

# Welcome

## TO INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK

Independence Oaks and Independence Oaks-North preserve nearly 1,300 acres of open space, offering an oasis for wildlife as well as humans seeking respite from daily stresses.

The park is easily accessible from I-75 and offers many amenities, including 12 miles of trails, boating, fishing, swimming, picnic and archery opportunities as well as a nature center and youth group camping area. Mounted, bike and vehicle patrols are provided by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.



The Lewis E. Wint Nature Center offers interactive exhibits, year-round educational programs for all ages, classrooms, meeting areas and rest rooms.

### Memorial Day-Labor Day

Sun. 1-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m-5 p.m.

### Labor Day -Memorial Day

Sun. 1-5 p.m. Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The nature center staff strives to support healthy lifestyle habits by fostering family outings and an appreciation of the outdoors. They offer year-round programming for families, scouts, students and individuals.



Professional naturalists lead special homeschool programs and school field trips that meet Michigan Department of Education Science Standards K-12. Year-round field trip experiences range from cider making to "tracks on tees" and snowshoeing.

The staff also conducts tours, hikes, birthday parties, scout programs, StarLab (inflatable planetarium), community outreach and customized innovative programs tailored to a group's specific needs and interests.

The Rubach Sensory and Klein Water Gardens offer living laboratories and are maintained by volunteers.



The success of many recreation and environmental programs depends on volunteer efforts. Nature center volunteers assist with interpretive programs, seasonal special events, captive animal care, sensory garden care and exhibit preparation. Volunteers also help conduct wildlife surveys and care for park and natural areas.

### ESSENTIAL INFO

9501 Sashabaw Road  
Clarkston, MI 48348  
Phone: 248-625-0877

### PARK HOURS

Summer 7 a.m.-sunset  
Winter 8 a.m.-sunset  
or as posted



### WINT NATURE CENTER

Phone: 248-625-6473

### ADMISSION

Oakland County Parks daily pass or Annual Vehicle Permit required, available at the park office, contact station and nature center. Annual permits can also be purchased online or at many locations throughout the county.



### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

2800 Watkins Lake Road  
Waterford, MI 48328-1917  
248-858-0906  
1-888-OC PARKS

### COMMISSIONERS

Ebony Bagley, Chair  
J. David VanderVeen, Vice Chair  
Andrea LaFontaine, Secretary  
Yolanda Smith Charles, Executive Committee Member



Lola Banks  
Ann Erickson Gault  
Christine Long

Jim Nash  
Nancy L. Quarles  
Shanell Weatherspoon

All Abilities WELCOME



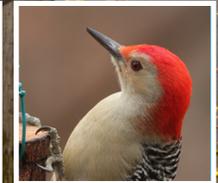
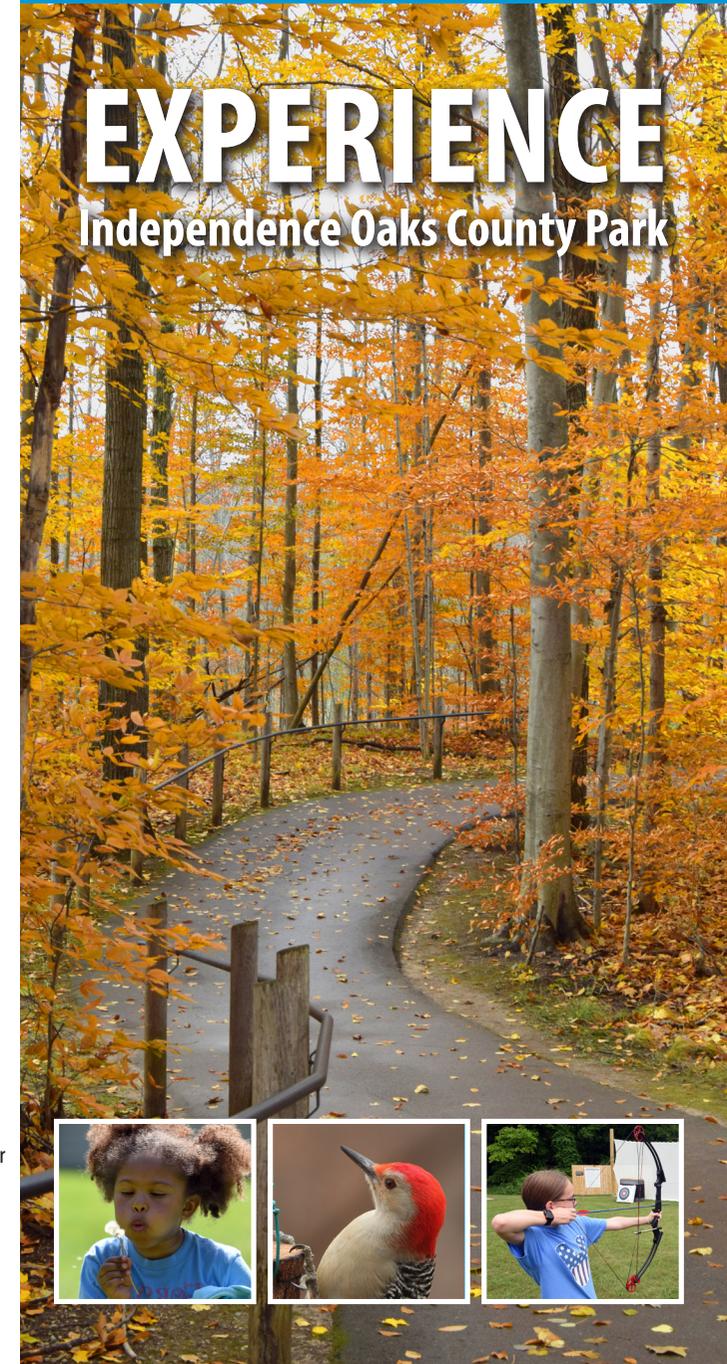
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# EXPERIENCE Independence Oaks County Park



[OaklandCountyParks.com](https://OaklandCountyParks.com)

## WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

- More than 12 miles of natural and paved trails with firsthand looks at oak, hickory and maple trees, plus glimpses of wildlife.
- A 2.2-mile paved trail crosses the Clinton River and connects Camp Wilderness with other park trails.
- The Independence Township Safety Path connects the entrances of Independence Oaks Main and North.
- Cross-country skiing available during winter months, conditions permitting.



## ARCHERY

The Independence Oaks Archery Range, located near the beach, offers archers an opportunity to learn, develop and sharpen their skills. Open range times are held May-September with equipment rental available. Classes, themed field trips, events and camps are also offered. Details at [OaklandCountyParks.com](http://OaklandCountyParks.com).



## CAMP WILDERNESS

- Organized youth groups (scouts, church groups, Campfire, 4-H Clubs, etc.) can reserve primitive campsites for overnight camping from May-mid-October.
- Two areas feature platform tents, shelters, fire circles, modern rest rooms and showers

## INDEPENDENCE OAKS-NORTH



## EVENT & PICNIC POSSIBILITIES

- Seven rental shelters and picnic areas for groups of 25-1,000 include tables designed for individuals who use wheelchairs. Twin Chimneys shelter overlooks Crooked Lake. A picturesque lakeside gazebo is ideal for special celebrations.
- The Cohn Amphitheater, an open-air venue for programs and events, may be rented for private occasions. The theater features seating for 150 people, hard-surface access pathway, a fire circle, sound system and gazebo with electricity.
- The Great Hall at Wint Nature Center, with its wildlife observation area, is available for rent for private occasions.

## WINTER RECREATION

- Up to 10 miles of groomed, marked cross-country ski trails for skiers of all ability levels
- Cross-country ski equipment rentals available on weekends. Snow is rolled and groomed when snow conditions permit. A minimum six to eight inches of natural snow is needed to start the rolling and grooming process.
- Volunteer National Ski Patrol monitors trails and assists skiers
- Vending machines and restrooms open daily for skiers and ice fishermen.



## A DAY AT THE LAKE

- Pristine, 68-acre Crooked Lake is ideal for fishing and boating. A boat launch (electric motors only) and accessible kayak launch are available. Flotation docks along the lake are accessible to wheelchairs.
- Hidden Springs Beach offers bathhouse, food vending machines, picnic tables, playground equipment, sand volleyball courts and horseshoes pits.



Independence Oaks-North's 188 acres feature a 312-foot boardwalk connecting to a 180-foot-long fishing dock. Named a Michigan Natural Features Inventory Priority One Conservation Area, Independence Oaks-North contains rare natural communities.

Thirty-one-acre Upper Bushman Lake is open to the public. This spring-fed lake is part of the headwaters of the Clinton River watershed. The property protects more than four miles of streams which feed Upper Bushman Lake and 68-acre Crooked Lake in the main park.

Upper Bushman Lake operates under a Catch-and-Release only special designation from the MDNR, the only lake with this designation in South-East Michigan. The designation prevents the lake from becoming over-harvested and allows it to perform at its biological potential, producing and supporting a high quality fishery. The docks are located in the northern kettle of Upper Bushman Lake in approximately 15-19 feet of water. Anglers can enjoy high catch rates and above average sized fish.

Hikers, bird watchers and nature lovers can enjoy a stroll on the one-quarter-mile trail, boardwalk through picturesque wetlands and docks overlooking the lake.

Park visitors can portage and launch canoes, kayaks or other registered portable, non-motorized boats; vehicular boat launch is not available.

Find details at [OaklandCountyParks.com](http://OaklandCountyParks.com)