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State Grants Will Fund Permanent Restrooms

After submitting grant applications for two years, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation (OTPRC) was successful in obtaining two Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grants totaling $100,000 for the construction of permanent restroom facilities at Bear Creek Nature Park and Marsh View Park.

As the popularity of these two parks has increased so have the requests from regular park users for the addition of flush restrooms. The current portable toilets at both parks will be replaced with environmentally sustainable and (Continued on page 19)

Local Legacy of Earth Day:
Oakland Township Parks

In this newsletter you have the opportunity to learn about the early origins of Earth Day and the environmental movement it sparked across the United States. It is particularly interesting to recognize the impact that Earth Day had on many things were happening in Oakland Township at the very local level back in the early 1970s. You have probably heard the saying 'think globally, act locally'...the story of land preservation and parks in Oakland Township is the truest manifestation of that saying you will ever hear. (Continued on page 17)

Parks and Recreation Response to COVID-19 (August 3, 2020)

Oakland Township Residents and Friends:
ALL Oakland Township PARKS, TRAILS, PLAYGROUNDS, BASKETBALL COURTS, FISHING/ KAYAK DOCKS AND PORTABLE RESTROOMS are OPEN for use by the public. We have increased the frequency of facility and equipment cleaning. This fall we are offering, by registration only, lower-risk outdoor activities including nature, archery, yoga, tai chi, and kayaking classes. We will also continue to offer virtual classes and videos through our website (www.oaklandtownship.org) and our (Continued on page 4)
### Upcoming FREE Virtual Programs

**Registration at: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com**

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Age Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>All Levels Yoga</strong></td>
<td>Sundays, November 1-December 13, 2020</td>
<td>9:30-10:30am</td>
<td>Adults 12+</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Intermediate Yoga</strong></td>
<td>Sundays, November 1-December 13, 2020</td>
<td>11:00-12:00pm</td>
<td>Adults 12+</td>
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**Zoom—Link will be available at facebook.com/OTParks one hour prior to class.**

Up Dog Yoga, Red Lotus and Oakland Township Parks and Recreation are teaming up to bring you virtual yoga! When the weather turns cold you can watch and participate live from the comfort and warmth of your home. We welcome all skill levels in all of our classes! The 'All Level' classes will accommodate all skill levels with an option to modify. Led by Up Dog instructor Sandy De Witte - RYT200 certified. The 'Intermediate Level' class will be more of a challenge with longer holds and postures. Led by Red Lotus instructor Jenn Cederquist – RYT200 certified.

**Register by October 25** Link will be available for two days to catch the replay at facebook.com/OTParks/.

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<tr>
<td><strong>Tai Chi Beginning Exercises</strong></td>
<td>Adults 18+</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Zoom—Link will be available at facebook.com/OTParks one hour prior to class.</strong></td>
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Tai Chi will cover breathing exercises with small Tai Chi movements, designed to enhance your overall health by improving balance and feelings of wellbeing. You should be able to support your weight while standing or have a chair handy if unable to stand without assistance. Grab some comfortable clothing and shoes. Flip flops or sandals are not recommended. Be sure you join 10 minutes early to make any adjustments to your device.  **Register by October 27**

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<th>Program</th>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Age Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mars at Opposition - It Looks Big and Red and Bad!</strong></td>
<td>All Ages</td>
<td>8:00-9:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GoTo Meeting. Link provided via email within 24 hours before program.</strong></td>
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Join The Red Planet as it presents its peak performance for the year under the watchful eye of the Royal Family of Constellations. **Register by October 11**

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<th>Age Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Leaf Scavenger Hunt</strong></td>
<td>All ages</td>
<td></td>
<td>Self-Directed Program</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Video—Link will be provided at registration.</strong></td>
<td>Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363</td>
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There’s nothing like a scavenger hunt put on by nature. We will be producing for you a video that features several different species of trees, along with different colors of leaves that will have participants venturing out to a park of your choosing to print off and participate in a scavenger hunt at their own leisure. Within the video we will be talking about why leaves fall from trees and change color, and the importance of chlorophyll. For this video we will provide a printable scavenger hunt for your use specifically at Cranberry Lake Farm, but can be used in any nature setting.  **Register between October 2 - December 21.**

### Virtual Nature and Activity Center

Have you explored our free virtual programming? Our virtual programming provides fun, fitness, crafts, nature education, recreation and enrichment through these unprecedented times. We are committed to ensuring our community has the resources to help facilitate health and well-being.

**NEW! Oakland Township Parks & Recreation now has its very own YouTube Channel!**

Find videos about Earth Day, Frogs, Crayfish, and more! Subscribe so you don’t miss out on more quality virtual programming. Visit: https://bit.ly/OTParksYouTube

**Share Your Ideas!** If you have an idea for a virtual program or resource that you’d like us to offer, please let us know! Contact us at parks@oaklandtownship.org, or call (248) 651-7810.
On this self-led Nature Scavenger Hunt in Oakland Township Parks, investigate and learn how animals prepare for winter and survive the cold.

Riddles and clues will lead you around Oakland Township Parks to explore, crack codes, piece together puzzles, and solve the mystery of how animals survive the cold! After completing the nature adventure, participants will submit their answers and be entered in a drawing to win a special reward!

Begin your quest by registering with Oakland Township Parks and Recreation: oaklandtwp.recedesk.com
Clues will be displayed from September 18-27 throughout Oakland Township Parks.

The Nature Scavenger Hunt is free and open to anyone, but you must register to obtain the first clue!
As part of Oakland Township’s Parks and Recreation commitment to help protect our patrons we wanted to share with you the precautions we are taking in response to the coronavirus. We are implementing additional health and safety measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Oakland County Health Department. These measures include requiring self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms, wearing PPE, limiting programs to small groups, implementing social distancing practices, and increased cleaning of parks and program facilities and equipment.

**ALL OUTDOOR PROGRAMS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION.**
**NO DROP-INS WILL BE PERMITTED.**

Oakland Township resident registration starts NOW! Non-resident registration begins one week prior to the program registration deadline date. Register online at: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Facebook link, www.facebook.com/OTParks/.

The Parks and Recreation offices are now OPEN to the public between 9am and 3pm, Monday through Friday. Visitors who wish to do business in-person are required to wear a mask and complete our COVID-19 self-screening procedure before entering the office area. Social distancing policies continue to apply.

Please continue to stay healthy and enjoy Oakland Township parks, recreation facilities and programs as you follow these guidelines:

- Do not use parks or trails if you are exhibiting symptoms.
- Follow CDC’s guidance on personal hygiene prior to visiting parks or trails.
- Observe the CDC’s minimum recommended social distancing of 6’ from other persons.
- Carry masks in case you encounter others in close proximity. The recent Executive Order 153 requires the use of face coverings in crowded outdoor spaces when proper social distancing – at least 6 feet when around people who are not part of your household – cannot be maintained.
- Families are welcome to play in the parks and use trails, but please do not engage in sports/activities that require shared contact.
- Public gatherings of more than 100 people are prohibited.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation (OTPR) continues to monitor for changes in guidance and mandates about COVID-19 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Governor’s Executive Orders and Oakland County Health Orders. OTPR has made operational changes that are in the best interest of the health and safety of the public and our employees to limit the spread of COVID-19. These best practices and all COVID-19 updates are available on the Parks and Recreation pages at www.oaklandtownship.org.
### Tai Chi Beginners (Outdoors)
**Adults 18+**

**Tuesdays, September 1 - October 20, 2020  6:00-7:00pm**
Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363

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. No flip flops or sandals. Led by Marci Jenkins.*  8 weeks.  

*Marci has over 20 years of Tai Chi training and practice.

**Residents: $30  Non-residents: $30**  
Register by August 25

### Tai Chi Continuing Beginners (Outdoors)
**Adults 18+**

**Wednesdays, September 2- October 21, 2020  6:00-7:00pm**
Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363

For those students who have taken Tai Chi classes with Marci Jenkins. 8 weeks.

**Residents: $30  Non-residents: $30**  
Register by August 25

### First Steps to Wellness (Outdoors)
**Adults 18+**

**Tuesdays, September 15 - October 6, 2020  10:00-11:00am**
Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 West Snell Road, Rochester, MI 48306

Designed for adults of all abilities and fitness levels.  Learn evidence-based and research-oriented fundamentals of nutrition and exercise, how your mindset impacts your health, and injury prevention techniques at the beginning of each class. Then, apply what you’ve learned as you walk with the group around beautiful Bear Creek Nature Park. This program is guided by Dr. Jack Moses, D.C., who leads his peers in working to integrate the latest research in spine care with movement, nutrition, and in collaboration with best practices in neurology, orthopedics, and chiropractic care.  

*Note: Participants should have clearance by their primary care provider to begin a new exercise program.*

**Residents: FREE  Non-residents: FREE**  
Register by September 8

### Yoga (Outdoors)
**Adults 12+**

**All Levels  Sundays, September 13 - October 18  9:30-10:30am**

**Intermediate  Sundays, September 13 - October 18  11:00am-12:00pm**
Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363

Up Dog Yoga, Red Lotus and Oakland Township Parks and Recreation are teaming up to bring you socially distanced outdoor Yoga! Outdoor classes add a different dimension to your practice and pare yoga down to its original link with nature—a gentle breeze can soothe, the warm sun can deepen poses by making muscles more pliable, the smell of pine and grass can deepen breathing, and a ladybug can invite you to focus on something small and still. We welcome all skill levels in all of our classes! The 'All Level' classes will accommodate all skills levels with an option to modify. Led by Up Dog instructor Sandy De Witte - RYT200 certified. The 'Intermediate Level' class will be more of a challenge with longer holds and postures. Led by Red Lotus instructor Jenn Cederquist – RYT200 certified. Bring your own equipment.

**All Levels: $30  Intermediate: $30**  
Register by September 6
Fall 2020 Outdoor Nature Programs
Registration at: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Registration is open to all residents and non-residents NOW!

Incredibusy Squirrels
Ages 3-4 yrs.
Saturday, September 19, 2020  10:00-11:00am
Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 West Snell Road, Rochester, MI 48306

With the incredibly fun of summer behind us it’s time to buckle down and get back to school! Humans aren’t even the only species on earth getting back to the grind as some of our favorite tree-dwelling friends are hard at work too! Squirrels are busy as ever this time of year, gathering food for winter and frantically hiding it about our lawns, parks, and backyards! Join us at Bear Creek Nature Park as we sit at our own picnic tables and learn a little about what these busy creatures are after. We will read a story all about squirrels, see their food up close, and put together a squirrel feeder to take home. Afterwards we will head out on the trails to try and spot these quick little rodents with our own eyes!

Residents: $5  Non-residents: $7  Register by: September 12

Fall Mushrooms of Michigan
Adults 18+
Saturday, September 26, 2020  10:00-11:30am
Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, MI 48363

Sign up early for this popular program! PowerPoint presentation handouts to all registrants.

Take a tour of the amazing world of mushrooms. Discover the many types of mushrooms in Michigan in this unique and very hands-on program from mushroom expert Jerry Watson of the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club. We will peruse the Seasonal Mushrooms of Michigan with a presentation from our expert and learn about where and how mushrooms grow while inspecting numerous samples up close. Then, we'll take a walk (no picking) to search for mushrooms in the park too! There is no substitute for the excellent opportunity of doing a mushroom hunt with a true mushroom expert!

Residents: $5  Non-Residents: $7  Register by: September 19

Hoots, Squeeks, and Legs - A Halloween Walk
Families All Ages
Saturday, October 17, 2020  7:00-8:00pm
Cranberry Lake Park, 388 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363

We love Halloween and nothing screams Halloween in nature like nocturnal shenanigans. Whether it's the deep hoot of a great horned owl high up in the trees awaiting an unsuspecting skunk below, or the silent chaotic flapping of a small brown bat as it chases after a delicious moth. We just can't get enough of these after-dark animals. We will be meeting outside with flashlights and bug spray before heading out on the trails to learn a little bit about the animals that call dark home. We will even have packets on how to protect owls to take home so that participants can continue their study! Register early! There will only be 10 participants for this walk. We will have a wait list and a possible 2nd walk if necessary.

Residents: $5  Non-residents: $7  Register by: October 10

Maintain social distancing while enjoying the parks!
The Not-So Itsy Bitsy Spider

Ages 5-7 yrs.

Saturday, October 24, 2020  2:00-3:30pm
Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, MI 48363

There are more than 45,000 species of spiders across the world and some of these creepy-crawlies are far more deadly than others. Luckily in Michigan we only have two true spiders to worry about, and both of them are very rare to encounter. Join us at Lost Lake Nature Park as we take a look at some pretty wacky spiders that can be found around the globe before examining our very own living Brazilian rose-haired tarantula. Afterwards we will be taking to the trails in an attempt to find wild examples of these hair-raising critters. Before we are all done, we will be putting together our own giant spiders to take home to freak out our parents!

Residents: $5  Non-residents: $7  Register by October 17

Seasonal Adult Hikes - Coyotes

Adults 18+

Saturday, November 7, 2020  7:30-9:00pm
Cranberry Lake Park, 388 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363

A healthy ecosystem contains a variety of species, and even some species that humans might not find desirable play a vital ecological role. We find that many people have misconceptions about the importance, or even have irrational fears about some of our favorite members of the Canidae family: coyotes. Join us as we take a close look at these relatives of dogs and examine their role in the ecosystem by observing a coyote mount. Afterwards we will head out on the trails to see if we can identify coyote calls, tracks, or signs of these elusive predators. Participants even be taking home their own coyote poster.

Residents: $5  Non-residents: $7  Register by October 31

My Little Luminary

Families All Ages

Saturday, December 19, 2020  7:30-9:00pm
Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 West Snell Road, Rochester, MI 48306

With the holiday season in full swing, the climate around shopping malls, our homes, and our offices can seem downright magical. We feel as though it’s about time nature joined in on the festivities. Join us at Bear Creek Nature Park as we put together and decorate portable luminaries from beneath the pavilion (with seating) to take out onto the trails for a very special evening hike. We will be focusing on the sights, sounds and smells of a Michigan winter, all from the glow of our handheld lanterns (which we will be taking home!). We will be softly lighting up animal tracks, winter berries, and talking about how nature seems to pause for this season.

Residents: $5  Non-residents: $7  Register by December 12

"FREE" VIRTUAL AND VIDEO PROGRAMS

Full details on page 2!
Fun Basics of Kayaking - Ages 10 and up
Draper Twin Lake Park, 1015 Inwood Road, Rochester, MI 48306*
Saturday, September 5 8:30am - 10:30am Register by August 28
Friday, October 16 5:00 - 7:00pm Register by October 9

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. Draper Twin Lake is an open calm flat water without jet skis and motor boats.

Residents: $20 Non-residents: $35 Maximum 10 registrants.
*Draper Twin Lake is a calm water lake. The distance from the parking lot to the dock, which has lake access, is approximately one-half mile via accessible path.

Items to bring: water bottle, water shoes or light weight sneakers, sunglasses, bug repellent, and wear synthetic clothing. 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.

New Online Park Map!

Enjoy our new interactive map of Oakland Township's parks! With this web app, located at https://bit.ly/3g0GaRs, use the ready-to-go bookmarks to locate all of the parks and natural areas in the Oakland Township park system. Click on the name of each park to see a brief description. You can also change the base map, show your location, and measure distances or area.

Scan with your phone to view the map!

Oakland Township Parks & Recreation
4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306
Phone: 248-651-7810
www.oaklandtownship.org
Marsh View Park, 3100 East Clarkston Rd., Oakland, MI 48363
Marsh View Park Outdoor Archery Range offers 10 universally accessible shooting lanes with a shooting maximum distance of 90 meters. This versatile range provides programs and shooting opportunities for all ages and abilities.

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).

### Beginning Archery  **All Ages (Ages 8 - Adult)**

* **Saturdays, September 12 - October 10, 2020**  10:00 - 11:00am  **Register by Sept. 5**

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

**Residents: $60**  **Non-Residents: $75**

### Next Step Archery  **(Ages 8 - Adult)**

* **Fridays, September 11 - October 9, 2020**  6:00pm - 7:00pm  **Register by Sept. 4**

This program is for archers who have taken Beginning Archery or archers with some experience. Focus on improving your archery form and accuracy. Sanitized equipment provided or bring your own.

**Residents: $60**  **Non-Residents: $75**

### Open Range Shoot  **Ages 8 - Adult "FREE" to the Public**

Practice your archery skills. Children between 8 and 17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. 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 targets provided or bring your own. Equipment will be sanitized between users and sessions. Social distancing will be practiced. All registrants must wear masks.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**  5 sessions every Saturday to choose from.

* **Saturdays, June 27 - November 7, 2020**
  - 11:30am-12:15pm, or 12:30-1:15pm, or 1:30-2:15pm, or 2:30-3:15pm or 3:30-4:15pm
* **Wednesdays, August 26 - September 9, 2020 (one session only)**  6:30-8pm

**No Open Range Shoot on September 5, 2020**

### Private Group Programs

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

### 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.

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

[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation and Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve have partnered to bring Oakland Township residents and others exciting new programs at Lost Lake Nature Park! Family, friends and neighbors are invited to explore everything this partnership has to offer at one of these FREE open houses. Open to all ages! We will be offering 2 sessions for each 'open house' that'll take place in our reserved spot of the park by the dock and picnic tables. Each Sunday session will be 1.5 hours (12-1:30pm and 2-3:30pm) and be limited to 10 active participants. As our survey indicated a greater demand for children’s and family programs, these lend themselves perfectly for those needs. We can return to our typical open-house format once some normalcy returns to the world. MUST pre-register through oaklandtownship.recdesk.com.

September 27th: Cranes and Herons - Throughout our programs at Lost Lake we typically have one or two members of a very specialized group of birds which can be found in numerous regions of our park. These large avian critters have long, long necks and walk upon stilts, slowly pacing the borders of our kettle-lake keeping a keen eye out for frogs, fish, and other delicacies hidden below the placid depth. We are of course talking about cranes! We love our great egrets, great blue herons and sandhill cranes and have so much to say about them. Join us as we spend a little bit of time lakeside listening for, and watching for these large birds. We will even teach you how to put together origami cranes!

October 25th: The Foxes - Frankly, around the start of autumn we notice that numerous nature organizations spend all of their energies focusing on the busy squirrels getting ready for winter. We would like to take a different approach and focus on one of these friendly arboreal rodent’s predators: the fox. Michigan is home to two different species of fox, the red and gray fox. Join us as we get up close and personal with a fox mount, learning about the specialized body parts and creative thinking that make these members of the canidae family so formidable at hunting despite being solitary animals. Because these animals have such gorgeous coats we will also be putting together a fun colorfully orange craft for our younger learners to take home.

November 29th: Earth Day in November - We feel as though we were robbed of a proper Earth Day celebration this year and we want to get our favorite holiday back. For this special open house we are going to be putting together recycled craft presents to give our loved ones this holiday season while also talking about the importance of ecological preservation, recycling, and responsible stewardship. We will take plenty of trips out into the quiet woods to see, up close, specimens of this planet that are worth our efforts to save.

December 20th: Crazy Michigan Weather - One thing any Michigander knows is that putting your coat back in the closet at the end of winter is a surefire way to bring about another blizzard, and the same goes with folding those t-shirts away after August. We seem to have wild days of ice and fire gingerly sprinkled throughout every one of our ten day forecasts. How is it that meteorologists discover these weather patterns and what tools do they use? Join us at Lost Lake as we set up our weather station and take some measurements from the air while learning about the tools used to predict the weather. We will even be making our own weather forecast instruments to take home!

All programs on this page take place at Lost Lake Nature Park. The park is located west of Rochester Rd south of Predmore: 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland Township. For more information visit: www.dinosaurhill.org
With the onset of the pandemic, the 50th annual celebration of Earth Day went largely overlooked this year. This is particularly ironic as many individuals turned to the outdoors for solace during the statewide shutdown. Parks and trails provided a much needed escape from our homes and computers. Scientists noted reductions in all sorts of pollution and streets were far less crowded by cars while the nation ground to a halt in attempt to suppress the virus. As we continue to struggle through the pandemic, we thought this might be a nice time to take a step back and remember the early origin of Earth Day and to celebrate the 50th anniversary...even if we are a bit late to the party!

The original idea for Earth Day originated in 1969 and was, in part, inspired by the antiwar actions taking place around the United States in response to Vietnam. A Democrat senator, Gaylord Nelson, from Wisconsin had a lifelong interest in environmental issues and was growing concerned over a number of trends. The tipping point occurred on January 28th of 1969. On this date, the worst oil spill at that time in the history of the United States took place off the coast of Santa Barbara, California. The spill occurred during a routine drilling procedure on a platform rig about 6 miles offshore. Several wells had been drilled successfully but when the 5th well was being drilled an enormous amount of pressure was tapped and it overwhelmed the safety mechanisms of the rig and sent tremendous quantities of oil 'rocketing' to the surface...the pressure was so strong that it resulted in cracks in the seabed which leaked oil at a rate so rapid that it was reported that the surface of the ocean appeared to be 'boiling'.

The resulting environmental damage was profound. The resulting oil slick is said to have grown to cover an area larger than Chicago. The toll on wildlife was devastating and the public’s attention was captured by the footage of oil covered birds and other animals that suffered a heart wrenching fate. The catastrophe awakened the consciousness of lawmakers and the public in an unprecedented way and marked a turn for environmental awareness and regulation in the US.

Senator Nelson decided that education of young people might hold the key to improving conditions of the natural world. In a bipartisan move he joined forces with a Republican senator who also had a heritage of concern over the environment and social issues. Together, they advanced the idea of a "national day for the environment". April 22nd was chosen for the first Earth Day in an effort to maximize student participation by scheduling it during the period between Spring Break and the end of the term. The first Earth Day was held in 1970 and was a resounding success. Reports estimate that about 10% of the US population took part in demonstrations, teach-ins and other activities on that day. This also resulted in a shift in the political climate as several notoriously anti-environment politicians lost their seats in the next several years.

In addition to the backlash against some politicians, the momentum generated by Earth Day resulted in the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA. Several key pieces of environmental legislation followed including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. While there is disagreement over regulation and the impacts of these pieces of legislation, it is undeniable that Earth Day had a massive impact on the trajectory of environmental issues in the US.

The impact of Earth Day continued and in 1990 it grew to a worldwide event with 141 countries taking part in this day of action, celebration and education. It was during this anniversary of Earth Day that Bill Clinton awarded Senator Nelson with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his efforts to launch the first Earth Day at the start of the 1970s. By 2010, it is reported that 191 countries participated in Earth Day in some way.
Across the globe, populations of butterflies and bees are in decline. These insects face many threats, largely due to habitat degradation resulting from increased urbanization and agricultural intensification. Insect declines are a major problem for the environment and humans, as insects provide important ecosystem services. Insects are a critical food source for birds, fish, and other animals. Insects, especially bees, are also key pollinators of food crops, including our most nutritious fruits and vegetables. Did you know that pollinators aid in the reproduction of nearly 90% of flowering plants worldwide?

Over the last several years, I have been working with graduate and undergraduate students in my lab at Oakland University to study pollinators and other insects in the tri-county region. We have documented about 150 bee species across farms, gardens, and natural areas in the area. While this number may seem high, it’s only a small fraction of the 450+ bee species in Michigan. Native bee species are essential pollinators. Research led by Kyla Scherr, a graduate student in my lab, demonstrates that native bees are key pollinators of strawberry crops. She has found that even when honey bee hives are present, native bee species, like small sweat bees, are the most frequent visitors at flowers, often carrying large pollen loads from flower to flower. So far, we’ve identified approximately 60 native bee species visiting strawberry flowers.

Last year, graduate student Anna Tawril conducted pollinator surveys at Charles Ilsley Park. She identified roughly 25 bee species and around 15 butterfly species visiting a variety of wildflowers. Bee balm, Sand Coreopsis, Gray-headed Coneflower, New England Aster, and Riddell’s Goldenrod were among the most commonly visited wildflowers. These native flower species and the habitat restoration projects that support them are essential components of pollinator conservation. The Jamieson Biodiversity Lab is excited to continue research this summer and into the future in Oakland Township Parks. Currently, we’re surveying pollinators and other insects at four Oakland Township Parks, and we’ve started a monitoring route for the Michigan Butterfly Network at Draper Twin Lake Park. This research will help assess insect populations, evaluate habitat quality, and engage citizen scientists.

If you’re interested in volunteering to help monitor plants or insects, contact Ben VanderWeide (bvanderweide@oaklandtownship.org). If you’d like to help with pollinator surveys, you can also contact me (mjamieson@oakland.edu). We can use help from all amateur or professional naturalists and photographers! To learn more about our research and how you can help pollinators, visit www.jamiesonlab.com or follow us on Instagram @PlantsForPollinators. To learn about habitat restoration and conservation efforts in Oakland Township Parks, visit www.oaklandnaturalareas.com.
Great Spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*) at Charles Ilsley Park. Photo by Anna Tawril

Mating Monarchs (*Danaus plexippus*) at Paint Creek Heritage Area. Photo by Mary Jamieson

### Additional Pollinator Resources

- [Michigan Pollinator Initiative](#) Website
- [Michigan Pollinator Initiative](#) Facebook
- [Michigan’s Managed Pollinator Protection Plan](#)
- [MUCC Pollinator Habitat Designation Program](#)
- [Pollinator Conservation Article](#)
- [Monarch Butterfly-Fish & Wildlife Service](#)
- [Xerces Society Michigan](#)
- [Great Lakes Bees](#)

### Monarch Migrations

**Thursday, September 3rd 10:00am-11:30am**  
Charles Ilsley Park

Meet at main parking lot, 1479 East Predmore Road

Every year Monarch butterflies make an incredible journey, traveling nearly 2000 miles from Michigan to the mountains of Mexico where they spend the winter months. Come learn about these beautiful and fascinating insects in our Monarch Migrations event and take a stroll through our habitat restoration project to help monitor the migratory Monarch population. Oakland University Assistant Professor Dr. Mary Jamieson will provide an introduction to the biology of this butterfly and lead a one mile walk through the park where participants will learn about citizen science projects to help monitor Monarch populations. Space is limited to the first 10 people who sign up. Please email mjamieson@oakland.edu to RSVP if you’re interested in participating.

All participants will need to follow social distancing and other safety rules.
Parks and Recreation Team Update

Lindsay Glasovatz joins our crew this summer as a land stewardship technician. She graduated from Central Michigan University in May 2017 with a degree in biology natural resources/environmental studies. She has worked with the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps and Michigan DNR treating invasive plants and insects. She has also worked with the USDA Forest Service and American Conservation Experience in Arizona and Utah doing backcountry conservation work. She also has experience capturing and releasing wild birds. She has always been interested in plants and wildlife. She loves hiking, kayaking, camping, and observing wildlife. She is excited to work in Oakland County and learn more about the area.

Parker Maynard joins our crew this summer as a land stewardship technician. He was raised in Novi, Michigan and realized his love of the outdoors through camping and fishing as a kid. Through his experience earning a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science at Eastern Michigan University, Parker discovered an interest in maintaining and improving ecosystems. It is his goal to research and execute sustainable solutions for mitigating anthropogenic harm in vital areas. Parker is excited to be working with Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, and feels that it is the perfect opportunity for him to give back to the state that has provided so many of the natural resources and recreational activities that he has enjoyed throughout his life.

Emily Veillette joins our crew this summer as a land stewardship technician. Emily graduated from Oakland University with a degree in environmental science concentrated in natural resource management and sustainability. She has always enjoyed spending time in nature and is driven to help preserve and restore natural areas. In February, Emily completed a six-month apprenticeship working on restoration ecology at the Wilds in southeast Ohio. She is excited to continue this type of work with Oakland Township, a place she grew up near. Emily loves outdoor photography, hiking, biking, and cooking up new recipes.

Thank you to our Natural Areas Stewardship Technicians: Summer 2020
A big thank-you to Lindsay Glasovatz, Parker Maynard, and Emily Veillette for their great work this summer on our land stewardship crew. Together the crew worked to keep the natural areas in our parks beautiful. Each crew member contributed their skills and background to help us enhance and restore our natural areas. Good luck in your future endeavors!

If this position sounds like fun to you, consider applying for the 2021 crew! Look for the job announcement this winter on our website.

Natural Areas Stewardship Volunteers: Summer 2020
Cam Mannino, Louise Hartung, Laurie Peklo, Tom Korb, Donna Perkins, Jon Reed, Kathleen Dougherty, Ruth Glass, Jim Fostey
**Fall 2020 Natural Areas Stewardship Events**

Please come out and join us for one of these 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).

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

### Seed Collecting and Cleaning

Many native plant seeds are only available for collecting for a few weeks in the fall, so we need as much help as possible during harvest! Seed collecting is a fun, relaxing way to learn new native plant species while experiencing unique natural areas. We use the seed to restore areas where we have removed invasive plants. All workdays are 12:30 - 3:30 pm. Please pre-register at [https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com/](https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com/). All participants will need to follow social distancing and other safety rules. Workdays may be cancelled due to COVID-19.

**Seed Collecting**. Meet at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road, before heading to our site for the day. Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20 & 27.

**Seed Cleaning**. Meet at Watershed Ridge Park, 1720 West Buell Road. Thursday, December 3.

### Weekly Bird Walks

Join us every Wednesday from September through November 18 for our weekly bird walks. We want to document the bird species using our parks so that we can work to improve their habitat. Walks will start at 8:30 am. Please pre-register at [https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com/](https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com/). All participants will need to follow social distancing and other safety rules. Walks may be cancelled due to COVID-19.

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 September – Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park

### 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).

### Natural Areas Information at your Fingertips!

Have you checked out our blog recently? The [Natural Areas Notebook](http://naturalareasnotebook.com) 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.
Phragmites Control Planned Along Major Oakland Township Roads

Oakland Township will be working with the Road Commission for Oakland County and the Oakland County CISMA to treat invasive Phragmites along major roads rights-of-way in August, September, and early October 2020. Phragmites is a grass that grows 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 infrastructure. This large grass forms dense stands, crowding out habitat for wildlife and native plants.

The Oakland Township Phragmites treatments along roadway Right-of-Ways have been scheduled during the months of August, September and October, 2020

(Residents may contact Dr. Ben VanderWeide at 248-651-7810 with questions about their property.)

DEQ permitting restrictions, national holidays, and/or weather conditions may influence the timing of treatments. The treatment schedule is approximate. Please watch your property if you are adjacent to planned treatment areas for the posting of the 8.5x11 inch, yellow signs. The signs will indicate the date of the treatment, the products used, and any restrictions on the use of treated property.

This notice is being circulated in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) procedures. Below is a list of herbicides that may be applied and the associated use restrictions. On the day of treatment, signs will be posted that indicate what products were used and specific restrictions that apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check all that apply</th>
<th>Chemical product/active ingredient</th>
<th>Chemical trade name</th>
<th>Do Not Enter Area Until Plants Are Dry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Glyphosate</td>
<td>Aquaneat, AquaPro</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Imazapyr</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Adjuvant</td>
<td>Cygnet Plus</td>
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For a complete listing of all product labels, please see the PLM website.

The chemicals used for Aquatic Nuisance Control are registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The potential for damage to fish and other non-target organisms is minimal provided that the product is used as directed on the product label and the permit. To minimize the possible effects on health and the environment, the treated area is restricted for the above purposes.

PLM Lake & Land Management Corp. Certified Applicators: Salvatore Adams, Jason Broekstra, Jim Chatel, David Comeau, Jaimee Conroy, Bill D’Amico, Jeff Fischer, BreAnne Grabill, Dustin Grabill, Benjamin Halbersma, Steve Hanson, Mitch Hiler, Jake Hunt, Nate Karsten, Justin Krueger, Blake Mallory, Michael Pichla, James Scherer, Ben Schmerhorn, Casey Shoaff, Lucas Slagel, Jeff Tolan, Andy Tomaszewski, Dennis Vangesssel, Mathew Wardell
In writing about the history of the parks system in Oakland Township, the late Peggy Johnson captures the deep dedication of the local citizens of the township to the preservation of the local environment. Residents of the township became concerned by several trends that they were seeing take place in the late sixties and early seventies. During this time period, surrounding communities were experiencing rapid growth with few resources being dedicated to land preservation and parks. What Oakland Township had was residents that treasured the rural atmosphere of the township and a fierce dedication to protect the unique environment that surrounded them. It is striking to note, for example, that the first inventory of natural lands in the township was undertaken by a team of 36 volunteers — each being assigned a square mile — and using USGS maps and air photos to inventory their assigned region. This citizen science initiative laid the foundation for the soon to follow professional Ecological Assessment completed in 1974.

The Ecological Assessment spurred further discussion about how best to implement the recommendations of the plan. A ballot proposal was put forward that would allow for the formation of a Parks Commission alongside a ¾ mill tax that would be used for land preservation within the township. This historic proposal represented an incredible accomplishment for the Township. The Parks Commission (now the Parks and Recreation Commission) has overseen the acquisition of several parks, a large number of successful grants and property donations, and directed efforts to preserve the parks while also encouraging responsible park development to provide recreational and educational opportunities to township residents.

Early accomplishments of the Parks Commission included the donation of the land that would become Mill Race Trail and the acquisition of Bear Creek Nature Park. Bear Creek is one of the best-loved and most used parks in Oakland Township. Earth Day inspired the teachers of nearby Baldwin Elementary School to explore the use of outdoor education for their students. At that time, the property was owned by Mr. Devereux who allowed the students to visit the property since bussing for field trips was being phased out. Eventually, upon Mr. Devereux’s passing, the property was the first parcel purchased by the relatively newly formed Parks Commission. Another early project spearheaded by these citizens is the partnership with Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve. The relationship between Dinosaur Hill and the Township can be traced back to around 1976 when there were efforts underway to generate interest in the old railway that would become the Paint Creek Trail. The trail now serves as a popular linear park that connects the Township to the property of Dinosaur Hill and well beyond. Dinosaur Hill continues today as a key partner with the Parks and

(Continued on page 18)
The Legacy of Earth Day: Nationally

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

(Continued from page 11)

Regardless of your politics, we can probably all agree that we want to make sure we have an environment with clean air, clean water and habitat for the other animals and plants that share our planet. Education and understanding is one of the most powerful tools we have to ensure that future generations will have healthy parks and green spaces to turn to in good times and in bad. While we may have missed the official anniversary of Earth Day this year, we invite you to celebrate nonetheless. First, view the Earth Day video sponsored by the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission. (See page 2 for our virtual program page link.) Then consider attending our November Earth Day open house. (See page 10.)

The First Earth Day; Silent Spring; Images before the clean water act; Michigan Moments-Earth Day Turns 50;

Local Legacy of Earth Day: Oakland Township Parks

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

(Continued from page 17)

Recreation Commission to provide programs and activities in many of the township parks. This partnership is just one more example of the enduring legacy of the individuals in Oakland Township that were so dedicated to preserving the Township.

As we hold a late celebration of Earth Day this year, consider the countless hours of dedicated efforts that past residents of Oakland Township have made in order to make the Township what is today. While much has changed over the years there are some things that remain the same. Pressure to develop in the Township is a constant reality as communities around us continue to build ever denser. Invasive plants, run-off from pesticides and fertilizers threaten the health of our parks, wetlands and insects. Outdoor lights from new homes block our view of the stars at night. The same lesson that applied back in the 1970s remains prescient still today: “Change is inevitable…but only intelligent change is progress”. The Parks and Recreation Commission remains dedicated to protecting our parks and continuing to ensure that the natural treasures of Oakland Township are enjoyed and valued by residents. You can participate in the legacy by viewing this Earth Day video (see page 2 for our virtual program page link) or joining Dinosaur Hill Naturalists at the upcoming Earth Day Everyday open house in November (see page 10).
State Grants Will Fund Permanent Restrooms

(Continued from page 1)

universally accessible flushable vault toilets (see site plans). “This collaborative effort by Oakland Township … is an excellent example of how local governments, trail and park advocates and state government can work together to accomplish common goals,” said Paul Yauk, MDNR State Trail Coordinator, in his support for these improvements. These permanent restrooms will expand the enjoyment of trails, picnic areas, play structures, sports facilities, nature and archery programs.

Flushable vault restrooms include sinks and look like conventional restrooms from the floor up, but they use 70% less water than conventional restrooms! They were originally created by an engineer for the National Park Service to offer low-flush and low maintenance restrooms in remote park locations. This type of restroom is well matched to both park sites, which have nearby wetland areas, as they do not require a connection to a septic field.

After receiving all necessary permits and approvals, OTPR expects to bid out these projects during the coming fall or winter with construction projected to occur in 2021.

It would not be possible to apply for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants without the matching funds provided by Oakland Township residents through our Parks and Recreation Millage. The Oakland Township Parks and Recreation millage provides funding for the acquisition, maintenance, operation, improvement and management of Township parks, recreation areas, facilities, and programs. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund provides funding for the acquisition of public lands for resource protection and the development of public outdoor recreation. We are very grateful to have this local and state support for Oakland Township Parks and Recreation.

For more information on these improvements, see the grant applications on the Parks and Recreation home page at www.oaklandtownship.org.
Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District

A community historical center - work in progress for you. Come out to the farm!
For more information contact the Historic District Commission office 248-608-6807
Check the website www.oaklandtownship.org or Facebook @CLFdistrict

Cranberry Lake Farm is open for your enjoyment, relaxation, and exercise. Walk the grounds and see the treasures on display with old implements, stone barbeques, picnic areas, and historic 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 farmstead’s evolution into a recreational retreat.

We held a volunteer recruitment workshop to promote the farmstead to the public to gather interest and ideas. If you would like to be involved with volunteering to help at an amazing farm, with the gardens, programs or events, please contact us and we’ll tell you all about the fun we have with our friends at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District, including the Oakland Township Historical Society!

To register for these programs at CLF please contact the Historic District Commission office 248-608-6807 or by email at bbarber@oaklandtownship.org

Cranberry Lake Farm—A historic park and community center at your fingertips—All sanitized please!

Painting by Janet Almstadt Davison

Watch for the Plein Air painters sharing their creative talents painting the landscapes at the farm. August 27 2020, 10am to 2pm painting workshop and demonstration by Janet Davison. Registration fee $25. Bring your lunch and supplies. A possible third workshop may be offered in the fall, weather permitting, and cancelled if raining. A suggested supply list will be sent prior. Watercolor below by Vianna Szabo
Huge Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 60 who took the time to open the protective caging around the young apple trees and weed invasive plants. A layer of mulch was applied to the happy young trees. Hopefully we are supplying the CLF bees with plenty of pollen for making honey.

Please like us on Facebook @CLFdistrict and learn more about the historic farmstead and its offerings for the public! The Historic District Commission is restoring the landscape and gardens so watch for the unearthed buried remains of stone steps!

Photo Credit of the Flumerfelt Barn by Jennifer Hawley Photography on Facebook.

We ask that you please respect any photographers or private rentals when visiting our site if they are being shared.

Photography on the grounds is free of charge. We ask that you please check the website in case of public event, program or private rental. Thank you!

The Historic District Commission has been collecting used croquet sets to have a fall family tourney. Bring the family and learn the game, how to place the wickets, and how to keep score. Croquet parties became more than a leisurely activity with the formation of professional clubs and tournaments and even the 1900 Olympics.

**Date: Friday Sept. 18, 2020 from 6pm to 8pm.** This is a free, outdoor family program, yet registration is required so we know how many croquet sets to have on hand - and if you have your own set, even better. Come on out if you would like to watch others play, learn the game, and listen to some music by The Ruffwater Stringband. You might know the band from our annual Square Dances that were cancelled this year in respect for 6' social distancing. To reserve your spot please contact the HDC office. We will be following social distancing and will cancel if the weather is bad.

**Croquet anyone?**
Friday Sept. 18, 6pm to 8pm. RSVP

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**Oakland Township’s Down on the Farm**

**Free Family Fun Activities on the Farm** **Saturday, October 3, 2020 11am-2pm**

Tentative outdoor event; weather dependent due to social distancing limitations. Also, there should be no restrictions of groups gathering that are larger than 100. That being in place, we hope to have back again this year a variety of talented musicians, local artists’ display of paintings, chickens, Blacksmiths, horse grooming and farrier demonstrations. Free Pumpkin picking & painting until we run out! Learn about apple history, beekeeping, chair caning, wool spinning and quilting. See the apron display, listen to a storyteller of children’s favorites, and more! In collaboration with OTHS.

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**Oakland Township Historic District Commission**

**Oakland Township Parks & Recreation**
Have you visited your local historic park lately?

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Cranberry Lake Farm is a historic district located at 388 West Predmore Road in Oakland Township. It includes 9 restored buildings and barns as well as 16-acres of beautiful grounds and vistas to enjoy. Parks are gathering places for communities as they provide a place to relax, play, exercise, and learn. Some even protect our history.

What’s the history behind Cranberry Lake Farm?

Starting in 1837, Cranberry Lake Farm was home to several local families, including the Kline family who operated the farm for 78 years. In the 1930s, people living near Detroit often used Oakland Township, and other surrounding rural communities, as their escape from the bustling city. Prominent businessman and United States Congressman, Howard A. Coffin and his wife, Abbie, followed suit by purchasing Cranberry Lake Farm in 1939 as their recreational country retreat. Wild game brooders were used to raise hunting birds for sport and the reflection pond views delivered leisure and relaxation. Today, Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District welcomes you to enjoy the grounds just as the Klines and Coffins did.

How was Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District acquired and how is it funded?

The Oakland Township Parks Dept. (PRC) was fortunate to acquire the large acreage property with all the buildings in 1996. A 16-acre historic district was designated from the 213 acre Cranberry Lake Park. The historic district is primarily funded with the Oakland Township Historic District Operating Millage and overseen by the Historic District Commission (HDC). The Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) members became involved with the farmstead when they collaborated to save all the historic structures. They also collect local archives and have a museum in the Caretaker house.

The HDC works in partnership with organizations for the preservation of the site, and develops the context for creating a community historical center for public enjoyment and education.

The Historic District operating millage has been supported by residents in 1996, 2002, and 2012. Renewal for 2022 will be on the November 3, 2020 General Election Ballot, for the purpose of continuing to fund historic preservation, education, restoration, acquisition, and maintenance within Oakland Township. As part of this purpose, the millage includes funding for the development and maintenance of Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District for .1096 levy or $10.96 per year on a taxable home value of $100,000.

What can you do at Cranberry Lake Farm today?

Today, the farmstead continues to grow its offerings to the public with historical and agricultural programs, recreational activities, private rentals, photography, concerts, and much more. While Cranberry Lake Farm is a historic site, it is also a place for the community to go for a walk, have a picnic, attend programs and learn about history—of course! The park is open dusk to dawn for use of trails and just enjoying the historic context of the site. The PRC, HDC, and OTHS offer a variety of great programs throughout the year. OTHS has collected many antiques on display and collects archives about local history housed in the main house. While the HDC manages the daily operations, private rentals, maintenance, capital improvement and restoration projects, they also hold educational programs and events that teach us about our heritage. The HDC has recently restored the apple orchard, oak fencing, added picnic table seating, and constructed a permanent outhouse. The next HDC projects include working with a landscape architect to develop garden areas, pollinator gardens, and restored vistas. We are also in the beginning stages of researching a children’s themed garden based around one of the tenants that lived at the farm in 1948 - The Story Lady (more to come about her!).

We hope you have enjoyed your journey through a brief bit of our history at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District. Preserving these areas for future generations protects a glimpse into our heritage that connects us to our past. @CLFdistrict on Facebook! Respectfully, OT Historic District Commission

www.oaklandtownship.org Parks and Recreation Newsletter Fall 2020
Oakland Township resident registration starts NOW!
(This is for residents living within the Oakland Township boundary.)
Non-Resident registration begins one week prior to the program registration deadline date.
Programs fill-up quickly so please contact us early!

Registration Options:

1. ONLINE:
   We encourage everyone to use our new on-line program registration system at: https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com
   Now 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 a printable registration and waiver forms visit www.oaklandtownship.org. Send the completed forms by USPS mail to: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, 4393 Collins Rd., Rochester, MI 48306. Or drop off your registration and waiver forms in the after hours DROP-BOX at Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Rd., Rochester, 48306.
   Make checks payable to Oakland Township Parks and Recreation.
   Mail at least two weeks before program date!

3. IN PERSON:
   Visit us at our office location by appointment only and register in person.
   Please call 248-651-7810 for an appointment. You can pay by credit card (MasterCard, American Express, or Discover accepted with $2.95 fee) or by cash or check.
   Paint Creek Cider Mill Building (2nd Floor)
   4480 Orion Road, Rochester, MI 48306

Registration and waiver forms must be signed by each registrant or (the parents/guardians of minor) to participate in our programs. Find liability waivers at www.oaklandtownship.org > Township Departments > Parks and Recreation > Programs > scroll to the registration form and waiver that you need in center of page.
Paint Creek Trail Bridge Bingo

Due to COVID-19, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission will not hold its annual Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk and Run this year. Instead, the Trailways Commission will be hosting an interactive family-friendly "Bridge Bingo" game during the week preceding Labor Day.

To participate, trail users can download a bingo card at https://bit.ly/3fUbbG8. The card consists of twelve squares, each one representing one of the twelve bridges on the trail. In each square, participants will be directed to complete an activity specific to that bridge. Once the bingo card is full, submit a scan or photograph of the completed card, any required photographs, and your contact information to manager@paintcreektrail.org. All completed cards will be entered into a drawing to win a Paint Creek Trail prize basket.

Trail Etiquette

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

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

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

**Mind your Dog:** Dogs are allowed on the Paint Creek Trail but must be kept under control and leashed at all times. 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.

**Educate your Children:** Please start trail etiquette education early – stay to the right, pass on the left, and if on bike, announce when passing.

**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.

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

**Practice Social Distancing:** Observe at all times the CDC’s minimum recommended social distancing of six feet from other people. Practice it and know what it looks like. Keep it as you walk, run, bike or horseback ride.
Check out our new interactive park map!
https://bit.ly/3g0GaRs
Oakland Township purchased Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park in 2008 and 2019 with the majority of our purchase costs being paid by Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants. One of the conditions of our receipt of these substantial grants was that we must allow controlled archery deer hunting at this park as part of the DNR’s program to manage deer populations in southeast Michigan.

To meet this commitment, a limited number of hunters per hunt date will be issued Township permits for antlerless archery deer hunting at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park on restricted weekdays between October 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021. On the days when hunting will occur the park will be closed to other types of use. Signs are posted at park entry points indicating these days of closure.

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

- Hunters must obey all Township regulations, State of Michigan hunting laws and display Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Permit tag on vehicle rear-view mirror.
- Hunters must each hunt with a partner to participate in this program.
- Hunters must provide their own portable blinds and will be responsible for their own field dressing and transporting of all harvested deer. No baiting of any kind is allowed.
- Prior to hunting, Hunters must watch informational video about this Township hunting program.
- Hunters will select their Hunting Unit (see safety zone map on next page) on a first-come, first-served basis, after both partners have submitted all application information.
- Hunters must email an application for each hunting period, including a copy of your current deer hunting license, a copy of the identification used to purchase your deer hunting license (such as a driver’s license), a copy of the signed archery deer hunting waiver (found at [http://bit.ly/HuntOTParks](http://bit.ly/HuntOTParks)) to dgallo@oaklandtownship.org.

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

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<th>Fall 2020 Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Controlled Antlerless Archery Deer Hunting Application</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Address____________________________________________________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>City, State, Zip ___________________________________ Vehicle Plate#__________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: Home __________________ Work __________________ Cell _________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunting Partner’s Name __________________ Phone:_______________________</td>
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Required Information Must be Attached to Application (all sent to dgallo@oaklandtownship.org):

- Copy of Hunting License
- Copy of Identification
- Signed Waiver
- Partner’s Application Sent

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

- Sept 22 - Sept 28 Application
- Oct 13 - Oct 19 Application
- Nov 17 - Nov 23 Application
- Dec 8 - Dec 14 Application
- Dec 29 - Jan 4 Application

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<td>Tues/Weds, Dec 15 &amp; 16</td>
<td>Tues/Weds, Dec 22 &amp; 23</td>
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[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)  Parks and Recreation Newsletter Fall 2020 27
Our township is proud of its parks with plenty of natural areas, trails for hiking, and space for native plants and animal to thrive. Part of our responsibility at Oakland Township Parks is managing our parklands to keep them healthy. For natural areas stewardship we use integrated pest management, or IPM, to guide the decisions we make about preventing and suppressing pests. These pests are typically invasive plants, but could be insects, plant diseases, animals, or microorganisms. The goal of integrated pest management is to control these pests in a way that is effective, while also protecting people and the environment.

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

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

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

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

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

Commission Meetings
The Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 pm on the second Wednesday of every month. Please see www.oaklandtownship.org for meeting agendas and packets.

Office Hours and Location
Park permits, maps and descriptions are available at the Parks and Recreation Department office, located on the second floor of the Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road. Check Parks & Recreation page at www.oaklandtownship.org for office hours.

Parks and Recreation Commissioners
Colin Choi, Chairman
Hank Van Agen, Vice Chairperson
Craig Blust, Treasurer
Emily Barkham, Secretary
Dan Bukowski, Commissioner
Cathy Rooney, Commissioner
Dan Simon, Commissioner

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Staff
Parks and Recreation Director Melinda Milos-Dale
Administrative Assistant Carol Kasprzak
Clerical Assistant Deb Gallo
Recreation Manager Becky McLogan
Recreation Program Assistant Julie Schoenherr
Maintenance Foreman Doug Caruso
Maintenance Technician Jeff Johnson
Seasonal Maintenance Technician Dan Barton
Natural Areas Stewardship Manager Dr. Ben VanderWeide
Stewardship Specialist Grant VanderLaan
Seasonal Stewardship Technicians Parker Maynard, Lindsay Walls, Emily Viellette
Maintenance and Recreation Staff Clif Selent, Robert Zbytowski

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.