

FIRESIDE CHATS



Hosted by Oakland County Parks Historian Carol Bacak-Egbo

Free historical programs held from 7-8 p.m. via Zoom. Online links available in the event listing below, on Oakland County Parks Facebook page and at OaklandCountyParks.com. For more information, call or text 248-221-8040. No preregistration required.

Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024

"An Old Foundation, An Elegant Mansion and a Lilac Bush: Discovering History on our Parklands"

Oakland County Parks are not only home to amazing natural resources, but they are also filled with human history. Learn about some of the people and stories we have discovered.

<https://oakgov.zoom.us/j/98720079464>

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024

"Six Little Graves on a Hillside: Discovering Stories Tucked Away in Cemeteries"

Every cemetery grave has a story waiting to be shared. Hear some of these tales and how we learned about them.

<https://oakgov.zoom.us/j/95421287054>

Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024

"Caretakers of the Land: Tracing Indigenous History in Oakland County"

Indigenous People had a presence in Oakland County long before log cabins and mills were built by non-Indigenous newcomers. What evidence do we have that they were here? Learn how the trails they traveled on, the waterways they used and some of the artifacts they left behind can help answer that question.

<https://oakgov.zoom.us/j/92658958022>

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025

"If Only a House had a Birth Certificate: Tracing the History of a House"

When was your house built? Who built it? How has it been altered over the years? Learn about resources that can be used to answer these questions and others.

<https://oakgov.zoom.us/j/92707789404>

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025

"John Anderson, Mary Parker and Andrew Winters: Stories of Freedom Seekers Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery"

New research has revealed the stories of multiple freedom seekers who utilized the Underground Railroad and made their way to Oakland County. Learn the stories of several who found their final resting place in Pontiac's Oak Hill Cemetery.

<https://oakgov.zoom.us/j/92512261718>

Thursday, March 27, 2025

"A Civil War Widow, a Doctor and Two Teachers: Forgotten Stories of Oakland County Women"

Too often women have been marginalized in history and left out of the narrative, their stories untold. Discover some fascinating women whose lives are an important part of Oakland County's past.

<https://oakgov.zoom.us/j/97402133753>

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

"A Dead Cow, a Mastodon and a Historic House: The Amazing History of Some Oakland County Golf Courses"

Golf courses do not begin as golf courses. Their land often has a long history filled with interesting stories. Join us as we explore some of these tales.

<https://oakgov.zoom.us/j/94799030124>

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025

"Fence Posts, Lilacs, Rock Piles and Apple Trees: Finding history in our parks"

The things people leave behind are clues to stories about them. Come learn about some of these left behind things and what they can tell us.

<https://oakgov.zoom.us/j/91772289539>

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025

"Those Who Left and Those Left Behind: Civil War Connections to Oakland County Parks"

The Civil War remains a watershed moment in our history, a time when things changed and would never be the same again. Hear stories of how the war affected the people, who at the time, called our parklands home.

<https://oakgov.zoom.us/j/96178895118>

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025

"Waterways, Trails, Artifacts and Wild Rice: Indigenous Connections to Our Oakland County Parks"

Like anywhere in Michigan, the history of Oakland County Parks begins with the history of Indigenous People. What have we discovered about the past so far and what are we still hoping to find?

<https://oakgov.zoom.us/j/97590642844>