



Rose Oaks County Park

10501 Buckhorn Lake Road
Holly, Michigan 48442

Park Information: (248) 858-0906



Park Information

Several glacial lakes within Rose Oaks provide contrast to the gently rolling open meadows and wooded uplands. This 640-acre undeveloped park is a favorite of equestrians who explore its five miles of trails including accessible boardwalks and floating docks, which are also shared by hikers, cyclists, geocachers and cross-country skiers. Fishing is permitted; non-motorized boats and electric-motor boats are allowed (carry-in only). The park also offers archery deer hunting in season.

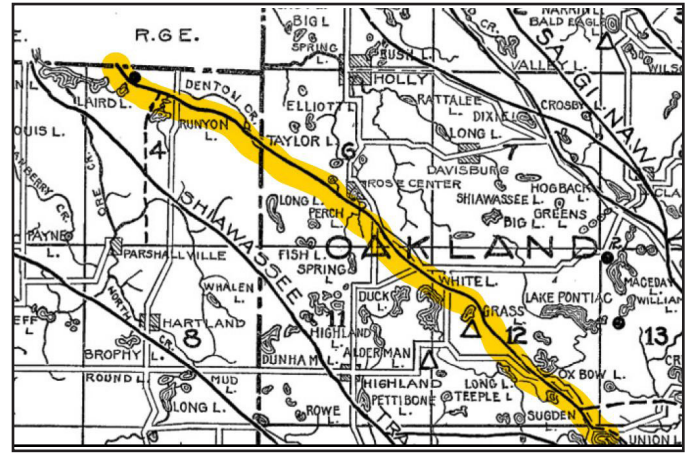
Natural Resources

- Rose Oaks is in the Shiawassee River Watershed and contains the headwaters of Buckhorn Creek, a tributary to the Shiawassee River.
- There are many lakes, ponds and wetlands at Rose Oaks including Richardson, Big School Lot, Esler and Cogger lakes.
- The east portion of the park contains 150 acres of a contiguous wetland made up of southern wet meadow, emergent marsh, shrub-carr, and southern swamp.
- Blanding's turtle and Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, respectively a state species of concern and federally threatened species are both found at Rose Oaks. High quality wetland and upland habitats support a variety of herptofauna populations within the park.
- The park was likely a combination of black oak barren, white oak-hickory forest and wet prairie prior to the 1800s.
- Some of the natural community types that can currently be identified, and are being restored, on the property include wet mesic prairie, emergent marsh, tamarack swamp and dry-mesic southern forest.
- The wet mesic prairie at Rose Oaks is such a prime example of that natural community that it was added to the Michigan Natural Features Inventories' state-wide database. At the time (2004) there were only nine other examples of this community type in Michigan.
- A population of northern wild rice, known as Manoomin by the Anishinaabek, grows within Rose Oaks. This plant was, and is, important to Native American communities that used and managed this property long before European settlement.
- The extensive wetlands on the property support diverse wildlife populations including the often-seen beavers and muskrats.



History

The first people on the land that became Rose Oaks were Native Americans, most likely the Anishinabek. The current Rose Center Road, located on the southern border of the park, was once an important Native American trail used for hundreds of years. Proximity to the trail, in addition to various water features (lakes, wetlands, streams) which would have provided both a means for transportation and a source for a variety of foods, would have made Rose Oaks a desirable place for a Native American settlement or camp.

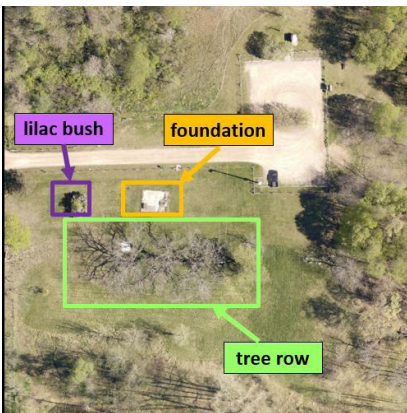


Map showing Native American Trail



The parking lot at the Buckhorn Lake road entrance is the location of the former Mallett Family farmhouse. The family's barn was located just across the road. In 1854, while in their early 20's, Robert and Charlotte Mallett emigrated from England to the United States. By the mid 1860's they made their way to the property that is now Rose Oaks. By 1880, they were raising six children on their 80-acre farm. Charlotte Mallett died in 1898 and Robert in 1918. Their son, Robert, Jr. continued to run the farm until his death in 1942. All three are buried in Rose Center Cemetery.

John Esler took up 80 acres of land in Rose Township in 1854 and began a farm. His wife, Margaret, continued to run the farm after he died in 1864. Eventually their son, John Jr., took over. He used the land for general farming and growing fruit. The farm remained in the Esler family into the 1940s. A large part of Rose Oaks County Park is located on what had been the Esler farm; some foundations of farm buildings still remain. There is also a tree line planted long ago for a windbreak. A small road the family used to get to Esler Lake is now a park trail.



The farmhouse and barns of the Fillingham family were located at the current Fish Lake road entrance to Rose Oaks. William and Elizabeth Fillingham emigrated to the United States from England in 1843. They lived in Pontiac, Michigan for 12 years and then purchased land in Rose Township, raising eight children on their farm. Several remnants of their farm can still be seen in Rose Oaks today, including the concrete foundation of a small barn, a row of trees planted to protect the house from winds and a huge lilac bush. William and Elizabeth, as well as their daughter Lucy, are buried in Beebe Cemetery which is located just southwest of the park.



John Esler, Jr.

Richardson Lake, located in the northern part of Rose Oaks, was named for the William Richardson family. William and his wife Mary, along with several children, came to Rose Township from England in the 1850s. The 1860 Agricultural Census lists the family as having two horses, six cows, two pigs and 15 sheep. They grew wheat, corn and oats. Mary died in 1873. When William died in 1894 his son, William, Jr. continued to run the farm. William, Mary and several other members of the Richardson family are buried in Lakeside Cemetery in Holly, Michigan.

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SCHEDULE 4.—Productions of Agriculture in Rose in the County of Oakland in the
Post Office Rose

NAME OF OWNER, AGENT, OR MANAGER OF THE FARM.	ACRES OF LAND		LIVE STOCK, JUNE 1, 1860										PRODUCE DURING YEAR									
	Improved	Unimproved	Wheat	Rye	Buckwheat	Oats	Barley	Corn	Wheat	Rye	Buckwheat	Oats	Barley	Corn	Wheat	Rye	Buckwheat	Oats	Barley	Corn		
<u>Edith Brown</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>30</u>				<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>50</u>						<u>40</u>		
<u>Marion Allen</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>2</u>			<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>100</u>						<u>20</u>		
<u>William Robinson</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>20</u>				<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>100</u>								
<u>Richard Allen</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>10</u>				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>50</u>									
<u>William Robinson</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>2</u>			<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>50</u>							
<u>Henry Livingston</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>2</u>			<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>50</u>								
<u>William Allen</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1500</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>2</u>			<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>20</u>					<u>60</u>		
<u>John Colby</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>1</u>			<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>75</u>						<u>20</u>		

1860 Agricultural Census