



Pontiac and Oakland County Parks Team up to Rejuvenate Hawthorne Park

*Partnership kicks off on October 1 after a series of open houses,
public meetings and interactive family fun events.*

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Pontiac, MI - [September 27, 2023] - Oakland County Parks (OCP) and the City of Pontiac have entered into a partnership agreement aimed at rejuvenating and maintaining Hawthorne Park located on 77-acres at 1400 North Telegraph Road in the City of Pontiac. Under the terms of the Pontiac Oaks Partnership agreement, Oakland County will invest more than \$1.5 million to improve park facilities and assume long-term responsibility for park management and maintenance. The City of Pontiac will retain ownership of the park property and provide guidance to OCP regarding park management. All park visitors will continue to enjoy free entry. Hawthorne Park will be renamed Pontiac Oaks in conjunction with the transition of park management on October 1, 2023.

OCP and the City of Pontiac invited residents of the city to provide their input regarding the future of Hawthorne Park at several free open houses and family fun events in August and an upcoming event later this month. Those that were unable to attend the open houses were invited to complete an online survey to share their feedback.

“This is an exciting opportunity for Pontiac and our residents,” said **Mayor Tim Greimel**. “The park will remain city-owned with free admission, and Oakland County Parks will invest millions of dollars into park upgrades while assuming all responsibility for day-to-day maintenance. In short, this park will be substantially improved, and city resources will be freed up for enhancements to other city parks.”

Hawthorne Park is known for its beautiful trees, natural areas and access to Creger Lake and Upper Silver Lake. Recreational features include a fishing pier, boat ramp, pavilion, playground and disc golf course. This summer, OCP began work addressing high priority park facility and maintenance issues.

“Our partnership with Pontiac is opening new doors for Oakland County Parks to better serve the needs of the residents in the city and surrounding communities,” said **Oakland County Parks Director Chris Ward**. “Input from the public will play a major role in shaping decisions and priorities as we work together to create a welcoming and revitalized park for the enjoyment of all.”

The Pontiac Oaks Partnership was made possible under Oakland County’s Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan, a \$20.2 million program aimed at enhancing park and recreation opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities located in moderate to low-income areas utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds matched by OCP. Additional long-term park partnerships are planned in the City of Oak Park, the City of Southfield and the City of Madison Heights.”

For more information about Oakland County Parks, visit OaklandCountyParks.com.
