

# Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission Newsletter

## Summer 2024

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



October 2019 Community Master Plan Open House

Programs & Camps  
Pgs 4-10

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## Your Opinions are Important to the 2025 – 2029 Parks, Recreation, & Land Preservation Master Plan!

During 2024 Oakland Township residents are invited to participate in this planning process which occurs every five years. It is a wonderful way for new and long-time residents to help guide the future direction of our Township Parks and Recreation system. The Parks and Recreation Commission is working with professional consultants to evaluate parks and recreation opportunities in conjunction with public input.

A Community-wide Opinion Evaluation will be distributed this Spring for residents to share their preferences concerning existing activities, parks, and facilities, as well as their desire for potential enhancements to them. Please look for your household's postcard invitation that will include a unique control number to participate in this online evaluation. Paper evaluations also will be made available to postcard recipients who do not wish to complete the evaluation online.

*(Continued on page 22)*

## \$340,100 Grant Award for Access Improvements at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park



Birders at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park

We are thrilled to announce that in December 2023 this project was recommended for approval to receive a \$340,100 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to provide public access to this park's high-quality natural areas and to provide a pedestrian/bicycling connection to Stony Creek Metropark.

Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park was acquired to protect natural features including the Stony Creek corridor, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and the wildlife that inhabit them, such as 150 bird species.

*(Continued on page 12)*

**See page 3 for Music in the Meadows Summer Concert Series schedule**

# What's New In The Parks...

(Continued on page 12)

## From the Director...

At the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting I informed the Parks and Recreation Commission that I would be retiring at the end of May. I am truly grateful for the support I have received from Township residents during my tenure and I would like to share the letter that I read into the record at that meeting.

*Dear Chair Barkham;*

*I am writing to let you know that I will be retiring from Oakland Township Parks and Recreation on May 31, 2024.*

*I have enjoyed my 25 years working for the Parks and Recreation Commission and appreciate the opportunities I've had to help the residents of Oakland Township.*

*Thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn from a thoughtful and visionary Parks Commission and to grow with a dedicated and incredible staff. Our collaboration and commitment to the vision for this parks system has given me purposeful work that has remained fulfilling over these many years.*

*In 1999, when I was hired as the Township Parks Manager, I was thrilled to take on that challenge. It's been an amazing journey; participating in the expansion of our parks system, the protection of natural areas, the addition of recreation facilities, and the increase in program offerings. My fondest memories and proudest moments include:*

*The approval of the Land Preservation and conservation easement ballot proposals that have resulted in the protection of important park natural areas,*

*Working with landowners, officials, staff, and granting agencies on park land acquisitions such as Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park, Lost Lake Nature Park, and Fox Nature Preserve,*

*The planning, financing, construction, and opening of new parks and recreation facilities such as those at Bear Creek Nature Park and the athletic fields and archery range at Marsh View Park,*

*The establishment of the Music in the Meadows summer concert series, the Goodison Good Tyme fall festival and the Winter Carnival; all events where I have enjoyed meeting Township residents and park users,*

*And lastly, those moments when I was able to leave my desk and venture into our amazing parks with knowledgeable staff, Commissioners, and Township residents.*

*As we prepare for my upcoming departure, I want to do whatever I can to make the transition easier.*

*There is no doubt in my mind that Oakland Township Parks and Recreation will continue to protect local woodlands, wetlands, and grasslands; to nurture residents' connection to the natural world, and to provide facilities and activities that foster community.*

*Sincerely,*

**Mindy Milos-Dale**  
**Parks and Recreation Director**



Presentation of **Congressional Certificate Recognizing 25 years of Service** at Feb. 14, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Left to right: Commissioner Matt Peklo, Recording Secretary Ingrid Kliffel, Commissioner Jim Quesenberry, Director Mindy Milos-Dale, Vice Chair Dan Simon, Chair Emily Barkham, Commissioner Cathy Rooney, Secretary Brian Blust, Treasurer Craig Blust.

End Note: The Parks and Recreation Commission is currently interviewing qualified candidates for the Directorship and will be sharing the new Director's information in the near future.

# Music IN THE Meadows

It's Oakland Township Park and Recreation's 17th season of offering professional-quality, **FREE** outdoor concerts. Bring blankets and a picnic and enjoy music al fresco! Gates open at 5:00pm.

## *Big Band* Rhythm Society Orchestra [www.rhythmsociety.com](http://www.rhythmsociety.com)



**Friday, June 14, 7:00-9:00pm**

**at Bear Creek Nature Park**

740 W. Snell Road, Rochester, MI

**FREE Dance Tips 6:00-7:00 pm**

The Rhythm Society is a 15-piece dance band specializing in swing music influenced by Count Basie and Harry James. Crooner Paul King's style blends the sounds of Mel Torme, Joe Williams, and Frank Sinatra. Based in Detroit, Rhythm Society is a fixture at major swing events, and has been featured on numerous shows and radio programs. The horn-heavy sounds will get you up and dancing as the band transports you back to the 30's and 40's.



**Learn to Swing!** 2nd Street Studio of Dance will have professionals on hand to give you swing dancing tips prior to the concert. Plus, during the concert, they'll give demonstrations of dances popular during the big band era.

## *Classical* Beaumont Brass Quintet [www.bit.ly/beaumontbrassquintet](http://www.bit.ly/beaumontbrassquintet)



**Friday, July 19, 7:00-9:00pm**

**Cranberry Lake Farm** (Main House Porch)

388 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI

**FREE Historic Tours 6:00-6:45 pm**

The Beaumont Brass Quintet features one of Michigan State University's premier classical groups. Beaumont Brass has performed throughout Michigan and the Midwest, presenting concerts and clinics in public schools, university concert halls, and churches. Come and enjoy the majestic sounds of brass at the extraordinary setting of Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District.

## *Motown* Motortown All-Stars



**Friday, August 16, 7:00-9:00pm**

**Bear Creek Nature Park**

740 West Snell Road, Rochester

The Motortown All-Stars are a dynamic line-up of world class vocalists and musicians assembled from the ranks of the Temptations, the Contours and the Miracles. These vocalists have each performed with Motown legends on stages around the world. Now they've come together to deliver all of the biggest Motown hits with impeccable harmonies, flashy outfits, and dazzling choreography. Don't miss this electrifying performance that will get you grooving and singing along to your favorite Motown hits!



**What kind of music do you want to see at future concerts? Scan this QR code and take our three-question survey. Thank you!**

In case of bad weather, concerts will be held indoors 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.

# Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

## Summer 2024 Nature Programs

**Register online: [oaklandtownship.recdesk.com](http://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com)**

### *Tiny Turtle Relay Race*

**Friday, June 14**  
**10:00am-11:00am**

Join us as we engage in a terrific turtle shellabration! We will be warming up with a short story read to us by a turtle puppet before being introduced to an Eastern Box Turtle, Painted Turtles, and a Tortoise! Afterwards we will put the rumors of turtles being slow to the test as we try and beat the turtle in a short race. We will put together a turtle craft to take home and take a short stroll out to the pond to see some wild turtles taking in some sunlight! **Children under age 5 must be accompanied by an adult.**



*PreK 3-5yrs. old*

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

Resident Registration **open now.**

Register by **June 10**

Non-Resident registration opens: **May 24**

Residents: **\$5**

Non-residents: **\$7**

### *Summer Sun-sation*

**Sunday, June 16**  
**11:00am-2:00pm**



As we get closer to the Summer Solstice- the longest day of the year, we'll celebrate the start of summer and catching some rays. Test the effectiveness of different sunscreens through sunscreen finger-painting, try telling time with a sundial, & make a sun-catcher to take home. Each hour on the hour there will be a guided nature walk to search for animals basking in the sun and the telling of sun myths from around the world at the campfire.

**No registration required, drop-in as able for this free program.**

**FREE**

**DROP-IN**

*Families*

**Lost Lake Nature Park**  
**846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, 48363**

### *Nature's Sensory Adventure!*

**Monday, July 8**  
**10:00am-11:30am**

Just because you're stuck in a stroller doesn't mean you shouldn't have nature programming. Join us as we take a sensory adventure across the stroller friendly Bear Creek Nature Park as we experience smells, feelings, sounds, tastes and sights that only nature can provide. We will have a delicious fruit snack to take with us on the trails while we feel the soft leaves of mint, listen to the trills of frogs, observe turtles lounging on logs and smell a few beautiful wildflowers. No fee for caregiver/parent.



*Caregiver & Baby*

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

Resident Registration **open now.**

Non-Resident registration opens: **June 17**

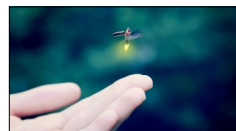
Residents: **\$5/child**

Non-residents: **\$7/child**

Register by **July 2**

### *Seasonal Campfire: Glittering Fireflies*

**Friday, July 26**  
**8:30pm-10:00pm**



Join us for a unique seasonal park experience as we gather around a campfire for a fiery lesson in some of nature's nocturnal friends. For the summer we will be taking a close look at our flying LED lights: the fireflies. We will be sharing a few of our favorite firefly myths from around the world, learning how they chemically produce light (using a diabolically named substance), putting together our own glowing firefly action figures to

take home, and enjoying some s'mores before turning our attention to the woods for a firefly frolic! Participants are encouraged to bring their own insect repellent. All fireflies will be released at the end of the program.

**Children under age 10 must be accompanied by an adult. All family members in attendance must register.**

Resident Registration **open now.**

Non-Resident registration opens: **July 5**

Residents: **\$5**

Non-residents: **\$7**

Register by **July 23**

*Families*

**Cranberry Lake Park**  
**388 W. Predmore Rd.,**  
**Oakland, 48363**

# Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

## Summer 2024 Nature Programs

**Register online: [oaklandtownship.recdesk.com](http://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com)**

### *Seasonal Adult Hikes—Michigan's Bats*

**Friday, August 9**  
**8:00pm-9:30pm**



**Adults 18 +**  
**Charles Ilsley Park**  
**1479 E. Predmore Rd.,**  
**Oakland, 48363**

We've all witnessed our flying mammal friends darting haphazardly through the twilight skies from our back porches and have heard horror stories of rabies, hair tangles, blood sucking and disease but what's true and what's falsehood? Explore the 9 species of bats in Michigan which help keep humans healthy and fed. We will get up close with a bat skeleton to see how they're able to achieve flight, learn how echolocation works, and learn a few tips and tricks for keeping bats out of our own homes! We will be heading out on the trails to try and spot bats and hear their echolocation sounds with the help of technology. Participants can take home the instructions needed to build their own bat houses.

Participants are asked to bring their own flashlights/headlamps and insect repellent.

Resident Registration **open now.**

Non-Resident registration opens: **July 19**

Residents: **\$5**

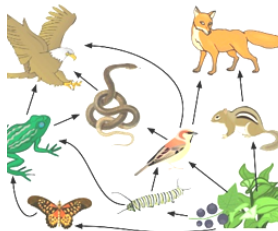
Non-residents: **\$7**

Register by **August 6**

## Oakland County Parks – Nature Education Programs

### *Food Webs*

**Friday, June 28**  
**6:00pm - 6:45pm**



Learn how living organisms in an ecosystem are intricately connected through food chains and webs in a 45-minute interactive talk presented by an Oakland County Parks naturalist! This presentation is suitable for all ages and will include exciting bio facts and other natural history items to demonstrate the important role each organism in a food web plays.

**All family members in attendance must register.**

Non-Resident Registration opens: **June 7**

Residents: **\$5**

### *Families*

**Lost Lake Warming Shelter**  
**846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland 48363**

Resident Registration **open now.**

Register by **June 25**

Non-Residents **\$7**

### *Adventure in Your Backyard*

**Friday, June 28**  
**7:00pm - 7:45pm**



Ready for an adventure in your own backyard? Join Oakland County Parks in a 45-minute interactive presentation where you'll learn about the wildlife and fauna found throughout Oakland Township! This presentation is suitable for all ages and will include exciting bio facts, pelts, and other natural history items to help you better understand all the amazing things that can be found in your own backyard!

**All family members in attendance must register.**

Resident Registration **open now.**

Non-Resident Registration opens: **June 7**

Residents: **\$5**

Non-Residents **\$7**

Register by **June 25**

### *Sunrise and Stars: An Early Morning Look at the Sky*

**Saturday, August 17**  
**5:00am-Sunrise**

You won't want to miss this opportunity to view an early morning look at the stars and planets before the sun rises! Enjoy a view of Jupiter and Mars side-by-side in a near conjunction and grab sights of Saturn, too. Watch Orion rising in the East, view the Orion Nebula, and see an early bird look at the entire winter hexagon of bright stars surrounding Orion, all in the warmth of midsummer. There are more goodies to see: the Andromeda Galaxy, a grand globular star cluster, and glorious open star clusters. Oakland Astronomy Club will provide the telescopes. Bring your curiosity and binoculars or borrow ours. Dress for the elements. **All Family members in attendance must register.**

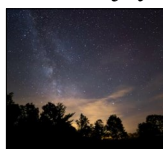
Resident Registration **is open now.**

Non-Resident Registration opens **July 27.**

Residents: **\$5**

Non-residents: **\$7**

Register by **Aug. 14**



### *Families*

**Marsh View Park**  
**3100 E Clarkston Rd, Oakland 48363**

# Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Summer 2024 Camps

**Register online: [oaklandtownship.recdesk.com](http://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com)**

## Explore Archery Camp

**Ages 8+**

**Monday, June 24 - Friday, June 28**

**10:00am-12:30pm**



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!

Resident registration **open now**.

Non-resident registration opens: **June 3**

Resident: **\$150**

Non-resident: **\$187.50**

Register by: **June 18**

## Basic Outdoor Skills Camp

**6th-8th Grade**

**Monday, July 8 - Friday July 12**

**10:00am - 12:30pm**



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.

**First day of camp is held at Marsh View Park Archery Range, 3100 E. Clarkston Rd., Oakland, MI 48363**

Resident registration **open now**. Non-resident registration opens: **June 12**

Resident: **\$150**

Non-resident: **\$187.50**

Register by: **July 2**

## Next Step Outdoor Skills Camp

**6th-8th Grade**

**Monday, July 29 - Friday, August 2**

**10:00am - 1:00pm**



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.

**First day of camp is held at Marsh View Park Archery Range, 3100 E. Clarkston Rd., Oakland, MI 48363**

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

Resident registration **open now**.

Non-resident registration opens: **July 8**

Resident: **\$180**

Non-resident: **\$225**

Register by: **July 23**

## RSC Summer Soccer Camps 2024

**Marsh View Park soccer fields, 3100 E. Clarkston Rd. in Oakland Township**



**Micro Soccer Camps (ages 3-5 years old)**

**July 22-26 – 6:30pm-7:30pm**

Micro Soccer Camps foster a love of physical activity while introducing soccer skills through a variety of games and activities. Micro camps run Monday-Friday and sessions last 1 hour. \$65 Session

**Summer Soccer Camps (ages 6-12 years old)**

**July 22-26 – 6:00pm-7:30pm**

 RSC Summer Soccer Camps work with each players abilities to continue their development and love of soccer. Players are broken up into groups based on age and ability so all players are challenged and have a great experience. Camps run Monday-Friday and sessions last 90 minutes. \$90 Session

Every player should come dressed and ready to play soccer each day. Shin guards, cleats, soccer ball and water bottles are highly recommended for each player every day they attend camp. Sun screen applied prior to arriving is also recommended. There is no shade out on the soccer fields.

Visit <https://www.rscsoccer.org/summer-camps> for more information and to register.

For questions call Rochester Soccer Club at 248-650-0113. [www.rscsoccerrecreation.org](http://www.rscsoccerrecreation.org)




# Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

## Fitness & Wellness Summer 2024

**Register online: [oaklandtownship.recdesk.com](http://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com)**

**All Levels Yoga** **Sundays 9:30am - 10:30am** **Ages 12+**  
**Cranberry Lake Farm** **Outdoors** **388 West Predmore, Oakland, 48363**

 Continue your practice outside at Cranberry Lake Farm. Join Up Dog Yoga and Oakland Township Parks and Recreation as they team up to bring you high quality yoga! *All Levels* classes will accommodate all skill levels with an option to modify. Bring your water bottle and yoga mat. All sessions are 6 weeks. Resident Registration **open now**.

<b>June 23-July 28</b> 6 weeks	Non-Resident registration opens:	<b>June 2</b>	Register by <b>June 18</b>
	Residents: <b>\$60</b>	Non-residents: <b>\$72</b>	
<b>August 4-September 8</b> 6 weeks	Non-Resident registration opens:	<b>July 14</b>	Register by <b>July 30th</b>
	Residents: <b>\$60</b>	Non-residents: <b>\$72</b>	


**Slow Flow Yoga** **Sundays 11:00am - 12:00pm** **Ages 12+**  
**Cranberry Lake Farm** **Outdoors** **388 West Predmore, Oakland, 48363**

Continue your practice outside at Cranberry Lake Farm. 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! Bring your water bottle and yoga mat. All sessions are 6 weeks. Resident Registration **open now**.



<b>June 2-July 7</b> 6 weeks	Non-Resident registration opens:	<b>May 12</b>	Register by <b>May 28</b>
	Residents: <b>\$60</b>	Non-residents: <b>\$72</b>	
<b>July 21-August 25</b> 6 weeks	Non-Resident registration opens:	<b>June 30</b>	Register by <b>July 16</b>
	Residents: <b>\$60</b>	Non-residents: <b>\$72</b>	
<b>September 8-October 13</b> 6 weeks	Non-Resident registration opens:	<b>August 18</b>	Register by <b>Sept 3</b>
	Residents: <b>\$60</b>	Non-residents: <b>\$72</b>	


**Monday Gentle Yoga** **Mondays 4:45pm-5:45pm** **Ages 12+**  
**Paint Creek Cider Mill** **Indoors OR Livestream** **4480 Orion Rd. Rochester, 48306**

 This basic yoga class is designed to meet you where you are. Modifications are offered and encouraged. Enjoy basic yoga postures, gently stretch and strengthen the body while connecting with the breath, and calming the mind. 6 week sessions. Resident Registration **open now**.

<b>June 24-July 29</b> 6 weeks	Non-Resident registration opens:	<b>June 3</b>	Register by <b>June 19</b>
	Residents: <b>\$60</b>	Non-residents: <b>\$72</b>	
<b>August 5-September 16</b> (No class September 2) 6 weeks	Non-Resident registration opens:	<b>July 15</b>	Register by <b>July 31</b>
	Residents: <b>\$60</b>	Non-residents: <b>\$72</b>	

**Wednesday Gentle Yoga** **Wednesdays 4:45pm-5:45pm** **Ages 12+**  
**Paint Creek Cider Mill** **Indoors OR Livestream** **4480 Orion Rd. Rochester, 48306**


This basic yoga class is designed to meet you where you are. Modifications are offered and encouraged. Enjoy basic yoga postures, gently stretch and strengthen the body while connecting with the breath, and calming the mind. 6 week sessions. Resident Registration **open now**.



<b>June 19-July 24</b> 6 weeks	Non-Resident registration opens:	<b>May 29</b>	Register by <b>June 16</b>
	Residents: <b>\$60</b>	Non-residents: <b>\$72</b>	
<b>July 31-September 4</b> 6 weeks	Non-Resident registration opens:	<b>July 10</b>	Register by <b>July 28</b>
	Residents: <b>\$60</b>	Non-residents: <b>\$72</b>	

**Thursday Gentle Yoga** **Thursdays 6:00pm-7:00pm** **Ages 12+**  
**Paint Creek Cider Mill** **Indoors OR Livestream** **4480 Orion Rd. Rochester, 48306**

Join Up Dog Yoga and Oakland Township Parks and Recreation for high quality yoga! This basic yoga classes is designed to meet you where you are. Enjoy basic yoga poses that gently stretch and strengthen your body. Modifications are offered and encouraged. 6 week sessions. Resident Registration **open now**.



<b>June 20-August 8</b> (No class July 4 and July 25)	Non-Resident registration opens:	<b>May 30</b>	Register by <b>June 17</b>
	Residents: <b>\$60</b>	Non-residents: <b>\$72</b>	
<b>August 15-September 19</b> 6 weeks	Non-Resident registration opens:	<b>July 25</b>	Register by <b>August 12</b>
	Residents: <b>\$60</b>	Non-residents: <b>\$72</b>	





# Archery Summer 2024

Marsh View Park Archery Range

3100 E. Clarkston Rd., Oakland, MI 48363

Register online: [oaklandtownship.recdesk.com](http://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com)

## Beginning Archery

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. Sanitized equipment provided. 5 weeks. Resident registration **open now**.



**Mondays 5:00pm-6:30pm**

June 10-July 8

Non-Resident registration Opens: **May 20**  
Residents: **\$90** Non-Residents: **\$112.50**

Register by: **June 5**

**Saturdays 9:00am - 10:30am**

June 1-July 13

(No class June 15 & July 6)

Non-Resident registration Opens: **May 11**  
Residents: **\$90** Non-Residents: **\$112.50**

Register by: **May 28**

**Saturdays 10:15am - 11:45am**

July 20-August 17

Non-Resident registration Opens: **June 29**  
Residents: **\$90** Non-Residents: **\$112.50**

Register by: **July 16**

## Next Step Archery

Ages 8+



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

**Saturdays 10:45am - 11:45am**

June 1-July 13

(No class June 15 & July 6)

Non-Resident registration Opens: **May 11**  
Residents: **\$60** Non-Residents: **\$75**

Register by: **May 28**

**Saturdays 9:00am - 10:00am**

July 20-August 17

Non-Resident registration Opens: **June 29**  
Residents: **\$60** Non-Residents: **\$75**

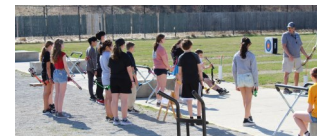
Register by: **July 16**

## Archery Club

**Tuesdays 5:00pm-6:00pm**

Ages 10-18

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



June 4 - July 9

Non-Resident registration Opens: **May 14**  
Residents: **\$72** Non-Residents: **\$90**

Register by: **May 30**

## Junior Olympic Archery Development—JOAD Wednesdays 5:00pm-6:00pm

Ages 10 +



We are excited to offer this new opportunity for our shooters looking to advance their technique and earn achievement awards. JOAD will focus on your shooting skills, technique, and process. We will go in depth into how we shoot and discuss ways to improve. All participants must be a member of USA Archery. Use our equipment or bring your own. 6 week program. **\*(Must have coach evaluation or recommendation to register)\*** Please contact us at [OTPR.JOAD@gmail.com](mailto:OTPR.JOAD@gmail.com) to see if you are a good fit for JOAD.

June 5- July 10

Resident and non-resident registration open now.  
Residents: **\$72** Non-Residents: **\$90**

Register by: **May 31**



Michigan  
Senior  
Olympics

# Archery Tournament



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024 - 10AM**

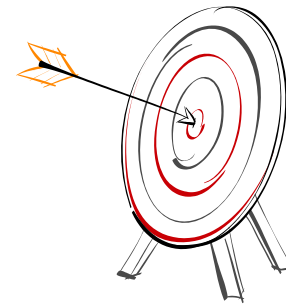
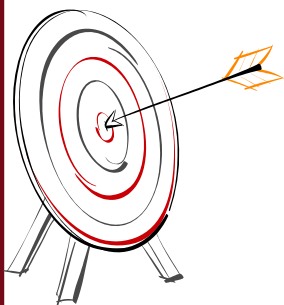
**Location: Marsh View Park**

**3100 E. Clarkston Rd., Oakland, MI 48363**

**Age Groups: 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79,  
80-84, 85-89, 90-94, 95-99, 100+**

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

**Rounds:** 900 American, 60, 50, & 40 yds  
30 arrows at each distance.



**How to Register:** Please call 248-608-0250 or visit our website at  
[www.michiganseniorolympics.org](http://www.michiganseniorolympics.org)

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 19, 2024**

**\*\*\*Official Qualifier for the 2025 National Senior Games in Des Moines, Iowa\*\*\***

RECREATION

Returning to the archery team this year are Brooke Patrician and Griffin Moore, as our seasonal archery assistants. Both Brooke and Griffin have successfully moved through the levels as students in our archery program and are the perfect additions to the summer crew! Welcome back guys!

**JOB  
OPENING**

We are searching for a team player to fill a casual post working evenings and weekends. If you are looking for something to fill your off hours while supporting the parks, we'd love to hear from you! Check out the full posting on the employment page at [oaklandtownship.org](http://oaklandtownship.org) and give us a call if it sounds like a good fit! 248-651-7810.

## Portable Disc Golf Loan!

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. Each Mach Lite basket weighs less than 27 pounds and comes in its own carrying case, making them easy to transport and set-up on your own mini-course. The disc golf loan includes up to four baskets and four sets of discs. Set up your course in an Oakland Township Park or at your home! Call the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation office at 248-651-7810 for further details.



Portable disc golf equipment is available for loan.

# Administrative Team Update

Welcome aboard to Michele Rutledge, our new Administrative Assistant, who comes with over 10 years experience in that role. She believes this particular role is a vital part in the functioning of the entire office. She is extremely organized, hardworking and loves making the office a fun place to work. Her interests include biking, golfing and a passion for baking. She is looking forward to being a part of the team and is very excited for her new role in the Parks and Recreation department. Welcome to the team Michele!



Parks and Recreation's receptionist Kim Newton has retired from her position with Parks and Recreation to spend quality time with her family. Chances are that you were greeted by Kim's cheery voice or smiling face if you've called or visited the Park office during the past three years.

Kim has been a capable and delightful team member and will be sorely missed! Please join us as we extend all our warmest wishes to Kim as she moves on to her next journey traveling between southeast Michigan, New Jersey, Alberta, and Ottawa!

A Fond Farewell to Carol Kasprzak who is retiring from the Administrative Assistant position that she has held since 2001!

While juggling the daily operations of the Parks and Recreation office, Carol has generously shared her many talents with us including her accounting skills and her knack for editing, proof reading, and creatively laying out our newsletters. Carol's devotion to our Parks system, knowledge of our daily operations, and readiness to assist residents and co-workers with a smile will be dearly missed. We wish Carol a long and joyful retirement with her friends and family – enjoying leisure activities such as sailing, gardening, and kayaking.



## Dogs In Township Parks Must be On a Leash and Under Control

A dog may well be man's – and woman's best friend, but off-leash dogs in public parks can pose problems to themselves or others. The leash law for the State of Michigan dictates that whenever dogs are not on their owner's property, they must be restrained with a leash. Oakland Township's Parks and Recreation regulations specifically state that pets must be on a leash and that the pet must be kept under control at all times.

***Keep your dog on a 6 foot long regular leash – not a retractable one!***

Retractable leashes can allow dogs to get far enough away from their humans that a situation can quickly turn dangerous. An off-leash dog or a dog on a retractable leash is often able to make uninvited contact with other dogs or people, potentially endangering your dog, other dogs, or people. Your dog may be the one who gets injured. The state and local regulations are in place to protect everyone – it is in your best interest to obey them!

Many species of viewable wildlife decline along the trail edges when dogs explore the brush. Off-leash dogs prevent turkey and other birds from ground-nesting, may discover and harm fawns (a natural instinct), and push mammals further into the woodlands, thus decreasing the park experience for all visitors.

Dog excrement is both unpleasant and can spread disease to humans and wildlife. Clean-up bag dispensers are located at several park entries and along the Paint Creek Trail for your use.



# What's New In The Parks... (Continued from page 2)

## **Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park \$340,100 Grant Award** (Continued from page 1)

This project's proposed improvements include a Snell Road entry, parking lot, trailhead with drinking water, restrooms, a picnic area and plantings native to Michigan. Park trails will feature benches and an overlook of the West Branch of Stony Creek. Wayfinding and nature interpretive signs will highlight the park's bird species and natural areas. [See the proposed site plan on page 23.](#)

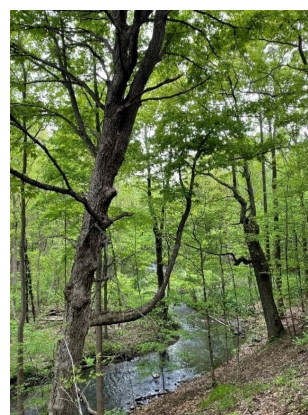
After a grant agreement is signed, detailed design and construction drawings will be created and reviewed before we bid out this work. Construction is projected to take place in 2025. The LWCF grant application can be found on the Parks and Recreation pages at [www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org).

### **LWCF Program background**

*The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1964 to safeguard our natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans.*



*Using zero taxpayer dollars, the LWCF invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve our history and protect our national endowment of lands and waters. The LWCF program is a federal program administered by the United States Department of Interior's National Park Service (NPS) and implemented by the Michigan DNR Grants Management Section (Grants Management).*



Looking north at Stony Creek from proposed overlook sitting area

### **Natural Areas Stewardship...**

Our natural areas stewardship team continues to improve habitat in our parks! It's important



for us to help you connect with and care for nature in our parks, so we've added opportunities for you to get involved in meaningful ways. This spring

staff and trained volunteers used prescribed fire throughout the parks to improve pollinator habitat ([See Page 19.](#)).

This summer volunteers will also help with nest box monitoring, lake monitoring, photo monitoring, seed collecting, seed cleaning, seed planting, invasive shrub control, and more! Learn more about our natural areas stewardship programs and events at [oaklandnaturalareas.com](http://oaklandnaturalareas.com) and on [pages 16 & 17](#) of this newsletter.

### **Maintenance...**

The OTHS has donated an historic train signal booth to Oakland Township Parks. It will be installed this year at Paint Creek



Maintenance Foreman Doug Caruso at the signal booth he and his father restored.

Junction Park. The train signal booth was originally located a little south of the Paint Creek Cider mill along the old railway, and served as a booth for railroad personnel who controlled the movement of trains in and out of the siding located in the Goodison area. The Signal Booth was restored by Doug Caruso and his father at the time it was given to OTHS several years ago. It has been located under the roofed area at the front of the Paint Creek Cider Mill recently. The booth will have interpretive signage to describe how it was used to control rail traffic along the rail line that is now the Paint Creek Trail.



DISCOVER!  
**LOST  
 LAKE**  
 NATURE PARK



**Nature Center | Open Houses | Fishing Dock | Sled Hill**

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

[www.DinosaurHill.org](http://www.DinosaurHill.org)

846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland Township, MI 48363

(248) 656-0999

# FREE! Lost Lake Open Houses FREE!

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

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

Saturday, June 8 & Sunday, June 23: Playing and Sleeping in Nature

On **Saturday, June 8** we'll have fishing at the dock. Inside you can make a swimming fish craft and learn about different types of fishing. **Sunday, June 23** we'll practice setting up tents & try kayaking outside on Lost Lake, while inside we make a campfire collage with our handprints and explore how to prepare for a camping and kayaking adventure!

Saturday, July 13 & Sunday, July 28: Michigan's Prehistoric Past— Our State Rock & Fossil

**Saturday, July 13**, we'll search for Petoskey Stones among the rockwork at the picnic area. Learn how to polish a Petoskey Stone. Explore underwater plants and animals from the Devonian period. Sculpt a coral reef of your own to take home. Join us on **Sunday, July 28** when we'll hike with an eye out for how the ice age changed the shape of the land. Explore our state fossil— the Mastodon- with replica American Mastodon teeth. Find out how the Mammoth and the Mastodon compare. Create a cardboard tube Mastodon to take home.

Saturday, August 10 & Sunday, August 25: Pollination, Flowers & Fruit

On **Saturday, August 10** we'll look for pollinators-birds, bees, butterflies & more!- in action on the sledding hill and use sweep nets for a closer look. Inside we'll make a pompom pollinator and play a pollination game. Join the fun on **Sunday, August 25**, as we dive into a world of flowers and fruits! Explore what makes a fruit unique by peering through a microscope, craft a vibrant tissue paper bouquet, and embark on a quest to count the blossoms and fruits lining the trail. Get ready for a day of botanical excitement!

All programs on this page take place at Lost Lake Nature Park Nature Center, 846 Lost Lake Trail, west of Rochester south of Predmore:

For more information visit: [www.dinosaurhill.org](http://www.dinosaurhill.org) \*\*\*Dinosaur Hill offers programs at other Township parks as well. Check out pages 4 and 5 to see what is coming up soon!\*\*\*

\*Alternate dates when in conflict with Federal holidays.

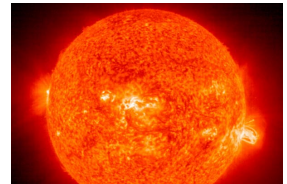


# Something is Happening on the Sun

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

The sun is the most familiar of our celestial neighbors. Life on Earth depends on the energy from the sun. We know that the sun makes us warm and that plants use it to photosynthesize. The sun is not the simple 'ball of fire in the sky' that we might think. Like Earth, the sun is in a constant state of flux. On Earth we are able to observe many of these phenomena and several of them can even affect us. Read on to learn more about a few of the many fascinating sun phenomena.

You have probably heard of sunspots before. These are areas on the surface of the sun that take a few days to a few weeks to form and last for up to a few months and that appear as relatively dark spots on the surface of the sun. They were first recorded by people in drawings in 1128 but were probably observed by humans well before that. What causes these patches and do they impact us? First of all, it is pretty cool to know that the sun goes through a cycle every 11 years. During the course of the 'sun cycle' there are many changes occurring. This year we are roughly mid-way through a solar cycle. This mid-point in the cycle represents a peak of solar activity. Some have likened this to the equivalent of a solar hurricane season. For us, this means that we are likely to experience some of the most vivid and frequent Northern Lights that we have seen the past 20 years and they will likely be visible further south than usual! While the Northern Lights are not as easily observed here in Southeast Michigan, we do occasionally see them. Many of you may have seen them when on vacation up north where viewing is much better.



During the peak period we are experiencing right now, the number of sunspots increases and they tend to cluster further north and south from the equator of the sun. Scientists are not sure exactly how sunspots form but it is related to the sun's magnetic activity. Sunspots are regions where the intense magnetic activity in the core of the sun bubbles up to the sun's surface. The magnetic field in a sunspot can be up to 2500 times stronger than the magnetic field of the Earth! This overwhelming magnetic field inhibits the infusion of hot gases and so the spots are much cooler than the surrounding surface of the sun which is why they appear dark. They can also cause the emissions of large amounts of energy from the sun in a phenomenon known as a solar flare. While it is very dangerous to look at the sun directly, you can visit this page to take a look at the sunspots that are present now: <https://soho.nascom.nasa.gov/sunspots/>.

This year, when the sun is very active, some other really amazing things are happening. The 11 year cycle is marked by a huge change in the magnetic field of the sun. At the height of the solar cycle, where we are at this year, the sun's magnetic field flip-flops. North becomes South and South becomes North! This flip-flop is believed to have an impact on the development of sunspots. Solar activity increases as sunspots increase. This increase in activity has the potential to impact earth. The National Weather Service (NWS) - operating under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - actually monitors and makes this information available to the public. For example, as I write this, the NOAA NWS is reporting a Severe Geomagnetic Storm with a Planetary K-Index of 8! The Planetary K-Index shows the degree of geomagnetic storms on the sun and the resulting disturbances to Earth's magnetic field - and an '8' is a notable event. The K-Index quantifies the activity and potential impacts to us. See the chart to get an idea of how the NWS



*(Continued on page 15)*

# Something is Happening on the Sun ... (Continued from page 14)



quantifies the strength and potential impacts of geomagnetic storms. You can also check out this webpage to see what is happening now: <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>. It is really fun to check on this page to see what is going on with our friend the Sun – especially during years like 2024 when things are pretty active.

It is really interesting to learn more about the Sun and occasionally check out the many websites that share information about current solar activity, photos of sunspots and solar flares. Take some time to search those out. Want to learn more about the Sun and celebrate this life-giving neighbor of ours? Join Dinosaur Hill Naturalists June 16 for a Sun-Sational program! *(Details on page 4.)*

## How to read Planetary K-Index chart

Green	Calm or small geomagnetic disturbance	Kp-Index 0-4	No effect on devices or people
Yellow	Weak/minor geomagnetic storm	Kp-Index 5 / G1	Weak fluctuations in the electrical grid, minor effects on the operation of space satellites, as well as on the migration of animals are quite possible
Dark yellow	Moderate geomagnetic storm	Kp-Index 6 / G2	Power systems located at high latitudes can experience emergency situations. Prolonged geomagnetic storms can damage transformers. HF radio signals may weaken
Orange	Strong geomagnetic storm	Kp-Index 7 / G3	False alarms may be triggered on some protective electronic devices. Correction of satellite orientation and navigation in outer space may be required
Red	Severe geomagnetic storm	Kp-Index 8 / G4	There may be widespread problems with power grid voltages. Satellite navigation may worsen for several hours, and LF radio navigation may be disrupted
Dark red	Extreme geomagnetic storm	Kp-Index 9 / G5	Power systems may experience transformer damage and a complete collapse. HF radio communications may not be possible. Satellite navigation may be disrupted

Source: Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Kp-Index — The Planetary K-Index



Planetary K-Index chart. The source of the data: Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Valerya Milovanova / Windy.app



Paint Creek Cider Mill building staff taking in the recent eclipse.

Natural Areas Stewardship Manager Ben VanderWeide and family viewing the eclipse.





## Summer 2024 Natural Areas Stewardship Events

Join us for one of our natural areas stewardship events!  
Updated information and any last minute changes can be found at [oaklandnaturalareas.com](http://oaklandnaturalareas.com).

### Weekly Bird Walks

Join us every Wednesday from June to the end of August for our weekly bird walks. We want to document the bird species using our parks so that we can work to improve their habitat. Walks will start at 8:00 am. Some extra binoculars are available.



- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month – Bear Creek Nature Park
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month – Cranberry Lake Park
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month – Fox Nature Preserve
- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of month – Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
- 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of July – Watershed Ridge Park



### Invasive Shrub Workdays at Bear Creek Nature Park

July 9, July 16, July 23, and July 30, 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, and a long-sleeved shirt and bring water and a snack. Tools and training will be provided. All workdays are 9 am to 12 pm. Meet in the Snell parking lot at 740 W. Snell Road, Rochester, MI 48306.

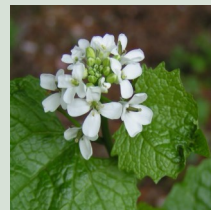


### Celebrate Spring, Pull Garlic Mustard!

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! Workdays last from 9 am to 12 pm, but will be cancelled if the weather is bad. All volunteers must sign a waiver (with minor's waiver signed by a guardian), and minors under 14 must also be accompanied by a guardian.



Garlic mustard leaves;  
CC BY-SA 3.0; Wikimedia Commons



Garlic mustard flowers;  
CC-BY-SA-3.0; Wikimedia Commons



Dame's Rocket flowers;  
CC BY-SA 2.0; Wikimedia Commons

Tuesday, April 30,	9 am to 12 pm.	Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 West Snell Rd, Rochester, MI 48306.
Tuesday, May 7,	9 am to 12 pm.	Paint Creek Trail. Meet at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Rd, Rochester, MI 48306.
Tuesday, May 14,	9 am to 12 pm.	Cranberry Lake Park, Romeo Road parking lot, 635 West Romeo Road, Oakland, MI 48363.
Tuesday, May 21,	9 am to 12 pm.	Watershed Ridge Park, 1720 West Buell Rd, Oakland, MI 48363.



### Natural Areas Information at your Fingertips!

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



# Oakland Township Parks Natural Areas

# Stewardship



## Natural Areas Stewardship Summer Social



Thursday, July 25, 2024, 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. **RSVP appreciated** to 248-651-7810 ext. 401.

## Natural Areas Stewardship Volunteers Winter/Spring 2024



☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
☆☆ These volunteers  
☆☆ contributed nearly  
☆☆ 200 hours in  
☆☆ January and  
☆☆ February of 2024!  
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Nina Boes  
Reed Boskey  
Aaron Carroll  
Tom Correll  
Patrick Falle  
George Hartsig

Taylor Haugen  
Dave Kramer  
Doug LaLone  
Jeff Ludwig  
Cam Mannino  
Katelyn Mills

Vinnie Morganti  
Edward O'Brien  
Jean Persely  
Skyler Principe  
Dave Putt  
Jon Reed

Jenny Sigelko  
Alec Smith  
Madelyn Swan  
Linden Vennard

## Volunteers Needed!

Would you like to learn new skills, work with a great team, and get more involved in local conservation? Our natural areas stewardship volunteers help 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. No special skills required. We'll provide all the training and tools you'll need. To learn more visit <https://oaklandnaturalareas.com/volunteer-calendar/volunteer-opportunities/>.

## 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. We realize that 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.

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 ([goo.gl/ZTP18N](http://goo.gl/ZTP18N)).

To participate, landowners, homeowner's associations, or businesses can submit a request for a no-obligation cost estimate by August 1, 2024. As a courtesy to our contractors, applications received after August 1 cannot be considered. Please contact at 248-651-7810 with any questions.



# INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT NOTICE

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation hereby provides notice to the public and property owners for the 2024 control of invasive plants in wetlands within Township Park properties including *Phragmites australis* 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*).

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

## Herbicide Applicators:

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

## Schedule & Treatment Locations:

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

Bear Creek Nature Park	Mill Race Trail
Blue Heron Environmental Area	O'Connor Nature Park
Charles Ilsley Park	Paint Creek Trail Right-of-Way
Cranberry Lake Park	Paint Creek Heritage Area – Wet Prairie
Draper Twin Lake Park	Paint Creek Heritage Area – Fen
Fox Nature Preserve	Paint Creek Junction
Gallagher Creek Park	Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
Lost Lake Nature Park	Watershed Ridge Park
Marsh View Park	

## Herbicide, Methods of Application & Re-Entry Restrictions:

- 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 Rodeo (glyphosate) or Glyphosate 5.4 (glyphosate) or Roundup Custom Aquatic (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

## Fire for Flowers

If you've visited our parks recently, you likely noticed areas managed with prescribed fire at Bear Creek Nature Park, Gallagher Creek Park, along the Paint Creek Trail, and other places. We use controlled burns in our Oakland Township parks to manage high-quality natural areas, and to help improve degraded habitat. We're working to bring more native wildflowers and grasses back to the parks. Our butterflies and bees need diversity: blooms throughout the growing season, different types of flowers, and host plants for their young to feed on. Fire helps us grow diverse, healthy habitat.



Historically, fire was a common feature of the southeast Michigan landscape. Native American people used fire extensively to manage their landscape, which was adapted to fire and rich with a diversity of plant and animal life. We often say that our prairies, fens, savannas, and woodlands are "fire dependent." Without fire they can't survive! By reintroducing fire, we are reintroducing a natural process.

Fire promotes a healthy plant community by setting back many invasive shrubs like buckthorn and autumn olive that would otherwise take over. The blackened soil surface after a burn absorbs the sun's rays, which extends the growing season by raising the ground temperature. Fire removes built-up thatch, allowing seeds to germinate. It's amazing to visit periodically to witness the new plant growth and abundant flowers the summer after a prescribed burn!

Prescribed burns are part of the restoration process, not one-time events. For each burn we set specific objectives: controlling invasive shrubs, removing thatch, and maintaining native plant gardens are some common goals. We plan burn timing, weather conditions, and frequency so that we meet those objectives and work toward restoration goals at that site.



For example, to boost the blooms at Bear Creek Nature Park, we use frequent, careful prescribed burning in the fields. Fire removes accumulated thatch. Then we spread native wildflower, grass, and sedge seed that we collected right here in Oakland Township. The new seedlings take three to five years to put down roots and start blooming, so we're starting to see wildflowers that we seeded a few years ago become more abundant.

Volunteers help with every step of the restoration process, so you're invited to join us! You can learn more about how we use prescribed at <https://oaklandnaturalareas.com/prescribed-fire/>.

**Oak Wilt ...** In our parks we try to avoid any oak tree damage from March to the end of October. Routine maintenance oak pruning, hazard tree work on or near oaks, and stewardship work that might damage oaks occurs from November to February. Remind your landscape contractors not to damage oaks with mowing and trimming equipment. If oaks need to be trimmed due to storm damage or other safety concerns from March to October, be sure to immediately seal the cut with latex paint. The beetles that spread the oak wilt fungus spores can arrive at a fresh cut within 5 minutes.

You can find more information about oak wilt at these links:

<https://www.michiganoakwilt.org/>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/we-can-all-help-prevent-oak-wilt>

<https://midnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=aa4075c218ad4b968f15f14f84b37387>



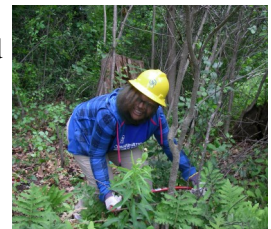
Photo by Dr. Tara L. Bal Oak wilt fungal mats cause the bark to split open and sap beetles crawl around on them before flying to another tree.



## Notes on the Land Stewardship Toolbox

Our township is proud of its parks with plenty of natural areas, trails for hiking, and space for native plants and animals to thrive. Part of our responsibility at Oakland Township Parks is managing our parklands to keep them healthy. For natural areas stewardship we use integrated pest management, or IPM, to guide the decisions we make about preventing and suppressing pests. These pests are typically invasive plants, but could be insects, plant diseases, animals, or microorganisms. The goal of integrated pest management is to control these pests in a way that is effective, while also protecting people and the environment.

Our first tool is prevention. For the invasive fungus oak wilt, we only prune oak trees and do other work that might damage oak trees between October and early March when there is no risk of spreading the disease. During the growing season the risk for spreading oak wilt is high. If we need to trim an oak tree during the growing season, for example due to storm damage, we immediately seal the cut surface. Controlling an oak wilt outbreak, or any other new pest, can very expensive and disruptive. Prevention is best.



When there are existing areas of invasive plants in the parks, we try to use all the tools available to us - mechanical, cultural, physical, and biological control methods - before we use herbicides. Our goal is typically not to eliminate all of the invasive plants, but to keep them below a threshold that causes harm to our natural communities, or impairs our enjoyment of the parks. For species like garlic mustard, wild parsnip, and teasel, we hand pull or dig plants. We'll often mow spotted knapweed and sweet clover when they are in peak flower, which prevents them from setting seed and may also kill some of these invasive plants. We use prescribed fire to encourage our native, fire-adapted plants while also discouraging invasive plants that are not fire tolerant. Unfortunately, hand pulling, mowing, and fire alone aren't effective for controlling Phragmites, swallow-wort, crown vetch, and many of our invasive shrubs.



In some areas of the parks we lease out fields to be farmed. Farming keeps the fields free of invasive species until we restore them with native plantings, and it preserves examples of our agricultural heritage in the township. Recently we stopped farming several areas of our farm fields that are steep and prone to erosion, or are too wet to be farmed. Wetland restorations and native prairie plantings, funded by the Land Preservation Millage and a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, were installed to keep the soil in place, filter water, and provide wildlife habitat.

Through the Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), we're involved in efforts to use more biological controls for invasive plant management. The insects or other organisms used in biological control are tested extensively to make sure they only target the host plant before we can use them in our parks. We've used *Gallerucella* beetles as biological control for purple loosestrife, and we are helping researchers from Michigan State University to test a biological control for swallow-wort.

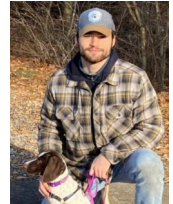
If other methods aren't effective, we carefully select the least toxic herbicide that will control the target species. We consider the safety of people applying the herbicides, the safety of park users, effects on non-target species, and what happens to the herbicide in the environment. Finally, we evaluate our control methods to make sure they are effective, and make changes if needed. If you have questions or would like to learn more contact us at [stewardship@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:stewardship@oaklandtownship.org), or 248-651-7810. Immediate park neighbors can request to be notified of nearby herbicide applications.



# Stewardship, Recreation and Maintenance Team Update

We're excited to welcome our seasonal 2024 land stewardship and maintenance technicians! Jarred, Mark, and Alexis join our stewardship team for the summer and Dan and Brian return to our maintenance team. They will be out in the parks doing much-needed ecological restoration and maintenance work. We didn't want to miss this opportunity to welcome Rebekah Meeks to our recreation team. Each new staff brings unique skills and interests that make our team better! Welcome aboard!

Welcome to Jarred McPherson, a senior in Michigan State University's Environmental Science and Management program. 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 to Mark Peters, a Michigan State University (MSU) Forestry major 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, and aspires to a career with the U.S Forest Service. Mark is looking forward to working with Oakland Township Parks & Recreation and learning from experiences that being a stewardship technician can provide.

Welcome to Alexis Sell, a current Michigan State University (MSU) student. She plans to graduate in the spring of 2025 with a bachelor's degree in both Forestry and Fisheries & Wildlife, specializing in wildlife biology and management. While at MSU, she has been a part of the Forestry Club, currently as treasurer. She enjoys both learning about and participating in land management practices. Welcome to the team Alexis!



## RECREATION



Rebekah Meeks joined the team as the new Parks and Recreation Program Assistant in the Fall of 2023. Rebekah has a bachelor's in biology from the University of Utah and a Master's in elementary education from Grand Canyon University. For the past 7 years, she has worked in the world of education as a paraeducator, substitute, and teacher at Rochester Community School and Avondale School Districts. In her spare time, Rebekah enjoys walking the trails at parks around Oakland Township with her family and goldendoodle. She is excited and thankful for this new opportunity to assist in developing programs and events that will help people make memories.

## MAINTENANCE

Welcome back! Dan Barton returns for his 8th season to assist our Maintenance crew with their busy summer season; and Brian Rank shifts gears from part-time recreation worker to full-time seasonal maintenance tech. We are grateful for the dedication of our entire maintenance team! Say hello if you happen upon the team while you're out in the parks!

## **2025 – 2029 Parks, Recreation, & Land Preservation Master Plan!**

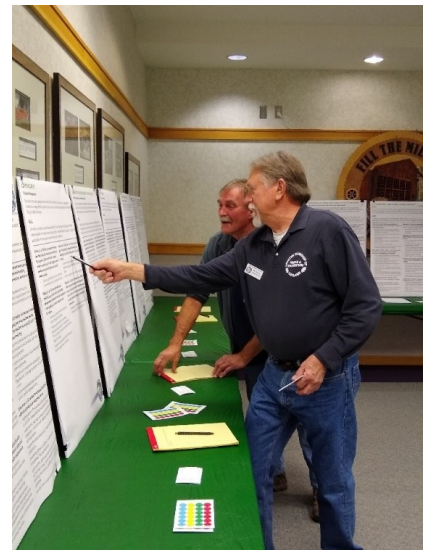
(Continued from page 1)

As you participate in the planning process, we encourage all residents to:

- \* **Visit your Township parks.** As a resident, you own a fantastic system of natural areas and recreation facilities. Register for organized park activities or use the park maps available on the Township website to create self-guided tours.
- \* **Participate in your park programs.** Choose from nature or wellness programs, archery classes, summer camps, outdoor concerts, natural area volunteer workdays and more.
- \* **Review the current 2020-2024 Master Plan.** On the Parks and Recreation Commission page of the Township website: [www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org). Consider what you like, what you would change, and what your vision is for your parks, natural areas, recreation facilities, and programs.
- \* **Take advantage of opportunities to share your ideas.** Please watch for invitations to participate in opinion evaluations and public meetings.

Community members will have several options to leave feedback and are encouraged to use whichever format works best for them. In addition to the Community Opinion survey, we will be hosting a Master Plan Open House in early summer. Residents can always speak at the regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meetings which will continue to be held throughout the planning process. Residents may also express opinions via email at [parksplanning@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:parksplanning@oaklandtownship.org).

Once the Commission approves a draft master plan, which will include improvements that are appropriate for our parks, population, and budget, the draft plan will be available in web-based and hard-copy formats for review and comment. We look forward to receiving your comments and to speaking with you at the upcoming events!



2019 open house photos





# Oakland Township Historical Society

## From the Desks of the Co-Presidents

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to Oakland Township Historical Society! This year is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary – The Society was founded in 1974 by Delta Kelly, Barbara Kandarian and Jeanne Phillips in order to gather, interpret and preserve the History of Oakland Township. We have accomplished much over the last 50 years. It started in 1974-1975, with an inventory of Historic District Homes and Sites in Oakland Township by Delta Kelly and the Society. In 1976, a publication followed called *Heritage in Oakland Township*. Read all about the past five decades:

OTH helped secure the Historic District designation and preservation millage in our Township, restore Cranberry Lake Farm and have it listed in the National Register of Historic Places. We moved and restored the Flumerfelt Barn. We've held numerous exhibits - Walter Reuther Exhibit, Goodison Exhibit, and others. We participated in the State's Barn Survey, collected Oral Histories, restored the Big Red Logging Wheels, and helped with historic markers for the Paint Creek Mill Race, Green Hills Farm (Shelden Estate), and others. We have a collection of artifacts and archival documents – from farm implements, spinning wheels, and milk cans to photographs, letters and the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to Walter Reuther. We participated in the Rochester and Lake Orion Christmas parades and have held numerous programs and fundraising events like appraisal days, plant sales at the Heritage Festival, and our newest holiday program Cranberry Cheer!

Thanks to all of our wonderful members, friends and volunteers for helping us achieve these successes, and here's to another 50 years! [OTHSpresident@gmail.com](mailto:OTHSpresident@gmail.com)

Mary Tischler and Anthony Kowalchick, Co-presidents



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



## Spring OTHS Programs and Events

**May 2024 (Field Trip)** Time/ Location TBD. Joint Field Trip with Rochester-Avon Historical Society. Details to follow on our Facebook page #OTHs.

**May 25-26**, Greater Rochester Heritage Days at the Rochester Municipal Park!

**Wed, June 5, 2024 6:30 pm** CLF Barn Elections and Program – bring a dish to pass for Spring Pot-Luck Dinner, Annual Membership Meeting, and Program -



# CRANBERRY LAKE FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Chairman David A. Phillips

Vice-chair Bob Bowen, Secretary Ron Bargo

Commissioners: Jan Derry, Col. Mark Gerhard,  
Pete Jarzyna, and Lana Mangiapane

Barbara Barber, Historic Preservation Planner

Zoe Champine Intern & Lucas Gerhard CLF Support



### HDC 2024 MEETINGS:

April 17, May 15, June 19,  
July 17, Aug 21, Sept 18,  
Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18

Phone: 248-608-6807



## The Dewey Twins Historical Marker:

We celebrate our local history this May for Preservation Month by showcasing one of the historical markers in the township commemorating the birth of the first white twins in January 1827. Josiah and Lucy Dewey came in 1825 and purchased 160 acres, building a log home the following year. The twins were given French names, Antoinette (Angenette) and Lafayette. The Daughters of the American Revolution, John Crawford Chapter of Almont, MI, honored the event with a historical marker in 1928.



**WE WELCOME  
SCOUT  
PROJECTS AND  
HONOR ROLL  
VOLUNTEER  
PROJECTS! Let's  
celebrate all our  
efforts together!**



**PRESERVING HISTORY  
ONE DAY AT A TIME**

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**



**Down on the Farm Event:** Just a quick reminder about our FREE "Down on the Farm" event is Oct. 5th from 11am to 2pm. Don't miss out on a day filled with farm animals, crafts, and family fun!



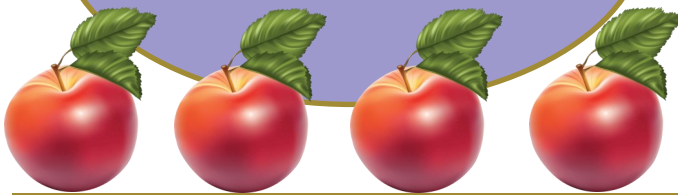
# OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District**

*Oakland Twp's historic farm in a park!*

**388 W. Predmore Rd, Oakland Twp.**

**Exciting events  
await you at  
Cranberry Lake Farm!**



## **Fruit Tree Workshop: April 6—10 am to noon**

Attention Oakland Township Residents! Join us for a Spring Fruit Tree Maintenance Workshop in our Apple Orchard! Learn basic pruning techniques and caring for fruit trees taught by two MSU Extension experts. Admission is just \$5 for residents and \$8 for non-residents. Don't miss this chance to gain valuable skills and learn how to start your own orchard. Please pre-register 248-608-6807 or [bbarber@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:bbarber@oaklandtownship.org)

## **Beekeeping Workshops by Instructor Dawn Gialanella**

Dive into the world of beekeeping at our workshops held in the Hen House within walking distance of the hives! Join beekeeper Dawn on May 18, June 8, and August 24 from noon to 1:30 pm, for a comprehensive session. For just \$5, learn essential beekeeping techniques and gain insights into bee care. Seize this chance to experience the enchantment of beekeeping up close!



## **Outdoor Painting Workshops:**

Unleash your creativity at our outdoor painting workshops led by acclaimed artist Janet Almstadt-Davison! Held every third Tuesday of the summer months (6/18, 7/16, 8/20, 9/17) from 10 am to 2 pm. Join us for a day of artistic exploration for a nominal fee of \$25, and please remember to bring a lunch. Join us to Enhance your skills, learn a new technique, and enjoy the beauty amidst scenic surroundings.



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

Featuring Lauren Munaco, singing from The Great American Songbook in the Story Garden on Thurs. June 13 at 6:30-7:30 pm. Next local musician David Thomas, a multi-instrumentalist, playing trumpet, keyboard, and piccolo on Friday, June 21 at 6:30-8:30 pm. Finally, the Parks and Recreation will have their Music in the Meadows classical concert on the main house porch on Friday, July 19 at 7:00 pm. We have some chairs for seating yet best to please bring a lawn chair to experience the concerts.

# THE GARLING BARN RELOCATION TO CLF

## Message from Historic District Chairman David Phillips:

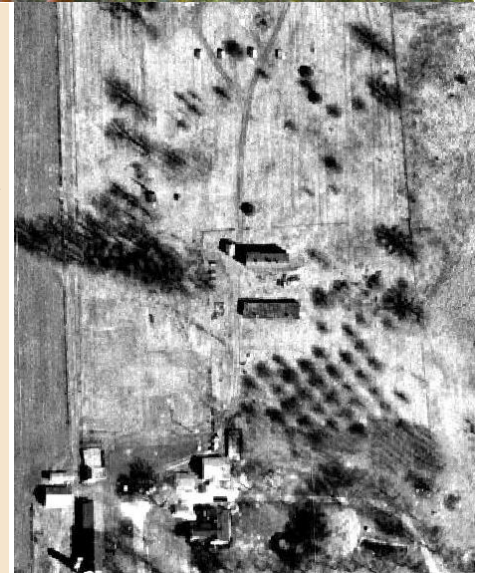
We are moving forward with the historic Garling Barn located in the township, to move to Cranberry Lake Farm. Hopefully in the near future being 2024, as we have many details to consider. The public open house and online survey discovered many great ideas and I thank everyone for their input! We are in the process of researching move options and facility outcomes to establish the best benefits for the public and the farm. Thank you to Oaktown LLC for the historic barn donation for public use.



Photo Credit Frank Ferriolo

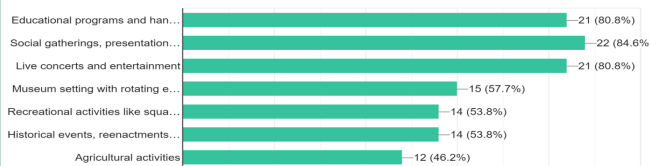
### A little History of the Garling Barn:

The Garling Barn has a rich history, having been owned by the Garling family for nearly a century. Originally farmed by John Garling in 1902, it was later managed by his son Harry Garling who married Ethel (Ross) Garling in 1919. The property remained in the Garling family until the late 1990s when it was sold to a development firm. The barn is large 30'x70', five-bays, gable roof, c.1870s, with hand-hewn timbers. Aside from its majesty, the barn also holds significance as Ethel was a descendant of both Betsy Ross, famous for sewing the American Flag, and George Ross, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Cranberry Lake Farm lost a total of five barns with four due to a fire and one was lost to deterioration. We welcome the Garling Barn to CLF to have larger gathering space for programs, events, private rentals and of course for Oakland Township Historical Society programs and potlucks!

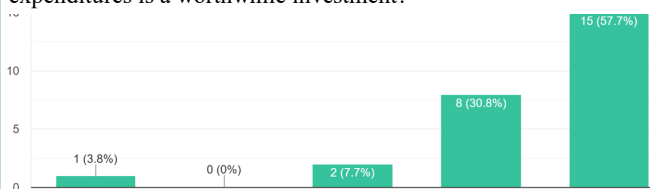


### Garling Barn Survey Results held online and at CLF Main House on Feb 26, 2024

Check the boxes that best represent your area of interest: Which activities would you attend if they were held in the barn?



Moving and rehabilitating a historic structure for public use can be costly. In your opinion, do you believe the value of these expenditures is a worthwhile investment?



We heard from you! An overwhelming majority have visited the farm, showcasing a deep-rooted connection to its history. Importance placed on preserving the farm's historic context and character along with support for its multi-purpose use, demonstrates a collective desire to honor the area's heritage while ensuring its relevance for future generations. A significant number of 90% view the investment in rehabilitating the barn as highly worthwhile, indicating a community committed to preserving our heritage. The varied interests expressed in utilizing the barn space for social, educational, and cultural activities highlight its potential as a vibrant community hub. With thoughtful planning and investment, the Garling Barn stands to become a cherished landmark that enriches the lives of Oakland Township residents and visitors alike.



## Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Summer 2024 Registration Information

Register online: [oaklandtownship.recdesk.com](http://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com)

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

**Oakland Township Resident** registration is open NOW!

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

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

*(As noted in the program descriptions)*

**Programs fill-up quickly so please contact us early!**

### **Registration Options:**

#### **1. ONLINE:**

We encourage everyone to register online at: [oaklandtownship.recdesk.com](http://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com)

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

#### **2. BY MAIL:**

For printable registration and waiver forms visit our website:

[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)

*Mail at least two weeks  
before program date!*

Send the completed forms by USPS mail to:

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

4393 Collins Rd.

Rochester, MI 48306

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

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

#### **3. IN PERSON:**

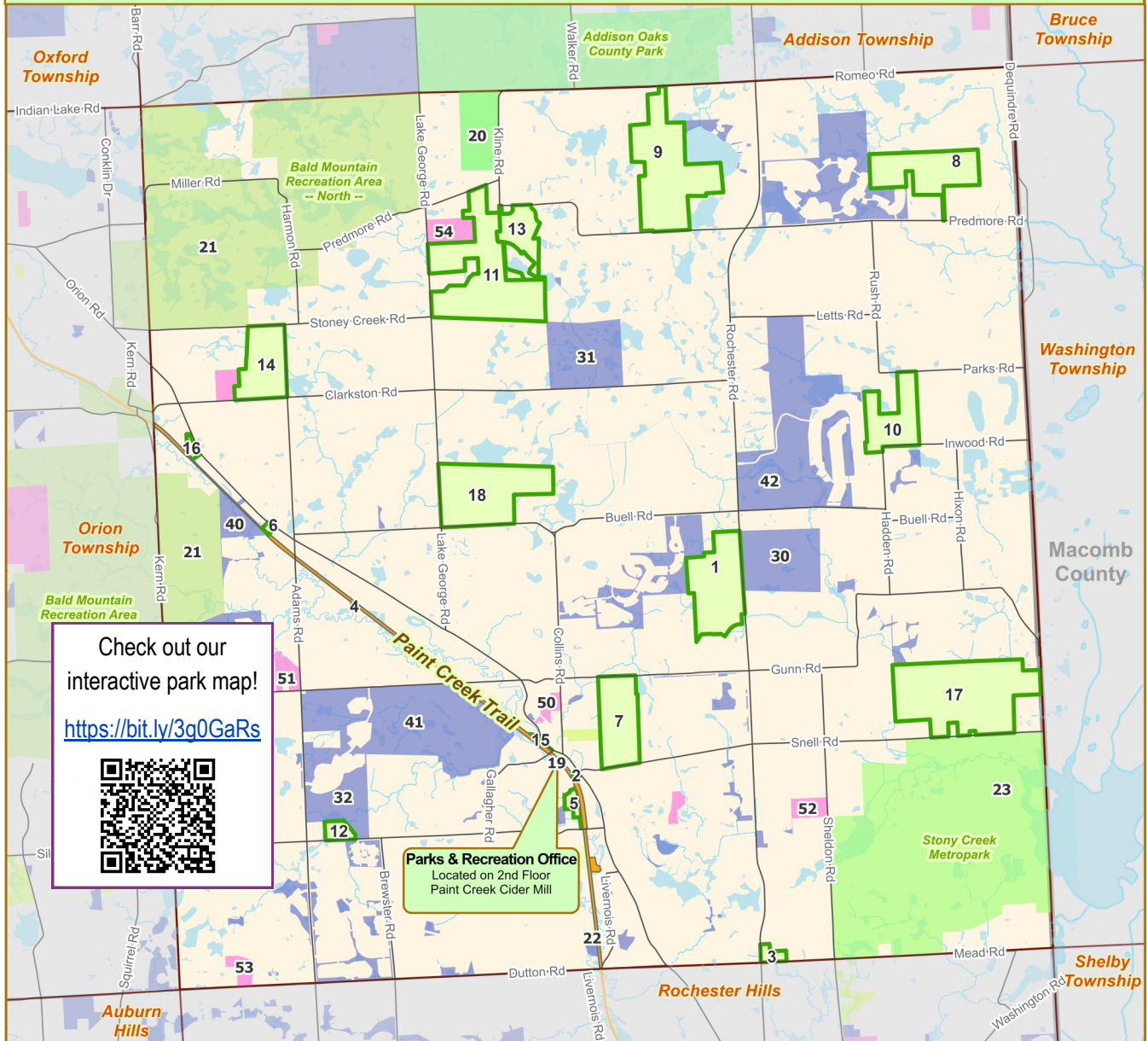
Visit us at our office location and register in person. You can pay by credit card (MasterCard, American Express, or Discover accepted with \$2.95 fee) or by cash or check. We are located at the Paint Creek Cider Mill Bldg. (2nd Floor) 4480 Orion Rd., Rochester, MI 48306

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

## Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Program Refund Policy

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

# Parks and Recreation Opportunities in Oakland Township



Check out our interactive park map!  
<https://bit.ly/3q0GaRs>

**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

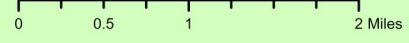
40. Royal Oak Archers
41. The Wyndgate Golf Course
42. Twin Lakes Golf & Swim Club

### Public Schools

50. Baldwin Elementary School
51. Delta Kelly Elementary School
52. Huger 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



Last Update: 8/5/2022



# Rochester Hills Public Library Centennial Celebration



Serving Oakland Township, Rochester Hills & Rochester

## Happy 100th Birthday!

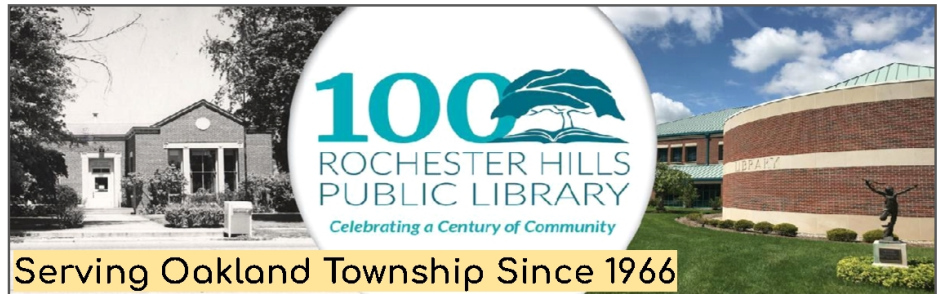
2024 marks a very special year for the Rochester Hills Public Library as it celebrates its centennial year.

Be sure to check out the official RHPL Centennial website to stay apprised of programs, events and fun swag to commemorate this memorable year.

<https://rhpl.org/centennial>

*"My mom taking my brother and I to the library on University & Pine Street. We would go to the children's section on the lower level and spend the afternoon looking through books. We attended story time puppet shows and craft events. My favorite was the summer reading program! I also remember the paper mache giraffe being there as well, the same one that is still in the library today!" -Melissa*

*"My husband and I enjoy the cultural and musical events that are hosted at the Rochester Hills Library. The guests and musicians are very talented and we always walk away having learned or experienced something new. Thank you!" -Judith*



Serving Oakland Township Since 1966

*"Our family always looks forward to the RHPL Summer Reading Programs! I have done them since I was a child and happy that my children can experience them. The librarians are always helpful and have some excellent book suggestions." -Andrea*

*"In 1992, when the current library opened, I remember my Dad taking my picture next to the 1992 carved on the library wall near the item return drop off box." -Brian*

## Get a FREE Library Card

Or

## Upgrade to One of the Centennial Designs During 2024

Anyone who lives, works, owns property or is enrolled in a public or private school in Oakland Township, Rochester Hills or Rochester is eligible to apply for a FREE library card.

To upgrade an existing card, visit the circulation desk inside the library to choose the design of your choice.

<https://rhpl.org/use-the-library/get-a-library-card>



**Upgrade your library card!**

# Paint Creek Trail News



By Tom Correll, Trail Manager [manager@paintcreektrail.org](mailto:manager@paintcreektrail.org)

## A Brief History of more than 40 years on the Paint Creek Trail

The Paint Creek Trail was the first non-motorized rail-to-trail in the State of Michigan. Originally part of the Detroit and Bay City Railroad Company in the 1870s, there were stations in Rochester, Goodison, and Orion Village. The railroad eventually became known as the Michigan Central Railroad Company, then the Penn Central Railroad. Penn Central Railroad abandoned the line in the 1970s and subsequently filed for bankruptcy.

In the early 1980s, The Trailways Commission was formed for the purpose of purchasing the abandoned Penn Central Railroad. 10.5 miles of railroad was purchased for \$450,000. Half of the money came from the Michigan Land Trust (now Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund) and the other half came from the four original trails communities, prorated based on mileage in each community.



After the purchase, work began on turning the abandoned railroad into a proper trail, removing railroad ties, abandoned vehicles, and other debris. By the early 1990s, the trail had received a new surface more friendly for public use, including bikers. Maps and brochures were created, and the trail began to see heavy use in each community.

Today, the Paint Creek Trail is visited annually by hundreds of thousands of hikers, bikers, joggers and occasionally equestrians. The trail is filled with amenities such as trailside restrooms, trout fishing access, interpretive nature signs, the Moutrie Pollinator Garden, memorial benches, community 'little libraries', an observation deck at Foley Pond, and more. It also serves as the gateway to both the City of Rochester at the southern apex and the Village of Lake Orion at its northern apex.

### Get Involved with Friends of the Paint Creek Trail

Interested in becoming an active supporter of the Paint Creek Trail? Consider joining *Friends of the Paint Creek Trail*, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit created to give Trail users a way to help plan for the future of the Trail and assist with its environmental stewardship. Their mission is to promote the usage, maintenance, improvement, and enjoyment of the Trail.

Working with the Paint Creek Trailways Commission and Trail Management, they have organized trail rides, walks, and Trails Day events. They also created and maintain the Moutrie Pollinator Garden in Rochester Hills. They serve as volunteer trail ambassadors. Visit their website at [paintcreektrailfriends.org](http://paintcreektrailfriends.org) to learn more!

### Support the Paint Creek Trail

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

Help support future trail projects and the ongoing maintenance of the trail by making a donation today!

Visit <http://paintcreektrail.org/wordpress/donate/> or scan the code to make your gift.



### Trail Courtesy

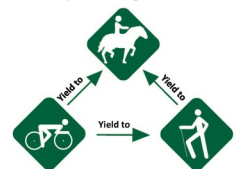
As a reminder, please continue to be courteous to others while out on the trail:

**Cyclists – Pass with care: Stay to the right, pass on the left:** “Do the right thing – pass with a ring!” Please announce with a verbal “on your left” or ring a bike bell.

**Pedestrians and Cyclists – avoid spreading out:** Please don't block the width of the trail. Stay to the right, and watch your surroundings – a cyclist may be trying to pass you on the left. Cyclists and pedestrians must both yield to horses on the trail.

**Cyclists – Please use safe speeds on the trail:** Cyclists should adapt their speed to conditions and others on the trail. Bicycle racing and race training is not allowed.

**Obey all Signage:** Please remember to obey all street signs, signals, and road markings on the trail and at intersections. Always stop and look for approaching vehicles before crossing roads.



Facebook.com/PaintCreekTrail

[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)



twitter.com/paintcreektrail

Parks and Recreation Newsletter Summer 2024



Paintcreektrail.org

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

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

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Seal designed by  
Richard Krupp

### Commission Meetings

The Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 pm on the second Wednesday of every month. Please see [www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org) for meeting agendas and packets.

### Office Hours and Location

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

### Parks and Recreation Commissioners

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

### Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Staff

Parks and Recreation Director	Melinda Milos-Dale
Administrative Assistant	Michele Rutledge
Receptionist/Program Registration Clerk	Kim Newton
Recreation Manager	Becky McLogan
Recreation Program Assistant	Bekah Meeks
Maintenance Foreman	Doug Caruso
Maintenance Technician	Bill Beverly
Natural Areas Stewardship Manager	Dr. Ben VanderWeide
Stewardship Specialist	Grant VanderLaan
Parks and Recreation Worker	Steve Iskenderian
Seasonal Staff:	
Maintenance:	Dan Barton, Brian Rank,
Recreation:	Brooke Patrician, Griffin Moore
Stewardship:	Jarred McPherson, Mark Peters, Alexis Sell



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

### **FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911**

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

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