

## Descriptions of Oakland County Departments that are Covered under the Oakland County MS4 Permit

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### Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office (WRC)

(Source: Oakland County FY 2013 – 2015 Triennial Budget; Updated March 2025)

#### *Mission*

The WRC oversees drainage and water quality issues within Oakland County under a myriad of laws and statutes.

#### *Department Summary*

The WRC is a key component in providing quality water supply, drainage systems and sewage disposal systems that protects the environment and promotes responsible growth. State law, Act 40, of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended, also known as the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, gives the office powers and responsibilities to govern legally established drainage systems within Oakland County. The Water Resources Commissioner also has additional statutory authority as well as responsibilities delegated by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. These responsibilities include the operation and maintenance of county-owned sewers and many individual municipal sewer systems and drinking water systems under contract.

Other functions of the office include operations and maintenance of facilities such as sewage pump stations, retention treatment basins, stormwater retention facilities and lake level augmentation sites. Additionally, duties include drain and sewer construction inspection, sewage flow metering, engineering plan review and permitting, as well as a soil erosion control program to monitor construction activities to protect Oakland County lakes and streams from the effects of soil erosion and sedimentation. Each of the WRC departments are described in more detail below.

- **Construction Management** – The Construction Management program performs a multitude of engineering tasks necessary for the Water Resources Commissioner to satisfy various state laws and construct a variety of public works facilities. A staff of professional engineers and technical personnel are responsible for the design and construction of new storm drains, sanitary sewers, water mains, wastewater treatment facilities and lake level control measures.

**Objectives** – To meet the infrastructure needs of local and regional communities by working in close cooperation with local units of government along with state and federal agencies.

- **Environmental** – Environmental program staff manage the current federal stormwater permit program for Oakland County. This involves developing and implementing water quality programs for WRC and coordinating programs with other Oakland County agencies, subwatershed groups and communities within the five major watersheds in Oakland County. Environmental program staff coordinate required stormwater permit activities, including public education efforts, surface water quality sampling programs, required employee training programs and surface

water pollution complaint response through the 24-Hour Pollution Hotline program. Additionally, staff represent the WRC on various interagency environmental and water quality-related projects and are active on regional planning groups and committees working to define projects and secure State and Federal funding to address water quality issues across the watersheds.

**Objectives** - To ensure WRC is in compliance with federal stormwater permit requirements, assist other County Departments and local communities in meeting their permit requirements and to participate in collaborative efforts to address complex water quality issues on a watershed-wide basis.

- **Site Plan and Plat Review** – Under the provisions of the Land Division Act, the WRC reviews and approves subdivision plats in Oakland County to ensure that adequate storm drainage facilities have been included in the engineering plan. Additionally, the Mobile Home Commission Act requires this office to review and approve the outlet drainage for new mobile home developments. This program also reviews and evaluates site plans for proposed developments to determine involvement with legally established drains under the jurisdiction of this office.

**Objectives** – To meet statutory requirements that ensure adequate storm drainage facilities have been included in proposed plats, mobile home developments and proposed developments involving legally established drains under the jurisdiction of this office.

- **Soil Erosion** – This program serves 48 communities in Oakland County by conducting regular construction site inspections and when necessary, initiates enforcement with the cooperation of local communities in accordance with Part 91 of Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The WRC is both a County Enforcing Agency (CEA) and an Authorized Public Agency (APA).

**Objectives** - To protect Oakland County's lakes, streams and wetlands from the preventable and detrimental effects of accelerated soil erosion and sedimentation as development occurs.

- **Sewer System Operations and Maintenance** – The WRC is responsible for several major sewer interceptor systems and 30 sewer systems that serve more than 750,000 customers throughout local communities in Oakland County. Maintenance operations consist of pipe cleaning and repairs, manhole inspection and repairs, and digital video inspection of the pipe systems on a routine basis. In addition, there are contracts with 18 separate communities for this office to operate and maintain their lateral collection systems. Billing services for communities are also provided as requested. This program also provides regulatory plan reviews for proposed sewer extensions which connect directly into the Oakland County interceptor systems.

**Objectives** - To provide superior service in the maintenance and operation of sewage disposal systems.

- **Wastewater Treatment** - The Wastewater Treatment program currently operates and maintains three municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs), four municipal combined sewer overflow retention treatment basins (RTBs), and 16 community septic systems ranging in capacity from 3,500 gallons to 30 million gallons of wastewater per day. Engineering plan reviews for new and upgraded wastewater treatment facilities and an Industrial Pretreatment Program administered in accordance with EPA requirements and local ordinances is also provided. This program is also responsible for coordinating the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy Land Application Program for the beneficial use of biosolids produced at the Walled Lake/Novi WWTP.

**Objectives** - To ensure that wastewater treatment and retention treatment basins are operated in accordance with their discharge permits and that they comply with state and federal regulations to preserve and protect water quality.

- **Drain and Lake Level Maintenance** - The Water Resources Commissioner operates and maintains county-owned drains within 61 communities. In addition, 54 lakes are maintained using 36 lake level control structures and eight lake augmentation pumps. Responsibilities include drain and lake level structure inspections, cleaning, repairs and dam operation and maintenance of legally established lake levels.

**Objectives** - To ensure that facilities are properly maintained and operated in accordance with regulatory requirements.

## **Oakland County Facilities Management (OCFM)**

(Source: Oakland County FY 2013 – 2015 Triennial Budget; Updated March 2025)

### *Mission*

To continuously ensure that all facilities and grounds are operated on behalf of the County Executive and the other County elected officials in accordance with the highest standards and best practices of both the public and private sector, within the constraints of available resources, to support a safe, secure, effective and professional physical environment for the employees and citizens of Oakland County.

### *Department Summary*

Facilities Management (FM) oversees the construction, management and operation of the buildings and properties owned and operated by the Oakland County General Fund. It is comprised of the Facilities Maintenance & Operations (FM&O) Division, Capital Planning and Design (CPD) Division and the Facilities Planning & Engineering (FP&E) Division. Primary functions include building maintenance/alterations, engineering/project planning and management, energy management, vehicle operations,

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central services, custodial services and grounds maintenance. The Department is responsible for maintenance of 550 acres at the East and West Campuses, and several satellite locations in the County. The property has 69 acres of paved parking and 5.7 miles of roadway surrounded by 155 acres of maintained turf area and 183 acres of naturalized areas comprised of natural areas (8.8 acres), no-mow areas (13.7 acres), wooded areas (144.4 acres), wildflower areas (12.6 acres) and sunflower areas (3.3 acres). The surface drainage from this site runs into two open ditches and moves northeast and ultimately flows to the Clinton River. There are two protected forest areas totaling 26 acres, 6 acres of ponds and 12 acres of wetlands.

- **Grounds Maintenance**

The Grounds Maintenance unit in FM&O oversees the maintenance and landscape construction on the Service Center grounds and the County's outlying facilities, including lawns and irrigation systems, snow and ice management, concrete replacement, parking lot crack sealing, sealcoating and striping, on-site composting and brush/tree chipping, pest control, signage, and minor asphalt repair.

## **Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC)**

(Source: Oakland County FY 2013 – 2015 Triennial Budget; Updated March 2025)

### *Mission*

To create and operate accessible, welcoming, and sustainable parks and public spaces, provide recreational and educational programs and opportunities, preserve open space, and steward the environment to help all people be healthier and build resilient, connected communities in Oakland County.

- **Natural Resources**

Oakland County Parks and Recreation's parkland intersects five watersheds, contains 1,200 acres of open water and adjacent wetlands, and houses dozens of unique natural communities. The goal of the Natural Resources (NR) department is to manage Oakland County Parks' natural lands and waters for biodiversity, ecosystem services, and positive visitor experiences. Natural Resources staff oversee organizational compliance with regulatory requirements and ensure adherences to local and regional best practices.

- **Park Operations**

Park Operations staff provide recreation facilities for the general public's use. These facilities consist of, but are not limited to, day use sites, picnic areas, play areas, dog parks, pavilions, swimming beaches, Red Oaks waterpark, multi-use trails and campgrounds. The staff is also responsible for maintaining all buildings, roads, trails, and grounds.