



Oakland County Parks



- 1.6 million annual visitors
- Celebrating 40 years in 2006
- 11 parks; more than 6,000 acres

All end in "Oaks"



History of the parks system

- Established in 1966
- 10-member Parks Commission
- Former farms, family-operated campgrounds, weekend estate

Sites & Facilities Highlights

- 6 day-use parks
- 5 golf courses
- 2 waterparks
- 2 nature centers
- 2 campgrounds
- The Fridge toboggan run



Award-winning system



- National, state and local awards
- Innovative recreation programs
- Outstanding facility design
- Exceptional staff



Millage: Voter approved

- 1st millage in 1966
- To maintain, improve, acquire
- Renewed by voters every 10 years
- Next renewal vote 2010

A Valuable Investment



County-wide Survey



- Stakeholders interviews
- Parks & Recreation staff focus group
- CVT input
- Voter survey

Community Connection Initiative



- Meet with local officials
- Solicit feedback for long range plan
- Incorporate input into 3-year strategic plan

Oakland County Parks Info/Resources



- Best practices
- NW Parks & Recreation Association
- Networking
- Michigan Recreation and Park Association

Preserving Open Space



- Focus on land acquisition for future
- Safeguard Oakland County's natural heritage
- Protect woodlands, lakes and wetlands

Linking Economy, Community & Environment



Water Resources/Natural Areas/Trail Networks

- 5 river systems & 1400 lakes
- Key Quality of Life Assets
- Billions added to adjacent real estate
- Business Attraction and Retention Asset



Mobile Recreation Program



- Recreation on wheels
- 1,672 visits in 2006
- Mobile stages
- Creating concert consortium

Community Assistance Program



- \$25,000 from Parks Commission
- For youth at risk, lower socioeconomic
- Mobile visits, buses, trips to waterparks and nature centers
- 30,000 served in 2006

Camps for Youth



- Sports, Wild Adventures, Arts
- Camps hosts 1,000 youth annually
- Scholarships available
- Camp Wilderness for youth groups

Urban Park Strategy



- Evaluate urban recreation opportunities
- Benchmark with recreation organizations nationwide
- Inventory existing public and private resources
- Develop recommendations

Cooperative Programs/Partners



- Oakland Trails Advisory Council
- Create systems of foot paths and connected horse trails – Oakland Equestrian Coalition
- Recreational programs for citizens with disabilities
- Royal Oak Township Recreation
- Michigan Senior Olympics
- Waterford Schools/
Drayton Plains Nature Center

Need for Upgrades



- Aging infrastructure
- Update and renovate
- Maintenance/refurbishment
Costs up 75% since 2005
- ADA modifications

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS
www.oakgov.com/parksrec

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