

Pontiac Oaks Park Fact Sheet



July 12, 2026



In October 2022, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved the *Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan*, a \$20.2 million program aimed at enhancing park and recreation opportunities utilizing *American Rescue Plan Act* funds, with additional funding from Oakland County Parks (OCP).

The dedicated funds support park improvement projects located in areas most disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Impacts of Healthy Communities Plan

- Transform and eliminate historic inequities in the distribution of the benefits of the Oakland County Parks system and significantly enhance our capacity to serve residents of densely populated and diverse urban areas.
- Expand accessibility and use of existing community park facilities to serve regional recreational needs.
- Make investments in park infrastructure that will have the greatest impact on improving the health and well-being of our residents.

Pontiac Oaks Park Construction

Pontiac Oaks, formerly known as Hawthorne Park, preserves 113 acres of green space in a lush, beautiful setting filled with mature trees, abundant nature areas and numerous recreational activities. The park features the shorelines of Creger Lake and Upper Silver Lake with water access for kayaking, canoeing and fishing provided through a dock and boat launch.

The goal for Pontiac Oaks was to provide a safe and welcoming environment by replacing outdated buildings, adding amenities and increasing accessibility. Among the updates were:

- Shoreline vegetation management and removal of invasive species to open up views of Creger Lake and Upper Silver Lake
- Trail improvements with accessible pathways
- Natural area restoration and forest management
- Nature play pockets
- New pavilion

Previous updates in 2023 included a new, larger fishing pier; playground expansion; accessible kayak launch; and restroom renovations.

Park Amenities

Pontiac Oaks Park guests can enjoy these features:

- Playground
- Pavilions
- Horseshoes pits
- An 18-hole disc golf course
- A dedicated picnic area with tables, grills and trash receptacles
- Modern restroom facilities

Funding Sources

Pontiac Oaks Parks received \$3 million from the *Healthy Communities Plan*, which included \$1.3 million from the *American Rescue Plan Act* and approximately \$1.7 million from Oakland County Parks' capital improvement fund.

Furthermore, a grant funded by Ducks Unlimited was used to acquire the former Hawthorne Elementary School site as part of a partnership with the Pontiac School District in 2025.

Crystal Lake Revitalization

In addition to the Pontiac Oaks construction project, the City of Pontiac received a \$500,000 grant from the Healthy Communities Plan to reclaim and revitalize Crystal Lake Park so that its abundant environmental, recreation and historic resources may be enjoyed by residents. The funding provided resources for cleaning up the park, and repair and restoration of the amenities.

General Park Information

Pontiac Oaks Park is located at 1400 Telegraph Road in Pontiac. The City of Pontiac retains ownership of the park property and collaborates with Oakland County Parks regarding the future of the park. Oakland County Parks manages daily operations. The park, which is open from 8 a.m.-dusk, was originally 77 acres, but the Pontiac School District partnership and acquisition of lakefront property on Walton Boulevard in 2025 resulted in an expansion to its current 113 acres.

Questions or Comments

Simon Rivers, Supervisor of Parks and Recreation Planning
Email: riverss@oakgov.com Phone: 248-421-9033