaller lake and offers excellent shore fishing opportunities along with fishing from our boardwalk. Buhl Lake is our 34-acre larger lake that offers both shore fishing and a boat launch for anglers who bring their own kayaks or boats. We do allow electric trolling motors on Buhl Lake."

For those who do not have a kayak or boat, the park's boathouse is open from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday.

Independence Oaks-North's Upper Bushman Lake is designated catch-and-release-only by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The designation means that anglers can catch fish but must release them back into the lake to support the high-quality fishery.

It is the first and only public access lake in southeast Michigan with the catch-and-release-only special designation and only one of only seven catch-and-release-for-all-fish-species lakes in Michigan. Large-mouth Bass, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Bullhead, Northern Pike and Crappie are plentiful in the lake.

View a Map of Fishing Opportunities in Oakland County at [OaklandCountyParks.com](https://oaklandcountyparks.com).

Holly Oaks ORV Park is also participating in the Free ORV Weekend. During these two days, Michigan residents and visitors can legally ride DNR-designated routes and trails without purchasing an ORV license or trail permit. The entrance fee for Holly Oaks ORV Park has been waived by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Although fees are waived, all ORV rules and laws still apply. This includes that all vehicles entering the park must have a 10' orange flag securely mounted and all ORV riders and drivers must also sign a waiver form before entry. No vehicles or rented vehicles are provided/available; guests must bring/provide their own off-road vehicle.

Holly Oaks offers nearly 200 acres of off-riding fun with old mining roads and extreme terrain that ranges from mud flats to 40' vertical cliffs, including 62 acres utilized as a scramble area. The park is situated in Groveland and Holly townships near Groveland Oaks County Park and Campground on Dixie Highway. It is operated by Oakland County Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division. It is open to all types of ORVs, including full-size vehicles, side-by-sides, all-terrain vehicles or ATVs and motorcycles.

"We've been having a fantastic season so far and are looking forward to introducing more people to this family-friendly activity during the free DNR weekend," Park Supervisor Jamie Weasel said.

Holly Oaks ORV Park is open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. June 8-9.

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