

Oakland to improve parks, hike fees in '86

By Lem Mesoe
outdoors writer

Fees for Oakland County parks will rise for non-residents and Waterford wave pool users. Admission fees will stay the same for county residents, under a new budget adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

After a public hearing, the commission adopted a 1986 budget of \$7.2 million, which includes \$5.8 million for operating and \$1.4 million for capital development.

"The most significant addition will be the opening of Red Oaks Waterpark in Madison Heights," said Lewis E. Wick, parks commission chairman. It will be the county's second water theme park.

For Oakland residents, vehicle entry fees will remain at \$2.50 a day and \$15 for an annual pass. (County property owners pay a tax of 0.25 mills for the parks.) Camping fees will remain at \$5-7 a night.

Fees going up are:
• General admittance to the Waterford wave pool and water slide — \$4 (compared to the current \$2.50 and \$3.50 respectively).
• Non-residents vehicle entry —

outdoors

\$4.50 a day (currently \$4) and \$25 for a season pass (vs. \$20).

• Non-residents camping — \$7.50 and \$9.50 depending on type of site (both up 50 cents).

• Green fees at Glen Oaks in Farmington Hills, Springfield Oaks in Davisburg and White Lake Oaks west of Pontiac — \$5.50 for nine holes (up 50 cents) for residents; \$6.25 (up from \$5.75) for non-residents. Nine-hole rates at Red Oaks will be \$5 and \$5.50.

A 200-seat amphitheater will be constructed at Independence Oaks with funds donated by the Oakland Parks Foundation.

Wint said other major capital development projects slated for '86 are: at Orion Oaks, a master plan; Independence, Addison and Waterford Oaks, picnic shelters; Groveland Oaks, a renovated restroom and shower building and a new boat rental facility.

lot of snowmaking equipment and facilities, according to Sidney L. Baker, president of the Travel & Tourist Association of Southeast Michigan.

The big investments were prompted by 1984's almost total lack of natural snowfall.

Improvements by area:
Alpine Valley, 6775 E. Highland, Milford — six new snow cannons; expanded conference facilities; new high performance ski equipment for advanced skiers.

Mt. Brighton, 4141 Bauer, Brighton — main slope widened, new triple chairlift, new snow-grooming equipment, 300 pairs of new rental skis, front of lodge remodeled.

Mt. Holly, 15336 S. Dixie Highway, Holly — 18 new snow cannons, opening of new "expert" hill (1,000 feet high with 280-degree vertical drop), new triple chairlift capable of carrying 1,800 skiers per hour.

Riverview Highlands, 15015 Sibley Road, Riverview — new snow-making

equipment, new ski rental building, all new junior equipment.
The Travel & Tourist Association's 24-hour "snowline" number is (313) 585-7233.

DOG OBEDIENCE and conformation classes for German shepherds only will begin Jan. 10 in Southfield in the John Grace Community Center, 21030 Indian, near Eight Mile and Inkster.

Dogs must have a veterinarian's shot certificate and worm test certificate to take part in these classes offered by the German Shepherd Dog Club of Detroit Inc.

Registration information is available from Thelma Gothan at 935-4425. Having trained a dog with this club, this writer can attest that it's a good group.

HURON-CLINTON Metroparks have several nature center programs this weekend. All are free unless otherwise indicated. There is a \$2 vehicle admission at the park gate. In each case, call the Metroparks' toll-free 1-800-557-

6772 for advance registration.
Stony Creek, northeast of Rochester — 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, "A Christmas Star," slide program and outdoors walk.
Indian Springs, near Clarkston — 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, "Nature's Holiday Season," a guided nature hike.
Kensington, west of New Hudson — 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, "Winter Wild-

life Survival," program explaining animal survival.
The Kensington Farm Center at the north end of the park will have a "Lunch with Santa," including a sleighride or hayride, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 14 and 21. Tickets at \$5 must be purchased in advance. Call the parks office for ticket information.

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