

## OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

Oakland County Parks and Recreation is dedicated to enhancing quality of life by providing residents of Oakland County with parks and open spaces, as well as recreational, leisure and learning experiences. Charged with the management and stewardship of more than 6,500 acres of public land, including some significant and rare natural areas, Oakland County Parks' goal is to protect and sustain these areas for future generations. The incorporation of energy-efficient practices in all facets of parks operations and management is vital to the future of the parks system.

Some green practices the parks established include: employee recycling, green cleaning products, using bio-diesel fuel in equipment, instigating no mow zones, and practicing Integrated Pest Management principles.

### Recycling

- Parks employees recycle glass, plastic, metals, batteries, lights and ink cartridges in special collection containers
- The entire parks system now uses 100% recycled paper
- Recycling programs for patrons at all campgrounds, waterparks, golf courses and day use parks will be established

### Cleaning products

- All park facilities now utilize "green" cleaning products that are low in volatile organic compounds, reducing the amount of toxins in the air

### Bio-fuel

- All Parks equipment runs on bio-diesel fuel in order to improve overall health and protect the environment
- The Parks are experimenting with bio-lubricants as an alternative for cleaning and lubricating equipment

### Land

- All parks now have designated "no mow zones," which will decrease the amount of gas and energy used in maintaining park property and allows for natural plant progression
- Integrated Pest Management principles were established to reduce the use of chemical pesticides
- Efforts are being made to propagate native plant material in Oakland County Parks' newly acquired greenhouses, for use on park property
- The Parks system continuously strives to purchase land with the goal of preserving and managing green space

### Evaluation

- Groveland Oaks is the first park in Michigan to be environmentally certified by the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program
- Oakland County Parks is working with the Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Foundation in conducting energy audits at all park facilities in order to improve and maintain green efforts.

For more information on Oakland County Parks' green efforts, visit [DestinationOakland.com](http://DestinationOakland.com).