



## Campgrounds opening June 25

[Addison Oaks](#) and [Groveland Oaks](#) campgrounds open for the season June 25. Reservations for dates beginning July 1 and after can now be made for individual sites, cabins, yurts and group camping for groups of no more than 100.

Due to COVID-19, contact stations at both parks will be closed to the public until further notice. New service windows have been added to assist guests.

For 2020 only, to help decrease traffic at the service window, the campgrounds will accept call-ahead registrations for same-day camping. Individuals must pay over the phone at the time of registration. Walk-ins will still be accepted (based on availability).

Oakland County Parks and Recreation staff has been working closely with the Oakland County Health Division to adjust and recommendations to ensure guest and staff safety during the coronavirus pandemic.

- All playgrounds will be open at both campgrounds during your visit. Please note the playgrounds will not be disinfected. Adults may want to bring hand sanitizer for children to clean their hands after playing.
- Boat and bike rental at both campgrounds will be available based on staff availability. The mini-golf course will be open at Groveland Oaks; however, guests need to bring their own equipment as rental equipment will not be available.
- For your stay, you may bring sanitizing wipes from home to clean your picnic table, water spigot and electrical box. Outdoor amenities will not be sanitized by parks staff. For the safety of campers, parks staff and the environment, please avoid the use of bleach, disinfectants and other hazardous chemicals on the ground.
- Honey Wagon services will be provided by an outside contractor to protect the health and safety of our staff.
- Firewood and ice sales will be available at both parks. However, the concessions at Groveland Oaks will be closed for the season.

Click [here](#) to see the 2020 Addison Oaks Camper Guide.

Click [here](#) to see the 2020 Groveland Oaks Camper Guide.

## Beaches provide summer fun for all

Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston opened its beach June 11. The beach at Groveland Oaks Campground and County Park, opens June 25. Both beaches are non-lifeguarded/swim at your own risk.

“We realize people want a return to normal during this pandemic, but we recommend they practice social distancing and not share water toys, beach chairs and other items with individuals outside their immediate family or small group,” Executive Office Dan Stencil said. “Other tips include using hand sanitizer and washing their hands when they get home.”

Due to COVID-19, two waterparks operated by OCPR will not open this summer.

[A daily or annual vehicle permit](#) is required for entry to both parks.



## Make a tee time and reserve a golf cart

Golfers can make reservations seven days in advance to play their favorite Oakland County Parks and Recreation course.

Courses are taking tee times now (limit two tee times per golfer) at: **Glen Oaks Golf Course** 248-851-8356; **Lyon Oaks Golf Course** 248-437-1488; **Red Oaks Golf Course** 248-541-5030; **Springfield Oaks Golf Course** 248-634-2261; and **White Lake Oaks Golf Course** 248-698-2700. Walk-on golfers are not accepted at this time.

OCPR staff has worked with the Oakland County Health Division to create protocol and procedures to create a safe environment and experience for golfers and staff. Golf carts are sanitized between each use and at the end of the day.

Carts must be prepaid with tee times. No on-site in person payment option is available at this time due to clubhouses and pro shops being closed to the public. For rates at each course, click [here](#).



Step out for the award-winning [TrailBlazer Waking Series](#), a weekly program offers an opportunity to learn about the parks system while getting in steps. The program runs through October 10. Hikes are primarily on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m.; some Saturday extreme hikes are planned for the fall.

Walking is great exercise and a good way to boost circulation, reduce stress and strengthen muscles. Walkers should bring bug spray and water for the one-mile hikes.

The program is free. No daily or annual vehicle permit required. Call 248-343-6287 for questions or to reserve for spot for the next hike.

## Furry friends invited to three dog parks

Following a shutdown for COVID-19, three dog parks operated by the parks system have now been open since late May. Park visitors are encouraged to social distance.

Canines and their human friends can visit Lyon Oaks Dog Park in Lyon Township, Orion Oaks Dog Park in Orion Township and Red Oaks Dog Park in Madison Heights. Orion Oaks features a dog dock with swimming for dogs only.

A daily pass or 2020 annual vehicle permit will be required. Daily permits can be purchased on-site at a park kiosk, contact station attendant or online at [oaklandcountyparks.com](http://oaklandcountyparks.com).

For the location of each dog park, visit [OaklandCountyParks.com](http://OaklandCountyParks.com).





## Fresh fruits, vegetables, plants and flowers available at market

The Oakland County Farmers Market is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Shoppers are encouraged to visit on weekdays when crowds are smaller.

Due to COVID-19, visitors will see differences at the market designed to protect the health and safety of them, the vendors and staff. Food sampling is no longer an option. Shoppers are required to wear masks inside the market and strongly encouraged to wear them on site. The number of guests and vendors in the building at one time will be limited to less than 50.

Additional changes include:

- Cancellation of all special events, cooking demonstrations and educational programming.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be provided on site.
- Increased cleaning of restrooms, doors and high-touch surfaces.
- Phone orders for delivery or curbside pickup encouraged.
- Limited number of vehicles allowed in the parking lot on Saturdays to assist with social distancing.

For details on delivery or curbside pickup, call 248-858-5495 or email [OCmarket@oakgov.com](mailto:OCmarket@oakgov.com).

## Red Oaks Nature Center Storybook Trail wins national award

A unique trail addition at Red Oaks Nature Center has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The award honors innovative and effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

Ruth Heller's children's book, *How to Hide a Butterfly and Other Insects*, became part of a newly created Storybook Trail in September 2019. The pages of the book are displayed along the trail, giving readers clues on what to look for to find hidden insects.

The project was funded by a \$3,000 Healthy Recreation Catalyst Award from mParks (Michigan Recreation and Park Association), Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

In winter, the Storybook Trail was changed to a seasonal tale – *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, a Ukrainian folktale about a lost mitten and the animals that make it their home.

A similar trail will be constructed at Wint Nature Center in Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston and stories will be rotated seasonally among the two nature centers and partner organizations.



## Holly Oaks ORV Park Tentatively Opening Sept. 17



Photo taken during the Detroit 4 Fest in September 2019 at Holly Oaks ORV Park.

Due to Covid-19 the opening of Holly Oaks ORV Park has been pushed back from July to September 17.

"All aspects of park development were put on hold during the Stay Home, Stay Safe orders issued by the Governor, putting this project several months behind schedule," Executive Officer Dan Stencil said. "We thank you for your patience as we gear up to open this fall."

The park, consisting of former and active sand and gravel mines, is located off I-75 (at Grange Hall) and Dixie Highway across from Groveland Oaks County Park and Campground. Holly Oaks will be a joint county-state project, operated by Oakland County Parks and Recreation (OCPR) in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) via a 20-year operating agreement (with a 10-year renewal).

As part of a long-term goal of the Statewide Trail ORV Plan, the DNR wanted to create an opportunity for legal, public off-road vehicle recreation in southeastern Michigan. Oakland County was selected as a prime area to develop such an opportunity because it has the highest percent of licensed ORVs in the state, but no legal public riding areas.

Holly Oaks will be open to all types of ORVs, including full-size vehicles, side-by-sides, all-terrain vehicles or ATVs and motorcycles. There will be a daily entry fee of \$15/vehicle and an ORV license and trail permit will be required. There will be no requirement for a DNR Recreation Passport or OCPR Annual Vehicle Permit.

Approximately 113 acres are expected to be open tentatively in September with additional acres coming online as mining is completed on the remaining property. The full 235 acres is expected to be operational by 2023. Updates will be provided on the Holly Oaks ORV Park Facebook page.