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### **Historic investments shared in Oakland County Parks' Year in Review**

*Plans move forward to increase access to high quality park facilities, recreation experiences*

**OAKLAND COUNTY, MI – Jan. 13, 2025** – In 2024, historic investments in park facilities and recreation activities continued to be made throughout Oakland County. Thanks to the leadership of Oakland County Parks (OCP), partnerships with local communities and new initiatives, many Oakland County residents have access to quality recreational experiences closer to home.

Thousands of guests biked, boated and camped in Oakland County parks. They enjoyed nature programming, fishing, golfing and off-roading. The equivalent of 8.5 Mt. Everests was climbed on our rock wall at community events. Acres of invasive species have been removed and 17,000 native plants distributed as part of Natural Resources Management initiatives. Holly Oaks ORV Park and the BMX track at Waterford Oaks County Park had tremendous success hosting national events. Expanded adaptive recreation programming continues to provide opportunities for all to enjoy outdoor recreation.

With millage approval in November 2024, investments in parks and recreation activities will continue to enrich, educate and entertain, exposing visitors of all ages and abilities to the many physical and mental benefits of connecting with nature.

Learn more about these projects, programs and activities in OCP's 2024 Year in Review: [Recreation & Resilience – Investments for Tomorrow](#), which can be viewed online at [OaklandCountyParks.com](https://OaklandCountyParks.com).

One highlight from 2024 is Lyon Oaks County Park, where new accessible pickleball courts, a large, accessible playground that promotes both physical and social inclusion through universal design, year-round restrooms and improved trail connectivity to the Huron Valley Trail were installed last spring.

Other community investments in 2024 included:

- Approving more than \$650,000 in grant funds to multiple Oakland County communities as part of the 2024 Strategic Partnerships Grant Program. These monies assist local

municipalities with planning, preliminary engineering/design and construction costs for park improvements and trail projects

- Eliminating park entry fees for Oakland County residents, providing increased access to health and wellness activities in the parks
- Providing free recreation opportunities through the Recreation Assistance Partnership Program (RAPP), serving 114,201 participants

Throughout 2024, residents and visitors continued to venture outdoors in large numbers to focus on their physical health, emotional wellbeing and social connectivity. OCP parks provided peaceful places to enjoy quiet moments, explore nature and boost moods.

OCP operates a waterpark, two beaches, two campgrounds, five golf courses, three dog parks, two nature centers, a farmers market, an off-road vehicle park and day-use parks that are visited by nearly 2 million guests annually. The system also provides outreach recreation services, mobile unit rentals, adaptive recreation programming and more.

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