

May 7, 2020
Desiree Stanfield
248-705-4108

Waterparks closed for 2020, Oakland County Parks and Recreation reports

OAKLAND COUNTY – Due to COVID-19, two waterparks operated by Oakland County Parks and Recreation will not open this summer.

Red Oaks Waterpark in Madison Heights and Waterford Oaks Waterpark in Waterford will remain closed for the 2020 season. Social distancing cannot be achieved by swimmers in a wave pool or other water attractions, according to Sue Wells, Manager of Park and Recreation Operations. OCPR made this decision with input from the Oakland County Health Division.

“More importantly, we cannot guarantee the safety of our lifeguard staff which interacts very face-to-face and hands-on with swimmers who may be in distress,” Wells said. “Decisions like these are very difficult to make and counterintuitive to parks and recreation professionals who are in a social business. But the health and safety of our guests and staff remains our top priority.”

Water attractions like the River Ride, a 1,000-foot-long river ride at Red Oaks Waterpark, are popular with swimmers who lounge on inflatable tubes inches from one another. Wells said lifeguard staff cannot be put in the position of being social distance monitoring police. “Their job is to watch the water and save lives, not make sure people are staying six feet away from one another,” she said.

The two waterparks serve a combined 280,000 visitors annually.

For information about Oakland County Parks and Recreation, visit [OaklandCountyParks.com](https://www.oaklandcountyparks.com). Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).