

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission Newsletter

Fall 2023

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



Dinosaur Hill's Fabulous T-shirt Stenciling at Goodison Good Tyme

**Goodison Good
Tyme! Pg 3**

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Celebrating 30 Years of Nature Programming In Oakland Township Parks!

The Spring 1993 Oakland Township Newsletter proudly announced that the Township Park Commission was sponsoring a series of outdoor programs to “give Township residents the chance to explore and discover the natural beauty of Township parkland.”

These initial nature programs and the majority of those held during the last 30 years have been presented by Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve (DHNP) naturalists. DHNP’s passion for environmental education and their skill in communicating the importance and wonder of our park natural areas continues to be a perfect match for our nature-centered parks system.

In 1993, when the Township’s Park System consisted of three parks and a nature preserve, DHNP naturalists offered one nature program per season in our parks. Now, our Township’s Park millage annually sponsors the following DHNP-led programs and services, including management of our Lost Lake Nature Park Nature Center:

- ◆ 15 Seasonal Nature Classes for all ages and interests held at a variety of Oakland Township parks (*See pages 4-5.*)
- ◆ 24 Nature Open Houses at Lost Lake Nature Park and Nature Center (*See page 13.*)
- ◆ Summer Nature Camp
- ◆ Three Educational Newsletter Articles (*See article in this newsletter page 12!*)
- ◆ Programs at Oakland Township’s Winter Carnival, Goodison Good Tyme and Down on the Farm events.



Pre-teen Day Camp Eco Adventure and Forest Forensics

(Continued on page 14)

Goodison Good Tyme

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

What's New In The Parks...

From the Director...

At the beginning of this summer we held two park grand openings at Fox Nature Preserve and Paint Creek Junction Park. I have been fortunate to participate in eight of these joyful celebrations for both the acquisition of new parkland, such as Fox Nature Preserve, or the development of new recreation facilities, as at Paint Creek Junction. These events celebrate both the culmination of much planning, fundraising and collaboration, as well as the formal park opening to public use and enjoyment.

For Oakland Township residents and park supporters who were not able to attend, I would like to share excerpts and photos from these events to encourage you to visit your newest park and recreation facilities!

May 22, 2023 Fox Nature Preserve Grand Opening Introduction:

It all started with Oakland Township residents, who in 1974 approved of establishing a Parks Commission and a funding mechanism for the acquisition of Township parkland to preserve critical natural areas and provide community recreation. According to a presentation given by Peggy Johnson; a founding Parks Commissioner, Oakland Township was the first municipality in the state of Michigan to contract for a professional natural resources inventory which has served to guide many of the Township's parkland acquisitions, including Fox Nature Preserve. Our residents' continued support of Oakland Township's Land Preservation program provided the million dollars in matching funds which were necessary to leverage state grant funding to purchase this 234-acre preserve.



Fox Nature Preserve Ribbon Cutting including representatives of the Township Board of Trustees and Parks and Recreation Commission, Family of William M. Fox, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Six Rivers Land Conservancy and Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce.

(Continued on page 25)

First Grant Award for Access Improvements at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park

We are thrilled to announce that this project has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. The Design and Access grant made from these Legacy Funds is intended to support projects in southeast Michigan that serve to increase the walkability and bikeability of local communities and/or increase outdoor recreational activities within the region. This is a great match for this project's proposed improvements including a Snell Road entry, parking lot, trail system and trailhead amenities. Other potential grant awards which will be announced later this year include a Michigan Spark Grant, a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant, and a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant.

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.
Legacy Funds
OF THE
Community Foundation
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Adaptive Nature Series

New!

Adaptive nature is a series of sensory experiences for those 14-adult with special needs. Ms. Margaret, a teacher with 30+ years of special education teaching experience, will join us as we explore a different group of animals at a different Oakland Township park each month from October-December. Participants will enjoy a healthy snack and social interaction with peers while creating themed greeting cards to take home and share their appreciation of our local wildlife.

See page 5 for class details.

GOODISON GOOD TYME!

FREE!

ARCHERY SHOOT
BALLOON ARTIST
FACE PAINTING
INFLATABLES
LIVE CHILDREN'S MUSIC
T-SHIRT STENCIL
ZIP LINE

**Food Truck Available for
Refreshment Purchase.**



**Saturday
September 16, 2023
11am - 3pm**

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



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



Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

Fall 2023 Nature Programs

Register online: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

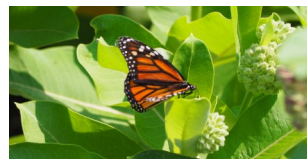
Monarch Moves

PreK 3-5 years

Friday, September 15, 10:00am-11:00am

Gallagher Creek Park, Pavilion, 2780 Silver Bell Rd., Rochester, MI 48306

Monarch butterflies make a long trip home for the winter. We'll read the story *Señorita Mariposa*, look at the butterfly lifecycle, make a coffee filter butterfly to take home, then enjoy a butterfly snack, and try to catch toy butterflies in a bug net. Milkweed seed packets will be available to take home.



Children under age 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

Resident registration **open now.**

Non-Resident registration opens: **Aug. 24**

Residents: **\$5**

Non-residents: **\$7**

Register by: **Sept. 11**

Fall Mushroom of Michigan

TWO DATES!!

Adults 18+

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



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

Saturday, September 23

11:00am-12:30pm

Non-Resident registration opens: **Sept. 2**

Residents: **\$5/person**

Register by: **Sept. 19**

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

Sunday, September 24th

10:00am-11:30am

Non-Resident registration opens: **Sept. 3**

Residents: **\$5/person**

Register by: **Sept. 20**

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

Observe the Moon

All Ages

Saturday, October 21, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Marsh View Park, East entrance, 3100 E. Clarkston Rd., Oakland, MI 48363

Join your neighbors and millions of observers around the world for *International Observe the Moon Night* on October 21st. The Oakland Astronomy Club will share their telescopes so you can see the amazing surface of the Moon, the rings of Saturn, the clouds of Jupiter, the Andromeda galaxy, beautiful nebulae, glorious star clusters, and if we are lucky, a few bright meteors from the Orionid Meteor Shower as well. This is the best time of the year to enjoy the magic of the night sky! Don't miss it!



Children under age 8 must be accompanied by an adult. All Family members in attendance must register.

Resident registration **open now.**

Non-Resident registration opens: **Sept. 30**

Residents: **\$5/person**

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

Register by: **Oct. 17**

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

Fall 2023 Nature Programs

Register online: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Pining Over Yew (How to Use Evergreens at the Holidays)

Adults 18 +

Friday, November 10, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

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



Spruce up your home by making an evergreen centerpiece! Discover which coniferous tree you don't want for a Christmas tree, how pines can help you avoid scurvy, and how to identify trees with needles. Take a taste of pine needle tea and take a short stroll among trees at Lost Lake Nature Park. Resident registration **open now**. Residents: \$5 Non-residents: \$7

Non-resident registration opens: **Oct. 20**

Register by: **Nov. 7**

Re-gifted Resources: Holiday Crafts

Ages 6-11

Wednesday, December 13, 4:30pm - 6:00pm

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

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



Resident registration **open now**. Non-resident registration opens: **Nov. 22**

Residents: \$5

Non-residents: \$7

Register by: **Dec. 10**

Adaptive Nature Series



Special Needs

Ages 14 to Adults

Each program in this nature series is for youth and adults with disabilities and will include an opportunity to see and touch animal coverings, a small stroll through a natural area, a healthy snack, and making three greeting cards featuring that month's theme. October will be focused on scaly animals- turtles, fish, & snakes, November on our feathered friends, and December on furry mammals. These programs will be co-led by a Michigan certified special education

teacher with 30+ years of experience. These programs are best experienced by those who do well with a 1:5 ratio, or with a caretaker. Resident registration **open now**.

Residents: \$5/person/date

Non-residents: \$7/person/date

Saturday, October 7

1:00pm-2:30pm

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

Non-Resident registration opens: **Sept. 16**

Scaly Animals

Register by: **Oct. 3**

Saturday, November 18

1:00pm-2:30pm

Cranberry Lake Farm House, 388 W. Predmore Rd., Oakland, MI 48363

Non-Resident registration opens: **Oct. 28**

Feathered Friends

Register by: **Nov. 14**

Saturday, December 2

1:00pm-2:30pm

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

Non-Resident registration opens: **Nov. 11**

Furry Mammals

Register by: **Nov. 28**

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

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

Fall 2023 Fitness & Wellness

Register online: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Tai Chi Beginners

Tuesdays, 6:00pm -7:00pm

Adults 18+

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



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

Sept. 5 - October 24 (8 weeks)

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

Register by: **Sept. 1**

Fees: Residents: **\$64**

Non- Residents: **\$80**

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

Oct. 31 - December 19 (8 weeks)

Non-Resident Registration opens: **Oct. 10**

Register by: **Oct. 27**

Fees: Residents: **\$64**

Non- Residents: **\$80**

Next Step Tai Chi Beginners

Wednesdays 6:00pm -7:00pm

Adults 18+

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



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

Sept. 6 - October 25 (8 weeks)

Non-Resident Registration opens: **August 16**

Register by: **Sept. 1**

Residents: **\$64**

Non-Residents: **\$80**

Nov. 1 - December 20 (8 weeks)

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

Register by: **Oct. 27**

Residents: **\$64**

Non-Residents: **\$80**

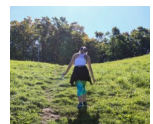
Yoga Walk in the Park

Saturdays 1:00pm-2:00pm

Ages 12+

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

We often forget that yoga is not tied to indoors or places where we can roll out a yoga mat. Yoga is wherever our bodies are. Try a new twist– led by a certified yoga instructor, walk the trails through the park while intermittently adding yoga poses to calm your mind and improve your balance and flexibility. Limited to 10 students. **6 weeks**. Resident registration is **open now**.



Nov. 4-Dec. 16 (No class Nov. 25)

Non-Resident registration opens: **Oct. 14**

Register by: **Nov. 1**

Residents: **\$60**

Non Residents: **\$72**

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.

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

Fall 2023 Fitness & Wellness

Register online: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

All Levels Yoga

Sundays 9:30am-10:30

Ages 12+



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

Outdoors

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

Sept. 24-October 29 (6 weeks)

Non-Resident Registration opens: **Sept. 3**

Register by: **Sept. 19**

Fees: Residents: **\$60**

Non- Residents: **\$72**

Indoors or Live Stream

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

Nov. 5-December 17 (7 weeks)

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

Register by: **Oct. 31**

Fees: Residents: **\$70**

Non- Residents: **\$84**

Slow Flow Yoga

Sundays 11:00am-12:00pm

Ages 12+

Join Soul Heart Yoga and Oakland Township Parks and Recreation for high quality yoga! *Slow Flow* classes will be more of a challenge with longer holds and postures. Bring your water bottle and yoga mat. **6 week sessions. Resident registration: open now.**



Outdoors

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

Sept. 10-Oct. 15

Non Resident registration Opens: **Aug. 20**

Register by: **Sept. 5**

Residents: **\$60**

Non Residents: **\$72**

Indoors or Live Stream

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

Oct. 29-Dec. 10 (No class Nov. 26)

Non Resident registration Opens: **Oct. 8**

Register by: **Oct. 24**

Residents: **\$60**

Non Residents: **\$72**

Monday Gentle Yoga

Mondays 4:45pm-5:45pm

Ages 12+

Indoors or Live Stream

Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Rd., Rochester, MI 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. **Resident registration is open now.**

Sept. 25-Oct. 30 (6 weeks)

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Sept. 4**

Register by: **Sept. 20**

Residents: **\$60**

Non Residents: **\$72**

Nov. 6. -Dec. 18 (7 weeks)

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Oct. 16**

Register by: **Nov. 1**

Residents: **\$70**

Non Residents: **\$84**

Wednesday Gentle Yoga

Wednesdays 4:45pm-5:45pm

Ages 12+

Indoors or Live Stream

Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Rd., Rochester, MI 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. **Resident registration is open now.**



Sept. 27-Nov. 1 (6 weeks)

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Sept. 6**

Register by: **Sept. 24**

Residents: **\$60**

Non Residents: **\$72**

Nov. 8 -Dec. 20 (6 weeks)

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Oct. 18**

Register by: **Nov. 5**

(No class Nov. 29)

Residents: **\$60**

Non Residents: **\$72**

Fall 2023 Archery Programs

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

Register online at
oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Beginning Archery

Ages 8-Adult



Looking for something new and fun to try on a beautiful fall day? This fun class is for you and your family! Our instructors will cover safety, equipment and basic fundamentals of shooting. Sanitized equipment provided. **5 weeks.**

Resident registration **open now.**

Sept 11 - Oct. 9 **Mondays, 5:30pm to 6:30pm**

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Aug. 21**

Register by: **Sept. 7**

Sept. 16 - Oct. 14 **Saturdays, 9:00am-10:00am**

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Aug. 26**

Register by: **Sept. 12**

Residents: **\$60**

Non-Residents: **\$75**



Next Step Archery

Saturdays, 10:15am-11:15am

Ages 8-Adult

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. Sanitized equipment provided. **5 weeks. Prerequisite: Must have completed a Beginning**

Archery class or its equivalent. Resident registration **open now.**

Sept. 16 - Oct. 14 Non-Resident registration Opens: **Aug. 26**

Register by: **Sept. 12**

Residents: **\$60**

Non-Residents: **\$75**



Marsh View Park Archery Club

Tuesdays or Wednesdays

Ages 12-18

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

Prerequisite: Must have taken Next Step or Intermediate Archery or Team Archery.

Resident registration **open now.**

Marsh View Park Archery Range

Outdoor

5pm-6pm

Sept. 12 - Oct. 17 Non-Resident registration Opens: **Aug. 22**

Register by: **Sept. 9**

Sept. 13 - Oct. 18 Non-Resident registration Opens: **Aug. 23**

Register by: **Sept. 10**

Residents: **\$72**

Non-Residents: **\$90**

Baldwin Elementary School

Indoor

7pm-8pm

4325 Bannister Blvd., Rochester, MI 48306

Oct. 25 - Dec. 13 Non-Resident registration Opens: **Oct. 4**

Register by: **Oct. 22**

(No Class November 15 & 22)

Residents: **\$72**

Non-Residents: **\$90**

Tuesdays, September 12 to October 17 5pm to 6pm

Zombie Shoot

FREE

Saturday, October 28th, 10am-12noon

Ages 8-Adult

Join Oakland Township Parks and Recreation's Range Master and staff at this **FREE** special one-day event! Come celebrate the end of the outdoor archery season and Halloween. Create your own zombie, then head to the range to shoot monster targets and your zombie. See if you survive! Children under age 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Use our equipment or bring your own. This is a **Free event AND Pre-registration is required!**

Resident registration **open now.**



Oct. 28th

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Oct. 7**

Register by: **Oct. 24th**

Fall 2023 Archery Programs

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

Register online at
oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Open Range Shoot FREE Ages 8-Adult

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

Sept. 9 – Oct. 21 Saturdays 11:30am-2:30pm

Register for a 1 hour session: 11:30am, 12:30pm, OR 1:30pm

No Open Range Shoot September 16th

Sept. 14 – Oct. 19 Thursdays 4:00pm-7:00pm

Register for a 1 hour session: 4:00pm, 5:00pm, OR 6:00pm

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

Resident and Non-Resident Registration: Open now



Photos from 2023 Team Archery



Team Practice at the Marsh View Park Archery Range



Evan Meske



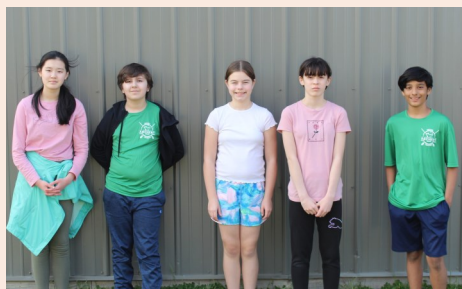
Kaleb Jonutz



Chris Spresney

Team Archery

2023 Team Archery Marsh View Park Archery Range, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation



Thanks to all our
Team Archery
athletes for
another great year!

Will your student be in Middle
School or High School next year?
Keep Team Archery in mind for
their after-school athletics!



2024 Team Archery dates—March 12–13 to
May 14–15. Michigan School Archery
Association State-wide Tournament May 18



Team Archery

What do you get when you take 64 teenagers from nine middle schools and five high schools in Rochester and surrounding areas and have them meet once a week at Marsh View Park's Archery Range? *Team Archery, that's what!*

Students from Avondale GATE, Hart Middle School, Holy Family Middle School, Oakview Middle School, Reuther Middle School, Van Hoosen Middle School, West Middle School, Birch Grove University Prep, Romeo Middle School as well as Adams High School, Lake Orion High School, Rochester High School, Stoney Creek High School, and Eton Academy came together to form one amazing team.

While some of our archers are fast becoming quite seasoned, there were also archers who joined the team that picked up a bow for the first time. Coach Clif Selent and Assistants Brooke Patrician and Michael Thor introduced some to the sport of archery and helped others continue to refine their skills. All team archers had the opportunity to shoot at the Michigan High School Athletic Association Archery Tournament on May 20 at The Hawk in Farmington Hills. They joined other archers from all over southern Michigan with more than 250 kids competing, and our team proved to be formidable! Both the **High School Male Team** and the **Middle School Female Team** placed third overall.

Five of our archers received individual medals:

High School Female Barebow Compound Division: Second place **Afton Ross** (Adams High School)

High School Male Barebow Compound Division: Second place **Kelly Menzies** (Adams High School).

High School Male Recurve with Sights Division: Third place **Evan Meske** (Adams High School)

Middle School Female Compound with Sights Division: Third place **Sophia Middleton** (Van Hoosen Middle School)

Middle School Male Recurve with Sights Division First Place: **Connor Dolecki** (Hart Middle School)

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

Photos from 2023 Michigan School Archery Association state-wide tournament!



HS boys team Chris Spresney, Thomas Goleski, Evan Meske



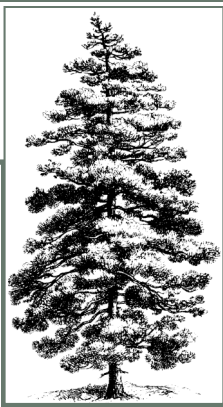
Sky Faucett



HS girls team Choyeon Kim, Molly Nordloh, Emma Bonner, MaKena Jensen, Jillian Coleman



William Stelzer, Jacob Thor, Kelly Menzies



Forever Evergreen

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

I will freely admit that while I love the fall colors here in Oakland Township, one of my favorite types of trees are evergreens. The classic winter landscape with snow covered pine trees comes immediately to mind as does the amazing smell of pine. Have you ever stopped to wonder how it is that these trees stay green all year round while our other trees shed their leaves for the winter?

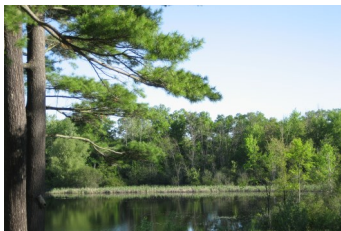
The cold temperatures and shortening daylight hours cues other trees (deciduous trees) to lose their leaves through an interesting trick of hormones. First, the tree starts to shut down chlorophyll production during a time we all know as 'color season' here in Oakland Township. It doesn't end there though. When nature signals that winter is on its way, the tree releases a hormone called auxin. This causes an erosion of the attachment between the leaf and the tree at the abscission layer. This eventually weakens to the point that the leaf falls right off of the tree. Deciduous trees have this adaptation for three primary reasons: first, it allows the tree to conserve energy during the short daylight hours of the winter; second, it allows the tree to conserve moisture since wintertime is normally quite dry; and third, it protects the tree from damage during strong winds and heavy snow – there is little wind resistance or places for snow to build-up when there are no leaves.

You have probably noticed that some trees lose their leaves earlier than others. This can be due to factors unique to the type of tree but are often the result of disease or environmental conditions. Trees stressed by disease or environmental toxins generally lose their leaves earlier as do trees more exposed to the cold North winds. Trees that are growing near artificial outdoor light sources may also lose leaves at a different rate since their natural cycles are disrupted. Before we dive into evergreen I want to mention the 'everbrowns'. Okay, that is not an official term but I bet you know what I am talking about, those trees who seem to hold on to their dead leaves all winter long! Probably the most common example of that here in Oakland Township are some of our spectacular oak trees. This phenomenon is known as 'marcescence'. Often trees exhibit this phenomenon on branches closer to the ground, those branches that are immature or when the tree is young. It doesn't hurt the tree or mean there is anything wrong with it and adds some interest to the barren winter landscape!



<https://foragingpittsburgh.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/americanbeechwildfoodism.jpg>

Okay, on to the star of the show! Why are evergreens ever-green and how do they pull it off? The main reason that evergreen trees are the way they are is a simple matter of conservation of energy. I know...we just said that deciduous trees are that way in order to conserve energy and water! Evergreens have the same goals, they just go about it in different ways that allow them to survive in cold climates and areas with low levels of soil



Evergreen and deciduous trees
at Lost Lake Nature Park

nutrients where deciduous trees just cannot thrive. Evergreens conserve in two ways. First, as we've figured out, they don't shed their leaves all at once (or generally in their case, needles). An evergreen expends the energy to grow its needles and then holds on to them...some species for a short time and some for up to 50 years! This is efficient as they don't need to generate the energy every year to grow new needles. Smart!

(Continued on page 21)



DISCOVER!
**LOST
LAKE**
NATURE PARK



Nature Center | Open Houses | Fishing Dock | Sled Hill

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

www.DinosaurHill.org

846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland Township, MI 48363

(248) 656-0999

FREE! Lost Lake Open Houses **FREE!**

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

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

Saturday, September 9 & Sunday, September 24 12-3 pm– Tree Trunks & Leaves

September 9th we'll look at samples of tree bark, make a paper bag tree to take home, and outside we'll make tree bark rubbings on paper. On September 24th we'll look for leaves outside. Inside, we'll examine leaf chromatography, test our leaf identification skills, and create leaf collages.

Saturday, October 14 & Sunday, October 22 12-3 pm– Skulls & Skeletons

On October 14th, we'll sort skulls from mammals, birds, and reptiles. Then decorate a milk jug skull and outside dig for dino skulls in our portable sandboxes. October 22nd we'll make the connection between skulls and other bones, viewing animal x-rays and skeletons, and create a pasta skeleton. See if you can build a model skeleton after going on a scavenger hunt outside to find the bones.

Saturday, November 11 & Sunday, November 26 12-3 pm– Life in the 1890s

On November 11th we'll look at tools used by early European settlers, make a tin-punch can lantern, and outside we'll use a two-person crosscut saw to cut a log. November 26th we'll celebrate Anishinaabe culture by playing Fox & Hare outside, weaving a cardstock version of a birch basket, and hearing some legends of the time.

Saturday, December 9 & Sunday, December 17 12-3 pm– Ice & Snow

December 9th, we'll examine ice, make an ice cube painting, and dye an ice brick outside. On December 17th, we'll make ice into snow, magnify snowflakes under the microscope, make pipe cleaner snowflakes, and build a snow person outside. If the weather does not provide snow, we'll build smaller paper mache snow people outside.

All programs on this page take place at Lost Lake Nature Park. The park is located in Oakland Township so it is close by for everyone! The park is just West of Rochester Rd off of Predmore: 846 Lost Lake Trail.

For more information visit: www.dinosaurhill.org

*Alternate dates when in conflict with Federal holidays.

Celebrating 30 Years of Nature Programming In Oakland Township Parks!

(Continued from page 1)

While we have added a variety of recreation programs over the years, the nature programming and environmental education offered through our partnership with Dinosaur Hill continues to be an important core service. Over the years, their programs have focused on insects, birds, wildflowers, fishing, winter games, snowshoeing, orienteering, maple sugaring, snakes, turtles, astronomy, bats and more!



Preschool Park Pals at Gallagher Creek Park

"The partnership between Dinosaur Hill and OTPR is truly special and has transcended so many changes within the township and wider community. During these decades the park system has grown so much and Dinosaur Hill has been honored to be alongside the OTPR to help celebrate and bring awareness to the amazing ecosystems we have in the township. Through this collaboration we have offered hundreds of programs and helped thousands of residents learn more about the beautiful township in which they live. The years have brought challenges and opportunities but what has always endured is the shared goal of educating residents and providing them with many opportunities to explore the park system. We can only hope for another thirty years of working together to achieve this!"

Sue Neal, Executive Director Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve

Dinosaur Hill naturalists continue to provide our residents with a window into the natural world of our Township Parks. We hope that everyone will take advantage of this unique partnership and take the time to thank a DHNP naturalist for sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge with us!



Wild Kids of Lost Lake Summer Camp by
Amanda Felk



Wild Kids of Lost Lake Summer Camp by Amanda Felk

Living with Beavers in our Township Parks

By Dr. Ben VanderWeide, Natural Areas Stewardship Manager

Here in Oakland Township, we regularly see gnawed branches, felled trees, and other signs that beavers are busy in some of our parks with lakes, streams, and wetlands. That's great, right?

Beavers are an important part of healthy lake, wetland, and stream systems. Beavers maintain open wetlands, provide critical habitat for other wildlife, and capture stormwater through their activity. Check out Cam Mannino's great recent blog about beavers at oaklandnaturalareas.com to learn more about these amazing creatures!

Beavers were nearly eliminated in southeast Michigan after centuries of overharvesting for their fur, but populations seem to be on the rise in the area. An article in the Detroit Free Press (March 14, 2023) reported their recent return to areas in the Detroit and Rouge Rivers after being gone for over a century.



Photo 1



Photo 4

Beavers are experts at creating wetlands and storing water. Out West, bringing back beavers is one strategy used to cope with increasing droughts. As Michiganders, we love to spend time "Up North" where nature can "do its thing" without so much constant interference from humans. Wetlands in less developed areas are often mosaics of beaver ponds connected by streams, with a mix of open, shrubby, and forested wetlands maintained in part by beavers in the landscape. Yet in our more developed corner of the state, it's difficult to balance the benefits of beavers with the damage they can cause.

We are trying to find that balance in one of our parks right now. Over the past few years, we've seen increased beaver activity in the Twin Lakes. Within Draper Twin Lake Park, beavers built a dam just downstream of the eastern lake, raising the water level and flooding areas of properties upstream that used to be dry. Migrating ducks loved the newly flooded shallow wetlands, but neighbors had to wade out to their docks, replace dock sections, deal with large trees felled by the beavers, and abandon flooded areas of their lawns.

After meeting with the neighbors and the Park Commission's Stewardship Committee, natural areas stewardship and maintenance staff installed a "beaver baffle" through the dam at the beginning of May. We hoped to lower the water level in Twin Lake while still allowing beavers to live in the area. A beaver baffle, or pond leveler, is simply a pipe installed through the beaver dam to maintain the water at a desired level. Beavers naturally cue into the sound of running water and work to plug it up, so we put a cage around the upstream end of the pipe to keep the beavers from plugging the intake.

The water level initially dropped quickly aided by a dry month, then rebounded a bit as the rain picked up in June. Since then, we've been busy adjusting the design, monitoring the water levels, and checking in with neighbors. We're hopeful that we can find a balance that allows both beavers and our residents to thrive in our township.

Photo credits page 16.



Photos 2 and 3



Oakland Township Parks Natural Areas

Stewardship



Natural Areas Stewardship Volunteers Summer 2023

**Thanks
to Our
Volunteers!**

Ethan Abidor,
Bonnie Abiko,
Ian Ableson,
Elizabeth Badgett,
Katherine Beglin,
Konnor Beverly,
Reg Brown,
Aaron Carroll,
Dominic Carter,
Faith Conniff,
Sarah Dameron,
Kathleen Dougherty,

Madison Dufrane,
Patrick Falle,
Yachiyo Falle,
Justin Filzek,
Jim Fostey,
George Hartsig,
Louise Hartung,
Jack Honomian,
Jack Honomichl,
Sarah Iaprairie,
Bill Kamman,
Tristan Kerr,

David Klionsky,
Alex Korb,
Tom Korb,
Michael Mallon,
Cam Mannino,
Trevor May,
Emily McNally,
Kim Newton,
Laurie Peklo,
Donna Perkins,
Chas Phyle,
Emma Pienta,

Christian Quiroga,
Jon Reed,
Amanda Ruffini,
Gina Schnelbuch,
Robert Schrader,
Kavin Seenisamy,
Brandon Shelton,
Alik Sifford,
Matt Simpson,
Alivia Sirianni,
Jennifer Sloaim,
Kelly Swanson,

Gina Tate-Johnson
Alicia Thomas,
Isabella Tucciarone,
Rachel Walter,
Sa'maricle Winfield,
Eva Youshock,
Zachary Zuilkowski

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/>.

See You Next Year!

A big thank-you to Bianca Petersen, Megan McReynolds, and Matthew Tangen for their great work this summer on our natural areas stewardship crew. Together the crew pulled thousands of pounds of garlic mustard, helped with prescribed burns, continued restoration work in our wet-mesic prairie and prairie fen wetlands, controlled many acres of invasive plants, helped with volunteer workdays, and did photo monitoring.



Each crew member contributed their skills and background to help us enhance and restore our natural areas. We are so thankful for them. Good luck in your future endeavors!

This summer our technicians also wrote posts for our natural areas stewardship blog at oaklandnaturalareas.com. Check out the website to read their posts and learn more about our program!

If this position sounds like fun to you, consider applying for the 2024 crew! Look for the job announcement this winter on our website.



Stewardship Crew with volunteers and Dr. Ben

Photo credits from page 15: Photo 1) Beaver; By Chuck Szmurlo; ccBY2.5; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beaver-Szmurlo.jpg>. Photo 2) Stewardship staff Grant VanderLaan and Matthew Tangen during installation. Photo 3) Installed beaver baffle; By Cam Mannino. <https://oaklandnaturalareas.com/2023/06/19/beavers-busy-in-two-of-our-parks-and-our-attempt-to-baffle-one-of-them-just-a-bit/>. Photo 4) Beaver dam in Draper Twin Lake Park; trail camera photo by Bill Beverly, Park Maintenance Technician



Fall 2023 Natural Areas Stewardship Events

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

Weekly Bird Walks

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



1st Wednesday of month – Bear Creek Nature Park

2nd Wednesday of month – Cranberry Lake Park

3rd Wednesday of month – Fox Nature Preserve

4th Wednesday of month – Watershed Ridge Park



Seed Collecting & Cleaning

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 the seed to help restore areas where we have removed invasive plants. All seed collecting workdays are 12:30 - 3:30 pm.

Seed Collecting.

Meet at the Paint Creek Cider Mill before heading to our site for the day. Tuesdays in October (3, 10, 17, 24, 31).

Seed Cleaning.

Meet at Watershed Ridge Park, 1720 W. Buell Rd. on Tuesday, November 7.

Bear Creek Nature Park Workdays

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

November 10 (Friday) - We will be partnering with Six Rivers Land Conservancy for this workday!

November 14, 21, 28 and December 5 (Tuesdays)

Stewardship Holiday Coffee Hour

December 12, 10:00 to 11:30 am, Paint Creek Cider Mill

Join us to enjoy some informal socializing and networking with other nature enthusiasts! We'll share our experiences birding, checking nest boxes, volunteering, gardening with native plants, and anything else nature-related while wrapping up 2023.



Natural Areas Information at your Fingertips!

Have you checked out our blog recently? The [Natural Areas Notebook](http://NaturalAreasNotebook) 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.

INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT NOTICE

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation hereby provides notice to the public and property owners for the 2023 control of invasive plants in wetlands within township park properties including *Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis* (Common reed), invasive cattails (*Typha latifolia* and *Typha x glauca*), glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), invasive honeysuckle (non-native *Lonicera* species), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), in Oakland Township Park properties.

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

Herbicide Applicators:

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

Schedule & Treatment Locations:

Treatment will take place in 2023 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:

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

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

Do not enter treated areas until the spray has dried.

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

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

Oakland Township Parks Natural Areas

Stewardship



Early Detection and Rapid Response Can Help Stop the Spread!

Swallow-wort, Black and Pale (*Cynanchum louiseae* and *C. rossicum*) or *dog strangling vine*, is an herbaceous, perennial vine in the milkweed family. It has small, purple and pink, five-pointed flowers in May - August. The milkweed-like seedpods are slender and have wind-dispersed seeds borne on silky filaments. Leaves have a smooth edge, are dark green and shiny, and grow in an opposite pattern along the stem. It can twine 3-8 feet high and aggressively overruns and chokes out desirable species. Preliminary research shows that monarch butterfly caterpillars that begin life on this plant do not survive.

If you think you have this plant on your property remove any pods and dispose of them in the garbage. Report sightings of Black swallow-wort to MISIN (Midwest Invasive Species Information Network) at <https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/id-report>

Further reading about this and other invasives may be found at these websites:

<https://oaklandinvasivespecies.org/>

<https://bugwoodcloud.org/mura/mipn/assets/File/Midwest%20Invasives%20Fact%20Sheets/PDF/black%20swallowwort.pdf>

<https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/Swallow-wortBCP.pdf>



Various growth stages
of swallowwort



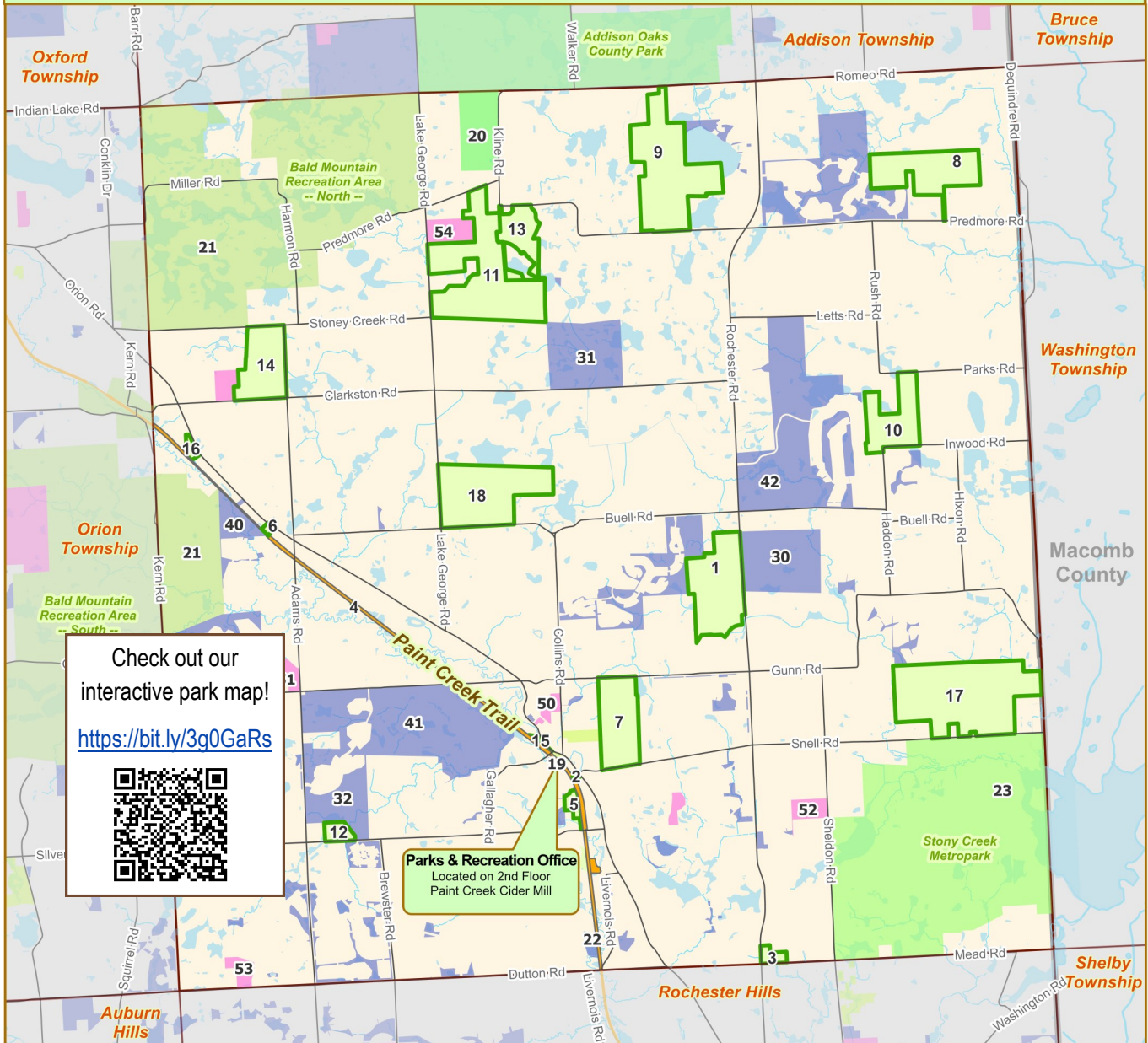
Midwest Invasive Species
Information Network



2023 field work in
the Oakland
Township Parks
natural areas.



Parks and Recreation Opportunities in Oakland Township



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

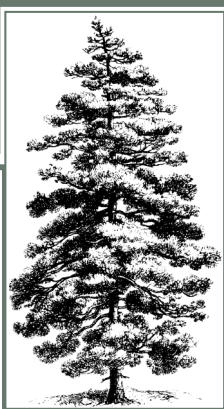
Key to Features:

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

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Last Update: 8/5/2022



Forever Evergreen

(Continued from page 12)

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

The other thing we said that deciduous trees conserve in the winter is water. Evergreens also conserve water but in a different way. For our deciduous friends, remember that they conserve water by dropping those leaves that have a big surface area where water evaporates. This is the first way evergreens conserve water for the dry winter season. Instead of leaves, most of them have needles.

Needles have way less surface area which means less evaporation and being all rolled up into a needle protects all the important bits from that cold wind. Needles also have an additional adaptation which is a waxy coating on the needles that slows evaporation of precious water in the dry winter months.

As we finish tipping our hats to those clever evergreens there is one more adaptation to talk about. One of the other reasons we said that deciduous trees lose their leaves was to protect them from the wind and snow. Well the evergreen has this covered too. Think about the shape of the classic Christmas tree, they are built like pyramids. Having smaller branches at the top of the tree means there is less area for heavy snow to accumulate on and this minimizes the stress to the tree. It also means that the most snow falls on the bigger, older branches at the bottom of the tree that are ready to take on the challenge more than the younger branches at the top.

There is so much more to the world of evergreens, including everyone's favorite thing to gather: pinecones! And then there are the terpenes that smell so good and have worked their way into human use...but we will leave that for another day. If you'd like to explore evergreens a bit more, consider joining Dinosaur Hill Naturalists at the Pining Over Yew program on Friday, November 10. *See page 5 for details.*



Snow on evergreens photo by Tim Schmidbauer; unsplash.

Deciduous trees vs Coniferous trees



	Deciduous Trees	Coniferous Trees
Leaves	Broad, flat leaves that shed annually	Needle-shaped leaves that are retained year-round
Growth Habit	Rapid growth in spring and summer, dormant in winter	Slow, steady growth year-round
Wood Type	Hardwood, denser and stronger than softwood	Softwood, lighter and easier to work with
Ecosystem Role	Provide habitat, food, and aesthetic value	Provide habitat and food, absorb carbon dioxide, stabilize soil
Adaptability	Tolerate a wide range of temperatures and moisture conditions	Adapted to cold, dry environments
Popular Species	Oak, maple, birch, beech, poplar	Pine, spruce, fir, cedar, redwood
Uses	Furniture, flooring, construction, fuel	Timber, paper, furniture, essential oils

CRANBERRY LAKE FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

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



APPLE ORCHARD



Recently we acquired ten Dwarf Apple Trees and built an arbor to support a high-production crop. The 1940s farm had a substantial orchard at one time, with only ten trees surviving. Based on historical records and the introduction of different varieties, we planted two Johnathan, two Golden Delicious, two Empire, two Red Delicious, and two Liberty. Watch for our apple orchard workshops end of March-beginning of April 2024 to learn from our expert fruit tree specialist Clay Ottoni and start your own farmyard orchard!

HELMET DONATION



Thank you Dr. Ben VanderWeide for donating his grandfather's U.S. Navy Pith helmet. By the start of WWII, the American military began using pressed fiber helmets, a helmet that remains in limited use even today, worn by range instructors during the summer months. In fact, this limited popularity makes this particular helmet the longest serving helmet in the history of the U.S. military! The helmet was utilized by the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines in tropical climates of the Pacific campaign during WWII.



BEEKEEPING

Oakland Township welcomes new beekeeper, Dawn Gialanella who will be offering workshops and overseeing the farm's apiary. Dawn's love for the honey bee began one summer when she noticed how few pollinators were visiting her gardens. She started her own apiary and is a local beekeeper and owner of the Golden Acre. Workshops will be held in May and August 2024. This is hands on learning to start your own hives. Township residents pay \$5 / non-resident \$8 per session—a great deal for our necessary pollinators!



French expression meaning “in the open air” and refers to the act of painting outdoors with the artist's subject in full view. Plein air artists capture the spirit and essence of a landscape or subject by incorporating natural light, color and movement into their works. Workshops taught by Janet Davison and are held the 3rd Tues. of summer months from 10am to 2pm. Fee \$25. Bring your art supplies and a lunch.

ART AT THE FARM—EN PLEIN AIR



WEDDINGS AT THE FARM



“We chose to have our wedding at the farm because of its simple, natural beauty and sentimental value. My parents lived in the farmhouse in the 80s. Last June, my father passed away after a very hard fight with cancer. It was difficult to know he wasn’t going to be at our wedding or walking me down the aisle, but having our wedding at CLF was our way of including my dad on our special day. Our wedding at the farm was intimate, beautiful, and everything we dreamed of!”

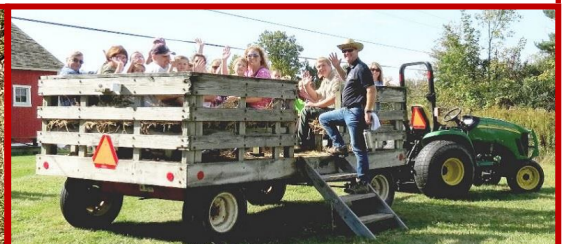
Taylor and Tony Coy, married on July 22, 2023



Photo credits to Emilee Rose Films @gmail.com

DOWN ON THE FARM: SAT. OCT 7 AT 11AM - 2PM

Come on down to Cranberry Lake Farm at **388 W. Predmore Rd. Saturday Oct. 7th** from **11am to 2pm**. There will be live music, special readings by Robert Lytle, tractors, corn shellers, hayrides, apple picking, yard games, painting displays, pumpkins, horse & donkey grooming, blacksmiths and farriers. In addition to all the activities available, you can also pick up a few new skills! Learn spinning, caning, quilting, herb gardening, and beekeeping. Dinosaur Hill will have an activity, and Oakland Township Historical Society will have a booth with cider. Learn about history at this **FREE** family event!



Oakland Township Historical Society

WELCOME TO FALL 2023!

The public is welcome to our programs and there is no charge. A bad snow storm will mean that we would cancel and reschedule.

September 6, 6:30 pm - Annual Fall Potluck at the Flumerfelt Barn – The Restoration of the Avon Prairie House by Donald C. Westphal.



September 16th, 10am-5pm and September 17th, Noon- 5 pm - Flumerfelt Flea (see inset for more details) at CLF's Flumerfelt Barn
September 16th, 11am-3pm - OTHS will be at PRC's Goodison Good Tyme at Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 W Snell Rd.



October 7th, 11am-2pm - OTHS Historic District Commission's Down on the Farm at CLF.

November 1st, 4:30pm-6:30pm - Big Wheels Dedication Ceremony Open House Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road in Goodison.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS -

Membership drive: We have gift bags available filled with local goodies when you sign up to become a member of OTHS. Visit the website at www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org to download the membership form. For more information contact Sue Fox, Membership Chair 248-693-9646.

GET READY--- BARN FLEA MARKET!

The Flumerfelt Flea Market is planned for Sept 16-17, 2023. Remember us as you clean-out your house, garage or barn! Items that we like to sell include antiques, vintage items, collectables, farm rustic items, housewares and furniture. Please no appliances, books, computers, clothing or exercise equipment. To arrange drop-offs contact Colleen Barkham at thsbarham@hotmail.com or 248-652-0712.



FROM THE OTHS PRESIDENTS

Every year we receive a variety of donations of items from different people and families – sometimes they are historic artifacts that are donated to our collections, sometimes they are donations to our Flumerfelt Flea sale. Over the past few years we have added some interesting finds to our collection, such as some school desks from the old Eaton Schoolhouse, a songbook from the Church, and a unique spinning wheel.

Mary Tischler & Anthony Kowalchick, Co-Presidents

From the Director... (Continued from page 2)



Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Staff Supporting Fox Nature Preserve Grand Opening



Enjoying Self-guided Tours of Fox Nature Preserve Northern Trails

June 3, 2023 Paint Creek Junction Grand Opening Introduction:

Anyone familiar with the purchase and planning of this park knows that this grand opening has been “a long time coming”. Similar to the story of “The Little Engine that Could”, Paint Creek Junction is “The Little Park that Could”. It is the story of a little Oakland Township park, purchased in 2003 with Township Parks millage funds, which after 20 years, is finally offering parking and rest facilities for Paint Creek Trail and Iron Belle visitors including pedestrians, cyclists, skiers, and equestrians.



Paint Creek Junction Ribbon Cutting: L to R: Matthew Tangen, OTPR Stewardship; Merrie Carlock, MDNR; Dan Simon, Vice-Chair Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission (OTPRC); Joe Burns, Back to the Beach runners; Martha Olijnyk, Chair Paint Creek Trailways Commission; Robin Buxar, Supervisor Oakland Township; Mike Jahn, Friends of the Paint Creek Trail; Emily Barkham, OTPRC Chair; Craig Blust, OTPRC Treasurer; Colleen Barkham, OTPRC Commissioner Emeritus; Brian Blust, OTPRC Secretary; Mindy Milos-Dale, OTPR Director; and Bianca Petersen, OTPR Stewardship.

In both cases, we are appreciative of our funders and partners that have brought these new parks and recreation opportunities to fruition including Oakland Township residents, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Family of William M. Fox, Six Rivers Land Conservancy, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, Back to the Beach Runners, Friends of the Paint Creek Trail, and Friends of Ruth Glass.

Mindy Milos-Dale, Parks and Recreation Director



Paint Creek Trail users getting Parks and Recreation information at Paint Creek Junction Grand Opening



Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Registration Information

Register online: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

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

Oakland Township Resident registration is open NOW!

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

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

(As noted in the program descriptions)

Programs fill-up quickly so please contact us early!

Registration Options:

1. ONLINE:

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

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

2. BY MAIL:

For printable registration and waiver forms visit our website:

www.oaklandtownship.org

*Mail at least two weeks
before program date!*

Send the completed forms by USPS mail to:

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

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

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

3. IN PERSON:

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

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

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Program Refund Policy

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

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



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

To meet this commitment, a limited number of hunters per hunt date will be issued Township permits for antlerless archery deer hunting at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park on restricted weekdays between October 1, 2023 and January 31, 2024. On the days when hunting will occur the park will be closed to other types of use. Signs are posted at park entry points indicating these days of closure.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fall/Winter 2023/24 Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Controlled Antlerless Archery Deer Hunting Application

Name _____ Driver's License# _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Vehicle Plate# _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

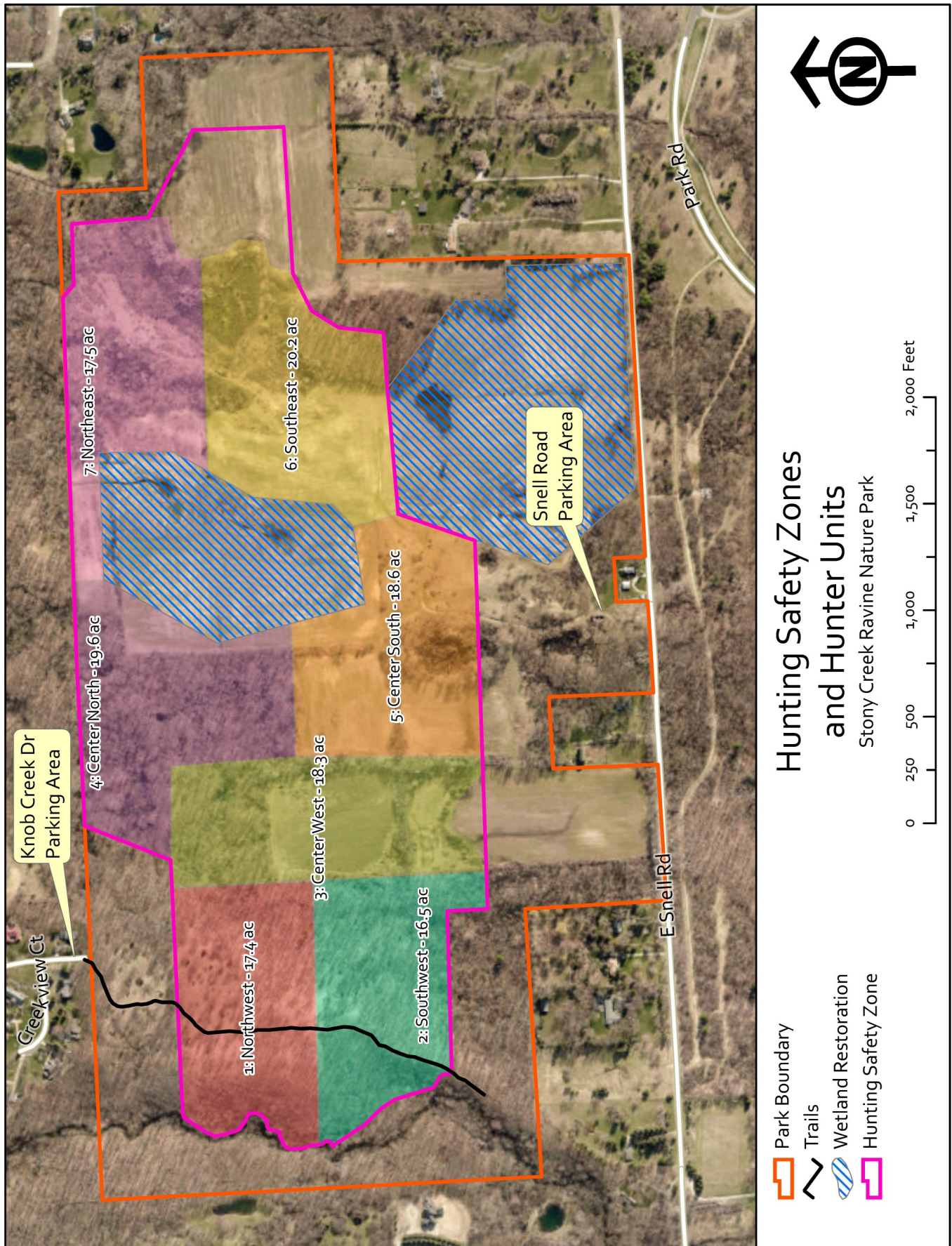
Hunting Partner's Name _____ Phone: _____

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

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

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

Application dates: Sept.19- Sept. 25	Application dates: Oct. 10- Oct. 16	Application dates: Nov. 21 - Nov. 27	Application dates: Dec. 12- Dec. 18	Application dates: Jan. 2 – Jan. 8
For hunt dates of:	For hunt dates of:	For hunt dates of:	For hunt dates of:	For hunt dates of:
Tues/Wed, Oct 3 & 4	Tues/Wed, Oct 24 & 25	Tues/Wed, Dec 5 & 6	Tues/Wed, Dec 26& 27	Tues/Wed, Jan 16 & 17
Tues/Wed, Oct 10 & 11	Tues/Wed, Oct. 31 & Nov 1	Tues/Wed, Dec 12 & 13	Tues/Wed, Jan. 2 & 3	Tues/Wed, Jan 23 & 24
Tues/Wed, Oct 17 & 18	Tues/Wed, Nov 7 & 8	Tues/Wed, Dec 19 & 20	Tues/Wed, Jan 9 & 10	Tues/Wed, Jan 30 & 31





Rochester Hills Public Library

Innovative Item Collection



Have you ever been curious to try out a VR Headset, fly a drone or try your hand at fishing? The Innovative Items Collection at the Rochester Hills Public Library allows card holders to borrow a variety of items that provide a unique opportunity.

Rochester Hills Public Library continues its mission to provide the community with resources to inform, educate, enlighten and entertain with the new Innovative Items Collection (IIC). This new collection of non-traditional library items will allow patrons to check out three-dimensional items including tools, arts & crafts, electronics, games, music, outdoor, science & technology and household items.

The entire Innovative Items Collection can be viewed online:

<https://rhpl.org/innovative-items/>

A valid Rochester Hills Public Library card is required to check out IIC kits for up to 14 days. IIC kits may only be checked out from and returned to the second floor Computer Help desk in Adult Services. Patrons may check out two IIC kits at one time. If an item is not available, a reservation can easily be placed using your library card for a future date.



Get a Free Rochester Hills Public Library Card

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

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



Paint Creek Trail News

By Tom Correll, Trail Manager, manager@paintcreektrail.org



Meet the Paint Creek Trail Manager

The PCTC welcomed Tom Correll as their new Trail Manager in May 2023. Tom moved to the Lake Orion area in 2021 and immediately fell in love with the trail as an outdoor recreation space. He enjoys hiking, running, and spending time on the trail with his family and two dogs. Tom's background is in the non-profit sector, starting his career in Outdoor Education with the YMCA. Most recently he was the Operations Director at the Howell Nature Center in Livingston County. He is passionate about maintaining and improving the trail as an accessible community resource for families and individuals to get outside!

Paint Creek Trail Bridge Project Receives SEMCOG Grant Funding

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission received a grant award totaling \$721,210.42 from SEMCOG's TAP Grant to be used for the replacement of Bridge 31.7 on the trail. The Trailways Commission was awarded a \$50,000 grant through the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and the city of Rochester was awarded a \$25,000 Trailways grant from Oakland County Parks and Recreation for the project.

This funding will enable the Trailways Commission to partially fund the replacement of the nearly 100-year-old timber pedestrian bridge. Bridge 31.7 lies directly on the Paint Creek Trail, just north of downtown Rochester, and was originally a railroad bridge built in the 1920s and later converted for pedestrian traffic.

This funding is contingent on funding from the Michigan DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant (MNRTF), which has been submitted by the trail and is in review. The Grant funding will be decided before the end of 2023.

A 2016 structural inspection of Bridge 31.7 documented extensive decay of its structural components which compromise the safety of the bridge. The bridge needs to be replaced due to its age and the deterioration of the bridge's timber superstructure, piers, and abutments. The inspection also noted woody debris accumulated at the bridge's piers and the row of abandoned piles south of the piers. Unnatural buildup of nuisance log jams at the in-stream pilings is an ongoing problem at the bridge. These log jams restrict the flow of the stream, lead to erosion, and restrict the passage of several species of fish.

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission wishes to replace Bridge 31.7 with a new bridge that meets ADA design standards and with a clear span that does not obstruct the flow of the stream.



Logjam at Bridge 31.7

Paint Creek Trail News

By Tom Correll, Trail Manager, manager@paintcreektrail.org



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.

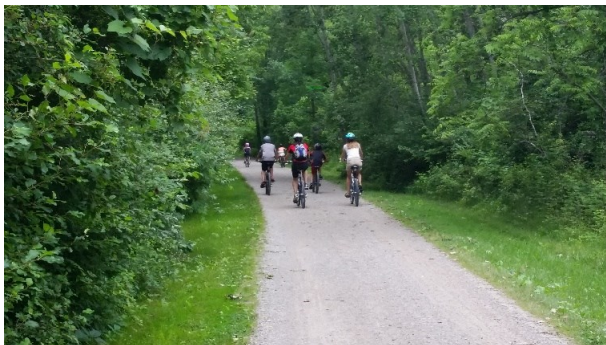
Obey all Signage: Please remember to obey all street signs, signals, and road markings on the trail and at intersections. Always stop and look for approaching vehicles before crossing roads.



Support the Paint Creek Trail

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

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



facebook.com/PaintCreekTrail



twitter.com/PaintCreekTrail



PaintCreekTrail.org

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

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

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*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 for meeting agendas and packets.

Office Hours and Location

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

Parks and Recreation Commissioners

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

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Staff

Parks and Recreation Director	Melinda Milos-Dale
Administrative Assistant	Carol Kasprzak
Clerical Assistant	Kim Newton
Recreation Manager	Becky McLogan
Recreation Program Assistant	Rebekah Meeks
Maintenance Foreman	Doug Caruso
Maintenance Technician	Bill Beverly
Natural Areas Stewardship Manager	Dr. Ben VanderWeide
Stewardship Specialist	Grant VanderLaan
Parks and Recreation Workers	Brian Rank and Steve Iskenderian

Seasonal Staff: Maintenance: Dan Barton, Martin Miller
Recreation: Brooke Patrician, Griffin Moore
Stewardship: Megan McReynolds,

Bianca Petersen, Matthew Tangen



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.