GAKLAND COUNTYPARKS

NEWS RELEASE

Desiree Stanfield Chief Marketing and Communications 248-705-4108 | stanfieldd@oakgov.com

OCP to offer recreation vouchers for National Military Appreciation Month

Veterans also invited to special events at Holly Oaks ORV Park on May 16 and 17

OAKLAND COUNTY, MI – April 30, 2025 – Oakland County Parks (OCP) is recognizing individuals who have served or are currently serving in the military and Gold Star families with a recreation voucher for one of the following:

- One free night at a campsite at either Addison Oaks County Park near Rochester or Groveland Oaks County Park in Holly
- One free visit to Red Oaks Waterpark in Madison Heights
- One free entry to Holly Oaks ORV Park

"Individuals who serve and Gold Star families deserve to be recognized for the sacrifices they have made for their commitment to our nation," Parks Director Chris Ward said. "We are pleased to once again offer this recreation voucher during National Military Appreciation Month to show our gratitude. Outdoor recreation is a proven way to reduce stress and stay healthy."

A recreation voucher is available to Oakland County veterans or current military personnel who show proof of residency and a U.S. Department of Defense Common Access Card (CAC) or a valid Michigan driver's license with Veteran designation; an Oakland County, state or federal Veteran ID Card (VIC); or form DD214, DD256 or NGB22.

Oakland County Gold Star Families need to only show proof of residency. The Department of Defense defines immediate family members as spouses, parents, children, siblings, stepparents, stepchildren, step-siblings, half-siblings, adoptive parents, adopted children and adopted siblings.

Vouchers can be picked up May 1-Sept. 1, 2025.

"As a veteran myself, I appreciate the opportunity to welcome those who served and their families to our parks. Spending time at the campground or getting out on the ORV trails are fabulous ways to create memories," Jamie Weasel, park supervisor of Holly Oaks ORV Park and Groveland Oaks County Park and Campground, said.

Recreation vouchers must be claimed in person at one of the following locations:

- Addison Oaks County Park, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily, staff permitting call 248-693-2432
- Groveland Oaks County Park, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily, staff permitting call 248-634-9811
- Holly Oaks ORV Park, 2-8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
- Independence Oaks County Park at the Park Office, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Lyon Oaks Golf Course Pro Shop, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. daily
- Red Oaks Nature Center, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday
- Waterford Oaks County Park at the Recreation Programs and Services Office, 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Wint Nature Center in Independence Oaks County Park, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday

The vouchers are non-transferable and are limited to one per eligible person. Vouchers expire Dec. 31, 2025; however, the waterpark typically closes for the season in late August and the campgrounds close in September/October. Vouchers are subject to facility capacity restrictions as necessary.

In addition, veterans and active military personnel are eligible to receive discounts at OCP's five golf courses.

Veterans are also invited to join OCP for an Armed Forces Day event at Holly Oaks ORV Park from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Friday, May 16. An off-roading ride will be provided for a veteran and one guest (must be at least 10 years old) during this special event, which is presented by Detroit 4Fest, Wheels in Motion, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Detroit VA Healthcare System and Oakland County Parks.

Registration is required. Those who register will be sent an hour ride time slot prior to the event date. Register at OaklandCountyParks.com. For questions, text or call 248-221-8040.

On Saturday, May 17, veterans are invited to join OCP for Armed Forces Day at Holly Oaks ORV Park from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. The park entry fee (a \$30 value) will be waived for veterans with proper identification during this special one-day event. Vehicles are required to have a dune-style flag and DNR ORV and ORV Trail stickers are required as well. Call Holly Oaks ORV Park at 248-881-3821 for more information or visit OaklandCountyParks.com for park rules and Frequently Asked Questions.

For more information about the recreation voucher program, visit <u>OaklandCountyParks.com</u>, call 248-858-0916 or e-mail info@oaklandcountyparks.com.

For information on other events, visit OaklandCountyParks.com. Join the conversation on Facebook and Instagram.