

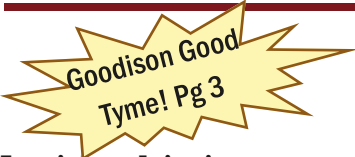
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission Newsletter

Fall 2024

The Mission of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission is to provide a sustainable system of parks, trails, programs, amenities, and services which create memorable experiences and a sense of place, contributes to the economic value of the Township and preserves the historical and natural heritage of the landscapes for existing and future generations.



Dinosaur Hill Valentines Day Letterbox Scavenger Hunt



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YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2025 – 2029 PARKS, RECREATION, AND LAND PRESERVATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Activities related to the 2025 – 2029 Oakland Township Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan continue to progress. Once submitted, the plan will make the Township eligible to apply for grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Since 1995, Oakland Township has pursued and successfully obtained 14 grants through the MDNR totaling nearly \$10,800,000!

Over the past several months, Parks and Recreation has hosted an Open House at Township Hall, set up information booths at the “Music in the Meadows” concert series at Bear Creek Nature Park and Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District, and collected input from residents through two surveys (one a statistically significant survey and the other an open survey). The data gathered from these sources is being compiled and analyzed and will form the basis of the recommendations of the updated plan.

Residents will still have other opportunities to provide feedback in the coming months. Residents are encouraged to attend the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month to offer their thoughts. A public review period will begin in late September and will run through November 13, 2024. The plan will be released electronically on the Parks and



(Continued on page 14)

Goodison Good Tyme

Join us at Bear Creek Nature Park for everyone’s favorite park event! Goodison Good Tyme returns on Saturday, September 16 with fun activities for everyone, including archery, face painting, balloon art, and more! Free activities! Refreshments available for purchase. See page 3 for details.

What's New In The Parks...

From the New Director...

Hello Oakland Township Community,

I am thrilled to introduce myself as your new Director of Parks and Recreation. Growing up in Oxford Township, I developed a deep appreciation of the local parks system from a very young age and I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue the great work Mindy and the team have been able to accomplish.

As a graduate of Grand Valley State University with a degree in Exercise Science, health and wellness as well as the environment's impact on our lives has been a key focus throughout my career. I served in many roles related to athletics, health and fitness in the Grand Rapids area before joining the multi-generational family cruise line, Royal Caribbean International in 2014. I started with RCL onboard ships as the Youth Activities Manager, and later moved to New York as Strategic Account Manager. During my time in New York, I continued my pursuit of creating engaging activities by launching the first roof-top ice rink in the city at Pier 17. The last few years I have served as the General Manager of The Plaza and The Rink at Rockefeller Center. It was an honor to be the primary caretaker of an iconic landmark attraction and I plan to bring the same dedication and stewardship to the natural beauty of Oakland Township. I'm eager to get started working with the exceptional staff at Oakland Township, and to serve the residents of this special community. Please feel free to stop by the Cider Mill to say hello in person! Looking forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Ben McLoskey



Welcome aboard to Aria Hughes, our new **Receptionist/Program Registration Clerk!**

An Oakland Township resident, she looks forward to serving the same community she grew up in. Aria graduated from the College for Creative Studies in the fall of 2022, with a degree in Animation. Aria recently held the role of Promotional Art Supervisor/ Project Manager with Fountain's Pen Productions. She is hardworking,

organized, and always eager to learn new things! Her interests include drawing, spending time with family and friends, and playing an occasional



videogame. She is looking forward to being a part of the team and is very excited for her new role in the Parks and Recreation department. Welcome to the team Aria!





Goodison Good Time



FREE!

- ARCHERY SHOOT
- BALLOON ARTIST
- FACE PAINTING
- INFLATABLES
- LIVE CHILDREN'S MUSIC
- T-SHIRT STENCIL
- COMEDIC JUGGLER
- STROLLING MAGICIAN



**Food Truck
refreshments available
for purchase**



Saturday, September 14th
11am - 3pm

BEAR CREEK NATURE PARK
740 W. SNELL ROAD, ROCHESTER, MI 48306

**Sponsored by Oakland Township Parks and
Recreation Millage**



Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

Fall 2024 Nature Programs

Register online: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Calling All Crickets **Tuesday, September 10, 10:30am-11:30am** **PreK 3-5 years**
Gallagher Creek Park, Pavilion, 2780 Silver Bell Rd., Rochester, MI 48306
 Join us for a program all about crickets! Can you use a cricket as a thermometer? We'll read the story "The Very Quiet Cricket" and learn all about cricket behaviors- chirping, hopping, and warming in the sun! We'll put together our own cricket instruments to take out on the trail and listen for wild crickets to respond. Look at a live cricket under a magnifying glass! **Children under age 5 must be accompanied by an adult.** Resident registration **open now.** Register by: **Sept. 4**
 Non-Resident registration opens: **Aug. 21** Residents: **\$5** Non-residents: **\$7**



Fall Mushroom of Michigan **TWO DATES!!** **Adults 18+**
Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, MI 48363



Take a tour of the amazing world of mushrooms. Discover the many types of mushrooms in Michigan in this unique and very hands-on program from mushroom expert Jerry Watson of the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club. We will peruse the Seasonal Mushrooms of Michigan with a PowerPoint presentation from our expert and learn about where and how mushrooms grow while inspecting numerous samples up close. Then, we'll take a walk (no picking) to search for mushrooms in the park too! There is no substitute for the excellent opportunity of taking part in a mushroom hunt with a true mushroom expert! PowerPoint presentation handouts to all registrants to view during Jerry Watson's lecture.

Sign up early for this popular program! Resident registration **open now.**
Saturday, September 14th **11:00am-12:30pm** Register by: **Sept. 10th**
 Non-Resident registration opens: **Sept. 2nd** Residents: **\$5/person** Non-residents: **\$7/person**
Sunday, September 15th **11:00am-12:30pm** Register by: **Sept. 10th**
 Non-Resident registration opens: **Sept 3rd** Residents: **\$5/person** Non-residents: **\$7/person**

Built by Beaver **Friday, September 27th 6:30pm-8:00pm** **Adults 18+**
Draper Twin Lake Park, 1015 Inwood Rd., Oakland, 48363

Beaver are a large part of the landscape and the history in Michigan. We'll take a short walk to search for beaver and examine their habitat including pantry, lodge, and dam. Discover how beavers stay warm all winter (feel their fur for yourself!) and how Oakland Township keeps the water flowing without relocating or harming the beaver. Resident registration **open now.** Register by: **Sept. 23**
 Non-Resident registration opens: **Sept. 6th** Residents: **\$5/person** Non-residents: **\$7/person**



Great Pumpkin Bowl **Friday, October 11th** **7:00pm - 8:30pm** **Family**
Lost Lake Nature Park Warming Shelter and Sled Hill **846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, 48363**

We excitedly invite you to celebrate the majesty of the orange pumpkin by engaging in the largest pumpkin bowling course ever imagined! We will be turning on the spotlights surrounding the Lost Lake sledding hill and setting up trashcan pins at the bottom of the hill. Participants will have to carry their ammunition to the top of the hill, aim true, and then send their pumpkins careening back down with the intention of obliterating the cans. This ultimate celebration in pumpkin destruction wouldn't be complete without a snack so expect cider and doughnuts to keep you energized and climbing that hill.



Participants must provide their own pumpkins. **Children under age 7 must be accompanied by an adult. All family members in attendance must register.** Resident Registration **open now.**
 Non-Resident registration opens: **Sept. 20** Residents: **\$5** Non-residents: **\$7** Register by **Oct. 7**

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

Fall 2024 Nature Programs

Register online: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Oakland Astronomy Club Presents: Celestial November Sky **8:00pm - 9:30pm** **Family**
Saturday, November 23

Cranberry Lake Farm 388 West Predmore, Oakland, 48363

We're diving into a moonless night filled with celestial wonders. Join us to marvel at the majestic planets Saturn and Jupiter, witness the beauty of the Summer Triangle, and brace yourself for the return of winter's finest celestial treasures! From the stunning open clusters in Auriga to the Andromeda and Triangulum Galaxies, the giant stars of Perseus and the Pleiades, and the breathtaking open clusters in Cassiopeia — it's going to be a night of cosmic magic! OAC will provide telescopes. Bring your curiosity and binoculars or borrow ours. Dress for the elements.



All Family members in attendance must register.

Resident Registration **open now.** Non-Resident registration opens: **Nov. 2** Register by **Nov. 19**
 Residents: **\$5** Non-residents: **\$7**

Pining Over Yew (How to Use Evergreens at the Holidays) **Seniors**
Saturday, December 7, 1:00pm-2:30pm



Lost Lake Nature Park, Nature Center, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, MI 48363

Spruce up your home by making an evergreen centerpiece! Discover which coniferous tree you don't want for a Christmas tree, how pines can help you avoid scurvy, and how to identify trees with needles. Take a taste of pine needle tea and take a short stroll among trees at Lost Lake Nature Park.

Resident registration **open now.** Non-resident registration opens: **Oct. 20** Register by: **Dec.3**
 Residents: **\$5** Non-residents: **\$7**

Re-gifted Resources: Holiday Crafts **Ages 7-10**
Wednesday, December 11, 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Lost Lake Nature Park, Nature Center, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, MI 48363

Get creative while making and decorating five different holiday ornaments out of natural and upcycled materials. Decorate with a wooden cookie snowman, clothespin reindeer, pinecone penguin or owl, pressed fern winter scene, and paper towel roll snowflake. Assemble a decorative holiday treat for the birds and enjoy your own seed snack.



Resident registration **open now.** Non-resident registration opens: **Nov. 22** Register by: **Dec. 5**
 Residents: **\$5** Non-residents: **\$7**

Program Refund Policy Registrants will receive a full refund for programs cancelled by Oakland Township Parks and Recreation. Registrants withdrawing more than 4 business days prior to the program start date will receive a refund, less a \$5.00 administration fee. No refunds will be made if withdrawing less than 4 business days from program start date. All registrants wishing to withdraw must do so during regular business hours Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm by phone at 248-651-7810 or by email at knewton@oaklandtownship.org. Visit www.oaklandtownship.org for complete program information and other Park and Recreation information, permits, & ordinances

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

Fall 2024 Fitness & Wellness

Register online: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Tai Chi Beginners

Tuesdays, 6:00pm -7:00pm

Adults 18+

These classes will cover the beginning movements of the Tai Chi form and principles, as well as enhance your overall health by improving balance and feelings of wellbeing. You should be able to support your weight while standing or bring a chair if unable to stand without assistance. Grab some comfortable clothing and shoes. No flip flops or sandals. All sessions are led by Marci Jenkins who has over 20 years of Tai Chi training and practice. Resident registration **open now**.



Outdoors

Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 West Predmore, Oakland, MI 48363

Sept. 10 - October 29 (8 weeks)

Non-Resident Registration opens: **Aug. 18**

Register by: **Sept. 4**

Residents: **\$64**

Non- Residents: **\$80**

Indoors

Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Rd., Rochester, MI 48306

Nov. 5- December 17 (6 weeks)

Non-Resident Registration opens: **Oct. 15**

Register by: **Oct. 30**

(No Class Nov. 26th)

Residents: **\$42**

Non- Residents: **\$60**

Next Step Tai Chi Beginners

Wednesdays 6:00pm -7:00pm

Adults 18+

Indoors

Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Rd., Rochester, MI 48306



Continue practicing Tai Chi by learning the remaining movements of the Yang style while reviewing the basic principles of Tai Chi. This class is for those students who have already learned the first third of the Yang Style (Chen Man Ching) Tai Chi form and/or have the permission of the instructor. All sessions are led by Marci Jenkins who has over 20 years of Tai Chi training and practice. Resident registration: **open now**.

Sept.11 –Oct. 30 (8 weeks)

Non-Resident Registration opens: **August 21**

Register by: **Sept. 9**

Residents: **\$64**

Non-Residents: **\$80**

Nov. 6 - December 18 (6 weeks)

Non-Resident Registration opens: **Oct.11**

Register by: **Oct. 31**

(No Class Nov.27th)

Residents: **\$42**

Non-Residents: **\$60**

All Levels Yoga

Sundays 9:30am-10:30

Ages 12+



Join Up Dog Yoga and Oakland Township Parks and Recreation as they team up to bring you high quality yoga! *All Levels* classes will accommodate all skill levels with an option to modify. Bring your water bottle and yoga mat. Resident registration is **open now**.

Cranberry Lake Farm

Outdoors

388 West Predmore, Oakland, MI 48363

September 15-October 20

Non-Resident registration opens: **Aug. 25**

Register by **Sept 10**

Residents: **\$60**

Non-residents: **\$72**

Paint Creek Cider Mill

Indoors

4480 Orion Rd. Rochester, MI 48306

October 27 – December 1

Non-Resident registration opens: **Oct. 6**

Register by **Oct. 22**

December 8 – January 12

Non-Resident registration opens: **Nov.17**

Register by **Dec. 3**

Residents: **\$60**

Non-residents: **\$72**

All Sessions are 6 weeks

Fall 2024 Archery Programs

Marsh View Park Archery Range
3100 E. Clarkston Rd., Oakland, MI 48363

Register online at
oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Beginning Archery

Sundays 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Ages 8+



Looking for something new and fun to try on a beautiful crisp fall day? This fun class is for you and your family! Our instructors will cover safety, equipment and basic fundamentals of shooting. Sanitized equipment provided.

5 weeks. Resident registration open now.

Sept 8 - Oct 6

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Aug 18**

Register by: **Sept 3**

Residents: **\$90**

Non-Residents: **\$112.50**

Next Step Archery

Sundays 10:45am - 11:45am

Ages 8+

Once you've completed our Beginning Archery program, take your skills to the next level by improving your form, discover the use of sights to improve your aim, and sharpen your release skills to prepare yourself for competition or to simply master the target during practice. This program is designed for everyone over the age of eight. **Pre-Requisite: Must have completed a Beginning Archery class or its equivalent.** 5 weeks.



Sept 8 - Oct 6

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Aug 18**

Register by: **Sept 3**

Residents: **\$60**

Non-Residents: **\$75**

Archery Club

Tuesdays 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Ages 10-18

Joining an archery club is a great way to achieve your archery goals, make new friends and have fun! Shooting year-round will improve your accuracy, efficiency and confidence. You'll benefit from tips and tricks others share with you, laugh at common mistakes and failures, and, most importantly, enhance your overall archery experience. For the more serious archer we will teach you how to use sights to ready you for the next level. You'll find no better place to meet like-minded people who share your archery passions. Use our equipment or bring your own. 6 week program **Prerequisite: Must have completed Next Step Archery (Intermediate) course or Team Archery.** Resident registration open now.



Outdoors

Sept 3-Oct 8

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Aug 13**

Marsh View Park, Archery Range

Register by: **Aug 28**

Residents: **\$72**

Non-Residents: **\$90**

Indoors

OCT/ NOV/ DEC

Day and time to be determined

Baldwin Elementary School

4325 Bannister Blvd., Rochester, 48306

Residents: **\$90**

Non-Residents: **\$108**

Fall 2024 Archery Programs

Marsh View Park Archery Range
3100 E. Clarkston Rd., Oakland, MI 48363

Register online at
oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Junior Olympic Archery Development—JOAD Wednesdays 5:00pm - 6:00pm Ages 10 +

We are excited to offer this new opportunity for our shooters looking to advance their technique and earn achievement awards. JOAD will focus on your shooting skills, technique, and process. We will go in depth into how we shoot and discuss ways to improve. All participants must be a member of USA Archery. Use our equipment or bring your own.



6 week program. ***(Must have coach evaluation or recommendation to register)***
Please contact us at OTPR.JOAD@gmail.com to see if you are a good fit for JOAD.

Outdoors

Marsh View Park, Archery Range

Sept 4-Oct 9

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Aug 13**

Register by: **Aug 30**

Residents: **\$72**

Non-Residents: **\$90**

Indoors

Day and time to be determined

Baldwin Elementary School

OCT/ NOV/ DEC

4325 Bannister Blvd., Rochester, 48306

Residents: **\$90**

Non-Residents: **\$108**

Open Range Shoot - "FREE" to the Public

Ages 8– Adult



Practice your archery skills. Range supervised by certified USA Archery Instructors. Not sure how to shoot? Our instructors can assist you with our **1st Shot Demo Program** - 5 minute teaching time/demo during Open Range Shoot Session Times. **"Free Loan Program"** eligible - bows, arrows and targets provided or bring your own. Equipment will be sanitized between users and sessions. Children between 8 and 17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration is required for each 1 hour session.

Aug 29 – Sept 19

Thursdays: 5pm-8pm Register for a 1 hour session: 5pm, 6pm, 7pm

No Open Range Shoot September 16th

Sept. 6 – Oct. 24

Thursdays: 5pm-7pm Register for a 1 hour session: 5pm, 6pm

Sept 8 — Oct. 27

Sundays: 12pm-4pm Register for a 1 hour session: 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

A months' worth of sessions are available for registration at any one time.

Resident and Non-Resident Registration: Open now

Fall 2024 Team Archery

What do you get when you take 39 teenagers from six middle schools and three high schools in Rochester and surrounding areas and have them meet once a week at Marsh View Park's Archery Range? Team Archery, that's what! Students from Hart Middle School, Notre Dame Prep Middle School, Oakview Middle School, Reuther Middle School, Van Hoosen Middle School, West Middle School, as well as Adams High School, Lake Orion High School, and Rochester High School came together to form one amazing team.

While some of our archers are fast becoming quite seasoned, there were also archers who joined the team that picked up a bow for the first time. Coach Clif Selent and Assistant Brooke Patrician introduced some to the sport of archery and helped others continue to refine their skills. All team archers had the opportunity to shoot at the Michigan High School Athletic Association Archery Tournament on May 18th at The Hawk in Farmington Hills. They joined other archers from all over southern Michigan with more than 305 kids competing, and our team proved to be formidable!

The High School Male Team placed second overall. The archers on this team were:

Adrian Kanzler (Adams HS), Griffin Moore (Adams HS), Thomas Goleski (Rochester HS), Brandon Hutchins (Lake Orion HS), Finn Wenchley (Adams HS), Gabriel Loomis (Rochester HS), Kelly Menzies (Adams HS), Juchan Lee (Adams HS), Jackson Paris (Adams HS).

Two of our archers received individual medals:

High School Male Barebow Compound Division 1st: Kelly Menzies (Adams High School).

Middle School Male Recurve with Sights Division 2nd: Connor Dolecki (Hart Middle School)

It was a great season, and all of our archers should be proud of their achievements. A big thanks to all of the parents who made this possible - we couldn't have done it without your support! We look forward to seeing our archers next season as they continue their archery journey.

Photos from 2024 Team Archery



Team Practice at the Marsh View Park Archery Range



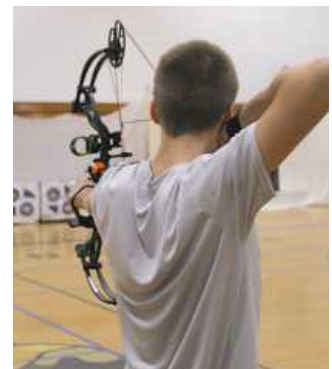
Makena Jensen



Afton Ross



Gabriel Loomis



Thomas Goleski



DISCOVER!
**LOST
 LAKE**
 NATURE PARK



Nature Center | Open Houses | Fishing Dock | Sled Hill

A Partnership between Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve and Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

www.DinosaurHill.org

846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland Township, MI 48363

(248) 656-0999

FREE!

Lost Lake Open Houses

FREE!

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation and Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve have partnered to bring Oakland Township residents and others exciting programs at Lost Lake Nature Park! Family, friends and neighbors are invited to explore themed indoor and outdoor activities at any of these **FREE** drop in events, with no pre-registration required.

*Open House events occur 12-3 pm on every 2nd Saturday & 4th Sunday of the month!**

Saturday, September 21 & Sunday, September 29 12-3 pm– Foraging Fun: Basic Mushroom & Medicinal Plants

September 21st outside we'll mimic a Puffball mushroom spore release and do a scavenger hunt for edible and poisonous mushroom cards. Inside, create your own paper bag mushroom craft, and get a close look at a model of the easiest to identify edible mushroom found in Michigan. On **September 29**, discover common native plants that have traditionally been used for medicine and head to the trail to identify some of them. Then decorate a foraging bag to take home.

Saturday, October 12 & Sunday, October 27 12-3 pm– Superheroes: Spiders & Bats!

On **October 12th**, test your spider sense by catching “flies” on our sidewalk chalk spiderweb outside the nature center, reveal a secret spider message with watercolor paint, and see a real live spider up close! **October 27th** we'll make a flying bat craft, look for the perfect bat roost trees, and check out some bat skull models from around the world.

Saturday, November 9 & Sunday, November 24 12-3 pm– Talkin' Turkey

On both **November 9th and November 24th**, join us to explore all things turkey! Turkeys have 8 different kinds of feathers! Learn how to use a turkey call, make a cork turkey craft on November 9th and a leaf turkey on November 24th. Play stuff the turkey and turkey leg ring toss outside.

Saturday, December 14 & Sunday, December 22 12-3 pm– Winter Birds

December 14th, join us as a Audobon Christmas Bird Count bird walk & feeder identification site. Then build your own woodpecker feeder and mix some miracle meal to fill it at home. On **December 22nd**, we'll build a platform feeder, explore which birds are attracted to which seeds, and go outside to compare your wingspan to those of some common birds. On both days, check out feathers under a microscope!

All programs on this page take place at Lost Lake Nature Park. The park is located in Oakland Township so it is close by for everyone! The park is just West of Rochester Rd off of Predmore: **846 Lost Lake Trail**
 Dinosaur Hill offers programs at other Township parks as well. Check out the Oakland Township section of this guide to see what is coming up soon!

alternate dates when those are affected by Federal Holidays or large events



Fall 2024 Natural Areas Stewardship Events

Please join us for one of our natural areas stewardship events! Updated information and any last minute changes to these events can be found on our Natural Areas Notebook website at oaklandnaturalareas.com. *All minors must have a waiver signed by a guardian, and minors under 14 must be accompanied by a guardian.

Weekly Bird Walks

Join us every Wednesday from September through November 15 for our weekly bird walks. We want to document the bird species using our parks so that we can work to improve their habitat. Walks will start at 8:30 am. Extra binoculars are available.



- 1st Wednesday of month – Bear Creek Nature Park
- 2nd Wednesday of month – Cranberry Lake Park
- 3rd Wednesday of month – Fox Nature Preserve
- 4th Wednesday of month – Watershed Ridge Park
- 5th Wednesday of month - Draper Twin Lake Park



Bear Creek Nature Park Workdays

The special natural areas at Bear Creek Nature Park provide habitat for wildlife and a haven for native plants. We will be removing invasive shrubs this fall and spreading seed, setting the stage for more beauty next year! Tools and training will be provided. All workdays are 9 am to 12 pm. Meet in the Snell Road parking lot for Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 W. Snell Rd.

November 12 & 26
December 3 & 10

Stewardship Holiday Coffee Hour

December 17, 10:00 to 11:30 am, Paint Creek Cider Mill

Join us to enjoy some informal socializing and networking with other nature enthusiasts! We'll share our experiences birding, checking nest boxes, volunteering, gardening with native plants, and anything else nature-related while wrapping up 2024.



Natural Areas Information at your Fingertips!

Have you checked out our blog recently? The [Natural Areas Notebook](#) has the latest about what's happening in the parks, news about the latest stewardship work, and up-to-date information about stewardship events. Find this and much more at oaklandnaturalareas.com.

2025 – 2029 PARKS, RECREATION, AND LAND PRESERVATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

(Continued from page 1)

Recreation website, and hard copies will be available for review at Township Hall. A formal public hearing will be held at the Parks Commission meeting on November 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., and will subsequently be presented to both the Planning Commission and Board of Trustees in December. And of course, you can always contact Parks and Recreation directly by phone at (248) 651-7810, or contact Director Ben McLoskey at bmclloskey@oaklandtownship.org.



Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Master Plan Introduction

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requires communities to prepare and submit a recreation plan once every five years in order to be eligible for grant funding through DNR-administered programs.

The process used to generate the plan consists of three phases: background studies, evaluation, and plan development.

Background Studies. Involves gathering and updating records from census data, existing documents, plans, and field observations. The information is organized into three chapters: community description, administrative structure & funding, and parks & recreation inventory.

Evaluation. Includes an evaluation and analysis of gathered data and community input to determine recreation facilities and program needs. Input from local officials and the members of the Park Commission is also used.

Plan Development. Based on identified deficiencies and needs, goals and objectives are adjusted and a specific action plan developed.

The plan is broken into five basic chapters:

Community Description: A general description of the community demographics and trends, including the physical characteristics of Oakland Township.

Administrative Structure and Funding: A description of the Township management, history, and economic resources. The chapter provides a listing of the Department's expenditures and revenues, funding, and grant history.

Parks & Recreation Inventory: An overview of individual parks and recreation facilities available to Oakland Township residents, including facilities not explicitly included in the Township holdings, such as schools, regional trails, and quasi-public facilities.

Basis for Action Plan: A discussion of the planning and public input process and an analysis of Township parks and facilities. The chapter details the methodology used to determine community impressions of the park system and details the results of those investigations.

Action Plan: Recommendations for the future development of the Parks system, from specific parks to general system wide levels. The Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan is also contained in this section. This chapter provides the ultimate recommendations for the next five years, including a description of any capital expenditures associated with those recommendations.

Since 1995, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation has pursued and successfully obtained 14 grants through the MDNR totaling nearly \$10,800,000.

Completion of this Master Plan makes the Township eligible to apply for the three grant programs administered by the MDNR, including:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF): MNRTF funding is provided by revenue derived from royalties on the sale and lease of state-owned oil, gas and mineral rights. Maximum of \$400,000 is available for recreation development, with no maximum for land acquisition. A minimum 25% funding match is required.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): LWCF is administered by the National Park Service (NPS), with funding derived from earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing. The MDNR recommends projects to the NPS for funding. Maximum grant request is \$500,000 for development, with no maximum for land acquisition. A 50% match is required.

Recreation Passport: Funded through vehicle registrations in Michigan, the program offers up to \$150,000 for development of new facilities and renovation of existing facilities. A minimum 25% funding match is required.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation and the Historic District Commission at Cranberry Lake Farm successfully achieved many of the goals and action items outlined in the 2020 - 2024 Recreation Plan. Some of the accomplishments include:

PROGRAMMING

Expanded soccer field use through additional leagues.
Expanded both outdoor and indoor archery programming.
Hired Archery Range Coordinator. Archery now runs year round, with indoor instruction at Baldwin Elementary in winter months, helping to retain student interest. Offering both leagues and clubs.

Hosted the highly prestigious Michigan Senior Olympics Tournament.

Built Archery Range Storage Shed – 30 x 40

Awarded DNR Archery Equipment Replacement Grant: \$2000 in equipment for indoor archery programs.

Purchased new soccer equipment to replace second-hand and aged goals for 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11.
Purchased goal backstop systems.

Purchased golf cart for mobility challenged program participants.

Offering virtual & in person Yoga & Tai Chi fitness classes. Participation has been steadily increasing

Offering free programs twice a month at the Lost Lake Nature Center in addition to the regular nature programs provided by Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve.



MAINTENANCE

New equipment purchases split between Maintenance and Natural Areas Stewardship, reducing overall costs and less expensive than relying on contractors.

New heated pole barn at Watershed Ridge Park allows maintenance through winter.

NATURAL AREAS



Hired a full time Stewardship Specialist, allowing for more field work to be completed and better oversight of a greatly expanded volunteer corps. The Volunteer program has grown exponentially.

Purchased trailers, track loader, utility vehicle, dump trailer (shared with Maintenance).

Natural features inventory completed (with MNFI) at Fox Nature Preserve.

Multiple prairie and wetland restorations completed in partnership with US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Fox Nature Preserve land acquisition.

Phragmites eradication program headed up by Dr. Benjamin VanderWeide, Natural Areas Stewardship Manager. Annual Stewardship reports published.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CRANBERRY LAKE FARM

- Moved and restored a township milk house.
- Restored east porch steps at Farm House.
- Installed five lawn hydrants for accessible water
- Created a children's story garden.
- Installed a high-production dwarf apple orchard.
- Installed additional three beehives in a gated enclosed area.



- Added eagle statues on stone monuments at the east entrance.
- Added a small herb garden.
- Restored the Heritage Garden.
- Restored an Orchard Sprayer.
- Accepted donations for two large antique carriages.
- Continue to add new programs including a variety of new activities for "Down on the Farm".

PARK SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS

- Parking lot improvements/additions completed at Draper Twin Lake Park, Charles Ilsley Park, Bear Creek Nature Park, Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park, Watershed Ridge Park.
- Lawn area at Bear Creek Nature Park improved to allow overflow parking during events.
- New well & electrical improvements at Bear Creek Nature Park.
- Flushable restrooms added at Marsh View Park, Bear Creek Nature Park.
- Completion of trailhead, parking, and restrooms at Paint Creek Junction Park.
- Park signage at Paint Creek Junction Park and Marsh View Park.
- New pavilion at Marsh View Park (donation).
- Improved connection between Charles Ilsley Park and Wynstone subdivision.
- New trails at Watershed Ridge Park.
- Acquisition of land for Fox Nature Preserve.



- Marsh View Park archery barn.
- Continuing improvements to meet occupancy requirements, allow classes.
- Expanded archery lane to meet ADA requirements for longer range targets.



Crazy for Crickets

By Dr. Sue Neal, Executive Director, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve

Turn over a log, walk through the tall grass or just listen out your window and you are likely to discover the crickets of Oakland Township. Field crickets and probably the ones most familiar to us here and they are typically found in open areas with grass or low vegetation. Their robust chirping serves multiple purposes, from attracting mates to establishing territory within their habitats.

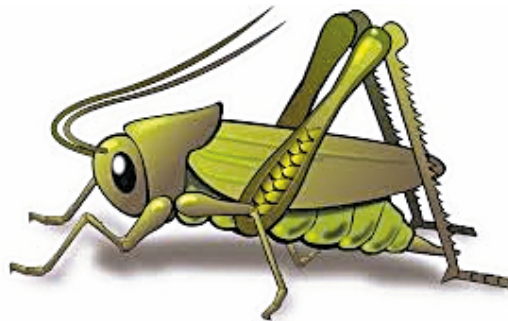


Crickets, members of the insect order Orthoptera, are widely distributed across the globe, thriving in diverse habitats ranging from temperate grasslands to tropical rainforests and even urban environments.

These small, chirping insects play essential ecological roles as herbivores, primarily feeding on plant material such as leaves, flowers, and fruits. Their diet occasionally includes other organic matter like fungi and dead insects, making them somewhat omnivorous. Their presence in the ecosystems is significant due to their role as prey for numerous predators, including birds, reptiles, amphibians, and other insects. This makes them a crucial link in the food web, contributing to the overall biodiversity and ecological balance of their habitats. In agricultural settings they also serve as natural pest controllers by preying on smaller insects that harm crops.



Crickets have captured human fascination and have had cultural significance throughout history, particularly in East Asian societies like China and Japan. In these cultures, crickets have been kept as pets for centuries, admired not only for their musical chirping but also for their perceived ability to bring good luck and prosperity. They are often seen as harbingers of good fortune or bearers of messages from the spirit world. Their chirping is believed to carry omens or signify changes in the natural world, depending on the context and interpretation within different tribal beliefs.



Crazy for Crickets

By Dr. Sue Neal, Executive Director, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve

Despite their adaptability and widespread distribution, crickets face several challenges that threaten their populations. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to urbanization, agricultural expansion, and deforestation disrupt their natural habitats and reduce available food sources. Climate change poses additional threats, altering temperature and precipitation patterns that can affect cricket populations and their interactions within ecosystems.

The use of pesticides and insecticides in agriculture and urban areas also poses a significant threat to crickets and other insect species. These chemicals can directly harm crickets or indirectly affect them by reducing their food sources or disrupting their reproductive cycles.

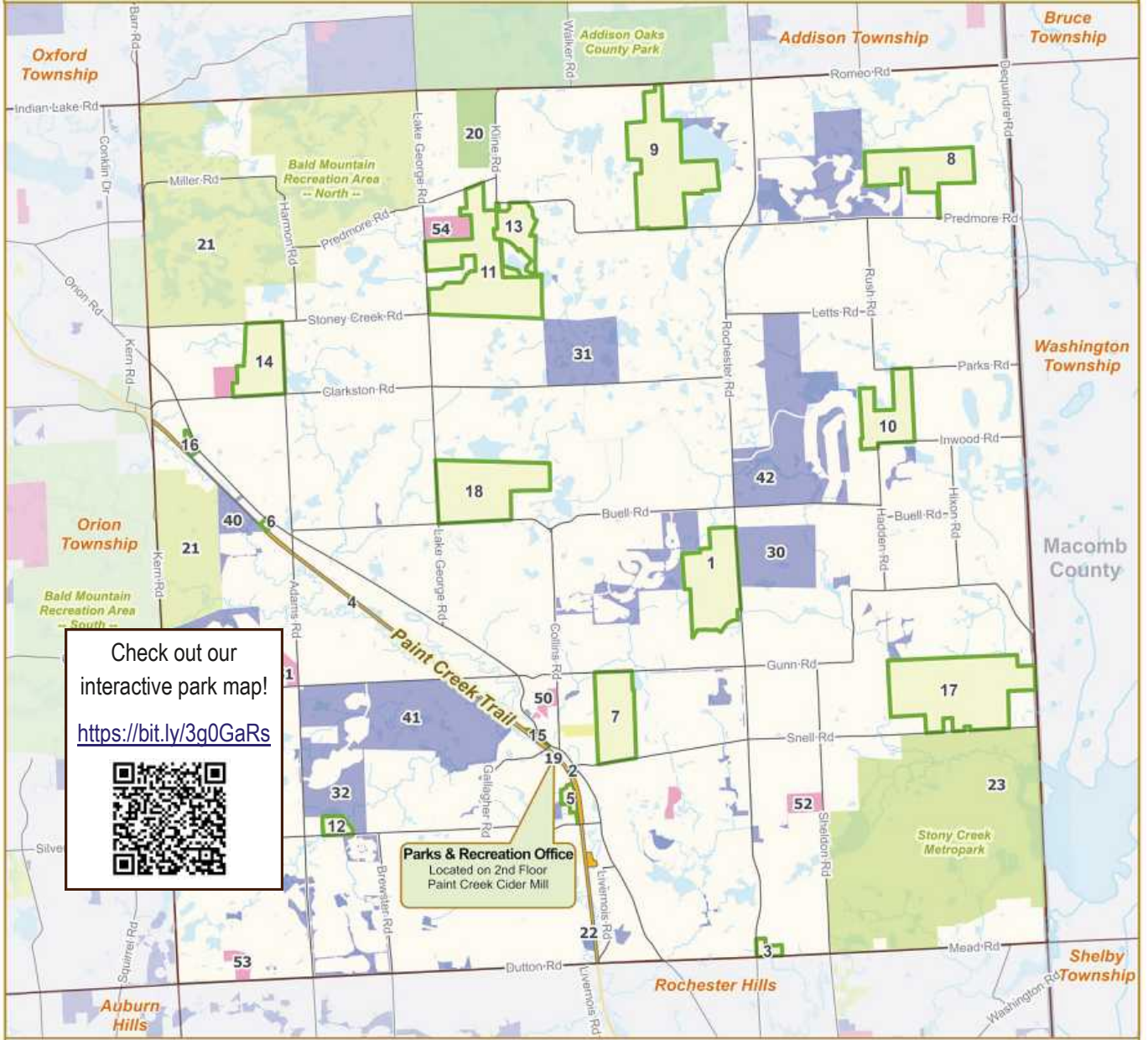
Conservation efforts for crickets focus on preserving and restoring diverse habitats, promoting sustainable agricultural practices that minimize pesticide use, and raising awareness about the importance of insects in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Citizen science initiatives and community involvement play crucial roles in monitoring cricket populations and advocating for their protection.



Crickets are so much more than just chirping insects! They are integral components of ecosystems and cultural heritage worldwide. From their ecological roles as herbivores and prey to their symbolic significance in mythology and literature, crickets embody the interconnectedness of nature and human culture. As we strive to conserve biodiversity and protect natural habitats, understanding and appreciating the role of crickets in our world can inspire efforts to ensure their continued presence for future generations to appreciate and learn from. Want to explore much more about the world of crickets? Join Dinosaur Hill naturalists:

Tuesday September 10th 10:30-11:30
Gallagher Creek Park

Parks and Recreation Opportunities in Oakland Township



Check out our interactive park map!
<https://bit.ly/3g0GaRs>

Parks & Recreation Office
 Located on 2nd Floor
 Paint Creek Cider Mill

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Facilities

Conservation Areas

1. Blue Heron Environmental Area
2. Mill Creek Crossing
3. O'Connor Nature Park
4. Paint Creek Heritage Area- Fen
5. Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie
6. Paint Creek Trail Parcel

Community Parks & Recreation Facilities

7. Bear Creek Nature Park
8. Charles Ilsley Park
9. Cranberry Lake Park
10. Draper Twin Lake Park
11. Fox Nature Preserve
12. Gallagher Creek Park
13. Lost Lake Nature Park
14. Marsh View Park
15. Mill Race Trail
16. Paint Creek Junction
17. Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
18. Watershed Ridge Park
19. Paint Creek Cider Mill (Parks & Rec Office)

Other Parks and Recreation Facilities

Other Public Parks

20. Addison Oaks County Park
21. Bald Mountain State Recreation Area
22. Paint Creek Trail
23. Stony Creek Metropark

Other Public Recreation Facilities

30. Blackheath Golf Club
31. The Myth Golf Club
32. Westwynd Golf Club

Private Recreation Facilities

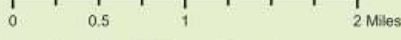
40. Royal Oak Archers
41. The Wyndgate Golf Course
42. Twin Lakes Golf & Swim Club

Public Schools

50. Baldwin Elementary School
51. Delta Kelly Elementary School
52. Hugger Elementary School
53. Musson Elementary School
54. Oakview Middle School

Key to Features:

- Municipal Boundary
- 🌊 Lakes & Ponds
- 🛤️ Paint Creek Trail
- 🏠 Private Recreation
- 🛣️ Major Roads
- 🌳 Streams & Rivers
- 🌳 Public Recreation
- 🏫 Public School



Oakland Township Parks Natural Areas Stewardship



What Are Invasive Species and Why Should We Care?

Patrick Canniff, Oakland County CISMA Coordinator

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 6:30 pm

Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Rd, Rochester, MI 48306

Invasive species are listed as one of the top threats to our wildlife and natural areas. But what is an invasive species and why should we care? Patrick Canniff, the coordinator with the Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) will review some common invasive species, emerging threats, and what we can do to make a difference.

Our maintenance staff, natural areas stewardship staff, and three stewardship volunteers leveled up their chainsaw skills in June! During the three-day course Scott Peterson from SOS Tree Service reviewed saw safety, saw maintenance, cutting techniques, and directional tree felling, with an emphasis on setting up and maintaining a safe work area. With all the recent storms we've had many opportunities to practice our new skills!



IN MEMORIAM

We would like to acknowledge the passing of Marc Edwards, friend and volunteer, on July 4, 2024. Marc made a remarkable impact on Oakland Township with his dedication and enthusiasm for volunteering. Marc was a Township Trustee, Township Planning Commissioner, Member of Township Safety Paths and Trails Subcommittee, Paint Creek Trails Commissioner and the founder of the Township's Curamus Terram races that were held between 2003 and 2012 during the Goodison Good Tyme festivities. Marc loved running and shared this passion with Township residents by organizing, promoting and directing the Curamus Terram 5K, 10K, and half-marathon races. It's volunteers like Marc who make a significant difference in our community and we are incredibly thankful. Godspeed, Marc...you've crossed the finish line.



PRESERVATION NEWS: HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION



The Oakland Twp Historic District Commission has acquired two new reflective road signs designed to help protect the Grand Champion Schuette Oak Tree from vehicular damage. The treasured tree is over 500 year's old and is a local landmark. You can find it easily at the corner of Letts and Rush Rd. *Photo with Lucas Gerhard*

Bill Berklich is a long-time resident of the area and a graduate from Rochester High School. He is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and father of two grown children, living in Oakland Township with his wife of 28 years. Bill currently serves as a Technical Specialist for the U.S. Army. He is involved with Boy Scouts, the Rochester Community House, and a lifetime member of the Michigan United Conservation Club. In his spare time Bill enjoys hunting, fishing, backpacking, and woodworking. Please welcome Bill in helping historic preservation service to our residents.



NEW HDC COMMISSIONER



CRANBERRY LAKE HISTORIC FARM

A community historical center - work in progress for you! Come out to the historic farm located at 388 W. Predmore Rd. For more information contact Historic District Commission office 248-608-6807. Visit our Heritage Garden, Story Garden, barns, hen house, carriage barn, with several areas to picnic. Check the website www.oaklandtownship.org HDC page or join our Facebook: #CLFDistrict.

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN—DAVID THOMAS

We are excited to be hosting this talented musician who will be performing variety of music in the Story Garden on Friday, Sept 20th at 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Experience the magic of live music with David, a multi-instrumentalist and singer who will dazzle you with his virtuosity on the trumpet, piano, flute, and piccolo. Known for his dynamic performances, David is also a dedicated trumpet instructor at the Rochester Conservatory of Music and is currently recording his own album, where he plays every instrument himself! Bring friends & family for a night to remember.



CRANBERRY LAKE FARM



Thank you Bonnie Mackley for the oil painting of Predmore Road property, painted on local historic barn wood fencing, from our CLF neighbors across the street. The Mackley's watched over the farm for many decades and had involvement in acquiring this beautiful parkland and historic site. The oil painting is by a township resident Susie Pomeranski. Stop by to view the painting inside the main house.

WEDDINGS AT THE FARM & PLEIN AIRE PAINTING



Cranberry Lake Farm is active with weddings and programs. The farm hosted two weddings in June, orchard workshop, beekeeping classes, and is always open to the public! In addition, we host four Plein Aire Painting workshops every third Tues of the month from 10am to 2pm for only \$25.



BEE KEEPING WORKSHOP AT THE FARM



On Sat Aug 24th, we will be hosting the final beekeeping workshop learning how to harvest honey with our beekeeper Dawn Gialanella. The program will held in the Hen House from noon to 1:30pm. Learn everything you want to know about beekeeping for just \$5 per Oakland Twp resident and \$8 for all others. The farm has seven active hives that you will walk to so please wear proper shoes.



DOWN ON THE FARM—FREE FAMILY TIME

Come on out to enjoy our most popular event Down on the Farm, **Sat, Oct. 5th from 11am to 2pm.** There will be live music by Just Banjos, antique tractors, corn shellers, apple picking, yard games, painting displays, pumpkins, horse & donkey grooming, backyard chickens, blacksmiths, and farriers. In addition to all the activities available, you can also pick up a few new skills! Learn about spinning, quilting, herb gardening, caning, and of course beekeeping. This is put on with the generous help of Oakland Twp Historical Society, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, and O.T. Parks and Recreation.



Oakland Township Historical Society



OTHS Programs and Events
OTHS is having its annual
Fall pot luck on
September 4th 2024 at 6:30pm.
~Cranberry Lake Farm~
Hope to see you there!

HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY !!
Oakland Township Historical Society!
This year is our 50th anniversary –
The Society was founded in 1974
by Delta Kelly, Barbara Kandarian
and Jeanne Phillips in order to
gather, interpret and preserve the
History of Oakland Township.
We have accomplished much over
the last 50 years.
Thanks to all of our members,
friends and volunteers for helping
us achieve these successes, and
here’s to another 50 years!
OTHSpresident@gmail.com



**Save the date for the Flumerfelt Flea
Sale in the barn on Sept. 21 & 22, 2024.**



INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT NOTICE

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation hereby provides notice to the public and property owners for the 2024 control of invasive plants in wetlands within township park properties including *Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis* (Common reed), invasive cattails (*Typha latifolia* and *Typha x glauca*), glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), invasive honeysuckle (non-native *Lonicera* species), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), in Oakland Township Park properties.

Invasive plants can limit access to water bodies for people and wildlife, impair habitat for native plants and animals, lower property values, create a fire hazard, and cause infrastructure damage. We want to stop the spread of these invasive plants in our parks. If you have any other questions about invasive species, please contact Oakland Township Parks & Recreation (see information below).

Herbicide Applicators:

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation natural areas stewardship staff that have been certified as Commercial Pesticide Applicators with the State of Michigan will be conducting invasive species treatment.

Schedule & Treatment Locations:

Treatment will take place in 2024 throughout the park system. Treatment dates will depend on weather and the appropriate treatment timing for each target species.

Bear Creek Nature Park

Mill Race Trail

Blue Heron Environmental Area

O'Connor Nature Park

Charles Hlsley Park

Paint Creek Trail Right-of-Way

Cranberry Lake Park

Paint Creek Heritage Area – Wet Prairie

Draper Twin Lake Park

Paint Creek Heritage Area – Fen

Fox Nature Preserve

Paint Creek Junction

Gallagher Creek Park

Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park

Lost Lake Nature Park

Watershed Ridge Park

Marsh View Park



Herbicide, Methods of Application & Re-Entry Restrictions:

Aquatic herbicides and adjuvants will be used, including AquaNeat (glyphosate) or Glyphosate 5.4 (glyphosate) or Round Custom Aquatic (glyphosate), Renovate 3 (triclopyr), Garlon 3A, Cygnet Select (dye) and Cygnet Plus (drift control, surfactant).

Foliar applications will be applied by vehicular mounted hand spray gun equipment, by backpack sprayer, or by hand wicking. Cut stump applications will be applied with wicking herbicide daubers. The herbicide will be tank mixed.

Do not enter treated areas until the spray has dried.

Contact Information: If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact:

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation
4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306
248-651-7810



Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Registration Information

Register online: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

The health of our community is our priority. Our team of staff and instructors are trained in safety protocol that follow CDC guidelines and are equipped with Personal Protection Equipment and gear (PPE).

Oakland Township Resident registration is open NOW!

(This is for residents living within the Oakland Township boundary.)

Non-Resident registration opens two weeks before the program deadline date.

(As noted in the program descriptions)

Programs fill-up quickly so please contact us early!

Registration Options:

1. ONLINE:

We encourage everyone to register online at: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

You can register for an Oakland Township program at any time, from anywhere you have an internet connection, using a credit card (MasterCard, Visa, or Discover). If you have questions feel free to call 248-651-7810 and we will be happy to walk you through the system.

2. BY MAIL:

For printable registration and waiver forms visit our website:

www.oaklandtownship.org

*Mail at least two weeks
before program date!*

Send the completed forms by USPS mail to:

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation
4393 Collins Rd.
Rochester, MI 48306

Or drop off your registration and waiver forms in the after hours DROP-BOX at Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Rd., Rochester, MI, 48306.

Make checks payable to **Oakland Township Parks and Recreation**

3. IN PERSON:

Visit us at our office location and register in person. You can pay by credit card (MasterCard, American Express, or Discover accepted with \$2.95 fee) or by cash or check. We are located at the Paint Creek Cider Mill Bldg. (2nd Floor) 4480 Orion Rd., Rochester, MI 48306

Registration and waiver forms must be signed by each registrant or the parents/guardians of minor to participate in our programs.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Program Refund Policy

Registrants will receive a full refund for programs cancelled by Oakland Township Parks and Recreation. Registrants withdrawing more than 4 business days prior to the program start date will receive a refund, less a \$5.00 administration fee. No refunds will be made if withdrawing less than 4 business days from program start date. All registrants wishing to withdraw must do so during regular business hours Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm by phone at 248-651-7810 or by email at knewton@oaklandtownship.org. Visit www.oaklandtownship.org for complete program information and other Park and Recreation information, permits, and ordinances.

**Controlled Archery Antlerless Deer Hunting at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
(Other Township parks do not permit any type of hunting)**



Oakland Township Parks purchased Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park in 2008 and 2019 with the majority of our purchase costs being paid by Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants. One of the conditions of our receipt of these substantial grants was that we must allow controlled archery deer hunting at this park as part of the DNR’s program to manage deer populations in southeast Michigan.

To meet this commitment, a limited number of hunters per hunt date will be issued Township permits for antlerless archery deer hunting at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park on restricted weekdays between October 1, 2024 and January 31, 2025. On the days when hunting will occur the park will be closed to other types of use. Signs are posted at park entry points indicating these days of closure.

To Participate in this controlled hunt program, Hunters must do the following:

Hunters must obey all Township regulations, State of Michigan hunting laws and display Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Permit tag on vehicle rear-view mirror.

Hunters must each hunt with a partner to participate in this program.

Hunters must provide their own portable blinds and will be responsible for their own field dressing and transporting of all harvested deer. No baiting of any kind is allowed.

Prior to hunting, Hunters must review a [power point presentation](#) about this Township hunting program.

Hunters will select their Hunting Unit (see safety zone map on next page) on a first-come, first-served basis, after both partners have submitted all application information.

Hunters must apply in person or email an application for each hunting period, including a copy of your current deer hunting license, a copy of the identification used to purchase your deer hunting license (such as a driver’s license), and a copy of the signed archery deer hunting waiver (found at <http://bit.ly/HuntOTParks>) to knewton@oaklandtownship.org . Questions about this procedure? Please call (248) 651-7810.

Fall/Winter 2024/25 Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Controlled Antlerless Archery Deer Hunting Application

Name _____ Driver’s License# _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Vehicle Plate# _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Hunting Partner’s Name _____ Phone: _____





Required Information Must be Attached to Application (all sent to knewton@oaklandtownship.org):

Copy of Hunting License Copy of Identification Signed Waiver Partner’s Application Sent

Send Separate Email Application, Including Hunt Dates Circled, During Application Periods Below:

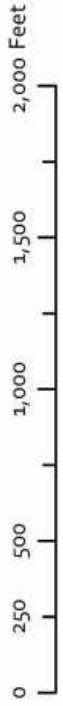
Application dates: Sept.17- Sept. 23	Application dates: Oct. 8- Oct. 14	Application dates: Nov. 19- Nov. 25	Application dates: Dec. 10- Dec. 16	Application dates: Jan. 7– Jan. 13
For hunt dates of:	For hunt dates of:	For hunt dates of:	For hunt dates of:	For hunt dates of:
Tues/Wed, Oct 1 & 2	Tues/Wed, Oct 22 & 23	Tues/Wed, Dec 3 & 4	Tues/Wed, Dec 24 & 25	Tues/Wed, Jan 14 & 15
Tues/Wed, Oct 8 & 9	Tues/Wed, Oct. 29 & 30	Tues/Wed, Dec 10 & 11	Tues/Wed, Dec 31– Jan 1	Tues/Wed, Jan 21 & 22
Tues/Wed, Oct 15 & 16	Tues/Wed, Nov 5 & 6	Tues/Wed, Dec 17 & 18	Tues/Wed, Jan 7 & 8	Tues/Wed, Jan 28 & 29



-  Park Boundary
-  Trails
-  Wetland Restoration
-  Hunting Safety Zone

Hunting Safety Zones and Hunter Units

Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park





Getting to Know Your Oakland Township Library Board of Trustees 2020–2024

The Oakland Township Library Board of Trustees consists of six elected residents from Oakland Township, serving four year terms. Although Oakland Township does not currently have its own library, the Board administers a dedicated millage for library services. Composed of two millages originally 0.8000 & 0.200, this 1-mil has been adjusted due to Headlee reduction to .5744. Through this funding, the Library Board provides full library services for Oakland Township residents by contracting with The Rochester Hills Public Library.



Michael Tyler, President

A resident of Oakland Township since 1994, Michael Tyler was first elected to the Library Board in 2004 and has served as President of the Board from 2013. He serves as non-voting liaison to the Rochester Hills Library Board. Michael first became interested in libraries while attending Pennsylvania State University studying for BA and MPA degrees. He worked at the university library operating a small printing press to duplicate cards for the card catalog. He retired in 2003 from the City of Berkley where he had served as Assistant City Manager and Director of Finance.

Col. Mark C. Gerhard, USMC (Ret.), Vice President

Col. Mark C. Gerhard, USMC (Ret.), a resident of Oakland Township for over 24 years, is currently the Vice-President of the Oakland Township Library Board, and has been a OTLB member since 2020. He also is the Vice-Chairman of the Oakland Township Historic District Commission. Mark is active in the community, sitting on numerous non-profit boards and commissions, to include the Rochester Community House and Veterans Tribute of Oakland Township. He is a retired Marine Corps aviator with nearly 30 years of service, and is currently employed with a Federal Agency for the U. S. Government.



Marisa Kallie, Secretary

Marisa Kallie's service on the Oakland Township Library Board spans nearly seven years. She has also been a resident of Oakland Township since 2013. As a Michigan teacher, with a Masters of the Arts in Teaching Reading and Language Arts from Oakland University, she passionately advocates for early literacy. Marisa believes in careful consideration and thorough evaluation when making decisions that impact the residents of Oakland Township.

Dr. Henry Carels, Member

Dr. Henry A. Carels has served on the Oakland Township Library Board for 11 years and recently retired from his busy Family Practice after 50 years. He has been a resident of Oakland Township for 36 years. He was elected to the Oakland Township Library Board to safeguard \$1,100,000 of our citizens' money. Government must be run efficiently and incorporate fiscal responsibility and the advances and efficiencies that businesses have from the internet, Google's free 25 million volume online library, expanded data bases, and increased bandwidth. There needs to be a coordination of businesses like Stellantis, Oakland University, Rochester School District, and Our Rochester Hills Public Library.



Shirley Frazier, Member

Shirley Frazier's background was in Mortgages, and she received her MBA from Oakland University. She has been on the library board for a year. To her, it feels good to be a part of the board because the library has been not only important to herself, but to her children and grandchildren.

A very special thank you to Andrew Parker whose dedicated service as an Oakland Township Library Board Trustee spanned nearly eight years. His commitment to the residents of Oakland Township has been commendable. Andrew's thorough and critical examination of millage increase requests and their merit, both past and present, has set an exemplary standard. Andrew and his family are moving from Oakland Township and therefore he will no longer be serving in the capacity of an Oakland Township Library Board Trustee Member. Wishing him and his family all the best on their future endeavours.



17th Annual Labor Day Bridge Walk and Run Monday, September 2, 2024



Join us for our 17th annual Labor Day Virtual Bridge and Run! Starting at the Rochester Municipal Park Kiwanis Pavilion, participants can choose either a 1 mile walk or 5k run on the Paint Creek Trail. Onsite registration starts at 8:00 a.m. and the event begins at 9:00 a.m.

This is a free community event, with a suggested donation of \$5.00. Online registration will open in mid-August at <http://paintcreektrail.org/wordpress/events/labor-day-bridge-walk/>.

Join us for giveaways, family fun, and delicious treats! This year's event will be themed around creek and stream stewardship that runs along the trail - the Paint Creek!

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Contact the Trail office for more information on how you can support this wonderful family-friendly event!





Safety & Etiquette on the Paint Creek Trail

The Paint Creek Trail is used by thousands of dedicated trail users, year-round. During peak season, the trail can become crowded and congested. With hikers, joggers, cyclists and even equestrians, it can be a challenge to safely share the trail when so many users want to enjoy it!

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail have created a Safety and Etiquette brochure and worked in partnership with the Paint Creek Trail team to distribute it along the trail and throughout the community. It offers safety and etiquette guidelines and best practices to safely share the trail.

Please be considerate of other trail users. We want everyone to share the trail experience!

Check out our brochure:



Support the Paint Creek Trail



Did you know that the Paint Creek Trailways Commission has a designated fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester? Your tax-deductible donation helps the Commission to continue its important work to preserve this treasured green space in our community!

Help support future trail projects and the ongoing maintenance of the trail by making a donation today! Visit <http://paintcreektrail.org/wordpress/donate/> or scan the code below to make your gift:



facebook.com/PaintCreekTrail

PaintCreekTrail.org

Parks and Recreation Commission
Charter Township of Oakland
4393 Collins Road
Rochester, MI 48306-1670

Phone: (248) 651-7810
Fax: (248) 601-0106
www.oaklandtownship.org

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Richard Krupp

Commission Meetings

The Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 pm on the second Wednesday of every month. Please see www.oaklandtownship.org for meeting agendas and packets.

Office Hours and Location

Park permits, maps and descriptions are available at the Parks and Recreation Department office, located on the second floor of the Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road, Monday through Friday 8am-4:30pm or on the Parks & Recreation page at www.oaklandtownship.org.

Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Emily Barkham, Chairperson
Dan Simon, Vice Chairperson
Craig Blust, Treasurer
Brian Blust, Secretary
Jim Quesenberry, Commissioner
Cathy Rooney, Commissioner
Matt Peklo, Commissioner

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Staff

Parks and Recreation Director	Ben McLoskey
Administrative Assistant	Michele Rutledge
Receptionist/ Program Registration Clerk	Aria Hughes
Recreation Manager	Becky McLogan
Recreation Program Assistant	Rebekah Meeks
Maintenance Foreman	Doug Caruso
Maintenance Technician	Bill Beverly
Natural Areas Stewardship Manager	Dr. Ben VanderWeide
Stewardship Specialist	Grant VanderLaan
Parks and Recreation Workers	Annabella Dawood Steve Iskenderian
Seasonal Staff: Maintenance:	Dan Barton, Brian Rank
Recreation:	Brooke Patrician, Griffin Moore
Stewardship:	Jarred McPherson, Mark Peters, Alexis Sell

Online
Registration



Facebook
Page



Interactive
Park Map



Instagram



Natural Areas
Notebook



Oakland Township Park Rules are enforced by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911

If you have information or questions concerning a reported crime or accident, call the substation at 248-652-4617 Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm.

All other calls please use dispatch at 248-858-4950.