

2007/06 INV

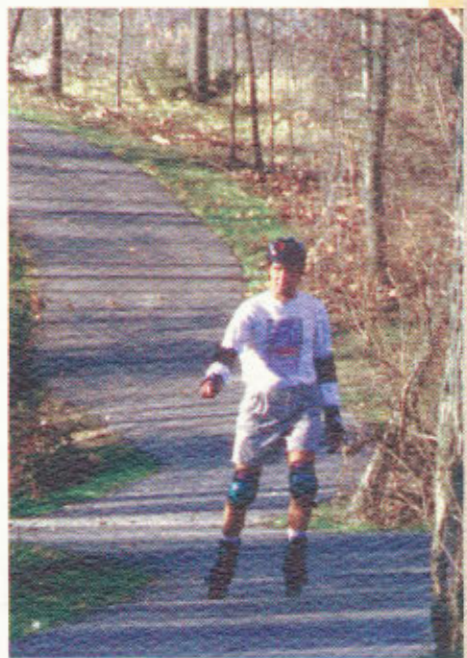


3 9082 07690 6844

QUALITY OF LIFE

OPEN SPACES

# 1998 Annual Report



RECREATION EXPERIENCES

R-OCDOC  
SB  
483  
.035  
O3  
1998

# From the Executive Officer

With the year 2000 just around the corner, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission has already taken steps to better **meet the recreation wants and needs** of residents in the new century.

Plans have been approved for the **development of Lyon Oaks County Park**. Amenities will include picnicking, hiking, volleyball, a golf course, as well as banquet and meeting facilities. The 18-hole Arthur Hills-designed golf course and driving range will open in 2001.

The majority of comment cards received from this year's record **1.5-plus million visitors** rate our facilities and programs as excellent to good -- a genuine tribute to the commitment staff has made to serving our guests.

A **special informational mailing** about recreational opportunities, including discounts, was sent to residents in targeted areas of the county. In 1999, families throughout Oakland County will receive a similar brochure.

Following 32 years of service, and with the support of the community, we hope to meet all the challenges and opportunities of the next century.



Ralph Richard  
Executive Officer

## Did you know...

... **More than 700 cubic yards of trash and debris** were removed from Lyon Oaks And Rose Oaks in 1998

...A free woodchip distribution program at Orion Oaks provided park visitors with more than **7,000 cubic yards of woodchips and composted leaves**

...**More than 7,500 seedlings and nearly 600 landscape trees** were planted throughout the parks this year

...The 1997-98 **Christmas Tree Recycling Program** chipped more than 7,000 trees

...Oakland County Parks and recreation completed its eighth year of participation in the **Adopt-a-highway Program**, providing stewardship of nearly two miles of I-75 in Independence Township

This was an excellent [nature] program! It was very educational, interesting and age appropriate for the scouts.

*John Morrison, Clarkston*

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To provide all residents of Oakland County with recreational, leisure and learning experiences; parks, open spaces, facilities; and professional staff and fiscal management, resulting in a comprehensive county parks system that enhances the residents' quality of life.

## Oakland County Parks & Recreation Commission

Pecky D. Lewis, Jr., *Chairman*  
Richard Skarrill, *Vice Chairman*  
Richard D. Kuhn, Jr., *Secretary*

Eric Coleman  
Fred Korzon  
George W. Kuhn

Thomas A. Law  
Nancy McConnell  
Charles E. Palmer  
J. David VanderVeen

## Nature center

Dedicated to promoting an understanding of the natural world, instilling a sense of stewardship towards the land and fostering lifelong leisure pursuits in the outdoors.

## Name change

With the completion of the 4,300-square-foot addition in late 1997, the Independence Oaks Nature Center became the Lewis E. Wint Nature Center. Mr. Wint, who passed away in 1992, was a parks & recreation commissioner for over 18 years and served as chairman for 15 years. Mr. Wint was a strong supporter of the environment and was instrumental in acquiring funding for the construction of the nature center.

## Volunteers recognized

Richard and Vivian Taylor of Rochester Hills received the prestigious MRPA Margaret Whitehead Senior Citizen of the Year Award. The Taylors help with most special events including the Woolly Worm Races held annually at the Autumn Magic Festival. Mr. Taylor is a retired entomologist from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Mrs. Taylor is a retired Chrysler engineer. Ten-year volunteers, the Taylors have contributed more than 600 hours of their time to helping nature center staff and guests.

## New water garden

Construction of a new water garden adjacent to the Jean Rubach Sensory Herb Garden began in late summer. More than \$6,000 was donated by the Rubach family and friends for the development of this area in memory of Jimmy Klein, Mrs. Rubach's grandson. The water garden area includes a brick walk along the northwest side of the Rubach Garden, a half-circle brick sitting area with benches, additional plant beds and a cascading waterfall.

## Golf courses

The courses reported near-record attendance in 1998, due to excellent weather and a long playing season.

All four golf courses enjoyed cart path expansions on fairways, greens and tees in 1998. In addition, Glen Oaks received a facelift with extensive landscaping and a relocated parking lot.



The staff at Glen Oaks went out of their way to help in the search [for a lost ring] even though it was so busy because leagues had started for the night. The ring was insured, but the sentimental loss would have been a great one if you hadn't done so much to help me find it."

Angela Hopkins,  
Novi



## Volunteers

Scouting groups, corporations, trusty inmates and misdemeanor community service workers continue to provide labor-saving support to the Oakland County Parks. In 1998, **more than 100,000 service hours** were logged at various park sites, resulting in **savings of approximately \$750,000 for Oakland County taxpayers.**

The Oakland County Sheriff **Volunteer Mounted Division** increased its coverage to all summer weekends and holidays, providing nearly 750 man hours in 1998.

Volunteers in therapeutic recreation programs, in special events, golf outings and nature programs donated **more than 10,00 hours of time and expertise** in 1998. The value of these hours totals nearly \$87,000.

## Ten-year Comparison



# Public Communications



More than 22,000 families in **Southeast Oakland County** with children from infancy through age 17 received a **mailer** depicting all the fun that's only a short drive away. Along with recreation suggestions, the colorful brochure provided a coupon offering park discounts. In 1999, the promotion will be expanded to all Oakland County residents with children.

**On line discounts** at [www.co.oakland.mi.us](http://www.co.oakland.mi.us) were a big hit with park visitors who redeemed nearly 2,400 coupons for reduced fees at the waterparks and for park entry. Web users can also get details on all park facilities and golf courses, mobile recreation, special events, picnics and parties, rates and fees and job information.

The waterparks went country with appearances by personalities from **WYCD Young Country Radio**. Music, games and prizes were all part of a winning package at Red Oaks and Waterford Oaks Waterparks.

*...They were so helpful in every way -- their cheerful attitude is very rare in today's working people. They made our [picnic] get-together a complete success.*  
Dolores Hinojosa, Waterford

# 1998

## Combined Attendance Totals

	Leagues/ Groups	Participants
Totals Golf Courses	2,436	235,304
Totals Recreation & Special Events	1,882	320,683
Totals Day Use Parks	95,424	974,364
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>95,742</b>	<b>1,530,351</b>

## Golf Course Attendance

	Leagues	Participants
Glen Oaks Golf Course	786	72,771
Red Oaks Golf Course	412	46,690
Springfield Oaks Golf Course	504	46,442
White Lake Oaks Golf Course	734	69,401
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>235,304</b>

## Day Use Parks/Facilities Attendance

	Groups	Participants
Addison Oaks Park	15,644	124,1115
Groveland Oaks Park	17,105	174,929
Independence Oaks Park	53,823	200,973
Orion Oaks Park	6,906	24,204
Nature Center	759	49,470
Addison Oaks Conference Center	270	40,612
Glen Oaks Banquet Facility	213	33,742
White Lake Oaks Banquet Facility	81	6,277
The Fridge: Waterford Oaks	162	30,657
Waterford Oaks Waterpark	236	86,661
Red Oaks Waterpark	225	73,721
Red Oaks Golf Dome & Sports Village	0	129,003

## Totals

<b>Parks/Facilities</b>	<b>95,424</b>	<b>974,364</b>
-------------------------	---------------	----------------

## Recreation & Special Events Attendance

	Groups	Participants
Mobile Recreation	1,454	175,405
Waterford Oaks	9	37,424
Springfield Oaks Activity Center	419	107,854
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,882</b>	<b>320,683</b>



[At Red Oaks Waterpark] I was really impressed with... cleanliness and constant cleaning...polite courtesy of the young employees... Constant attentiveness of lifeguards... excellent park maintenance and the overall general operation.

*Henry Richter, Southfield*

## Recreation Review

### Waterparks

The unseasonably dry, warm summer, drew **more than 160,000 visitors** to Red Oaks and Waterford Oaks Waterparks.

Lifeguards at the two waterparks made 802 successful rescues, completing the **23rd consecutive year** without a wave pool drowning.

A record 500 participants learned to swim at the **Sports Authority-sponsored swimming lessons** offered at both waterparks.

### Mobile recreation

New additions to the mobile recreation fleet included a **Traveling In-line Hockey League** and the **Treadwall**, a portable rock-climbing wall.



Oakland County residents enjoyed **nearly 1,400 mobile unit visits** to parks, playground, recreation departments, libraries and schools. In addition, **403 bus runs** accommodated 18,000 people.

The Oakland County Parks **Sports Camp** reached record attendance figures with more than 800 participants.

## Special Events

A record 600 mountain bikers participated in the **Spring Mountain Bike Race** at Addison Oaks

More than 500 rode in the **BMX National Races** at the Waterford Oaks track on Memorial Day weekend

The Oakland County Parks sponsored the first-ever **Master Games**, a regional competition for the Michigan Senior Olympics, with participation by more than 200 seniors from across the tri-county area





## Design & Development

Projects completed in 1998 were funded entirely from capital improvement dollars,

made possible through millage funds supported by Oakland County residents.

**At Independence Oaks**, improvements included asphalt paving of the main entrance drive as well as roads to the beach and nature center. In addition, a new paved pathway, approximately 2.2 miles long, runs from the boathouse to the nature center. Cost: \$390,000.

Extensive landscaping, including a new brick terrace adjacent to the **Glen Oaks Golf Course** grill room was completed in 1998. The redesigned landscape included improvements to the pro shop entrance and golf cart staging area. Cost: \$90,000.

The **Waterford Oaks Waterpark** parking lot was expanded to accommodate an additional 100 vehicles. Cost: \$90,000.

*They do wonderful activities for the campers and are wonderful with the kids. You can see a lot of preparation goes into it and planning.*

*Hana Loper, Rochester Hills*



## Around the parks

**Camping participation was up between 15 and 25 percent at Addison Oaks and Groveland Oaks.**

Campground recreation programs, featuring entertainment and activities, continue to be a major draw for families.

The trail system at **Orion Oaks** was completely renovated this year, to improve visitor orientation. An additional 3/4 mile was added to the trail system and several fishing docks were installed.

**At Independence Oaks**, visitors on wheels -- bicycles, skates, wheelchairs and strollers -- are now able to travel easily from the park entrance to beach or nature center! A 2.2 mile asphalt pathway was installed this year. The park's entry drive and main roads also were paved.

The Fridge staff were very courteous and professional – thanks for your help in making our party a success!

Tom Gettings,  
West Bloomfield

## Awards

Two staffers were recognized by the Michigan Recreation And Park Association. Both recreation supervisors, **Jim Dunleavy** won the **Young Professional Award**, and **Sandy Dorey** garnered the **Program Leadership Award** for therapeutic programming.

The Waterford Oaks Waterpark earned MRPAs **Design Award** for innovative maintenance and design.

Deputy Walter “Bill Storm” received the Sheriff Department’s **Special Deputy of the Year Award** for outstanding service to the Oakland County Parks.

Oakland County Parks received a **Certificate of Appreciation** from Orion Township for cleanup and community enhancement.



Twelve in our family, including six children, came to [Addison Oaks] to enjoy the fireworks. We ... commend you for the show and for the good attention given to parking and exiting.

Porter Table, Rochester

1-888-OCPARKS

**OAKLAND**  
COUNTY PARKS  
**PARKS**

ADDISON OAKS COUNTY PARK Leonard, MI  
GROVELAND OAKS COUNTY PARK Holly, MI  
INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK Clarkston, MI  
LYON OAKS COUNTY PARK Lyon Township  
ORION OAKS COUNTY PARK Orion Township  
RED OAKS WATERPARK Madison Heights, MI  
ROSE OAKS COUNTY PARK Rose Township, MI  
SPRINGFIELD OAKS ACTIVITY CENTER Davisburg, MI  
WATERFORD OAKS COUNTY PARK Waterford, MI

## GOLF COURSES

GLEN OAKS GOLF COURSE Farmington Hills, MI  
RED OAKS GOLF COURSE Madison Heights, MI  
SPRINGFIELD OAKS GOLF COURSE Davisburg, MI  
WHITE LAKE OAKS GOLF COURSE White Lake, MI

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

2800 Watkins Lake Road  
Waterford, Michigan 48328-1917  
248-858-0906  
1-888-OCPARKS  
Fax: 248-858-1683  
TTY: 248-858-1684

Printed on recycled paper



[www.co.oakland.mi.us](http://www.co.oakland.mi.us)

Editorial Production  
Mary Zednik

Graphic Design  
Melissa Wagner

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. Did you know the owner of a \$150,000 home pays only \$18.75 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 and Recreation Commission will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and make reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities.