

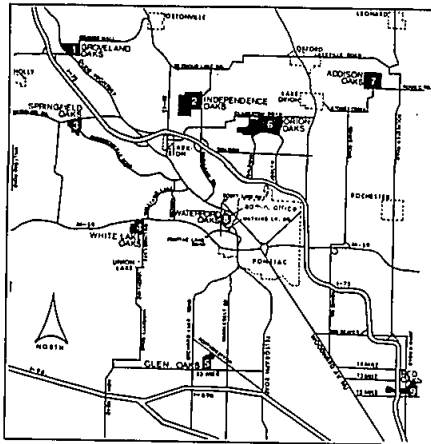
Here's your guide to Oakland County parks

SUMMER'S HOT WEATHER finally is upon us, but there's a way to battle the heat.

Oakland County's Parks and Recreation Commission offers a variety of activities at nine separate sites. Activities include camping, swimming, fishing, golf, picnicking, nature study and winter sports.

Three of the nine parks are day-use facilities that feature fun for the entire family. The remaining parks specialize with golf, tennis, a nature trail or a wave pool.

The three day-use facilities (Addison Oaks, Groveland Oaks and Independence Oaks) require vehicle entry permits. Price is \$2.50 per vehicle per day for Oakland County residents. Non-residents pay \$4. Annual permits also are available at \$15 per vehicle for residents and \$20 for non-residents.



5 GLEN OAKS GOLF COURSE

Glen Oaks Golf Course on 13 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads, Farmington Hills, features rolling terrain and a stone clubhouse with newly renovated facilities. The 18-hole, par-70 course draws golfers of all abilities. A stream traversing the entire course comes into play on five holes. Facilities are available for large banquets, wedding reception, and golf outings. A new pro shop, lockers, and remodeled bar and grill room also are in the building. During the winter months, Glen Oaks Golf Course is utilized for cross country skiing. For more information, call 851-8358.

6 ORION OAKS COUNTY PARK



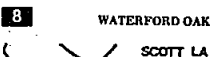
7 ADDISON OAKS COUNTY PARK



8 WATERFORD OAKS COUNTY PARK



9 RED OAKS GOLF COURSE



The newest and largest addition to the park system is Orion Oaks, 927 acres in Orion Township, north Oakland County. Most of the funding for the acquisition of the site came from Federal Land and Water Conservation funds and Michigan Land Trust funds. In the future, a master plan will be developed for Orion Oaks. The park may provide such activities as camping, boating, fishing, picnicking and winter sports.

Addison Oaks County Park is on W. Romeo Road (nine miles north of Rochester) in northeastern Oakland County. Forests, lakes, and spring-fed ponds provide numerous recreational choices, including camping, swimming, picnicking, fishing, hiking and nature study.

For winter recreation, Addison Oaks features 13 miles of snowmobile trails, as well as hills for sledding and lakes for ice fishing and ice skating. For more information, call 693-2432.

Active recreation is the focus at Waterford Oaks at 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Pontiac. The 145-acre park also serves as the headquarters for the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission. Michigan's only Wave-Action swimming pool is designed here for persons of all ages.

Three-foot, ocean-like waves alternate with calm periods. With a depth ranging from less than a foot to 8 feet, the pool is accessible to the handicapped. Behind the pool is a bike motocross (BMX) track providing racing for youngsters. A new tennis-and-court-games complex, also adjacent to the pool, offers eight wind-screened tennis courts, four lighted platform tennis courts, shuffleboard and horseshoes.

For more information, call the park at 858-0913 or 858-0906. Wave pool phone is 858-0918. Tennis complex phone is 858-5433.

Red Oaks on John R Road near 12 Mile Road, Madison Heights, is an example of converting unusable land in one of the most densely populated areas of the county.

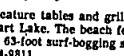
Government agencies helped transform the site of the Red Run Drain into a complete golfing center, including a nine-hole executive course with a practice putting green. For more information on the course, call 541-5030.

The driving range across John R provides year-round golfing with the recent addition of a heated, air-supported dome during the colder months. The golf dome is the first of its type in the country. For more information on the driving range, call 548-1857.

1 GROVELAND OAKS COUNTY PARK



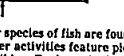
2 INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK



3 SPRINGFIELD OAKS COUNTY PARK



4 WHITE LAKE OAKS GOLF COURSE



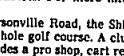
5 GLEN OAKS GOLF COURSE



6 ORION OAKS COUNTY PARK



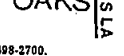
7 ADDISON OAKS COUNTY PARK



8 WATERFORD OAKS COUNTY PARK



9 RED OAKS GOLF COURSE



Groveland Oaks County Park on Dixie Highway at Grange Hall, Holly, offers 650 campsites, a sandy beach, swimming lake and ponds.

Groveland's facilities include restrooms with hot showers and flush toilets, a supervised recreation program, boat and canoe rentals, a convenience store, and a sanitary dump station. Picnic facilities for family group parties, including a large group picnic shelter, are located on the park's three islands surrounding Stewart Lake. The beach features a Rampage Water Coaster giving riders a 63-foot surf-bogging slide into the lake. For more information, call 634-9811.

Year-round recreational activity and a natural environment are featured at Independence Oaks, an 850-acre site surrounding Crooked Lake. It is on Sasabaw Road in Clarkston, 2 1/2 miles north of the I-75 expressway. The park's forests and meadows serve as a natural habitat for many forms of wildlife including deer, squirrels, and a wide variety of birds. Bass, pike, panfish, and many other species of fish are found in Crooked Lake.

Warm weather activities feature picnicking, fishing, swimming, group camping, and hiking. Docks and a boat ramp provide access to the lake. Boat rentals are available.

In the winter, the park's nature paths become cross country ski trails. Ice fishing, ice skating, and hockey also are featured. For more information, call 625-0877.

Springfield Oaks on Andersonville Road near Hall, Davidsburg, hosts a variety of activities such as art shows, the annual Oakland County 4-H Fair and golf tournaments.

The Youth Activities Center is the focal point of the 270-acre recreational facility. The Youth Activities Center can accommodate parties, as well as exhibits and open-air concerts. For more information on the center, call 625-8133.

Across Andersonville Road, the Shiawassee River serves as a backdrop for the 18-hole golf course. A clubhouse with a panoramic view of the course includes a pro shop, cart rentals, and bar and grill room. For more information on the course, call 625-2540.

White Lake Oaks is a 140-acre, par-70 golf course on S. Williams Lake Road, off M-59 expressway, White Lake Township. It features watered greens, fairways, and practice greens.

The clubhouse features a locker room, pro shop, grill and bar. Quiet facilities for up to 250 people. It offers cross country ski lessons and equipment rental in the winter months. For more information, call 698-2700.

Glen Oaks Golf Course on 13 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads, Farmington Hills, features rolling terrain and a stone clubhouse with newly renovated facilities. The 18-hole, par-70 course draws golfers of all abilities. A stream traversing the entire course comes into play on five holes. Facilities are available for large banquets, wedding reception, and golf outings. A new pro shop, lockers, and remodeled bar and grill room also are in the building. During the winter months, Glen Oaks Golf Course is utilized for cross country skiing. For more information, call 851-8358.

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Orion Oaks on Starkston Road, Orion Township, north Oakland County. Most of the funding for the acquisition of the site came from Federal Land and Water Conservation funds and Michigan Land Trust funds. In the future, a master plan will be developed for Orion Oaks. The park may provide such activities as camping, boating, fishing, picnicking and winter sports.

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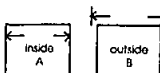
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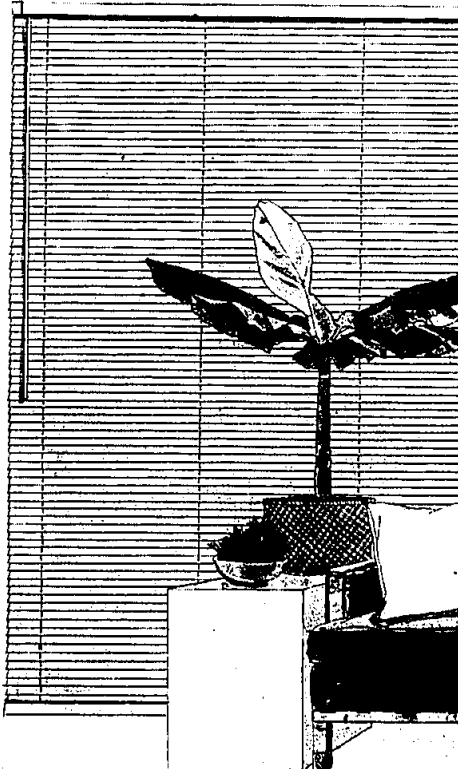


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Addison Oaks conference center is available for public rentals.

Recapping the history of Oakland's parks system

OAKLAND COUNTY'S Parks and Recreation Commission provides year-round recreational opportunities for the residents of southeast Michigan.

Oakland County parks were established to complement the services of local and regional park systems without duplicating facilities and services.

The commission has developed close to home, intermediate-size park areas. Special recreational programming is provided through mobile recreation units that travel to communities and nature interpretive education.

Special services also are coordinated for senior citizens and handicapped people.

THE NINE PARKS offers activities which include camping, boating, swimming, fishing, golf, picnicking, nature study, and winter sports.

Some unique leisure facilities and programs include a wave-action pool, a double-flume water slide, the country's first year-round, dome-covered driving range, the state's only rampage water coaster, and a community mobile recreation fleet.

Future plans include improved camping facilities and more recreation opportunities at several parks, including Red Oaks at 12 Mile and John R in Madison Heights.

THE PARKS COMMISSION was created by action of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors (county commissioners) on February 8, 1966. In 17 years, more than 3,700 acres of land have

been acquired by the parks board, with assistance from state and federal governments. Currently, there are nine parks, including the recently acquired Orion Oaks, a 927-acre park — the largest in the system.

In 1980, about one million people visited the Oakland County parks, more than the total population of the county. That figure is expected to exceed 1 1/2 million in 1983.

Oakland County voters have renewed a one-quarter-mill tax (25 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation) every five years to help fund land acquisition and capital development of the parks.

It is the goal of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission to operate on a self-sustaining basis with tax dollars spent for capital improvements.

THE 16-MEMBER commission develops master plans for all parklands. The body includes the chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, the county drain commissioner and the county executive. The remaining members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

At least one, but no more than three members, must be county commissioners.

The commission establishes policies, develops programs and plans and makes financial decisions. A manager heads up the commission and oversees recreational facilities, handles administrative affairs and is responsible for instituting recreational programs.

DAVID FRANK/staff photographer