



Addison Oaks County Park

1480 West Romeo Road

(Addison Oaks-East is located at
700 West Romeo Road)

Leonard, MI 48367

Park Office: 248-693-2432



Park Information

Addison Oaks County Park is a 1,140-acre natural oasis where visitors can recreate year-round. Guests can come in for the day, camp under the stars or explore the park's rich history. Campers can choose from individual sites or group camping areas, yurts or cabins, with campground recreation activities offered each weekend.

Year-round activities include a 20+ mile trail system for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and winter fat tire biking; boat/kayak and bike rentals, disc golf, fishing, geocaching, picnicking and group picnic shelters. A 2.5-mile connector trail connects the main park to Addison Oaks-East and other nearby recreation areas. The Historic Tudor-style Buhl Estate hosts weddings, banquets, receptions and business meetings, with food service by Oak Management. Call 248-693-8305 for Buhl Estate information.

A native wildlife habitat along the shoreline of Adams Lake supports bird, pollinator, turtle and fish populations. A new boardwalk/deck now spans Adams Lake, allowing direct access from one side of the lake to the other, as well as fishing opportunities.

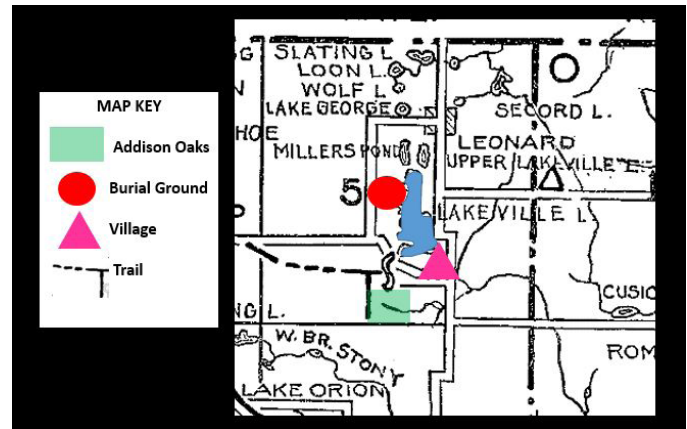


Natural Resources

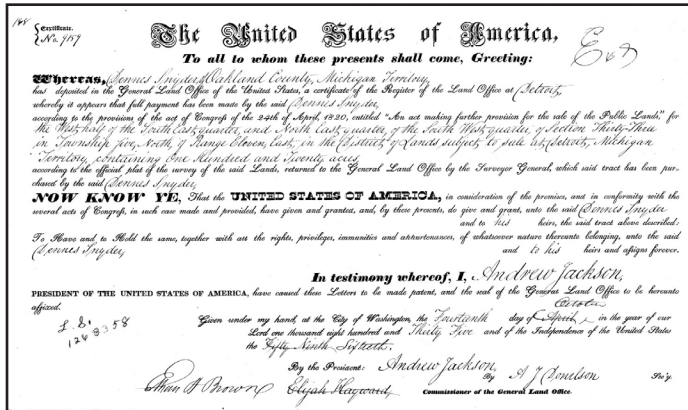
- Addison Oaks is part of the Clinton River Watershed and Stony Creek subwatershed.
- The three primary water bodies on the property- Buhl Lake, Adams Lake and Milkhouse Pond are hydrologically connected and were a former stream/wetland system that were flooded into their current state. Tree stumps can still be found on the bottom of Buhl Lake.
- Water flows from the surrounding hillsides into the lakes, resulting in unique wetland complexes.
- The park was likely a combination of black oak barren, shrub swamp, emergent marsh, wet prairie, and mixed conifer swamp prior to the 1800s
- High quality dry-mesic southern forests within the park support many different types of wildlife including diverse salamander populations.
- Some of the natural community types that can currently be identified, and are being restored, include oak barren remnants, southern wet meadow, prairie fen, and southern hardwood swamp.
- There are many vernal pools on the property in forested pockets; these pools are monitored annually.
- Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes (EMR), a federally threatened species, utilize much of the park for their life cycle. EMR overwinter in wetlands and move to upland areas in the summer to give birth to live young (they hatch their eggs inside their bodies in a process called ovoviviparity).

History

Historical evidence points to a Native American presence on the land that became Addison Oaks many, many years before Dennis Snyder purchased part of the land from the federal government in the 1830s. Near the shores of nearby Lakeville Lake there was at one time a Native American village and a Native American burial ground. Two Native American trails ran close to the park. Peter Shoemaker, another early land owner, is said to have owned a box of Native American projectile points that he had collected over time when he plowed his fields.

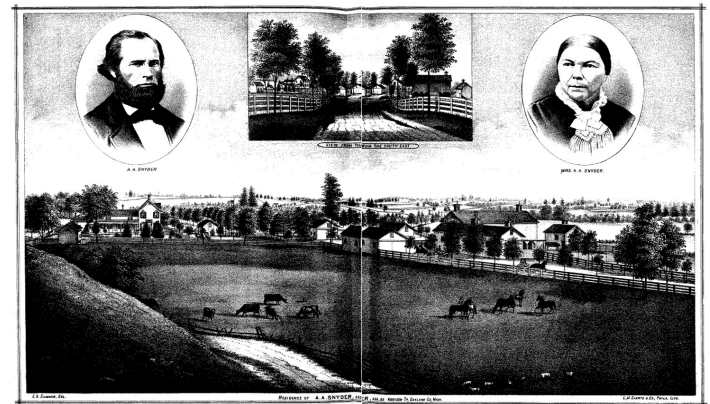


Map showing Native American Presence



In 1833 Dennis Snyder came from New Jersey with his second wife, Mary Hulick, his sister-in-law and six children and settled on section 33 of Addison Township. With the help of his sons he built a small log cabin where the family stayed until a more substantial frame house could be built. Two years later he officially purchased the land from the federal government at the land office in Detroit.

After the death of his father Dennis Snyder, Abram Snyder took over the farmland his father had purchased in the 1830s. This land eventually became a large section of Addison Oaks. Abram and his wife Mary Ann added several buildings to the farm which was well-known in Addison Township.

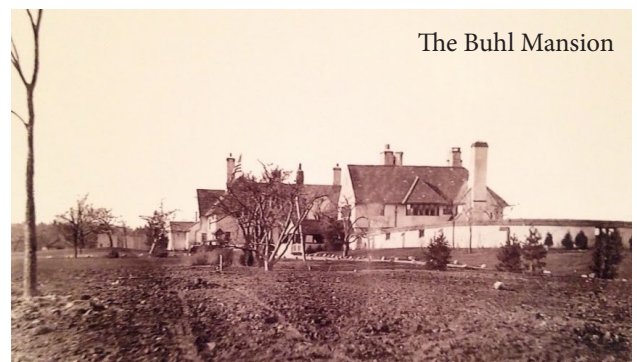


Lithograph of the Snyder farm



Photo of Shoemaker farm

In 1834 Peter Shoemaker and his family came from New Jersey and settled in Macomb County. Peter worked as a farm laborer until he had earned enough money to buy 40 acres of land in section 33 of Addison Township. He later added another 120 acres to his farm which became the northeast portion of Addison Oaks. Peter and Sarah, his wife, raised several children on the farm, many of whom stayed in Addison Township. Many members of the Shoemaker family, including Peter and Sarah, are buried in nearby Lakeville Cemetery.



The Buhl Mansion

In 1927 Lawrence and Cora Buhl built the beautiful Tudor-Style mansion that has become the centerpiece of Addison Oaks. The structure was designed by Robert O. Derrick, a famous architect, who also designed the Henry Ford Museum. Lawrence Buhl had first earned his wealth in hardware and later in real estate. He and his brother Arthur built the magnificent Buhl building in downtown Detroit. The mansion was frequently the weekend destination of several wealthy Detroiters who were entertained there by the Buhls.