



White Lake Oaks Golf Course

991 North Williams Lake Road
White Lake, Michigan 48386
Pro Shop: 248-698-2700



Park Information

White Lake Oaks Golf Course is a scenic 18-hole, par 70 course set on 238 acres. The player-friendly layout features an open front nine and tight back nine featuring woodlands and wetlands. White Lake Oaks also offers FootGolf, played on a 9-hole course built within nine holes of White Lake Oaks Golf Course. The course is designed for simultaneous play of both traditional golf and FootGolf, which utilizes a soccer ball and follows rules similar to traditional golf. The clubhouse features a pro shop, Bunkers Bar & Grill and garden patio. (The clubhouse is currently closed due to Covid-19.) White Lake Oaks is certified by the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program for exceeding requirements to protect natural resources.



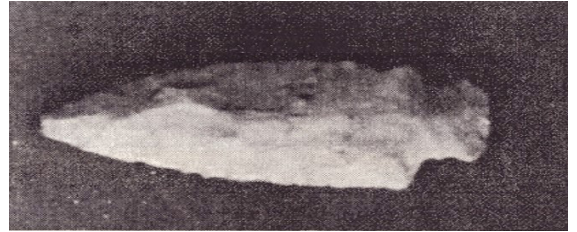
Natural Resources

- White Lake Oaks is part of both the Huron River Watershed and the Clinton River Watershed.
- Almost half of White Lake Oaks is wetlands. The Huron River flows along the western side of the property.
- The park was likely a combination of Black Oak Barren and Mixed Hardwood Swamp prior to the 1800s.
- There are many old oak trees on the property which are susceptible to the fungal disease oak wilt. The trees are currently being monitored and treated onsite.
- Many species of wildlife, including coyotes and foxes, live in the wetlands adjacent to the golf course and can often be seen at dawn or dusk.

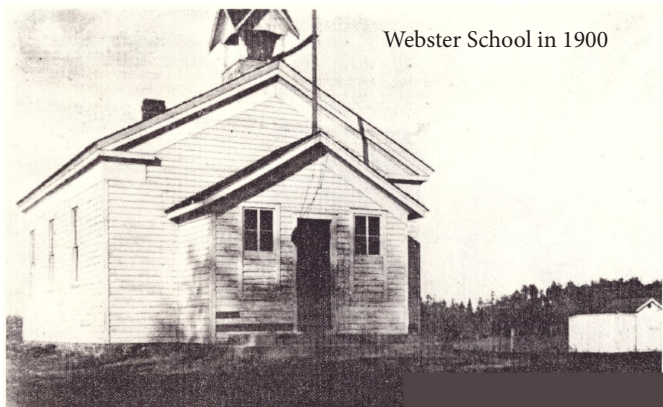


History

In March 1968 the skeleton of a mastodon was discovered and dug up just to the west of White Lake Oaks. It is estimated that the mastodon lived in the area about 10,000 years ago. About half of the skeleton was recovered and reconstructed. It was originally nicknamed “Elmer” because the bones were dipped in Elmer’s Glue to keep them from cracking after they were removed from the ground. Later it was renamed the Groleau-White Lake Mastodon. “Groleau” was in honor of the Groleau brothers who discovered the bones and “White Lake” identifies the location of the discovery site. The mastodon is on display in Levinson Hall at the Highland Lakes campus of Oakland Community College.



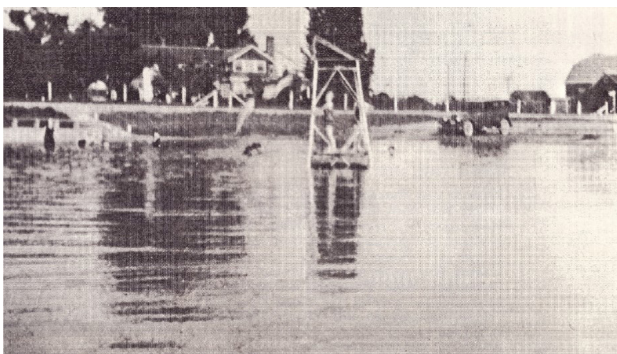
There is a lot of evidence that prehistoric Native Americans were present near the area that became White Lake Oaks. Several prehistoric artifacts were discovered on the Korpak farm which was just south of the park. These include fluted projectile points estimated to be 10,000 years old and a quartz spear point estimated to be 5,000 years old. A copper projectile point was also located just a bit north of the park near Pontiac Lake.



Webster School in 1900

Beginning in the 1850s a one room schoolhouse was on the land that became White Lake Oaks. It was named Webster School after the Webster family who had owned the land in the late 1840s. The school was also a gathering place used for Sunday School, weddings and other community events.

In the 1870s the Vantine family owned the land that became White Lake Oaks. It stayed in the family for many, many years, and for several years the farm was run by Albert Vantine. The family held an annual reunion at his farm; a newspaper clipping from 1896 stated that 60 relatives attended the reunion that year in addition to a large number of friends and neighbors. It further stated “a large tent was pitched on the lawn where refreshments and music were served.”



Vantine farm after the creation of Pontiac Lake

Elmer Vantine, Albert’s son, had been one of the founders of the Detroit Business Institute in the early 1900s. He put his business knowledge to work when he and a few associates purchased several farms around tiny Lime Lake which was located just northwest of the Vantine farm. Then, with the help of a dam on the Huron River, the now-huge Pontiac Lake was created. Elmer hoped to cash in on the growing interest in recreation in Oakland County. This was the reason he also turned his farm land into a golf course in 1930. His Twin Lakes Golf Course eventually became White Lake Oaks Golf Course.