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### **Former Ambassador Park to close in mid-April for construction**

*Oakland County Parks to renovate park, create new McGillivray Play Garden*

**MADISON HEIGHTS, MI – April 2, 2025** – The former Ambassador Park in Madison Heights, now operated by Oakland County Parks, will close in mid-April as it is transformed into the McGillivray Play Garden at Red Oaks County Park. The park will be completely renovated to include a newly configured parking lot with improved stormwater retention, new playground and tot garden, hammocks, sledding hill improvements and a restroom building with attached shade structure and porch swings.

“This will be a fantastic addition to Red Oaks County Park. It provides additional land not located over G.W. Kuhn Drain, so it can support new infrastructure,” Parks Director Chris Ward said. “These intergenerational amenities and features will provide a dynamic space for play and relaxation while offering children, parents, caregivers and grandparents a place to engage with each other outdoors.”

Located at 600 E. Thirteen Mile Road in Madison Heights, the preliminary design for the McGillivray Play Garden was shaped from public input, which showed that residents were interested in natural aspects like native plants, pollinators, paths and walking trails, as well as places for active play and community engagement.

The 7-acre property is owned by the City of Madison Heights. It will complement the existing Red Oaks County Park campus, which includes a nature center, dog park, waterpark and golf course. It will be dedicated as the McGillivray Play Garden after longtime Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission Chairperson Gary R. McGillivray, who passed away in November 2023.

The park is anticipated to reopen sometime in 2026. Operations at current Red Oaks County Park facilities will not be impacted by construction of the McGillivray Play Garden. The project is funded by the OCP Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan, including \$2,750,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and \$4,390,465 from the OCP Capital Improvement Program.

For more information and to view schematic design images, visit [OaklandCountyParks.com](https://OaklandCountyParks.com).

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