

NEWS RELEASE

Desiree Stanfield
Communications & Marketing Supervisor
248-705-4108 | stanfieldd@oakgov.com

Oakland County Parks budget emphasizes park revitalization projects, urban expansion plans across the county

New partnerships and planned investments highlighted in 2024

WATERFORD, MI – Sept. 26, 2023 – The Oakland County Parks (OCP) budget for fiscal year 2024 has been approved at \$38,261,932. The 2024 budget was approved by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission Sept. 6 and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Sept. 21.

The budget highlights new partnerships and planned investments aimed at revitalizing parks and improving the delivery of Oakland County Parks services in Oakland County's urban population centers made possible by the \$20.2 million Oakland County Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan approved by Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in 2022.

Oakland County Parks will assume responsibility for managing four municipal parks and make major investments in park facilities and maintenance:

- Hawthorne Park, a 77-acre park located in the City of Pontiac which will become Pontiac Oaks County Park
- A 17-acre portion of David H. Shepherd Park in the City of Oak Park
- Ambassador Park, a 9-acre park in the City of Madison Heights which will be incorporated into the adjacent Red Oaks County Park
- The former Beech Woods Golf Course in the City of Southfield which will become Southfield Oaks County Park, pending finalization of a partnership agreement by the city and county

The Healthy Communities Plan also includes funding for parks revitalization projects located at Catalpa Oaks County Park, Lyon Oaks County Park, Red Oaks County Park, Waterford Oaks County Park, Green Acres Park in the City of Hazel Park, Crystal Lake Park in the City of Pontiac, Mack-Rowe Park in Royal Oak Township, the Oak Park Farmers Market and local parks in the City of Southfield.

“Great parks and greenspaces make a big difference in promoting our health and happiness. Everyone deserves access to welcoming, safe and well-maintained recreation opportunities within reach of where they live and work,” Parks Director Chris Ward said. “With the support of our county leadership and the partnership of local governments, Oakland County Parks will be opening a new chapter of investment and expansion focused

in our urban population centers that will result in revitalized and renewed parks for the enjoyment of all.”

The parks system is funded by .35 mills to improve, operate and maintain parks, open space and water areas, trails and recreation activities. The cost to the owner of a home or business with a market value of \$200,000 (taxable value of \$100,000) is approximately \$35/year.

OCP provides nearly 80 miles of trails, parks, campgrounds, dog parks, golf courses, nature centers, a farmers market and an ORV park, plus year-round programming and special events. The 14-park system is used by more than 2 million residents and visitors annually.

For more information about Oakland County Parks, visit OaklandCountyParks.com. Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).