

# Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission Newsletter

## Winter 2022

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.



Lost Lake Nature Park



Ice Rink Page 4 – Sled Hill Page 5

### Inside this issue:

Land Preservation Program 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	1, 16-18, 26
From the Director	
Alice Tomboulian	2
Memoriam	
Winter Carnival 2022	3
Ice Skating Rink, Sled Hill	4-5
Programs	6-11
Bird Brains	12, 22
Ice Skating Lessons	13
No Freezing Fleas	14, 26
Lost Lake Nature Center	
Open Houses	15
Stewardship	19-21
Historic District Commission	23-25
Library Board News	27
Program Registration Form	28
Parks Map	29
Paint Creek Trail News	30-31
Oakland Township Historical Society News	31
Commissioners/Staff	Back Cover

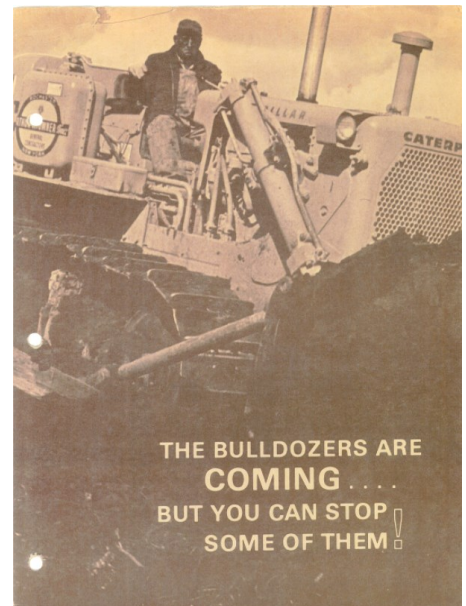
## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Oakland Township Land Preservation

By Mindy Milos-Dale, Parks and Recreation Director

September 2021 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Township residents’ support for our Land Preservation millage, which has been instrumental in the acquisition of the majority of our Township parkland.

Unlike many other communities in southeast Michigan, Oakland Township has been concerned with preservation of our local natural habitats for the last 50 years. In the 1970s visionary Township residents recognized the need to protect the woodlands, waterways, grasslands, and steep slopes that make our community so unique. This concern culminated in our Township’s nature-based land planning efforts and the 1974 establishment of a Parks Commission who considered the preservation of the Township’s natural heritage as their highest priority.

It is therefore not surprising that in the late 90’s, the Parks Commission was concerned about protecting key Township natural areas from encroaching urban sprawl.



Cover of 1974 Oakland Township Parks millage informational brochure.

(Continued on page 26)

### Mark your calendars for Winter Carnival on February 5, 2022!

Join us at Bear Creek Nature Park for a fun-filled winter day of activities including ice skating, ice carving demonstrations, archery, magic, and balloon shows, and more! Bring your own skates or use a pair of ours. *Children must have adult supervision. See page 3.*



## From the Director...

With the passing of Dave Mackley and Alice Tomboulia this year, it marks the end of an era. These remarkable long-time Parks and Recreation Commissioners (who served a total of 56 years mostly as Chair and Vice Chair), set a very high standard for public service. The betterment of our residents' quality of life was always at the forefront of any parks proposal or project that they were considering or tackling. They were both instrumental in the acquisition, planning, and development of every one of our Township parks!

They became Commissioners before there was a Parks and Recreation staff and they willingly took on many responsibilities that others would have certainly found daunting. When they hired me in 1999, I was the Commission's first full-time (and only) employee.

No one can imagine the number of hours that Alice and Dave gladly gave to collaborate with me and most importantly with Township residents, or the miles that they walked and the acres that they covered when reviewing the qualities of properties proposed for land preservation funding, or their commitment to volunteering at community-wide park events such as our Music in the Meadows concerts, or the multitude of Parks and Recreation meetings that they led over the years.

I know that Alice and Dave's devotion to our Township and their passion for our parks lives on in every Township Park visitor who enjoys a leisurely walk, a nature program, a family picnic, a nearby playground, an outdoor concert, or a thrilling sled hill ride. Their legacy is the opportunity that they have given to all of us to enjoy these activities in our serene, beautiful, and amazing Township parks.

As a Township employee, resident, and friend, I will be forever grateful for having been the beneficiary of Alice and Dave's generosity, leadership, and kindness.

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



## In Memoriam

We are saddened to report the passing of longtime township resident Alice Tomboulia, an Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commissioner from 1992 through 2016. Alice was instrumental in the acquisition, planning, and development of many of our Township parks. She made the world a better place through her unceasing efforts to protect and preserve Michigan's natural resources and her example of how dedicated local people can make a difference. Alice also served Oakland Township as a Township Trustee, a Planning Commissioner, a Library Board member, and as a member of the Safety Paths and Trails Committee.

Alice represented our community for two years in the Michigan state legislature, where she was chief sponsor of the Michigan Hazardous Waste Management Act and the Conservation and Historic Preservation Easement Act. She was a founding Board Member of the Oakland Land Conservancy (now Six Rivers Land Conservancy), and, with her colleague and friend Peggy Johnson, led in the acquisition and development of the Paint Creek Trail. She received many awards for her conservation and community service efforts, including Outstanding Legislator Award from the Michigan Audubon Society, a Career Achievement Award from Oakland County Planning, and, in 2016, a Community Service Award from the Michigan Recreation & Park Association.

Alice was married for more than 64 years to Paul Tomboulia, professor emeritus of Oakland University. Alice and Paul were an unstoppable force for good in their work and volunteer efforts. A memorial gathering at Bear Creek Park Reserve is being planned for spring 2022.

Alice's leadership, dedication, and compassion will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences to her family and friends.



Alice Tomboulia at 2008 Winter Carnival. By Barb Barber

# Winter Carnival

Saturday, February 5, 2022

12pm-4pm

Bear Creek Nature Park

Free Admission

Free Admission

Sponsored by Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

## All parking at Rochester Christian Church

FREE parking and shuttle service from 11:45am - 4:30pm from Rochester Christian Church, 4435 Rochester Rd., to Bear Creek Nature Park.

### Show Tent Schedule

#### Magic Joe

12:15pm & 2:15pm

Become delighted with a little magic!



#### Balloon Twisting Show

1:15pm & 3:15pm

Learn how to make your own unique balloon designs!

### Giant Balloon Art

Grab your camera and don't miss a fun portrait opportunity with this one of a kind creation designed especially for our event!

### Refreshments

#### Fun Food Express

Enjoy your favorite food truck carnival treats, hot cocoa, and coffee. Cash or credit accepted.



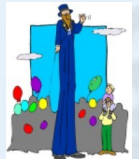
### Ongoing Activities

#### Ice Carving Demonstrations

See the ice carver sculpt frosty works of art before your eyes! Photo ops available.

#### Michigan Stilt Walker

Be amazed by our stilt walker as he twists balloon creations just for you!

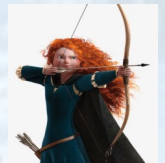


#### Snow Games

- \* Penguin Bowling
- \* 3-In-A Row Snowball Toss
- \* Snow Ball Fight
- \* Hockey Goal Shoot

#### Archery Target Shoot

Give archery a try and shoot an arrow like Princess Merida! Ages 5 and up.



#### Animal Tracking Activity

Animal tracks tell more than who has traveled in the area. Learn the back stories animals leave behind. Decorate a bookmark & make your own tracks.

#### Ice Skating

Skate on our fabulous ice rink! Limited number of skates for loan. Get skating tips from national competitor Julia Budnick. Weather permitting.



#### Warming Tent

Warm up between activities and shows in our heated tent.



Snow or no snow, grab your skates and join the fun!

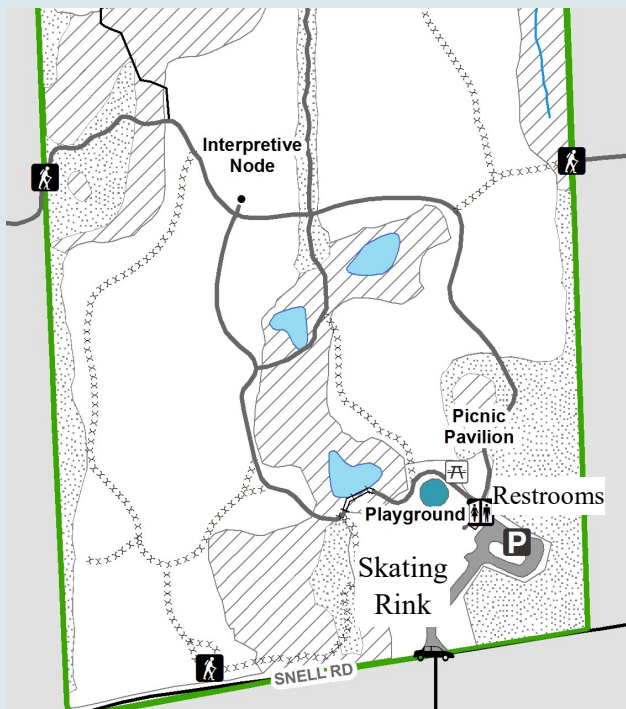
## **Bear Creek Nature Park Outdoor Ice Rink**

740 West Snell Road  
Rochester, MI 48306

**Confirm the rink is OPEN  
Before you leave home!**

**Call the ice rink hotline at  
248-651-4440 ext. 289**

Ice must be frozen solid for rink to be open.



## **Ice Skating Rink Open Hours**

*Conditions permitting.  
Closed during classes.*

Daily

10 am—5pm

Don't know how to skate or a  
little rusty with your skills?  
Check out our skating clinics on  
page 13 to get back in the game!

## **Free Skate Loan Sundays**

On select Sundays (1/16, 1/30, 2/13 & 2/20) from  
10am to 2pm, we'll have a variety of sizes available  
for children and adults for free.  
Limited number of skates available.



## Lost Lake Nature Park

### Sled Hill & Warming Shelter

846 Lost Lake Trail  
Oakland, MI 48363

**Confirm the hill is OPEN  
Before you leave home!**

**Call the sled hill hotline at  
248-651-4440 ext. 299**

Must be 2 inches of packed snow on the  
frozen ground for hill to be open.



### Warming Shelter Open Hours

Friday nights 5pm-9pm  
Saturdays 10am-9pm  
Sundays 12pm-5pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
January 17 12pm-5pm  
Presidents' Day  
February 21 12pm-5pm

### Sled Hill Open Hours

*Conditions permitting.*  
Monday-Thursday  
10am - 5pm  
Friday and Saturday  
10am—9pm  
Sunday  
10am-5pm



What's more fun than spending a day full of sledding and family fun? Lost Lake sled hill area features both a kid-friendly hill and a bigger hill ideal for sledding enthusiasts of all ages. Parking is limited and carpooling is appreciated. Bring your own sleds.

# Winter/Spring 2022 Nature Programs

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).

## *Winter Night Sky*

*Ages 12+*

Thursday, January 20

6:30pm-8:00pm

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



Lose yourself in the night sky at Lost Lake Nature Park. Join the knowledgeable staff from the Oakland Astronomy Club for a memorable stargazing experience. Weather permitting, we'll head outside to share the bright stars of winter and see fascinating live telescopic views of Orion's stellar nursery using video cameras and monitors.

Resident registration: **open now** Non-Resident registration opens: **Dec. 30**

Residents: \$5

Non-residents: \$7

Register by: **Jan. 13**

## *Magical Michigan!*

*Families*

Sunday, January 23

2:00pm-3:30pm

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

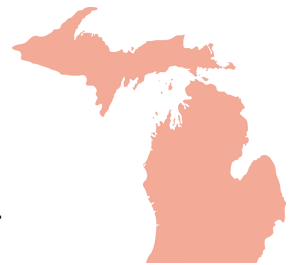
Surrounded by the greatness of the Great Lakes- with more freshwater coastline than any other state- Michigan is a great place to live! January 26<sup>th</sup> is Michigan's birthday. We'll celebrate by having a pure Michigan snack. Learn about the physical features of our pleasant peninsulas, discuss notable nature events in our history, and meet our state symbols. Make your own mittens out of repurposed materials. **All family members in attendance must register. Children under age 5 must be accompanied by an adult.**

Resident registration: **open now** Non-Resident registration opens: **Jan. 2**

Residents: \$5

Non-residents: \$7

Register by: **Jan. 16**



# NEW Teen Program! Take a Hike with OTP&R

## *Teen Night Hike: Owls*

*Teens 12-17*

Friday, January 21

5:00pm-6:30PM

*Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 W. Predmore, Oakland, MI 48363*

In this first of a series of night hikes for teenagers, we will learn about who is making noise in the winter nights. We will dissect owl pellets to identify their meals. We'll talk about some of the adaptations owls have for hunting during the night- even the ones who hunt by day! Listen to the calls they make as we try to attract the three most common species. Dress warm. Boot Grippers recommended.

Resident registration: **open now** Non-Resident registration opens: **Dec. 31**

Residents: \$5

Non-residents: \$7

Register by: **Jan. 14**



## *Teen Hike Night: Amphibians*

*Teens 12-17*

Friday, April 15

7:30pm-9:00pm

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



Michigan is home to 14 types of frogs and 12 kinds of salamanders. Explore the wetlands at twilight in search of the sights & sounds of these amphibian friends. Learn how to safely handle amphibians and what their presence means about water quality. Compare body systems of frogs and salamanders by simulating dissection with models.

Resident registration: **open now** Non-Resident registration opens: **March 25**

Residents: \$5

Non-residents: \$7

Register by: **April 8**

# Winter/Spring 2022 Nature Programs

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).

## Winter Woodpeckers

Tuesday, February 1

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

Little ones will listen to the book *Woodpecker Wham!* Look & listen for woodpeckers on the trail after hearing a recording of what they sound like. We will learn about what woodpeckers eat and prepare feeders for them.

Resident registration: **open now** Non-Resident registration opens: **Jan. 11**

Residents: **\$5** Non-residents: **\$7** Register by: **Jan. 25**

PreK 3-5 yrs. Old

10:00am-11:00am



## Wetter Weather

Thursday, March 3

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



Precipitation is the word of the day! Experience a simulation of the water cycle. Measure rainfall and wind using rain gauges and weathervanes. Learn signs of approaching storms. We'll discuss types of clouds and where they are found in the stratosphere. Decorate a water cycle windsock. **All family members in attendance must register.**

Resident registration: **open now** Non-Resident registration opens: **Feb. 10**

Residents: **\$5** Non-residents: **\$7** Register by: **Feb. 24**

6-10 Years Old

4:30pm-6pm

## Winter Sky & First Quarter Moon

Friday, March 11

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

Spring is on our doorstep as Leo and the Big Dipper rise through the sky. Join the knowledgeable staff from Oakland Astronomy Club for a planetarium presentation and experience fascinating live telescopic views of the thrilling first quarter moon and winter skies using video cameras and monitors.

Resident registration: **open now** Non-Resident registration opens: **Feb. 18**

Residents: **\$5** Non-residents: **\$7** Register by: **March 4**



Ages 12+

7:00pm-8:30PM

## Spring Salamander Search

Tuesday, March 29

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



Preschoolers will listen to and look at the popup counting book *Salamander Rock*. We'll create a salamander craft, learn where salamanders live, and carefully search for amphibians under logs and rocks.

Resident registration: **open now** Non-Resident registration opens: **March 8**

Residents: **\$5** Non-residents: **\$7** Register by: **March 22**

PreK 3-5yrs. old

10:00am-11:00am

## Investigate Insects

Saturday, May 14

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

Picnic Tables & Trails

Grab a net and get buggy! We'll assemble insect hotels and talk about different types of insects. Meet a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach. After a quick tutorial on insect sweep netting techniques, we'll hit the trails to find insects to identify and observe. Design an insect of your own. **All family members in attendance must register. Children under age 5 must be accompanied by an adult.**

Resident registration: **open now** Non-Resident registration opens: **April 23**

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

Families

10:00am-11:30am



Register by: **May 7**

# Winter/Spring 2022 Fitness & Wellness Programs

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).

## All Levels Yoga

Sundays 9:30am-10:30am

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. Continue your practice inside at the Paint Creek Cider Mill or choose the Live Stream option. In May, classes will meet outdoors at Cranberry Lake Farm. 6 weeks Resident registration: **open now**.



Fees for all sessions:

Residents: \$30

Non Residents: \$45

### Indoor or Live Stream Sessions

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

December 19 - January 23

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Nov. 28**

Register by: **Dec. 12**

February 6 - March 13

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

Register by: **Jan. 30**

March 27-May 1

Non-Resident registration Opens: **March 6**

Register by: **March 20**

### Outdoor Sessions

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

May 15-June 19

Non-Resident Registration Opens: **April 24**

Register by: **May 8**

## Slow Flow Yoga

Sundays 11:00am-12:00pm

Ages 12+



Join Red Lotus 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. Continue your practice inside at the Paint Creek Cider Mill or choose the Live Stream option. In May, classes will meet outdoors at Cranberry Lake Farm. 6 weeks. Resident registration: **open now**

Fees for all sessions:

Residents: \$30

Non Residents: \$45

### Indoor or Live Stream Sessions

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

December 26- January 30

Non-Resident registration Opens: **Dec. 5**

Register by: **Dec. 19**

February 6 - March 13

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

Register by: **Jan. 30**

March 27-May 1

Non-Resident registration Opens: **March 6**

Register by: **March 20**

### Outdoor Sessions

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

May 15-June 19

Non-Resident Registration Opens: **April 24**

Register by: **May 8**

## Yoga Walk in the Park

Saturdays 2:00pm-3:00pm

Adults 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 our yoga mats. 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, improve balance, and flexibility. Boot grippers recommended. 6 weeks. Resident registration: **open now**



Fees for all sessions:

Residents: \$30

Non Residents: \$45

January 8 - February 12

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

Register by: **Jan. 1**

February 26 - April 9

Non-Resident registration: **Feb. 5**

Register by: **Feb. 19**



# Winter/Spring 2022 Fitness & Wellness Programs

Register online: [oaklandtownship.recdesk.com](http://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. In May, our practice will move outdoor to Cranberry Lake Farm. All sessions are led by Marci Jenkins who has over 20 years of Tai Chi training and practice. Resident registration: **open now**



### Indoor Sessions

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

**January 4, 2022 - February 8, 2022** (6 weeks) Residents: **\$30** Non-Residents: **\$45**

Non-Resident Registration opens: **Dec. 14** Register by: **Dec. 28**

**March 8, 2022 - April 26, 2022** (8 weeks) Residents: **\$40** Non-Residents: **\$60**

Non-Resident Registration opens: **Feb. 15** Register by: **March 1**

### Outdoor Session

**Cranberry Lake Farm, 338 West Predmore, Oakland, MI 48363**

**May 10, 2022 - June 28, 2022** (8 weeks) Residents: **\$40** Non-Residents: **\$60**

Non-Resident Registration opens: **Apr. 19** Register by: **May 3**

## Next Step Tai Chi Beginners

**Wednesdays 6:00pm -7:00pm**

Adults 18+



Continue practicing Tai Chi by learning the remaining movements of the Yang style while reviewing the basic principles of Tai Chi. The first two sessions will meet indoors. 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. In May, our practice will move outdoors to Cranberry Lake Farm. All sessions are led by Marci Jenkins who has over 20 years of Tai Chi training and practice. Resident registration: **open now**

### Indoor Sessions

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

**January 5, 2022 - February 9, 2022** (6 weeks) Residents: **\$30** Non-Residents: **\$45**

Non-Resident Registration opens: **Dec. 15** Register by: **Dec. 29**

**March 9, 2022 - April 27, 2022** (8 weeks) Residents: **\$40** Non-Residents: **\$60**

Non-Resident Registration opens: **Feb. 16** Register by: **March 2**

### Outdoor Session

**Cranberry Lake Farm, 338 West Predmore, Oakland, MI 48363**

**May 11, 2022 - June 29, 2022** (8 weeks) Residents: **\$40** Non-Residents: **\$60**

Non-Resident Registration opens: **Apr. 20** Register by: **May 4**

**Adult Men's Soccer League at Marsh View Park** Did you love playing soccer as a kid? You can play post-high school to post-retirement right in your own backyard by joining the Michigan United Soccer League. Marsh View Park is host to MUSL games - players are mostly local or from the Greater Rochester Area. Join early - teams form in January.

To join visit: [musl.net](http://musl.net)



# Winter/Spring 2022 Archery Programs

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).

**All Archery Programs are held at Marsh View Park,  
3100 E. Clarkston Rd. Oakland, 48363**

## *Beginning Archery*

**Saturdays 10:00am-11:00am**

*Ages 8-Adult*

Looking for something new and fun to try on a beautiful spring Saturday morning? This fun class is for you and your family! Our instructors will cover safety, equipment and basic fundamentals of shooting. Sanitized equipment provided. Maximum 10 participants. 5 weeks. Resident registration currently open.



**April 23 - May 21, 2022**  
Residents: **\$60**

Non-Resident registration Opens: **April 2**  
Non-Residents: **\$75** Register by: **April 16**

## *Next Step Archery*

**Mondays 6:00pm-7:00pm**

*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. This program is designed for everyone over the age of eight. Maximum 10 participants. 6 weeks. Resident registration currently open.

**April 18 - May 23, 2022**  
Residents: **\$75**

Non-Resident registration Opens: **March 28**  
Non-Residents: **\$90** Register by: **April 11**

## *Open Range Shoot*

**FREE**

*Ages 8-Adult*

**Saturdays, April 23, 2022–October 29, 2022**

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.

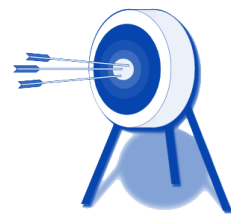
**Free Loan Program eligible** - bows, arrows and targets provided or bring your own.

Equipment will be sanitized between users and sessions. Social distancing will be practiced. Children between 8 and 17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Maximum of 10 participants per session.

**Resident and Non-Resident registration currently open. Pre-registration is required.**

Choose a **45 minute session**:  
11:30am-12:15pm OR 12:30pm-1:15pm  
1:30pm-2:15pm OR 2:30pm-3:15pm



## *Archery Private Group Programs*

Book your birthday, special event, celebration, work group, scout badge with a focus on archery at Marsh View Park Archery Range. Equipment provided with all group events.

## *Archery Rental Opportunities*

If your archery league or club is interested in renting our facility please contact the Parks and Recreation Department for fees and availability at 248-651-7810.

For more information on either of these categories please call 248-651-7810.

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation

# Winter/Spring 2022 Archery Programs

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).

**All Archery Practices are held at Marsh View Park, 3100 E. Clarkston Rd. Oakland, 48363**

## Team Archery

Rochester and Lake Orion Community Schools  
High School and Middle School Students

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, the Michigan High School Archery Association and USA Archery have partnered again this year to further develop archery as a club sport. Students that attend middle and high schools in the Rochester and Lake Orion Community School Districts are invited to join Team Archery for practice and competition in the Spring of 2022. This is a “no cut” sport for beginner to advanced archers, however, space is limited. No previous archery experience is necessary. All team members will have the opportunity to compete against other teams at a state-wide tournament in southeast Michigan.

**Maximum 10 students per practice session.** (dates and times may be subject to change)

**Tuesdays, March 15 - May 17** (No practice March 29) **Select a 50-minute session**  
4:00 - 4:50pm OR 5:00 - 5:50pm OR 6:00 - 6:50pm

**Wednesdays, March 16 - May 18** (No practice March 30) **Select a 50-minute session**  
4:00 - 4:50pm OR 5:00 - 5:50pm OR 6:00 - 6:50pm

### Michigan School Archery Association Championship Tournament-

Saturday, May 21, 2022 at The Hawk-Farmington Hills Community Center, 29995 Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48338.

**Fee: \$150** Includes: All equipment, USA Archery and Safe Sport certified instructors and coaches, 9 team practices, team shirt, tournament fees, and use of Oakland Township’s Marsh View Park Outdoor Archery Range. **Registration Open: January 1st - February 8, 2022**



# Of Bird Brains and Roller Coasters

By Sue Neal, Executive Director, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve



Hang with me...this article gets off to a weird start. How often do you think about gravity? Maybe not very often until you start trying to ride your bike up a hill or when you drop a plate on the kitchen floor. While we might not think about it very often, gravity is central to how humans have developed and we are suited to a very specific range of gravitational force, namely 1 G. When we are subjected to forces outside of that we feel it and if the forces are too great they can injure, or even kill us. That stomach dropping feeling when you first go over a hill on roller coaster is an example of what less gravity feels like. Rapid acceleration (g) is a good example

of what an increase in force feels like (think about feeling pressed back in to the seat as a plane accelerates at take-off). Notice our two different 'g's' here. Capital G is the gravitational constant while little g is acceleration/deceleration. Both can be thought of as a measure of the forces acting on our bodies.

So...now that we know that g is a measure of acceleration and we know that we can feel the effects of forces acting on our body, let's take it one step further. We are all aware that rapid deceleration isn't a good thing for our bodies. It is why we wear a helmet when we ride our bikes for example. If we were riding along at a good speed and were to fall - our heads would rapidly decelerate and we would walk away with a bad headache or even a concussion. A concussion happens basically when our skull stops moving (decelerates) but our brain sort of sloshes around in there and becomes injured. We all are aware that this is not a good thing at all. Humans are susceptible to brain injury/concussion at around 80-100g. What if I told you that there is an animal living in our own backyards that is routinely exposed to forces around 1200 g's (like coming to a full stop from 26,000 mph)...up to 22 to times a second AND lives to tell about it!



If you haven't guessed by now - I am talking about woodpeckers! Woodpeckers essentially beat their heads against a tree all day long! How is it that they are able to withstand this force all the time? Woodpeckers have a number of really cool adaptations that help protect their little bird brains from injury. So first, they have little bird brains with tiny little bird brain skulls. The brains are packed more tightly in their skulls so there is not the same amount of room for the brain to get sloshed around and bruised like it does in humans. Plus their brains have a higher ratio of surface area to weight as human brains so any impact force is spread over a greater surface area and they have less cerebrospinal fluid. But that isn't all!

Woodpeckers are also equipped with additional adaptations that give them some of the best shock absorbers in nature. The whole point of shock absorbers is to help take up some of the force - think about the helmet you wear on your bike...all that foam in your helmet helps to absorb some of the impact force of hitting your head. Woodpeckers kind of have built-in helmets. Their skull includes plates of spongy bone that are surrounded by more dense areas of bone - exactly like a helmet!



It doesn't stop there though. Would you believe that even the woodpeckers tongue helps?! Woodpeckers have REALLY long tongues that connect to special tissue called the hyoid that actually wraps all the way around their brains and attaches at the top of their beak. This structure can contract at impact to 'hold' their brains in place - a lot like a seatbelt helps keep humans safe in car accidents. Fun fact: probably the longest bird tongues you will find in Oakland Township belong to the beautiful Flickers who sport a tongue that can protrude up to two inches from the beak - perfect for slurping up the insects hiding in the holes they work so hard to peck!

(Continued on page 22)

# Outdoor Ice Rink

at Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 West Snell Road, Rochester, MI 48306



## FREE ICE SKATING

Skating season is upon us—come visit our outdoor ice rink! Skating is FREE. Bring your own skates and something to sit on. The rink is unsupervised and children should have adult supervision. Hockey is not permitted.

All skaters 6 years old and under are **required** to wear either a bike or hockey helmet (not provided).  
Ice Skating Rink Open Hours: 10am-5pm daily (Conditions permitting-Closed during classes.)

Call the Ice Rink hotline at 248-651-4440, ext. 289 to confirm the rink is open.  
Ice must be frozen solid for the rink to open.

## LEARN TO SKATE PROGRAMS

Taught by  
Julia Budnick!

Monday, January 17 Register by January 10

Monday, February 21 Register by February 14

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

These clinics are for people who have little or no skill at ice skating. Each clinic will focus on basic fundamentals of ice skating like falling down, skating forward, stopping and practicing your new skating skills. Safety is very important and we encourage skaters to wear a helmet and additional padding. Please wear weather appropriate clothing including gloves and bring something to sit on. All clinics are taught by Julia Budnick, a four time Midwestern Sectional and national competitor. Clinics will be held at Bear Creek Nature Park's Outdoor Skating Rink.

**Tots 4-5 years old & Parents 10:00am - 10:45am Resident : \$10 Non-resident: \$15 (Parents free)**  
Each tot must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who can skate. For the first 30 minutes, tots will learn basic balance and skating skills. The last 15 minutes will be free skate playtime to help your tot practice their new skating skills.

**Ages 6-12 11:15am - 12:00pm Resident: \$10 Non-resident: \$15**  
Learn the basic fundamentals and have fun practicing at our outdoor skating rink.

**Ages 13 - Adults 12:30pm - 1:30pm Resident: \$10 Non-resident: \$15**  
Learn the basic fundamentals and have fun practicing at our outdoor skating rink!

*Please arrive at least 20 minutes early to class to check-in and change into skates. Wear your skate guards when not on the ice surface. Please do not walk with exposed blades on parking lot or limestone paths.*

*If you don't have your own ice skates for the Learn to Skate Program and would like to borrow a pair, call Parks and Recreation office weekdays between 9am and 3pm to reserve skates and a pick-up time. We have a variety of sizes available for children and adults. First-come, first-served. Limited number of skates available. Park and Recreation office phone: 248-651-7810.*

# No Freezing Fleas, Please!



By Sue Neal, Executive Director, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve

Most of the time when we think of winter here at Lost Lake, we think of the time of year blissfully free from some of the peskier insect friends that sometimes join us on our walks. The mosquitoes are nowhere to be seen...the flies aren't flying...the bees are all snuggled down...but have you ever looked at the surface of the snow and seen apparent insects by the hundreds, even thousands, just hanging out on the surface of the snow - seemingly oblivious to our belief that winter is the season to be free from insects?! Who are these crazy critters and how is it that they are still awake and active when it is so darn cold out?

These tiny little black to blue colored guys are commonly referred to as snow fleas. Now before you scream "NO not fleas!!!" let's set that worry to rest right away. Snow fleas are NOT fleas. They do not bite people or other animals. Heck, they technically aren't even insects. Snow fleas belong to a group of creatures broadly known by the much more benign sounding name: springtails. Springtails, interestingly, are arthropods...think crabs, lobsters and shrimp! So no...not even close to being a flea.

Snow fleas are tiny...only about 3mm long. Being so small means walking around the snow is no problem at all for them. They can't fly because they don't have wings and so skittering about the top of the snow is about their only choice to get around. They don't just walk though...they appear to jump, very much like the fleas we all know and (don't) love BUT they do it in a very different way. Other jumping critters tend to use their feet and legs. Snow fleas, like other springtails, on the other hand, have a pretty neat way of jumping that is actually closer to catapulting than jumping. They have a special organ, kind of like a tail, that is called a 'furcula'.



Snow fleas in their element. Photo Credit: Christa R. via flickr. <[insectlab.russell.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/253/2020/02/Snow-Fleas.jpg](https://www.flickr.com/photos/insectlab/253202002/)>



By Donald Hobern from Copenhagen, Denmark - *Orchesella cincta*, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=69456357>; Wikimedia

To add even more confusion to the mix, furcula is the same term that applies to the wishbone of a turkey. The forked shape of the wishbone is actually quite similar to that of the 'tail' of a snow flea. This forked tail-like structure is normally folded underneath of the snow fleas' body and held in place by the hamula. When the snow flea is ready to take a good leap, the furcula is released and quickly snaps out to be rear facing - picture an upside down mousetrap going off and you will have the right idea. This sends the snow flea on a wild catapulting journey through the air. As you can imagine, this is a bit haphazard and so the snow flea will normally only rely on the furcula in case of emergency (predator) and spends most of its time ambling around on its legs like everybody else.

So how do they keep from freezing while they are hanging out on the surface of the snow in the middle of winter? These guys are actually capable of producing their own antifreeze that is technically referred to as a cryoprotectant! Here is how: snow fleas manufacture a special kind of amino acid protein called glycine. Glycine binds to ice crystals and prevents them from growing. This works quite like the antifreeze that you might put in your car in the winter. Pretty cool eh?

(Continued on page 26)



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

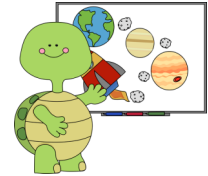
## FREE! Lost Lake Open Houses FREE!

Join us for a **100% FREE** open house to celebrate the breathtaking scenery and excitement present at one of our favorite locations: **Lost Lake Nature Park**. We will be opening the nature center for four hours select Sundays for drop-by excitement. There will be crafts, outdoor activities (snowshoes will be available if the weather cooperates), and on-site naturalists! It's the perfect break to warm up after a morning of sledding!



**January 30th, 12-4pm: Move it!** - How do Michigan animals get around? We'll figure out which animals come equipped with their own snowshoes and get a chance to try snowshoeing (if the weather cooperates.) Follow different footprints around the nature center to create a story, then make an animal track to take home.

**February 27th, 12-4pm: Out of this World** - Outside we'll make an orbit around our simulated sun. Learn about moon phases, see constellations projected, and make your own constellation out of marshmallows & toothpicks.



**March 27th, 12-4pm: Marvelous Maples** - Take a walk looking for maple trees, try using a brace and bit to drill into a downed log, and practice your tree leaf identification skills in a fun card game.

**April 24th, 12-4pm: Fantastic Frogs** - Create origami frogs, search for frogs on the trail, and learn about the lifecycles of frogs.

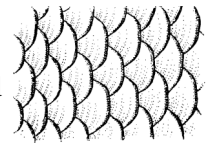


© Sheri Amel

**May 22nd, 12-4pm: Those Wild Flowers** - Go on a hike to identify some of spring's early wildflowers by sight and smell. Make a pressed flower suncatcher. Compare the petals, leaves, and stems of common flowers under a microscope.



**June 12th, 12-4pm: Fish Frenzy** - Join us for Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend. Cast a rod at the dock, make a fish imprint painting and look at fish scales under the microscope.



Overlapping scales.

*Open Houses take place at Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail. west of Rochester Rd south of Predmore Rd.*

*For more information visit: [www.dinosaurhill.org](http://www.dinosaurhill.org)*

**\*\*\*Dinosaur Hill offers programs at other Township parks as well. See pages 6 and 7 to for upcoming programs.\*\*\***

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). For indoor programs the CDC recommends wearing face masks and 6-foot social distancing regardless of vaccination status.

# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Land Preservation

## History of Oakland Township's Parks and Recreation Commission, Parks System, and Funding

*Originally written in July 2013 by Alice Tomboulion and Mindy Milos-Dale. 2021 Addendum by Mindy Milos-Dale.*

### *How it all got started...*

After the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970 a group of Oakland Township residents saw the importance of planning ahead to avoid the land use mistakes of nearby communities and to strengthen the protection and preservation of Oakland Township's woodlands, wetlands, slopes, streams and open space.

In order to understand the location and characteristics of these Township natural features, in 1974 the Township Board contracted with Paul Thompson of the Cranbrook Institute of Science for a complete ecological survey of the Township. The resulting report also included suggestions on the most outstanding areas for protection as a set of natural areas.

### *Parks Commission and Parks Millage*

In 1974 the Township Board felt well-justified in placing two proposals on the ballot: a proposal for .75 mill to be levied and used for the purchase, maintenance, operation and improvement of parks in Oakland Township and a proposal for the establishment of a Parks Commission. Both proposals were approved by the voters and the Parks millage has since been approved for renewal in 1998 and in 2006. There has been general recognition in this community that public expenditures for parklands directly enhances the residents' quality of life and property values and also prevents the inappropriate development of environmentally sensitive areas.

Since 1974 the Parks and Recreation Commission has diligently sought residents' input by regularly conducting Parks and Recreation surveys, questionnaires, workshops, open houses, and focus groups to ensure that our parks system meets the needs of Township residents.

The Parks millage has been the major source of funding for the purchase of Bear Creek Nature Park, Blue Heron Environmental Area, Cranberry Lake Park, and for the funds that matched a state grant to purchase Marsh View Park. The parks millage has also matched state grants for all the active and passive recreation facility improvements at Bear Creek Nature Park and Marsh View Park. In addition to the ongoing operation and maintenance of Township parks, the Parks millage funds the maintenance of the majority of the Paint Creek Trail; 5.3 miles which are located in Oakland Township.



Watershed Ridge Park  
by Cam Mannino.

*(Continued on page 17)*



# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Land Preservation

(Continued from page 16)

## *Land Preservation Millage*

By 2001 the Township Parks and Recreation Commission saw the opportunity for timely purchase of additional key properties, including the Lost Lake parcels, and realized that this would not be possible using only a fraction of the Parks Fund. The Commission recommended that the Township Board add a proposal for .75 mill to be levied through 2011 for the acquisition of land, the protection of natural habitat, and the preservation of green spaces.

The 2001 millage proposal was overwhelmingly approved and critical land purchases were completed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. This millage was "renewed ahead" in 2006 for an additional 10 years, from 2011 through 2021, to enable the Township to sell a bond issue for the purchase of specific park properties.

The Land Preservation millage has been the major source of funding for the purchase of Draper Twin Lake Park and Watershed Ridge Park as well as for the funds that matched state grants to purchase Lost Lake Nature Park and Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park. The Parks and Recreation Commission is a recognized leader in the preservation and stewardship of municipal park natural areas.

## *Conservation Easements in Township Parks*

In 2002 the Commission recommended to the Township Board to add a ballot proposal for the establishment of conservation easements to preserve exceptional areas in Township parks. This proposal; the first of its kind in Michigan, was overwhelmingly approved by voters and conservation easements now permanently protect 337 acres of environmentally significant wetlands, woodlands and fields.

Of the total 1100 acres of Oakland Township park land which enhance the quality of life of all Township residents, 782 acres could have been otherwise developed as subdivisions. Instead, the Parks and Recreation Commission negotiated the purchase of 726 acres using Parks or Land Preservation funds, applied for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants that funded the purchase of 132 acres and worked with generous land owners who donated 242 acres.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has leveraged Parks and Land Preservation millage funds by obtaining a total of \$5.5 million dollars in grant funding for park land acquisition, recreation facility improvements, programming, and natural area stewardship.

Oakland Township Parks System includes the Township's best green spaces and outstanding recreation facilities including trails, picnic areas, sports fields, an archery range, a sled hill, a nature center, and docks for fishing, nature observation and non-motorized boating. Parks programming is focused on environmental education, outdoor recreation and special events which include the Music in the Meadows summer concert series, Goodison Good Tyme and the Winter Carnival.

The Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission provides Oakland Township residents with one of the finest Parks and Recreation systems in Oakland County by listening to Township residents, planning to meet their needs, maximizing available resources and staying within budgetary limits.



Sandhill Cranes at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park.  
By Cam Mannino

2021 Addendum on page 18

# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Land Preservation

## 2021 Land Preservation Addendum

By Mindy Milos-Dale

Since this article was written in 2013, our Land Preservation efforts have continued and in 2015 Oakland County awarded Oakland Township Parks and Recreation (OTPR) the “Oak Land Award” for 40 years of protecting Oakland Township Park natural areas.

In 2018 Township voters approved the renewal of the Land Preservation millage and within one year OTPR added 208 acres to Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park by leveraging Land Preservation millage funds against a \$2.2 million Michigan Natural Resources Fund grant. Similarly, in 2022 Oakland Township will be adding 235 acres of environmentally important land to Lost Lake Nature Park using this millage and a \$ 3.1 million Michigan Natural Resources Fund grant. Both of these properties protect the waters of the Stony Creek and adjacent exemplary wetlands, woodlands and grasslands that are significant components of Oakland Township’s and Michigan’s biodiversity!

In addition to continuing Land Preservation efforts, stewardship of those lands has assumed a larger role in our Parks system. OTPR has used \$200,000 in grants to restore more than 450 acres of park prairies and wetlands, has been training volunteers to assist with prescribed burns, coordinates Township-wide assistance with Phragmites management, and offers stewardship volunteer and educational programs.

In 2022 we look forward to opening the expanded Lost Lake Nature Park, continuing to protect our Township’s natural heritage, and to enhancing our residents’ connection with nature.

Note: This addendum focused on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Land Preservation successes. Our next Parks and Recreation Newsletter will pick up with OTPR enhancements to recreation facilities, recreation programs, and community-wide events.



Dennis Fogler of Oakland Township unloads sweet corn at a family-owned roadside store — Fogler Market near Goodison. He hopes the township can retain its rural quality and a vote Tuesday may decide whether it will.

## Land showdown shaping up

Millage vote aims to keep wide-open spaces undeveloped

By JOEL THURTELL  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Business was brisk last week at the Fogler Market near Goodison as workers hefted baskets of fresh-picked peaches, melons and tomatoes onto tables in the roadside store.

It's the last family-owned farm in Oakland Township, and Dennis Fogler, 52, vows it will stay that way.

Across the road, big new subdivision homes overlooked the bustle at the Fogler stand.

**In 1990, Oakland Township's population was 8,227. By 2000 it was 13,071.**

As more open land is being turned into subdivisions, people like Fogler say they wonder what they can do to retain some sense of their township's rural quality.

The answer may be in a millage election on Tuesday, when the township's voters will be asked to approve a 0.75-mill levy that would raise \$5 million over 10 years so the township could buy undeveloped land.

The goal is to keep it undeveloped.

It sounds like a great idea to Fogler, who missed a chance to buy that land opposite his farm stand when it was offered to him 20 years ago at what now seems



## VOTE | Millage aims to preserve land

From Page 1B

like a cheap rate.

But individuals can seldom do it alone, says Mindy Milos-Dale, manager of the township's Parks and Recreation Department.

"Private citizens can't necessarily afford to buy everything themselves, but if we pool our resources, we can accomplish much, much more," Milos-Dale said.

Not all residents are enthusiastic. Dominic Mocerri has lived in Oakland Township seven years and has 13 residential development projects under way.

Mocerri would not comment on the millage vote.

But he said, "In a current project of ours, of 200 acres over 100 acres has been set aside by the private sector to remain in its natural state and remain forever open land — and it didn't cost the township and residents a dollar."

The movement to preserve open land is going on across the country, said Martha Nudel, communications director of the Washington, D.C.-based Land Trust Alliance, which monitors land referendums.

"In the year 2000, there were 209 referendums in 30 states specifically dedicating some tax

source to open-space protection, and 83 percent won," Nudel said. "That meant \$7.5 billion committed to open-space protection as a result of the year 2000 referendums."

Throughout Oakland Township, said Milos-Dale, farmland has been bought by developers who have built housing projects, stores and a shopping center in the southwestern portion of the township where the highway connection to I-75 by way of Silver Bell and Lapeer roads appears increasingly attractive to home buyers.

"We aren't trying to stop development — we can't," said Milos-Dale.

But the \$5 million the levy would raise could be used to leverage grants bringing the total to \$15 million, she said. The tax would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home an additional \$75 a year.

The 2000 census confirms that people are moving Oakland Township's way. In 1990, Oakland Township's population was 8,227. By 2000 it was 13,071 — a 63-percent jump. With the southwest quarter of the township developed or under development, civilization will inevitably reach north into areas of rolling hills.

As early as the 1970s, a campaign known as "The Bulldozers are Coming!" stressed the need to acquire parkland. The Parks Commission now owns more than 600 acres of mainly undeveloped land — half of a 20-acre lake, bogs, meadows and forests good for hiking and communing with nature.

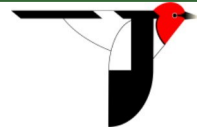
Preservation has been the principal goal, rather than exploitation as parks for sports, said parks commissioner Alice Tombouliau.

Not counting parkland, some 6,375 acres of open land is undeveloped in the township, though much of it has been bought by real estate promoters, said Milos-Dale.

Milos-Dale and Tombouliau declined to say which pieces of land the parks commission would try to buy. However, a flyer promoting the millage says potential targets include land along Paint and Stony creeks, land with lakes, wetlands or bogs, potential hiking or wildlife observation spots, forests and remains of ancient prairies.

Contact JOEL THURTELL at 248-586-2609 or thurtell@freepress.com.

Newspaper clipping from Detroit Free Press, September 5, 2001 about Oakland Township Land Preservation millage



## Winter 2022 Natural Areas Stewardship Talks

Join us for one of our stewardship talks! Updated information and any last minute changes can be found on our Natural Areas Notebook website at [oaklandnaturalareas.com](http://oaklandnaturalareas.com).

Register at <https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com> to receive a link to the talks.

### Hummingbirds of the Great Lakes

*Allen Chartier, Project Director,*

[Great Lakes HummerNet](#)

*Thursday, January 13, 6:30 pm VIRTUAL*

In Autumn 2001, the Great Lakes HummerNet was formed by Allen Chartier, primarily to learn more about hummingbirds in the Great Lakes region, focusing on Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Michigan by enlisting the help of volunteer observers throughout the region. Data is gathered through observation as well as banding studies. Other species of hummingbird that occur as 'vagrants' are also studied. This presentation will describe the research objectives of the project, tell you how you can participate, provide helpful hints on how to attract and feed hummingbirds, provide hummingbird gardening tips, and review what has been learned so far. It will also review the status of other species of hummingbird confirmed to occur in the region.

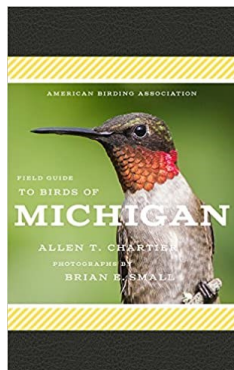
*Among his many interests and accomplishments, Allen Chartier is the Project Director for the Great Lakes Hummer Net, has been a contributing author for various projects with National Geographic, and in 2018 published the American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of Michigan. He began birdwatching at 11, and since then has been on birding trips to all 50 states and 28 countries.*



Allen Chartier



Hummingbird  
by Allen Chartier



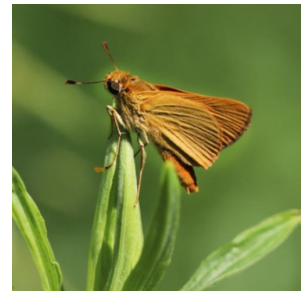
### Pollinator Conservation in Our Backyards and Local Parks

*Dr. Mary Jamieson, Assistant Professor,  
Oakland University*

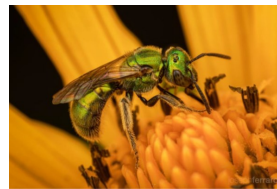
*Thursday, February 3, 6:30 pm VIRTUAL*

Dr. Mary Jamieson will review some causes and consequences of pollinator decline and what's being done to help support pollinators in our local area. She'll highlight research, education, and community engagement efforts aimed at characterizing and protecting plant and pollinator diversity across

Southeast Michigan. This talk will introduce research efforts to monitor pollinators in Oakland Township and Oakland County Parks and conclude by providing suggestions for how we all can contribute to pollinator conservation.



Delaware skipper  
by Dr. Mary Jamieson



Golden Green Sweat Bee  
by Joseph Ferraro

*Dr. Jamieson is a Biology Professor at Oakland University, where she studies plant and insect ecology. Her research group focuses on understanding ecological interactions between plants and their insect pollinators and herbivores in natural, managed and agricultural ecosystems. Work by Dr. Jamieson and students in her research group have examined how environmental change influences plants and insects – from species interactions to patterns of biodiversity. Through research, education, and community engagement, this work aims to promote and protect beneficial insects and the plants they depend on.*



Dr. Mary Jamieson

Register at <https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com> to receive a link to the talks.



## Winter/Spring 2022 Natural Areas Stewardship Events

Please join us for one of our nature events! Updated information and any last minute changes to these events can be found on our Natural Areas Notebook website at [oaklandnaturalareas.com](http://oaklandnaturalareas.com).

Please pre-register for all Stewardship events at: <https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.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 our friendly birders every Wednesday from January to May. We want to document the bird species using natural areas in our parks so that we can work to improve their habitat. All walks will start at 8:30 am.

- 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 – Charles Ilsley Park
- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of month – Draper Twin Lake Park
- 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of March – Lost Lake Nature Park



Bluebirds at Bear Creek Nature Park, Cam Mannino

### 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.

Tuesday, May 3, 9 am to 12 pm. Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 West Snell Rd.

Tuesday, May 10, 9 am to 12 pm. Watershed Ridge Park, 1880 West Buell Rd.

Tuesday, May 17, 9 am to 12 pm. Paint Creek Trail.

Meet at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Rd.



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



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



Stewardship Crew ready to work!



### 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



## Volunteer Fire Crew Training

*Saturday, February 26, 9 am to 2:30 pm at the Paint Creek Cider Mill*

If you are interested in volunteering with our prescribed fire crew, join us for this training workshop. We will cover reasons for using prescribed fire, preparations for conducting a fire, necessary tools, roles of each burn crew member, and ignition patterns. New crew members are required to attend; past volunteers are encouraged to attend as a refresher. Snacks provided, but please bring your own lunch. **Registration required** to attend: [oaklandtownship.recdesk.com](http://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com). Contact Ben VanderWeide at [bvanderweide@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:bvanderweide@oaklandtownship.org) or 248-651-7810 ext. 401 with any questions.



Prescribed fire volunteers.

## Spring 2022 Controlled Burns in Oakland Township Parks

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation will conduct prescribed burns in spring 2021 between late February and mid-May at **Bear Creek Nature Park, Charles Illesley Park, Draper Twin Lake Park, Lost Lake Nature Park, and natural areas along the Paint Creek Trail.**

Historically, fire occurred regularly in natural communities of southeast Michigan. Our prairies, oak savannas, oak woodlands, and even some wetlands are not only adapted to fire, but require fire for their continued existence. We use prescribed burns to help restore ecological function to these natural communities.

Prescribed burns are conducted by a trained fire crew and done with permission from the local fire department. Although burns create smoke, we work to minimize the amount of smoke produced and limit public exposure to the smoke. We consult the weather forecast in the morning before making the decision to burn, so we cannot schedule prescribed burns for a specific day.

You can find more information about controlled burns at [oaklandnaturalareas.com/prescribed-fire](http://oaklandnaturalareas.com/prescribed-fire).



Prescribed burns in the parks.

## Natural Areas Stewardship

### Volunteers: Fall 2021

James Fostey, Tom Korb, Cam Mannino, Dawn Sun, Anthony Gorney, Isaac Anselmo, John McDonald, Domenico Vecchio, Andrew Johnson, Matthew Haleanson



## 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 bluebird nest box monitoring, 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 training and tools you'll need. To learn more contact Natural Areas Stewardship Manager Ben VanderWeide ([bvanderweide@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:bvanderweide@oaklandtownship.org)).

# Of Bird Brains and Roller Coasters



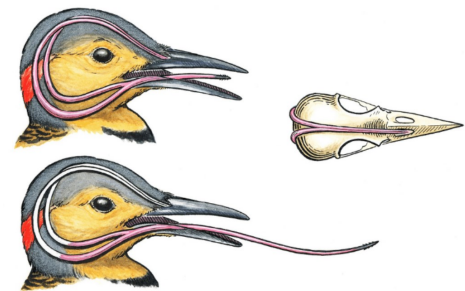
(Continued from page 12)

By Sue Neal, Executive Director, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve

Is that all? Note quite: while their beaks are really hard they are somewhat bendy. This beak elasticity helps to absorb some of the force of smacking their heads against a tree. They are also quite careful of how they strike the tree – aiming to hit as dead center as possible. Hitting the tree straight on prevents sheering forces that can cause serious nerve damage and scientists are learning from this to try to better design helmets.

Woodpeckers are just another reminder of the amazing engineering at work in the nature world. While they have some pretty impressive adaptations, scientists still debate whether they do incur some amount of brain damage over a lifetime of sustaining regular, dramatic impacts. The protein, Tau, has been found in bird brains. This is a protein found in human brains that have sustained injury from impacts. No matter what, it is pretty amazing to think that they have these adaptations that are so similar to many of the things that humans have created in order to protect their own fragile brains. So do like the woodpecker and always wear your helmet or seatbelt when you are travelling fast!

Their cool impact injury resistance is just one part of the wonderful world of woodpeckers. Want to learn even more? If so, consider joining Dinosaur Hill Naturalists at the upcoming Winter Woodpeckers program. *See page 7.*



Internal placement of a Northern Flicker's tongue by Denise Takahashi; (<<https://abcbirds.org/blog21/>>woodpecker-tongues/>

Check out a cool video of a woodpecker drumming in slow motion: <https://youtu.be/1kk7ngj6ccc>

**Thank you to Rochester Christian Church for the generous use of their parking lot for Winter Carnival 2022!**

## Walking on...

Ruth Glass, a dear friend, mentor, and volunteer for Oakland Township Parks natural areas stewardship, passed away on November 12, 2021. Ruth loved nature, with a special passion and deep knowledge of birds. She generously shared nature and birds with the many friends she made.

Here in Oakland Township, Ruth documented birds using our habitat restoration areas, identified mystery birds for us, and joined our Wednesday bird walks whenever she could. Our lives are richer for having known her, and we are greatly saddened by her departure.



June 2021 bird walk at Charles Illesley Park. Ruth is front left in the gray sweater.



Mrs. & Mr. D'Bartolomeo accepting Certificate of Appreciation from Parks and Recreation Chairman Blust and Township Supervisor Abbate for donation of picnic pavilion at Marsh View Park.

# Thank You!

# HAVE YOU VISITED YOUR HISTORIC PARK LATELY? CRANBERRY LAKE FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

Program line up: **Cards and Crumpets—Vintage Valentine’s Card** making workshop Feb 11, 2:00 PM \$10 per person includes supplies and crumpets. RSVP your spot by Feb 7.



Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

**Stories at the Farm**—we are launching a series of read aloud programs at the farm throughout spring and summer. Child fee \$3-\$5 depending on the activities, and adults are free. We will be offering a variety of classic books.

**Apple Tree workshop** March 26/April 2nd. Learn hands on pruning treatments and how to raise your own dwarf orchard.

**TEND: Strength** gaining fitness program in the Flumerfelt Barn April 19—May 24.

**Scout Badge programs** April 23 and 30th, 11am and 1pm.

**Scavenger Hunts** Home schoolers’ activity packet

**Beekeeping** May through August, 2nd Sat of the month, noon to 1:30 pm workshops.

**Plein Aire painting workshops** throughout June—Sept from 10am to 2pm on various dates, 3rd Tues or Thursdays.

Also watch for **Music in the Garden, Croquet game day, Square dances** and other fun activities to find at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District.

Watch for our photo challenge *Art of Nature at CLF for an online July Exhibit via our Facebook page, sharing your talents to promote the wonderful historic park.*



Fruit Tree workshop

## TEND: Strengthen, Sculpt, Connect—6 weeks

Tues 9:30 to 10:30 Flumerfelt Barn 4/19 to 5/24 fee \$75

Tone, strengthen, and energize your body with this non-impact, isometric-based fitness program to improve balance, flexibility, and posture. Safely build lean muscle and increase bone density, using only your own body weight and proper position. Expect noticeable results through personalized instruction in this challenging, hands-on class. Patti McGowan, certified personal trainer with over 10 years teaching experience. Please call 248-608-6807 or email

[bbarber@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:bbarber@oaklandtownship.org)



Cranberry Lake Farm is open for your enjoyment, relaxation, and exercise. Walk the grounds and see the history on display, with old implements, stone barbeques, picnic areas, and scenic surroundings. Located at 388 West Predmore Road in northern Oakland Township. The sixteen acre historic district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and represents a rural farmsteads evolution into a recreational retreat. Open dawn to dusk for hiking the grounds. For more information, please contact the Historic District Commission <http://bit.ly/OTHDC> or [bbarber@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:bbarber@oaklandtownship.org) or office land line 248-608-6807. **Follow us on Facebook @CLFdistrict.**

# HAVE YOU VISITED YOUR HISTORIC PARK LATELY? CRANBERRY LAKE FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT



**Message from the Chairman:** It's Been a Tough Year, For Everyone...The HDC Plans to Promote a New Year of great programs with Square Dances, and regular Programs: Bee Keeping, Apple Orchard Tree Pruning, Down on the Farm - Was a Great Success. Please get out and see the new Story Garden added in 2021. I Would like to Thank Everyone who attended this year's events - We could not do this without you. History is very important and should be remembered and celebrated. So talk to your parents and grandparents or even great grandparents and ask them questions about family and life when they were younger - because that's what life is all about. Write it down and put names on photos. Stay safe and enjoy life and history - because WE are part of it every day. Have a Wonderful Winter. - HDC Chairman Phillips (pictured at right in the overalls).



Thank you for all the volunteers that helped make Down on the Farm a success this year, including our friends Oakland Township Historical Society, neighbors Piechniks, who decorated our landscape beautifully in fall colors, and local Boy Scout Troops 60 and 106 for sending work crews to help all day. The HDC Commissioners worked tirelessly to make sure the day ran smoothly. Save the date for October 1st, 2022 to come and join the fun!



Photos by John Sanderson



# HAVE YOU VISITED YOUR HISTORIC PARK LATELY? CRANBERRY LAKE FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT



Welcome to the Township Lisa Grandstaff, as the HDC office assistant. Prior to coming to HDC, Lisa was a preschool and Kindergarten teacher. She received her Master's Degree in Reading from Northern Michigan University and Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a major in History and an Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education from Rochester College. Prior to becoming a teacher, she was also a nanny for 12 years. Lisa lives in Washington Township. In her spare time, she loves to work on crafts, baking, and gardening.



## MILK HOUSE RESTORATION SUCCESS BY JOE FERRARA EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



Eagle Scout candidate from Boy Scout Troop 60, Joe Ferrara, working on the building's exterior restoration needs, so stay tuned for future milk house stories! CLF has benefited from several Scouting Eagle and Silver Award projects over the years, from herb gardens, implement restoration, apple orchard caging, and next spring, we will be welcoming a new picnic area just west of the Hen House. *Thank you!!*

Speaking of milk houses, we received a donation of our popular building, an oil painting donated by Gerry Schuchard. This image captures the original W. Buell Road location, known as Long Lane Stock Farm, and close connection to CLF history.



From one person's junk to another one's treasures! CLF neighbors Mark and Janet Davison walked by this old, sorry bench, and decided to give it a new life. Mark sanded the metal, painted several coats, and restored the wood for all to enjoy a great place to sit in the **Story Garden!**



# No Freezing Fleas, Please!



By Sue Neal, Executive Director, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve

(Continued from page 14)



Daniel Tompkins, en:User:Plantman2, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Our last questions is probably...great, so they can withstand freezing and they can catapult with their tails and they are totally not fleas but WHY are they running around on top of the snow? The answer is simple...they are hungry! Snow fleas are hanging out in the woods at Lost Lake, especially around tree trunks and stumps all year round we just can't see them against the dark color of the forest floor. They are decomposers. Decomposers eat up all that 'dead stuff' that accumulates on the forest floor like decaying vegetation and other yummy organic matter.

While our tiny little flea but not flea friends have no trouble running and leaping around on the surface of the snow, other animals aren't so lucky.

They need to develop other special adaptations to move around Lost Lake Nature Park during the snowy season. Join Dinosaur Hill Naturalists at our upcoming January 30 winter Open House to learn a whole bunch more about how other, bigger, animals navigate the snowy landscape. <https://bugguide.net/node/view/258362>

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Oakland Township Land Preservation

(Continued from page 1)

The Parks and Recreation Commissioners serving at that time included Alice Tomboulion, David Mackley, Joe Peruzzi, Colleen Barkham, Patty Godin, Art Phillips and Diane Bennett.

At Township events in 2001 the Commissioners and interested residents circulated a petition asking residents if they would like to consider a Land Preservation-type millage on an upcoming ballot. The Commission received an extremely positive response and we presented those results to the Board of Trustees along with information about the availability of remaining Township green spaces, the estimated acreage that the Township could purchase with such a millage and the matching grants that could potentially quadruple the amount of land protected. The Board thought this was an excellent and timely proposal and approved of placing it on the September 11, 2001 ballot. After the proposal was approved by Township voters on that fateful day, the Commission focused on developing the objective process and criteria which they have used ever since for the evaluation and prioritization of Land Preservation candidate properties.

To honor the support of Township residents and the success of these Land Preservation efforts, we are reprinting articles about the history of the Parks and Recreation Commission and their efforts to protect our Township's unique natural areas.

*Please see page 16 for the first in this series.*



Draper Twin Lake Park trail to lake.  
By Cam Mannino



# ROCHESTER HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Outreach Services at Rochester Hills Public Library

Rochester Hills Public Library's Outreach Department encompasses different facets of library service. Located on the first floor, Outreach is where patrons can find all of the library's large print materials. Additionally, the room includes several magnifying aids and other tools to assist those with low vision and other vision impairments.

RHPL's Outreach also manages the community bookmobile, which visits 24 locations each week. The library's bright blue early literacy bus visits over 20 childcare centers and pre-schools every other week. Moreover, the library's book bike (AKA book peddler) can be seen around town at various events. There are so many wonderful ways to check out library materials!



RHPL also collaborates with five local senior living facilities, plus the OPC, to bring the library to seniors. Each facility serves as a mini-branch of the library and offers books and DVDs for check out. Additionally, RHPL is the county site for the National Library Service and the location for the Oakland Talking Books Service, a federal program for the blind and print disabled.



One of the unique collections available through RHPL's Outreach Department are the Make Your Life Easier (MYLE) kits. Each kit focuses on specific topics such as Parkinson's disease or arthritis. The kits include books, DVDs, and various activities to help exercise the mind and body. RHPL's popular braille kits include games such as braille UNO cards, Bananagrams, dominoes, and more! One of the newest kits focuses on dyslexia and includes books with the dyslexia font as well as tools designed to help the reader better track and follow the words and lines on the page. Just as with the magnifying collection, the MYLE Kits are available to check out for three weeks and may be renewed.

Books by Mail is a service provided to homebound patrons who are physically unable to come to the library due to a permanent or temporary disability, illness, or because of local health protection recommendations. Through this service, materials are mailed directly to one's home at no charge.

RHPL's Outreach Department strives to reach everyone in the community, whether it be through the community bookmobiles, mini-branches, or by offering activities and unique collections. For more information about Outreach services at the library, call 248-650-7152 or visit [rhpl.org/departments/outreach-services](http://rhpl.org/departments/outreach-services).

**Need a library card? You can apply for one online at [rhpl.org/services/get-library-card](http://rhpl.org/services/get-library-card). Those who live, work, or own property in Oakland Township are eligible to apply for an RHPL card.** A library card provides access to all the resources Outreach offers, along with a wide selection of eBooks, audiobooks, and streaming movies and music. Additionally, library patrons can schedule meeting room spaces for nonprofit, educational, or civic group meetings; reserve study rooms; attend free lectures and concerts; use the Eureka Lab/ Makerspace to create DIY crafts; checkout innovative items like musical instruments, sewing machines, and craft tools; and access premium online resources and databases.

Visit [rhpl.org](http://rhpl.org) for more information and follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.



## Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Winter/Spring 2022 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). For indoor programs the CDC recommends wearing face masks and 6 foot social distancing regardless of vaccination status.

**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 registration 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)

Send the completed forms by USPS mail to:  
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation  
4393 Collins Rd.  
Rochester, MI 48306

*Mail at least two weeks  
before program date!*

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:**

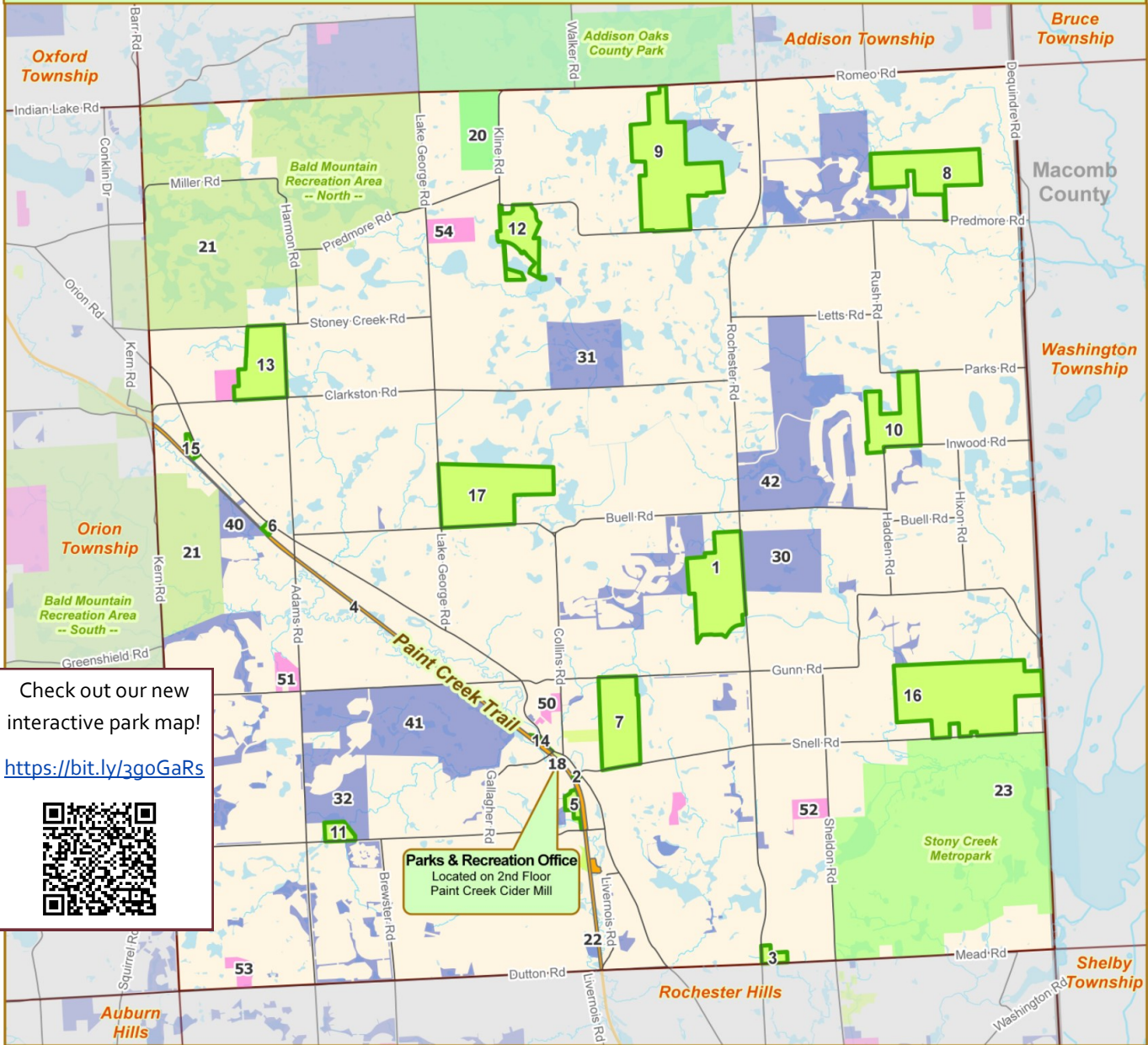
Visit us at our office location and register in person. You can pay by credit card (MasterCard, American Express, or Discover accepted with \$2.95 fee) or by cash or check. We are located at the Paint Creek Cider Mill Bldg. (2nd Floor) 4480 Orion Rd., Rochester, MI 48306

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](mailto:knewton@oaklandtownship.org). 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 new interactive park map!  
<https://bit.ly/3goGaRs>

**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. Gallagher Creek Park
12. Lost Lake Nature Park
13. Marsh View Park
14. Mill Race Trail
15. Paint Creek Junction
16. Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
17. Watershed Ridge Park
18. 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

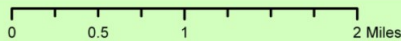
40. Royal Oak Archers
41. The Wyndgate Golf Course
42. Twin Lakes Golf & Swim Club

### 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: 10/18/2019

# Paint Creek Trail News

By Melissa Ford, Trail Manager [manager@paintcreektrail.org](mailto:manager@paintcreektrail.org)



## Recent Trail Improvements

Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, there have been several improvements to the trail over the last few months. Recently, the split rail fence at Foley Pond in Orion Township was replaced with a brand-new fence. New timber approach rails were also added at the bridge just north of Tienken Road in Rochester Hills, replacing railings that had fallen into disrepair and had become unsafe.



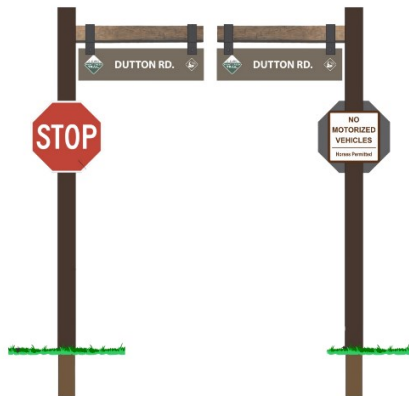
Foley Pond Split Rail Fence

Several new trail amenities are also planned in the coming months, including new bike fix-its stations at the JoAnn Van Tassel Bridge in Orion Township and at the Paint Creek Junction trailhead in Oakland Township. A new audio sign will be added to the Nicholson Prairie north of Silver Bell Road in Oakland Township in the spring of 2022 as well. Trail staff all received CPR and AED training earlier this year and the trail's bike patroller will start carrying a portable AED with him during the 2022 patrol season. Finally, four new varmint defiant trash containers will be added to the Orion Township section of the trail – hopefully preventing raccoons and other animals from getting into the receptacles and creating a mess on the trail!

## New Trail Signage Coming Soon!



Wayfinding Signs



Road Crossing Signs

Later this year, three additional gateway signs along with new wayfinding and road crossing signage will be added to the trail replacing signage that in some cases is over thirty years old. The signs will include the trail's newly redesigned logo as well as the Iron Belle Trail logo. The Paint Creek Trail is part of the Iron Belle's biking route, which travels up the east side of the state. The new wayfinding signage will include distances to trail amenities such as

restrooms and drinking fountains, trailhead locations, and local points of interest. The new signage is being fabricated by the Rochester Sign Shop in downtown Rochester and will be installed by the end of 2021. Funding for this signage is being provided by grants from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and an Iron Belle Challenge grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

*(Continued on page 31)*

# Paint Creek Trail News

By Melissa Ford, Trail Manager [manager@paintcreektrail.org](mailto:manager@paintcreektrail.org)



(Continued from page 30)

## A Friendly Reminder during the Spring Thaw

Riding on a soft trail surface wrecks the trail. It leaves ruts, contributes to erosion, and creates an unrideable hard-to-fix trail surface. If you are leaving a visible rut, the trail is too soft to ride.

Warm weather during the spring is especially critical for the trail as the freeze-thaw cycle results in a soft surface. If the trail is soft and muddy, please ride on pavement until the trail dries out or refreezes. Thank you!



[facebook.com/PaintCreekTrail](https://facebook.com/PaintCreekTrail)



[twitter.com/PaintCreekTrail](https://twitter.com/PaintCreekTrail)



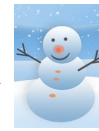
[PaintCreekTrail.org](https://PaintCreekTrail.org)



## Schedule of Programs 2022

### January 2022

No Meeting This Month  
Happy New Year!



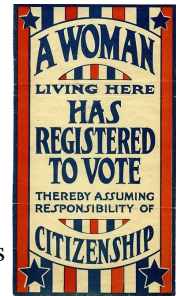
### February 2022

No Meeting This Month  
Stay Warm!

**Wednesday, March 2, 2022** 7:00 pm PCUMC  
Parking available next to the church in the Dentist's office.

“100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage” by Stephanie Suszek.

In recognition of Women's History month, we are bringing in Stephanie Suszek to speak about Women's Suffrage. Michigan women fought for the right to vote years before 19th Amendment passed. They rallied, marched, lectured, fundraised, demonstrated, and were sometimes even incarcerated. Learn the stories of Michigan suffragists Sojourner Truth, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Octavia Williams Bates, Margaret Whittemore, and Florence Belle Brotherton, and see how clubs and suffrage organizations in Detroit and around the state worked to change 19th- and 20th-century understandings about a woman's place in society.



*Stephanie Suszek is the Adult Programs Director at the Troy Historic Village where she has worked for over ten years. She is also a graduate student at Oakland University, working toward a master's degree in history.*

**Wednesday, April 6, 2022** 7:00 pm Local Brewery visit (Location TBD)

“The Coming Wave of Electric Vehicles” by Marc Trahan (tentative)

Join us for a beer and a program on the coming wave of electric vehicles presented by Marc Trahan, long time Audi automotive executive (retired). Marc will talk about the real facts behind electric vehicles, the implications on society and on the automotive industry in general.



Come early if you want to have dinner first. Program will start about 7:00.

**May 2022 (Field Trip) Time TBD**

Joint Field Trip with Rochester-Avon Historical Society – Meadow Brook Hall Behind the Scenes Tour and Luncheon. Details to follow.

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



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

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

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Richard Krupp

### Commission Meetings

The Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 pm on the second Wednesday of every month. Please see [www.oaklandtownship.org](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  
Judy Workings, Secretary  
Jim Quesenberry, Commissioner  
Cathy Rooney, Commissioner  
Brian Blust, 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	Julie Schoenherr
Maintenance Foreman	Doug Caruso
Maintenance Technician	Jeff Johnson
Natural Areas Stewardship Manager	Dr. Ben VanderWeide
Stewardship Specialist	Grant VanderLaan
Maintenance and Recreation Staff	Cameron Gutierrez,
John McDowell, Clif Selent, Robert Zbytowski	



Online  
Registration



Facebook  
Page



Interactive  
Park Map



Instagram



Natural Areas  
Notebook

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

### **FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911**

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

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