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.

Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expanded!

By Mindy Milos-Dale, Director, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

We are thrilled to announce that Oakland Township Parks and Recreation recently completed the purchase of the 208-acre addition to the Township’s Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park. See page 26 for new park boundaries. This strategic expansion, along the park’s eastern boundary, quadruples the size of this park, substantially increasing the opportunity for:

- Protection of highly valued habitats including mature woods, wetlands, streams, and rolling meadows that represent Michigan’s native biodiversity and natural landscapes.
- Park accessibility and visibility, by adding 2000 linear feet of frontage on Snell Road.
- Expansion of Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park’s trail network, including a proposed trail connection with Stony Creek Metropark.

The majority of the $2.9 million purchase was funded by a $2.19 million Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant which was matched by $730,000 from the Township’s Land Preservation millage. This land could have been developed as a subdivision, were it not for the Township residents’ financial support that made this grant and acquisition possible.

Many thanks to Township residents, officials, and staff who have greatly contributed to this effort to protect Township natural resources. Wetland restoration efforts, initiated in conjunction with the acquisition, are already attracting a variety of waterfowl, including ducks, sandhill cranes and egrets. In the upcoming years, the Parks and Recreation

February 8, 2020 Winter Carnival!

Join us at Bear Creek Nature Park for this annual winter celebration. Complete details on page 3.
Coverworx Donates Picnic Pavilion for Marsh View Park

We are extremely grateful to long-time Oakland Township resident Russ D’Bartolomeo, for his generous donation of our first picnic pavilion at Marsh View Park! This steel shelter will be manufactured and installed in the winter and spring of 2020 by Coverworx – Recreational Architecture, his Warren-based company that specializes in open-air cover structures.

This new pavilion will be located at the western high point of Marsh View Park, overlooking the archery range. In addition to views of the park, this shelter will offer panoramic vistas of the surrounding landscape, exemplifying this park’s historical name: Pleasant View Farm. Park visitors who enter the western parking lot will notice the addition of a gravel entry drive and parking area which will provide access to this new pavilion area.

Thank you Russ and Coverworx for adding this facility, which has been on our list of desired improvements for a number of years. We know that it will be well-used by Marsh View Park visitors!

Completion of Bear Creek Nature Park and Paint Creek Trail Resurfacing

Both the limestone trails at Bear Creek Nature Park and the entire Paint Creek Trail have been resurfaced this fall. Oakland Township Parks and Recreation reserves Parks and Recreation Millage funds for this limestone resurfacing, which occurs on a ten- to fifteen-year cycle. We economize on funds spent by combining these projects, which use the same custom limestone mixture, and by using talented parks staff to install drainage improvements at Bear Creek Nature Park prior to the contractor’s resurfacing efforts.

(Continued on page 12)
2020 Winter Carnival

Saturday, February 8, 2020  12 Noon - 4pm

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

Ongoing Events
12 Noon - 4pm

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

Nature Craft
Kids, come and make a pine cone bird feeder for your backyard!

Snow Games
* Penguin Bowling  * Pin Nose on Snowman
* Hockey Goal Shoot  * Snow Ball Fight

Archery Target Shoot
Now’s your chance to target shoot like Katniss Everdeen! Ages 5 and up.

Ice Skating
Skate on our fabulous ice rink!
Tips from national competitor Alexandria Polega.
Limited number of skates for loan.

Winter Scavenger Hunt
Go search for items you find in nature.
How many of these wintry treasures can you collect?

Scheduled Events

“Magic Joe”
12:15-1pm & 2:15-3pm
Will delight with his magic tricks!

“Michigan Stilt Walker” Balloon Show
1:15-2pm & 3:15-4pm
Learn how to make your own unique balloon designs!

Food Tent
Grab a ticket to receive a warm beverage and a choice of pizza or a sandwich!
12pm until supplies last.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation
For more information: call 248-651-7810 or visit oaklandtownship.org

Pizza Donated By: Hungry Howie’s
4930 N. Adams Rd., Oakland Twp., MI 48306

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

January 26th, 12-4pm: Nature on Pause -- We often find that it’s difficult to plan programming for the winter months due to nature being so incredibly dormant throughout the winter. Whether it’s trees entering their dormancy, chipmunks entering hibernation, turtles entering brumation, insects entering diapause, or salamanders entering aestivation - there seems to be a lazy mode for every animal! What makes these terms different? Join us for a special open house as we take a look at nature while it rests. Inside we will talk about the differences between these terms while putting together tree life cycles to take home. Should the weather cooperate we will also have snowshoes available for participants to try on the trails.

February 23rd, 12-4pm: Microscopes and a World Up Close -- With February occasionally being an icy mess, we have decided to rein in our science to the confines of our warm and sheltered nature center, and bring forth a variety of natural artifacts to take a look at beneath stereoscopes and microscopes. We will be able to see details upon the surfaces which are often overlooked, as they are so fine that our bare eyes are unable to see them. We will even talk about the importance of scientific journaling as we watercolor the sights that we see to take home. Should the weather cooperate we will also have snowshoes available for participants to try on the trails.

March 29th, 12-4pm: The Underrated Tree -- A lot of people credit trees with their daily allowance of oxygen, but trees do so much more than just assist with our respiratory needs, and their time to photosynthesize is almost at hand. Join us at the nature center for this up-close look at everything tree related. We will be learning how to tell a tree’s age from the rings (as well as what those rings actually represent), press our own leaves to take home, learn the benefits of trees in nature (and our cities), and demonstrate what is actually happening when a tree loses its leaves. We hope to not see snow this late in the year, but should it be out there we will have snowshoes for participants to try on the trails.

All open houses take place at Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, west of Rochester Road, south of Predmore.

Check us out on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/LostLakeNaturePark/
For more information visit: www.dinosaurhill.org
April 19th, 12-4pm: Early Earth Day Open House -- This upcoming Wednesday, April 22, is Earth Day and there are going to be celebrations and events all across the state to ring in the holiday with environmental activities for the whole family... but we believe in Earth Week. Join us at this special open house where we will be putting together crafts out of recycled goods indoors, meeting some of our planet’s exotic inhabitants, and taking plenty of trips out onto the trails to see the majesty that is nature.

May 24th, 12-4pm: The Birds are Back in Town -- You may have been looking up toward the skies in awe at the sheer amount (and diversity) of our favorite feathered friends that appear to be perched on every branch in view. That is because May is the peak of migratory bird season throughout our state and we love peeking up in the trees as much as the next person. Join us as we talk about the birds we are likely to see (including Baltimore orioles and Flycatchers) and strategies you can employ at home to attract these visitors to your own feeders. Inside we will be putting together a special bird treat to take home. We will also be taking periodic trips on the trails with binoculars to try our luck with birding. There will even be free kayaking provided on this day.

June 7th, 12-4pm: The Waterlogged Ecosystem -- The surface of the placid lake can often mislead visitors to our park about the chaos and diversity that parties just beneath the surface, and we can prove it. Join us for one of our most special events as we take dipping nets out to the lake in order to pull forth bullfrogs, crayfish, aquatic insects, tadpoles and fry (juvenile fish) to observe their behaviors and adaptations before releasing them back into the lake. Inside we will have a frog puppet craft set up for our younger explorers to bring something home. There will even be free kayaking provided on this day.

Pop Up Open House
(Date to be determined by mother nature, check https://www.facebook.com/LostLakeNaturePark/ for details.)

With the sledding hill in full swing we will be opening up our nature center, in addition to the warming shelter, for a very special way to regain feeling of your toes. We will be putting together winter crafts and serving out cups of hot chocolate to keep sled warriors fueled for their day of recreation at the park. We’ll also be donning snowshoes periodically throughout the day to practice moving atop the snow as well for a unique way to experience Lost Lake’s trail system.

Volunteer Opportunities:
We are working hard to make Lost Lake an awesome place to visit. We are always looking for volunteers to assist with programs, help us spread the word about the nature center and so much more. If you have a skill you would like to share, please get in touch with us and we bet we can put you to good use!

Please contact: angie@dinosaurhill.org for more information
If you go for a walk in Lost Lake Nature Park in the late days of fall you would probably expect to find a scene of brown leaves and the quiet settling in of winter. You might be quite surprised to also discover a shrub that is full of bright yellow flowers! Witch Hazel is one very cool plant that you can find on a walk at Lost Lake and it sure enough will be flowering during the strangest times of the year. Let’s go on a little adventure and discover a few things about this noteworthy native plant.

Let’s start with the obvious and find out where the name Witch Hazel comes from. Many people think it is because witches used the plant…while this may indeed be the case that is not the source of the name. The word 'witch' in this case can be traced back to the Middle English wiche. Wiche can be interpreted to mean 'bendable' or 'pliable'…the switches of Witch Hazel are indeed flexible. Did you know that these flexible twigs were used in England as dowsing rods? Dowsing rods are y-shaped twigs that 'skilled' individuals would use to allegedly enable them to detect water below the ground. Some argue that this is the true source of the name because the twigs supposedly bend to indicate hidden aquifers.

While the value of using a Witch Hazel twig to discover a well might be dubious, there are many other widely accepted uses of the plant. In earlier times, native peoples used a decoction of the bark and leaves to treat a variety of skin conditions. Puritan settlers to the United States learned how to use this medicinal plant from the native population and its use in the medical industry continues today.

Manufacturing of Witch Hazel as a commodity turned large scale in 1860 with the formation of American Distillery. The company brought together a consortium of smaller-scale harvesters to combine forces into one large operation and continues to operate today (though under new ownership!). Nowadays, brushers (harvesters) deliver about 80 tons of Witch Hazel shrubs to the distillery each fall in New England. The raw product is then chipped, sent through augurs and steamed in giant stills. The water that is used in the steam baths itself has been ultra-purified to remove trace minerals and viruses. The mushy product is then mixed with grain alcohol which acts to both distill as well as preserve the Witch Hazel. On-site, the liquid is stored in ten 25,000-gallon storage tanks and distributed in quantities ranging from 5-gallon containers up to 6000-gallon tankers! It goes on to be sold in this form or incorporated into a number of first aid and cosmetic products.

Witch Hazel is also unique in a botanical sense in the fact that the flowers are on the shrub at the same time that the fruit from the previous year is still also present. The genus that Witch Hazel belongs to (Hamamelis) actually means 'together with fruit’ – describing the phenomenon of the fruits and flowers being present at the same time. The flowers turn into a two-part, shiny black seed that stays on the shrub a full 8 months after flowering. When the fruit is mature it will erupt and disperse the seed to the forest floor below. This eruption is so volatile that seeds can be scattered up to 30 feet from the parent plant! This action gives rise to an alternative name for the plant: 'Snapping Hazel'. If you gather seeds yourself they can be planted after a period of chilling – after about six years of growing you will begin to get flowers.

(Continued on page 22)
What’s more fun than spending a day full of sledding and family fun? When the snow begins to fall Lost Lake Nature Park transforms into the one of the best spots to sled in lower Michigan! Lost Lake sled hill area features both a kid-friendly hill and a bigger hill ideal for sledding enthusiasts of all ages, a staffed warming shelter, picnic tables, light towers for night sledding on Friday and Saturday nights, portable toilets and plenty of parking. Lost Lake Nature Park has a live-in caretaker so the sled hills are inspected daily and well-maintained. Bring your own sleds.

Voted the top sledding hill in Oakland County by Oakland County Moms! 
https://www.oaklandcountymoms.com/oakland-county-sledding-hills-27543/

What’s more fun than spending a day full of sledding and family fun? When the snow begins to fall Lost Lake Nature Park transforms into the one of the best spots to sled in lower Michigan! Lost Lake sled hill area features both a kid-friendly hill and a bigger hill ideal for sledding enthusiasts of all ages, a staffed warming shelter, picnic tables, light towers for night sledding on Friday and Saturday nights, portable toilets and plenty of parking. Lost Lake Nature Park has a live-in caretaker so the sled hills are inspected daily and well-maintained. Bring your own sleds.

**HOST YOUR OWN SLEDDING PARTY!**

The sled hill and warming shelter is available for rent Monday through Thursday and Sunday evenings from 6pm-10pm. Call the Parks and Recreation office at 248-651-7810.
Learn To Skate
Clinics will be held at Bear Creek Nature Park’s Outdoor Skating Rink. These clinics are for people who have little or no skill at ice skating. Each clinic will focus on basic fundamentals of ice skating like falling down, skating forward, stopping, and practicing your new skating skills. Safety is very important and we encourage skaters to wear a helmet and additional padding. Please wear weather appropriate clothing including gloves. All clinics are taught by trained and accredited professionals.

All skaters 6 years old and under are required to wear either a bike or hockey helmet (not provided).

Monday, January 20, 2020 (Martin Luther King Day) Register by January 13
Monday, February 17, 2020 (Presidents’ Day) Register by February 10
Resident: $10 each Non-resident: $15 each

Tots 4-5 years old and Parents
(45 minutes) 10 - 10:45am
Resident: $10 each tot
Non-resident: $15 each tot Parents free.
Each tot must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who can skate.

Ages 6-12 years old
(45 minutes) 11:15 - 12pm

Ages 13 - Adults
(1 hour) 12:30 - 1:30pm

Please arrive at least 20 minutes early to class to check-in and change into skates. Please bring a pair of your own sharpened skates, or use ours for no fee. Please provide your shoe size during class registration. Please do not walk with exposed blades on parking lot or paths. Wear your skate guards when not on the ice surface.

Free Skate Loan Saturdays
On select Saturdays (1/4, 1/18, 2/15 & 2/29) from 10am to 2pm, we’ll have a variety of sizes available for children and adults for free. Limited number of skates available.
# Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

## Winter Spring 2020 Fitness/Wellness Programs

Call 248-651-7810 for more information. For registration information: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

### Tai Chi Adults 18+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Register by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays, January 7 - February 25, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-7:00pm</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>December 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays, March 10 - April 28, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-7:00pm</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>March 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Tuesdays, May 12 - June 30, 2020 *(outdoors)* 6:00-7:00pm Session 3 Register by May 5

**Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 W. Predmore, 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. Students should wear loose and comfortable clothing and shoes. No flip flops or sandals. Traditional Tai Chi shoes are optional. 8 weeks. Bring water bottle. Led by Marci Jenkins.* Marci has over 20 years of Tai Chi training and practice.

Residents: $40 Non-residents: $80

### Tai Chi Continuing Beginners Adults 18+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Register by</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays, January 8 - February 26, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-7:00pm</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>December 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays, March 11 - April 29, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-7:00pm</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>March 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays, May 13 - July 1, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-7:00pm</td>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>May 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Residents: $40 Non-residents: $80

### All Levels Yoga - Adults 12+

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Register by</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sundays, January 5 - February 9, 2020</td>
<td>9:30-10:30am</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>December 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays, February 23 - March 29, 2020</td>
<td>9:30-10:30am</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>February 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays, April 19 - May 31, 2020 (no class May 24, 2020)</td>
<td>9:30-10:30am</td>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>April 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Join us for All Levels Yoga inside our beautiful Cranberry Lake Farm House. Whether you are a seasoned practitioner or newer to yoga, these gentle All Levels classes are just right for you! Bring your own yoga mat. Led by Pavel Bednarski, RYT-200. All Levels. 6 week session. All classes will take place inside Cranberry Lake Farm House.

Residents: $48 Non-residents: $72

### Adult Men's Soccer League at Marsh View Park

Did you love playing soccer as a kid? You can play post-high school to post-retirement right in your own backyard by joining the Michigan United Soccer League. Marsh View Park is host to MUSL games - players are mostly local or from the Greater Rochester Area. Join early - teams form in January. To join visit: musl.net
Nature Through Our Senses: Textures of Winter - Preschool Park Pals - 3-4 years
Saturday, January 25, 2020  10-11am
Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, MI 48363
All year long our Park Pals will be using their senses to explore nature. In the winter season we will use our sense of touch to explore the amazing textures of nature. Feel your way through the woods and explore. We’ll even make our own nature touch book and a few bark rubbings to take home.
Residents: $5  Non-residents: $7  Register by January 17.

Frozen Solid - After School Nature Nuts - K to 5th graders
Wednesday, February 12, 2020  4:30-6:00pm
Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, MI 48363
We will explore the world of ice and see how freezing temperatures change everything outdoors. Indoors we will go even colder as we paint with ice, do an icy craft, and experiment with dry ice...brrr.
Residents: $5  Non-residents: $7  Register by February 5.

Seasonal Campfire: Boiled Sugar - Families (Ages 5+)
Friday, March 20, 2020  6-7:30pm
Lost Lake Nature Park Warming Shelter, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, MI 48363
We frequently teach classes about how to go about physically tapping a maple tree, as well as the science behind it, but rarely do we get an opportunity to talk about the history of sugaring in the Americas. Join us around a campfire as we pass around Native American artifacts, hear a couple of legends about the origin of maple syrup, and go through the complete history of the maple sugaring process as it evolved over time! We will do all of this while boiling down our own sap to turn into syrup, and each family will get a little bit to take home! We will even make maple-glazed s’mores to go along with our stories.
Residents: $5  Non-residents: $7  Register by March 13.

Howl with our Owl - Pre K - Ages 3 - 4 years old
Monday, April 20, 2020  10-11am
Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland, MI 48363
Join Autumn, our favorite puppet, as she guides you through the wondrous world of nocturnal animals, including owls like herself! She will be leading the class in wing-flapping exercises while showing off some real great horned owl wings which muffle sound to make her flights silent! She’ll show our nature enthusiasts how talons are used to catch her prey, and even cough up a pellet to look at. Before the day is over she will lead everyone in making owl masks to feel like sky tigers themselves! This class will take place in our heated nature center.
Residents: $5  Non-residents: $7  Register by April 13
Seasonal Hikes for Adults: Search by Starlight - Ages 18+
Friday, May 22, 2020 8:30-10:00pm
Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 W. Predmore, Oakland, MI 48363

The further away one can get from the light pollution of towns, cities, and neighborhoods, the better their view of the skies will be. It doesn’t matter how far away you get, the moon will always dampen what you’re able to see. Luckily, we will be taking a stroll this evening during a new moon, when the moon isn’t visible in the sky. Join us as we walk the meadows of Cranberry Lake searching for signs of nocturnal animals. We’ll be paying close attention to the skies above, looking for Centaurus, Virgo, the Big and Little Dippers, and any planets that might be strolling their way through our heavens. We will share our favorite stargazing apps! Participants will leave with a list of upcoming astronomical events to continue their stargazing at home.

Residents: $5  Non-residents: $7   Register by May 15

Froggies Taking Dips - Afterschool - Ages 5 - 10
Wednesday, June 3, 2020 4:30-6pm
Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 West Snell Rd., Rochester, MI 48306

With the summer air beginning to move northward, we’re starting to notice a lot of activity beneath the waters of our many aquatic habitats. This is the best time of year for tadpole and mudpuppy searching, as the dockweed hasn’t taken over the surface yet, so we won’t miss the opportunity to see some massive tadpoles. Join us at the beautiful Bear Creek Nature Park as we grab nets and go on patrol to see if we can find some freshly hatched frog larva! We will look at them beneath stereoscopes, and practice naturalist journaling as we draw and label what we find in scientific detail.

Residents: $5  Non-residents: $7   Register by May 27

Michigan’s Fishing Weekend - Family - Ages 5+ - 2 Days!
Saturday, June 13, 2020 9:00-10:00am or 10:15-11:15am
Draper Twin Lake Park, 1015 Inwood, Oakland, MI 48363

Sunday, June 14, 2020 9:00-10:15am or 10:30-11:15am
Draper Twin Lake Park, 1015 Inwood, Oakland, MI 48363

Fishing is a part of Michigan’s Heritage. Fishing is also a relaxing pastime and a great way to spend time with your family. There is no room for cell phones, texting or tv on the dock. This program is your chance to try out fishing. We will learn about the types of baits and lures to use, the types of fish you may encounter in Township parks and some tips in nearby “fishing holes”. We provide everything, so no need to remember your poles or bait! All fishing license fees are waived. Register early as we fill up quickly!

NO Drop-ins. Must register for sessions. Register by June 5

Online Program Registration Now Available! We encourage everyone to use our new online program registration system at: https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com

Now you can register for an Oakland Township Parks and Recreation 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.

Customers can still register in-person at our office (if you pay with cash, check or credit card) or pay by check through the mail. See page 23 for an explanation of registration options.
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation
Winter Spring 2020 Archery Programs

Call 248-651-7810 for more information. For registration information: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com
All classes located at Marsh View Park Archery Range, 3100 E. Clarkston Rd., Oakland, MI, 48363

Beginning Archery - Ages 8 - Adult
Looking for something new and fun to try on a beautiful spring Saturday morning? This fun class is for you and your family! Our instructors will cover safety, equipment and basic fundamentals of shooting. All equipment provided. 4 weeks.

Saturdays, April 25 - May 16, 2020 9:30-10:30am  Register by: April 17
Saturdays, May 23 - June 13, 2020 9:30-10:30am  Register by: May 15
Residents: $45  Non-residents: $60

Next Step Archery - Ages 9 - Adult
This program is for archers who have taken Beginning Archery or archers with experience. Focus on improving your archery form and accuracy. Equipment provided or may use your own. 4 weeks.

Fridays, April 24 - May 15, 2020 6:00-7:30pm  Register by: April 17
Residents: $60  Non-residents: $77

Open Range Shoot - Ages 8 - Adult “FREE” to the Public
Drop-in opportunity to practice archery skills! Prior archery experience necessary. No instruction provided. No crossbows or broadheads. 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 Shooting Hours, or sign up for a Beginner Class.  DROP-IN - NO REGISTRATION

Saturdays, April 25 - November 7, 2020 11:00am-4:00pm
Sundays, April 26 - November 8, 2020 11:00am-4:00pm

What’s New in the Parks  (Continued from page 2)

Park visitors will notice the two hilly trail sections at Bear Creek where we used recycled asphalt millings instead of limestone to provide a more stable surface. The Bear Creek resurfacing, which improved trail grades, drainage, and the aggregate surface, should enhance the experience of park visitors for many years to come!

Oakland Township Supports Completion of Paint Creek Trail Projects

The replacement of 95-year old Bridge 33.7, between Silverbell and Dutton roads in the Oakland Township section of the Paint Creek Trail, has been completed. The majority of this project was funded through a unique combination of a federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant, a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, a Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation grant, and matching funds from Oakland Township’s Parks and Recreation Millage. Our investment in the replacement of this 95-year bridge is an investment in our residents’ quality of life as Township residents visit the Paint Creek Trail most frequently of all the parks that the Township manages. For more information about the new bridge see page 25.

(Continued on page 27)
Adams High School and Van Hoosen Middle School Archery Teams

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, Michigan High School Archery Association and USA Archery have partnered again this year to further develop archery as a team sport. Students that attend Adams High School and Van Hoosen Middle School are invited to join their school’s archery club team “Team Rochester” for practice and competition in the Spring of 2020. All team members will have the opportunity to compete against other teams at a state-wide tournament on May 16th in southeast Michigan. This is a “no cut” sport for beginner to advanced archers and no previous experience is necessary. All equipment, USA Archery certified instructors and coaches, 9 one-hour team practices, team shirt, and tournament fee will be provided, including the use of Oakland Township’s Marsh View Park Outdoor Archery Range as their home range.

Practice will most likely be on Wednesdays, March 18 to May 13, 2020, from 3:00-4:00pm for middle school and 4:00-5:00pm for high school. Check Facebook for updates.
https://www.facebook.com/archeryrangeMVP/

Fee: $150 Register by February 28

Oakview Middle School Archery Team

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, Michigan High School Archery Association and USA Archery are partnering this year to develop archery as a team sport. Students that attend Oakview Middle School are invited to join their school’s archery club team for practice and competition in the Spring of 2020. All team members will have the opportunity to compete against other teams at a state-wide tournament on May 16th in southeast Michigan. This is a “no cut” sport for beginner to advanced archers and no previous experience is necessary. All equipment, USA Archery certified instructors and coaches, 9 one-hour team practices, team shirt, and tournament fee will be provided, including the use of Oakland Township’s Marsh View Park Outdoor Archery Range as their home range.

Practice will most likely be on Tuesdays, March 17 to May 12, 2020, from 3:00-4:00pm. Check Facebook for updates.
https://www.facebook.com/archeryrangeMVP/

Fee: $150 Register by February 28

Don’t have an archery team at your Rochester or Lake Orion area elementary, middle or high school and want one? Call or email bmclogan@oaklandtownship.org and we will do our best to get something started in your school. Archery increases mental focus, self-discipline and confidence, improves coordination, and teaches teamwork and sportsmanship.
Kayaks Available for Rental at Draper Twin Lake Park!

Park users have the opportunity to rent kayaks on Draper Twin Lake where wildlife abounds! Paddlers can rent kayaks on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the warm weather season when staff is available. Take advantage of this opportunity to practice your kayaking skills. 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. A park staff person will assist you with equipment fitting, portage, launching, and landing. Please call the Parks office for more information on dates and pricing. View our kayak rental policy on our website: www.oaklandtownship.org

One person kayak: minimum age 10 years old;
Two person kayak: minimum age 6 years old with an adult on board.

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

Fees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident Rate:</th>
<th>Non-Resident Rate:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-person kayak for 2 hours</td>
<td>$10/boat</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-person kayak for 2 hours</td>
<td>$20/boat</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-person kayak for 2 hours</td>
<td>$15/boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-person kayak for 2 hours</td>
<td>$30/boat</td>
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</tbody>
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**Fun Basics of Kayaking - Ages 10 - Adult**

Draper Twin Lake Park, 1015 Inwood Road, Oakland, 48363

Saturday, May 30, 2020  10:00am - 12:00pm  Register by May 22
Sunday, June 21, 2020  12:00pm - 2:00pm  Register by June 12

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 open calm flat water without jet skis and motor boats.

Residents: $20  Non-residents: $35

**Next Step Beginning Kayaking - Ages 10 - Adult**

Draper Twin Lake Park, 1015 Inwood Road, Oakland, 48363

Saturday, May 30, 2020  12:30 - 2:00pm  Register by May 22
Sunday, June 21, 2020  2:30 - 4:00pm  Register June 12

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

**Draper Twin Lake is a calm water lake. Come early. The distance from the parking lot to the dock is approximately .4 mile via accessible path.**

**Items to bring to all water programs:** Water, water shoes or light weight sneakers, wear synthetic clothing, sunglasses, and bug repellent. 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.
The Poweshiek Skipperling Butterfly:
The life and times of Michigan’s most endangered species

Dr. Pete Blank, The Nature Conservancy
Thursday, January 30, 6:30 pm at the Paint Creek Cider Mill

The Poweshiek Skipperling butterfly was once common in the Upper Midwest in tallgrass prairies and prairie wetlands. Over the last 20 years its population has crashed and the species is now endangered in North America and critically imperiled in Michigan. One of its last strongholds is Oakland County, Michigan. Dr. Blank will discuss the current population status of the Poweshiek Skipperling, its life history, and efforts to bring it back from the brink of extinction.

Pete Blank has a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Maryland, where he studied grassland bird populations in agricultural landscapes. He just started a new position as the Oak Openings Restoration Manager for The Nature Conservancy. He and his wife live in Royal Oak with their 9 pets (2 cats, 2 rabbits, 1 corn snake, and 4 chickens).

Beautiful to Wildlife, Beautiful to People: Native Plant Landscaping

Drew Lathin, Creating Sustainable Landscapes LLC
Thursday, February 13, 6:30 pm at the Paint Creek Cider Mill

Landscaping with native plants is critical to build habitat, reduce resource inputs, and build healthy outdoor living areas. Learn why only native plants can do this and some design tips to make your native landscape beautiful as well.

Drew Lathin is the owner of Creating Sustainable Landscapes, LLC, a company laser-focused on creating ecologically restorative landscapes for residential, commercial, and public spaces.

Spring Native Plant Sale – Support Our Pollinators!

You’re invited to order native grasses, sedges, wildflowers, trees, and shrubs from our spring native plant sale. Native plants are beautiful and support butterflies, bees, and other beneficial insects. This is a pre-order only plant sale. Orders are due by March 4, 2020, and pickup will be Saturday, May 30 from 10 am to 12 pm at Watershed Ridge Park (1720 W. Buell Road, Oakland, MI 48363). Please visit our website at oaklandnaturalareas.com/native-plant-sale to find the order form and plant list (available mid-January).
Celebrate Spring, Pull Garlic Mustard!
Garlic mustard and dame’s rocket push out the native plants that our wildlife need. We need your help to remove these invasive plants from our parks! Pulls last from 9 am to 12 pm, but will be cancelled if the weather is bad. It’s easy work and we provide refreshments. All volunteers must sign a waiver (with minor’s waiver signed by a guardian), and minors under 14 must also be accompanied by a guardian. Updated information and last minute changes to these events can be found on our Natural Areas Notebook website at oaklandnaturalareas.com.

Friday, May 1   Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 West Snell Rd.
Thursday, May 7 Watershed Ridge Park, 1800 West Buell Rd.
Thursday, May 14 Blue Heron Environmental Area, 3320 North Rochester Rd.
Thursday, May 21 Paint Creek Trail. Meet at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Rd.

Weekly Bird Walks
Join our friendly birders every Wednesday from January to May. (No walk January 1.) We want to document the bird species using natural areas in our parks so that we can work to improve their habitat. All walks will start at 8:30 am. 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 January & April – Lost Lake Nature Park

Natural Areas Stewardship Winter Potluck
Thursday, January 23, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Paint Creek Cider Mill
Trying to shake that winter gloom? Come join us for a celebration of last year’s achievements as we warm ourselves with some hearty conversation and great food. Learn about upcoming event and projects while connecting with others involved in our programs. RSVP appreciated to bvanderweide@oaklandtownship.org or 248-651-7810 ext. 401 by Monday, January 20.

Thank you! Stewardship Summer/Fall Volunteers
Volunteer Fire Crew Training
Saturday, February 22, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm at the Paint Creek Cider Mill
If you are interested in volunteering with our prescribed fire crew, join us for this training workshop. We will cover reasons for using prescribed fire, preparations for conducting a fire, necessary tools, roles of each burn crew member, and ignition patterns. Weather permitting, we will do a small demonstration burn after lunch. New crew members are required to attend; past volunteers are encouraged to attend as a refresher. Snacks provided, but please bring your own lunch. RSVP required to bvanderweide@oaklandtownship.org or 248-651-7810 ext. 401 by Thursday, February 21.

Spring 2020 Controlled Burns in Oakland Township Parks
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation will conduct prescribed burns in spring 2020 between late February and mid-May at Bear Creek Nature Park, Charles Ilsley Park, Cranberry Lake Park, Draper Twin Lake Park, Lost Lake Nature Park, Watershed Ridge Park, and natural areas along the Paint Creek Trail. Historically, fire occurred regularly in natural communities of southeast Michigan. Our prairies, oak savannas, oak woodlands, and even some wetlands are not only adapted to fire, but require fire for their continued existence. We use prescribed burns to help restore ecological function to these natural communities. Prescribed burns are conducted by a trained fire crew and done with permission from the local fire department. Although burns create smoke, we work to minimize the amount of smoke produced and limit public exposure to the smoke. We consult the weather forecast in the morning before making the decision to burn, so we cannot schedule prescribed burns for a specific day. You can find more information about controlled burns at oaklandnaturalareas.com/prescribed-fire.

Watch the Woodcock Dance: an Earth Day Observation
Friday, April 24, 7:30 pm at Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 West Snell Rd
We’ll savor s’mores and watch “timberdoodles” do their cool aerial mating dance! While we wait for sunset, we’ll enjoy snacks, a spring evening, and some cool facts about woodcock biology. As the light fades we will watch with hushed anticipation for this avian spectacle. Bring a comfortable lawn chair, binoculars, and layers to add as the night cools down.
Woodcock image credit: http://i691.photobucket.com/albums/vv273/staceym13/Paintings/woodcockimage.jpg
Historic Doors of Oakland Township

In the same way that doors invite you into a home or building, the new Historic Doors of Oakland Township poster invites the community to learn more about local history. The door images came from all building types, including barns, houses, and sheds. Some of the buildings featured on the poster take us back to the early settler history.

**Pictured at right:** Originally built in 1835 by Joshua B. Taylor, the house at 487 E. Gunn Road is both a cobblestone and frame farmhouse. Due to renovations over the years, the house showcases several architectural styles, including New York (Erie County) Style which is where Taylor was originally from. Characteristics include the hollow air-space stone masonry walls allowing for substantial insulation value, cubic shape, and the ornate Italianate window trim and eave brackets.

In other historic news…Paint Creek Cider Mill earns State Historical Marker!

The dedication ceremony was well-attended and guests heard speeches on the history of the first gristmill in Goodison. Pictures are Michigan State Representatives John Reilly (District 46) and Representative Michael Webber (District 45), Susie Safford, Michigan Historical Commission, Oakland Township Trustees, Supervisor Bailey, Treasurer Langlois, Trustees Robin Buxar, Frank Ferriolo, John Giannangeli, Lana Mangiapane, Historic District Commission Chairman David A. Phillips, and staff Barbara Barber, Historic Preservation Planner. Stop by to see the new marker and learn a little cider mill history while your drinking a glass of fresh cider!

Steamer Trunks date from the 1870s-1920s and are named after where they were stored in the cabin. Hat trunks are distinguished by their square shape. Popular with Victorian women in the late 1800s, these trunks were easier to carry because of their small size, yet could still hold several hats. Dome-top or camelback refers to a classification of trunks that feature a high curved top. Wardrobe trunks acted as a portable closet space with the ability to stand on one end to access drawers.
**Did you know you have a historic park in your community?**

Parks are gathering places for communities. They provide a place to relax, play, exercise, and learn. Some even protect our history. In addition to natural features associated with parks, a historic park also includes historic buildings, artifacts, archives, and antiques.

**What can you do at Cranberry Lake Farm?**

Although 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 farmstead continues to grow its offerings to the public with historical programs, recreational activities, private rentals and more. You can even add a little local history to your family, graduation, or wedding photos by having your shoot at the farm. While there is no charge for photography, please contact the Oakland Township Historic District Commission to ensure there are no rentals or activities already scheduled.

Thank you to Suzanne and Terry (Chamberlin) Nowels family for the donation of the Chamberlin carriage for display at Cranberry Lake Farm! The carriage came from the Centennial Farm on Rush Road where Abram Axford began farming 320 acres in 1849. His great grand-daughter was Julia Chamberlin, Grant Chamberlin’s mother. The carriage was pulled by one horse to travel to Mt. Clemens for groceries. The Chamberlin family farmed corn and wheat, raised livestock - mostly cattle, and had both an apple orchard and peach trees. The farm stayed in the family for 168 years.

Clarence Kremer’s Buggy Shop on Dutton Road made repairs to all the local carriages in the early 1900s.

**Happenings in 2020:**

**Programs and Events**

*Programs to watch for in 2020:*

Our well attended Cooking, Crafts and Culture programs will begin in March with Chef Pam. Watch for a History & Hiking workshop, photography workshop, beekeeping classes, gardening, historic district tours, field day, more and more popular square dancing in the barn, and of course Down on the Farm in October. More programs offered by Parks and Recreation and the Oakland Township Historical Society held at the farm are:

**January-May:** Yoga in the Main House

(See Parks and Recreation programs)

**May-September:** Tai Chi

(See Parks and Recreation programs)

**June 3:** Oakland Township Historical Society Potluck and Presentation in the Flumerfelt Barn. Dinner begins at 6:30 PM.

**What’s new in the historic district?**

- The Greenhouse has an addition of sedum plants rescued by Chairman Phillips.
- The OTHS has displayed antique carriage lights in the carriage barn along with the antique trunks.
- One of the hay rake implements is being sand blasted and repainted with rust inhibitor POR-15.
- An extensive planning survey has been undertaken by the Parks and Recreation Commission, including vision for CLF historic district to help define public needs, recreational activities and future programs.
- The East Porch viewshed is being designed with a landscape plan for planting restoration in 2020.

*These improvements have been funded by a voter approved Historic District Commission operating millage fund for historic preservation.*
You are probably aware that we are surrounded by a number of tiny organisms that we cannot “see” with the naked eye, but how much do you actually know about all of those crazy creatures? First off, let’s get our terminology straight. The microbiome is the term ecologists use to refer to this general group of organisms. Microbes include billions of organisms that are living, but are too small for us to see without aid of a microscope. A number of different types of organisms fall into this bucket including bacteria, viruses, fungi, protists, archaea and a myriad of tiny plants and animals. Microbes serve many purposes in the environment and their health can greatly influence the health of the ecosystem…and in some cases our own health!

Now I bet you all know what viruses are…especially during the winter when the cold virus and flu virus regularly make the news. Just to be clear, some argue that viruses are not actually alive. Viruses are unable to reproduce on their own—and this is often considered to be one of the criteria to label something as “alive”. See, viruses actually reproduce by invading the cells of other living things…they trick the cells into letting them in and then hijack the cell and use that cell’s organelles to reproduce copies of the virus. Eventually the cell essentially explodes because it is so full of alien virus. Creepy eh? Now viruses don’t just invade the cells of people…viruses impact many other living things. A virus is usually specialized to a specific animal (this is why your dog doesn’t catch your cold but your spouse does). Some viruses are also specific to a certain type of cell of a certain type of animal. Viruses aren’t limited to infecting animals either—some viruses target bacteria and other microscopic organisms. While you can debate whether or not viruses are alive, you sure can’t debate that they have been very successful…scientists estimate that there are over 300,000 different kinds of viruses that infect mammals alone! Not all of these are dangerous. Now consider the fact that upwards of 380 trillion viruses are hanging out in the human body. We don’t yet understand much about these invaders but we do know that they live everywhere in our bodies.

Many of the viruses in our body are evolved to invade the bacteria that also inhabit humans. Bacteria are another example of micro-organisms that play complex and critical roles in both the lives of humans and the environment at large…and they are everywhere! In the average gram of soil there are about 50 million bacterium! The biomass of bacteria on the earth is estimated at 15% of the total—coming in second only to plants. What are all these bacteria doing? Bacteria are important in many ways and we still don’t understand all of the functions of the many different kinds of bacteria. Bacteria in the soil decompose organic matter and release nutrients for plants. Imagine what the ground would look like if bacteria were not doing their job! In your own body, bacteria help you to break down the food you eat and many other things. Now, of course, not all bacteria are “friendly” and some can make us very sick. Just think of the number of times you have heard about E. coli contaminated vegetables or poultry. That is not a fun bacteria to ingest!

Another fun group of microscopic organisms are those tiny animals that live on, in and around us…despite us never seeing them. These have the same biological characteristics as bigger animals…they are just super tiny! Have dust mite allergies? Yep, dust mites are microscopic animals. There are tiny worms (nematodes) and tiny beetles too. Some...
Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expanded!

Department will continue to manage and enhance this park’s natural areas.

In Spring 2020 the Parks and Recreation Department expects to start construction of an initial Snell Road entry, vehicular parking area, and rustic trails. The Department also intends to apply for supplemental funding to construct a formal entry drive, parking lot, and 2+ mile multi-use trail system.

In Summer 2020 everyone will be invited to a Grand Opening of this expanded park to celebrate the protection of this special area and the new recreation, wildlife observation and environmental education opportunities it offers.

Oakland Township’s Land Preservation millage provides funding to acquire, permanently protect and preserve high-quality Township green spaces. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund provides funding for the acquisition of public lands for resource protection and the development of public outdoor recreation.

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

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

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

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

Matthew Strubler joins the team as a part-time Park and Recreation Worker. He teaches kayaking and archery. He also works the soccer games and runs the sledding hill in the winter. Matt loves hiking, fishing, kayaking, working with horses and camping. Along with the love for the outdoors, he writes folk music, records artists and plays shows throughout Michigan. Welcome to the team, Matt.

We are saddened to announce the passing of Everett Garey, long-time Park Commissioner. Everett was instrumental in the 1974 formation of the Oakland Township Park Commission, the 1977 acquisition of the Township’s first park (Bear Creek Nature Park), creation of the initial Township Parks and Recreation Ordinance in 1980, and the first Township Park Master Plan in 1980.

Everett effectively participated in many aspects of the acquisition, planning & management of our outstanding park system; helped ensure that open space was preserved across the Township; worked for the inclusion of bike paths in new residential developments; & supported the purchase of the Paint Creek Trail in 1983. Everett’s outstanding contributions were recognized in 2000 with Michigan Recreation and Park Association’s Special Award.

Our deepest condolences to his family and friends.
Pot-lucks are in the Cranberry Lake Farm (CLF) Flumerfelt Barn at 384 W. Predmore Rd. in Oakland Township. November and December programs are at the Paint Creek United Methodist Church (PCUMC), 4420 Collins Rd. A bad snow storm will mean that we would cancel our program and reschedule it. Join our Society to stay on our mailing list and receive more information about program location, time and details.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The public is welcome to our programs. There is no charge for our programs. For program information or to submit program ideas and speaker suggestions, e-mail Mary Tischler, Program Chairperson, marytischler@comcast.net. For membership or other information contact Sue Fox, Membership Chairperson, (248) 693-9646. Visit our Facebook Page @othsmi or our website: www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org

Images: Page 6: Witch Hazel flowering at Lost Lake Nature Park, Park Staff, Nov. 2005; Last Year’s Husks & Young Fruit, Katja Schulz, Wikimedia Commons CC BY 2.0; Fruit, Homer Edward Price, Wikimedia Commons CC BY 2.0; Page 22, Leaf, Derek Ramsey, Wikimedia Commons CC BY-SA 2.5

A Witch Named Hazel?

(Continued from page 6)

Even if you have no desire to distill your own home Witch Hazel or have no need to douse for water you still might want to get to know Witch Hazel. It makes for a striking native plant in your garden with those brilliant yellow flowers at the most unexpected time of the year! As a native plant it is adapted to live in our area and enjoys the north-facing side of homes where some shade protects it from hot sun – a great filler in your native landscaping. Of course it comes with all the other benefits of native plants, not needing a lot of watering or use of herbicides or pesticides to keep it healthy. Witch Hazel is a great plant to consider adding to your garden. Perhaps it will inspire you to make a commitment to native plantings, which will help to maintain the health of our land, water, animal and insect populations here in Oakland Township!

If you would like to see some Witch Hazel growing naturally you can take a nice walk at Lost Lake Nature Park where the shrub grows wild. If you’d like some help finding it, consider attending an open house at Lost Lake where our guided nature walks may take you past a Witch Hazel. (See pages 4-5 for Open House dates.)
Oakland Township resident registration starts NOW! Non-resident registration begins one week prior to the program registration deadline date.

Registration Options:

1. Register online at [https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com](https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com) with a credit card (MasterCard, Visa, or Discover).
   For Cash or Check see options 2 and 3.

2. Fill out the form below and the release of liability waiver on back of form for each participant, register by mail or drop in the drop-box at Township Hall, (4393 Collins Rd.) after hours. (One waiver is needed for each person and each program. Find liability waivers at www.oaklandtownship.org, go to Township Departments, click on Parks and Recreation, click on Programs and scroll to the waiver that you need in center of page.)
   Make checks payable to “Charter Township of Oakland” and mail with registration form and signed waiver for each participant to:  Charter Township of Oakland, 4393 Collins Rd., Rochester, MI 48306

3. Visit us at our office location and register in person.
   Credit cards (MasterCard, Visa, or Discover), cash, or check.
   Paint Creek Cider Mill Bldg. (2nd Floor)
   4480 Orion Rd., Rochester, MI 48306
   Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 4:30pm

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Adult’s Name: ________________________________

Address: ______________________________________

City/Zip: ____________________________ Emergency phone: ________________________________

Home Phone: ____________________________ Cell Phone: ________________________________

E-Mail Address: ________________________________

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: ____________________________

[Mail at least two weeks before program date!]

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

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Registrons 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 full refund. 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. Visit www.oaklandtownship.org for complete program information and other Park and Recreation information, permits, and ordinances.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation
Release of Liability Waiver and Permission to Publish Photographs

Use this waiver for general programs. A separate release of liability waiver must be submitted for each program for which each participant registers. Special waivers are required for Camps, Archery, Kayaking, and Stand Up Paddleboarding and are available on the Park Programs page of the Township website: www.oaklandtownship.org

Liability Waiver For Participant: As a participant (or as a parent of a participant under 18 years of age) in the above Oakland Township Parks & Recreation program, I recognize and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury and I agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, including death, damages, loss which I sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with the program. I do hereby fully release and discharge the Charter Township of Oakland, Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Commission, their officers, agents, volunteers, sponsors and employees from any and all claims from injuries, including death, damages or loss which I may have or which may occur to me on account of my participation in the program. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless and defend the Charter Township of Oakland, Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Commission, their officers, agents, volunteers, sponsors and employees from any and all claims resulting from injuries, including death and losses sustained by and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with this program.

I authorize the use photographs showing my image in any of their printed documents and on their website.

Medical Care. Please check one of the following boxes:

☐ I am willing to allow my child to receive First Aid treatment, and if necessary, further medical attention that may include transportation to a local medical facility. I understand that, if possible, I will be contacted if additional medical care is needed.

☐ I am willing to allow my child to receive First Aid Treatment, but I do not want my child to receive additional medical attention, including transportation to a local medical facility. If advanced medical care is necessary, please follow these instructions:___________________________________________________________________________

Signature of participant (Parent's signature if minor)  Date

Print Name (include name of minor, if any)

Address

Phone

E-mail

Emergency Contact and Phone Number
2019 Paint Creek Trail Construction Projects Completed

2019 has been a very busy year for the Paint Creek Trailways Commission as two major construction projects took place on the trail. Bridge 33.7, a 95-year-old timber pedestrian bridge located on the trail between Dutton and Silverbell Roads, was completely replaced this summer. The design of the new seventy-five foot keystone-style steel truss bridge greatly improves accessibility for trail users and also supports a greater load capacity, allowing maintenance and emergency vehicles to cross. Additionally, the entire Paint Creek Trail was resurfaced with crushed limestone this fall. This project improved the smoothness and regularity of the trail, and provides a safer and more predictable and enjoyable surface for all trail users.

New Trail Pollinator Garden Coming This Spring!

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail are working with the Paint Creek Trailways Commission to install a pollinator garden along the Paint Creek Trail about 1/4 mile north of Tienken Road in Rochester Hills. Work on the garden layout started in late October and planting is targeted for this spring.

Much attention as of late has been given to the needs of pollinators, bees, birds, and butterflies, particularly the Monarch butterfly. The new garden will feature low-maintenance, native plants in support of pollinators and will be named the Moutrie Pollinator Garden in honor of the late David Moutrie, a teacher, environmentalist, and an active supporter of the Paint Creek Trail. Mr. Moutrie served as Trail bike patroller until 2012. He was known by many as the “Trail Ambassador” and was greatly admired for his dedication to the Trail.

To learn more or to support this initiative visit http://paintcreektrailfriends.org/wp/?page_id=436.
Parks and Recreation Opportunities in Oakland Township

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Facilities

Conservation Areas
1. Blue Heron Environmental Area
2. Mill Creek Crossing
3. O'Connor Nature Park
4. Paint Creek Heritage Area - Fen
5. Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie
6. Paint Creek Trail Parcel
7. Bear Creek Nature Park
8. Charles Ivesy Park
9. Crabtree Lake Park
10. Draper Twin Lakes Park
11. Gallagher Creek Park
12. Lost Lake Nature Park
13. Marsh View Park
14. Mill Race Trail
15. Paint Creek Trail
16. Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
17. Watershed Ridge Park
18. Paint Creek Cider Mill (Parks & Rec Office)

Community Parks & 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. Black Heart Golf Club
31. The Myth Golf Club
32. Westwynd Golf Club

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

Public Schools
50. Baldwin Elementary School
51. Delta Kelly Elementary School
52. Hugger Elementary School
53. Mission Elementary School
54. Oakview Middle School

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

Map Scale: 0.5 Miles

Location of Parks & Recreation Office: Located on 2nd Floor, Paint Creek Cider Mill
What’s New in the Parks (Continued from page 12)

Watershed Ridge Park
Trail and Parking Improvements Underway

Parks and Recreation Staff have started the construction of Phase 1 Access Improvements at Watershed Ridge Park. These improvements include an entry drive, 10-space parking lot, and almost one mile of rustic trail loops. The project will be completed in Spring 2020.

You might not see me…but… (Continued from page 20)

of these serve critical roles in the environment and others can cause real harm to our crops. One nematode, for example, is responsible for $500 million dollars in soybean crop loss every year. If you ever see some of the amazing photographs of these tiny animals you will be amazed at their uniqueness, their adaptations and wonder of the world around us. A single drop of pond water, examined under different powers of magnification, can reveal another world of incredible tiny animals all going about their business of surviving and thriving in the environment.

This review only scratches the surface of the world of the microscopic. While scientists and “explorers” of this unseen world have learned a lot there is still a whole lot we do not know about how these micro-organisms survive in so many environments where other life does not. We also do not even come close to understanding all of the many complex roles they play in the health of our own bodies and the health of our environment. We have so much more to learn and understand. If you would like to meet some of these microscopic creatures in person, consider attending the upcoming Open House, Microbes and a World Up Close, on February 23. (See page 4 for details.)

Ice Rink at Bear Creek Nature Park
Visit any day of the week, attend a class (pg 8) or drop by for Winter Carnival (pg 3). Check the hotline 248-651-4440, extension 289, before heading out.
See page 8 for open hours.

Sled Hill at Lost Lake Nature Park
Visit any day of the week or stop by during one of our open evenings (page 7). Check the hotline at 248-651-4440, extension 299 before heading out.
See page 7 for complete details.
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
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            Mindy 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
Natural Areas Stewardship Manager        Dr. Ben VanderWeide
Stewardship Specialist                  Grant VanderLaan
Maintenance and Recreation Staff        Clif Selent, Robert Zbytowski,
                                        Max Parsons, Matt Strubler

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.