

**July 1, 2022**  
**Desiree Stanfield**  
**248-705-4108**

**“Rise Up” to celebrate National Park and Recreation Month in July**

*Month-long celebration focuses on recognizing essential role of parks, park staff*

**OAKLAND COUNTY** – This July, join Oakland County Parks and Recreation (OCPR) in honoring National Park and Recreation Month to shine a light on the essential role parks play in building strong, vibrant and resilient communities. This year’s theme is “We Rise Up for Parks and Recreation” and recognizes the many dedicated parks and recreation professionals who “rise up” every day to maintain parks in our communities and provide excellent recreation programming, services and activities across Oakland County.

During the pandemic, parks – and the recreation professionals that have kept them up and running during an incredibly challenging time – have served as a lifeline for people seeking respite in nature and outdoor activities. All month long, OCPR will be sharing stories from staff and featuring aspects of our parks system that have supported the physical and mental health of residents and visitors when they needed it most.

Oakland County residents are invited to honor National Park and Recreation Month by reflecting on how parks have impacted their lives and by sharing their stories, memories or experiences on social media using hashtags #OCParks and #RiseUpJuly. They are also encouraged to take this opportunity to express their appreciation to the parks and recreation staff working hard in their communities or at their favorite parks.

“Living through a period of pandemic, social distancing and increased public health protections has been a reminder for so many of us of the essential role parks and outdoor recreation spaces play in maintaining our physical and mental well-being,” Chris Ward, Director of Oakland County Parks and Recreation, said. “Throughout this challenging period, as people flocked to parks in record numbers, dedicated recreation professionals kept our parks open, maintained and safe. The next time you are visiting your favorite local park, please consider taking a moment to thank them for being there for us when we needed them most.”

“Oakland County is blessed with an abundance of extraordinary outdoor recreation opportunities and natural resources, including more than 66,000 acres of state, regional, county and local parkland, and more inland lakes than any other county in Michigan,” said Commissioner Gary R.

McGillivray, Chairman of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission. “We hope you will take some time – in recognition of Park and Recreation Month – to visit these amazing resources located in our own backyards and to share your experiences on social media.”

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution designating July as Park and Recreation Month in Oakland County at their full board meeting on June 23. The resolution was introduced by Commissioner McGillivray and co-sponsored by Commissioners Penny Luebs and Kristen Nelson. It passed unanimously. The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled to approve a similar resolution at its next meeting on July 6.

Since 1985, America has celebrated July as Park and Recreation Month. A program of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the goal is to raise awareness of the essential services that park and recreation professionals provide to communities across the country. For more information about Park and Recreation Month, go to [www.nrpa.org/events/july](http://www.nrpa.org/events/july). For more information about OCPR, visit [OaklandCountyParks.com](http://OaklandCountyParks.com) or join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).