

QUALITY OF LIFE STYLE

FAST FACTS



History, Tradition, and Events

- ◆ Oakland County has 21 nationally registered historic districts and more than 200 individual historic sites—72 of which are listed on the National Register. There are 31 local historic museums in the county.
- ◆ The [Holocaust Memorial Center](#) in Farmington Hills is the nation's first freestanding museum dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust. The Center's dramatic architecture and moving exhibits have received international praise.
- ◆ Established in 2005, Holly Township's [Great Lakes National Cemetery](#) provides service to veterans across Michigan. It is the second national cemetery built in Michigan and the 122nd in the national cemetery system.
- ◆ The National Center of Charitable Statistics identifies 485 institutions of art, culture, and humanities in Oakland County.
- ◆ [Springfield Oaks County Park](#) is home to the historic Ellis Barn, winner of a National Parks and Recreation Association Preservation Award. The 14,000-square-foot barn includes an indoor riding arena, 11 box stalls, tack rooms, an office, horse exercise room, mechanical exercise ring and a cavernous second floor for hay and straw.
- ◆ Included among Oakland County's museums are the world-renowned [Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum](#), the [Cranbrook Institute of Science](#), and the [Walter P. Chrysler Automotive Museum](#).
- ◆ In addition to premiere cultural entertainment venues, Oakland County plays the host to marquee annual events including: [Arts, Beats & Eats](#), [Woodward Dream Cruise](#), [Quake on the Lake](#), and the [Michigan Renaissance Festival](#).
- ◆ The annual [Arts, Beats and Eats](#) festival, Oakland County's premier taste, music and arts attraction has been held for the last thirteen years over the Labor Day weekend and draws over 200,000 people during the four-day celebration. In 2010 the festival raised over \$351,000 for local charities.
- ◆ The nationally recognized [Woodward Dream Cruise](#) attracts over one million visitors and 40,000 custom or classic cars to the communities along Woodward Avenue every August.
- ◆ The [Brooksie Way Half Marathon](#) and 5K Race/Walk promotes healthy, active lifestyles. The Brooksie Way joins "[Count Your Steps](#)," an Oakland County non-profit organization that encourages children and adults to engage in more physical exercise through fun activities.
- ◆ Highly anticipated regional events include the [Ann Arbor Art Fair](#), known for its size and tradition; the annual [Birmingham Jazzfest](#); and many cultural festivals in downtown Detroit including [Midsummer Nights](#) which provides a unique blend of art and cultural events for the community.

Updated: March 2011

Source: Destination Oakland, Individual Cultural Attraction Websites

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Natural Environment

- ◆ Oakland County has more natural lakes than any other county in the Great Lake State. There are approximately 1,450 inland lakes and the headwaters of five major rivers within the 910 square mile area of Oakland County.
- ◆ Oakland County operates a total of 13 parks with 6,700 acres offering natural landscapes for year-round recreation. There are a total of 542 recreational properties within Oakland County totaling more than 58,000 acres of spacious land.
- ◆ Oakland's pedestrian-friendly communities offer 466 miles of trails, water trails and park paths, 170 miles of bike lanes/bike routes and 495 miles of safety/side paths. There are 3,832 miles of paved sidewalk in our neighborhoods and downtowns.
- ◆ Concerted land use practices have led to a propensity toward sustainable development in Oakland County. The County is currently 42% residential, 16% agriculture and vacant, 14% recreation and conservation, 11% transportation and utilities, 6% commercial and industrial, 4% public and institutional and 6% water.
- ◆ There are more than 800 pristine natural areas around Oakland County, with many of the largest, most significant natural areas falling within Oakland County Parks.
- ◆ [Oakland County Parks & Recreation](#), [Water Resources Commission](#), [Planning & Economic Development](#), [Health](#), [Waste](#), and [Michigan State University Extension Services](#) all work together to coordinate Environmental Stewardship and Conservation efforts across the region.
- ◆ Oakland County's [Green Infrastructure Program](#) focuses on identifying an interconnected network of green space that conserves natural ecosystem functions, guides sustainable development, and provides associated economic and quality of life benefits to our communities.
- ◆ Oakland County encourages recycling of residential, commercial and industrial waste materials in an ongoing effort to preserve its natural resources. Several communities in Oakland County offer curbside or drop-off recycling programs for residents.
- ◆ Recycling of source-separated materials and the composting of yard wastes can recover up to 25% of waste materials.
- ◆ [North Oakland Household Hazardous Waste Consortium](#) (NO HAZ) is a consortium of 8 Oakland County communities representing 11 local governments that offer residents a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of household hazardous waste. Over the last eight years, residents of more than 14,000 households have participated in the program and over 1,500,000 pounds of hazardous materials have been collected and properly disposed of or recycled.

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Source: Destination Oakland, Oakland County Waste Resource Management, U.S. Census Bureau, Facility Websites

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Health, Housing & Public Safety

- ◆ Oakland County's nationally recognized hospitals provide over 4,700 overnight-stay beds for routine procedures and critical care. The region's state-of-the-art medical training facilities lead the way in robotic surgery and advanced care technologies.
- ◆ Total Hospital and Medical Center employees for Oakland County number more than 46,000.
- ◆ U.S. News and World Report recently ranked Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak the number 1 hospital in the metro-Detroit region. Six other hospitals located in Oakland County fell into the top 20 list of metro-Detroit hospitals.
- ◆ In addition to its 18 major hospitals, Oakland County encompasses over 30 urgent care facilities and medical centers.
- ◆ The county is home to 4,000 life sciences, medical equipment and supply manufacturing establishments.
- ◆ Oakland County's home ownership rate (75.5%) is higher than both the state of Michigan (74.6%) and the U.S. average (66.9%).
- ◆ There are over 16,300 Lakefront home sites in Oakland County making it a true water wonderland.
- ◆ Low property taxes increase housing affordability and attractiveness. The Oakland County average homestead tax rate is \$36.91 per \$1,000 in assessed value.
- ◆ Currently, fifty-one percent of Oakland County communities have average housing sales between \$80,000 and \$250,000.
- ◆ Oakland County's park system practices pedestrian friendly safety patrols. Established in 1948, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Mounted Unit is one of the oldest and largest horse patrol units in the country. A recent addition to the County's park patrol services is the Sheriff's Mountain Bike Patrol Unit.
- ◆ Oakland County's overall crime rate has decreased almost 20% in the last ten years. Index crimes are down by over 22% and non-index crimes are down more than 17% since 1999.
- ◆ Oakland's violent crime rate is 2.7 per 1,000 in population compared with 4.3 per 1,000 for the U.S. Our property crime rate is 30% below the national average.
- ◆ In Oakland County over 45% of property crime offenses result in arrests. Statewide 12% of property crime offenses result in arrests.

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Source: Destination Oakland, U.S. Census Bureau, Michigan State Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Facility Websites

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Recreation & Sports

- ◆ Oakland County offers many recreational opportunities including the 125-acre [Detroit Zoological Park](#), 165 physical fitness centers, 32 bowling centers, and 22 Cineplex theaters with approximately 198 feature screens for movie going fans.
- ◆ Entertainment opportunities abound in Oakland with over 520 businesses in the arts, entertainment and recreation service industries including arcades, marinas, race tracks, dance and martial arts studios and various spectator sports.
- ◆ Oakland County's 89,000 acres of parkland offer year round outdoor recreation. There are 28 private and 54 public golf courses with 1,440 holes in Oakland County. In addition, downhill skiers can choose from three major downhill ski areas: [Mount Holly](#), [Alpine Valley](#), and [Pine Knob](#).
- ◆ Included among the county's elite golf clubs are [Oakland Hills Country Club](#) and [Indianwood Country Club](#). Indianwood has been selected by the United States Golf Association to host the 2012 U.S. Senior Open. Oakland Hills has played host to 16 major championships including the 35th Ryder Cup in 2004, three PGA Championships including the 90th PGA Championship in 2008, six U.S. Opens, and two U.S. Senior Opens.
- ◆ Activities offered at [Oakland County parks](#) include wedding and banquet facilities, five golf courses, two campgrounds, two water parks, two nature centers, two dog parks, and a BMX race track.
- ◆ Six [Oakland County parks](#) and four golf courses offer cross-country skiing. [Independence Oaks](#) offers 10 miles of marked cross-country skiing trails, ski rentals, and cross-country ski lessons.
- ◆ [Addison Oaks](#), [Highland Oaks](#), and [Rose Oaks](#) Parks offer over 12 miles of equestrian paths.
- ◆ The [Palace of Auburn Hills](#) is home to the [Detroit Pistons](#) basketball team, winners of the 2004 NBA Championship. The Palace seats over 24,000 people, has 193 private luxury suites, and averages 150 events per year.
- ◆ Oakland County residents are devout fans of the [Detroit Red Wings](#) who won the 2008 Stanley Cup Championship, the [Detroit Tigers](#) who were named the 2006 American League Central Champions, and our hometown [Detroit Lions](#).
- ◆ The world-class [Palazzo di Bocce](#) offers 10 championship quality Bocce courts and fine Italian dining.

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Source: Destination Oakland, Individual facility websites