



FALL NEWSLETTER

September - December

2025

"Hickory Lane at Cranberry Lake Park" - Cam Mannino

**OAKLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION**

oaklandtwpmi.gov • 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 oaklandtwpmi.gov 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
Archery Coordinator
Clif Selent
Archery Instructor
Michael Thor
Recreation Seasonals
Anabella Dawood
Brooke Patrician
Connor Dolecki
Makena Jensen

Commissioners

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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.

August 13th, 2025
September 10th, 2025
October 8th, 2025

November 12th, 2025
December 10th, 2025



Soundtrack for the Season

As summer fades and the colors shift, we find ourselves reflecting on the moments and music that filled our parks these past few months.

This year's *Music in the Meadows* concert series was a highlight of the season - three evenings of incredible performances, food trucks, and community under open skies. We were thrilled to welcome hundreds of residents to enjoy live music together, and we're deeply grateful to everyone who helped bring the series to life.

While the stage may be quiet for now, the music doesn't have to stop. This fall, we invite you to keep the spirit of the concerts alive by enjoying our **Parks Staff Playlist** ~ a curated mix of songs handpicked by our team for your next park visit. Whether you're walking a trail, watching the leaves fall, or simply enjoying a peaceful moment outdoors, we hope this soundtrack adds a little warmth and joy to your time in nature. If you have any suggestions for additions to our playlist be sure to let us know on our social media!

Thank you for being part of our vibrant park community. We'll see you out there!

~Ben McLoskey
Director, Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

Here is a taste of some of the Staff Picks.



To listen to the full playlist
please scan the QR Code above.

- Aria – ***Would that I*** by Hozier
- Arianna – ***Interstate Love Song*** by Stone Temple Pilots
- Ben M – ***Run of the (Cider) Mill*** by George Harrison
- Ben V – ***Leaves That Are Green*** by Simon and Garfunkel
- Bill – ***Beds Are Burning*** by Midnight Oil
- Doug – ***Harvest Moon*** by Neil Young
- Grant – ***Lady May*** by Tyler Childers
- Hanna – ***Built to Roam*** by Shakey Graves
- Jenna – ***Meet Me in the Woods*** by Lord Huron
- Mark – ***Timber Hearth*** by Andrew Prahlow
- Michele – ***September Grass*** by James Taylor
- Jarred – ***Orange Colored Sky*** by Nat King Cole
- Jason – ***100 Years*** by Blues Travelers

GOODISON GOOD TIME!

FREE!



ROCK CLIMBING WALL
ZIP LINE
PHOTO BOOTH
CARICATURE ARTIST
LIVE ANIMAL SHOW
FACE PAINTING
LIVE MUSIC
INFLATABLES
T-SHIRT STENCIL
ARCHERY SHOOT

**Food Truck
refreshments available
for purchase**

**Saturday, September 13th
11am - 3pm**

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

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



ART CLASSES

ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED!

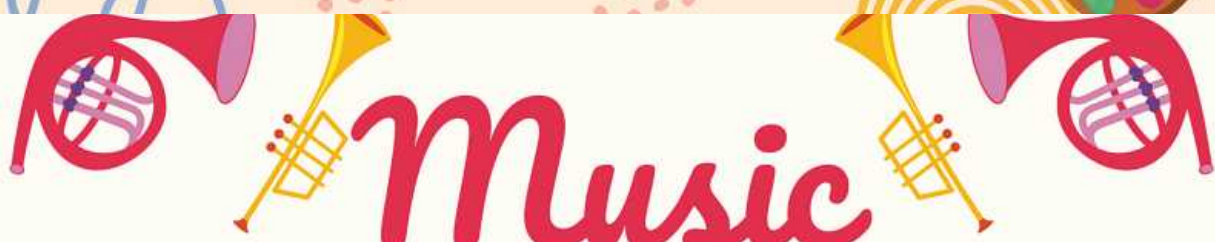
ART CAMPS

- MAGIC PINK UNICORN WORKSHOPS
- PINK AXOLOTL HABITAT
- PAW PATROL MARSHALL WORKSHOP
- A GIFT FOR GRANDMA
- NEW YEARS EVE CRAFT PARTY
- PINK, PURPLE, SPARKLE & SHINE
- TICKLED PINK WITH SCIENCE

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CHECK OUT
PAGES 6 + 7 !

WEEKLY ART CLASSES

- PAW PATROL
- T-SWIFT ERA WEEKLY CLASS
- INTRO TO DRAWING
- LEGO BRICK DESIGN LAB



9 WEEK
CLASSES!

Music CLASSES

AGES 1-12

BEAR CREEK NATURE PARK

TODDLER TUNES
TALES AND TUNES
STRUMS IN THE SUN



MORE INFORMATION ON PG 14

WHAT'S NEW in the PARKS

in the **SPOTLIGHT** Marsh View Park



Fox Nature Preserve: New Parking Lot & Southern Trails

We're excited to announce a new entrance and expanded access at Fox Nature Preserve. A freshly constructed 20-space parking lot off Lake George Road (just north Stoney Creek Road and the Green Barn) will soon connect park goers to a thoughtfully designed trail system winding through the park's southern landscapes.

We're currently working on the southern trail loop venturing through native prairies, historic orchards, and other unique natural features at Fox Nature Preserve.



Marsh View Park Nature Trail

Wander through one of Oakland Township's most scenic wetland habitats with the opening of the new Marsh View Park Nature Trail. This scenic 2 mile out-and-back route guides visitors through the flourishing north end of the park, offering peaceful views, birdwatching opportunities, and a deeper connection to the natural beauty of Marsh View Park.

We recommend park users access the trail from the main parking lot at 3100 E. Clarkston Road. The trail's entrance is just past the basketball court as you walk toward the archery range.

DID YOU KNOW?

The first Beginner's Archery class was held at Marsh View Park Archery Range on Saturday, May 7th of 2011.

Six years later on September 9th, 2017, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held after the completion of the Marsh View Park Archery Range Expansion project which brought the range to the Olympic sized standard.



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.

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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.

Registration open NOW!

ARTS & ENRICHMENT

Magical Pink Unicorn Workshop

Monday, Oct. 13th (9am-12pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 3- 6 years*

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, lived a magical pink unicorn who loved attending art class! Fantasy and art come together in this enchanted class. Your child will work with air-dry clay and paint to create an adorable sculpture of a unicorn. But that's not all. They will also paint another unicorn on a canvas! Please pack a nut free snack and drink for your child.

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

Pink Axolotl Habitat Workshop

Monday, Oct. 13th (1pm - 4pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 5-12 years*

Meet the adorable axolotls! Discover their unique features, learn how they thrive in their habitats, and uncover cool facts about these amazing amphibians. Through hands-on activities and engaging lessons, kids will explore natural science at its cutest while sparking curiosity about the animal kingdom! Please pack a nut free snack and drink for your child.

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

Pink, Purple, Sparkle & Shine

Mon. Nov. 3rd & Tues. Nov. 4th

(9am - 12pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 4-9 years*

Is your child crazy about pink, or can't get enough of purple? This is their dream camp! Sculpt adorable clay trolls and paint minicakes on canvas, kids will paint, draw, and sculpt enchanting works celebrating their favorite hues. Not into pink or purple? No worries! We'll have other color options!

Residents: \$85 Non-Residents: \$90

Tickled Pink With Science

Mon. Nov. 3rd & Tues. Nov. 4th

(1pm - 4pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 4-9 years*

Step into a world bursting with pink in Ticked Pink with Science! This camp takes creativity and learning to the next level as kids create their own axolotl habitat, and perform dazzling pink chemistry experiments. Every activity immerses young scientists in a celebration of science & color.

Residents: \$85 Non-Residents: \$90

Paw Patrol Marshall Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 8th (10am - 11am)

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

Get ready for a red hot rescue! Artists will use a special splatter paint technique inspired by Jackson Pollock as they create Marshall the fire pup from Paw Patrol on a real canvas board. Come ready to get messy while you play right along with your child.

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

A Gift For Grandma

Saturday, Dec. 6th (10am - 11am)

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

Grandma (or grandpa) will be so pleased to receive a gift made by hand just for her (or him)! The kids will create (with a little help from their caregiver) a clay picture frame with a beautiful ribbon detail. It will be perfect for grandma to display a picture of her favorite grandchild. What a terrific keepsake! This is a great class for siblings to attend together! Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

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

New Year's Eve Craft Party

Wednesday, Dec. 31st (9am - 12pm)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 3 - 6 years*

Mom & Dad, you deserve a break from your crazy holiday schedule! Send your young artist to class to make all they will need for a fabulous New Year's Eve celebration. We will create noisemakers, party poppers, and New Year's Eve hats. What a fun way to ring in the New Year! Please pack a nut free snack and drink for your child.

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

Weekly Classes

Paw Patrol Art Class

Saturdays, Oct. 4th- 25th (10am-11am)

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

Ryder says it best, "No job is too big, no pup is too small!" This is your invitation to help us tackle the big job of creating awesome Paw Patrol art! We'll explore different techniques, styles, and materials to create art inspired by all our favorite rescue pups: Marshall, Chase, Zuma, Skye, and more! Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Residents: \$70 Non-Residents: \$75

Weekly Art Classes

T-Swift Era Weekly Class

Mondays, Sept. 15th - Oct. 6th
(6pm-7pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 5- 12 years*

Experience the magic of Taylor Swift and her iconic Era tour at our legendary art class! Immerse yourself in creativity inspired by her music and style. From drawing to painting to sculpting, unleash your inner artist in this special tribute to Taylor Swift's enduring legacy. Please pack a nut free snack, lunch and a drink for your child.

Residents: \$70 Non-Residents: \$75

Intro to Drawing Weekly Class

Saturdays, Oct. 4th - Oct. 25th
(11:30am - 12:30pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 5- 12 years*

Calling all doodlers! In this beginning drawing class designed specifically for young artists, we'll learn and master a simple step-by-step method to truly fantastic drawings. From cute koalas to radiant sunsets to a lighthouse that really glow-in-the-dark, we'll hone our drawing skills as we create unique masterpieces any burgeoning artist would be proud of!

Residents: \$70 Non-Residents: \$75

Lego Brick Design Lab

Saturdays, Nov. 1st - 22nd
(11:30am - 12:30pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 5- 12 years*

In this hands-on class, kids will explore basic scientific theories while playing with LEGO bricks! They'll build, experiment, and discover how science works through creative, fun projects. From simple machines to fundamental physics, young minds will learn by doing—combining the joy of building with LEGO bricks with the excitement of science.

Residents: \$70 Non-Residents: \$75



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

Adult Arts & Enrichment

Paint Like Bob Ross

Tuesday, Sept. 23rd - Mountain Beauty
(6pm - 9pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 12 & up*

Tuesday, Oct. 21st - Cabin by the River
(6pm - 9pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 12 & up.*

Tuesday, Nov. 18th - Autumn Brook
(6pm - 9pm)

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 12 & up.*

Tuesday, Dec. 16th - Snowy Mountain
(6pm - 9pm)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 12 & up.*

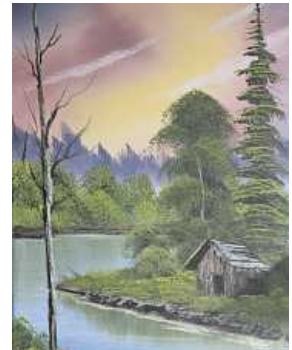
Learn to Paint like Bob Ross in just one day!

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.



Importance of Financial Planning

Tuesday, Sept. 16th (6:00pm - 7:00pm)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 18+*

Integrated Income Planning

Tuesday, Oct. 21st (6:00pm - 7:00pm)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 18+*

*** Free-Pre-registration**

Investment Strategies

Tuesday, Nov. 18th (6:00pm - 7:00pm)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 18+*

Strategic Structuring: Legacy & Estate Planning

Tuesday, Dec. 10th (6:00pm - 7:00pm)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 18+*



CERTIFIED

B A B Y S I T T E R

CPR, FIRST AID & SAFE HOME ALONE

Saturday, Nov. 15th 9am - 3pm

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 Safe Academy (valid for two years).

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

CERTIFIED

P E T S I T T E R

CPR, FIRST AID ADD ON

Saturday, Nov. 15th 3pm - 4pm

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 9 and up.*

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

SPORTS PROGRAMS

Fun Time Sports: Intro to Flag Football

Mondays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

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

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

Wear sneakers, bring water!



FITNESS & WELLNESS

Mommy and Me Yoga

Wednesdays (9:30am-10:30am)

#1 Sept. 3rd - Oct. 8th

#2 Oct. 15th - Nov. 19th

#3 Dec. 3rd - Jan. 21st 2026

(no class 12/24 or 12/31)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Family*

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.

Meditation Mondays: Yin Yoga

Mondays (4:45pm - 5:45pm)

#1 Sept. 8th - Oct. 13th

#2 Oct. 20th - Nov. 24th

Paint Creek Cider Mill *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

All Levels Yoga

Sundays (9:30am - 10:30am)

1 Sept. 28th - Nov. 2nd

2 Nov. 9th - Dec. 14th

Paint Creek Cider Mill *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

Meditative Yoga

Thursdays (6pm - 7pm)

#1 Oct. 9th - Nov. 13th

#2 Nov. 20th - Jan. 15th

(no class 11/27, 12/25, or 1/1/26)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 12+*

Enjoy slow, mindful movement, stretches & meditation.

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

All Levels Tai Chi

Wednesdays (6pm - 7pm)

October 29th - December 10th.

(no class 11/26 due to Thanksgiving)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 18 & up.*

Join Marci Jenkins for this all-levels Tai Chi class, perfect for both beginners and returning students. Learn or continue the Yang Style (Chen Man Ching) form while improving balance, flexibility, and overall well-being.

Wear comfortable clothes and supportive shoes (no flip-flops or sandals). Bring a chair if you need support while standing.

Try a class for free! Call **248-651-7810** to schedule your free trial.

6-week session | Taught by Marci Jenkins, 20+ years experience

Residents: \$48 Non-Residents: \$60

Slow Flow Yoga

Sundays (11am - 12pm)

#1 Sept. 21st - Oct. 26th

#2 Nov. 9th - Dec. 14th

Paint Creek Cider Mill *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



Strong Muscles, Healthy Joints

Wednesdays (1pm - 2pm)

#1 Sept. 10th - Oct. 15th

#2 Oct. 29th - Dec. 10th

(no class 11/26)

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 18+*

Low-impact 1-hour fitness sessions include a variety of exercises designed to support joint health and improve muscular strength. Each class begins with head-to-toe stretching, followed by a combination of motions specifically aimed at maintaining and/or improving mobility and flexibility while at the same time, getting a great workout and having fun. Sessions include a brief endurance set. Several of the exercises model those supported by the Arthritis Foundation. Class involves a combination of seated and standing motions, but can be adapted to sitting only.

Residents: \$80 Non-Residents: \$85



Healing Hearts

Wellness Workshop

Thursdays (2pm - 3pm)

#1 Sept. 18th - Oct. 9th

#2 Oct. 16th - Nov. 6th

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 18+*

Join this one-month healing journey designed to support those navigating trauma, grief, depression, stress, and anxiety. This 4-session workshop combines the gentle power of yoga, meditation, breathwork, art therapy, and laughter exercises to promote emotional well-being and inner peace.

Led by experienced yoga teacher Natasha, founder of Mandala Meditation Circle, each session offers a safe & supportive space to heal, express, & reconnect with joy.

No prior experience needed – just an open heart.

Residents: \$80 Non-Residents: \$85

Master Your Breath

Breathing Workshop

Tuesdays (2pm - 3pm)

#1 Sept. 16th - Oct. 7th

#2 Oct. 14th - Nov. 4th

Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 18+*

Discover the power of your breath in this gentle, guided one-month workshop designed to help you reduce stress, improve focus, sleep better, and enhance overall well-being. Led by experienced yoga teacher and breath coach Natasha, you'll learn simple yet effective breathing techniques to calm the mind, energize the body, and bring more balance to your daily life.

The workshop also includes **guided videos for home practice** between sessions.

No prior experience needed – just bring yourself and a willingness to breathe with awareness!

Residents: \$80 Non-Residents: \$85



ARCHERY



Next Step Archery

Saturdays (10:45am - 11:45am)
Sept. 6th - Oct. 4th (No Class Sept. 13th)
Marshview Park Archery Range *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.

Pre-Requisite: Must have completed a Beginning Archery class or its equivalent.
Residents: \$48 Non-Residents: \$60

Beginning Archery

Saturdays (9:00am - 10:30am)
Sept. 6th - Oct. 4th (No Class Sept. 13th)
Marshview Park Archery Range *(Ages 8+)*

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: \$72 Non-Residents: \$90

Archery Club (Outdoors)

Tuesdays 5pm - 6pm
Sept. 23rd - Oct. 21st (No Class on Oct. 14th)
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 Club (Indoors)

Tuesdays 5pm - 6pm Select Dates TBD Baldwin Elementary Gym *Ages 10 - 18*

Zombie Apocalypse Shoot

Saturday Oct. 25th (10am-2pm)

Marshview Park Archery Range *(Ages 8+)*

Join us for a spooky-good time at our Halloween-themed archery event! Test your skills by shooting at monster targets, pumpkins, and even your own custom-decorated zombie. All equipment is provided, and no prior archery experience is needed—just a steady hand and a little Halloween spirit. Costumes are welcome as long as they're safe to shoot in. Come for the fun, stay for the fright, and see if you have what it takes to survive the Zombie Apocalypse Shoot!

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

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



Saturdays

Sept. 6th - Oct. 25th

(No Sessions 9/13)

12:00pm - 1:00pm

1:00pm - 2:00pm

2:00pm - 3:00pm

3:00pm - 4:00pm



NATURE PROGRAMS

Fall Mushrooms of Michigan

**Saturday, Sept. 13th (11am - 12:30pm) OR
Sunday, Sept. 14th (11am - 12:30pm)**

Lost Lake Nature Park *Ages 18 & up*

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 Hunter 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 doing a mushroom hunt with a true mushroom expert!

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



Great Pumpkin Bowl

Friday, Oct. 10th (7:30pm-9:30pm)

Lost Lake Sledding Hill *All Ages*

We invite you to celebrate the majesty of the orange pumpkin by engaging in our festive pumpkin bowling course. We will be turning on the spotlights and setting up trashcan pins at the bottom of the hill. Carry your ammunition to the top of the hill, aim true, and send your pumpkins careening back down with the intention of obliterating the cans & pumpkins! Refuel with cider & donuts in the warming shelter and make a fun pumpkin craft.

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

Strums in the Sun

**Thursdays, Sept. 11th-Nov. 6th
(6:30pm-7:10pm)**

Bear Creek Nature Pavilion *Ages 7-12yrs*



Get ready to rock this fall! In Strums in the Sun, kids will learn to play ukulele in a fun, relaxed group setting. Whether they're beginners or have some experience, students will strum along to autumn-themed songs, jam with friends, and build confidence with chords and rhythm games. A perfect way to enjoy some beautiful fall weather!

Residents: \$90 Non-Residents: \$108

Toddler Tunes

Thursdays, Sept. 11th-Nov. 6th (4pm-4:40pm)

Bear Creek Nature Pavilion *Ages 1-3yrs*

Sing, shake, and move with your little one! Toddler Tunes is a joyful, interactive music class where toddlers explore sound through songs, instruments, movement, parachute, dance, and more! Grownups join in the fun, helping to nurture early language, motor skills, and social development, all through the magic of music!

Residents: \$90 Non-Residents: \$108

Tunes & Tales

Thursdays, Sept. 11th-Nov. 6th (4:50pm-6:30pm)

Bear Creek Nature Pavilion *Ages 4-6yrs*

Where music and storytelling meet! In Tunes & Tales, preschoolers and early elementary kids dive into musical adventures inspired by beloved books and fairy tales. Each week brings a new story to life with songs, instruments, creative movement, crafts, and hands-on music-making. Imagination, rhythm, and fun all rolled into one!

Residents: \$90 Non-Residents: \$108

Marks in the Mud

Saturday, Oct. 18th (10am - 11am)

Bear Creek Nature Park *Ages 3-5yrs*

The moist autumn soil is the perfect place to find clues about the animals that patrol the parks looking for their next snack or shelter. We will be putting on our detective hats and using magnifying glasses to tip-toe down the trails in search of animal tracks to see if we can figure out who, besides us, has been enjoying a hike. Beneath the shelter of the pavilion we will decorate a t-shirt using animal tracks!

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

Fall Color Hike with Six Rivers
Wednesday, Oct. 22nd (5pm-6:30pm)
Bear Creek Nature Park *Ages 16+*

Join Six Rivers Land Conservancy and Oakland Township Parks for a scenic hike through the beautiful Bear Creek Nature Park! As the leaves reach their peak colors, we'll explore trails surrounded by brilliant reds, golden yellows, and rustic oranges. This guided hike is perfect for nature lovers, photographers, and anyone who wants to soak in the beauty of fall.

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



Star Gazing 101
Saturday, Oct. 25th (7:30pm-9:30pm)
Cranberry Lake Farm *Ages 8 and up.*

Astronomy 101 for enthusiasts! Enjoy an orientation session to the Fall season's amazing night sky, then see these marvels for yourself in a variety of ways: naked-eye as we paint the night sky in a laser-guided constellation tour, through our parallelogram-mounted large binoculars which will delight you with stars and large star clusters (like the E.T. cluster!) that you could not see naked-eye, through the optics of a variety of visual telescopes as we explore Saturn and an array of globular clusters, and finally through camera-based astronomy which allows us to share real-time images of beautiful nebulae, the Andromeda Galaxy, and more!

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

A Sensory Adventure in Nature
Saturday, Nov. 8th (10am - 11:30am)
Lost Lake Nature Park *All Ages*

This program has been tailored to provide those with cognitive impairments or who are over stimulated a unique opportunity to explore a gentle and quiet park while getting hands-on in nature in a quiet and controlled setting. We will be meeting a real turtle who we can touch and learn from, smelling some of the sweetest smells nature can produce, feeling a variety of natural materials including furs, barks, plants, bones, pinecones while learning a little about them, and even whipping up a tasty natural snack and more! We will be in a shaded and wheelchair accessible area surrounded by serene forest and lakefront. Additional questions about accessibility or concerns can be sent to **Amanda@DinosaurHill.org**
This program is tailored for special needs friends of all ages.

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

Winter Birdfeeders
Saturday, Nov. 15th (10am - 11:30am)
Cranberry Lake Farm *Ages 18 & up*

Not all of our avian friends are retiring down south for the winter, several really interesting species stick around all year long. Each of these hardy flying friends has their own tricks-of-the-trade to finding food beneath all the snow & we will examine quite a few examples. we'll take a look at several examples of birds who tough out winter while also producing a birdfeeder to take home & feed them. We'll discuss how birding can help scientists & how to get involved with the Christmas Bird Count & Great Backyard Bird Count.

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

Pining Over Yew
Friday Dec. 5th (9:30am - 11:30am)
Paint Creek Cider Mill *Ages 50+ (Seniors)*

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!

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



FREE! Drop-In Nature Programs

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

Geology and Minerals

Landforms

September 13th (12pm-3pm)

Discover different landforms– hills, mountains, and moraines. Experience the landforms along the trail outside. Inside we will make a mountain out of a molehill in a landscape painting.

Minerals

September 28th (12pm-3pm)

We'll look at different types of minerals, go on a scavenger hunt outside for minerals with everyday uses, and use stencils to draw crystals on a tote bag to take home.

Bone Up On Skeletons

Skeleton Guessing Game

October 11th (12pm-3pm)

On October 11th, we'll sort skulls from mammals, birds, and reptiles. Make a guess of which skeleton is whose on scratch off skeleton cards and incorporate them into a bone collage. Search the sledding hill for bones and discover whose bones they are.

X-Ray Vision

October 26th (12pm-3pm)

We'll view animal x-rays and real skeletons. Create a pasta skeleton. See if you can build a model skeleton after going on a scavenger hunt to search for the bones.



Something Squirrely

Ground Squirrels

November 8th (12pm-3pm)

There are 9 species of squirrel found in Michigan. We'll focus on ground squirrels– including woodchucks & chipmunks. Make a groundhog puppet and look for chipmunk holes along the trail.

Squirreling Around

November 23rd (12pm-3pm)

Practice your squirrel chatter, create a squirrel made of acorns, and see how many squirrels you can find in the park.

Deer Days

Deer Patrol

December 6th (12pm-3pm)

We'll assemble reindeer antler headbands, search for deer signs in the field, and feel the pelts of whitetail deer, elk, and caribou.

Who's Who- Deer Tracks!

December 28th (12pm-3pm)

Compare the tracks of elk, moose, whitetail deer, and caribou and stamp them on a bandana to take home. See if you can follow the footsteps on a deer path around the park.



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 18-20.

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>

****All minors must have a waiver signed by a guardian, minors under 14 must be accompanied by a guardian.****



Summer 2025 Stewardship Crew

*In order of appearance left-right, top to bottom.
Grant VanderLaan, Ben VanderWeide,
Jarred McPherson, Mark Peters,
Hanna Muntz, Jenna Marcatth*

Thank You Spring 2025 Volunteers!

These volunteers collectively contributed 370 hours in April and May of 2025! Thanks to each one of you for contributing your time to make our parks better for people and nature.

*Bonnie Abiko, Amber Beville, Nina Boes,
Sharon Bostwick, Sienna Bostwick, Aaron Carroll,
Beth Delaney, Kathleen Dougherty, Susan Forgie,
Kelsey Fullerton, George Hartsig, Louise Hartung,
Frank Imbrunone, Vanessa Imbrunone,
David Klionsky, Tom Korb, Jeff Nowels,
Terry Nowels, Michael Mallon, Cam Mannino,
Taylor Meyerhoff, Lisa Muenzenberger,
Hanna Muntz, Allison Nye, Erica Nye,
Laurie Peklo, Donna Perkins, Tyler Peterlin,
Doug Peterson, Sharon Pizzuti, Jon Reed,
Erika Schick, Robert Schrader, Dale Sigelko,
Jenny Sigelko, Lynn Simmons, Madelyn Swan,
Penny Walchli*

STEWARDSHIP

Volunteer Spotlight:

At Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, we are privileged to work with dedicated volunteers whose contributions to our Natural Areas Stewardship program enrich our community. Today, we shine the spotlight on two exceptional individuals who have helped us restore high quality natural areas, bring wildflowers back to former farm fields, and helped us create a community of volunteers: George Hartsig and Lisa Muenzenberger.

In addition to volunteering with us, both George and Lisa completed the Michigan Conservation Steward Program through Michigan State University Extension in 2023. This program gave them both the knowledge and confidence to work more independently on projects like native seed collecting that are vitally important to our habitat restoration work, but often don't get done because our stewardship staff are so busy. With leadership from our volunteers, we collected **171 pounds** of native plant seed from **159 species** in 2024, double or triple what we usually collect! This seed all goes back to our parks to improve habitat for pollinators and wildlife, and to make our parks more beautiful for everyone to enjoy. We hope to see you at one of our seed collecting and cleaning workdays this fall!

Seed Collecting & Cleaning Workdays

Seed Collecting: Meet at Paint Creek Cider Mill before heading to our site for the day. **October 2nd, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, 24th, 31st. November 1st, 6th & 7th. All Seed collecting workdays are 12:30pm-3:30pm.**

Many native plant seeds are only available for collecting for a few weeks in the fall, so we need as much help as possible during harvest! Seed collecting is a fun, relaxing way to learn new native plant species while experiencing unique natural areas. We use these seeds to help restore areas where we have removed invasive plants.

Seed Cleaning & Mixing: Meet at Watershed Ridge Park 1720 W. Buell Rd. **November 20th & 21st, 9am- 12pm** We'll clean seed that we collected through the fall and sort them into custom seed mixes for habitat restoration in the parks.

George Hartsig

After graduating with a degree in Resource Development from Michigan State University, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in 1972, **George Hartsig** returned home to work in the family plumbing and well supply business, Hartsig Supply, until his retirement.



When George started volunteering with our natural areas stewardship program in 2021, in many ways he was getting back to what he studied at MSU. He wanted to be outdoors with people with the same common purpose. George has helped with nearly every aspect of our stewardship program, from invasive shrub control, vernal pool monitoring and prescribed burns.

In the last few years George has taken a special interest in collecting, cleaning, and spreading native plants seeds because he knows it will leave a positive, lasting impression on the environment. George has personally collected at least **84 pounds** of local native wildflower seed! He constantly innovates to help us more efficiently collect and clean seed, finding new uses for softener salt bags (great seed collecting bag with sturdy handles!), leaf vacuums (speeds up seed cleaning!), and a household canister vacuum (cleaning milkweed seed used to be the worst!). George is excited to see future wildflower displays from the seed he collected.

STEWARDSHIP

Volunteer Spotlight Continued: George Hartsig

When asked why he volunteers with our Natural Areas Stewardship program, George said, “I love the friendly attitudes, the banter, and the opportunity to learn something new every time I come out.” Indeed, his drive to observe the natural world, learn more, and understand “why” define George’s approach to volunteering.

For those considering volunteering, George encourages everyone to take the first step. As he aptly puts it, “There is a volunteering opportunity to suit your needs and capabilities.” Whether it’s seed collecting, habitat restoration, or community education, every effort counts. Give something a try and become part of a movement dedicated to preserving our parks and planet for future generations.



Lisa Muenzenberger

Lisa Muenzenberger began volunteering with our Natural Areas Stewardship program in October 2022, driven by her love for the outdoors. She found that volunteering allowed her to stay active and contribute meaningfully while immersing herself in nature, experiencing its wonders, and giving back. “The people, the leadership, the parks, the information and instruction, and the opportunities to contribute and give back” make volunteering worthwhile for her. At Oakland Township Parks Lisa values our “stewardship of the land, how we care for it, the philosophy of why we do what we do to be good caretakers.”

In addition to volunteering with us, Lisa bakes bread, loves painting, curates her home gardens, and performs with the North Oakland Concert Band. Lisa is a regular on our Wednesday morning bird walks, helps with garlic mustard control, vernal pool monitoring, prescribed fire, and more! She finds joy observing the evolving flora, touring the park natural areas often from early spring through late fall to witness the daily growth.

Lisa has been particularly helpful in data management for our seed collecting, tracking where seed was collected and where it was spread. And there was a lot of data to manage when we tripled our seed collecting in 2024! Lisa’s favorite memories from volunteering include “watching the seed collecting process from start to finish.” She loves seeing “the different ways seeds are collected, and when seeds are collected, cleaned, and redistributed. Then seeds are spread immediately in spring or are stored and spread before or after a prescribed burn.” In the future Lisa wants to continue to learn the growth cycles of native plants. This will help her know where the native plant species are located, when to collect them, and when to spread their seed.



For those considering volunteering, Lisa says, “If you like nature, being outdoors doing some good, and learning from immensely knowledgeable people, the staff and volunteers are the best. They are well organized, and everyone’s strengths are appreciated. This is the place to be. Stewardship and land management are the strengths of the group. Plus, it’s fun with lots of great laughs.”

STEWARDSHIP

Get Plugged In: Wildflower Planting at Bear Creek

Tuesday, September 16th, 9 am to 12 pm.

Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 W. Snell Rd, Rochester, MI 48306

Join us to plant native wildflower plugs at Bear Creek Nature Park. We are working to enhance the area near the Snell Road parking lot that used to be smothered by invasive shrubs. Tools and training will be provided.



Weekly Bird Walks

Join us every Wednesday from

Sept. - Nov. 19th 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 – *Watershed Ridge Park*
- 5th Wednesday of October – *Marsh View Park*

Bear Creek Nature Park Workdays

December 2nd, 9th, 16th- 9am-12pm

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.

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



Stewardship Holiday Coffee Hour

Wednesday December 17th 10am - 11:30am, at 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 2025.



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 (*Dipsacus* 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

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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, 2025 and January 31, 2026. 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, included alongside each hunter's application materials. Hunters must 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 ahughes@oaklandtownship.org

Questions about this procedure? Please call (248) 651-7810.

**Fall/Winter 2025/26 Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
Controlled Antlerless Archery Deer Hunting Application**

Name _____ Driver's License # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Vehicle Plate # _____

Primary Phone # _____ Secondary Phone# _____

Hunting Partner's Name _____ Phone # _____

Required Information must be Attached to Application (All sent to ahughes@oaklandtownship.org)

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

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

Hunters, please be aware all applications must be submitted at least one business week prior to chosen hunting dates for processing purposes.

Application Dates: Sept. 21st - Nov. 3rd	Application Dates: Nov 24th - Jan 19th
For the hunt dates of:	For the hunt dates of:
Tues/Wed Oct. 7 & 8 Tues/Wed Oct. 28 & 29	Tues/Wed Dec. 2 & 3 Tues/Wed Jan. 6&7
Tues/Wed Oct. 14 & 15 Tues/Wed Nov. 4 & 5	Tues/Wed Dec. 9 & 10 Tues/Wed Jan. 13 & 14
Tues/Wed Oct. 21 & 22 Tues/Wed Nov. 11 & 12	Tues/Wed Dec. 16 & 17 Tues/Wed Jan. 20 & 21
	Tues/Wed Dec. 23 & 24 Tues/Wed Jan. 27 & 28
	Tues/Wed Dec. 30 & 31

Please List Your Three Most Desired Hunting Zones, Most Desired to Least Desired. Zone 1-7

Meet the Hummingbird: Tiny but Mighty!

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

If you've spotted a shimmering green blur zipping through your garden lately, you're not imagining things—that's a hummingbird. While summer is prime time for observing these aerial acrobats here in Oakland Township, you will still see them in the fall and this is also a great time to plan some hummingbird friendly plantings for next summer.. Whether you're walking through one of our township's parks or sitting quietly by your backyard feeder, chances are you've been treated to a visit from one of nature's most fascinating birds.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) is the only hummingbird species that breeds regularly in Michigan, making it our star summer visitor. Males are instantly recognizable by their bright ruby-red throats, which catch the sunlight like a jewel, along with their metallic green backs. Females lack the red throat patch but share the same iridescent green plumage and delicate build. Despite their fragile appearance, these birds are incredibly strong. Each year, many travel thousands of miles during migration—including a legendary nonstop flight across the Gulf of Mexico—to wintering grounds in Central America. That kind of stamina is hard to believe from a bird that weighs less than a nickel.

In Oakland Township, we're lucky to have the right mix of woodland edges, open meadows, and gardens that provide an ideal habitat for these birds. If you want to attract hummingbirds to your yard, the key is planting nectar-rich native flowers that match their long, specialized beaks. Some of the best choices for our area include Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*), with its spiky lavender-pink blossoms, and Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), whose bright red flower spikes are among the most attractive to hummingbirds. Eastern Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) is another early-season favorite, offering unique red and yellow blossoms that help fuel their spring migration. And don't forget about native vines like Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), which adds vertical interest and bright tubular blooms to fences and trellises.

These flowers don't just offer a source of energy—they're also important for the hummingbirds' role in pollination. As they dart from bloom to bloom, sipping nectar with their long tongues, they help transfer pollen and contribute to the health of our local ecosystems. Plus, since they rely heavily on small insects and spiders for protein—especially during nesting season—hummingbirds also act as natural pest control. That's another reason to avoid pesticides in your yard. A healthy hummingbird garden is one where insects are welcome and nature is allowed to do its work.

To supplement the blooms, you can hang hummingbird feeders. A simple solution of one part white sugar to four parts water is all you need (no red dye—it's unnecessary and potentially harmful). Hang feeders near flowering plants and clean them every few days, especially in the heat, to prevent mold or fermentation. Feeder placement is important too: try placing them near shrubs or trees where hummingbirds can perch and rest between feedings.

If you prefer to go birdwatching beyond your own yard, Cranberry Lake Park and the Paint Creek Trail are excellent places to spot hummingbirds in action. In these more natural settings, look for them flitting around the edges of sunny clearings, near wildflowers or patches of Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), another favorite native nectar source. Early morning and evening tend to be the most active times, especially on warm, calm days.

July through early September is peak hummingbird season in Michigan. By late summer, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds begin preparing for their journey south. They spend the final weeks of summer feeding almost constantly to bulk up, often doubling their weight in body fat. That extra fuel powers their long, solitary flights during fall migration. It's a remarkable transformation to witness—one moment they're sipping delicately from a flower, the next they're crossing entire continents.

In a world that often feels chaotic and rushed, hummingbirds remind us of the beauty in small things and the wonder of wild places. They ask little from us—just some flowers, a bit of sugar water, and a peaceful place to perch. In return, they bring life, motion, and a sense of magic to our gardens and parks. So whether you're an avid birder, a casual nature lover, or someone just starting to explore the outdoors, take a moment this summer to appreciate the hummingbirds of Oakland Township. You just might find that they bring more than a little joy with every wingbeat.

Join Dinosaur Hill Naturalists at the upcoming Hummingbird Hijinx program celebrating National Hummingbird Day! We'll make a hummingbird art project, and taste a sip of nectar like hummingbirds! The program takes place **Saturday, September 6th from 10am-11am** and you can register and find more information at oaklandtwpmi.gov

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District
Oakland Twp's historic farm in a park!

388 W. Predmore Rd, Oakland Twp.



**PRESERVING HISTORY
ONE DAY AT A TIME**
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION



HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS SERVING OAKLAND TWP

2025: Chairman David Phillips, Vice-chair Col. Mark Gerhard, Secretary Ron Bargo, Commissioners Bill Berklich, Jan Derry, Pete Jarzyna, and Board of Trustee Representative Supervisor Robin Buxar

Exciting historic preservation News supporting Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District and local Cemetery historic districts. We are thrilled to be receiving *three* grants from these generous organizations, the Rochester Garden Club for Story Garden seating improvements, the Greater Michigan Association of Realtors for benches and informational signage, and also the America250MI award from the Michigan History Center and Historical Society of Michigan. Plans are underway to promote America's 250 Anniversary with an understanding of past and present connections to places. We can't wait to share all these improvements with you from these generous organizations!

Credits for artwork 'hollyhock' Janet Almstadt-Davison, 'young girl' Meg Costantini 'orchard blooms' Christina Haylett, and wedding photography with permission.



Music in the Story Garden— David Thomas

Friday August 1st at 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

David Thomas is a multi-instrumentalist and singer, playing the trumpet, piano, flute, and piccolo. David currently teaches trumpet lessons at the Rochester Conservatory of Music. He is in the process of recording his own albums that will feature all of his original songs on which he performs every instrument. David often performs at the Village of Rochester Hills events including Light the Village and the Village Concert Series. He has also played at many jazz hot spots including the Dirty Dog Jazz Café, Cliff Bells, the Detroit Jazz Festival, and the Michigan Jazz Festival.



**History on the Move
Garling Barn**



Oakland Twp Historic District Commission

DOWN ON THE FARM

Sat. Oct 4

11am to 2pm


**Oakland Township
Historical Society**

**Beekeeping Workshop
The Honey Harvest!**

Sat. August 23 at Noon



<http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org/>

 Oakland Township Historical Society

We invite the community to join the Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) located at Cranberry Lake Farm (CLF), 384 W. Predmore Road, Oakland Township (OT). Founded in 1974, the Society aims to bring together people interested in history generally and in the history of Oakland Township particularly. Our non-profit organization offers opportunities for members and visitors alike. Check out our website and Facebook page for more information about our programs, collections, membership, volunteering opportunities, and donation interests.

Questions? Send an email to othspresident@gmail.com.

PROGRAMS, PRESENTATIONS, AND POTLUCKS - OH MY!

Cranberry Lake Farm Venues:

Wed, Sept 3, 6:30 pm. Potluck Dinner. Presentation: "The Arsenal of Democracy." – Chris Causley, Michigan Military & Technical Society of Eastpointe.

Fri-Sun, Sept 19-21. The Flumerfelt Flea Sale

Sat., Oct 4, 11 to 2 pm. Down on the Farm.

Sat, Nov 8, 10 am. Cider and Donuts. Presentation: "The Salem Witch Trials- Scholarly Perspectives."

UM Church Venues:

Wed, Dec 3, 6:30 pm. Appetizers/Desserts and "Holiday Traditions in the Period Rooms, the DAR Museum of Washington DC"



CALLING ANTIQUE AND FLEA MARKET LOVERS

THE FLUMERFELT FLEA IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

September 19-21. Early-bird sale Friday evening. Free admission on Saturday and Sunday. The annual barn sale features unique and vintage items which are sure to excite the collector, thrifter, and bargain hunter within. Donations and volunteers appreciated.



DOWN ON THE FARM

Saturday, October 4, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm - Good ole fashion family fun. Games, pumpkins, apple picking, chickens, live music by Just Banjos, and more. In collaboration with the Historic District Commission.



COMING SOON!

Heritage in Oakland Township.

The forthcoming publication contains an updated collection of photographs, maps, and stories highlighting more than fifty historic properties.



DON'T MISS OUT.....

Wednesday afternoons. Archives research Main House, CLF.

Whether you are a long-time resident or have just settled in, we hope you will join us.

Here's to growing and learning alongside you for years to come!



Owned and managed by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission (PCTC), the Paint Creek Trail is an 8.9 mile linear park, located in northeast Oakland County. It was the first Non-Motorized Rail-to-Trail in the State of Michigan, as it was converted to a trail from the former Penn Central Railroad. Open to the public since 1983, the Paint Creek Trail receives over 100,000 visitors annually. The non-motorized Trail is 8 feet wide, and traverses through Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Orion Township and the Village of Lake Orion.

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 to make your gift.



Contact Us

Visit <https://paintcreektrail.org/wordpress/contact-us/>

Trail Office email: manager@paintcreektrail.org

Trail Office Phone: (248)651-9260

Visit our office! The Trail office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8:30am-4:30pm.

Appointments are available via phone call.

The office is located at the **Paint Creek Cider Mill, 2nd Floor, 4480 Orion Road, Rochester, MI 48306.**

Mailing Address:

**Paint Creek Trailways Commission,
4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306**



facebook.com/PaintCreekTrail





Frequently Asked Questions

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?

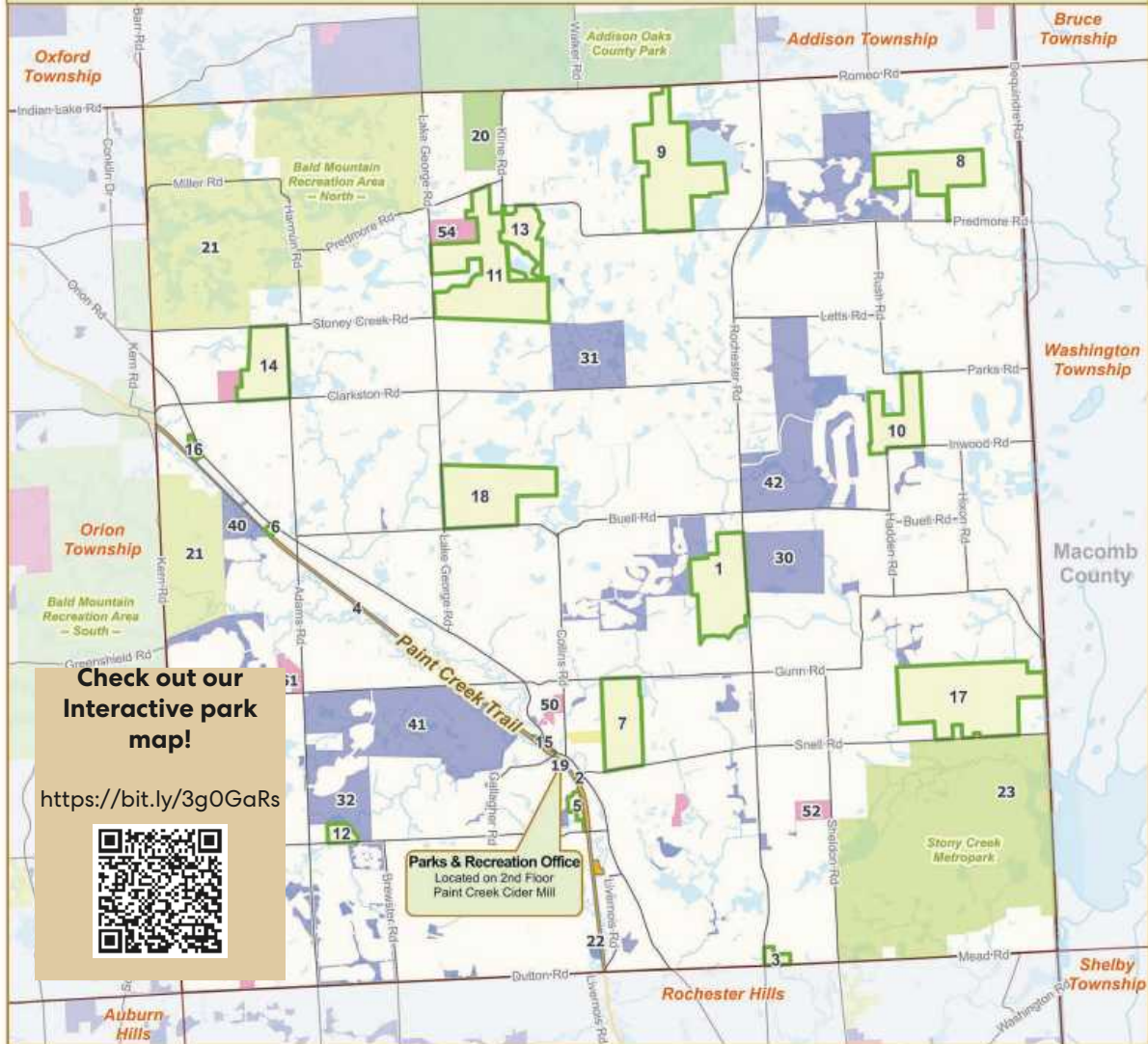


Oakland Township Parks and Recreation



[oaklandtwpparksandrec](https://www.instagram.com/oaklandtwpparksandrec)

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

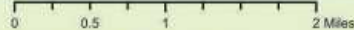
40. Royal Oak Archers
41. The Wyndgate Golf Course
42. Twin Lakes Golf & Swim Club

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



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

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