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**Addison Oaks County Park opens themed feature that is out of this world**

*New Solar System Trail features interesting facts about space, models of solar system and sun*

**OAKLAND COUNTY, MI – June 21, 2024** – It doesn’t need to be dark outside in order to gaze at the galaxy at Addison Oaks Campground and County Park near Rochester. A grand opening for the new Solar System Trail along the popular Buhl Lake Loop was held on Thursday, June 20, showcasing the inclusive trail that can be enjoyed by both campers and day-use guests year round.

The trail features two scale model displays of the solar system:

* A model based on planet size compared to the sun
* A distance scale model of the solar system with the size of the sun and planets and their location scaled to the Buhl Trail

“The trail has been generating a lot of excitement. After all, it’s pretty hard to miss an 8-foot diameter sun and planets scaled to size near the Adams Lake Playground,” Chief of Park Operations and Maintenance – North District Tom Hughes said. “We believe that the Solar System Trail is the perfect addition at Addison Oaks. Campers already enjoy the starry nighttime sky since our rural location offers reduced light pollution and the park is a popular gathering spot for those with an interest in astronomy.”

While the day-use park closes before nightfall, there is programming, such as the Saturn Star Party and Meteors & More events, that offer nighttime viewing opportunities. In addition, the Oakland Astronomy Club meets regularly at Addison Oaks, bringing the club’s 12.5-inch Dobsonian and 14-inch SCT telescopes out for scheduled public observing nights and offering educational programs for schools, parks and other organizations.

The Solar System Trail provides a self-guided learning experience. Guests walk along the 2.5-mile trail at their own pace, pausing at the 10 individual planet stops. Each stop features an interpretive sign and a three-dimensional planet scaled to size. There are QR codes that link to NASA for additional information. The trail proceeds in a counter-clockwise direction, the same as the planets orbit the sun.

“We are looking forward to seeing everyone enjoy the trail,” Addison Oaks Park Supervisor Kate Pardy said. “The information is presented in a fun way and is designed to engage guests of all ages as they enjoy being together outdoors.”

The Buhl Lake Loop is a paved trail with scenic views of Buhl Lake and the Buhl Estate, a historic Tudor-style home that serves as a wedding and banquet venue. The trail is accessible up to the planet Saturn for individuals with wheelchairs or mobility challenges. The remaining 1.9 miles of the trail, which includes Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, is not accessible grade.

It takes approximately 45-60 minutes to walk the entire trail at a leisurely pace. Modern restrooms and rustic facilities are available along the trail.

Addison Oaks County Park has 1,140-acres where visitors can recreate for the day, camp under the stars or explore the park’s rich history. Activities include a 20+ mile trail system for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and winter fat tire biking; boat/kayak and bike rentals, 18-hole disc golf course, fishing, geocaching and picnicking.

The park is located at 1480 West Romeo Road near Rochester. For more information or to make a camping reservation, call 248-693-2432 or visit OaklandCountyParks.com.

For more information about Oakland County Parks, visit [OaklandCountyParks.com](https://www.oakgov.com/parks/Pages/default.aspx)**.** Join the conversation on[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ocparks), [Instagram](http://instagram.com/oaklandcountyparks) and [X](https://twitter.com/OCParksAndRec).