

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission Newsletter

Summer 2016

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.



Marsh View Park Soccer Game



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Township Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal Vote Set for August 2

By Mindy Milos-Dale, Parks and Recreation Director

A proposal to renew Oakland Township's Parks and Recreation Millage will be on the August 2, 2016 ballot. Much of the Township's parks and recreation land, facilities and programs are supported by the funding of this millage. This 10-year millage renewal is neither a new tax nor a tax increase.

The renewal of the .7307 of one mill will enable the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission to acquire, operate, maintain and improve Township parks, recreation areas, programs and facilities, including Oakland Township's section of the Paint Creek Trail.

In 2014 Oakland Township Parks and Recreation surveyed 5940 Township households to understand residents' preferences for Township parks and recreation facilities and services. These preferences, gathered through surveys and additional methods, help guide which types of recreation experiences are funded by the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Millage.

Please review the center section of this newsletter for detailed millage information including:

2007 – 2016 Parks and Recreation Millage Accomplishments

Current Parks and Recreation Obligations

Proposed Additional Benefits

Ballot Question Wording

Estimate of the Funding that This Proposal Would Provide.

(Continued in center pullout section)

Phragmites Outreach Program for Oakland Township Residents

Phragmites does not recognize property lines, so we want to partner with you! This large, invasive grass can spread quickly, choking out native plants, degrading habitat for wildlife, and creating safety and maintenance problems for property owners. We realize that our efforts can only be successful if we collaborate with township residents!

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation (OTPR) is offering residents a cost effective and simple program that is modeled after existing, successful programs in nearby communities.

(Continued on page 14)

Special points of interest:

- ◆ **Music in the Meadows**
- ◆ **Millage Renewal Pullout**
- ◆ **National Trails Day**
- ◆ **Square Dances**

What's New In The Parks

Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal Proposed as Match for Grants

Historically, the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission (OTPRC) has obtained grants to increase funds available for park improvements and park land acquisition.

Currently, the OTPRC is proposing to replace a deteriorated bridge on Oakland Township's section of the Paint Creek Trail by matching approximately \$150,000 of the Township Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal funds, if approved and levied, with \$600,000 in proposed grant funding. Information about this project can be found at www.oaklandtownship.org.



Precast Concrete Arch with Decorative Finish and Weathered Steel Railing

Proposed Replacement for Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7

To be eligible to receive such grants our community must demonstrate that we can:

- Provide adequate resources to operate, maintain and improve our parks, facilities and programs, and

- Commit the necessary amount of matching funds that, when combined with grant funding, will cover proposed project costs.

The Replacement of Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 is one of several projects that could derive matching funding from the renewal of the Parks and Recreation Millage. See other proposed projects on page 2 of the Millage Information Renewal Pullout at the center of this newsletter.

Grant Funds Phragmites Control along Major Oakland Township Roads

Oakland Township will be treating invasive Phragmites along major roads right-of-ways in August and September 2016. Phragmites (pronounced *frag-MY-tees*) is a grass that grows primarily in wetlands and can reach heights of 15 feet or more, leading to safety and environmental problems. Phragmites can cause hot, damaging fires if ignited; blocks views at intersections; and impairs drainage in ditches and streams, damaging road

(Continued on page 14)

Programs... New to the lineup of programs this

year is an expanded selection of summer camps! In addition to our Summer Soccer and Explore Archery Camps, this year you can also Explore Bow Hunting, Outdoor Skills Camp or Nature and Science Camp with 'The Wild Kids of Lost Lake'. See pages 8 & 9. Check out pages 4-10 for more ways we have for you to 'unplug' in **Your Oakland Township Parks** this summer!



Michigan Recreation and Park Association 2016 Community Service Awards Recipients

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commissioners:

David Mackley:	1983 - 2016
Colleen Barkham:	1988 - 2016
Alice Tombouljian:	1992 - 2016
Joe Peruzzi:	1999 - 2016



Parks and Recreation Commissioners Colleen Barkham, Alice Tombouljian, Dave Mackley and Joe Peruzzi with Parks and Recreation Director Mindy Milos-Dale at the MParks Awards Ceremony on April 20, 2016. Full article on page 20.



Music In The Meadows

OUR 11TH SEASON!

Come early. Bring blankets & a picnic and enjoy music 'al fresco'. Oakland Township Parks and Recreation's Music In The Meadows summer of 2016 concert series presents three professional quality outdoor family events offering traditional bluegrass, classical and jazz music. These FREE monthly concerts are held Friday evenings in our beautiful Oakland Township parks. In case of bad weather, concerts will be held at Heart of the Hills Christian Church, 5085 Orion Road, north of Dutton Road. Call 248-651-4440, ext 299 on the day of event to verify location.

Electric Mozart! GREAT WATERS QUARTET - Classical

Friday, June 17th, 7-9pm
Historic District Tours 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Art Show 5:30pm - Carriage Barn Gallery
Cranberry Lake Farm - Historic District - Main House Porch
388 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363



Hear a Classical String Quartet as you have never heard it before.

Proclaimed an "outstanding ensemble" by David M. Rice of Classical Source (2014) the Great Waters Quartet features Detroit Symphony Orchestra colleagues - Rachel Klaus and Adrienne Rönmark, violins, Hang Su, viola, and Peter McCaffrey, cello. Together they will perform **Electric Mozart!** On the program are works such as the famous **Eine Kleine Nacht Musik**. This intimate classical concert takes place at the steps of the picturesque historic Axford-Coffin farmstead at the Cranberry Lake Farm, listed in the National Register of Historic places.

NS Design electrical instruments have been provided by Detroit Violin Co.

Great Waters Quartet would like to thank Hang Su for his guest appearances during this season.

DIXIE POWER TRIO - Louisiana Dixieland, Jazz and Blues

Friday, July 22nd, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Bear Creek Nature Park
740 W. Snell Road
Rochester, MI 48306



DPT will play a gumbo of different styles of Louisiana-flavored music.

This four-piece trio (Blame Cajun math!) has carved out a niche as a fun and exciting ensemble capable of entertaining audiences of all ages with great music and a party vibe! Zachary Smith and the Dixie Power Trio are reputed to be the "East Coast's premier Louisiana variety band". From Louis Armstrong to the Rolling Stones, their songs are a mix of Louisiana-flavored originals and covers; all with a unique happy-go-lucky attitude!

JUNIOR SISK & RAMBLERS CHOICE - Traditional Bluegrass

Friday, August 19th, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Bear Creek Nature Park
740 W. Snell Road
Rochester, MI 48306



Hard-driving, lonesome, traditional bluegrass...

There aren't many vocalists who can wring every bit of lonesome out of a note like Junior Sisk. Hailing from the Virginia Blue Ridge, Sisk has made his mark as a songwriter and has helped define the sound of driving, modern traditional bluegrass. His heartfelt vocals earned him the 2013 IBMA Male Vocalist of the Year Award and along with his band, Ramblers Choice, has earned a number of awards over the past several years, including 2014 SPBGMA Bluegrass Band of the Year.



Thank you to ITC Transmission, 27175 Energy Way, Novi, MI 48377 - Music In The Meadows Bronze Sponsor

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Summer Programs 2016

Call 248-651-7810 to register or see page 11 for registration page to mail in.

Stories, Songs, and Dances of the French Voyager - Family Ages 6+

Story Teller: *Genot Picor*

Saturday, July 9, 2016 7 - 8pm

Cranberry Lake Farm - Historic District, 388 West Predmore



Take a journey into Michigan's past with storyteller-musician Genot "Winter Elk" Picor. * His storytelling style combines Native American reverence for the earth with French animation and embellishment. Genot's engaging show, "Stories, Songs and Dances of the French Voyager," brings forth all the skills this master storyteller can employ; Native American hand-talking, interactive stories with hand puppets for children, sing-a-longs, humorous tall tales and simple audience dance numbers. Picor will be your scout into yesteryear. Join us for a lively, entertaining and educational experience. Fiddler Michael Francis will accompany.

**Genot Picor has performed in every corner of Michigan, from Rockwood to Ironwood, from Sault Ste. Marie to Niles and beyond. Genot was given the Native American name of "Winter Elk" on Sept. 28, 2003 by Mr. Leon Locklear, Tuscarora/Cherokee Elder and former President of Southeast Michigan Indians, Inc. He is a Touring Member of the Michigan Arts and Humanities Council and a published folklorist.*

Resident: \$3 Non-resident: \$5 Register by: July 1

Ponds and Marshes - Nature Nuts (K-5th grade)

Tuesday, July 19, 2016 10am - 11:30am

Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail



What mysteries lurk beneath the surface of our inland waters? Join a naturalist as we delve into the aquatic worlds of ponds and marshes. We will take nets and dip into the pond to see what's living in the murky depths. Then we will examine them underneath a microscope to make this little world a bit larger. To complete the circle of life we will grab some fishing poles and move up the food chain to see what eats these little guys. Afterwards we will put together take-home biomes, little desktop habitats!

Resident: \$5; Non-resident: \$7 Register by: July 12

Night Creatures - Families (2nd grade or 7+)

Wednesday, July 20, 2016 7 - 8pm

Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail

The Organization for Bat Conservation will present "Night Creatures", a live animal program for you and your family! Discover the fascinating features and survival tools of Michigan's native nocturnal animals. In this program meet an owl, bat, and a flying squirrel and learn how they survive in their nighttime environment.

Resident: \$5; Non-resident: \$7 Register by: July 13



Catchable Critters - Preschool Park Pals (3-5 years old)

Thursday, July 21, 2016 10am - 11:30am

Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 West Snell Rd.



Join us at Bear Creek for an exciting safari into the world of catchable critters! Young nature enthusiasts will swipe the air with nets to wrestle in flying insects, skim the ponds in search of frogs and salamanders, and get their hands dirty flipping over logs. Which critters can we catch, how do we gently let them go and when do we just watch? We will even put together terrariums for roly-polys.

Resident: \$5 Non-resident: \$7 Register by: July 14



Bring a chair or a blanket to sit on!



Evening Stargazing Campfire Family Ages 8+

Wednesday, August 31, 2016 8 - 9:30pm

Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail

What's in the night sky in August? Can you connect the dots? That's what the ancients did to create constellations. The constellations change with the seasons so we will make a star wheel to help you locate them all year around.

Resident \$5; Non-resident \$7; Family max \$20 Register by: August 24

Scan this QR code and be directed to our website for more information on all of our programs!!



Registration information on page 11

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation and SOMO Half-Marathon Training Program Adults 18+



Ever think about running or walking a half-marathon? Oakland Township Parks and Recreation has partnered with Socially Motivated Wellness (SOMO) to offer a training program to reach your goal! This fourteen-week program will use either a run/walk/run or a walk/shuffle interval training method - a proven method by expert trainers and coaches to be the most effective way to prepare for and run a race. Groups will train on a variety of terrain on trails at Bear Creek Nature Park, Cranberry Lake Park and Paint Creek Trail. Each week we will add time/mileage to our workout. Experienced group leaders will assign participants with others of similar skill level and tailor the training for optimal success.

First meeting (Introduction including workout venue schedule and grouping according to skill level):

Thursday, June 16th, 6:30pm

Paint Creek Cider Mill, 1st Floor Pub Room, 4480 Orion Road, Rochester, MI 48306

After the first week: Thursdays, June 23rd - September 1st, 6:30pm

After Labor Day: Saturdays, September 10th, 17th, & 24th, Saturday Morning Runs, Time TBD

Residents: \$80; Non-residents: \$160

Register by: June 9

Cost of the training program includes registration for three local 5k or 10k races, shoe tag, training calendar, running information and more. For an additional fee, a half-marathon race, offered through Oakland County Parks and Recreation and Ribbit Running (course begins in Addison Oaks County Park and runs through Cranberry Lake Park) is scheduled for Sunday, October 2nd, 2016.



Yoga On The Lake Adults 12+ 2 Sessions! Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail

Session 1 Sundays, June 19 - July 31, 2016 9:30 - 10:30 am (no class July 3)

Session 2 Sundays, August 7 - September 18, 2016 9:30 - 10:30 am (no class Sept. 4)

Wouldn't you rather be outside during springtime? Step out of the studio and enjoy doing yoga in the warmth of the sun and in full view of serene Lost Lake. Whether you are a seasoned practitioner or newer to yoga, this gentle All Levels class is just right for you! Bring your own yoga mat. Led by Fran Craik of Red Lotus Yoga. www.redlotusyoga.com Min 8/Max 10 All Levels. 6 sessions.

All classes will take place on the dock. Rain location is the on-site Nature Center.

Residents: \$30; Non-residents \$60

Register by: June 10 for session 1; Register by: July 29 for session 2

Registration information on page 11



Tai Chi In The Park Adults 18+

Find peace and serenity from a busy, stressful day through Tai Chi. Tai Chi exercises the mind and body by increasing wellbeing and improving balance, coordination and strength. Students will learn the basic forms and elegant movements of the Yang Style Short Form Tai Chi. Students should be able to support their weight while standing or bring a chair if unable to stand. Students should wear loose and comfortable clothing and shoes. No flip flops or sandals. Traditional Tai Chi shoes are optional. Bring water bottle. Led by Marci Jenkins.* 8-week session. *Marci has over 20 years of Tai Chi training and practice. She has experience in the Yang Style and Wu System of Tai Chi. She is currently teaching at the Older Persons' Commission in Rochester.

Summer (Outdoors) Tuesdays, August 9 - September 27, 6:00-7:00pm

Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 W. Snell Road

Residents: \$40; Non-residents: \$80

Register by: August 2

Rain location

Paint Creek Cider Mill 4480 Orion Rd.



Outdoor Boot Camp In The Park Ages 12+ Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 W. Snell Rd. Rochester, MI 48306

Break out of the confines of your gym and take in the fresh summer air! Bear Creek Nature Park offers a small-group outdoor boot camp that uses the different features around the park to create a fun work out for all levels. Circuit activities like the meadow mile, pavilion push-ups and nature node knee bends are sure to offer enough variety to keep you motivated. Taught by Rochester Athletic Club's Sharon DeRouin, a certified trainer with 25 years of experience! Six-week session. 1-hour class (5 min. warm up, 45 min. circuit activities, 10 min. cool down and stretch. Maximum 10 participants.

Session 1 - Wednesdays, June 22 to July 27, 6:30-7:30pm

Session 2 - Saturdays, June 18 to July 30, 8am-9am; (no session July 2)

Residents: \$40; Non-residents: \$80 Register by: June 15 for Session 1 and June 10 for Session 2



Fun Basics of Kayaking 2 Sessions!

Saturday, July 16, 2016 10am - 12pm Session 1
Saturday, August 20, 2016 10am - 12pm Session 2
Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail

This clinic is taught both on land and in the water and will focus on safety and introductory stroke techniques. Learn basic kayaking safety skills such as fitting your life jacket, what clothing to wear and getting into and out of your kayak from a dock. Basic paddling skills include forward, reverse, and turning strokes. Designed for new paddlers and anyone who would like formal instruction. Lost Lake is open calm flat water without jet skis and motor boats. Lost Lake Nature Park and its beautiful dock and kayak launch are universally accessible.



Residents: \$20 Non-residents: \$35
Register by:
July 8 for Session 1 and August 12 for Session 2

Next Step Beginning Kayaking

Saturday, July 16, 2016 12:30 - 2:30pm Session 1
Saturday, August 20, 2016 12:30 - 2:30pm Session 2
Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail



This clinic is for those who have completed our *Fun Basics of Kayaking* clinic or have some experience at kayaking and are looking to increase their skill level. This clinic will focus on safety on the water and stroke development. Learn how to fit your boat to your body on land in order to practice techniques for staying in your boat on water to avoid tipping over! Discuss what to do if you do tip over. Learn about the different types of paddles and the side stroke. Then use paddling patterns to practice and perfect your paddling strokes. For the more adventurous we may have kayak races!

Residents: \$20 Non-residents: \$35
Register by:
July 8 for Session 1 and August 12 for Session 2

Items to bring: water, water shoes or light weight sneakers, wear synthetic clothing, sunglasses, and bug repellent. At the time of registration we will ask you for your approximate height and weight so that we may size you with the proper gear. We paddle in light rain (it is a water sport). However, if there is a 60% or greater chance of thunderstorms 2 hours prior to the clinic we will contact you to cancel with a full refund issued or reschedule the clinic.

Moonlight Paddle - Adults 18+

Friday, August 19, 2016 9 - 11pm
Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail

Registration information on page 11



Join us for an evening paddle illuminated by the moonlight for this exciting after-dark program. We will engage in lunar-lit kayaking while discussing the many moons that inhabit our solar system as well as share stories and legends from around the world. Designed for individuals and their friends - not groups. All kayak equipment provided. Prior kayak experience necessary. Formal instruction not provided.

Resident: \$15 Non-resident: \$30 Register by: August 12

A shout out to all the inspiring volunteers helping make things happen in the parks!

Mark Arney, Catherine Hu, Alex Kriebel, Antonio Xeira, Heidi Paterson, Lynn Hansford, Dioniza Toth-Reinelt, Dave Lazar, Walter Zechmeister, Jim Lloyd, Cam Mannino, Steve Powell

Thank you to ITC Transmission, 27175 Energy Way, Novi, MI 48377
Music In The Meadows Bronze Sponsor.



Kayaks Available for Rental at Lost Lake Nature Park!



Registration information on page 11

846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, MI 48363

We have recently purchased kayaks to offer park users the opportunity to get out on Lost Lake, where wildlife and water lilies abound! Starting June 5th, paddlers can rent kayaks at Lost Lake Nature Park on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the warm weather seasons. Lost Lake's small size and easily accessible kayak launch are great for paddlers of all abilities. Take advantage of this opportunity to practice your kayaking skills while exploring this 8-acre glacial lake. Kayak, paddle and life vest supplied.

Note: Weight limit for single kayak is 230 lbs. Kayak at your own risk. No supervision or instruction is provided. View our kayak rental policy on our website: www.oaklandtownship.org

Registration must be completed one week in advance of requested rental date.

Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration, driver's license, signed liability waiver, rental fee and deposit required. One person kayak: minimum age 10 years old. Two person kayak: minimum age 6 years old with an adult on board.

Rental Dates

Saturdays:

June 18, 25, July 9, 30, Aug 6, 27
10am - 12pm or 12pm - 2pm

Sundays:

June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 10, 17, 24
July 31, Aug 7, 14, 21, 28
12pm - 2pm or 2pm - 4pm

Resident Rate:

1-person kayak for 2 hours \$10/boat
2-person kayak for 2 hours \$15/boat

Non-Resident Rate:

1-person kayak for 2 hours \$20/boat
2-person kayak for 2 hours \$30/boat

Stand Up Paddle Boarding! Adults 14+ 3 sessions!

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

Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP) is the fastest growing water sport in the world for a good reason: it's fun! Whether you're looking for a great cross-trainer to supplement any sport or it's your first introduction to paddling, SUP has something for everyone! This clinic is taught by experienced and certified instructors in a safe and controlled environment at beautiful Lost Lake. You will be up and paddling in no time regardless of your age, experience or fitness level. Paddlers 14 years and older welcome. All equipment is included. Please wear a bathing suit or clothes you don't mind getting wet. All levels welcome. Weight limit 220 lbs. 1 class - 1 hour session (May sign up for more than one session)

Session 1 - Saturday, June 11, 2016

Register by: June 3

Times 12-1pm or 1:15-2:15pm or
2:45-3:45pm or 4-5pm

Session 2 - Saturday, July 23, 2016

Register by: July 15

Times 12-1pm or 1:15-2:15pm or 2:45-3:45pm or 4-5pm

Session 3 - Saturday, August 13, 2016

Register by: August 5

Times 12-1pm or 1:15-2:15pm or 2:45-3:45pm or 4-5pm

Residents: \$20 Non-residents: \$35



Free Fishing - 2 Days! 2 sessions each day! Family - All Ages

Saturday June 11th

9-10:15am or 10:15-11:30am

Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail Draper Twin Lake Park, 1015 Inwood Road

Sunday June 12th

9-10:15am or 10:15-11:30am



This relaxing pastime is part of Michigan's heritage and a great way to unplug and spend time with your family. Here's your chance to try it out - we supply the equipment and knowhow - you learn about types of bait and lures, which fish species live in township parks and some tips on nearby "fishing holes".

"FREE" ! All fishing license fees are waived! Register early as we fill up quickly! Register by: June 3rd

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Summer Camps



Rochester Soccer Club Summer Instructional Soccer Camps Oakland Township



Now being offered at Marsh View Park in Oakland Township!

The RSC recreation summer instructional camps will provide all players with individual soccer skill activities and lots of age specific soccer games. All sessions will key on player development in a low stress, fun filled environment. Instruction will consist of highly personalized curriculum in an enjoyable yet challenging environment.

- Who:** Soccer players ages 3 - 12 years old
When: 6/20 - 6/24, 7/11 - 7/15, 7/25 - 7/29
Time: 1- 2:30pm, Monday - Friday (ages 5 - 12)
1:30 - 2:30pm, Monday - Friday (ages 3-4)
Location: Marsh View Park, 3100 East Clarkston Road, Oakland, 48363
Cost: \$85 per week for ages 5 - 12 and \$60 per week for ages 3 - 4
Campers receive an RSC summer camp t-shirt
Things to bring: Soccer ball, soccer shoes, shin guards, soccer apparel and water
The Staff: Coaching staff will include top soccer professionals from the Rochester Soccer Club as well as current and alumni RSC players.

For further information and to register: Visit the website www.rscsoccer.org, email office@rscsoccer.org or call 248-650-0113



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. To join visit: musl.net

Outdoor Skills Camp - Grades 5th - 9th

July 25 - 29 10am - 12:30pm

Lost Lake Nature Center, 846 Lost Lake Trail

Registration information on page 11



The outdoors are for everyone...

Geared towards 5th to 9th graders, this camp will introduce a variety of fun outdoor activities including archery, kayaking, and fishing (catch and release), and basic survival skills like reading a map and recognizing your surroundings, fire starting, and shelter building, obtaining drinkable water, wild plant identification and animal observation. All activities are weather dependant.

Resident: \$100 Non-resident: \$120 Register by: July 18

The Wild Kids of Lost Lake Camp - Grades K-3rd

August 2 - 4 10am - 3pm

Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail



Join a Dinosaur Hill naturalist for three days of outdoor adventures surrounding mystical Lost Lake. Participate in the largest arcade game ever imagined as we turn the famed sledding hill into a gigantic skee-ball board. Take a hand at launching water rockets and water balloons to see whose projectile can make it furthest up the hill. (Day 1 kids will learn hands-on physics while playing). We will also go on a bug and amphibian hunt in the marshy woods and have a frog catching contest. (Day 2 kids will learn how to catch and release animals without hurting them). For our final day we will venture out onto the dock and learn how to expertly reel in a fish, make a mini floatable boat, and end it all with a variety of water games! (Day 3-Kids will learn the lifelong skills of catch and release fishing). These are just some of the fun things to do at Lost Lake Camp. Everyday will be filled with science and nature. Wear bug spray and sunscreen. Wear clothing and shoes that can get dirty and wet. Bring a beach towel, a change of clothes (just in case) and a lunch. We will provide a snack.

Residents: \$85 Non-residents: \$105 Register by: July 25

Summer Archery Offerings

Registration information on page 11



Come join our EXPLORE ARCHERY CAMP! Ages 8 - 18

Aiming to create a fun environment for motivated archers!

July 11 - 15, 2016 10:00am - 12:00pm

Marsh View Park, 3100 E. Clarkston Rd.

Explore Archery is a new and innovative archery education program focused on introducing beginners to the lifelong sport of archery. In Explore Archery, campers earn achievement awards through active participation in individual and team-building activities that require fundamental skills, a competitive edge and a bit of creativity - and not based on campers' athletic abilities or their capabilities to shoot a perfect score. It is fun, rewarding, developmentally progressive and - most important - safe.

Min 8/Max 15 students per class. Register by: July 1

Resident: \$75.00 Non-Resident: \$90.00



EXPLORE BOW HUNTING

(Ages 11-18)

July 18 - 22 10:30am - 12:30pm

Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 West Predmore



Explore Bow Hunting is an outdoor conservation education program focusing on interaction with people and wildlife. Explore Bow Hunting teaches students how to interact with the natural world by developing basic skills used to bow hunt which focus on getting close to animals. Not only does Explore Bow Hunting teach students how to interact with nature using ageless hunting skills, but it also teaches an appreciation of what is around them and enhances their encounters with the outdoors.

Min 7/Max 15 Residents: \$100 Non-residents: \$120 Register by: July 11

For more information visit us online at www.oaklandtownship.org.

WOMEN ONLY ARCHERY NIGHT

(Ages 17 - Adult)

Sunday 8/21/16 6:00 - 8:00pm

Marsh View Park, 3100 E. Clarkston Rd.

This is a "Taste of Archery" class. This class will give all participants a brief introduction to target archery using a compound bow. A fun activity to do with friends or a great way to meet new people! We'll offer light snacks catered by Paint Creek Cider Mill Café.

Min 10/Max 14 per class.

Resident: \$20 Non-Resident: \$25

Register by: 8/12/16

ADULT ONLY ARCHERY NIGHT

(Ages 17 - Adult)

Sunday 8/28/16 6:00 - 8:00pm

Marsh View Park, 3100 E. Clarkston Rd.

This is a "Taste of Archery" class. This class will give all participants a brief introduction to target archery using a compound bow. A fun activity to do with friends or a great way to meet new people! We'll offer light snacks catered by Paint Creek Cider Mill Café.

Min 10/Max 14 per class.

Resident: \$20 Non-Resident: \$25

Register by: 8/19/16

Summer Archery Offerings

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

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHERY ALL AGES (Ages 6 - Adult)

This is a "Taste of Archery" class. This class will give all participants a brief introduction to target archery using a compound bow. **If you love it, sign up for one of our beginner classes!**

All equipment provided. Participants can choose from any one of the following classes on Sunday or Monday, please call to register. **1 class only.**

Resident: \$10 each Non-Resident: \$15 each

Mondays 6:00-7:30pm

7/11/16 or 7/18/16 or 7/25/16 or 8/8/16 or 8/15/16 or 8/22/16

Stay for Open Shoot from 7:30 - 8:30!

Sundays 3 - 4:30pm

7/10/16 or 7/17/16 or 7/24/16 or 7/31/16 or 8/7/16

Stay for Open Shoot from 4:30 - 6:30!



OPEN RANGE SHOOT **FREE!!!**

ALL AGES (Ages 8 - Adult)

Free to the public. No registration!

Drop-in opportunity to practice archery skills! Prior archery experience necessary. No instruction provided. Monitored by a safety officer. Bring your own equipment or use ours on first-come, first-serve basis. No broadhead or crossbows allowed. **Children between 8 & 17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult..**

Mondays 7:30 - 8:30pm

7/11/16, 7/18/16, 7/25/16, 8/8/16, 8/15/16, 8/22/16

Tuesdays 11:30 - 12:30pm

7/26/16, 8/2/16, 8/9/16,

8/16/16, 8/23/16

Fridays 7:30 - 8:30pm

7/8/16, 7/15/16, 7/22/16,

7/29/16, 8/5/16

Sundays 4:30 - 6:30pm

7/10/16, 7/17/16, 7/24/16, 7/31/16, 8/7/16



Registration information on page 11

BEGINNING ARCHERY ALL AGES (Ages 8 - Adult)

Learn the fundamentals of archery while you review equipment, learn about safety, learn basic shooting skills & have fun!

All equipment provided. 5 - week session.

Residents: \$60 Non-Resident: \$77

Fridays 6:00 - 7:30pm

7/8/16 - 8/5/16 **Register by: 6/27/16**

Stay for Open Shoot from 7:30 - 8:30!

Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:30am

7/26/16 - 8/23/16 **Register by: 7/18/16**

Stay for Open Shoot from 11:30 - 12:30!

INTERMEDIATE ARCHERY ALL AGES (Ages 8 - Adult)

This class is for archers who have taken Beginning Archery and archers with some experience. Focus will be on improving your archery form and accuracy. All equipment provided or archers may use their own equipment.

No crossbows. 5 - week session.

Resident: \$60 Non-Resident: \$77

Sundays 1:00 - 2:45pm

7/10/16 - 8/7/16 **Register by: 7/1/16**

SCOUT BADGE WORKSHOPS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES & CORPORATE EVENTS



Marsh View Park can be reserved for a workshop designed to help Scouts earn a merit badge in archery, or have your child's birthday party or even a corporate team-building event. Please contact the Parks and Recreation office at 248-651-7810 with reservation date preference and to confirm instructor availability.

Resident fee: \$150 for one and a half hour session Non-resident: \$200 for one and a half hour session Scouts fees to be determined.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Summer Programs 2016

Call 248-651-7810 to register or mail in the form below.
www.oaklandtownship.org

Registration Information

Oakland Township residents registration starts NOW!

Non-Residents registration begins one week prior to the program registration deadline date.

Archery registration is open to both residents and non-residents NOW!

Programs fill-up quickly so please contact us early!



Form and waiver are available for printing at www.oaklandtownship.org

Fill out the form below and register by mail.

Make checks payable to “Charter Township of Oakland” and mail to:

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

Visit us at our office location and register in person.

Credit cards (MasterCard, American Express, or Discover) accepted in person only, Monday - Friday, 8am - 4:30pm

\$2.50 Bank charge applies

Paint Creek Cider Mill Bldg. (2nd Floor), 4480 Orion Rd., Rochester, MI 48306

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 in person at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Rd., or by phone at 248-651-7810. All refunds will be subject to approval by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

Visit us online at www.oaklandtownship.org for complete program information and other Park and Recreation information, including permits and ordinances.

Adult's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____ Emergency phone: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Resident of: (circle one): Oakland Twp. Rochester Rochester Hills Other

Enrollee's Name: _____ Age: (if child): _____

Program Name: _____ Date and Time: _____

Program Name: _____ Date and Time: _____

Amount Due: _____ Email: _____

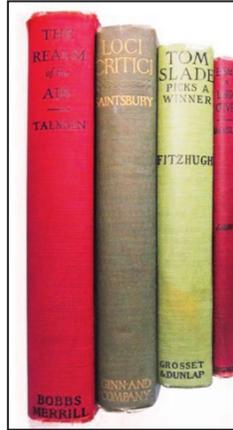
(Please print clearly)

CRANBERRY LAKE FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

A community historical center - work in progress for you!

For more information contact Historic District Commission office 248-608-6807

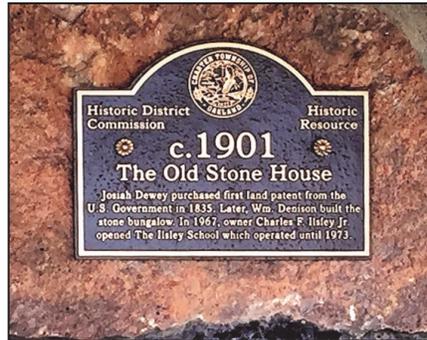
Visit www.oaklandtownship.org, under departments, Historic District Commission



Honey Bees are coming to CLF! Free programs being offered the second Sat. of May, June, July, and August, from 1pm to 2pm. If you are interested in learning about honey bees, please register by calling the HDC office. All ages welcome! **Possible alternate rain date on the following Sunday.*

A **Little Free Library®** is now located near the Corn Crib at the farm! The library is inspired by the Flumerfelt Barn. The free philosophy means to help yourself - take one and leave one. Please enjoy the book selection donated by Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library and maintained by volunteers.

Our free Square Dance dates are both on Saturdays; June 18 and September 10 from 7pm to 9pm. We dance in the barn or on the lawn so please wear appropriate shoes. Bring your own picnic dinner or check the website to reserve a barbeque sandwich, beans, and coleslaw for a small fee of \$8 adults and \$5 children under 12!



Painting Plein Aire in the historic district! Date is Thursday, June 23 from 10am to 2pm. Pre-registration is required - \$30 per person, by June 17. Your choice of any medium and bring your own art supplies. Class taught by local professional painters. Bring a bag lunch or possible order out if enough interest!

What do you see around the Township – **Cast Bronze Historic Markers!** Residents with historic resources may order and purchase their markers at the HDC office. Please celebrate in our local heritage!

Back by popular demand - **Down on the Farm, Saturday October 1, from 11am to 3pm!** What is coming to our historic backyard? Pumpkin painting, cider tastings, art display, historical games, hayrides, butter churning, storytelling by history figure, and all set to the tunes of peaceful banjo music! **FREE!** **HDC working in partnership with Oakland Township Historical Society and Dinosaur Hill, with some funding provided by Oakland Township Parks and Recreation.*



**OAKLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
MILLAGE RENEWAL
AUGUST 2, 2016
BALLOT PROPOSAL
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
PULL-OUT SECTION (APRIL 21, 2016)**



The Mission of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

“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.”

What is the purpose of the proposed Parks and Recreation Millage renewal?

To continue to operate, maintain and improve Oakland Township parks and facilities, including the Township’s section of the Paint Creek Trail, as well as acquiring new parkland and offering park programs. The majority of the .7307 of one mill renewal will be used by the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission (OTPRC) to meet current parks and recreation obligations which include:

Continued maintenance and safety on the 5.3 miles of Paint Creek Trail in Oakland Township.

Maintaining Oakland Township parks and facilities previously acquired with Parks and Recreation Millage monies or through landowner donation, totaling more than 650 acres, including Bear Creek Nature Park, Blue Heron Environmental Area, Charles Ilsley Park, Cranberry Lake Park, Gallagher Creek Park, Lost Lake Nature Park, Marsh View Park, and Mill Race Trail, as well as supplementing the maintenance of lands acquired using Land Preservation Millage monies.

Providing programs for a variety of ages, abilities and interests including nature appreciation, environmental education, fitness and wellness, outdoor adventure, and lifetime sports.



Hosting community events including the ‘Music in the Meadows’ summer concert series, Goodison Good Tyme fall festival, and our Winter Carnival at Marsh View Park.



Purpose of the proposed Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal Continued:

The remainder of the .7307 renewal not used for current obligations will be used by the OTPRC to help provide additional benefits such as those identified in the Parks and Recreation Five-year Plan.

The types of benefits that may be provided include:

15-year replacement of Paint Creek Trail limestone surfacing.

Replacement of Paint Creek Trail pedestrian bridge 33.7, between Dutton and Silverbell Roads.

Paint Creek Trail parking and trailhead facility near the Adams Road trail intersection.



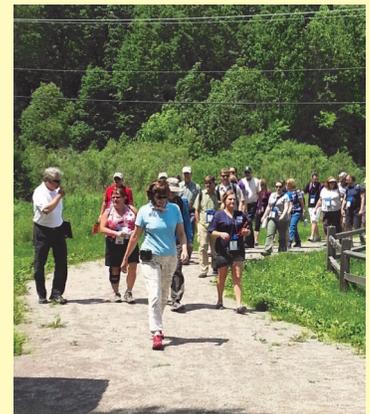
Rest station improvements at Bear Creek Nature Park, Lost Lake Nature Park, and Marsh View Park.



Improved trails and parking areas at Cranberry Lake Park and Charles Ilsley Park.

Playground, sports courts, picnic area, trail expansion, and adventure course at Marsh View Park.

Acquire additional park land including adjoining lots of existing parks or individual large parcels.



How will the Parks and Recreation ballot question be worded?

Shall the Charter Township of Oakland be authorized to renew the current levy of .7307 of one mill for a period of ten (10) years beginning with the December 2017 levy for the purpose of providing funds to be used for the support of the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission for acquisition, maintenance, operation, improvement and management of Township parks, recreation areas, facilities, programs, recreation, and services. Approval of this proposal would renew the tax limitation levy of .7307 mills on all taxable property in the Township. Approval of this proposal would authorize the levy of approximately \$0.7307 cents per \$1,000 of taxable property in the Township. It is estimated that this proposal would result in the authorization to collect up to \$945,418.01 in the first year if approved and levied.

Why is renewal of the Parks and Recreation Millage on the ballot this year?

The .75 mill levy which was approved in 2006 for a ten-year period will no longer be in effect after 2016.

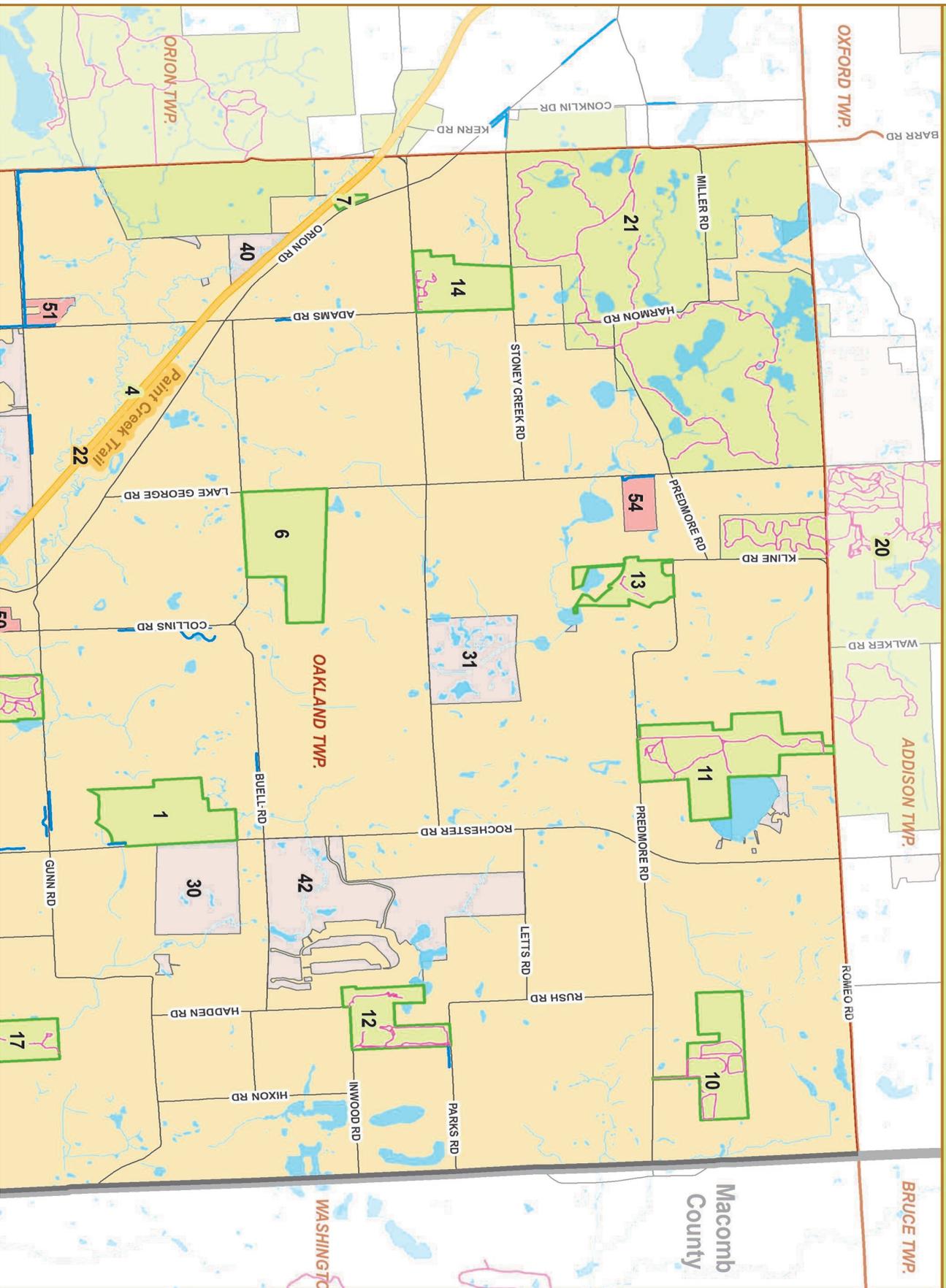
Why is the requested .7307 renewal levy less than the .75 levy approved in 2006?

Since 2006, the .75 mill levy was rolled back by the Headlee Amendment to .7307 of one mill.



Continued on page 7

Parks and Recreation Opportunities in Oakland Township





Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

Oakland Township residents have consistently supported our Township Parks and our Parks and Recreation Millage since 1974. This millage funds the operation, maintenance, improvement and acquisition of our local parks, recreation areas and facilities. On August 2, 2016 residents will be asked to vote on whether this millage should be renewed.

PARKS AND RECREATION



- 2007** – Obtained ~~\$200,000~~ **\$200,300** Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to help fund Marsh View Park recreation facility improvements
- 2007** – Initiated teaching lifetime sports by starting annual Free Fishing Program to teach fishing basics **(A)**
- 2008** – Held Community Design Forum for proposed Marsh View Park Recreation Improvements
- 2009** – Partnered with Boy Scouts and volunteers to add Picnic Facilities at Cranberry Lake Park
- 2009** – Began controlled archery deer hunting program at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
- 2010** – Grand Opening of Community Archery Range at Marsh View Park; starting Archery Programs for variety of ages and abilities **(B)**
- 2010** – Obtained \$155,900 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to help fund Nature Center and Lake Access improvements at Lost Lake Nature Park
- 2010** – Rehabilitated Pedestrian Bridges along Paint Creek Trail
- 2011**
- 2007** – Partnered with Township’s Historic District Commission and Historical Society on Rehabilitation
- 2011** of Cranberry Lake Farm’s Historic District **(C)**
- 2011** – Partnered with Boy Scouts and volunteers to add Trail Head, Boardwalks and Pedestrian Bridge to
- 2013** Cranberry Lake Park trail network **(D)**
- 2012** – Opened renovated Sledding Hills and Warming Shelter at Lost Lake Nature Park and initiated ‘Sledding Under the Lights’ **(E)**
- 2012** – Purchased 5 Acres adjacent to Marsh View Park to provide space for expanding archery range, adding parking and providing additional walkway connections
- 2013** – Grand Opening of Marsh View Park Sports Fields; initiating use by local soccer clubs **(F)**

on Millage 2007 – 2016 Accomplishments Timeline*

During the past decade, in addition to the daily operation and management of our local parks and recreation facilities, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation (OTPR) has accomplished the following improvements with the help of our local Parks and Recreation Millage funds.

In the next decade Oakland Township Parks and Recreation looks forward to sustaining what our residents value most about our parks – their rustic character and natural areas - while meeting expectations for recreation facilities and programs.



- 2013** – Partnered with Oakland County Parks and Recreation on Grand Opening of Addison Connector Trail linking Cranberry Lake Park and Addison Oaks Park trail systems **(G)**
- 2013** – Grand Opening of Lost Lake Nature Park including Nature Center, universally accessible Kayak and Fishing Dock, Outdoor Learning Stations, Parking Lot, Rest Station, Native Plantings, and Picnic Areas **(H)**
- 2013** – Hosted inaugural Rochester Community Schools and Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve Environmental Programs at Lost Lake Nature Park’s Nature Center
- 2013** – Started Outdoor Adventure Series with Kayaking Classes at Lost Lake Nature Park and Draper Twin Lake Park
- 2014** – Reserving funds annually for Major Resurfacing of Paint Creek Trail in 2018/2019 **(I)**
- 2016**
- 2014** – OTPR awarded “Keep Michigan Beautiful Award” for preserving Lost Lake Nature Park and opening nature center facilities
- 2014** – Premiered Outdoor Fitness Programs including ‘Yoga in the Parks’ and Summer Soccer Camps **(J)**
- 2015** – Opened Ice Rink at Marsh View Park and began offering Ice Skating Classes **(K)**
- 2015** – Started OTPR Kayak Rental at Lost Lake Nature Park
- 2015** – Enhanced Outdoor Fitness Programs by Adding Summer Archery Camp and Running Clinics, Boot Camp, Tai Chi and Stand Up Paddle Boarding
- 2015** – OTPR awarded “Oak Land Award” for 40-years of protecting Township Parks’ Natural Areas
- 2015** – OTPR Winter Carnival and ‘Music in the Meadows’ summer concert series celebrate 10-year anniversaries and Goodison Good Tyme fall festival celebrates 13th anniversary **(L)**
- 2016** – Purchased 2.3 acres adjacent to Paint Creek Trail to provide additional Vehicular Parking

*As of April, 2016



Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Facilities

Conservation Parks

1. Blue Heron Environmental Area
2. Gallagher Creek Park
3. O'Connor Nature Park
4. Paint Creek Heritage Area - Fen
5. Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie
6. Watershed Ridge Park

Future Trail Connections

7. Paint Creek Junction
8. Mill Creek Crossing

Parks Including Recreation Facilities

9. Bear Creek Nature Park
10. Charles Ilsley Park
11. Cranberry Lake Park
12. Draper Twin Lake Park
13. Lost Lake Nature Park
14. Marsh View Park
15. Mill Race Trail
16. Paint Creek Cider Mill
17. Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park

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 and Banquet
32. Westwynd Golf Course

Private Recreation Facilities

40. Royal Oak Archers
41. The Wyndgate Golf Course
42. Twin Lakes Golf and 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:

- Oakland Township
- Municipal Boundary

- Lakes & Ponds
- Rivers & Streams

- Major Roads
- Oakland Township Park

- Park Path
- Safety/Side Path

- Paint Creek Trail
- Public Recreation

- Private Recreation
- Public School



Last Update: 02/12/2013

What will happen if the Parks and Recreation Millage is not renewed?

Continued from page 2

If the millage is not renewed, funds currently used for the maintenance and improvement of Oakland Township Parks and the Paint Creek Trail and for the support of Parks and Recreation staff and Paint Creek Trail staff/security patrols would no longer be available. The Township may not be able to find alternative sources of funding for these programs and improvements.

Which Township entity would manage the Parks and Recreation Millage funds?

The OTPRC, having existed for more than 40 years, would continue to manage these monies. They currently manage fourteen Oakland Township parks, including natural areas acquired with Land Preservation Millage funds, as well as managing the Oakland Township section of the Paint Creek Trail. The OTPRC employs a combination of full-time, part-time and seasonal staff to meet operational and programming needs.



Since 2006 what has been accomplished using Parks and Recreation Millage funds?

Provided matching funds to obtain \$293,300 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for Marsh View Park recreation facility improvements including athletic fields, archery range, basketball court, pathways, parking lot, picnic facilities, rest stations and native plantings which were completed in 2010.



Provided matching funds to obtain \$154,900 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for Lost Lake Nature Park improvements including nature center, improved lake access, pathways, outdoor learning stations, picnic areas, enlarged parking area, rest stations and native plantings which were completed in 2012.

Added trailhead, boardwalks, pedestrian bridge, and picnic facilities to Cranberry Lake Park between 2009 and 2013.



Purchased property adjacent to Marsh View Park in 2012 to provide area for expansion of archery range, increasing amount of vehicular parking, and addition of future recreation facilities.

Opened kayak rental at Lost Lake Nature Park and ice rink at Marsh View Park in 2015.

Purchased 2.3 acres adjacent to Paint Creek Trail to provide additional vehicular parking.

Increased number and scope of programs offered; expanding nature appreciation and environmental study programs and adding lifetime sports and outdoor fitness programs including archery, kayaking, fishing, soccer, ice skating, tai chi, yoga, and running clinics.



Started hosting Rochester Community Schools field trips for second and third grade students at Lost Lake Nature Park's new nature center and facilities. Offered free events to the community for more than 10 years including our 'Music in the Meadows' summer concert series, Goodison Good Tyme fall festival at Bear Creek Nature Park and our Winter Carnival.

Will voting 'yes' on this millage renewal increase taxes?

No — a 'yes' vote would renew the .7307 of one mill. The annual roll-back required by the Headlee Amendment would continue after the approval of this millage renewal.

If approved, what would the millage renewal cost property owners, starting in 2017?

\$100,000 home: Taxable Value \$50,000 = \$36.54/year or \$3.04/month

\$250,000 home: Taxable Value \$125,000 = \$91.34/year or \$7.61/month

\$500,000 home: Taxable Value \$250,000 = \$182.68/year or \$15.22/month



How much funding would this millage renewal provide over the 10-year period?



The renewal millage would raise more than \$11 million and enable the Township to pursue matching grants and donations that could increase funds available for park improvements and acquisitions. Since 1999 the Parks and Recreation Commission has been successful in obtaining grants totaling more than 5 million dollars. Recent grants totaling approximately \$450,000 helped fund the 2010 addition of Marsh View Park's archery range and athletic fields and the 2013 addition of

Lost Lake Nature Park's nature center and improved lake access.



Where can I learn about Oakland Township parks and this proposed millage renewal?

The Parks and Recreation page of the Oakland Township website, www.oaklandtownship.org, contains maps and descriptions for each Township park, descriptions of our most current program offerings, advertisements of upcoming community events, volunteer opportunities, and an online version of our most current newsletter.

The 2015 – 2019 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan, is also available on the Parks and Recreation page of the Township website under the subheading 'Newsletters and Publications'. This plan, which is updated every five years, includes descriptions of Township park lands and facilities, preferences of residents which were gathered from surveys and public meetings, assessment of park system needs, park concept plans and a five-year action plan to meet the residents' desires and needs, showing new park improvements and recreation facilities.



This document provided by
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation
4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306



Oakland Township Parks Natural Areas

Stewardship



Volunteer Workdays at Paint Creek Heritage Area – Wet Prairie

Please come out and join us for one of these free events! Drop-ins are welcome but it's best to contact us in advance so that we can bring enough tools and supplies. Updated information on these events can be found on our blog at oaklandnaturalareas.com.

We will be removing invasive shrubs such as buckthorn and autumn olive to help native species thrive at Paint Creek Heritage Area Wet Prairie. Wear solid boots, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt and bring water and a snack. Tools and training will be provided. Expect the work to be physical in nature. All workdays are 9am to 12noon. Meet at the Silver Bell Road parking lot along the Paint Creek Trail (1100 Silver Bell Road, Rochester, MI 48306).

Saturdays	Thursdays
June 25	June 30
July 16	July 7, 21, and 28 and August 4



**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 June to August for our weekly bird walks. We want to document the bird species using our parks so that we can work to improve their habitat. Walks will start at 7:30 am. Some extra binoculars are available.

- 1st Wednesday of month – Bear Creek Nature Park
- 2nd Wednesday of month – Cranberry Lake Park
- 3rd Wednesday of month – Charles Ilsley Park
- 4th Wednesday of month – Draper Twin Lake Park
- 5th Wednesday of June and August –
Lost Lake Nature Park

This Week at Bear Creek Nature Park - 75 Years Ago

By Cam Mannino, Stewardship Volunteer

Long before Bear Creek Nature Park had official trails or a play area or decks at the marsh, it was a farm with chickens, ducks, cows, orchards and a garden. The Comps family rented the house on that farm from 1939 until they moved to their own home on Silver Bell Road in 1959. In 1939, during the Great Depression, the elder Mr. Comps lost his job and the family moved from Rochester to a home located in what is today Bear Creek Nature Park.

The Great Depression made life challenging for the Comps family. Unlike their house in town, this house had no electricity, no running water and no central heat at that point! But the owner, Mr. Devereaux, agreed to let them stay rent free for a year if they fixed the place up. Bear Creek's land was a source of sustenance, heat, income, play, beauty and peace for the Comps family during difficult times. George Comps, a boy when the family moved there, wrote a long book called *Incredible Yesterdays* (published by Ravenswood Press, 1997) about his years on that piece of land.

To read more about life at Bear Creek Nature Park in the 1940s, check out the full story on our natural areas blog, the Natural Areas Notebook. Cam Mannino, author of the popular "This Week at Bear Creek" feature, looks through the eyes of George Comps to recount the history of Oakland Township's oldest publicly protected park as it existed 75 years ago. Visit <http://wp.me/p4IHDZ-k9p> to join Cam for a short visit to Bear Creek as it looked during the Great Depression and through the Second World War. Our park was a very different world, but oddly familiar too.



Comps farmhouse circa 1939



Phragmites Outreach... (Continued from page 1)

The program is effective because OTPR performs the following services:

1. Acquires a permit from Michigan DEQ (MDEQ) to allow Phragmites treatment in wetlands
2. Pre-qualifies certified contractor(s) to perform this work
3. Requests competitive quotes for labor and materials to treat Phragmites on property of landowners requesting estimates
4. Contracts with certified companies and bills the property owner (at cost). Oakland Township Parks will not make money from this program
5. Completes the end of season treatment report and submits to MDEQ.

The landowner only has to request a no-obligation cost estimate, agree to treatment, and pay the contractor for treatment on their property (at cost). Please visit the Township website page to learn more about the program.

To participate, landowners, homeowners associations, or businesses can submit a request for a no-obligation cost estimate by August 1, 2016. As a courtesy to our contractors, applications received after August 1 cannot be considered. Please contact Ben VanderWeide, Natural Areas Stewardship Manager, with any questions or concerns at 248-651-7810.

Phragmites Control Workshop

We will walk through the basics of Phragmites control, including identifying Phragmites, getting supplies, timing of control, getting permits, and the actual control work. The entire workshop will last about 1 hour.

Bear Creek Nature Park

740 W. Snell Road

July 14, 2016, 6:30 pm



Phragmites Grant... (Continued from page 2)

infrastructure. This large grass forms dense stands, crowding out habitat for wildlife and native plants.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation is participating in the Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (OC Cisma), which was recently awarded a \$243,775 Michigan Invasive Species Grant in 2016. This grant will be used to develop a strategic plan for all of Oakland County; coordinate invasive species control among cities, villages, and townships; and perform on-the-ground treatment of high-priority infestations of six invasive species. Visit <http://www.michiganinvasives.org/occisma/> to learn more. Treatment of Phragmites along major township road right-of-ways is funded by our portion of the grant.

Please visit the Oakland Township website to view the map showing road right-of-ways where Phragmites will be treated. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ben VanderWeide, Park and Recreation Natural Areas Stewardship Manager, at 248-651-7810.



The Natural Areas Notebook has the latest about what's happening in the parks (like Cam Mannino's weekly feature **This Week at Bear Creek**), news about the latest stewardship work, and up-to-date information about stewardship events. Find this and much more at oaklandnaturalareas.com

Dogs In The Parks

A dog may well be a man’s – and woman’s best friend, but off-leash dogs in public parks can pose several problems; especially near playgrounds and areas of high public usage. Other park users may be frightened when a friendly tail-wagging, wet-nosed dog jumps up to greet them. When visiting the parks with your dog, please follow our Township Park rules:

Keep your dog leashed

Clean up after your dog

Clean-up bag dispensers are located at Bear Creek Nature Park near the Snell Road parking lot and at the Township Hall trailhead. Dog excrement is both unpleasant and can spread disease to humans and wildlife.

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

The Dish on Dumping

For many of you, Oakland Township Parks are in your back yard...literally. For some, these areas may seem like a fine place to dump your excess yard waste –but they’re not. Your park’s natural areas maintain a balanced nutrient cycle, handling only as much debris and nutrients as they produce internally. Additional waste throws off this delicate balance. Yard waste can:

- Smother and kill native vegetation
- Introduce invasive non-native seed sources, pests, and chemicals
- Take years to decompose
- Produce excess heat; wreaking havoc on the ecosystem

For more information on invasive non-native plants come to one of our stewardship workdays (see page 10).

Besides being unsightly and encouraging others to dump, dumping on park property is illegal and subject to fines (Twp. Ord. 38A Section 1 Article 03.02.19).

So what to do with it? Compost it in your own yard, use evergreen prunings to protect flower beds from harsh weather, or look for landfills that accept yard waste.

Calendar Key:

Fitness/Wellness Programs pg. 5

Nature Programs pg. 4

Stewardship Programs pg. 13

Archery Programs pgs. 9 & 10

Outdoor Programs pgs. 6 & 7

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 2016			1 Bird Walk	2	3	4 National Trails Day Garlic Mustard Pull
5 Yoga Kayak Rentals	6	7 Tai Chi	8 PRC Mtg. Bird Walk	9	10	11 Free Fishing Paddle Board
12 Yoga Free Fishing Kayak Rentals	13	14 Tai Chi	15 Bird Walk	16 SOMO Training	17 Kayak Tours Concert	18 Kayak Rentals Boot Camp
19 Yoga Fathers Day Kayak Rentals	20 Soccer Camp	21 Tai Chi	22 Bird Walk Boot Camp	23 SOMO Training	24 Kayak Tours	25 Stewardship Workday Kayak Rentals
26 Yoga Kayak Rentals	27	28 Tai Chi	29 Bird Walk Boot Camp	30 SOMO Training Stewardship Workday		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 2016					1	2
3	4 Independence Day Offices Closed	5	6 Bird Walk Boot Camp	7 SOMO Training Stewardship Workday	8 Beginning Open Shoot	9 Boot Camp Stories and Songs Kayak Rentals
10 Intro Intermediate Open Shoot Yoga Kayak Rentals	11 Intro Open Shoot Explore Archery Soccer Camp	12 Explore Archery	13 Boot Camp Explore Archery Bird Walk PRC Mtg.	14 SOMO Training Explore Archery Phrag Wkshp	15 Explore Archery Beginning Open Shoot	16 Boot Camp Stewardship Workday Basic Kayak Begin Kayak
17 Intro Intermediate Open Shoot Yoga Kayak Rentals	18 Intro Open Shoot Bow Hunting	19 Ponds and Marshes Bow Hunting	20 Boot Camp Bow Hunting Night Creatures Bird Walk	21 Catchable Critters SOMO Training Bow Hunting Stew Wkday	22 Concert Beginning Open Shoot Bow Hunting	23 Boot Camp Paddle Boarding
24 Yoga Kayak Rentals	25 Intro Open Shoot Skill Camp Soccer Camp	26 Beginning Open Shoot Skill Camp	27 Boot Camp Bird Walk Skill Camp	28 SOMO Training Stew Wkday Skill Camp	29 Beginning Open Shoot Skill Camp	30 Boot Camp Kayak Rentals
31 Yoga Kayak Rentals						

Calendar Key:	Fitness/Wellness Programs pg. 5	Nature Programs pg. 4	Stewardship Programs pg. 13
	Archery Programs pgs. 9 & 10	Outdoor Programs pgs. 6 & 7	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Wild Kids Camp Beginning Open Shoot	3 Wild Kids Camp Bird Walk	4 SOMO Training Wild Kids Camp Stewardship Workday	5 Beginning Open Shoot	6 Kayak Rentals
August 2016						
7 Intro Intermediate Open Shoot Yoga Kayak Rentals	8 Intro Open Shoot	9 Tai Chi Beginning Open Shoot	10 Bird Walk PCR Mtg.	11 SOMO Training	12	13 Paddle Boarding
14 Yoga Kayak Rentals	15 Intro Open Shoot	16 Tai Chi Beginning Open Shoot	17 Bird Walk	18 SOMO Training	19 Concert Moonlight Paddle	20 Basic Kayak Begin Kayak
21 Women Only Yoga Kayak Rentals	22 Intro Open Shoot	23 Tai Chi Beginning Open Shoot	24 Bird Walk	25 SOMO Training	26	27 Kayak Rentals
28 Adult Only Yoga Kayak Rentals	29	30 Tai Chi	31 Stargazing Campfire Bird Walk			

News from Your Safety Paths and Trails Committee (SPTC)

TWO NEW TRAILS TO BE BUILT SPRING/SUMMER 2016!

The Cider Mill Connector: This project is now out for public bid and we anticipate construction this summer! This new trail in the heart of Goodison provides a safe alternative to walking across a very busy bridge in Gallagher Road at Orion. Flagstar bank has generously allowed construction of this asphalt trail between the bank and Paint Creek. The “Cider Mill Connector” will run from the Paint Creek Trail to the new pedestrian bridge on Orion Road and then to the Paint Creek Cider Mill.



Silverbell/Brewster Link: This asphalt safety path will be built at the southeast corner on Silverbell at Brewster Road and will tie together about 6 1/4 miles of EXISTING SAFETY PATHS in one of the most highly-populated areas of the township. The west connection of this path will link to the Cloisters Development and at the east end, to Windridge Estates. To save our citizens’ tax dollars, construction can be synchronized with the Cider Mill Connector. SPTC thanks the property owners, Steve and Laura Benaquisto for allowing this trail easement on their property and recognizing the need for safe routes for their neighbors.



NEW BOARDWALK CONSTRUCTION - AUTUMN 2016!!

The Silverbell Road/Eagle Creek Boardwalk: All the necessary documents have been signed and it’s full steam ahead towards a late autumn 2016 build of this crucial link in our trail system. The 283’ boardwalk along Silverbell Road, just east of Kern Road, will connect the existing trails around Eagle Creek School those of the Country Creek Subdivision,. The result will link almost 8.5 miles of continuous trails – including a connection all the way to Adams Road!



SAFETY PATHS & TRAILS STRATEGY PLAN & CITIZEN WORKSHOP

A subcommittee of the SPTC has been hard at work for over a year; reviewing our previous SPT 10-Year Plan, preparing maps and preparing a new 10-Year Strategy Plan and Priority Study. We are now working with our township planners at Carlisle/Wortman to host an Open House for citizen input. SPTC encourages all residents to attend and share their suggestions for trail connections in Oakland Township. Watch your local newspaper and township website for this summer event.

SAFETY PATHS AND TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Safety Path and Trails Committee generally meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Township Hall at 5:30 pm. **Citizen comment is always welcome and encouraged.** Always check the township [website](#) to confirm SPTC meeting time and place. Or, email your comments to Libby Dwyer, SPTC Chairperson, at oaklandSPTC@comcast.net.

We're looking for a resident with a passion for trail connectivity throughout the township with a knowledge of our roads and existing trails and parks who is willing to dedicate a few hours a month to SPTC. For more information please contact Libby Dwyer at studio1234@comcast.net or by phone at 248-376-1324.

Unplug This Summer

By: Sue Neal, Executive Director
Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve

We have heard it before... children spend too much time indoors, glued to television, phones, computers and video games and not enough time playing and being physically active. Many people believe that this trend is most apparent among tweens and teens but research is indicating that increasingly younger children are victims of this same phenomenon.



Statistics vary by source but there is definitely a strong trend evident in all of the available literature. On any given day, 29% of babies under the age of 1 are already watching TV and videos for an average of 90 minutes per day. As children's age increases, so does their average "screen time". By preschool, studies report that children are spending an average of 4-5 hours per day looking at a screen. By elementary school the numbers can soar up to, and over, 7 hours every day.



Not all screen time is bad time...but when the free time after school or over summer break is consumed by looking at a screen and not being active there are very real consequences for a child's mental and physical development. Obesity is the first and foremost concern. Many psychologists warn of other problems as well. Children are naturally curious and want to interact with the world around them. The physical inactivity associated with screen viewing can result in difficulties in school where children become hyperactive or inattentive. The children can also show stunted social development and have difficulties interacting appropriately with other children.

Even educational screen time is not innocuous. Some studies suggest that e-books and so called "interactive e-books" may actually be linked to lower levels of story understanding and may hinder aspects of emergent literacy according to an article in the Journal of Educational Psychology.

The reasons for this trend are surely complicated and multifaceted. Technology does have the potential to assist in learning in development and educational programming is indeed heavily marketed to parents of young children. Kids also learn by watching the adults around them. Many adults are guilty of excessive screen time themselves. Lastly our increasingly suburban environment contribute as well...there are fewer places to safely play. Parents are increasingly concerned about the dangers of strangers and the lack of safety paths.

*...pick a week
this summer
for your family
to 'Turn Off'!*



In Oakland Township we are moving toward improving access to the outdoors for children and individuals of all ages. We are blessed with a variety of easily accessible parks and are adding valuable park land as opportunities present. Some parks have developed play areas and others have natural trails and lots of great land to explore and have fun. There is surely a township park nearby to your home. Visiting parks with your children are a perfect way to get away from the screens and get out and active. Surely a benefit for both the adults and the children in your family! Need an extra excuse? National Screen Free Week this year was May 2-8; if you missed it, pick a week this summer for your family to 'Turn Off'!

Get Outside and Play in Your Oakland Township Parks!

Unplug This Summer

Another awesome way to get your kids outdoors in a safe and educational setting is to try out one of the many nature programs offered to residents through the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission. New programs are offered every season and geared toward all age ranges...preschool programs for the youngest among us...elementary programs on the weekend or afterschool...teen programming...family programming (to get everyone involved) and even senior specific activities.

This summer we are offering a particularly exciting program that is the perfect way to carry out your mission of less screen time for your young family member. The Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission is partnering with Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve to offer a brand new summer camp! The summer camp will take place at Lost Lake Nature Park. What makes this so special? Lost Lake is like being up north but without the drive. The park has so many great features that scream awesome summer camp! There is a lake with a dock for fishing and searching for cool insect and beautiful woods with trails to explore and hills to climb. With a small nature center to use as a home base this is the perfect setting for amazing summer camp experience. The daycamp will get children outdoors, active and exploring with not a screen in site. The camp will take place August 2 - 4. See page 8 for more information.



Check out pages 4-11 for a full listing of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Programming this summer!

July is Park and Recreation Month - Time to Unplug and get Outdoors!

Celebrate all month long by exploring **YOUR Oakland Township Parks** - either with us or on your own!

Here is a list of our July programs to help you engage in the outdoors with us.

Archery
Kayaking
Stand Up Paddle Boarding
Outdoor Boot Camp
Soccer Camp
Outdoor Skills Camp
The Wild Kids of Lost Lake Camp
Explore Bow Hunting
Stories, Songs and Dances of the French Voyageur



*Michigan Recreation
and Park Association*

Yoga on the Lake
Ponds and Marshes
Night Creatures
Catchable Critters
Dixie Power Trio Concert
Half-Marathon Training
Weekly Bird Walks
Volunteer Workdays
Phragmites Workshop

Complete details on any of these programs can be found throughout this newsletter or online at www.oaklandtownship.org. If enjoying the parks on your own is more your style and you're not familiar with **YOUR Oakland Township Parks** give us a call or pop in to see us at the Paint Creek Cider Mill- we'll point you to a park to suit your needs!

Parks and Recreation Team Update

2016 Seasonal Staff

LAND STEWARDSHIP TECHNICIANS

Heather Herndon joins our crew this summer as a land stewardship technician. Heather recently graduated from New Mexico State University with a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Wildlife Science with a minor in Range Science. She believes a cross country move from New Mexico to Michigan is an exciting opportunity to explore the natural wonders the Midwest has to offer! She is interested in the development of outreach programs that get kids excited about wildlife and habitat conservation. In her free time she enjoys backpacking, fishing, and strolling through farmers markets. Welcome Heather!



Andrea Nadjarian returns to our crew this summer as a land stewardship technician. She is currently pursuing a major in Natural Resource Management and a minor in Biology at Grand Valley State University. Andrea graduated from Rochester High School and has always loved the outdoors. She is fascinated by the relationships among wildlife and has a passion for preserving natural areas and tackling invasive species that threaten Michigan's native species. Andrea cannot wait to work in the natural areas near where she grew up.

Zachary Peklo returns to our crew this summer as a land stewardship technician. Zach is working toward a degree in Natural Resource Management with an emphasis in Geographic Information Systems at Grand Valley State University. Zach is a township resident and loves the expansive network of nearby parks. He enjoys working in nature, and especially helping to educate others about the natural areas around us. In his free time, he enjoys fishing in the many local nature areas and hunting throughout the state.



PARK CASUAL WORKER

Meet Charlie Huey, our new parks and recreation worker. Charlie has previous experience doing custodial work for Rochester Community Schools. While working at Hugger Elementary he received a "hat's off award" for going above and beyond his job duties. Charlie is also experienced in landscaping work. Charlie enjoys working outdoors and being involved with the community. He is a six-year Oakland Township resident and loves our parks and trails. Charlie also enjoys spending free time with his family and doing just about anything outdoors. He is very excited to be working for Oakland Township and looks forward to meeting more people in the community! Welcome aboard Charlie!



Park Commissioners Receive 2016 Community Service Awards

For their ongoing and tireless commitment to Parks and Recreation Programs and services in the community.

During a total of more than 100 years of service on the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission, David Mackley, Colleen Barkham, Alice Tomboulion and Joe Peruzzi have provided outstanding leadership, integrity and unselfish dedication to our community. Their responsibilities went far beyond attendance at Parks and Recreation Commission meetings. They participated in many aspects of park acquisition, planning and management that have resulted in an outstanding local system of more than 14 parks including 1100+ acres that encompass some of Oakland Township's most significant environmental areas. Parks and recreation "firsts" that they have participated in include the establishment of the Township Park Commission as our Township's Recreation Board, the acquisition and restoration of Cranberry Lake Park's nationally-recognized historic district, the addition of recreation facilities to Bear Creek Nature Park, the construction of the Township's first active recreation facilities including athletic fields and an archery range at Marsh View Park, the opening of the Township's first nature center at Lost Lake Nature Park, the establishment of Oakland Township's Land Preservation millage which is intended to preserve the Township's natural and cultural features, and achieving voter approval on the protection of important Township park natural areas with conservation easements.

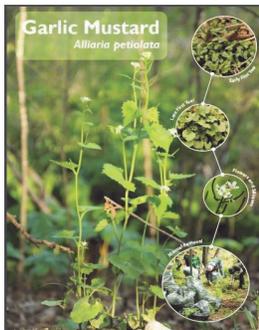
On behalf of all the members of our community, we would like to extend our gratitude for their many years of faithful, effective and professional service to our community.

Paint Creek Trail News

National Trails Day
Garlic Mustard Pull
Saturday, June 4, 2016



Calling all volunteers! Join us in celebrating National Trails Day at a Garlic Mustard Pull on June 4, 2016. Garlic mustard is a tall, spindly, bright green plant that can be seen growing along roads, easements and within woodlands from whenever the snow melts through late June and early July. It's an invasive plant, which means it's not from our region and that it out-competes our native wildflowers and tree seedlings. None of our native animals or insects eat it, because they didn't evolve with each other and their systems aren't designed for it.



When: Saturday, June 4, 2016—Sign in at 9:00am, event runs from 9:30am-1:00pm

Who: All ages are welcome!

Where: Meet at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road, Rochester, 48306

What: Groups will be shown how to pull and bag Garlic Mustard.

All supplies and instruction will be provided.

Bonus: Lunch will be provided for all participants!

For more information, visit www.paintcreektrail.org or email manager@paintcreektrail.org

Trail Courtesy – It's easy to Achieve!

The Trail season is now in full swing! 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. All trail users will appreciate it!



Pedestrians and Cyclists – avoid spreading out: Yes, it's fun to walk, ride, or run the trail in a group. But 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 (with an announcement, or bell of course!). Cyclists and pedestrians must both yield to horses on the trail.

Mind your Dog: Dogs are allowed on the Paint Creek Trail, but must be kept under control and leashed at all times. We love to let our dogs run too – but we don't want them getting run over by a bicycle (and getting hurt!), or causing a collision. Dog waste must be picked up. If you forget your bags, we have Dog Waste Bag dispensers conveniently located along the trail. Please help keep the trail clean!

Mind your Horse: Horses are allowed north of Dutton Road. Horse manure must be picked up, or at least removed from the trail surface. No one wants to ride or walk through it.

Educate your Children: We love seeing children enjoying the trail! Please start trail etiquette education early – stay to the right, pass on the left, and if on bike, announce when passing. We want everyone to have a safe, enjoyable visit! If you are on the trail, and are approaching a family, please slow down and give them enough time and room to know you are there.

Be smart with Headphones: Headphones are allowed on the trail, but you must be careful. Being aware of your surroundings is very important. Cyclists want you to hear them when they announce their presence. Many pedestrian/cyclist collisions can be avoided if you maintain an “ear” while on the trail or can hear ambient noise.

Oakland Township Historical Society News and Upcoming Events

- May 13** Field Trip to the Troy Historic Village. \$5.00/person at THV for the tour; lunch is additional. RSVP to Colleen Barkham at 248-652-0712 or thsbarkham@hotmail.com
- May 28 & 29** **Greater Rochester Heritage Days - Perennials for sale at low prices! Stop by and see us!**
- June 1** Picnic and Program- Cranberry Lake Farm Tools of the Trade. Obsolete and unusual tools of the 1800's. 6:30pm Picnic- Bring a dish to pass. Program to follow elections/meeting.
- June 17** Historic District Tours and Art Display at Cranberry Lake Farm 5:30pm
- June 18** Square Dance- CLFHD Flumerfelt Barn. Sponsored by HDC. OTHS ice cream sales. RSVP for 6pm barbeque dinner \$8 adults; \$5 children 12 and under. FREE Square Dance 7-9pm
- July 9** Field Trip to the Hadley Mill. Tour the Hadley Mill and lunch at the White Horse Inn in Metamora. More details on the OTHS website.



ART SHOW! The Oakland Township Historical Society will be sponsoring a showing of paintings by member and OT resident, Gerry Schuchard, during the Music in the Meadows Classical Concert at Cranberry Lake Farm. Please join us in recognizing the great contribution that Gerry has made to our Historical Society. For many years, Gerry has painted historical scenes in Oakland Township, some of which are now gone. We feel very blessed to have many of his paintings and to also share those now in private homes. The carriage barn gallery will be open June 17th at 5:30pm prior to the DSO Great Waters Quartet Classical Concert.

ARCHIVE ROOM NOW OPEN! The archive room at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District is now open to the public by appointment. The archive team is typically on-site each Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 4pm, but please check before heading over othsmember@comcast.net. Please remember the OTHS Archives project for your donation of Township archives to preserve. *Our Township has a rich history to share and we strive to gather, preserve and protect it for future generations!*

BARN QUILT TRAIL COMING THIS FALL! Watch for details on this self-guided barn quilt trail in late Fall 2016! Let us know if you would like to participate by contacting Barbara Barber at schwillbab@aol.com, Tom Asmus or David Phillips.

For membership information, please contact our membership Chairperson Bonnie Mackley at thistleandtea@yahoo.com. We enjoy activities that inform us of our history and ways to preserve it. Come Join Us! *Find us online at www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org*

Six Rivers Land Conservancy

The Six Rivers Adventure League, a non-competitive outdoor recreation program, will be kicking off its sixth season with a night hike at Rose Oaks County Park on Thursday, April 28 at 8:00 pm. The Adventure League runs through October with weekly and some weekend activities that give metro Detroiters a chance to discover and explore the Nature Near You. League events include hikes, bike rides, and kayak excursions throughout our service area.



Visit our website at <https://www.sixriversrlc.org/index.php/events-activities/adventure-league> or contact Betsy Jagosz at 248-601-2816 / bjagosz@sixriversrlc.org to learn more about the League and to register for the full season. See you outside!

While you're outside, snag some photos for our annual Nature Near You photo contest. Categories include **enthusiast** for photos less than 5 MB and **juried** for photos over 5 MB. Eligible photos must be taken in the Six Rivers service area – Oakland, Macomb, Genesee, St. Clair and Lapeer Counties. Details at <https://www.sixriversrlc.org/index.php/events-activities/photo-contest> or with Danielle Devlin at 248-601-2816 / ddevlin@sixriversrlc.org.



Six Rivers Land Conservancy is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to conserving, sustaining, and connecting natural areas, lands, and waters that make the places we live special. Six Rivers holds conservation easements in Oakland Township Parks including Bear Creek Nature Park, Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park, Blue Heron Environmental Area, and Cranberry Lake Park.

Summer Fun in Oakland Township Parks!



Horses are welcome in the Oakland Township Parks. Please remember to be considerate of other park users. Keep horses off developed lawn and field areas at all times and off limestone trails when soils are saturated in the spring.

Bear Creek Nature Park offers 107 acres of glacially-carved hills and vernal ponds. A perfect place for a family stroll and nature observation! The park comes alive with music on Fridays, July 22 & August 18! (page 3) Sign yourself up for Bird Walks (page 13), Tai Chi or Training Runs or the preschoolers for Catchable Critters (pages 4 & 5).



Charles Ilsley Park's 120 acres of farmland and hardwoods with hidden springs and vernal ponds is the perfect location for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Check out our *Discovery Backpack* and visit on your own to challenge yourself to a nature exploration hike! USFWS Partner Prairie Restoration sites are in the 5-acre north-central field and the 13 acre eastern field. Join us for a Bird Walk and find out which species are attracted to these prairie fields (page 13).

Cranberry Lake Park's trails roam through meadows, vernal ponds and hardwoods, providing an ideal site to begin our Explore Bow Hunting camp (page 9). Learn about the French Voyageurs with us on July 9 (page 4). The Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District is the perfect venue for our June concert (page 3) and HDC's square dances (page 12)!



Draper Twin Lake Park features 90 acres of meadows, wetlands, woodlands, and Twin Lake! Park in the gravel lot at 1015 Inwood to access the dock - don't forget your fishing pole and your current state fishing license (*Free Fishing Day* - page 7)! The 1181 Inwood entry provides access to the eastern park trails where you just may be lucky enough to spot foraging Sandhill Cranes! Join us for monthly Bird Walks at this park. (page 13)!

Lost Lake Nature Park becomes a summer showcase for dragonfly, butterfly and bird watching (page 13). Watch for them while practicing Yoga (page 5). Fishing from the dock is allowed with a current state fishing license (*or without one on Free Fishing Day* - page 7). The Nature Center becomes home-base for Summer Camps in July and August (page 8). Explore Lost Lake with us by kayak or paddleboard or with your friends in one of our rentals (pages 6-7).



Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie is a special prairie remnant adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail. Join us to remove invasives that are shading out the naturally occurring prairie plants (*such as monarda fistulosa*) that attract native pollinators like Swallowtail Butterflies (page 13).

Dogs are welcome when they are leashed and cleaned up after!

All Oakland Township Parks Maps are available on the Parks and Recreation pages of the Oakland Township website: www.oaklandtownship.org.

If you have questions or would like more information
call us at (248)651-7810.



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

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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 in the Township Hall Boardroom.

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. Normal office hours are from 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday.

Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Andy Zale, Chairman
Alice Tomboulian, Vice Chairperson
Roger Schmidt, Treasurer
Dave Mackley, Secretary
Colleen Barkham, Commissioner
Joe Peruzzi, Commissioner
Ann Marie Rogers, Commissioner

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Staff

Parks and Recreation Director	Mindy Milos-Dale
Administrative Assistant	Carol Kasprzak
Clerical Assistant	Deb Gallo
Recreation Manager	Becky McLogan
Maintenance Foreman	Doug Caruso
Natural Areas Stewardship Manager	Dr. Ben VanderWeide
Maintenance, Recreation and Natural Areas Staff	Jeff Johnson, Clif Selent, Lou Danek, Charlie Huey Bob Zbytowski, Jim Tweedie, Chuck Beach
Seasonal Land Stewardship Technicians	Andrea Nadjarian, Heather Herndon, Zachary Peklo



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.