



Waterford Oaks County Park

Administrative Offices:
2800 Watkins Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328

Park:
1702 Scott Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328
248-858-0906

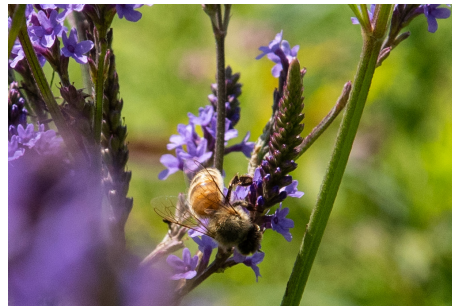


Park Information

Waterford Oaks County Park is a 199-acre park located in the center of Oakland County in Waterford Township. The park features Waterford Oaks Waterpark; the Waterford Oaks Bicycle Motocross (BMX) Track; more than three miles of hiking trails; the universally-accessible Paradise Peninsula Playscape; two platform tennis courts; a winter family sledding hill; and outdoor fitness equipment. The Lookout Lodge, Activity Center and picnic shelters are available for rent.

The park is also the headquarters of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission and Administrative Offices; Facilities, Maintenance and Operations; and Recreation Programs and Services.

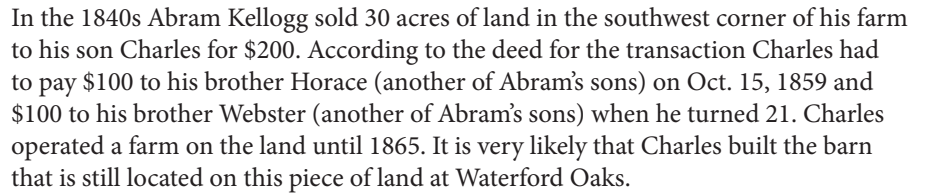
Around the corner on Pontiac Lake Road is the 13-acre Oakland County Farmers Market, which offers grower-direct fresh produce, flowers and hand-made goods year-round. The market also hosts educational programs and special events.



Natural Resources

- Part of the Clinton River Watershed, Waterford Oaks contains the origins of Pontiac Creek, which flows through the park and is surrounded by wetlands.
- Wet depressions throughout forests have been identified as vernal pools and are monitored annually.
- A series of rainwater swales and a water retention system was installed around the Administrative complex and Paradise Peninsula Playscape to naturally mitigate stormwater on the property.
- Some of the natural community types that can currently be identified, and are being restored, include dry southern forest, dry-mesic southern forest, and southern wet meadow.
- The park was likely a combination of Black Oak Barren, Mixed Conifer and Mixed Oak Savanna prior to the 1800s.

The majority of the land that became Waterford Oaks was originally purchased in 1831 by Joseph Stevenson. He died in 1832, just one year later. His wife Elizabeth inherited the land but it appears she was forced to sell much of it in order to pay her late husband's debts. She sold the land to Abram and Phoebe Kellogg who had migrated to Michigan from New York.



In 1866 Richard Vaughn purchased Charles Kellogg's 30-acre farm. The 1880 agricultural census showed his farm consisting of 20 acres of improved land and 10 acres of woodland. He grew corn, oats, wheat and potatoes. He also owned two cows, two pigs, 30 sheep and 60 chickens. When he died in 1883 the farm passed to his son Ferdinand (Fred).

Fred Vaughn's farm became the farm of William and Daisy McNutt around 1910. William was a surveyor and often traveled as part of his job, which often left Daisy in charge of the farm. She loved horses and began to raise them on the farm. In 1942 the farm became the home of the Stephan Ernst family who had come to the United States from Germany. It then passed to Stephen Ernst, Jr., whose family was the last to live on land that became Waterford Oaks. The Ernst family greenhouses were well-known and people from all over the Waterford area remember buying their vegetable flats, geraniums and other flowers there.

