



PARKS AND RECREATION

Oakland Township Land Preservation Millage 2002 – 2018 Accomplishments Timeline*

Oakland Township residents have supported our Township Land Preservation Millage since 2001. This millage funds the acquisition of land, the protection of natural habitat, and the preservation of green spaces within the township. On November 6, 2018 residents will be asked to vote on whether this millage should be renewed.

During the past 16 years Oakland Township Parks and Recreation (OTPR) has protected natural areas throughout the township and launched major habitat restoration initiatives with the help of our local Land Preservation Millage.

In the next decade Oakland Township Parks and Recreation looks forward to continuing the preservation and protection of our Township’s natural heritage and open space while improving access to help people connect with nature.



- 2002** - OTPR first uses prescribed fire to manage prairie and oak savanna habitat along the Paint Creek Trail.
- 2003** - Paint Creek Heritage Area – Wet Prairie: acquired 10.46 acres of globally rare wet prairie along the Paint Creek Trail to protect unique plants and wildlife.
- 2003** - Cranberry Lake Park: acquired 22 acres of mature woodland adjacent to the existing park. **(A)**
- 2004** - Lost Lake Nature Park: acquired 52 acres with Land Preservation millage funds and \$1,762,800 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. **(B)**
- 2005** - Draper Twin Lake Park: acquired 90 acres with millage and landowner donation to protect Twin Lake frontage, the stream running from the lake, and adjacent upland areas.
- 2008** - Awarded \$84,000 Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program Grant to restore over 200 acres of pollinator habitat along the Paint Creek Trail. **(C)**
- 2008** - Draper Twin Lake Park: Parking lot, pathway, boardwalk and dock for boating, fishing and nature observation funded by Land Preservation Millage. **(D)**
- 2008** - Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park: acquired 60 acres using Land Preservation millage funds and \$893,700 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to protect nearly 0.5 miles of the west branch of Stony Creek. **(E)**
- 2008** - Lost Lake Nature Park: acquired 6 acres with oak forest and access to Green Lake.
- 2008** - O’Connor Nature Park: 10.5 acres with mature oak forest and wetlands donated (Land Preservation millage funds paid for boundary survey, environmental assessment, and appraisal).
- 2008** - Paint Creek Heritage Area – Fen: acquired 0.5 acres of rare ground-water fen wetland by Paint Creek Trail.
- 2008** - Watershed Ridge Park: acquired 170 acres of mature oak forest, rolling fields, and beautiful wetlands.
- 2009** - Began controlled archery deer hunting program at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park.
- 2010** - Obtained \$154,900 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to help fund Nature Center and Lake Access improvements at Lost Lake Nature Park.

- 2010** - Completed natural area management plans for Oakland Township parks to guide land stewardship work.
- 2011** - Began photo monitoring to document changes in park natural areas over time.
- 2013** - Grand Opening of Lost Lake Nature Park including nature center, universally accessible kayak and fishing dock, outdoor learning stations, parking lot, rest station, native plantings, and picnic areas.
- 2014** - OTPR awarded “Keep Michigan Beautiful Award” for preserving Lost Lake Nature Park and opening nature center.
- 2014** - Launched “Natural Areas Notebook” website to share Township park natural area observations and activities.
- 2014** - Awarded \$15,200 Partners for Fish and Wildlife Grant to plant prairies at Draper Twin Lake and Charles Ilsley parks.
- 2015** - OTPR awarded “Oak Land Award” for 40 years of protecting Oakland Township Park Natural Areas.
- 2015** - Awarded \$16,000 Partners for Fish and Wildlife Grant to plant 35 acres of native prairie at Gallagher Creek Park and Charles Ilsley Park. **(F)**
- 2015** - Launched Phragmites Outreach Program to help Township residents treat invasive Phragmites.
- 2015** - Began documenting bird species in the township parks through weekly bird walks. **(G)**
- 2015** - OTPR joins the Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.
- 2016** - Awarded \$12,968 Michigan Invasive Species Grant to treat Phragmites and other invasive species in priority areas.
- 2016** - OTPR Prescribed Fire Volunteer Crew began assisting with controlled ecological burns in Township parks.
- 2016** - Initiated Winter Stewardship Talks about wildlife, land conservation, native bees, and rain gardens.
- 2017** - Began volunteer-led program to build and monitor bird nest boxes as official NestWatch chapter. **(H)**
- 2018** - Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion: 208-acre proposed acquisition using Land Preservation millage funds and \$2,216,400 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. **(I)**

*As of July 2018