



CATALPA OAKS BASELINE PARK ANALYSIS

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Park Location

Catalpa Oaks County Park is a 24-acre park located in the southeast corner of Oakland County in the City of Southfield¹.

Park Contact Information

27725 Greenfield Road
Southfield, Michigan 48076
Park Office: 248-424-7081
www.DestinationOakland.com

Township and Range

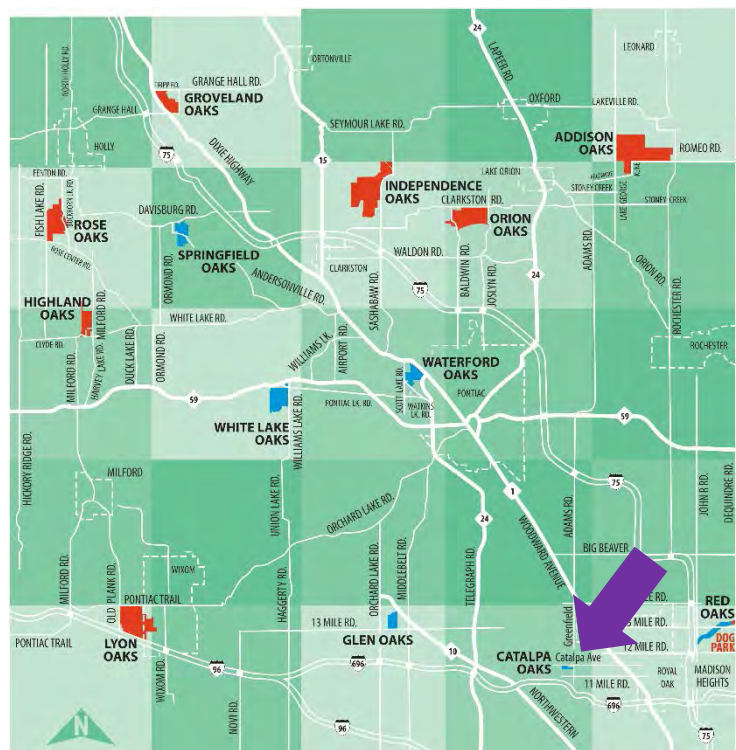
T1N R10E, Sections 13, north ½ of southeast ¼



Community Context

The characteristics of Catalpa Oaks are unique and reflect the character of the local communities. It is important to understand the park within the context of its communities – Michigan, Oakland County, and the City of Southfield – for multiple reasons:

- To convey a 'sense of place' that is harmonious and complementary to the local environment
- To ensure that Oakland County Parks is not duplicating services provided by local recreational authorities or by the private, non-profit, or larger regional/state providers
- To collaborate with units of governments and organizations related to the Oakland County Parks mission to manage open space and natural areas and provide recreational facilities and programs on an inter-community, county and/or multi-county basis
- To develop facilities and programs that contribute to the implementation of local and county plans
- To ensure compliance with local and county regulations



¹ See *Planning Map Set*, page 3 – Location Map

Oakland County

Oakland County is located in southeast Michigan, approximately 20 miles northwest of Detroit, and covers **907** square miles (SEMCOG, 2015). The estimated population in 2015 was **1,242,304**. In 2010-2015, median household income was **\$66,426**. An estimated **10%** of the population lives in poverty¹ (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

According to Advantage Oakland, Oakland County employs nearly 690,000 workers with more than 260,000 commuting from outside the county. The top three employment sectors are Professional and Business Services (26%), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (18%), and Private Education and Health Services (16%). The county is home to nearly 1,000 firms from 39 foreign countries (EDCA).

Within the county, there are 30 cities, 21 townships, and 11 incorporated villages, in urban, suburban, and rural landscapes. The county is home to the headwaters of five major rivers, the Clinton, Flint, Huron, Rouge, and Shiawassee Rivers, all of which are important to the long-term health of the Great Lakes Ecosystem. Many diverse ecosystems are located in the county due to the area's complex topography and geological history and are an important element in the character of the county (OCPRC, 2013).

Oakland County Parks and Recreation

Oakland County Parks and Recreation (OCPR) provides parks and recreation services within the geographic boundaries of Oakland County, but are also open to visitors to the county. Since 1966, OCPR has expanded and diversified the park system from four parks to thirteen, now totaling over 6,700 acres. Key attractions include managed natural areas, nature centers, waterparks, golf courses, conference centers, campgrounds, fairgrounds and over 65 miles of park trails. OCPR also offers a variety of entertaining and educational recreation programs and services for various ages and abilities (OCPRC, 2013).

City of Southfield

Catalpa Oaks County Park is located in the City of Southfield in the southeast quadrant of Oakland County. The city covers **26.27** square miles. The estimated population in 2014 was **73,002**. In 2010-2014, median household income was **\$49,548**. An estimated **15%** of the population lives in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

Description from Advantage Oakland: "Southfield "The Center of It All" is an international city. You will find 140 Fortune 500 companies located in this growing community of 8,600 businesses. Perfectly situated between Michigan's major expressways and only 20 minutes from Metro Airport and downtown Detroit, Southfield appeals to Michigan's leading professional and commercial enterprises and leads Oakland County in foreign investment firms. Twenty-five percent of Oakland County's international firms and half of all Japanese companies are located in Southfield. Family living is the foundation of this community with a variety of desirable homes tucked away with easy access to expressways and office centers. Community pride is reflected in the neighborhoods, condominium groups and apartment complexes that enjoy Southfield's cosmopolitan atmosphere and central location." (Oakland County, 2012)

Drive-Time Service Area

This purpose of this section is to outline the geographic area that draws the majority of visitors to a specific park or facility (drive-time service area) and describe the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the people who live there.

The drive-time analysis is conducted using park visitor home zip codes that are collected at point-of-sale. Please see the 2015 *Annual Dashboard and Data Book* for a detailed description of drive-time analysis methods (OCPRC,

2015). The median drive-time – indicating that half of all visitors drive for a specific length of time or less – is used to approximate the service area for each park and facility. At this time, zip code data is not available for users of Catalpa Oaks. For the purpose of this analysis, a 9-minute median drive-time was selected to align it with the drive-times of two other urbanized parks – Red Oaks and Glen Oaks.

Figure A: Catalpa Oaks Drive-Time Map



Population and Income Trends

Population and income profiles are generated for the drive-time service area using ESRI² ArcGIS Online. The estimated population in the 9-minute drive-time service area in 2015 is 135,478 with a 0.53% increase in population forecast by 2020. The population is becoming more diverse in race and ethnicity. The population profile and forecast reflects an aging population with the population 65 and older increasing by 19% from 2015 to 2020. Median age is 41.5 in 2015 and forecast to be 42.5 in 2020. The median household income in 2015 is estimated at \$62,072 and is forecast to increase 3.55% by 2020.

Table 1: Population Trends - 9-minute drive-time of Catalpa Oaks

Summary	Census 2010	2015	2020
Population	133,619	135,478	139,073
Households	57,882	59,275	61,069
Families	34,360	34,553	35,208
Average Household Size	2.29	2.27	2.26
Owner Occupied Housing Units	39,647	39,627	40,631
Renter Occupied Housing Units	18,235	19,648	20,438
Median Age	40.0	41.5	42.5
Trends: 2015 - 2020 Annual Rate	Area	State	National
Population	0.53%	0.15%	0.75%
Households	0.60%	0.21%	0.77%
Families	0.38%	0.06%	0.69%
Owner Occupied Housing Units	0.50%	0.19%	0.70%
Median Household Income	3.55%	2.79%	2.66%

Figure B: Population by Age – 9-minute drive-time of Catalpa Oaks

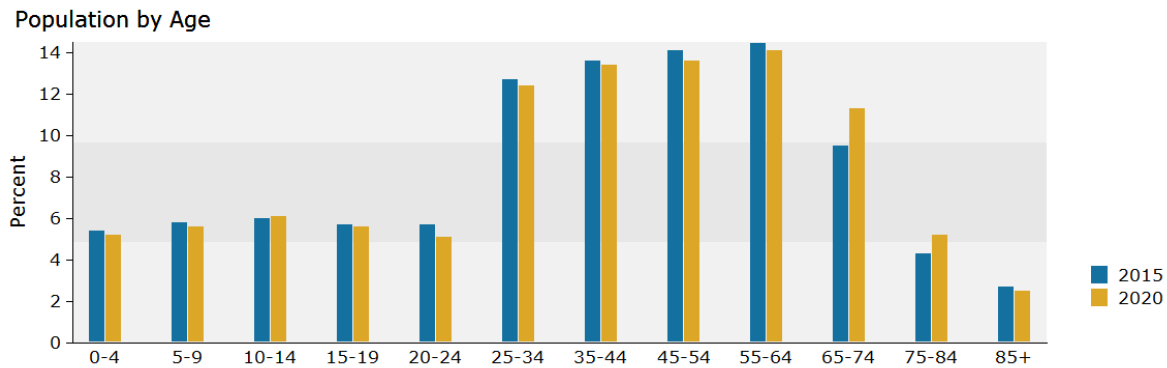


Table 2: Race and Ethnicity - 9 minute drive-time of Catalpa Oaks

Race and Ethnicity	Census 2010		2015		2020	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White Alone	79,758	59.7%	78,228	57.7%	77,143	55.5%
Black Alone	47,698	35.7%	50,345	37.2%	54,174	39.0%
American Indian Alone	291	0.2%	299	0.2%	307	0.2%
Asian Alone	2,364	1.8%	2,734	2.0%	3,189	2.3%
Pacific Islander Alone	39	0.0%	42	0.0%	44	0.0%
Some Other Race Alone	518	0.4%	561	0.4%	607	0.4%
Two or More Races	2,953	2.2%	3,271	2.4%	3,608	2.6%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	2,247	1.7%	2,574	1.9%	2,997	2.2%

Market Potential Index – Recreation Expenditures

ESRI's Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the relative likelihood of the adults or households in the specified trade area to exhibit certain consumer behavior or purchasing patterns compared to the U.S. An MPI of 100 represents the U.S. average.

Table 3: Market Potential – 9-minute drive-time of Catalpa Oaks

Product / Consumer Behavior	Percent of Population	MPI
Canoeing Kayaking in past 12 months	6.2%	116
Fishing (Fresh Water) in past 12 months	12.2%	99
Bicycling (Road) in past 12 months	11.3%	115
Hiking in past 12 months	11.1%	111
Jogging/Running in past 12 months	13.6%	107
Walking for Exercise in past 12 months	31.0%	111
Horseback Riding in past 12 months	2.2%	90
Overnight Camping Trip in past 12 months	13.1%	103
Households owning 1 dog	23.6%	98
Households owning 2 or more dogs	13.1%	82

Tapestry Segmentation

Tapestry Segmentation classifies neighborhoods into 67 unique segments based not only on demographics but also socioeconomic characteristics. It describes US neighborhoods in easy-to-visualize terms to help understand residents' lifestyle choices, what they buy, and how they spend their free time and help identify best customers, optimal sites, and underserved markets.ⁱ

The Esri Dominant Tapestry Map shows the tapestry segments within and surrounding the drive-time radius and provides a list of the Tapestry segments with hyperlinks to detailed descriptions. See *Planning Map Set*, pages 21-22 – Esri Dominant Tapestry Map.

The top five Tapestry segments within the drive-time radius are shown below. Each segment name is hyper-linked to the detailed Esri profile. After the name, we show the percentage of households that are included in each segment – within the drive-time radius and nationally. The Tapestry segment summary from the Esri profile is included with each entry.

[In Style \(5B\)](#)

Describes 13.2% of households within the drive-time radius; 2.3% of households in the U.S.

In Style denizens embrace an urbane lifestyle that includes support of the arts, travel, and extensive reading. They are connected and make full use of the advantages of mobile devices. Professional couples or single households without children, they have the time to focus on their homes and their interests. The population is slightly older and already planning for their retirement.

[Family Foundations \(12A\)](#)

Describes 13.2% of households within the drive-time radius; 1.1% of households in the U.S.

ⁱ <http://www.esri.com/data/tapestry>

Family and faith are the cornerstones of life in these communities. Older children, still living at home, working toward financial independence, are common within these households. Neighborhoods are stable: little household growth has occurred for more than a decade. Many residents work in the health care industry or public administration across all levels of government. Style is important to these consumers, who spend on clothing for themselves and their children, as well as on smartphones.

[Rustbelt Traditions \(5D\)](#)

Describes 13.0% of households within the drive-time radius; 2.2% of households in the U.S.

The backbone of older industrial cities in states surrounding the Great Lakes, Rustbelt Traditions residents are a mix of married-couple families and singles living in older developments of single-family homes. While varied, the work force is primarily white collar, with a higher concentration of skilled workers in manufacturing, retail trade, and health care. Rustbelt Traditions represents a large market of stable, hard-working consumers with modest incomes but above average net worth (Index 111). Family oriented, they value time spent at home. Most have lived, worked, and played in the same area for years.

[Comfortable Empty Nesters \(5A\)](#)

Describes 12.1% of households within the drive-time radius; 2.5% of households in the U.S.

Residents in this large, growing segment are older, with more than half of all householders aged 55 or older; many still live in the suburbs where they grew up. Most are professionals working in government, health care, or manufacturing. These Baby Boomers are earning a comfortable living and benefitting from years of prudent investing and saving. Their net worth is well above average (Index 363). Many are enjoying the transition from child rearing to retirement. They value their health and financial well-being.

[Emerald City \(8B\)](#)

Describes 9.5% of households within the drive-time radius; 1.4% of households in the U.S.

Emerald City's denizens live in lower-density neighborhoods of urban areas throughout the country. Young and mobile, they are more likely to rent. Well educated and well employed, half have a college degree and a professional occupation. Incomes close to the US median come primarily from wages and self-employment. This group is highly connected, using the Internet for entertainment and making environmentally friendly purchases. Long hours on the Internet are balanced with time at the gym. Many embrace the "foodie" culture and enjoy cooking adventurous meals using local and organic foods. Music and art are major sources of enjoyment. They travel frequently, both personally and for business.

Site Analysis

Parcel Analysis

Catalpa Oaks County Park is composed of 1 parcel totaling 23.79 acres. Copies of all documents cited in the Parcel Analysis are maintained in the Park Master Planning files.

Table 4: Parcel Table for Catalpa Oaks

Parcel ID	Acres	Deed/ Lease/ Easement / Agreement	Liber and Page
24-13-426-003 (from -001, -002, -004 and 404- 013)	23.79	2012- OC to OC Bldg. Auth. Deed	44759/567
		2007- OC to OCPD RCOV (management of park)	39194/892
		2013- Detroit Edison Co. R-O-W underground easement	45631/723

Physical Characteristics

Geologyⁱ

The property lies within the Washtenaw Subsection Ecoregion³ and the Jackson Interlobate Subsubsection⁴. This area is found between three glacial lobes and is characterized by ice-contact topography⁵ and glacial deposits⁶ (Albert, 1995). Surface geology is Lake Arkona shoreline, a proglacial lake.

Soilsⁱⁱ

Soil maps indicated two soil types on the property. The majority is poorly- drained sandy and loamy soil on an altered landscape that has either been covered with fill material or soil material has been excavated. A somewhat- to poorly-drained urban land complex is found along the boundary. Both hydric soils are subject to ponding.

Topographyⁱⁱⁱ

The property is nearly level, with a rise of 20'. Elevations range from 696' at the southeast corner to 716' on the top of the berm near the west boundary.

Hydrography^{iv}

Although no ponds or wetlands currently exist, potential wetlands have been identified by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) over the park and surrounding area.

Presettlement Plan Communities^v

Pre-European settlement vegetation was documented as Mixed Hardwood Swamp (Comer & Albert, 1997).

ⁱ See *Planning Map Set*, page 4 – Surface Geology

ⁱⁱ See *Planning Map Set*, page 5 – Soils

ⁱⁱⁱ See *Planning Map Set*, page 6 – Ten Foot Contours

^{iv} See *Planning Map Set*, page 7 – Hydrography

^v See *Planning Map Set*, page 8 – Presettlement Vegetation

Regional Context

Potential Natural Areasⁱ

No potential natural areas have been identified by Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI)⁷ in Catalpa Oaks.

Watershedⁱⁱ

Catalpa Oaks is within the Clinton River Watershed and the Red Run (Meckler Drain) subwatershed (HUC 12 040900030205).

Green Infrastructureⁱⁱⁱ

No areas of Oakland County's Green Infrastructure Vision are in close proximity. Local parks include the 6.7-acre City of Berkley's Merchant's Park to the southeast and the 4.5-acre city of Southfield's Simms Park to the northwest. Both parks have ball fields, basketball courts, picnic areas and playlots.

Existing sidewalk pathways surround the park and proposed pathways have been identified along Catalpa Road and within the park.

Land Use^{iv}

Zoning

Catalpa Oaks in Southfield is zoned R-A - Single Family

Current Land Use

Current land use is focused on recreation. See Parcel Analysis section for information about easements and rights-of-way to which the property may be subject.

Surrounding Land Use

The major surrounding land use is single family residential, with some multi-family residential to the south. The park is surrounded by roads except along the west boundary. The Oakland County Health Department- Southfield Office and Oakland County Parks- South office is adjacent to the northwest corner.

Past Land Use^v

Historical aerial photographs provide a snapshot of past land uses and of the development of the park over the decades. The 1940 aerial reveals open fields and no buildings; by 1963, single family residential is seen to the north and east with roads through the property and farms to the south. By 1974, homes surround the property and there are ball fields on the west half. Perimeter trees were planted by 1990 and soccer fields were constructed by 2000.

ⁱ See *Planning Map Set*, page 9 – MNFI Potential Natural Area

ⁱⁱ See *Planning Map Set*, page 10 – Oakland County Subwatersheds

ⁱⁱⁱ See *Planning Map Set*, page 11 – Green Infrastructure

^{iv} See *Planning Map Set*, page 12 – 2015 Land Use

^v See *Planning Map Set*, pages 13-20 for views of the park from 1940 through 2015

Park History

Early Historyⁱ

Catalpa Oaks is located in the north half of the southeast quadrant of Section 13 in the geographic township of Southfield. Section 13 is bounded by 11 Mile Road to the south, Greenfield Road to the east, 12 Mile Road to the north, and Southfield Road to the west.



The General Land Office (GLO)⁸ survey for Section 13 of Southfield Township, Michigan Territory was filed at the Surveyors General Office Ohio on February 20, 1818. The land on the section lines around Section 13 is described in the surveyor's notes as "poor hilly oak land" and "tolerable oak land".

Figure C: 1818 Survey of Southfield Township, Section 23 (BLM)

Two land patents were recorded in on April 24, 1920 at the Detroit office of the GLO for the southeast quadrant of Section 13. Cash sales were documented for the east half (80 acres) to John McClelland and for the west half (80 acres) to Andrew Taylor, both of Oakland County (BLM).

A survey of historic county atlases shows the east half of the southeast quadrant of Section 13 owned by G. McClelland in 1872, William S. Young in 1896 and John Cavanaugh in 1908, with a structure shown on the property facing Greenfield Road. By 1923, Section 13 is mostly subdivided with this area identified as "Oakland Gardens". Catalpa Drive and numerous subdivision streets are identified.

The atlases show the west half of the southeast quadrant of Section 13 owned by D. Taylor in 1872, 1896, and 1908. A structure is shown on the Taylor property fronting on 11 Mile Road in 1896 and 1908. By 1923, the area is subdivided and identified as "Woodland Park".

No documentation of the southeast quarter of Section 13 was found in the Rural Property Inventories⁹.

The 1940 aerial photograph shows vacant land that appears to be divided by unpaved lanes corresponding with future streets. The surrounding areas are still vacant. In 1963, the future park property looks disturbed but without any formal playing fields. Areas to the north and east have been built out with smaller homes. Two homes have been built to the south along the street currently identified as San Quentin Avenueⁱⁱ.

Park History

In 1964, the Oakland County Board of Supervisors purchased a 30-acre parcel in the City of Southfield from the Berkley School District to provide opportunities to build Oakland County facilities. In 1965, the Oakland County Health Department – Southfield Office with parking lot and landscape grounds was built on approximately 7 acres in the northeast corner of the property. That same year the Southfield Little League leased 22 acres and constructed baseball fields at the western part of the site. The leases with the Southfield Little League and later with the City of Southfield formalized the use of the Catalpa property for field sports (OCPRC, 2008). In the 1974

ⁱ See Figure 4: Southfield Section 13 Historic Plat Maps

ⁱⁱ See *Planning Map Set*, page 13-14 – 1940 and 1963 Aerial Photographs

aerial photograph, three ball field mounds and the current parking area are visible, as well as the Oakland County Health Department building and parking lots. Areas to the west and south have been built outⁱ.

In 1978, the City of Southfield negotiated an agreement with Oakland County to manage 25 acres of the property as a city park. The City of Southfield Parks and Recreation Department provided two baseball diamonds, a parking area, and several acres of open lawn at Catalpa Park for city residents. In 1985, the City of Southfield and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners entered into an agreement with a contractor to use Catalpa Park as a repository for surplus excavated material resulting from the construction of the nearby I-696 interchange. The excavated material was used to level the site and improve its use for sports fields and to form a berm on three sides as a buffer between the local neighborhood and the games that would be played at the park. The City of Southfield provided \$250,000 to pay for the landscaping of the resulting berm and construction of two ball diamonds and six soccer fields.

The 25-acre site was managed by the City of Southfield Parks and Recreation Department from 1978 until the park and its management was transferred to Oakland County Parks and Recreation in 2007. A grand opening on August 16, 2007 dedicated Catalpa Oaks as the twelfth park in Oakland County Parks system (OCPRC, 2008).

Past Master Plans

2008 Master Plan

The 2008 Catalpa Oaks County Park Master Plan was created by Parks and Recreation staff. The overall concept of the master plan was to improve, maintain and operate the park facility as a field sports complex and to augment the park with site amenities that would increase its use as a regional facility.

The following concepts from the 2008 master plan have been implemented:

- ✓ Construct standard Oakland County Parks sign on Greenfield Road
- ✓ Install a restrooms/concessions pavilion
- ✓ Design and construct a universally-accessible playground

The following concepts were identified and have not been implemented:

- Re-orient and pave the parking lot to include stormwater best management practices
- Re-grade and irrigate the sports fields to include appropriate drainage technology
- Implement a multi-use sports field layout and marking
- Construct a maintenance yard and storage building
- Install an artificial turf cricket pitch
- Install a barrier-free pathway system within the park
- Construct two additional picnic pavilions
- Install decorative fencing

(OCPRC, 2008)

ⁱ See *Planning Map Set*, page 15 – 1974 Aerial Photograph

Catalpa Oaks Overview (Barton Malow, 2010), looking south



2010 Preliminary Master Plan Review

Barton Malow Design/Construction Services created preliminary design concepts and cost estimates based on the 2007 master plan. In addition to an overall conceptual design, the review included facility conceptual designs for the maintenance yard, concession and restroom building, and office space in Oakland County Health Department building (Barton Malow, 2010).

2011 Business Plan

The business plan, approved by the Parks Commission in April 2011, identified four distinct facilities: 1) Recreational Fields; 2) Central Parking; 3) Catalpa Commons; and 4) Maintenance Services. The plan broke each facility down into component parts and prioritized each part to fit into one of four phases and provided cost estimates for construction in each phase and revenue/expense forecasts for 2010-2013. The four phases identified were:

1. Basic Services: The focus of this phase was to quickly ramp up investment in the park to achieve the basic level of service necessary to provide quality field sport and special event experiences.
2. Field Improvements: This was identified as a long phase divided into sub-phases with the major investment being mass grading of the site and incorporation of underground irrigation.
3. Recreation Commons: This phase implemented green improvements, landscaping and site amenities to unite the four facilities into a coherent design/recreational experience.
4. Full Operations: This phase represented the completion of the development envisioned in the 2008 master plan and interpreted by Barton-Malow, and brought to life through the strategic allocation of park resources.

(OCPRC, 2011)

Grant History

Catalpa Oaks has not been the recipient of any grants for acquisition or development.

Park-Wide Planning Units

1. Natural Resources

Although not contained within the interconnected network of natural areas identified by Oakland County Green Infrastructure Vision, Catalpa Oaks provides valuable green space within an urbanized area.

2. Park Entrances, Roadways and Parking

The park sign is located on Greenfield Road. Catalpa Oaks is accessed from Catalpa Drive off of Greenfield Road in Southfield. There are no internal roads. Maintenance vehicles enter the park via pedestrian entrances or through a maintenance gate at the west end. There are three parking areas.

The main parking area off Catalpa Road is non-conforming with city ordinances. It is an unpaved parking lot situated parallel to Catalpa Drive and separated from the street by a grass boulevard with a drainage ditch. Three short unpaved drives connect the parking lot with the street. The parking lot is separated from the main park by bollards. Culverts under the drives are not draining properly. Seven asphalt parking spaces have been added that are intended to be accessible and van-accessible (accessibility assessment is pending). When improvements are made in the park, OCPR will be required by the City of Southfield to address and improve this parking area, also creating opportunities for improved stormwater management.

The Oakland County Health Department building parking lot provides staff parking during the week. The west end of the parking lot is used by park visitors during weekends and special events. Staff communicates with the Health Department regarding special event parking.

The northern ball diamond is used for overflow parking for larger special events, such as the Marshmallow Drop.

Photos from left: drainage ditch between Catalpa Drive and parking lot (looking east); parking lot showing maintenance gates and bollards (looking south); Health Department parking lot (looking west toward park)



3. Maintenance, Utilities and Security

South End Office

Oakland County Parks and Recreation occupies a portion of the Oakland County Health Department building that is located in the northeast corner of the park. The South End Office provides reception, office and meeting space for OCPR and is an opportunity for OCPR to have a greater permanent presence in the southern half of Oakland County. Storage space with an external loading ramp is available in the basement for OCPR. This is primarily used to store recreational program supplies.

4. Technology

There is no Wi-Fi capability at Catalpa Oaks. One fiber line connects to the South Oakland Health building.

5. Non-Recreational Features

Not applicable at this park

6. Park Trails and Regional Connectivity

There are no developed trails in the park. An informal pathway, measuring less than one mile (0.83), is used daily by visitors as a walking and running track. The pathway is located along the parking lot and the top of the berm. Dog walkers often use the park along the berm and through the middle of the park. Pedestrians from the neighborhood access the park via the front entrance or by crossing the berms.

Photos from left: Gates to loading ramp; top of berm shown worn areas in grass where visitors walk regularly



Location-Specific Planning Units

Figure D: Park map showing locations of Planning Areas 7-10



7. Recreation Commons

This area is designed to be the hub of the park and a gathering place for all types of visitors. It contains the Concession Building with restrooms, Greenfield Pavilion, and the play structure. The Greenfield Pavilion is available to rent and is generally rented every weekend at full capacity from June through September. The play structure is intended to be universally accessible (accessibility assessment pending).

The Concession Building was designed to be used by volunteer groups associated with soccer teams. However, it is currently used for storage and not as a concession. OCPR does not have a license to operate the building as a full concession; only pre-packaged foods are permitted. The ice machine in the Concession Building is used by Recreation Programs and Services. Vending machines have been installed outside. Restrooms are open April through October.

Photos clockwise from upper left: Concession Building (north side - restrooms); Concession Building (south side – concession window); Concession Building (southeast corner – vending); smaller play structure; Greenfield Pavilion (looking west); larger play structure



8. Soccer Fields

Park staff rotates the fields to keep 2 full size fields and 1 youth area or training field active at one time. The youth area is generally placed in where open space is available – e.g. in the softball diamond outfield. Goals are moved as fields are rotated.

It has been difficult to maintain the quality of the soccer fields because of the tendency of the area to pond during wet weather and for the turf to deteriorate during dry weather. Staff has introduced new maintenance protocols, including increased field rotation, in 2016 in order to improve the quality of the turf as much as possible and improve the experience of play.

9. Ball Diamonds

The park has one baseball diamond and one softball diamond. The baseball diamond on the north side is used for overflow parking and is rented 8-10 times per season for games and practices by a team from Southfield. The softball field is rarely rented.

10. Berms and Sledding Hill

Berms surround the park on three sides (east, south and west). The berms were created in the 1980s from surplus excavated material from I-696 construction with the intent to buffer the surrounding neighborhoods from the noise of ball games and soccer play. The top of the berm is used by visitors as part of an informal trail system. The berm at the west end of the park is used as a sledding hill when there is sufficient snow cover.

Photos from left: Soccer fields in play; baseball diamond; drainage culvert between soccer fields



Park Operation Planning Units

11. Organized Programs and Events

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ORGANIZED BY OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

Great Marshmallow Drop

This is a free event in March or April. 15,000 marshmallows are dropped from a helicopter to be turned in for a prize. Only one marshmallow is needed to receive a prize. Participants are separated into age groups. The event generally draws approximately 8,000 individuals. In 2016, weather caused the event to be cancelled. Families were invited to come to the park to receive prizes – approximately 3,500 attended.

Come Out and Play

Come Out and Play is a day-long event with an open invitation for families to participate and experience different types of recreational equipment and games. The Catalpa event features mobile recreation equipment – zip line, water inflatables, retro games, and climbing tower; a kids' concert; face painting; treats and a prize.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ORGANIZED BY EXTERNAL GROUPS

Track and Field Practices and Meets

Local high school teams use the park for track and field practices that are not formally scheduled.

Soccer Season

The youth soccer season is managed by South Oakland County Soccerⁱ. Adult soccer is managed by the Stay and Play Social Clubⁱⁱ. Dating from the time that the park was managed by the City of Southfield, soccer clubs have traditionally not paid rental fees for use of the fields.

Photos from left: Marshmallow Drop 2015; Come Out and Play 2015



ⁱ <http://www.socscf.com/>

ⁱⁱ <http://spscdetroit.com/>

12. Data Collection and Management

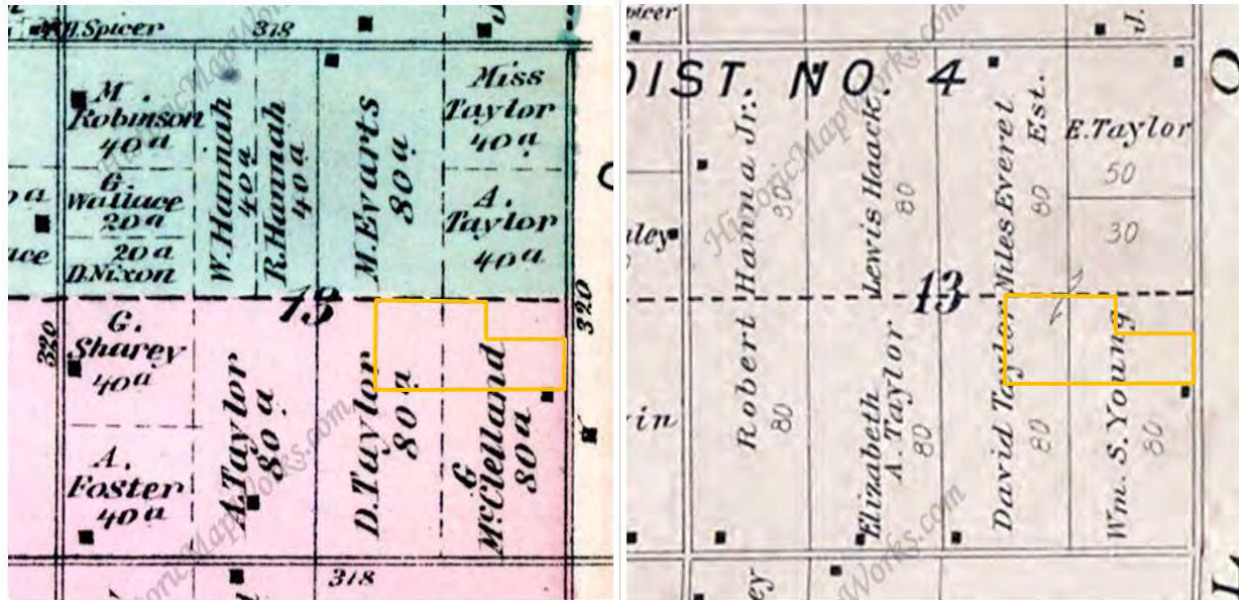
Visitor data is available from a variety of sources: visual counts of people using the park, counts of players and spectators attending games, pavilion rental head counts, and event head counts. Efforts are underway to formalize the count methodology and provide a more consistent picture of visitor trends over time.

Park Maps

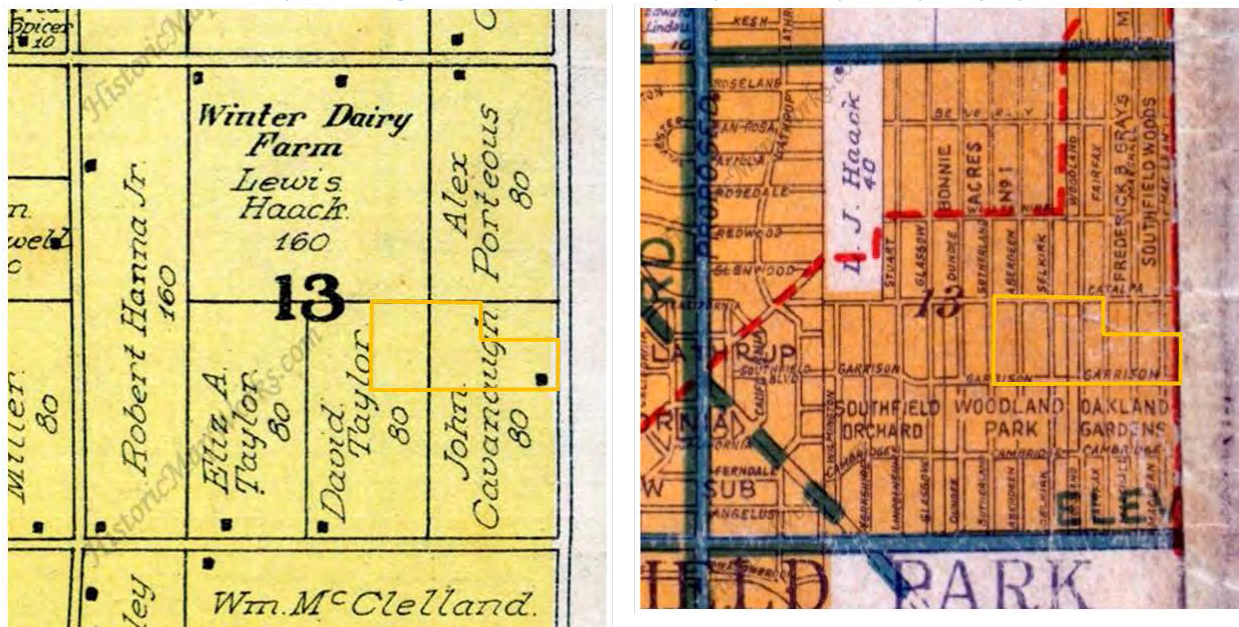
A standard set of planning maps are provided in a separate document - the *Planning Map Set*. This section provides other park maps, such as trails, campsites, and golf course features, which are specific to this park.

Figure E: Southfield Section 13 Historic Plat Maps

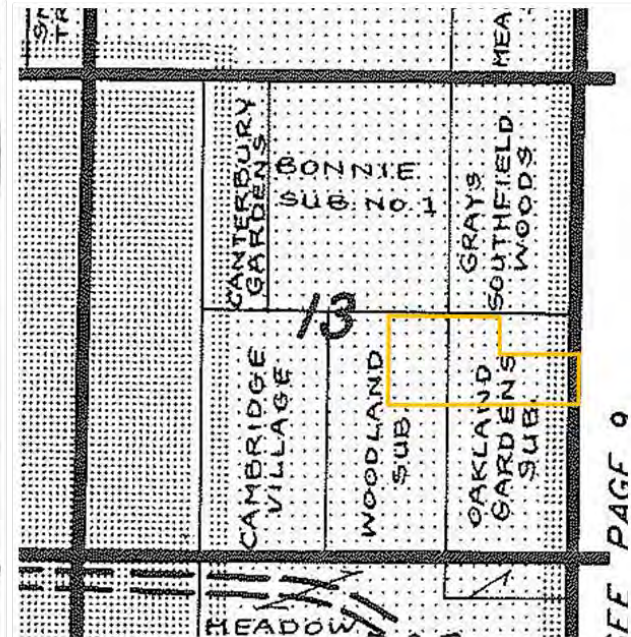
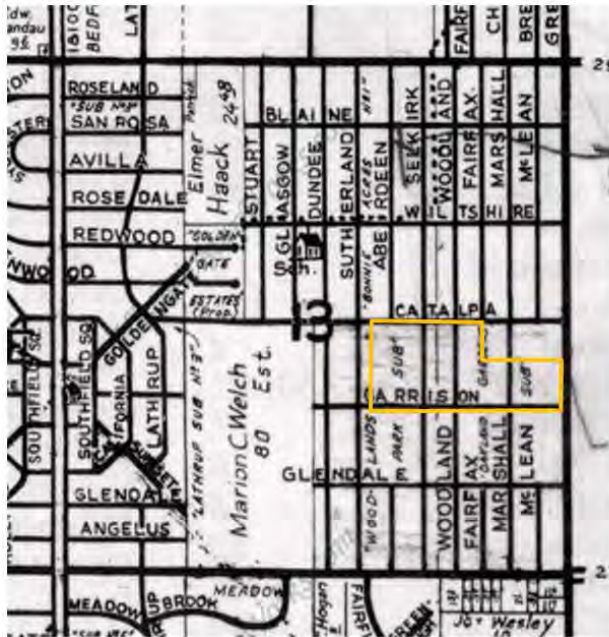
1872 Plat Map (F.W. Beers and Co, 1872); 1896 Plat Map (Kace Publishing Company, 1896)



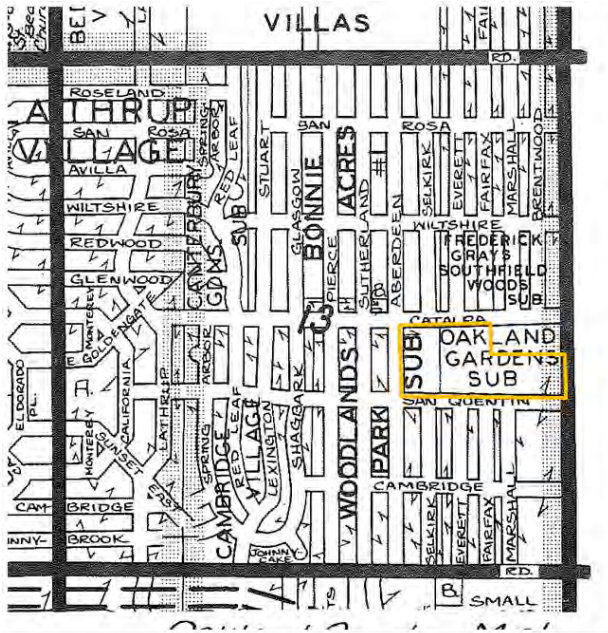
1908 Plat Map (Geo A. Ogle and Co., 1908); 1925 Plat Map (W.S. McAlpine Map Company, 1925)



1947 Plat Map (W.S. McAlpine Map Company, 1947); 1975 Plat Map (Rockford, 1975)



1985 Plat Map (Rockford, 1985); 1988 Plat Map (Rockford, 1988)



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<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/10602/Oakland+County+1947/>

Notes

¹ How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty: “Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).” (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015)

² Esri builds ArcGIS, which “connects people with maps, data, and apps through geographic information systems (GIS). It is a location platform that’s accessible to anyone, anywhere, anytime”. <http://www.esri.com/about-esri#what-we-do>

³ Ecoregion: An ecoregion (ecological region), sometimes called a bioregion, is an ecologically and geographically defined area that is smaller than an ecozone and larger than an ecosystem. Ecoregions cover relatively large areas of land or water, and contain characteristic, geographically distinct assemblages of natural communities and species.

⁴ Sub-subsection: Based on differences in climate, bedrock geology, glacial landform, and soils, the section, subsection, and sub-subsection levels of an ecoregion represent areas with distinctive natural conditions affecting species composition and productivity).

⁵ Ice-Contact Topography: This is a general term that refers to glacier-modified landscapes and includes many specific types of landforms, such as kames, eskers, moraines, kettles and outwash, among others.

⁶ Glacial Deposits: This refers to the rock and soil that is picked up and transported by glaciers as they create new landscapes and are eventually deposited by melting and retreating glaciers.

⁷ Potential Natural Area: Important ecological natural communities dominated by native vegetation identified by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI). These sites represent the least disturbed natural areas remaining in the county. Initial delineation was done through aerial photo interpretation, with emphasis placed on intactness, wetlands and wetland complexes, riparian corridors, and forested tracts. Prioritization (ranked Priority One, Two and Three) is based on size, core area, stream corridors, land connectivity, vegetation quality, fragmentation and restorability of surrounding lands.

⁸ General Land Office: On April 25, 1812, by an Act of Congress the General Land Office was created within the Treasury Department. In creating the General Land Office, Congress combined the functions previously scattered among three Federal agencies—Treasury, War, and State. The Secretary of the Treasury had directed the survey and sale of public lands. Treasury also maintained records and accounts. The Secretary of War administered military bounties and bounty lands. Patents were issued by the Secretary of State. As of 1949, the General Land Office is part of the Bureau of Land Management within the Interior Department, which manages the archive of public land records (BLM).

⁹ Rural Property Inventories: During the Great Depression, the Michigan Department of Treasury collaborated with the Works Progress Administration to undertake an extensive survey of nearly all land parcels in the state (excluding Wayne County). The survey served two purposes: it provided jobs for unemployed engineers, land surveyors, and appraisers while giving the state a basis for assessing property taxes. The project started late in 1935 and continued until 1942 (Michigan Historical Center).