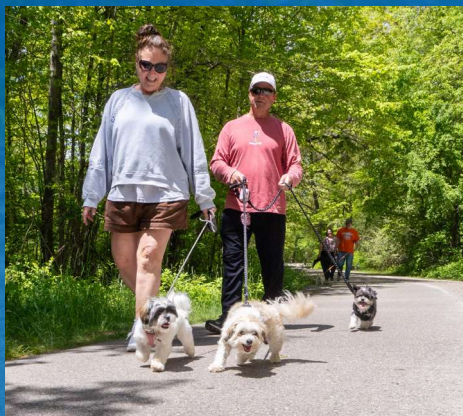
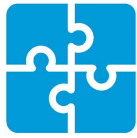


Mission 26

**Building a Connected Parks
and Recreation System
for All of Oakland County**





Pillars of Mission 26



1. Recreation for All – Proximity & Access

Focus on closing access gaps by bringing high-quality parks, programs and trails closer to where people live, work, and learn. It prioritizes partnerships, modernized amenities and connected greenways and blueways so distance, cost, ability or jurisdictional boundaries are no longer barriers to participation. Success is measured by who can get there and use it, not just what exists.



2. Activation & Health – Four Seasons of Parks Alive with People

Reframe parks as essential health and social infrastructure, designed for consistent, year-round use. The focus is on programming, events and adaptable facilities that drive daily physical activity, mental wellbeing and social connection across all seasons. An empty park is a missed public health opportunity; use and participation are the primary metrics.



3. Learning & Environmental Leadership – Turning Curiosity into Stewardship

Position parks as hands-on learning environments that build environmental literacy, stewardship, and workforce pathways. Through discovery gateways, nature education, volunteer corps and first-time outdoor experiences, parks become places where residents of all ages learn by doing. Early and repeated exposure to nature is treated as a long-term investment in healthier people and more resilient communities.



4. Stewardship & Public Value – Measurable Public Benefit

Centers on earning and sustaining public trust through transparency, sound fiscal management and shared decision-making. Every dollar invested must demonstrate clear, measurable public benefit, supported by open data, community engagement and long-term planning. Trust is not assumed; it is continuously built through accountability and results.



Celebrating 60 Years, Looking to the Future



— 1966: A Foundational Decision

Oakland County leaders chose to protect land and create a county park system that would serve generations, shaping the parks people value today.



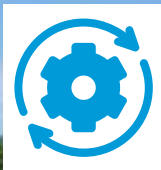
— 2024: A Vote of Confidence

Residents renewed and expanded the parks millage, providing stability and signaling trust and an expectation that parks continue to evolve to meet today's needs.



— Mission 26: A New Vision Based on a Proven Model

In the same year Oakland County Parks was formed, the National Park Service launched Mission 66 to modernize parks through a coordinated, systemwide vision. Today we see an opportunity to use that model as the framework of a long-term vision to strengthen the county park system and help a fragmented recreation landscape work better together, so the county's abundant parks, natural areas and outdoor spaces deliver greater health, resilience and everyday benefit to all residents.



What is Already Happening



Historic Reinvestment Underway

A comprehensive assessment identified more than **\$20 million in deferred maintenance needs** across the county park system. With renewed millage support, roughly **two-thirds of these projects are completed or scheduled as of 2025**, improving safety and reliability while avoiding higher long-term costs.



Revitalization and System Growth Through Partnership

Supported by interlocal partnerships and major funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Oakland County Parks is revitalizing legacy parks while expanding access in communities that have historically lacked full-scale county parks. New additions—including Pontiac Oaks, Oak Park Woods at Shepherd Park and Southfield Oaks—represent permanent system growth with long-term stewardship commitments.



Major reinvestments are also underway at Waterford Oaks, Catalpa Oaks, Red Oaks, and Lyon Oaks, focusing on accessibility, modern infrastructure and four-season use. A signature example is the **Gary R. McGillivray Red Oaks Play Garden**, a universally accessible, intergenerational gathering space.





A Clear Path Forward



Taken together, these efforts show how Mission 26 is already taking shape. Revitalization projects are modernizing parks people rely on, partnerships are expanding access, conservation investments are protecting irreplaceable natural lands and systemwide initiatives are improving how parks and recreation work together.

Mission 26 sets the direction. The work ahead of listening, refining, deciding and delivering is how that direction becomes a stronger, more connected and more accessible parks and recreation system for all of Oakland County.



**Great parks make
great communities**



**Great communities
make great people**



**And together, we
make a great county**

No-cost & Low-cost recreation opportunities

Your Parks. Your Community. Open to All.

Recreation Programs & Services (RPS)

FREE Special Events:

- Fireworks & Flannels
- Novels & Neighbors
- Marshmallow Drop
- Pet Vaccine Clinics
- O.A.K. in the Hills
- Fishing Derby
- Wheels & Squeals
- Parks in Action (4 events)
- Paws & Play (2 events)
- Oakie's 60th Birthday Bash
- Movies in the Park (3 events)
- Glow Bye Summer
- Lakeside Lights: Hike the Night

Archery

- Open Range: Free
- Lessons – 6 weeks:- \$75
- Camp – 1 week (5 days, 9-3p): \$175
- Special Shoots: \$10/\$15

Free Programs for Adaptive Recreation, History and Active Adults 55+

- Adaptive Clinics: Archery, Fishing, Pickleball
- Adaptive Recreation: Dreams & Wings, Dirt Day, Diversability, Youth Athlete, 4H Adaptive Day, ADA Celebration
- History: Trailside Chats, Fireside Chats, America 250
- 55+: Walk this Way: Pontiac Oaks - Kickoff

Special Events – Small Fee

- Bond & Bloom: \$25 per Mom and two children, \$5 each additional child
- Tails & Trails 5K: \$25
- Dog Swim: \$10 per dog
- Craft, Create & Consume: \$20/\$35, includes all supplies

Nature Education & Stewardship

- Majority are \$10 or less per person
- No admission fee for Red Oaks & Wint Nature Centers with public hours offered 6 days per week
- ECHO (Early Childhood Hour Out) - Free
- Native Plant Event – (up to 16 native plants are free with a \$5 registration)
- Drop-in programs offered weekly in the summer – Free
- Stewardship Learning Workdays – Free (monthly at various parks)
- Trail Blazers - \$10 for the summer/fall series (4 walks)

RAPP Grant

Recreation Assistance Partnership Program (RAPP) initiative, Oakland County cities, villages and townships; community parks and recreation departments; schools; Downtown Development Authorities; and nonprofit organizations are invited to apply for funds through a grant process and use the monies to create quality recreation opportunities in their communities.