

2008/05 INV

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS



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1997 Annual Report



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 L E I S U R E
 LEARNING EXPERIENCES
 Open spaces
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 M A N A G E M E N T
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FROM THE MANAGER

The year 1997 has been one of completion, transition and vision for the Oakland County Parks.

During the summer, two significant projects were completed. **Groveland Oaks** near Holly underwent a \$1.9 million renovation with enlarged and modernized campsites, along with redesigned and improved group camping areas. A 3,000-square-foot addition to the **Glen Oaks Clubhouse** in Farmington Hills will accommodate larger banquets and meetings, with a panoramic view of the golf course.

Changing to an October-September **fiscal year** allows the parks system to begin planning projects and improvements earlier. A master plan for Lyon Oaks in southwest Oakland County is in progress.

Preparing for the future has been a key element in our planning process. The parks and recreation commission is developing a **Strategic Plan** for the next decade. Based on input from a county-wide survey, the plan will focus on park availability and access, optimum park land and recreational facilities, the highest level of service, and sound fiscal management.

In concert with the strategic plan, parks and recreation staff is creating a **Vision for 2001** and beyond. Key elements are land preservation, customer service, health/fitness, and finance.

During the upcoming years, Oakland County Parks and Recreation will continue to provide the outstanding facilities and recreational experiences that families and businesses know and expect.

Please take a moment to read this Annual Report to learn more about *your* parks system.

Ralph Richard

Ralph Richard
Executive Officer

Oakland County Parks & Recreation Commission

Pecky D. Lewis, Jr., Chairman
Ruth Johnson, Vice Chairman
Richard D. Kuhn, Jr., Secretary

Fred Korzon
George W. Kuhn
Nancy McConnell
L. Brooks Patterson
Lawrence Pernick
Kay Schmid
Richard Skarritt



Banquets are even more elegant at the newly-renovated Glen Oaks Clubhouse

DID YOU KNOW...

...The free wood chip program at Orion Oaks provided residents with more than 1,500 cubic yards of wood mulch. The mulch was made available eight times between April and October.

...The park system's 1997 Christmas Tree Recycling Program processed 6,600 trees at ten collection sites.

...Nearly 1.5 million people visit the Oakland County Parks each year.



Loading up with free woodchips at Orion Oaks

I have always felt very fortunate to have been a resident of Oakland County due to the quality of life available here. Certainly our park system plays an integral role in affording the individuals and families of the county a variety of recreational alternatives... You are always in search of new ideas... Keep up the good work; you have "done us proud"!

Kenneth Rogers, Deputy County Executive

DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

An additional 198 acres of land located in Wixom were acquired in January, increasing the size of **Lyon Oaks** to 972 acres. A master plan for future development is presently underway.

At **Groveland Oaks**, a major renovation project reduced the number of modern campsites from 600 to 462, permitting larger sites. Group campsites were reorganized, electrical hookups were updated, water hookups were added and extensive landscaping was done. Project cost was approximately \$1.9 million.

A 3,000 square foot addition to the historic **Glen Oaks Clubhouse** included expansion of the banquet room, restroom renovations and the addition of a kitchen/storage room and lower level golf cart storage. Parking lot expansion, renovation and landscaping rounded out the project for a total cost of \$1.6 million.

At **White Lake Oaks**, renovations included new restrooms for the banquet wing. Although the cost for this project was only \$115,000, it was a significant improvement for this facility.

We were really pleased with the changes that have been made [at Groveland Oaks]... It is great to have water and good electricity readily available. The pavilions are also a welcome addition. Many thanks for a greatly improved facility. It is nice to see our tax dollars put to good use.

*Duane and Jean Sheren, Auburn Hills
(Troy Livewires and NCHA Roadhuggers)*

I would like to comment on the wonderful staff at Groveland Oaks. I left my eagle necklace under a picnic table, and not only did the Groveland staff send someone to look for it, they mailed it to my house.

Patrick S. O'Brien, age 10

AROUND THE PARKS

Completion of a \$1.9 million campground renovation project at **Groveland Oaks** included upgrading of campsite utilities for 157 individual campsites, construction of seven group camping areas accommodating 180 campers each, and seven group picnic shelters. A new 290-car day use parking area was developed. Landscaping included planting more than 500 new trees.

At Waterford Oaks, construction was completed on a **new group picnic area** near the Fridge that will accommodate 400 visitors during the summer months. In winter, the site will feature **two natural ice rinks**, for recreational hockey and open skating. Construction cost was \$30,000.

Nearly four miles of park perimeter fencing was completed at **Rose Oaks**, the system's newest park. In addition, work has begun on an eight-mile trail system; paths were cleared and orientation signs have been installed.



Your group can party at our place!



Camping is more convenient than ever at Groveland Oaks

Beautiful etched glass windows welcome visitors to the newly-renovated Independence Oaks Nature Center



NATURE CENTER

Despite ongoing construction, the Nature Center staff continued to provide uninterrupted educational services. **A record 3,088 visitors** from 16 different communities attended guided tours at the Nature Center during the month of June alone. **Another 4,500 persons** "dropped in" to explore and attend programs and meetings that month.

The **new wing** of the Nature Center contains a dramatic lobby with a window wall picturing native animals etched in glass, an educational meeting room capable of serving two different groups simultaneously and new public restrooms.

Exciting new exhibits currently under construction will spotlight the ecology of Independence Oaks County Park, with major themes such as water, featured creatures, energy flow, adaptations, weather, creating wildlife habitat in your backyard

and a children's discovery area.

A re-dedication ceremony is planned for late 1998.

Nature Center staff helps Scouts earn their stripes



New **"Badge Days"** for scout groups attracted 115 participants in 1997. Naturalists assisted scouts and leaders in earning badges in areas of nature and outdoor education.

I've lived in Oakland County for close to 20 years and finally... made it out to Orion Oaks. A truly beautiful piece of land with some sizable wood-wetland systems intact. I was impressed.

*Jonathan Schechter, Orionville
Oakland Press Nature Columnist*

GOLF COURSES

All four golf courses have adopted an **environmentally-friendly maintenance policy**. Pesticides are used only when needed, fertilizers are applied conservatively and mowing areas have been redesigned to lessen fuel consumption and allow more areas to return to a natural state.

Major parking lot improvements at **Glen Oaks** included expansion to accommodate 100 additional vehicles, landscaping and complete repaving. In addition two new toilet facilities were installed on the golf course.



Golfers enjoy a challenging game and beautiful surroundings

At **White Lake Oaks**, retaining walls were installed around ponds on #12 and #13 holes.

Springfield Oaks saw the installation of retaining walls around ponds on the #10 and #18 holes.

New entry signs were installed at **Red Oaks Golf Course and Waterpark**. These signs match others throughout the park system.

White Lake Oaks is well maintained and well managed – rangers, pro shop, etc.

George Lumsden, Bloomfield Hills

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

The addition of a toll free phone number, **1-888-OCPARKS**, has made telephone inquiries much more convenient and less costly for out-of-area callers.

During the summer there were more than 6,000 "hits" from information-seekers on the Oakland County Parks website at www.co.oakland.mi.us.

Tel-12 Mall in Southfield is the latest venue for the parks system's lighted photo and information kiosk. The first display was installed at Summit Place Mall in Waterford in 1996.

"Promotional partner," **WKQI Radio**, helped make the grand opening of the new attractions at Waterford Oaks Waterpark a splashing success for more than 1,000 guests.

Visit our website at www.co.oakland.mi.us



OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

Welcome to
**Oakland County Parks
Recreation Connection**

Park Information and Calendar

- General Information
- Parks/Maps
- Calendar of Events
- Phone List
- Employment
- Commissioners & Key Staff

Seasonal Attractions and Activities

- Waterparks
- Camping
- Golf
- The Fridge Toboggan Run
- Mobile Recreation
- Party Options

Outside Links

These links are not maintained by Oakland County Parks or Oakland County

- ParkNet Homepage of the National Parks Service
- Michigan Dept of Natural Resources State Parks & Forests
- MetroParks Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority Homepage
- WeatherNet @ Uof M
- Detroit Weather @ MIT

WKQI Radio personalities enjoy grand opening festivities at Waterford Oaks Waterpark

1997* Combined Attendance Totals

	Leagues/ Groups	Participants
Totals Golf Courses	2,342	206,938
Totals Recreation & Special Events	1,389	288,975
Totals Day Use Parks	70,050	742,559
Grand Totals	73,781	1,238,472

Golf Course Attendance

	Leagues	Participants
Glen Oaks Golf Course	767	63,394
Red Oaks Golf Course	294	40,781
Springfield Oaks Golf Course	525	40,040
White Lake Oaks Golf Course	756	62,723
Totals	2,342	206,938

Day Use Parks/Facilities Attendance

	Groups	Participants
Addison Oaks Park	14,029	102,880
Groveland Oaks Park	12,112	115,855
Independence Oaks Park	36,912	158,844
Orion Oaks	5,503	19,268
Nature Center	605	38,594
Addison Oaks Conference Center	224	32,432
Glen Oaks Banquet Facility	94	12,881
White Lake Oaks Banquet	61	4,838
The Fridge: Waterford Oaks	110	13,429
Waterford Oaks Waterpark	168	73,250
Red Oaks Waterpark	232	59,305
Red Oaks Golf Dome & Sports Village	0	110,983
Totals – Parks/Facilities	70,050	742,559

Recreation & Special Events Attendance

	Groups	Participants
Mobile Recreation	1,121	141,589
Waterford Oaks	9	39,984
Springfield Oaks Activity Center	259	107,402
Totals – Recreation/Events	1,389	288,975

*Due to a change in our fiscal year, these figures reflect activity for nine months only.

RECREATION REVIEW

Waterparks

The grand opening of Waterford Oaks Waterpark's new attractions drew rave reviews by winning a World Waterpark Association **Best In-Park Promotion Award**.

Oakland County Parks lifeguards swept first, second and third places in the **State Lifeguard Competition** sponsored by the Michigan Recreation and Park Association. The competition tested strength, endurance and water/rescue knowledge.

Lifeguards at Red Oaks Waterpark, Waterford Oaks Waterpark, Groveland Oaks, Addison Oaks and Independence Oaks made more than 619 successful assists during the summer. The waterparks were proud to complete their **22nd consecutive year** without a wave pool drowning.

The Big Bucket is Waterford Oaks Waterpark's newest "hot spot" for cooling off



Trusty inmates provide labor, with savings for taxpayers

The young people running the games and moonwalk, etc. were really great... I was impressed with the neat way [the Mobile Recreation staffers] were dressed, and their wonderful upbeat attitudes. My kids loved them!

Sally Strait, Waterford

Mobile Recreation

A new **group sales coordinator** facilitated several large corporate picnics for Compuware, General Motors and others. While these picnics boasted attendance of 3,000 each, the Oakland County Parks also hosted dozens of large groups throughout the summer months.

Waterpark Birthday Parties are a hit with youngsters



Even small fry compete for fun at Mountain Bike Races!

Mobile Recreation provided special **Theme Weekends** at Groveland Oaks and Addison Oaks campgrounds throughout the summer. Themes included: Wild West Weekend, Beach Bop, Campground Carnival, Blues Bash and many more.

Special Events

A new **Extreme Sports Club** was formed with 45 members participating in sky diving and hot air ballooning.

Several special events in the parks boasted the **highest-ever attendance** this year. These include Addison Oaks' Spring and Fall **Mountain Bike Races** (450 competitors each), **July 4th Fireworks Displays** at Addison Oaks and Groveland Oaks (total 20,000 spectators). Independence Oaks' **Wheelchair Daze** attracted 1,700 participants. The 13th Annual **Fall Color Car Classic** featured 350 classic cars and 1,500 spectators.

Therapeutic Recreation

White Lake Oaks Golf Course hosted its first inclusive golf outing in August. More than 56 able-bodied and disabled golfers were paired at the **Warren Orlick Inclusive Golf Outing**.

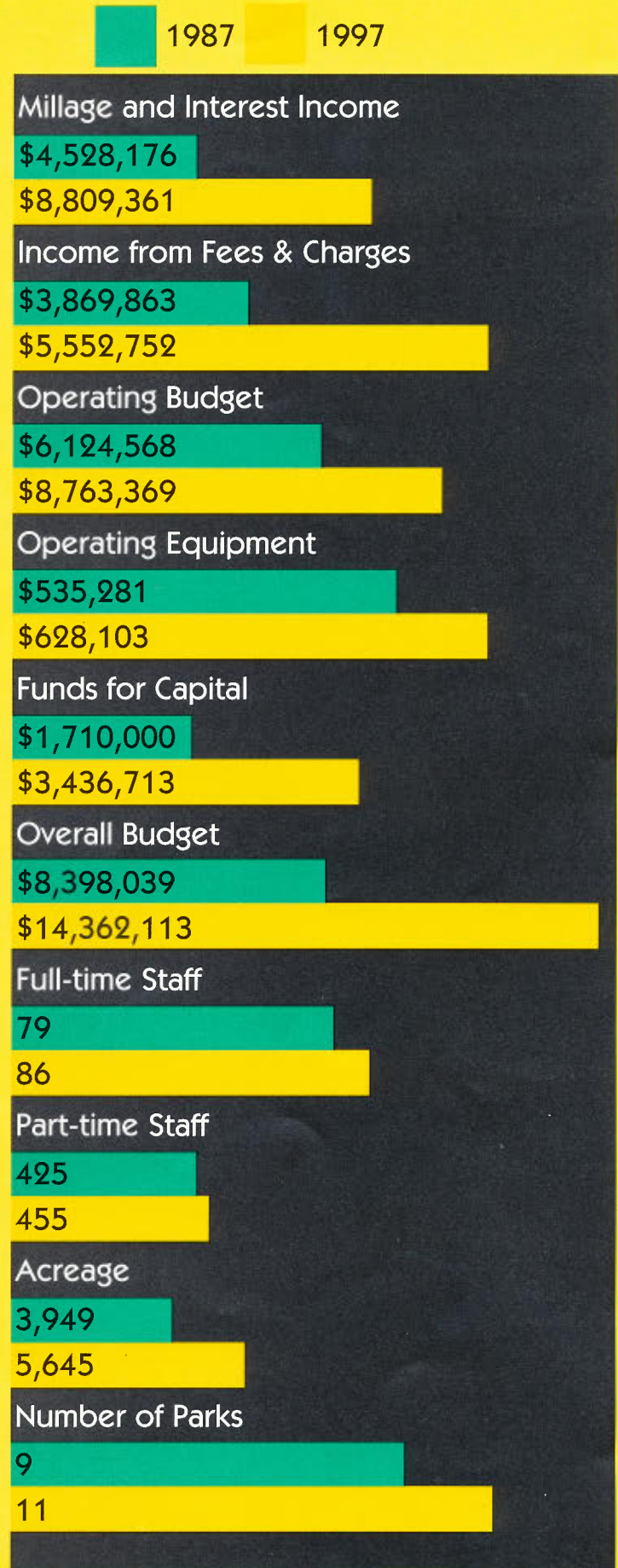
Golfers of all abilities chipped away at the Warren Orlick Inclusive Golf Outing



I have been a Water Safety Instructor for 20-plus years and have rarely seen a group of lifeguards pay such excellent attention to the people in a pool. Outstanding work! They have a big responsibility and they are very aware. Keep up the great work!

Michael Eidman, West Bloomfield

Ten-year Comparison*



*Due to a change in our fiscal year, these figures reflect activity for nine months only.

1-888-OCPARKS



PARKS

ADDISON OAKS COUNTY PARK

1480 W. Romeo Road, Leonard, MI

GROVELAND OAKS COUNTY PARK

14555 Dixie Highway, Holly, MI

INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK

9501 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, MI

LYON OAKS COUNTY PARK

Lyon Township, undeveloped

ORION OAKS COUNTY PARK

Orion Township, undeveloped

RED OAKS WATERPARK

1455 E. 13 Mile Road, Madison Heights, MI

ROSE OAKS

Rose Township, undeveloped

SPRINGFIELD OAKS ACTIVITY CENTER

12451 Andersonville Road, Davisburg, MI

WATERFORD OAKS ACTIVITY CENTER

2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford, MI

WATERFORD OAKS WATERPARK & COURT GAMES COMPLEX

1702 Scott Lake Road, Waterford, MI

GOLF COURSES

GLEN OAKS GOLF COURSE

30500 Thirteen Mile Road, Farmington Hills

RED OAKS GOLF COURSE

29600 John R, Madison Heights

SPRINGFIELD OAKS GOLF COURSE

12450 Andersonville Road, Davisburg

WHITE LAKE OAKS GOLF COURSE

991 Williams Lake Road, White Lake

Administrative Offices

2800 Watkins Lake Road

Waterford, Michigan 48328-1917

248-858-0906 or 1-888-OCPARKS • TDD: 248-858-1684

Fax: 248-858-1683

www.co.oakland.mi.us

Oakland County Parks, facilities and programs are made possible through millage funds supported by Oakland County residents. The one-quarter mill tax has been renewed five times by Oakland County voters. Cost to the owner of a \$100,000 home is \$12.50 per year.

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission provides equal opportunity employment, programs and activities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, marital status or handicap.

The Oakland County Parks will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and make reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities.

Editorial Production

Mary Zednik

Graphic Design

Melissa Wagner



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AWARDS

The "Friends of Orion Oaks" volunteer partnership with the Ameritech Pioneer Volunteers received **Finalist** recognition for the **Governor's Community Service Award**.

Lifeguards Aimee Hart, Tyler Kownacki, and Jay Price were honored by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for rescuing a 13-year-old boy at Waterford Oaks Waterpark. In addition, head lifeguard Tyler Kownacki earned Ellis and Associates' aquatics safety training **Golden Whistle Award** for exceptional lifesaving ability.

The new water attractions at Waterford Oaks Waterpark garnered the World Waterpark Association's **Wave Review Award** for grand opening promotions.



Young volunteers plant trees at Orion Oaks

VOLUNTEERS

Nearly 250 volunteers provided some 10,700 hours of time and expertise in 1997. Volunteers assisted with therapeutic recreation programs, in special events, golf outings and nature programs.

Scouting groups, corporations, trusty inmates and misdemeanor community service workers contributed more than 100,000 service hours at the parks, saving \$750,000 for Oakland County taxpayers.

