

WELCOME TO OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

A WORLD CLASS COMMUNITY

Oakland County's reputation as a world-class community extends beyond its preeminence in business technology. Over 1,450 beautiful lakes, 82,000 acres of scenic parkland, miles of undeveloped open space, first-rate-educational institutions, internationally renowned entertainment venues and top-of-the-line medical facilities add a quality of life that enhances Oakland County's status as one of America's premier locations in which to live, work, recreate and raise a family.

So how do I respond tonight to the question:

"What is the state of Oakland County?" With an honest answer: "Our talent and experience will trump the vexing problems brought on by a seven year, single state recession." Look around you.

The signs of survival and revival are evident.

Our economic foundation, believe it or not, is still strong. Oakland County's budget is balanced and the future budgetary challenges are manageable because of our long range planning, the hallmark of our fiscal policies.

Blotted out by the headlines is the fact that we continue to create jobs and attract new businesses and investment to Oakland. And the

magnificent quality of life that we enjoy in Oakland County remains intact, buoyed by an abundance of recreational opportunities, first-class shopping venues, increasing entertainment options, all surrounded by the natural beauty which abounds within our 910 square miles.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Brook".

*L. Brooks Patterson,
Oakland County Executive
State of the County Address
February 3, 2009*