



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

May-August 2025



**OAKLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION**

oaklandtownship.org • 248.651.7810

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 4:30pm

Office Location:

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

Second floor.

Park Hours: Sunrise to Dusk

Park permits, maps and descriptions are available on the Parks & Recreation page at www.oaklandtownship.org or in the office.

Staff

Administration

Parks and Recreation Director

Ben McLoskey

Administrative Assistant

Michele Rutledge

Receptionist/Program Clerk

Aria Hughes

Stewardship

Natural Areas

Stewardship Manager

Dr. Benjamin

VanderWeide

Stewardship Specialist

Grant VanderLaan

Stewardship Seasonals:

Jarred McPherson, Mark

Peters, Jenna

Marcath, Hanna Muntz

Maintenance

Maintenance Foreman

Doug Caruso

Maintenance Technician

Bill Beverly

Maintenance Seasonals:

Dan Barton & Brian Rank

Recreation

Recreation Manager

Jason Spiller

Recreation Program

Assistant

Arianna Stringer

Parks and Recreation

Worker: Steve Iskendarian

Recreation Seasonals:

Anabella Dawood, Brooke

Patrician, Connor Dolecki,

Commissioners

Emily Barkham, Chair

Daniel Simon, Vice Chair

Heidi Beverly, Treasurer

Jim Quesenberry, Secretary

Jim Fostey, Commissioner

Christine Garrett, Commissioner

Cathy Rooney, Commissioner

2025 Commission Meetings

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The PRC meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the main conference room of the Oakland Township Hall.

May 14th, 2025

June 11th, 2025

July 9th, 2025

August 13th, 2025

September 10th, 2025

October 8th, 2025

November 12th, 2025

December 10th, 2025



Summer is here, and it's time to get out and enjoy all that our parks have to offer! Whether you're looking to hit the trails, try a new activity, or connect with nature, our team has been hard at work ensuring Oakland Township parks have something for everyone. For this Newsletter, I'd like to highlight our hardworking staff and their efforts to enhance our parks system.

Our **Recreation Team, Jason and Arianna**, have put together a lineup of fresh recreation programs expanding the volume and variety of activities for all ages. Summer program highlights include nature activities, arts & enrichment, fitness & wellness, youth camps, athletics and many more designed to create unique experiences all summer long. This year marks the 18th Music in the Meadows concert series and we're planning to make it the best yet - with GRAMMY Award winning artists, new food & beverage vendors and other enhanced event offerings you won't want to miss the three concerts. *(Check out more Recreation Info on pages 5-19).*

The **Maintenance Team, Doug and Bill**, work day-in and day-out to keep our parks in top shape. They recently completed a new trail loop at Marsh View Park, and Watershed Ridge Trail is next on the list - just in time for your next summer hike.

Our **Stewardship Team, Dr. Ben and Grant**, are managing multiple long-term projects to restore native habitats and remove invasive species to keep our natural areas thriving. You may have seen them performing prescribed burns throughout the township this spring - I encourage you to visit Bear Creek Nature Park, Draper Twin Lake and sections of the Paint Creek Trail to see the fruits of their labor once the wildflowers bloom this season. (pages 20-23)

At the end of the day, these parks are for you - so get outside, explore, and make the most of this summer with your friends and family. See you on the trails!

Ben McLoskey
Director, Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

Staff Update

Jason Spiller is a dedicated and passionate Recreation manager at Oakland Township Parks & Recreation, bringing over 25 years of experience in the field. Jason has worked in several communities around the metro Detroit area, bringing a wealth of knowledge. Jason enjoys traveling, hiking, camping, exercise, spending time with family, & supporting his children's athletic endeavors, including coaching his daughter's travel softball team. Jason is passionate about Parks and Recreation & ensuring Oakland Township's residents are provided recreational opportunities to enhance their quality of life.



My name is **Connor Dolecki** and I will be a sophomore at Stoney Creek High School next fall. My passion for archery began in 3rd grade when I attended my first Oakland Township Parks and Rec. Archery Camp where I discovered the thrill of precision and focus in Archery. I am excited to be an Archery Assistant to share my passion and help others develop skills in the sport.

My name is **Makena Jensen** and I am a high school senior at Adam's high school and Rochester high school! I'm a pianist, Archer, Horseback rider, and a team lead for my schools robotics team. Archery has been one of my favorite sports; it allows me to focus and pay attention to small details, making it a rewarding experience.





Welcome back, **Annabella(left)** and **Brooke(right)**! We're thrilled to have you both return to Oakland Township Parks and Recreation this summer. Annabella will be helping out at Marshview Park with the soccer fields, while Brooke will be assisting at the archery range. We're so happy to have you both back on the team!



Brian Ranke (left), Seasonal Maintenance Technician is returning for his fourth year. Brian brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in buildings and grounds maintenance. **Dan Barton(right)**, Seasonal Maintenance Technician is returning for his ninth year. Dan is part of a four person team that keep the parks safe, clean and in great order! We are glad to welcome Dan back for another year. Welcome back Brian and Dan!



Welcome back to **Jarred McPherson**, who returns as the crew lead for our stewardship field team! He graduated from Michigan State University's Environmental Science and Management program in May 2025. He is eager for the opportunity to join the team as a land stewardship technician, and looks forward to hands-on land management working in the same forests he grew up in. An avid outdoorsman, Jarred has been heavily steeped in Michigan's beautiful and complex ecosystems through hiking, hunting, camping, and developing conservation projects. Through these experiences, he appreciates the impact individuals can have with the right guidance and motivation. He is grateful for the opportunity to gain knowledge and new skills as he develops his career as a wildlife biologist.



Welcome back to **Mark Peters!** Mark will be returning as a land stewardship technician. He is a Forestry major attending Michigan State University with plans to graduate in the spring of 2026. Mark enjoys spending time outdoors and is the current maple syrup coordinator for the MSU Forestry Club. He is especially interested in ecology and forest management with the hope of getting a job working for the U.S Forest Service in the future. Mark is looking forward to working with Oakland Township Parks & Recreation and the experiences that being a stewardship technician can provide.



Welcome to **Jenna Marcath**, who joins the team as a land stewardship technician! Jenna graduated from Oakland University in 2024 with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in GIS. During her time at OU, she had the privilege to work at the Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center and Clinton River Watershed Council. These opportunities allowed her to gain a variety of experience in environmental education, invasive species removal, and environmental monitoring. In the future, she hopes to have a career in environmental remediation or restoration planning. In her free time, she enjoys bird watching, sewing, and playing the piano. She is so thankful for the opportunity to gain such valuable experience with Oakland Township Parks & Recreation, and looks forward to being out in the field with the team!



Welcome to **Hanna Muntz**, who joins the team as a land stewardship technician! She graduated in 2021 from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's in biology, and has worked as a field biologist the last 4 years in Nevada. While out west, she assisted on projects ranging from vegetation monitoring for native trout habitat, locating springsnail populations, tracking toads, and capturing bats. She's looking forward to putting roots back down in Michigan and pursuing a graduate degree in the future. When she's not working, you'll find her backpacking, indoor rock climbing, or painting creekside. Hanna is excited to join the team and grateful for the opportunity from Oakland Parks and Recreation to further her experience.

Music IN THE Meadows

FREE Outdoor Concert. 7:00pm-9:00pm

Bring Blankets! Gates Open at 5:00pm

Pop, Rock & Soul Hits Across Decades
Mainstreet Soul



Friday, June 13th, 2025

Bear Creek Nature Park

Mainstreet Soul's 11-piece band is AMAZING – from high-energy Bruno Mars dance music to Classic Motown, this event will be BUZZING! Everyone will jam to songs from Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Lizzo, Michael Jackson, Taylor Swift, Kool & The Gang, Earth, Wind & Fire, The Temptations, Bruno Mars and more. mainstreetsoul.com



Friday, July 18th

Cranberry Lake Farm

Free Historic Tours 6:00pm-6:45pm

Join us for an unforgettable evening with the GRAMMY® Award-winning Akropolis Reed Quintet, celebrated for their bold and innovative performances. This ensemble will perform selections from their album “Are We Dreaming the Same Dream?”, which recently won Best Instrumental Composition at the 2025 GRAMMY Awards. Don’t miss the chance to experience their unique sound and adventurous spirit live!

akropolisquintet.org



Akropolis *Classical*



Country Drew Hale Band

Friday, August 15

Bear Creek Nature Park

Drew and his band refer to their unique musical genre as “Roots Rock”, a high octane blend of country, blues, and rock and roll. A Drew Hale live show serves up a mix of high energy original music as well as a wide range of creatively re-imagined covers. drewhalelive.com



In case of bad weather, concerts will be held in doors at Rochester Christian Church, 4435 N Rochester Rd (on the corner of Snell and Rochester). Call 248-651-4440 ext 299 on the day of the event to verify location.



Michigan Senior Olympics Archery Tournament



Michigan Senior Olympics **August 24th, 2025 10am**
Marsh View Park Archery Range



Age Groups in 5-year increments: 50-99, 100+

Divisions: Compound Release, Compound Finger, Recurve, Barebow, Recurve

Rounds: 900 American, 60, 50, & 40 yds. 30 arrows

How to Register: Please call 248-608-0250 or visit www.michiganseniorolympics.org





Register Online:
oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

OR: Scan the QR Code
REGISTRATION OPTIONS



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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 need assistance with program registration, call our office at **(248)651-7810**

2. In Person

Visit us at our office location and register in person. You can pay by credit card (MasterCard, American Express, or Discover accepted) or by cash or check.

Paint Creek Cider Mill (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 & RECREATION
PROGRAM REFUND POLICY**

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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.

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Oakland Township Resident registration open now!
(This is for residents living within the Oakland Township boundary)
Non-Resident registration opens on May 1st.

ARTS & ENRICHMENT

Date with a Dino

Friday, May 23rd (11am - 12pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 18 months - 6 years*

Tyrannosaurus Rex, Triceratops and Diplodocus . . . is your child dazzled by dinosaurs? This is your child's chance to have a play date with a dino and create a fantastic work of dinosaur art. This is a great class for siblings to attend together! Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Residents: \$18 Non-Residents: \$20

Father's Day Gift Making

Saturday, June 7th (11am - 12pm)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 18 months - 6 years*

Give dad a hole-in-one this Father's Day with the perfect gift crafted by you! Swing away and let your creativity drive you as we use an array of materials to construct a super jumbo golf themed Father's Day card. Show dear old dad that you will always be his little caddy! Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Residents: \$18 Non-Residents: \$20

Father's Day Golf Gift Making

Saturday, June 7th (1pm - 4pm)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 4-9*

Give dad a hole-in-one this Father's Day with the perfect gift crafted by you! Swing away and let your creativity drive you as we use an array of materials to construct a super jumbo golf themed Father's Day card. Show dear old dad that you will always be his little caddy!

Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Residents: \$45 Non-Residents: \$50

Fairy Garden

Friday, July 11th (9am - 12pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 4-9*

I do believe in fairies, I do! We'll use clay, paint, glitter, and more as we sculpt our very own enchanted fairy gardens. These adorable little fairy retreats will have sparkling streams, colorful flowers, a fairy swing, and more! Please pack a nut free snack and drink for your child.

Residents: \$45 Non-Residents: \$50

Bluey

Wednesday, June 18th (10am - 11am)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 18 months - 6 years*

"Mum... Dad... Bingo... BLUEY!" Your Bluey fan will love getting messy as they paint, cut and collage a portrait of Bluey, all on a real canvas board! Come to create a Bluey mixed media masterpiece; stay for the tail-shaking dance! Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Residents: \$18 Non-Residents: \$20

Squishy Squishmallows

Friday, June 20th (9am - 12pm)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 4-9*

In this workshop, artists will create a clay version of their favorite Squishmallow using air-dry clay, paint, and so much more. Bring your Squishmallow to class so they can join in the fun!

Please pack a nut free snack and drink for your child.

Residents: \$45 Non-Residents: \$50

Sensational Slime

Friday, June 20th (1pm - 4pm)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 4-9*

We think slime is sensational! Once you've mixed up a batch of our fabulous fluffy slime then tried your hand at our special Bubblegum-scented silly putty slime, we're sure you'll think slime is sensational too!

Please pack a nut free snack and drink for your child.

Residents: \$45 Non-Residents: \$50

Willy Wonka Chocolate Room

Friday, July 11th (1pm - 4pm)

Lost Lake Warming Shelter *Ages 4-9*

Are you ready to dive into the sweet and magical world of Willy Wonka? Each child will have the chance to design and build their very own chocolate room scene using frosting and a wide variety of sweets.

Please pack a nut free snack and drink for your child.

Residents: \$45 Non-Residents: \$50

Science Magic

Monday, July 14th - Friday, July 18th

9am - 12pm

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 5-12*

Unleash your inner wizard at this magical science camp! Experience the thrill of defying gravity with your very own hovercraft, amaze your friends with secret messages written in magical ink, and create wands that light up with enchantment.

Residents: \$185 Non-Residents: \$200

IlluminART

Mondays

July 14th - Friday, July 18th

1pm - 4pm

Lost Lake Warming Shelter *Ages 4-9*

Get ready to light up the night with art! Our ultra-cool camp creations will shine, shimmer and glow for their big debut in the dark. Join us as we use clay, paint and other luminescent materials to craft extraordinary pieces of art that really glow in the dark. Your child's creative imagination is sure to illuminate like never before!

Residents: \$185 Non-Residents: \$200

Candy Lab

Monday, July 28th - Friday, August 1st

9am - 12pm

Lost Lake Warming Shelter *Ages 4-9*

Come and create the most delicious art projects of all time! We will learn step-by-step drawing and sculpting techniques as we create jumbo sized goodies. This sounds like a dream come true for any kid! But don't worry mom, your young artist will be creating, not eating these masterpieces! We'll make some of your child's favorite candies out of paint, clay and a variety of other art materials. **Residents: \$185 Non-Residents: \$200**

Bubbles and Slime

Monday, August 4th - Friday, August 8th

1pm - 4pm

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 4-9*

Get ready for a world of bubbly, gooey excitement in our Bubbles and Slime Science camp! Young scientists will dive into hands-on experiments, exploring the magic of bubbles and the fun of slime.

Residents: \$185 Non-Residents: \$200

T-Swift Era

Monday, July 28th - Friday, August 1st

1pm - 4pm

Lost Lake Warming Shelter *Ages 5-12*

Experience the magic of Taylor Swift and her iconic Eras tour at our legendary art camp! Immerse yourself in creativity inspired by her music and style. From drawing to painting to sculpting, embark on an unforgettable artistic journey.

Residents: \$185 Non-Residents: \$200

Pet Shop

Monday, August 4th - Friday, August 8th

9am - 12pm

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 5-12*

Every kid dreams of owning a hamster or a dog or maybe a kitty! In this critter-filled camp, their dream will come true, sort of! The kids will create pets galore!. At this camp we will work with clay, paint and draw too! No trips to the pet store are required!

Residents: \$185 Non-Residents: \$200

Dino Science

Monday, August 11th - Friday, August 15th

9am - 12pm

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 4-9*

Young scientists will explore the exciting era of dinosaurs through fun activities and educational discoveries. We will unleash curiosity and become dino experts, all while having a ROARING good time!

Residents: \$185 Non-Residents: \$200

Kawaii Cute

Monday, August 11th -Friday, August 15th

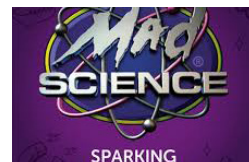
1pm - 4pm

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 5-12*

We'll be using clay, paint, and Model Magic® as we make these adorable masterpieces that emphasize the true quality of cuteness.

We'll make a teeny tiny succulent garden; we'll draw and paint a happy avocado and we'll even make a teddy bear macaroon that is just cute as can be!

Residents: \$185 Non-Residents: \$200



Please pack a nut free snack and drink for your child each day.

Underground Explorers

Monday, June 23rd - Friday June 27th
9am - 12pm

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 3-12*

Calling all Jr. Archaeologists and Paleontologists! Uncover the mysteries of ancient civilizations, & explore the history of dinosaurs. Learn about archaeology & the techniques scientists use to excavate long lost cities. Kids will study bone fragments, pottery shards, amber deposits, and fossils! Take home amber keychains, world coins, and more!

Residents: \$245 Non-Residents: \$255

NASA

Monday, June 23rd - Friday June 27th
1pm - 4pm

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 3-12*

Mad Science has teamed up with NASA in a quest for exploration! We'll take a voyage of discovery to explore planets, moons, & other space phenomena in our solar system! Kids will get a firsthand experience of the challenges of living in space as they build circuits while training to be an astronaut. We'll learn about the various technologies that make space exploration possible while bouncing lasers around the room! Kids will build their own Mad Science Skyblazer Rocket and participate in a real "NASA" style rocket launch.

Residents: \$245 Non-Residents: \$255

Adult Arts & Enrichment

Through The Lens: Nature Photography Hike

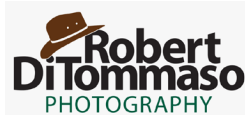
Thursday, June 19th
6:00pm - 7:00pm *Ages 13+*
Bear Creek Nature Park

Thursday, July 17th
6:00pm - 7:00pm *Ages 13+*
Charles Isley Park

Thursday, August 14th
6:00pm - 7:00pm *Ages 13+*
Lost Lake Nature Park

Capture the beauty of nature through your lens with professional photographer Bob DiTommaso! This one-hour outdoor session will guide you through essential techniques to enhance your nature photography. Learn how to frame the perfect shot, adjust for natural lighting, and make the most of your camera's settings—all while exploring the scenic landscapes of our local parks. This program will include a short hike. Participants must bring their own camera.

Residents: \$20 Non-Residents: \$22



Bloom & Create: Floral Arrangement Workshop

Thursday, June 19th & August 7th

6:00pm-8:00pm *Ages 12+*
Paint Creek Cider Mill

Join us for a hands-on floral arrangement class where you'll learn the art of crafting beautiful, personalized floral designs. This workshop will guide you step-by-step through the process of creating your own stunning bouquet to take home.

Residents: \$60 Non-Residents: \$70



Paint Like Bob Ross

Tuesday, June 24th - Lonely Mountain

6:00pm - 9:00pm
Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 12 & up.*

Tuesday, July 22nd - Deep Woods Waterfall

6:00pm - 9:00pm
Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 12 & up.*

Tuesday, August 26th - Sunset Seascape

6:00pm - 9:00pm
Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 12 & up.*

Learn to Paint like Bob Ross in just one day! Join Certified Instructor Ted Simpson, as he guides you through a complete oil painting in one session. Create big mountains, fluffy clouds and of course, lots of happy little trees. Learn the techniques to paint your own masterpiece that will amaze friends and family. All supplies included, no previous experience is needed!

Each class is a different painting.

Visit www.NaturesBrushStudio.com for pictures of all classes.

Residents: \$60 Non-Residents: \$70 Per Painting.





PCA | PAINT CREEK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Paint Creek Center for the Arts Cyanotype Tote Bag Workshop Friday, July 25th

6:00pm - 8:00pm *Ages 18+*
Paint Creek Cider Mill

Join Paint Creek Center for the Arts at Paint Creek Cider Mill for a unique, outdoor art workshop! Harness the power of the sun to create unique art prints with nature- all on a versatile cotton canvas tote bag. Sun prints, also called cyanotypes, are a unique form of nature preservation that have been around since the early 1800s. Registrants in this one-day workshop will learn how to use UV-sensitive fluid and found nature objects to create unique tonal compositions in indigo and white. All supplies are included with your registration

Register at PCCArt.org

Oakland Township Residents get \$15 off registration with the code "OAK" at Checkout! (code not available to new or existing PCCA Members)

Residents: \$30 Non-Residents: \$40

Paint Creek Center for the Arts Nature Linocut Prints

Friday, August 8th

6:00pm - 7:30pm *Ages 18+*
Paint Creek Cider Mill

Create amazing stamp-able designs inspired by nature! Using traditional relief printmaking techniques, participants will carve their own images into a rubber-like stamp that can be used to decorate paper or fabric time and time again. All materials included with your registration.

Register @ PCCART.org

Oakland Township Residents get \$15 off registration with the code "OAK" at Checkout! (code not available to new or existing PCCA Members)

Residents: \$30 Non-Residents: \$40

Smart Steps to a Successful Retirement Importance of Financial Planning & Getting Started

Thursday, June 5th

6:00pm - 7:00pm *Ages 18+*
Paint Creek Cider Mill

Regardless of your age, assets or stage of life, preparation is important to ensure you achieve your long-term goals. Learn about the different aspects of planning, what a financial plan consists of and how you can start the process of securing a successful retirement.

Free. Preregistration required.

Income Planning & Investment Strategies Thursday, July 17th

6:00pm - 7:00pm *Ages 18+*
Paint Creek Cider Mill

Aligning your income and investment strategies with your goals can create a more effective retirement. Learn how to create efficient income from all sources. Understand different types of investments, risks, and how to plan now and for the future.

Free. Preregistration required.

Tax & Estate Planning: Preserve & Transfer Wealth

Thursday, August 18th

6:00pm - 7:00pm *Ages 18+*
Paint Creek Cider Mill

Effective planning, combined with simple tax strategies, can reduce your tax liability and preserve your wealth, now and in the future.

Understand the importance of titling and creating an estate plan that aligns with your goals to avoid unintended financial consequences. Make your wishes known to Create an easier transition to loved ones.

Free. Preregistration required.



Rochester

Wealth Strategies

Fiduciary - Fee-Only - Independent



Self Defense For Children

Monday, July 14th OR
Monday, September 15th
5:30pm - 6:30pm

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 6 - 11*

This fun, interactive and age-appropriate workshop teaches essential, lifesaving information about the dangers that our children face, strategies for prevention and real-world techniques designed to reduce their risk of abductions, assaults, and other forms of violence. But most of all, these programs teach students that they have the right to be safe, that no one has the right to hurt them, and that they are worth protecting.

Residents: \$25 Non-Residents: \$30

Certified Babysitter/CPR/First Aid & Safe Home Alone

Saturday, June 21st OR Saturday, August 2nd
3pm - 4pm

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 9 and up.*

Learn to be safe and responsible. Build confidence. Have a competitive edge over other babysitters.

Topics include first aid, when and how to call 911, CPR with manikin practice, choking, basic care

methods like feeding and diapering, and more! Students will also learn how to be safe and responsible when home alone, including the importance of not giving out personal information and what to do if somebody comes to the door. Students who successfully complete the course requirements will receive a certificate of completion for Certified Babysitter/CPR/First Aid course by Live SafeAcademy (valid for two years).

Residents: \$75 Non-Residents: \$80

Certified Petsitter/CPR/First Aid (add on)

Kids, would you like to learn pet first aid and be a certified Pet Sitter? Increase your competitive edge by being more valuable to families with pets and kids. Increase your market by being certified to watch pets or kids. Learn to care for the pets in your own family. Have fun and help keep animals safe. Topics include pet first aid, CPR, choking, and more! This is an add on class for students who successfully complete the Certified Babysitter/CPR/First Aid course on the same day.

Residents: \$15 Non-Residents: \$17

Self Defense for Adults

Monday, July 14th OR
Monday, September 15th
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 12 and up.*

Learn simple, lifesaving skills from programs designed to increase your safety after only one class! Our hands-on courses teach time-tested, realistic methods that are easy to learn and remember. Designed to be safe, this course instills confidence by building on success.

You are coached according to your own rate of progression. No previous training required.

Residents: \$45 Non-Residents: \$50



Couples Golf with Dinner at Westwynd Golf Course

First Tee Time: 4:40pm ** (5:30pm on Aug 17th)

WestWynd Golf Course

4161 N. Adams Rd.

Oakland Township, MI 48306

Join us for a fun couples' night out! Teams of two play 9 holes each league evening. Enjoy a limited menu dinner, pre-ordered before you tee off, and ready to enjoy when you finish. It's a great way to combine friendly competition and good food—perfect for a night out with your partner!

Sunday, May 18th

Sunday, June 29th

Sunday, June 1st

Sunday, July 13th

Sunday, June 8th

Sunday, July 27th

Sunday, June 22nd

Sunday, August 17th **



Residents: \$800 Non-Residents: \$825 Per Couple.

FITNESS & WELLNESS

All Levels Yoga

Sundays

- # 1 May 25th - June 29th
- # 2 July 6th - August 10th
- # 3 August 17th - September 21st

9:30am - 10:30am

Cranberry Lake Farm *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.

Residents: \$60 Non-Residents: \$72

Intro to Meditation

Sundays

- June 1st - June 29th
- July 13th - August 10th

8am - 9am

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 16+*

Join Allie this summer for an inspiring and accessible introduction to meditation. These sessions are designed to help you connect with yourself in a meaningful way. Each class begins with a brief chat exploring a specific theme: such as awareness, self-love, or calmness, followed by a guided meditation to support that focus. Allie's gentle and inviting approach makes meditation feel approachable and empowering, offering tools you can carry with you long after the session ends.

Residents: \$80 Non-Residents: \$90

Meditation Mondays: Yin Yoga

Mondays

- #1 June 9th - July 14th
- #2 July 21st - August 25th

4:45pm - 5:45pm

Bear Creek Nature Park *Ages 12+*

Soak up the beautiful sights and sound of nature at Bear Creek Nature Park as you enjoy slow gentle stretches and the practice of yin yoga. Guided meditation will be offered to enhance the experience as you release stress and tension mind and body.

Residents: \$60 Non-Residents: \$72



Mommy and Me

Wednesdays

- #1 June 11th - July 16th
- #2 July 23rd - August 27th

9:30am-10:30am

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages*

A Mommy and Me Yoga class offers a peaceful and fun bonding experience, where moms and their little ones can connect through gentle yoga poses, mindfulness, and play. Perfect for enhancing flexibility, relaxation, and building a strong bond with your child.

Residents: \$60 Non-Residents: \$72 Per Adult.

Lakeside Meditative Yoga

Thursdays

- #1 June 5th - July 10th
- #2 July 17th - August 21st
- #3 August 28th - October 2nd

6pm - 7pm

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 12+*

Enjoy slow, mindful movement, stretches & meditation along beautiful Lost Lake.

Residents: \$60 Non-Residents: \$72

Tai Chi Beginners

Tuesdays (6pm - 7pm)

August 5th - September 9th

Cranberry Lake Farm *Ages 18 & up.*

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.

Residents: \$64 Non-Residents: \$80

Next Step Tai Chi

Wednesdays (6pm - 7pm)

August 6th - September 10th

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 18 & up.*

These classes will cover 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.

Residents: \$64 Non-Residents: \$80

Paddleboarding 101

Monday, June 30th (7pm - 8:15pm)

Draper Twin Lake *Ages 18 & up.*

Join us for Paddle Board 101, an introductory class designed to get you comfortable on the water and confident with the basics of paddle boarding. We will cover the basics including standing, getting back on the board and paddle techniques, so whether you're practicing your first strokes or refining your balance, this peaceful oasis ensures a stress-free and enjoyable experience on the water. Paddleboards and safety equipment provided. Draper lake is a non-motor-powered lake.
Residents: \$50 Non-Residents: \$60

Paddle & Play

Monday, July 14th (3:30pm - 4:30pm)

Draper Twin Lake *Ages 3 & up. Must be 18 to register.* Introduce your little one to the joy of being on the water with this fun & relaxed paddleboarding experience! We'll cover basic paddling techniques, water safety, and ways to engage your child in the experience. Children ride on the front of your board as we explore. Please bring a properly fitted Coast Guard approved life vest for your child. More than one child may ride on board as long as the combined weight of children does not exceed 100 lbs. If multiple boards are needed, purchase additional tickets. Paddleboards provided.

Residents: \$50 Non-Residents: \$60 Per adult

Paddle & Yoga

Sunday, July 20th (11am - 12:15pm)

Draper Twin Lake *Ages 18+*

Experience the perfect blend of paddleboarding and yoga in this introductory class designed for all levels. We'll start with a gentle paddle warm-up to get comfortable on the board, followed by a mini yoga flow tailored to the water. This session is a great way to improve balance, build confidence, and connect with nature in a unique and peaceful setting. No prior paddleboarding or yoga experience is required—just bring an open mind and a sense of adventure! Paddleboards provided.

Residents: \$50 Non-Residents: \$60



Mushing 101- Dog Powered Sports

Wednesdays (6pm - 7pm)

June 4th - June 25th

July 9th - July 30th

August 6th - August 27th

Bear Creek Nature Park *Ages 18+*

Curious about mushing but not sure where to start? Want to get active with your dog but don't have a husky? No problem! Our Mushing with Your Dog program welcomes all breeds and sizes. For just \$100, plus the cost of equipment, you can learn how to mush safely and have fun with your dog.

Program Breakdown:

- Week 1: Get your dog measured for gear, learn about the class, and have some practice time if available.
 - Week 2: Work on basic turn commands, "easy," and "wait."
 - Week 3: Add in passing and the "leave it" command.
 - Week 4: Master head-on passing.
- Join us and start mushing today!

Residents: \$125 Non-Residents: \$150

Slow Flow Yoga

Sundays

August 3rd- September 7th

11am - 12pm

Cranberry Lake Farm *Ages 12+*

This class is accessible for most yoga students. Challenges will be offered along with modifications. Movement connected to breath for one hour will leave you feeling peaceful and energized!

Residents: \$60 Non-Residents: \$72

ARCHERY



Next Step Archery

Saturdays (10:45am - 11:45am)

May 31st - June 28th

July 12th - August 9th

Marshview Park Archery Range *Ages 8 & Up*

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.

Pre-Requisite: Must have completed a Beginning Archery class or its equivalent.

Residents: \$60 Non-Residents: \$75

Beginning Archery

Saturdays (9:00am - 10:30am)

May 31st - June 28th

July 12th - August 9th

Marshview Park Archery Range *(Ages 8 & up)*

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

Residents: \$90 Non-Residents: \$112.50

Archery Club

Tuesdays 5pm - 6pm

Session #1: May 27th - June 24th

Session #2: July 8th - August 5th

Session #3: August 26th - September 16th

Marshview Park Archery Range *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, and, most importantly, enhance your overall archery experience. Use our equipment or bring your own.

Prerequisite: Must have completed Beginner & Next Step Archery course.

Residents: \$75 Non-Residents: \$90



Archery With A Twist

Sunday, July 20th
12:00pm - 2:00pm

Saturday, August 23rd
12:00pm - 2:00pm

Marshview Park Archery Range *Ages 7 & up*

What do you get when you put Robin Hood with Picasso? Archery with a Twist. This class will explore ways to enjoy archery besides just target shooting. Students will create their own art masterpieces with the use of paint, balloons, and archery.

All materials & equipment are provided.
Taught by a certified USA Archery instructor.

Residents: \$20 | Non-Residents: \$22



Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD)

Wednesdays (5:00pm - 6:00pm)

Marshview Park Archery Range *Ages 10 & Up*

Session #1: May 28th - June 25th

Session #2: July 9th - August 6th

Session #3: August 27th - September 17th

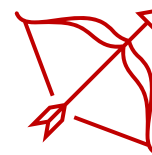
We are excited to offer this new opportunity for our shooters looking to advance their technique and earn achievement awards. JOAD will focus on your shooting skills, technique, and process. We will go in depth into how we shoot and discuss ways to improve.

All participants must be a member of USA Archery.
Feel free to use our equipment or bring your own.

Must have coach evaluation or recommendation to register

Contact us at: OTPR.JOAD@gmail.com to see if you are a good fit for JOAD.

Residents: \$72 | Non-Residents: \$90



Open Range Shoot - Free for All Ages

Practice your archery skills during these open hours! 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. Children between 8 and 17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. **Registration is required for each 1 hour session.**

Thursdays

May 22nd - August 28th

5:00pm - 6:00pm

6:00pm - 7:00pm

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Saturdays

June 21st - August 23rd

No Sessions on July 5th

12:00pm - 1:00pm

1:00pm - 2:00pm

2:00pm - 3:00pm

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Sundays

June 22nd - August 24th

No Sessions on July 6th

12:00pm - 1:00pm

1:00pm - 2:00pm

2:00pm - 3:00pm

3:00pm - 4:00pm

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

SUMMER CAMPS

Wear sneakers, bring water!

Fun Time Sports: Intro to Flag Football Mondays

#1 May 26th - May 30th
#2 July 21st - August 25th
#3 September 15th - October 20th

Ages 5-8 - 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Ages 9-13 - 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Marsh View Park

Come learn the fundamentals of passing, catching, and running, BUT NO TACKLING!!! It's still football fun, just a lot safer. No experience is necessary, but it is a plus. Join us for a fun time playing a great American game.

Residents: \$75 Non-Residents: \$80

Fun Time Sports: Intro to Track Tuesdays

#1 May 27th - June 24th
#2 July 22nd - August 19th
#3 September 16th - October 14th

Ages 5-8 - 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Ages 9-13 - 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Marsh View Park

Join us at Fun Time Sports, where you can learn from a program inspired by the excitement of the Olympics! This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to master the fundamentals of running and effective training techniques in a supportive environment. No prior experience is necessary, but any background in the sport is a plus. Wear sneakers, bring a water bottle, and don't forget a baseball glove!

Residents: \$75 Non-Residents: \$80

Fun Time Sports: T-Ball Intro to Baseball Wednesday

#1 May 28th - June 25th
#2 July 23rd - August 20th
#3 September 17th - October 15th

Ages 5-8 - 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Ages 9-13 - 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Marsh View Park

Kickstart your child's journey into the world of baseball and softball! The perfect opportunity for young athletes to dive into the basics, we'll cover essential skills like throwing, catching, fielding grounders & fly balls, playing various positions, & running the bases. Plus, kids will receive hands-on hitting instruction, starting with hitting off a tee to build confidence.

bottle, & don't forget a baseball glove!

Residents: \$75 Non-Residents: \$80

Fun Time Sports: Blacktop Hoops Thursdays

#1 May 29th - June 26th
#2 July 24th - August 21st
#3 September 18th - October 16th

Ages 5-8 - 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Ages 9-13 - 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Marsh View Park

This is an incredible opportunity for your child to dive into one of the world's most thrilling games! Whether they're a beginner or have some experience, this program is designed to ignite their passion for the sport. Your child will master essential skills like dribbling, passing, shooting, and defense, all while having a blast! Older players will not only refine their techniques but also learn valuable in-game strategies.

Residents: \$75 Non-Residents: \$80

Fun Time Sports: Sports Variety Saturdays

#1 May 31st - June 28th
#2 July 26th - August 23rd
#3 September 20th - October 18th

Ages 5-8 - 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Ages 9-13 - 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Marsh View Park

Not sure what sport you like? Or maybe you like them all? If you answered yes to either one of those, this is for you!! Fun Time Sports Variety gives you a look at a different sport each week. You get to learn and play a different sport every week. Our coaches will provide a Fun atmosphere where kids can learn and play.

Residents: \$75 Non-Residents: \$80

Explore Archery Camp

Monday, June 23rd - Friday, June 27th
10:00am - 12:30pm

Marshview Park Archery Range Ages 8 & up.

Explore Archery is an innovative education program focused on the introducing beginners to the lifelong sport of target archery. In Explore Archery, campers earn achievement awards through active participation in individual and team building activities that teach fundamental skills. This camp is not based on a campers' athletic abilities or their capabilities to shoot a perfect score. It is fun, rewarding, and most important - safe!

Residents: \$150 Non-Residents: \$188



Challenger Sports: Tiny Tykes

Monday, June 23rd - Friday, June 27th
Monday, July 21st - Friday, July 25th
Monday, August 11th - Friday, August 15th
8am - 9am

Marsh View Park *Ages 2-5*

TinyTykes has been created by childcare specialists to introduce children aged 2-5 years to the basic skills of Soccer through a series of fun games, stories, songs and skill building activities. In addition, children will explore and learn in a relaxed and fun environment building upon their motor, social, physical and emotional skills. Players will be immersed in our World Cup throughout the week, engaging in creative activities.

Residents: \$110 Non-Residents: \$115

Challenger Sports: Half Day Camp

Monday, June 23rd - Friday, June 27th
Monday, July 21st - Friday, July 25th
Monday, August 11th - Friday, August 15th
9am - 12pm

Marsh View Park *Ages 5-14*

Challenger Sports' Half Day Summer Camp option focusses on Individual skill development, core techniques and small sided games. Complete technical player development featuring practices from around the world as part of our international camp curriculum. Your children will enjoy the World Cup small-sided game element to our daily camp session as well!

Residents: \$170 Non-Residents: \$175

Challenger Sports: Full Day Camp

Monday, June 23rd - Friday, June 27th
Monday, July 21st - Friday, July 25th
Monday, August 11th - Friday, August 15th
9am - 4pm

Marsh View Park *Ages 5-14*

The Challenger Sports Full Day program builds on the half day experience on our Foundational Skills Camps and has a perfect balance of those just for fun activities, larger sided games for more tactical knowledge, and individual skill elements such as freestyle! Emphasis is placed upon improving individual dribbling, passing, control and shooting, whilst providing, personal skill development, character development, and cultural education.

Residents: \$240 Non-Residents: \$245

CHALLENGER
SPORTS™

RCS Soccer: Recreation Camp

Monday, June 23rd - Friday, June 27th
Monday, July 7th - Friday, July 11th
6:00pm - 7:30pm

Marsh View Park *Ages 6-12.*

Recreation Summer Camps work with each player's abilities to continue their development & love of soccer. Campers are grouped based on age & ability so all players may participate in a safe, fun & productive environment. At the end of each week, players are placed on teams representing countries from around the world, to compete in our "World Cup" tournament. We encourage players and coaches to research their chosen country & wear team colors into their clothing on game day!

Residents and Non Residents:\$95

RCS Soccer: Micro Summer Camp

Monday, June 23rd - Friday, June 27th
Monday, July 7th - Friday, July 11th
6:30pm - 7:30pm

Marsh View Park *Ages 3-5.*

Micro Soccer fosters a love of physical activity while introducing soccer skills through a variety of games and activities geared toward the beginner soccer player. We love to celebrate soccer development and technique while having fun, so we invite the children to play soccer like a super-hero, princess, or even a favorite villain. Themes are communicated each week of camp, so be ready to role-play on the fields!

Residents and Non Residents \$70



Challenger Sports Camp: Includes camp t-shirt & soccer ball at 1st class. Coaches evaluation/ certificate at the end of session. For the full day of camp, bring a packed lunch.



Wild Kids of Lost Lake

Monday, July 28th - Friday, August 1st
10:00am - 3:00pm

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 6-10.*

Wild Kids of Lost Lake - For the true park experience, you need to join us for our Wild Kids of Lost Lake summer camp. This week long day camp features five themed days inundated with fun. Whether it's casting a line out into the lake, wading through the wetland in search of frogs & turtles, playing wild or historic games, or creating art, we have something for everyone in this adventure of a week. This camp features a large variety of scientific & nature-based activities. Bring a bagged lunch.

Residents: \$140 Non-Residents: \$170

Basic Outdoor Skills Camp

Monday, July 7th- Friday, July 11th
10:00am - 12:30pm

Multiple Oakland Township Parks

6th - 8th Grade

This camp will introduce a variety of fun outdoor activities including archery, kayaking, and fishing (catch & release). This course covers survival skills like reading a map/compass, recognizing your surroundings, fire starting, shelter building, obtaining drinkable water, wild plant identification- and animal observation. Camp meets in different Oakland Township park each day.

Residents: \$150 Non-Residents: \$188

Next Step Outdoor Skills Camp

Monday, July 14th - Friday, July 18th
10:00am - 1:00pm

Multiple Oakland Township Parks. First day is held at Marsh View Park Archery Range

6th - 8th Grade

An extension of our Basic Outdoors Skills Camp, activities range from archery refresher skills, target shooting games and beginning bow hunting, kayaking, fishing (including lure building), animal identification and tracking, plant identification and wild edible plants, land navigation, and survival skills. Camp will finish up with a Challenge Day to test your skills.

Camp meets at a different Oakland Township park each day.

Prerequisite: Must have taken Basic Outdoor Skills Camp or equivalent.

Residents: \$180 Non-Residents: \$225



NATURE PROGRAMS

Toddler Tunes

Monday, June 9th 3pm - 3:45pm

Bear Creek Nature Park Pavillion. *Ages 1-4.*

Calling all mini-musicians! Join us for this fun, 45 minute class where we will sing, dance, play instruments, and groove! Play tambourines and drums, shake some scarves, parachute play, & more.

Residents: \$10 Non-Residents: \$12

Strums in the Sun

Monday, June 23rd 5:15pm - 6pm

Bear Creek Nature Park Pavillion *Ages 7-12.*

Join us for this drop-in class where we will learn to play some of your favorite songs on the ukulele! No experience necessary. Ukuleles will be provided. Learn to strum, sing, and more, all while learning your favorite pop songs!

Residents: \$10 Non-Residents: \$12

Drums in the Sun

Mondays

June 9th - June 30th

4:30pm - 5:15pm

Bear Creek Nature Park Pavillion. *Ages 5-12*

Join us for a class of some rockin' bucket drums! Learn some basics of playing the drums in this ensemble where we will explore bucket drumming through your favorite pop & rock tunes.

Nature's Secret Quest

Sunday, June 15th 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Bear Creek Nature Park. *Family*

Discover the hidden wonders of the trail! Join our scavenger hunt to uncover nature's small and subtle mysteries using clues, riddles, and a map. Find them all to earn a small reward!

Residents: \$5 Non-Residents: \$7

Ecosystem Hike at Bear Creek

Friday, June 20th 6pm - 8pm

Bear Creek Nature Park. *Ages 16 & up.*

Join Six Rivers Land Conservancy and Oakland Township Parks on a guided evening hike that invites you to explore and learn about the woodlands, open meadows, marshlands, wetlands and wildlife of Bear Creek Nature Park!

Residents: \$5 Non-Residents: \$7

Wing & Bug It: The Insect Olympics

Saturday, June 28th 10:00am - 11:00am

Gallagher Creek Park Pavilion *Ages 2-6.*

Celebrate National Insect Week as we discover all the things bugs do for us! We'll view bugs both alive and pinned, make a bug pin or magnet, and compete in the bug Olympics. Parents will help time their insect athletes while we count how many times they can flap their wings in 60 seconds.

Take home a honey stick.

Residents: \$5 Non-Residents: \$7

Holly Jolly Summer Bash

Friday, July 25th 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Lost Lake Nature Park. *Family.*

Wear your favorite Holiday T-shirt to our Christmas in July celebration. We'll learn a little about Rudolph and friends, touch some reindeer fur and make our own antler headband! Make ornaments out of natural materials, decorate a tree for wildlife, enjoy cocoa snow cones, and take part in a snowball fight.

Residents: \$5 Non-Residents: \$7

TRAILWISE: Summer Safety

Sunday, August 2nd 6:00pm - 6:45pm

Lost Lake Nature Park. *Family.*

Danger on the Trails! Find out how to beat the heat and stay safe while on the trail. Learn the principles of Leave No Trace and how to apply them to your next outdoor adventure, whether in your backyard, or in the wilds of Michigan.

Residents: \$5 Non-Residents: \$7

S'mores and Species: Campfire Q&A

Friday, August 15th 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Cranberry Lake Farm *Ages 18 & up.*

In this naturalist-facilitated discussion, everyone has a chance to talk about invasive species as we enjoy the beauty of Cranberry Lake Park and the ambiance of the crackling campfire. A brief overview of the terms commonly used and an ID guide for the top 10 invasives will be provided. Please bring your questions, stories, and advice. S'mores materials will be provided.

Residents: \$5 Non-Residents: \$7



Bat Hike at Cranberry Lake **Friday, August 22nd 8pm - 10pm**

Cranberry Lake Park *Ages 16 & up.*

Join Six Rivers Land Conservancy and Oakland Township Parks on a guided evening bat hike at Cranberry Lake Park. You'll learn all about the bats of SE Michigan, how to identify them and monitor their calls using Echo Meters!

Residents: \$5 Non-Residents: \$7

Hummingbird Hijinx

Saturday, Sept 6th 10:00am - 11:00am

Bear Creek Nature Park Pavillion *Ages 2-6.*

It's National Hummingbird Day! We're celebrating by reading Little Green while doing a related art project, acting like hummingbirds flying from flower to flower, trying a sip of nectar, and creating a hummingbird suncatcher.

Residents: \$5 Non-Residents: \$7

FREE! Drop in Nature Programs

All programs take place at Lost Lake Nature Center. All Ages.

Mustelid Marvels

Skunks and Badger Adventure

June 14th 12pm-3pm

Get up close and personal with the sneaky skunk and tough badger! Inside, twist a fun skunk balloon animal and head outdoors to test your skills by following a scent trail.

Otter & Weasel Wonders

June 22nd 12pm-3pm

Join us for a playful exploration of otters and weasels! Craft your own otter puppet, feel real pelts, and play "Otter Steals Fish" outside to discover the secret lives of these fascinating creatures.

Ocean Explorations

Shark & Ray Discovery

July 12th 12pm-3pm

Dive into the world of sharks and rays! Inside, examine different types of shark teeth and try to match them to their shark species. Then, get creative and craft a paper plate shark or ray. Head outside to measure the lengths of various shark species and use sidewalk chalk to color them in.

Cephalopod Safari

July 27th 12pm-3pm

Explore the fascinating creatures of the deep, like octopuses and squids! Try your hand at a floating octopus ring toss outside, and then head inside to make a paper windsock squid to take home.



Australian Adventures

Rainforest Roam

August 9th 12pm-3pm

Take an imaginary trip to the Daintree Rainforest and discover its unique wildlife! Inside, craft a handprint koala to remember your adventure. Then, head outside for a fun kangaroo jumping sack race, and test your jumping skills like a true Aussie!

Desert Discoveries

August 24th 12pm-3pm

Venture into the Australian desert and learn about the incredible adaptations of desert plants and animals. Inside, create a dingo mask to channel your inner wild dog. Outside, search for hidden toy thorny devils and uncover the secrets of this arid environment.

Landforms & Minerals

Landforms Exploration

September 13th 12pm-3pm

Journey through the world of landforms like hills, mountains, and moraines! Experience these natural features firsthand on the trail outside. Then, head indoors to get creative and make a "mountain out of a molehill" by painting your very own landscape

Mineral Mania

September 28th 12pm-3pm

Discover the fascinating world of minerals and their everyday uses. Go on a scavenger hunt outside to find minerals, and then create your own crystal designs on a tote bag using stencils to take home!



Get Involved: Volunteers Needed!

Our natural areas stewardship team continues to improve habitat in our parks! It's important for us to help our community connect with and care for nature in our parks. We've added opportunities for you to get involved in meaningful ways. Learn more about our natural areas stewardship programs and events at oaklandnaturalareas.com and on pages 20, 21.

Would you like to learn new skills, work with a great team, and participate in local conservation?

Our natural areas stewardship volunteers help us with native seed collecting, prescribed fire, invasive species control, photo monitoring, pollinator garden maintenance, outreach, and more!

We fit opportunities to your availability and interests. To get involved visit:

<https://oaklandnaturalareas.com/volunteer-calendar/volunteer-opportunities>



Garlic Mustard Workdays

Tuesday, April 29
6 pm - 8 pm

Bear Creek Nature Park

Tuesday, May 6
9 am - 12 pm

Watershed Ridge Park

Tuesday, May 13
6 pm - 8 pm

Paint Creek Trail

Tuesday, May 20
9 am - 12 pm

Charles Ilsley Park

Garlic mustard and dame's rocket push out the native plants that our wildlife need. We need your help to remove these invasive plants from our parks! This year features two evening workdays from 6-8pm, and two morning workdays from 9am-12pm, subject to cancellation per weather conditions. All volunteers must sign a waiver (with minor's waiver signed by a guardian),

Thank You Winter 24-25 Volunteers!

Thank you to our natural areas stewardship volunteers that participated in winter 2024-2025. They helped with native seed cleaning and spreading, invasive shrub control, prescribed burns, vernal pool monitoring, outreach, and more, contributing over 450 hours from November 2024 to March 2025!

Aaron Carroll • Alex Horak • Beata Lauparski,
Bill Kamman • Bob Schrader • Cam Mannino,
Chelsea Trottier • Dave Kramer • David Klionsky,
Debbie Hendrickson • Diane Bennett •
Elizabeth Tanalski • Emily Silva • George Hartsig •
Holly MacMahon • Ian Hooper • Jane Giblin •
Jim Fostey • Jon Reed • Jonathan Schechter •
Katri Studtmann • Kayla McMahon • Leslie Clark •
Lisa Muenzenberger • Louise Hartung •
Mackenzie Dalton • Madelyn Swan • Michael Mallon
• Michele Hooper • Nina Boes • Patrick Canniff •
Patty Ingram • Reed Boskey • Ron Fadoir • Sean Zera •
Stephanie Patil • Todd Peterlin
Tom Korb • Tyler Peterlin

STEWARDSHIP



Weekly Bird Walks

Join us every Wednesday from June to the end of August for our weekly bird walks. We document the bird species within our parks so we can work to improve their habitat. Walks start at 8:00 am. Some 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 – *Marsh View Park*
- 5th Wednesday of July – *Watershed Ridge Park*

Invasive Shrubs Workday

July 1, July 8, July 15, & July 22, 9 am to 12 pm
We will be removing invasive shrubs such as glossy buckthorn and autumn olive to help native species thrive around the perimeter of the northern marsh at Bear Creek Nature Park. Wear solid boots, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, bring water and a snack.

Meet in the Snell parking lot at 740 W. Snell Road, Rochester, MI 48306.



Stewardship Summer Celebration

Thursday, July 24, 2025, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Bear Creek Nature Park

Come join us for our summer celebration of natural areas stewardship in Oakland Township! Learn about habitat restoration and volunteer opportunities in our parks while connecting with others involved in our programs. Drop ins welcome, bring your family and friends!

Phragmites Outreach Program for Oakland Township Residents

Phragmites does not recognize property lines, so we want to partner with you! This large, invasive grass grows primarily in wetlands and can reach heights of 15 feet or more. **Phragmites (pronounced frag-MY-tees)** can cause hot, damaging fires if ignited; blocks views at intersections; impairs drainage in streams; crowds out habitat for wildlife and native plants; and reduces property values. Our efforts can only be successful if we collaborate with township residents!

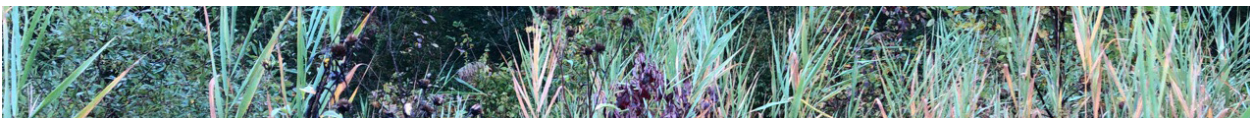
Since 2015 Oakland Township Parks and Recreation (OTPR) has offered residents a cost effective and simple Phragmites control program that is modeled after existing, successful programs in nearby communities. OTPR simplifies the process for you by performing the following services:

1. Acquires a permit from Michigan EGLE to allow Phragmites treatment in wetlands.
2. Pre-qualifies contractor(s) to perform this work.
3. Requests competitive quotes for labor and materials to treat Phragmites for participating landowners.
4. Contracts with qualified companies to complete the treatment. Oakland Township Parks will not make money from this program.
5. Completes the end of season treatment report and submits to EGLE.

The landowner only has to request a no-obligation cost estimate, agree to treatment, and pay the contractor for treatment on their property (at cost).

Please visit the Township website page to learn more about the program.

To participate, landowners, homeowner's associations, or businesses can submit a request for a no-obligation cost estimate by August 1, 2025. As a courtesy to our contractors, applications received after August 1 cannot be considered. Please contact us at **248-651-7810** with any questions.



STEWARDSHIP

INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT NOTICE

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation hereby provides notice to the public and property owners for the 2025 control of invasive plants in wetlands within township park properties including *Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis* (Common reed), invasive cattails (*Typha latifolia* and *Typha x glauca*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), invasive honeysuckle (non-native *Lonicera* species), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), common privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), crown vetch (*Securigera varia*), wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), teasel (*Dipsacum* sp.), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) in township park properties. Invasive plants can limit access to water bodies for people and wildlife, impair habitat for native plant and animals, lower property values, create a fire hazard, and cause infrastructure damage. By managing these invasive species, we seek to improve habitat for native plants, pollinators, and wildlife. 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 2025 throughout the park system. Treatment dates will depend on weather and the appropriate treatment timing for each target species.

Bear Creek Nature Park
Blue Heron Environmental Area
Charles Ilsley Park
Cranberry Lake Park
Draper Twin Lake Park
Fox Nature Preserve
Gallagher Creek Park
Lost Lake Nature Park
Marsh View Park

Mill Race Trail
O'Connor Nature Park
Paint Creek Trail Right-of-Way
Paint Creek Heritage Area Wet Prairie
Paint Creek Heritage Area – Fen
Paint Creek Junction
Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
Watershed Ridge Park

Herbicide, Methods of Application & Re-Entry Restrictions:

Herbicides in wetlands will be applied under Michigan EGLE Aquatic Nuisance Control Certificate of Coverage No. ANC9410241. In wetlands aquatic herbicides and adjuvants will be used, including AquaNeat (glyphosate), Renovate 3 (triclopyr), Garlon 3a (triclopyr), Hi-Light (tracer dye), Cygnet Plus (drift control, surfactant), or approved equivalent products. Foliar applications will be applied 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

STEWARDSHIP

Have You Found “Your” Park?

*This article is updated from its first publication in the Winter 2015 newsletter.
Paint Creek Heritage Area – Wet Prairie still holds a special place in my heart. Enjoy!
– Ben VanderWeide*

As the natural areas stewardship manager, I work with amazing staff and volunteers to care for the natural areas in our Oakland Township parks. I pull garlic mustard at Blue Heron Environmental Area, cut buckthorn at Lost Lake Nature Park, and tend native plants in the beds at Bear Creek Nature Park. I’m probably not supposed to play favorites with the parks, but there is one park I consider “my” park.

The Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie along the Paint Creek Trail, just north of Silver Bell Road, never fails to surprise me. I studied the prairies of eastern Kansas for my graduate school work, immersing myself in the details of how plants interact with each other and their environment. I was first drawn to the waving Kansas grasses stretching to the horizon, but I fell in love with the details of the prairie. I learned the local Great Plains flora on my hands and knees as I identified plants in my research plots. I watched the prairie change through the seasons in sun and rain, in blistering heat and numbing cold. When I spot a patch of native prairie here in Michigan, my heart beats a little faster with those memories.



But how could two acres of grass here in Michigan compare to oceans of prairie? Like the prairie in Kansas, details drew me to our Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, parts of our Wet Prairie and other spots along the Paint Creek Trail were sand and gravel mines along the railroad tracks. We think that the current prairie community assembled on the site from nearby prairies and oak savanna that used to cover two-thirds of our township. Frequent fires sparked by passing Detroit and Bay City Railway trains helped keep trees and shrubs from crowding out sun-loving prairie plants.

As I’ve worked with staff and volunteers doing ecological restoration at the Wet Prairie through the last 11 years, I’ve found whorled milkwort, grass-of-Parnassus, star grass, and shrubby cinquefoil, and many of the usual prairie plants. The wet-mesic prairie plant community is state and globally imperiled because nearly all remnant Michigan prairies are gone. But these facts don’t make the Wet Prairie “my” park: it is “my” park because it continues to surprise me and spark my imagination. This little prairie helps me envision our landscape not only as it may have looked not so long ago, but also how we can make positive changes to keep special natural areas here long into the future.

Do you have an Oakland Township park that is “your” park? Maybe you walk there every day, watching the buds burst in the spring and leaves fall in the autumn. Maybe you hike the trails through the prairie plantings at Charles Hsley Park or sled the hill at Lost Lake Nature Park. Maybe you have lived here most of your life and “your” park protects the natural history and rural heritage that you value. We want you to take ownership of your parks. Check out the Stewardship Events on pages 20,21 to find ways to join our stewardship team. You can preparehelp us remove invasive shrubs at Bear Creek Nature Park, pull garlic mustard in May, or join the weekly bird walks every Wednesday. **They are your parks. Can we count on you?**

Insect Olympics: The Undercelebrated Athletes

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

I have written about many different creatures in this newsletter. Today let's have some fun. Welcome to the inaugural Insect Olympics, where the athletes may be small, but their feats of strength, speed, and endurance are nothing short of extraordinary. Imagine if the tiniest critters in Michigan had their own version of the Games: we'd be talking about some serious competition! Whether they're leaping, flying, or scurrying at lightning speeds, Michigan's insects are among the world's most impressive athletes. Get the family together to come up with your own Insect Olympics team. Then research who is faster, can jump further, travel the longest...whatever event you'd like to hold! I'll get you started with my own insect dream team! So, let's take a closer look at the insect competitors who would steal the show at this year's Insect Olympics on my dream team.

First up, meet the grasshopper

A true long jump champion. With legs built like springs, grasshoppers can leap distances up to 20 times their body length. That's like a human jumping across a football field in a single bound! The township's grasshoppers are ready to make history, showing off their power in a high-stakes showdown on the field.

The Tiger Moth: Speedster in the Sky

Next, we have the tiger moth – our very own flying speedster. With a wingspan of only about 2 inches, this little daredevil can zip through the air at speeds up to 30 miles per hour. Forget about traffic, the tiger moth wins the gold in airspeed every time. You'll find them buzzing through the forests, flitting from tree to tree like they're in a race against time. Maybe it's the moth's flashy markings that make it look like it's always in a hurry!

The Ants: Marathon Runners

When it comes to endurance, no one does it better than ants. These tiny powerhouses can carry objects many times their body weight, but their real athleticism shines through in their marathon abilities. Ants are built for stamina, as they can march tirelessly for hours, even days, on end. Their teamwork and dedication make them the perfect candidates for relay races, too. Whether they're foraging or defending their colonies, these little marathoners always keep moving, proving their place in the endurance events.

The Praying Mantis: Precision Archer

Do you like archery? You'll want to meet Michigan's praying mantis, the ultimate marksman of the insect world. Known for its deadly precision, the mantis can snatch up prey mid-flight with its lightning-fast strike. In an Olympic event that requires both skill and accuracy, the mantis would definitely win a gold for its unrivaled ability to hunt down a moving target. With the mantis, it's all about focus, precision, and impeccable timing – a true champion!

The Monarch Butterfly: The Ultimate Long-Distance Traveler

If the Insect Olympics had an event for the best travel athlete, the Monarch butterfly would undoubtedly take home the gold. These spectacular creatures are famous for their long migration from Michigan to Mexico – covering thousands of miles in their lifetime. This grueling journey requires impeccable navigation skills, endurance, and determination. Monarchs are not just pretty faces fluttering through gardens; they are marathon travelers with some of the most impressive stamina in the insect kingdom.

The Cicada: The Sprinter with Staying Power

And finally, the cicada! Known for its loud, pulsating song, the cicada is also a sprinter with a twist. While they don't have the same speed as a tiger moth, their real claim to fame is their explosive bursts of energy. When they're in the mood to mate, cicadas give it their all, sounding off at full volume in Michigan's summer nights. These insects pack a punch with their intensity and raw power – they might not be running a marathon, but in a sprint, they can definitely keep the crowd on their toes.

The Final Word

In the end, Michigan's insects aren't just part of the ecosystem – they're athletes in their own right. Whether it's the grasshopper soaring to new heights, the ant marching without pause, or the monarch braving the distance of a lifetime, these little creatures show us that size isn't everything when it comes to athleticism. So, next time you see an insect, give them a little applause – because they're out here, living their best lives, competing in the ultimate insect games!

Who knows? Maybe one day we'll get a front-row seat to the Insect Olympics, and you'll be cheering on your favorite tiny athlete. Join Dinosaur Hill Naturalists at the upcoming Insect Olympics program where you learn much more about some amazing insects sharing our yards and parks! The program takes place **Saturday, June 28th** and you can register and find more information at Oaklandtownship.org



Get ready for an exciting 2025 at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District!
Beekeeping Workshops by Instructor Dawn Gialanella

Wednesday, April 30th 6pm - 7:30pm
Saturday, June 7th 12pm - 1:30pm
Saturday, August 24th 12pm - 1:30pm

Dive into the world of beekeeping with beekeeper Dawn at our workshops held in the Hen House within walking distance of the hives! Sessions are only **\$5 for Oakland Twp residents** **\$8 for non-residents.**



Outdoor 'Plein Aire' Painting Workshops



Tuesday, June 17th 10am - 2pm
Tuesday, July 15th 10am - 2pm
Tuesday, August 19th 10am - 2pm
Tuesday, September 2nd 10am - 2pm

Calling all art enthusiasts! Untap your creativity at our outdoor painting workshops led by artist Janet Almstadt-Davison. Join us for a day of artistic exploration and enjoy the beauty amidst historic surroundings.
Watercolor by Mary Marple.

Fee is \$25 dollars per workshop.

Please pre-register for programs by calling the Historic District Commission office phone at **(248)-608-6807** or email Barbara Barber at **bbarber@oaklandtownship.org**

Free Live Musical Performances at the Farm—Save the Dates!

Historic Building Tours- Music in the Meadows
Friday, July 18th, 6pm - 6:45pm

We will be offering free historic building tours prior to the Parks and Recreation's Music in the Meadows concert at CLF. The concert features the Grammy award winning **Akropolis Reed Quintet**. Come out early to select your seat on the lawn and tour the museum, main house, carriage barn, and Flumerfelt Barn. Please bring a lawn chair or a blanket. Oakland Twp Historical Society offers ice cream sales during this great concert!

David Thomas at Cranberry Lake Farm's Story Garden
Friday, September TBD, 6pm - 7:30pm - All Ages!

We welcome back local musician David Thomas, a multi-instrumentalist- playing trumpet, keyboard, and piccolo- to the Story Garden at CLF!



Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District



Call for Volunteers

Calling all gardeners to join us in cultivating our gardens in exchange for site use, program offerings, or just to come out and relax in the preserved scenery. Stroll through our heritage garden, Story Garden, Hollyhock row, and apple orchard. Cranberry Lake Farm (CLF) is a 16-acre historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The farmstead resides within 213-acre Cranberry Lake Park in northern Oakland Twp at **388 W. Predmore Rd.** The HDC oversees the operations, maintenance, rentals, and strives to preserve and interpret an evolving rural setting in the historic environment. Promoting our local heritage requires many hands with volunteer support from the Oakland Township Historical Society. We welcome more groups to join us in our mission. CLF site is funded by a Historic Preservation Operating millage.



Rentals—Come out to the farm and join us!

Looking for a venue for your event? Seize the opportunity to create lasting memories with a unique backdrop for graduation parties, family gatherings, wedding ceremonies, and more. It's a year full of growth, learning, and community to be shared at our vibrant space!

*Inquiries can be submitted by calling the
Historic District Commission office phone at
(248)-608-6807 or by emailing Barbara Barber at
bbarber@oaklandtownship.org*

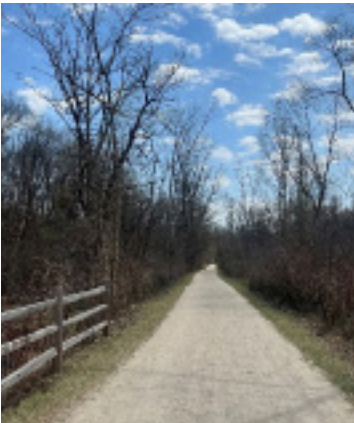




A Friendly Reminder during the Spring Thaw

Please keep in mind that riding on a soft, muddy trail can cause damage. It leaves ruts, contributes to erosion, and creates an un-rideable trail surface that is hard to fix. If you are leaving a visible rut, the trail is too soft to ride.

Warm weather during the spring is especially critical for the trail as the freeze-thaw cycle results in a soft surface. If the trail is soft and muddy,



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 QR code below to make your gift



facebook.com/PaintCreekTrail





Is there Disc Golf at Oakland Township Parks and Recreation?

Disc golf is a great way for people of all ages and abilities to spend time outdoors with friends and family while getting in a little exercise. Residents of Oakland Township can now borrow our disc golf baskets and discs for free! **(A \$100, fully refundable deposit is required.)** It only takes 5-10 minutes and 3 easy steps to set up the portable Mach Lite disc golf baskets. The disc golf loan includes up to four baskets and four sets of discs.



How can I keep up with the Stewardship department and natural areas in Oakland Township?

Stewardship has a blog oaklandnaturalreas.com With updates on volunteer opportunities, information on wildlife and Oakland Township Parks!




How do I rent the Bear Creek Nature Pavilion?

Whether it's a family gathering, birthday party, or outdoor celebration, enjoy beautiful views and a spacious area for just: - \$25 for residents - \$50 for non-residents - \$125 refundable deposit. Located at 740 West Snell Road, Rochester, MI 48306, it's the ideal place to host your next event. And now, you can easily reserve the pavilion on our website for added convenience!
Reserve today!

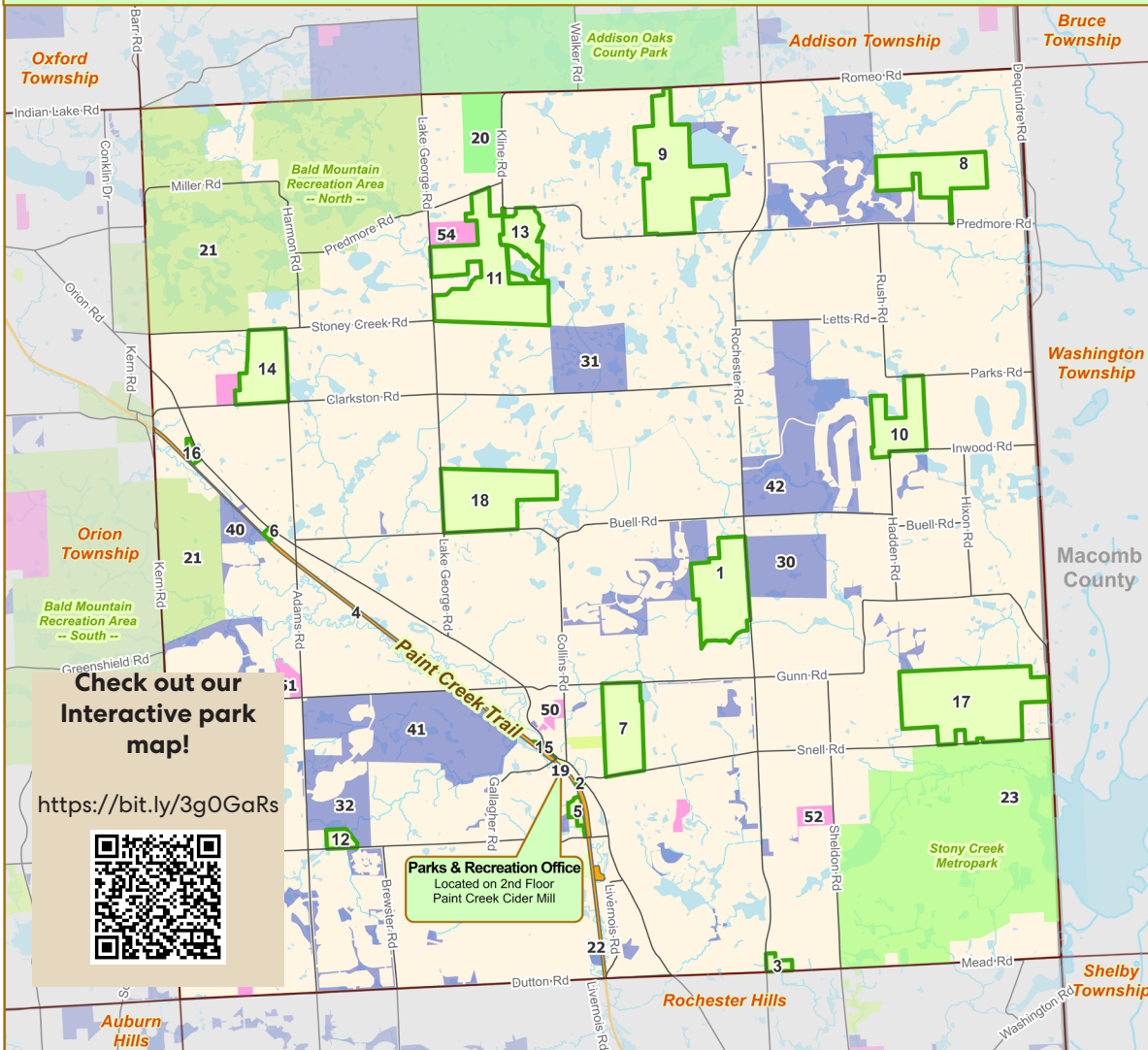


How can I stay up to date on park information and programming?

 Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

 oaklandtwpparksandrec

Parks and Recreation Opportunities in Oakland Township



Check out our Interactive park map!
<https://bit.ly/3g0GaR5>

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

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Facilities

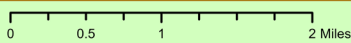
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|--|--|
| <p>Conservation Areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Heron Environmental Area Mill Creek Crossing O'Connor Nature Park Paint Creek Heritage Area- Fen Prairie Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie Paint Creek Trail Parcel | <p>Community Parks & Recreation Facilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bear Creek Nature Park Charles Ilsley Park Cranberry Lake Park Draper Twin Lake Park Fox Nature Preserve Gallagher Creek Park Lost Lake Nature Park Marsh View Park Mill Race Trail Paint Creek Junction Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Watershed Ridge Park Paint Creek Cider Mill (Parks & Rec Office) |
|--|--|

Other Parks and Recreation Facilities

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Other Public Parks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Addison Oaks County Park Bald Mountain State Recreation Area Paint Creek Trail Stony Creek Metropark | <p>Private Recreation Facilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Oak Archers The Wyndgate Golf Course Twin Lakes Golf & Swim Club |
| <p>Other Public Recreation Facilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Blackheath Golf Club The Myth Golf Club Westwynd Golf Club | <p>Public Schools</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Baldwin Elementary School Delta Kelly Elementary School Hugger Elementary School Musson Elementary School Oakview Middle School |

Key to Features:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Municipal Boundary | Lakes & Ponds | Paint Creek Trail | Private Recreation |
| Major Roads | Streams & Rivers | Public Recreation | Public School |



Last Update: 8/5/2022

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

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Fax: (248) 601-0106
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THIS SUMMER!

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INFO:
PAGE 10



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NOW!