

The mission of Oakland Township Parks & Recreation is to acquire, maintain and manage township parkland and natural areas and to provide recreational opportunities and facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of all present and future Oakland Township residents.



Draper Twin Lake Park, Photo by Deb Gallo

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Come to Open House and Park Tours About Land Preservation Millage Renewal

Every year, as more land is developed in Oakland Township, high-quality green spaces become less available for preservation. On August 8th Oakland Township registered voters will have the opportunity to vote on the renewal of the Township's Land Preservation Millage. The green spaces acquired with these millage monies are representative of the natural and rural history of our Township and are permanently protected from residential or commercial development.

Residents may question why this 10-year millage, which was approved originally in 2001, is being proposed for early renewal. There are three reasons:

1. The PRC has aggressively and successfully combined the majority of these millage funds with grants and donations, to protect 230 acres of green space. These acquisitions include Draper Twin Lake Park, Lost Lake Nature Park, Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie, a 22-acre addition to Cranberry Lake Park, and the proposed Stony Creek Corridor Park.

2. Without this millage renewal, our Township's land preservation efforts would be at a standstill in the very near future. The Parks and Recreation Commission will not be able to apply for grants nor finance the timely purchase of additional significant green spaces before they are no longer available.

3. Opportunities remain to protect scenic green spaces that define our township. Approximately 13% of all Township land, not including land in parks, is classified as undeveloped high-quality green spaces, which are the highest priority candidates for our Land Preservation Millage funds.

Please see page 7 for details concerning an upcoming July 20th open house where residents can learn more about the Land Preservation Millage Renewal Proposal as well as two park tours scheduled for June 11th at Lost Lake Nature Park and July 23rd at Draper Twin Lake Park, which were both protected by the Land Preservation Millage.

(Continued on page 7)



MUSIC IN THE MEADOWS OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce Music in the Meadows' inaugural season. Each concert held in Oakland Township parks is geared toward an evening of family enjoyment. Please join us in our first season by helping to promote these wonderful events!

Concert-goers can enhance their experience by arriving early to set-up their blankets and folding chairs and enjoy an evening picnic. Food and non-alcoholic beverages are permitted. Please bring your personal insect repellent—our natural areas are not sprayed! Specific details for each concert are on page 2.

Join sponsors Twin Lakes Golf Club, Dr. William Bowman, Dr. Loren & Rea Siffing, Mindy Milos-Dale, Alice Tombouliau, Patty Godin, Curt Winter, Deb Fayroian, and the Strubler, Schomer, Jacobsen, Greer, and Aiello Families in supporting our first season!

For more information contact Debra Fayroian, Music Advisor, (248) 643-8194, dfayroian@northernncello.com; David Strubler, Fund Raising & Development, (248) 770-3343, dstruble@kettering.edu, or Mindy Milos-Dale, Parks & Recreation Director, (248) 651-7810, mmdale@oaklandtownship.org

National Trails Day T-Shirts Highlight Paint Creek

Saturday June 3rd, 2006, National Trails Day (NTD) events headquarters will be at the Paint Creek Cider Mill for the second year. As part of this event, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation will once again offer free t-shirt stenciling. This popular program is geared toward all ages and great for entire families. Dinosaur Hill Naturalists will share their knowledge of the fish that live in Paint Creek. Oakland Township Parks and

Recreation will provide free t-shirts. Come celebrate the brown, brook and rainbow trout of Paint Creek! Personalize your t-shirt with your favorite fish stencils. Add this year's t-shirt to the prairie flowers one that you created last year! This program will be located in the Oakland Township Parks Tent near the Paint Creek Trailway's Gallagher Road parking lot. Drop-in anytime between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. See page 3.

Special points of interest:

- Millage Renewal
- Music in the Meadows
- Tai Chi Program
- Grand Opening Draper Twin Lake Park

The Land Preservation Millage Ballot Question will be worded as follows:

Shall the Charter Township of Oakland be authorized to renew a levy of up to 0.6916 of one mill for a period of ten (10) years, starting with the December 2011 levy, for the purpose of continuing to provide funds and financing for the timely acquisition of land, the protection of natural habitat, and the preservation of green spaces within the Township? Approval of this proposal would renew the previously authorized tax limitation increase of approximately 69 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value on all taxable property in the township. Revenue from the levy renewal shall be disbursed to the Charter Township of Oakland. It is estimated that this proposal would result in \$1,112,801 of revenue in the first year (2011) if this millage renewal is authorized and levied.

If approved, the following are examples of millage costs to property owners: \$100,000 home: Taxable Value \$50,000 = \$34.50/year or \$2.88/month, \$250,000 home: Taxable Value \$125,000 = \$86.25/year or \$7.19/month, \$500,000 home: Taxable Value \$250,000 = \$172.25/year or \$14.38/month.

Additional background information is available on the Parks and Recreation page of the Township's website, www.oaklandtownship.org. If you have questions concerning this proposal please contact the Parks and Recreation Director at mmdale@oaklandtownship.org or at 248-651-7810. If you are interested in helping to support the proposal, please contact Carolyn Krygel-Young, President of the Friends of the Oakland Township Parks at krygel@robonomicon.com.

Learn More About the Land Preservation Millage Proposal at July 20th Open House and June 11th and July 23rd Park Tours

The open house will feature speakers who will discuss the need for land preservation in Oakland Township as well as the remaining preservation opportunities. Maps, photographs, and data from Oakland County Planning will be featured to show our Township's land use patterns as well as opportunities for land preservation.

At the open house questions are welcomed and will be answered by Township officials and staff, Oakland County Planning's environmental stewardship staff, and the staff of our local Oakland Land Conservancy. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about this millage proposal prior to the election on August 8th.

Open House Agenda Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road Thursday, July 20, 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

- 7:00-7:30 Informal Viewing of aerial photos and natural feature maps (*Park Commissioners/Staff will be available.*)
- 7:30-7:45 Land Preservation Millage: Purpose, Funding and Goals
- 7:45-8:00 Oakland Township's Land Preservation within the Larger Picture:
Oakland County's Green Infrastructure Planning
- 8:00 – 8:15 A Local Land Conservancy's View Concerning the Ballot Proposal
- 8:15-8:30 Question and Answer Session
- 8:30-9:00 Informal Viewing of aerial photos and natural feature maps (*Park Commissioners/Staff will be available.*)

Visit 2 Newest Township Parks

Preserved with Land Preservation Millage

See details on page 5!

- ◆ Lost Lake Nature Park,
- ◆ Sunday, June 11th, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.,
- ◆ 846 Lost Lake Trail, south of W. Predmore Road, west of Rochester Road, east of Lake George Road.
- ◆ GRAND OPENING! Draper Twin Lake Park,
- ◆ Sunday July 23rd, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.,
- ◆ intersection of Hadden and Inwood Roads.



Fishing at Lost Lake Nature Park, Photo by Deb Gallo

Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission

4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670
Telephone: (248) 651-7810 Fax: (248) 601-0106
www.oaklandtownship.org

Open House Agenda

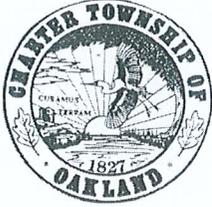
Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road

Thursday, July 20, 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

- 7:00-7:30** Informal Viewing of aerial photos and natural feature maps
(Park Commissioners/Staff will be available.)
- Guest and Presenter Introductions *Melinda Milos-Dale, Parks and Recreation Director*
- 7:30-7:45** Land Preservation Millage: Purpose, Funding and Goals
Curt Winter, Parks and Recreation Commission Treasurer,
Carolyn Krygel-Young, Friends of Oakland Township Parks
- 7:45-8:00** Oakland Township's Land Preservation within the Larger Picture:
Oakland County's Green Infrastructure Planning
Jim Keglovitz, Oakland County Planning and Economic Dev.
- 8:00 – 8:15** A Local Land Conservancy's View Concerning the Ballot Proposal
Donna Folland, Oakland Land Conservancy Director
- 8:15-8:30** Question and Answer Session
Facilitated by Melinda Milos-Dale
- 8:30-9:00** Informal Viewing of aerial photos and natural feature maps
(Park Commissioners/Staff will be available.)



DRAPER TWIN LAKE PARK-Photo by Deb Gallo



**OAKLAND TOWNSHIP LAND PRESERVATION MILLAGE
RENEWAL
AUGUST 8TH, 2006 BALLOT PROPOSAL
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS (6-2-06)**

What is the purpose of the proposed Land Preservation Millage renewal?

To continue to finance the acquisition and preservation of a significant amount of open land within Oakland Township during an ever-shortening time period of availability. The green spaces acquired with millage monies are representative of the natural and rural history of our Township and are permanently protected from residential or commercial development.

Where can I learn about this proposed millage renewal and Township natural areas?

Come to the July 20th Open House and June 11th and July 23rd Park Tours:

The open house will feature speakers who will discuss the need for land preservation in Oakland Township as well as the remaining preservation opportunities. Maps, photographs, and data from Oakland County Planning will be featured to show our Township's land use patterns as well as opportunities for land preservation. At the open house questions are welcomed and will be answered by Township officials and staff, Oakland County Planning's environmental stewardship staff, and the staff of our local Oakland Land Conservancy.

Open House Agenda, Thursday, July 20, 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Oakland Township Hall

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- 8:30-9:00 Informal Viewing of aerial photos and natural feature maps (Park Commissioners/Staff will be available.)

Lost Lake Nature Park, Sunday, June 11th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

846 Lost Lake Trail, south of W. Predmore Rd, west of Rochester, east of Lake George Road.

Hooked on Fishing -Oakland County's Adventure Recreation experts will teach participants fishing basics, covering equipment, safety, baiting and casting. Equipment is provided, so bring your gang out for some good fun!

Guided Park Tour – Come on a walking tour of this 50-acre park which was purchased in 2004 using Land Preservation Millage funds and a state grant. Parks and Recreation Commissioners and staff will be available to answer questions.

Draper Twin Lake Park GRAND OPENING, Sunday July 23rd, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Intersection of Hadden and Inwood Roads.

Native Fish Program – A representative of the North American Native Fishes Association will give a presentation on the native fish found in glacial lakes such as Twin Lake.

Guided Park Tour – Take a hayride tour of this 90-acre park, which was purchased in 2005 using Land Preservation Millage funds as well as a significant land donation from the Draper family. Parks and Recreation Commissioners and staff will be available to answer questions.

How can anyone help to support the Land Preservation Millage renewal?

**Come to a Friends of Oakland Township Parks (FRIENDSOTP) meeting:
Wed., June 7, 6:00 pm and Tues., July 11, 7:00 pm at Oakland Township Parks/Police Building.**

For more information contact Carrie Krygel Young, President of the Friends of Oakland Township Parks at krygel@robonomicon.com, 248-601-3576 or visit FOTP website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRIENDSOTP/>

What land would be considered highest priority for green space acquisition?

Oakland Township still has a significant amount of high-quality green spaces that contain or protect these features:

- Land along Paint Creek and Stony Creek
- Land that contains lakes, ponds, and wetlands
- Land with future passive recreation potential where residents could hike or observe wildlife
- Land that connects existing green spaces or natural areas
- Habitat for our native plants and animals
- Land with important natural features such as forests or prairie remnants

How much land in the Township has potential for green space preservation?

There are approximately 5400 acres of undeveloped land in the Township, as recently estimated by Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services. This represents about 23% of all Township land, not including land in parks. Of these 5400 acres, more than 3000 acres contain high-quality green spaces, which are the highest priority candidates for our Land Preservation Millage funds.

What will happen to our land preservation program if this millage is not renewed?

If this millage is not renewed, our Township's land preservation efforts would be at a standstill in the very near future. The Parks and Recreation Commission will not be able to apply for grants nor finance the timely purchase of additional significant green spaces before they are no longer available.

How will the land preservation ballot question be worded?

Shall the Charter Township of Oakland be authorized to renew a levy of up to 0.6916 of one mill for a period of ten (10) years, starting with the December 2011 levy, for the purpose of continuing to provide funds and financing for the timely acquisition of land, the protection of natural habitat, and the preservation of green spaces within the Township? Approval of this proposal would renew the previously authorized tax limitation increase of approximately 69 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value on all taxable property in the township. Revenue from the levy renewal shall be disbursed to the Charter Township of Oakland. It is estimated that this proposal would result in \$1,112,801 of revenue in the first year (2011) if this millage renewal is authorized and levied.

Why is renewal of the Land Preservation Millage on the ballot this year?

Oakland Township has been fortunate in leveraging Land Preservation funds with grants and donations to protect more than 230 acres of important natural areas. To accomplish this, the Parks and Recreation Commission has committed the majority of the voted ten-year millage to finance these acquisitions in a timely way. While the current Land Preservation Millage expires in 2010, the millage renewal would extend the revenue stream through 2020, enabling the Township to proactively finance the protection of green spaces while they are still available.

Will voting 'yes' on this millage renewal increase taxes?

A 'yes' vote will NOT increase the tax rate of Township property owners. A 'yes' vote will extend the time period of the authorized millage.

How much land has been acquired with the current Land Preservation Millage funds, and what types of natural areas have been protected as a result?

Since the Township has been successful in leveraging the current millage monies with grants and donations, the amount of green space protected is twice the original projections. Currently Oakland Township is in the process of acquiring a parcel containing a significant stretch of Stony Creek by combining a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant with Township Land Preservation Millage monies. Once that is completed, the Township will have protected more than 230 acres of important Township natural areas since this millage was first levied in 2001. These natural areas include:

2006 - Stony Creek Corridor Park: 60-acre proposed acquisition by Land Preservation Millage and MNRTF grant.

2005 - Draper Twin Lake Park: 90 acres acquired by Land Preservation Millage and landowner donation.

2004 - Lost Lake Nature Park: 52 acres acquired by Land Preservation Millage and MNRTF grant.

2003 - Paint Creek Heritage Area – Wet Prairie: 10.46 acres acquired by Land Preservation Millage.

2003 - Cranberry Lake Park (woodland parcel addition): 22 acres purchased with Land Preservation Millage.

Would this millage renewal stop development in Oakland Township?

No, the Township cannot prevent people from proposing developments. However, millage funds enable the Township to work with willing sellers to take advantage of opportunities to purchase and preserve portions of the remaining green spaces.

Which Township entity would manage the Land Preservation Millage funds?

The Parks and Recreation Commission, having considerable experience in land purchases and donation, would continue to be responsible for managing the Land Preservation Millage monies. They currently manage eleven parks, which include the natural areas acquired with Land Preservation Millage funds, as well as managing the Oakland Township section of the Paint Creek Trailway. The park staff includes a full-time director, a full-time management coordinator who oversees and implements stewardship of park natural areas, two part-time administrative assistants, and two part-time maintenance technicians.

Who would evaluate and recommend properties for acquisition?

The Parks and Recreation Commission, elected by Township voters, would continue to use the procedures and priorities that they established in 2002 to evaluate parcels consistently and objectively. Nominated properties are evaluated based upon screening/review criteria that include water resources, wildlife habitat, special plants and plant communities, glacial landforms, accessibility by local residents, adjacency to protected lands, parcel size, feasibility of acquisition, availability of property, cultural value and other unique factors.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has obtained ecologists' reports on the significant environmental areas within the Township. The Commission would continue to proactively seek available green space properties and evaluate them according to well-defined criteria, incorporating the recommendations of Township citizens. They would continue to work with real estate and legal professionals to pursue acquisition of the top-priority areas.

If approved, what would the millage renewal cost property owners, starting in 2011?

\$100,000 home: Taxable Value \$50,000 = \$34.50/year or \$2.88/month

\$250,000 home: Taxable Value \$125,000 = \$86.25/year or \$7.19/month

\$500,000 home: Taxable Value \$250,000 = \$172.25/year or \$14.38/month

How much funding would this millage renewal provide over the 10-year period?

The renewal millage itself would raise more than \$11 million and enable the Township to maximize its value by pursuing matching grants that could provide up to \$33 million more for the green space fund. The Parks and Recreation Commission has been successful in obtaining state grants totaling approximately \$5 million that helped to fund the purchase of the Paint Creek Trailway, the 2001 purchase of Marsh View Park, the 2003 addition of amenities to Bear Creek Nature Park, the 2004 purchase of Lost Lake Nature Park, and the proposed Stony Creek Corridor purchase.

Would this millage renewal restrict private landowners' rights to sell or develop their property?

No. The millage funds will only enable the Township to work with willing sellers to purchase remaining green spaces, and will have no effect on regulations concerning the development of private property.

Would any of the proposed millage renewal pay for the maintenance of green spaces?

Yes. While a large majority of the millage funds would be devoted to property acquisition, it is important to monitor and preserve these green spaces once they are purchased. Each property's natural features would be managed to prevent degradation of the site's ecological and scenic values. After careful planning, trails will be added where appropriate. The parks staff, consultants and volunteers have successfully completed many current park stewardship, maintenance and improvement projects, and are actively involved in the management of natural areas within the parks.

In addition to the preservation of natural and scenic areas, what are other public benefits from purchasing green spaces?

- Green spaces are a desirable amenity that will positively affect nearby private property values.
- Our Greenways Vision, a network of green spaces, preserves our Township's unique identity, protects native plants and wildlife and provides additional opportunities for passive recreation.
- Green spaces owned by the Township will not require the types of services associated with residential developments, including police protection, fire protection and public schools.
- Green spaces will not contribute to traffic congestion, whereas each new residential household averages 10 vehicle trips per day.

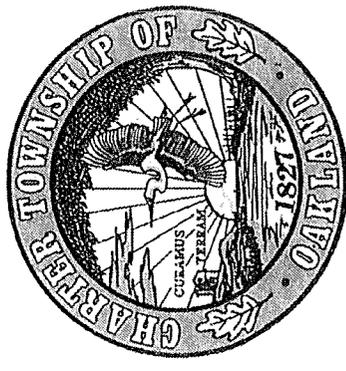
How many governmental entities have green space initiatives?

The Land Trust Alliance and The Trust for Public Land, both non-profit organizations, have been tracking these types of initiatives on a nationwide basis since 1998. Their 2005 national report concluded that the percentage of land conservation proposals approved in the November 2005 elections was the highest for any year since 2000. Overall, 80% of the 138 land conservation ballot measures presented at state, county and local levels were approved. This resulted in nearly \$1.7 billion in new conservation dollars.

Michigan voters approved a statewide initiative in 1998. Locally, green space ballot proposals have been approved or renewed in Meridian Township in 2000; Birmingham and Oakland Township in 2001; Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor Township in 2003; Commerce Township, Pittsfield Township, Scio Township and Washtenaw County in 2004; and Rochester Hills and Grosse Ile Township in 2005.

Charter Township of Oakland

Land Preservation Millage



Parkland Acquisition



Oakland Township currently owns 10 parks ranging in size from 2 to 212 acres and totaling more than 840 acres which includes the 170 acres purchased with the Land Preservation Millage.

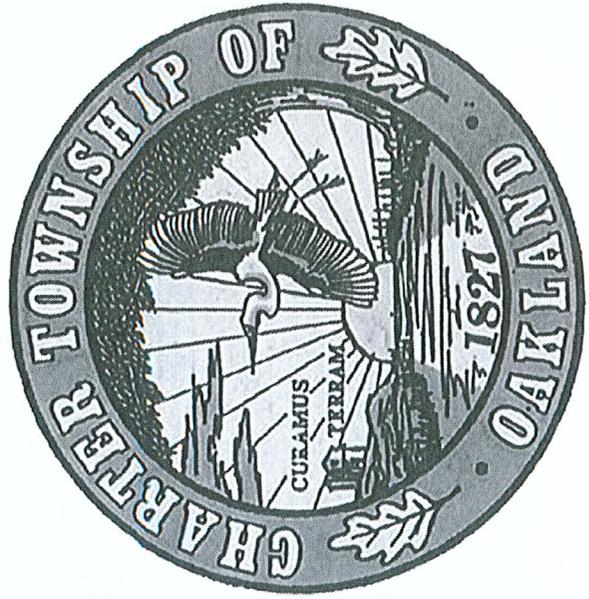
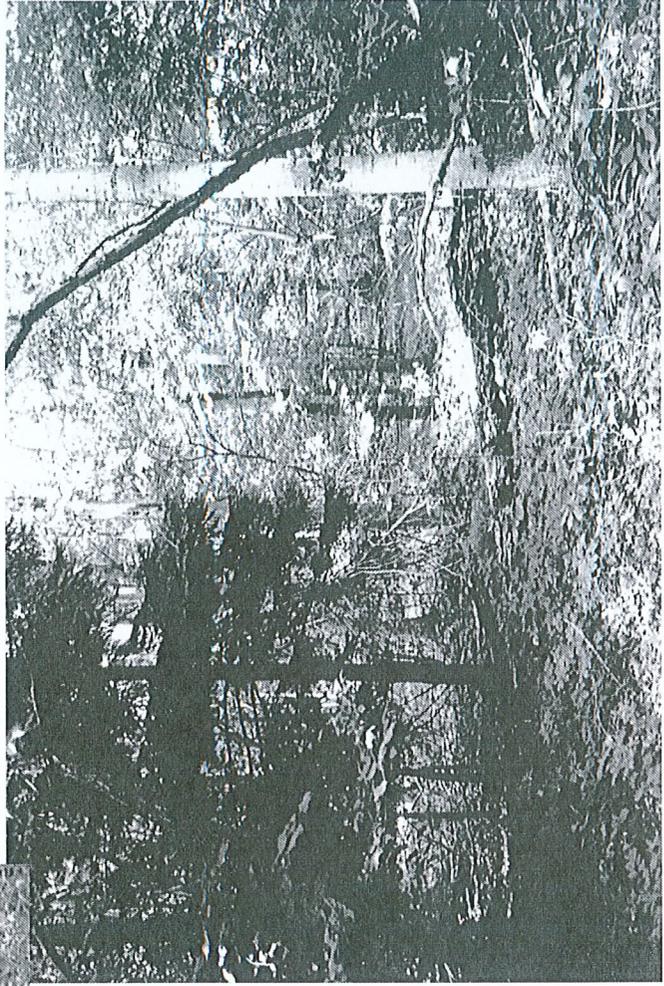


After Stony Creek Corridor Park is purchased, the Parks and Recreation Commission will have protected 230 acres of natural areas valued at more than \$8 million dollars by leveraging more than \$4 million of land preservation funds with an equal amount of grants and donations.

2003 - Cranberry Lake Park Woodland Parcel Addition

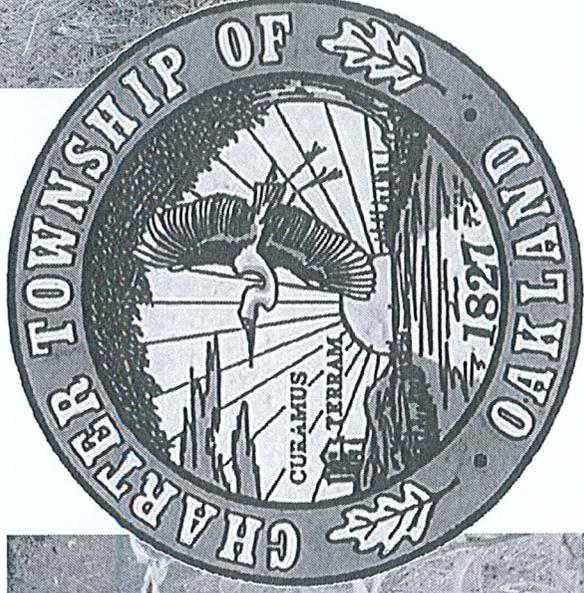


22 acres purchased with
Land Preservation Millage.

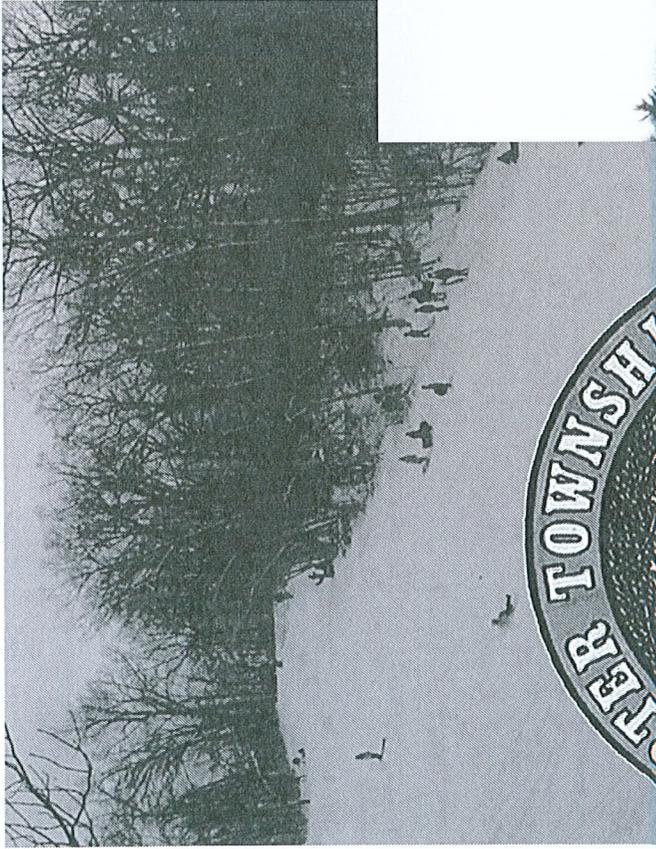


2003 - Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie

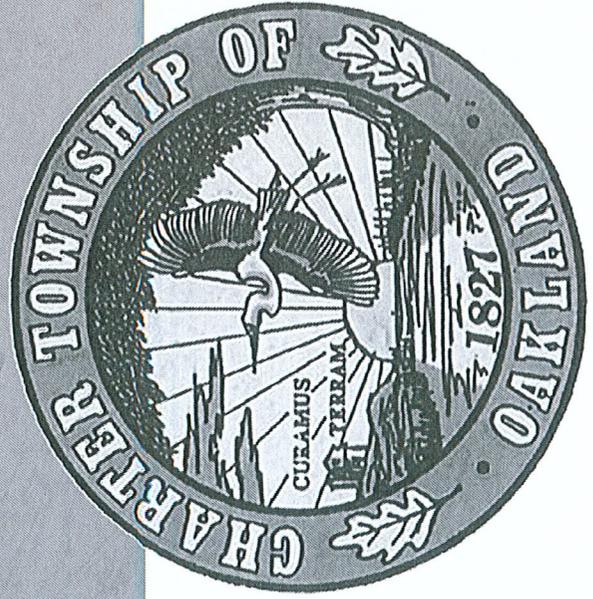
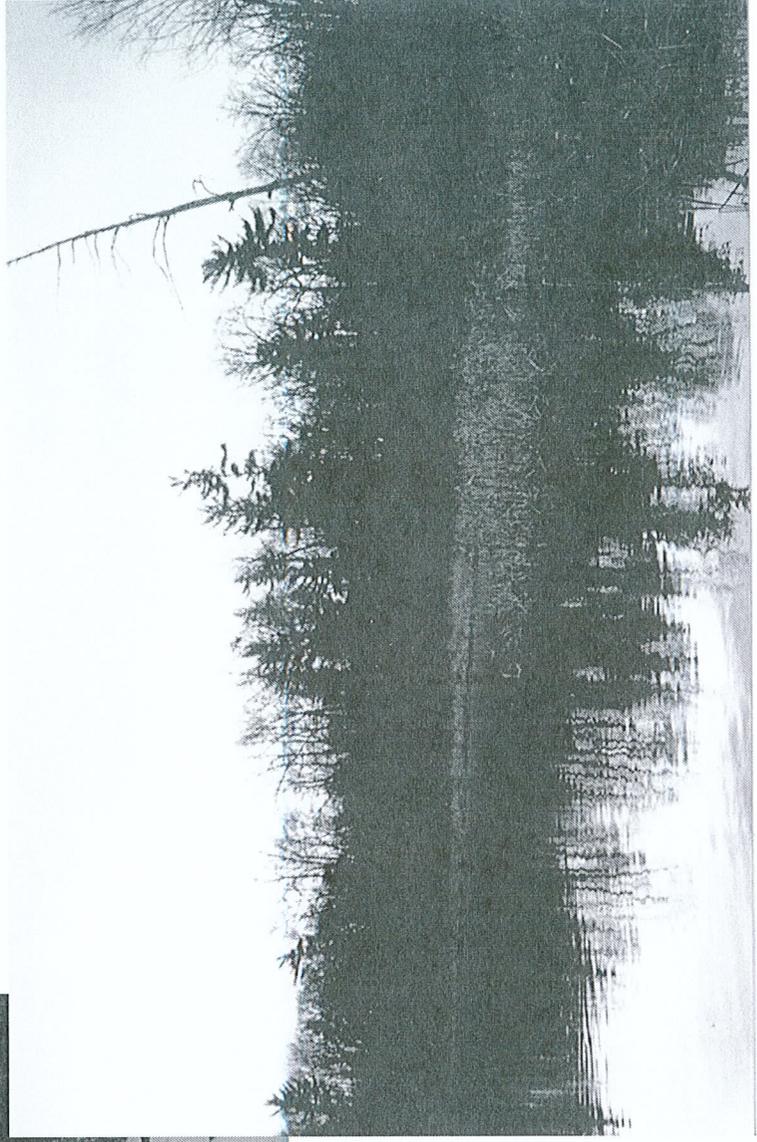
10.46 acres acquired by Land Preservation Millage that contains a prairie fen, the original bed of the Paint Creek and fronts ¼ mile on Paint Creek Trail.



2004 - Lost Lake Nature Park



52 acres acquired including an 8-acre lake, wetlands, oak-hardwood woodland and a geological formation. This park was purchased using the Land Preservation Millage and a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant.



2005- Draper Twin Lake Park

90 acres acquired including 5 acres of Twin Lake, wooded wetlands and a tributary of Stony Creek. This park was acquired using the Land Preservation Millage and a Landowner donation.

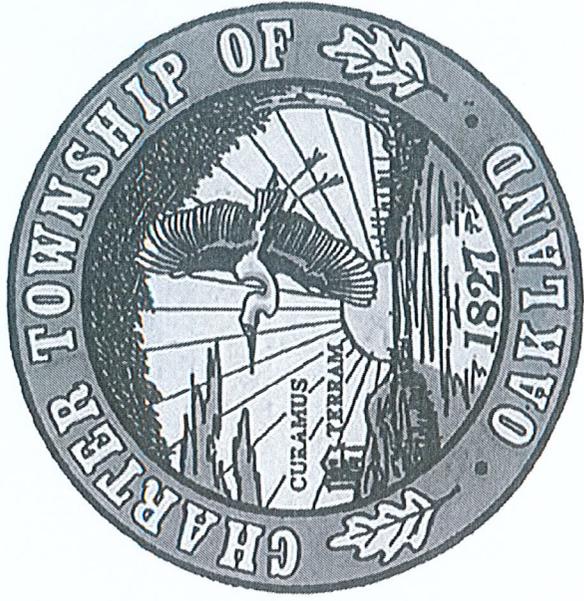




2007 - Stony Creek Corridor Park

This 60-acre proposed acquisition will include 2000 linear feet of the West Branch of the Stony Creek, as well as floodplain and oak-hardwood forest.

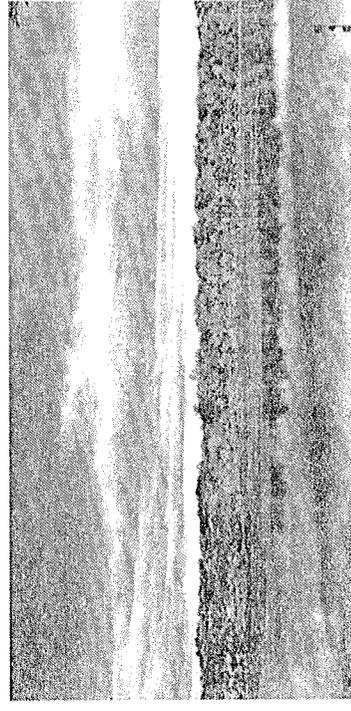
This park will be acquired using the Land Preservation Millage and a MNRTF grant.



Why is renewal of the Land Preservation Millage on the ballot this year?

The current 10-year Land Preservation Millage expires in 2010. An early millage renewal extends our land preservation revenue stream through 2020.

An extension enables Oakland Township to continue to proactively combine millage funds with grants and donations to finance the timely protection of additional significant green spaces.





Charter Township of Oakland
UNOFFICIAL
Election Results
August 8, 2006

Dick Devos (R) **1,999**
Jennifer Granholm (D) **511**

Keith Butler (R) **700**
Michael Bouchard (R) **1,477**
Debbie Stabenow (D) **493**

Patricia Godchaux (R) **495**
Joe Knollenberg (R) **1,684**
Nancy Skinner (D) **458**

Mike Bishop (R) **1,929**
Joseph Barrera (D) **451**

John Garfield (R) **1,240**
Eric Mozer (R) **538**
Thomas L. Werth (D) **456**

Michael Gingell (R) **803**
Eric Wilson (R) **947**
Kate Zielinski (D) **436**

	Yes	No
Land Preservation	1,815	934
Library Renewal	2,055	785
OPC Transportation	2,033	824