

# Outdoor Adventure Center newsletter

## June – August 2021

### Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Staff

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### Hours of Operation\*

\*Hours of operation are subject to change pending COVID-19 restrictions.

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: Closed  
Wednesday: Closed  
Thursday: Closed  
Friday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sunday: Noon – 5 p.m.

### Admission Fees

Adults (age 13 - 61): \$5  
Seniors (age 62 and older): \$3  
Children (ages 2-12): \$3  
Children under age 2: Free  
Annual family membership: \$50

### Convenient Online Registration

Our online registration system will facilitate registration for all programs offered at the OAC. At <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/michigan-dnr/catalog>, you will find all options that are available for online registration. In order to register, you will need to create an account using your email address and a password. This will allow you to securely check out once you register. You will also be able to view past registrations and activities. If you have any questions about this site, please email [DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov).

## Annual Family Membership

During the COVID-19 closure, all membership expirations have been extended to reflect the months that the OAC has been unavailable to our members. We value your membership and look forward to seeing our members in the building again. Once we reopen, members will be notified for a special “members-only” event! While we were closed, online purchasing was paused. Once we reopen, annual memberships can be purchased online <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/michigan-dnr/catalog> for \$50 for up to five members of the same household. For an additional \$25, you can bring up to two guests any time you visit the OAC.

Benefits of membership include:

- Free admission for one year from the date of purchase.
- \$30 discount on Lodge birthday packages. (Subject to COVID-19 safety restrictions).
- Exclusive, early admission to select special events.
- First glance (before the general public) at all newsletters.
- Members-only adventure packs (for use during your visit).
- Special pricing or early registration for select events.
- Early seating for popular programs.

## Members-Only Evening

We are so grateful to our members! You are a most valued part of the DNR Outdoor Adventure family, and you have been so patient with us as we have navigated the challenges of the pandemic. We will be forever grateful. Current members will receive exclusive invitations to a special event on Wednesday, July 14. You will receive your family invitation via email – please be sure your email address has been updated. To verify your email address on account, please send a message to [DNR-OAC@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@michigan.gov). Registration will be required.

## State Park Madness 2021

Each April, we follow our Wildlife March Madness Tournament with a State Park Madness Tournament. Our goal is to highlight a set of parks from Michigan’s 103 state parks. Some are familiar and others are less widely known – but each is a beautiful destination.

This year’s competition was particularly spirited, with lots of social media action. Typically, voting is completed inside our facility and online, but for the past two years it has been restricted to online only. We hope that our friends enjoy learning about the many Michigan state parks and that our tournament inspires your travel plans. We want to applaud all the parks in this year’s tournament and congratulate the 2021 State Park Madness winner: Port Crescent State Park.

### Port Crescent

Just outside of the town of Port Austin, on the tip of Michigan's "thumb," lies Port Crescent State Park. With 3 miles of sandy Lake Huron shoreline, this state park is a quiet, family-friendly park situated away from the lights and noise of the city.

The park is home to a modern campground with waterfront views and a camper cabin. It also offers 5 miles of hiking and cross-country trail, breathtaking sunsets and opportunities for fishing, canoeing, birding and hunting. In addition, a wooden boardwalk parallels the shoreline, offering scenic vistas of Saginaw Bay.

When the sun sets and the stars come out, enjoy the dark sky preserve inside the park – one of only seven in Michigan – that offers exceptional stargazing. As a dark sky preserve, the park is protected against light pollution. The best viewing location is located near the day-use parking lot, where a viewing platform is available.

Congratulations to the team at Port Crescent State Park, led by Brian Dunn! You are this year's champions!

All of this year's parks can be found in our Facebook posts for the tournament. Check them out – you may discover your new favorite park! If you have any nominees for next year's tournament, please email us at [DNR-OAC@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@michigan.gov). With 103 parks to choose from, we would appreciate your help in defining next year's tournament participants.

Wishing you great adventures at your Michigan state parks this season!

## Educator's Corner

### Making new memories

By: Catie Olszewski

After reading Natalie Cypher's blog post in our January-February 2021 newsletter, I was inspired to make some new memories myself, while laughing about old ones. While I never had much interest in hunting with my dad, I did help him track and process his deer. So, we do share the memory of me finding – maybe not the easiest – path back for my dad, who was hauling the doe. Nothing like making him work for that fresh meat!

The memories that Natalie's blog did bring to mind were the many adventures that my family and I had ice fishing. I loved ice fishing when I was growing up, and was always excited to go either when Dad got home from work or on the weekends. I am the youngest of three, so when we went ice fishing Dad had quite a few holes to hand auger before he could get to fishing himself.

Sometimes we would even bring some friends, which would of course add to the hole count. Over the years, the ice fishing outings became fewer and fewer, with other interests and obligations taking precedent. I decided to change that this year and picked up a new ice shanty to replace the one my dad sold years ago. I can carry mine on my back, while his required a truck to transport and was heavy to haul. My dad picked up a new auger and power drill attachment we were eager to try out.

With my car packed up, all we needed to do was stop for bait, then we headed out to pick the perfect fishing spot. We got to the park, and with our warm layers on we walked out a bit on the ice and decided on a good spot. I unpacked the ice shanty and we worked together to get it set up and anchored down. With it being a windy day, I used the ice anchors to secure it in place while my dad held on tight to ensure my nice new ice shanty didn't turn into a nice new kite. We unzipped the door and decided on a location for the fishing holes. In the same amount of time it took us to decide, he had two holes in the ice and we were ready to fish. We laughed about the speed of his new auger and recalled the amount of time it used to take to get set up years ago. He recalled how as soon as he was done drilling holes and was about to start fishing, one of us would declare they were in a bad spot and needed a new hole drilled somewhere else. And of course, Dad would always oblige. But on this day, Dad and I stuck with our original holes, and with the wind whipping outside we couldn't imagine leaving the comfort of the ice shanty. We had a few nibbles and brought up a few small perch we ended up throwing back – it didn't matter if we caught the catch of a lifetime or caught nothing at all, the new memories were worth every second spent on the ice.

I would encourage everyone to find a new outdoor passion or revive an old one and make the time to enjoy the outdoors. Of course, the ice fishing season is over for now, but the change of season leads to different adventures and new memories to be made. It is on to kayaking and hiking for me, but you can visit the Michigan DNR website to learn about different outdoor activities to do across the state of Michigan. No matter what activity you choose to enjoy, be sure to follow all guidelines in place to keep you safe.

## Day Camp Programs

The following programs are offered June through August only, and will take place outdoors along the Dequindre Cut alongside the Outdoor Adventure Center and/or at Milliken State Park across the street. Day camps can add these programs on to a field trip visit at the OAC or choose them as a stand-alone program if groups are restricted to outdoor field trip experiences.

Each program includes hands-on exploration and/or activities related to nearby resources and recreation opportunities. Minimum student enrollment for each program is eight students.

FEE: \$4 per person with a field trip to the OAC or \$2 per student as a stand-alone program.

If your Day Camp is unable to visit us in person, please email us at [DNR-OAC@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@michigan.gov) for virtual options.

[Register for an outdoor day camp program.](#)

### Michigan Predator-Prey

Meet some Michigan mammals! We'll spend some hands-on time getting up close and personal with some of Michigan's wildlife and learn what makes them specialized as a predator or a prey species. Then we'll play an active game that illustrates the importance of predator-prey relationships to wildlife populations.

- 1 hour
- Maximum 30 students
- Age: 6 and up

### Nature's Colors and Shapes

A walk in nature can reveal a variety of colors, shapes, sounds, and textures! We'll explore the surrounding area and the Riverfront with a nature "I spy" activity.

- 45 minutes
- Maximum 30 students
- Age: 3-6

### Fantastic Fish!

A great program for those looking to learn more about some of the fish found in Michigan and wanting to test their casting skills. In this program participants will be introduced to the parts of a fish and how to identify fish. Participants will also get to try a fun casting activity that will put their aiming and release skills to the test. This program does not include actual fishing.

- 1 hour
- Maximum 30 students
- Ages: 6 and up

### Let's Go Fishing!

Discover the rich fish biodiversity on the Detroit river with a fun and educational Outdoor Adventure Center fishing experience! Participants will learn how to identify fish with a fun game, learn how to cast a fishing rod in a safe environment, and lastly try their hand in a fishing derby at the Milliken State Park harbor. Participants will also learn how to identify various species of fish and find out how they as anglers can help the fight against aquatic invasive species. Fishing equipment is provided, but an additional fee is charged.

- 1 hour
- Ages: 8 – 17

- Maximum 25 students
- FEE: additional \$2 per student

### Wetland Wonders!

Visit our neighborhood wetland at the Detroit Riverfront and see if you can find the creatures that reside there. Participants will conduct some simple water quality tests, and dive into why wetlands are important to wildlife and to people. Be prepared to get your hands wet!

- 1.5 hours
- Ages: 8 and up
- Maximum 30 students

### Insect Investigations

Nets, bugs, investigations and discovery! After an introduction to insects and their important roles in our ecosystems, participants will search high and low for the different types of insects found in our local wetland/urban habitat. We will take an up-close look at their characteristics and what makes them an insect (or not!).

- 1.5 hours
- Ages: 6 and up
- Maximum 30 students

### Birding the Riverfront

The Detroit River and Riverfront area are home to a variety of nesting and migratory bird species – come find out for yourselves! We'll spend some time learning the basics of bird ID and how to use binoculars. Then we'll take a walk through the area to identify some local species in different habitats. We'll even submit our observations to the citizen science project eBird!

- 1 hour
- Ages: 8 and up
- Maximum 30 students

## Adventure Days

Friday, July 16 – Sunday, July 18

Happy fifth and sixth birthday, OAC!

On Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 1 p.m. the ribbon cutting for the Outdoor Adventure Center occurred. Dignitaries and youth alike, joined in the celebration. There was music courtesy of the Detroit Area Girl Scouts, the Jeffrey Kent Trio and the Detroit Youth Choir. Boy Scout Troop #194 presented the flag.

Business representatives from ITC, DeWalt, Walbridge, The Roxbury Group, and the Weber Group supported the event. Speakers included Nicole Curtis, host of "Rehab Addict," and then-Michigan DNR Director Keith Creagh. Mayor Duggan and then-Governor Snyder added to the opening remarks.

Children from "The Healthy Kidz" day camp helped cut the ribbon and enjoyed a first look at the wonders of the Outdoor Adventure Center.

The next week we hosted a series of special events. We celebrated history with Miz Rosie Chapman as Harriet Tubman and Gene Picor as a voyageur. We hosted live animal programs featuring bats, birds, amphibians and

reptiles. We were gifted an original painting, representing the national forests in Michigan, from prominent artist, Louise Phillips of Washington, D.C. by the U.S. Forest Service and held an art workshop on our front lawn. We hosted a viewing of the documentary “An American Ascent” – detailing the first all African American expedition to tackle Denali, North America’s highest peak.

Since those Grand Opening Days, we have hosted over half a million guests and were on track for so much more before COVID-19 caused a temporary closure. We have hosted dozens of weddings and hundreds of birthday parties. And so many school groups, Scouts and day camps have come through our doors! We have missed our friends so much during the closure, but we have kept in touch with virtual and outdoor only programming.

## Adventure Days

Since we missed celebrating our fifth birthday last summer, and because we are coming up on our sixth birthday in July – we are ready to celebrate! We will be inviting back many of our supporters from the Grand Opening Days and each of you to the 2021 Adventure Days – celebrating our fifth and sixth birthdays on July 16, 17 and 18. Our programs will follow all necessary COVID safety protocols. We will be featuring some of the great events that were missed while we were closed.

We hope you will join us for an exciting week of adventure!

A daily schedule of events will be announced at a future date, pending COVID-19 safety restrictions.

## Explore the Outdoors

### Virtual Programs for Every Age

Join us online this summer for public virtual programming June through August. Our programs will be hosted on Zoom and Facebook Live and will include a combination of live presentation, video, and time for Q & A. We hope you join us to learn something new and ask any questions you might have.

We encourage you to register and add the programs to your calendar, so you don’t miss out on the fun!

### Be a Steward for Your State!

Thursday, June 17, 7-8 p.m.

Most of us know that Michigan is a fantastic state to get out and enjoy the outdoors – but have you ever wondered what you could do to help take care of our lands, waters, and wildlife? Tune in for an opportunity to hear about three local environmental stewardship and citizen science opportunities that you can take advantage of to take an active role in stewardship for our state! We will hear from the coordinators of three local programs:

- Michigan State Park Volunteer Stewardship; presented by Kelsey Dillon, Natural resource steward for Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
- MI Paddle Stewards; presented by Mary Bohling, extension educator for Michigan Sea Grant.
- MESONICHE Urban Mammal Predator study: ZoomIn Community Science Project, presented by staff of the University of Michigan Applied Wildlife Ecology Lab.

Each presentation will include the information about the work being done, goals for the future and how you can contribute!

This program will be available on Facebook Live and Zoom. Registration is required to receive the link to the Zoom meeting.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

### Meet Your State Parks: Sit Back and Relax

Thursday, July 22, 7-8 p.m.

Michigan has over 100 state parks and endless recreational opportunities. Join us as we take a virtual trip around the state to highlight some of Michigan's state parks and learn about what you can enjoy there on your next visit. Park staff will highlight what is unique about their specific park and what amenities are available to guests. Use what you learn in this program to start planning your next state park adventure!

This program will be available on Facebook Live and Zoom. Registration is required to receive the link to the Zoom meeting.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

### Parks for Pollinators: September 2021 BioBlitz Introduction

Thursday, Aug. 26, 7-8 p.m.

Pollinators are all the buzz these days! Join us to learn about our local pollinator species including bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles and flies – and why they are all important to our ecosystem here along the Detroit River. We will also be discussing what a BioBlitz is, and how you can participate in our month-long September Pollinator BioBlitz using the iNaturalist platform. Parks for Pollinators is a national pollinator awareness campaign through the National Recreation and Park Association and Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation.

@NationalRecreationandParkAssociation @ScottsMiracleGroCompany #Parks4Pollinators

This program will be available on Facebook Live and Zoom. Registration is required to receive the link to the Zoom meeting.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

### Enjoy the Great Outdoors ... Safely With the OAC!

We are excited to take our exciting family-friendly programs to the outdoors. We will use the outdoor areas surrounding the OAC to bring the following programs to your family. Preregistration is required in order to meet the COVID guidelines for outdoor gatherings. The link to register is listed below each program. For everyone's safety, face masks must be worn (except for those participants under 3 years old) and social distancing is required for non-family members throughout the outdoor program.

### Free Fishing Weekend - Fishing the Detroit River

Saturday, June 12, 10-11:30 a.m.

Put your casting skills to good practice while fishing the Detroit River at Milliken State Park. Try your luck at adding your catch to our daily leaderboard! This will be a great program for all experience levels.

Equipment and instruction will be provided. Guests are welcome to bring their own gear, and staff can assist with setup if needed.

Fishing license requirements are waived the weekend of June 12-13 for the DNR's Free Fishing Weekend. This program will be outside rain or shine - be sure to dress for the weather. It is often windy and colder by the river.

FEE: \$2 per person or free for those with family memberships.

### [Monarchs, Milkweed and More!](#)

Saturday, June 26, 1-2:30 p.m.

Celebrate National Pollinator Week with us! We'll provide an introduction and overview of the beautiful monarch butterfly's life cycle and habitat needs, then we'll take a walk through the Dequindre Cut and the wetland area of Milliken State Park in search of these butterflies, caterpillars, and even eggs! We'll also search for the monarch's special plant – milkweed. Without it, there would be no monarchs! You can learn more about National Pollinator Week, monarchs and other pollinator species by visiting [Pollinator.org](http://Pollinator.org).

This program will be outside rain or shine - be sure to dress for the weather. It is often windy and colder by the river.

FEE: \$2 per person or free for those with family memberships.

### [Register for Monarchs, Milkweed and More!](#)

### [Michigan Mammal Investigations](#)

Saturday, July 10, 10-11:30 a.m.

Put your detective skills to work! We'll provide a brief overview of how wildlife biologists use signs that mammals leave behind (scat and tracks!) to identify them, then send you on a fun scat-and-track scavenger hunt to put your skills to work! Small prizes available for the highest number of correct identifications!

This program will be outside rain or shine - be sure to dress for the weather. It is often windy and colder by the river.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

### [Register for Michigan Mammal Investigations.](#)

### [Explore the Outdoors, Discover Your Way](#)

Saturday, July 31, 10-11:30 a.m.

Everyone has their favorite way to enjoy the natural beauty around them. Explore new ways to get outside and appreciate nature while we venture through Milliken State Park and enjoy the Detroit River. This will be a guided hike with multiple stops along the way to put our senses and creativity to work. From photography and drawing to poetry and writing, how will you document your surroundings? Participants are welcome to bring their own journal, camera, or drawings materials. Paper and writing supplies will be provided.

This program will be outside rain or shine - be sure to dress for the weather. It is often windy and colder by the river.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

### [Fishing the Detroit River](#)

Saturday, Aug. 7, 10-11:30 a.m.



Put your casting skills to good practice while fishing the Detroit River at Milliken State Park. Try your luck at adding your catch to our daily leaderboard! This will be a great program for all experience levels. Equipment and instruction will be provided. Guests are welcome to bring their own gear, and staff can assist with setup if needed.

Participants over the age of 17 are required to have a 2021 fishing license. Purchase your fishing license online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLlicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLlicenses).

This program will be outside rain or shine - be sure to dress for the weather. It is often windy and colder by the river.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

### Incredible Insects

Saturday, Aug. 21, 1-2:30 p.m.

Nets, bugs, exploration, and discovery! Join us to learn about some common types of insects here in Michigan and their important roles in our ecosystems during a guided bug safari in Milliken State Park. Each participant will be provided a insect net, bug box, and magnifying lens for exploration.

This program will be outside rain or shine - be sure to dress for the weather. It is often windy and colder by the river.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

### Hunter Safety Certification

In order to purchase a hunting license in Michigan, an individual born on or after Jan. 1, 1960, is required to successfully complete an approved hunter education course.

There are two options for completing hunter education in Michigan – the traditional course or the online course. Both options require attendance at a field day.

The main purpose of the hunter education course is to train safe, legal and responsible hunters. Topics include understanding wildlife management, wildlife identification, ethics, laws and regulations, and firearms safety and handling.

Michigan's traditional hunter education course is taught by a dedicated core of certified volunteer instructors and Michigan conservation officers.

### Boater Safety Certification

Boaters born after June 30, 1996, and most personal watercraft operators who operate a vessel in Michigan must have a boater education card (boating safety certificate).

There are two options for completing your boater safety certificate – a traditional course or an online course.

The main purpose of the course is to train safe and responsible boaters. Topics include vessel basics, navigation rules, boating laws and regulations, emergencies, water sports and much more.

If you or someone you know needs to or is interested in taking a hunter safety or boater safety course, you can find more information at [Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety](https://Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety). Plans for traditional courses that would take place at the OAC are being worked on and will be posted at a later date.

## Friend Fridays: Paddle Boarding

July 30, 6:30-8 p.m.

Bring your friends for an introduction to stand-up paddle boarding and an evening on the beautiful beach of Belle Isle! Participants will have the opportunity to try 45 minutes of paddle boarding and another 45 minutes of beach games and sunset relaxation. Please bring your own towel and water bottle.

Instruction and equipment provided by Riverside Kayak Connection. Meet at Belle Isle Park. A Recreation Passport is required to enter the park.

Must be 18 or older. FEE: \$16 per person. Preregistration required.

[Register for Friend Fridays Paddle Boarding.](#)

## Friend Fridays: Kayaking

Aug. 13 6:30-8 p.m.

Friends 18 and older, join us for an introduction to kayaking and an evening on the beautiful canals of Belle Isle. Instruction and equipment provided by Riverside Kayak Connection. Meet at the Flynn Pavilion on Belle Isle Park. A Recreation Passport is required to enter the park.

Must be 18 or older. FEE: \$16 per person. Preregistration required.

[Register for Friend Fridays Kayaking.](#)

## Honey Harvest

Saturday, Aug. 14, 1-2 p.m.

This presentation will share the basics of how bees make honey and the process beekeepers use to harvest that honey. You will have the option to purchase honey to take home.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

## Thrilling Thursdays Are Back!

Our family-friendly free evening of fun is back on Thursday nights! We will offer free admission from 6 to 8 p.m. for all our visitors. Each event will feature a specific topic with special programs, plus guests will enjoy all the regular exhibits at the Outdoor Adventure Center. When you visit, you can also earn digital badges through Detroit Public TV's Digital Adventure Program.

### [July 29 – Meet the New OAC Crew in the Critter Room!](#)

We have some new education "staff" - the cold-blooded kind! Come meet the live animals who will be assisting staff with education programs, doing their part as ambassadors for Michigan's wildlife!

Educators will be in the Critter Room to interact with guests and answer questions.

Fee: complimentary admission.

## Aug. 5 – OAC Art Inspirations

Bring your best artistic self to join us for an evening of OAC-inspired art! We will provide paper, pencils, colored pencils, markers, and crayons for each participant to create an art piece that reflects the displays, themes, images and/or mission of the Outdoor Adventure Center. Completed artwork will be displayed for public viewing within the OAC.

Fee: complimentary admission.

## Aug. 19 – Fishing the Detroit River

Join us to try your luck right here at Milliken State Park! We'll provide gear, bait, and assistance while you enjoy an evening of fishing on the river. Participants 17 and older require a fishing license in order to fish. Learn more at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://www.michigan.gov/DNRLicenses). Fishing poles will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Fee: complimentary admission.

## Room Rentals: Spotlight on Our Meeting and Event Space

Did you know you can have an event at the Outdoor Adventure Center? Of course, you did! What about the entire OAC building for your private event? Well, you can! Give your guests that V.I.P. treatment by renting out the entire OAC for your next meeting, wedding, family reunion, etc.

Included with your rental:

- The entire building open to your guests only (during non-operational hours).
- All event and meeting spaces.
- All exhibits and simulated rides.
- OAC staff during your entire event.
- Tables and chairs set to your specifications.
- All the audio-visual equipment in our collection.

Let us know how we can make your event an adventure. Please contact our promotional agent, Jackie Hoskins at 844-622-6367 or email [DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov) for more information on future bookings or to arrange a site visit of the event spaces at the Outdoor Adventure Center. All bookings subject to current COVID-19 safety restrictions.

## Behind the Scenes at the OAC

### Let's Be Friends!

We all have our certain circles of friends that we enjoy spending time with for a variety of activities. You have friends that you go to the park with, friends that you go fishing with, and friends that you grab dinner with over the weekend. But what is a "friends group" relative to the Outdoor Adventure Center, or our state parks?

According to the DNR's website: Friends groups are nonprofit organizations that play an invaluable role in helping to protect Michigan state parks and recreation areas. Friends support these locations in a variety of ways, including fundraising, recruiting volunteers, leading restoration projects and providing educational programming for the public.

Meet the Friends of the Outdoor Adventure Center!

The framework for this friends group came together in September 2017, and the group has since obtained its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. The following are the inaugural members who have served and are serving as leaders in this friends group: Harvey "Chip" Amoe – Henry Ford Health System, Kevin Vettraino – SEMCOG,

Angela Ayers - Ford Motor Co., Carter Bundy – (formerly Rocket Fiber), Charlie DeVries – (formerly ITC Michigan) and Andrea LaFontaine – Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. This group's first project was the newly installed donor recognition wall. From planning and design to installation, they worked with local Detroit artists, Erik and Israel Nordin of Detroit Design Center, to create an art installation that combines donor recognition, the tenants of the OAC, and an illuminating educational experience for OAC guests.

If you are passionate about the Outdoor Adventure Center and want to lend your expertise to this dynamic group of individuals, we invite you to join us! For more information, please contact [FriendsOfTheOAC@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfTheOAC@gmail.com).

## OAC Reopens

As we prepare to reopen, we are hard at work on two new additions to the OAC.

The first is our long-awaited donor wall. We have been blessed with wonderful partners who helped create the original exhibits. We have a long list of exhibit enhancements and additions we would like to provide for our guests and our friends group will be instrumental in guiding our growth. The first project for the friends group is our new donor wall which will have a grand reveal the week of our reopening.

This wall was created by Detroit artists, Erik and Israel Nordin of Detroit Design Center. This wall was created to represent the natural beauty of Michigan and includes representations of the city of Detroit, the Detroit River, the forests of Michigan, night skies and just a peak of a sunrise.

Constellations are also represented, and the donor wall does double duty as a place to learn more about Michigan's outdoors. A full wall is devoted to this new installation, which includes work in wood, steel and glass. Donors are represented by various trees, and we are looking to "grow our forest" with new friends and partners.

To find out more about the artists who created our wall, visit [DetroitDesignCenter.com](http://DetroitDesignCenter.com).

We can't wait for guests to be able to visit and enjoy this beautiful representation of our state and the city and all that is great about the outdoors!

## Recreation Passport

### Cost/Where to Purchase/Details

PLEASE NOTE: As of March 1, 2020, the Recreation Passport vehicle entry fee increased to \$12 due to a statutory provision to adjust the fee based upon the Consumer Price Index.

- Vehicles: \$12 when purchased with your license plate registration renewal through the Secretary of State
- Vehicles: \$17 when purchased at state parks, \*DNR customer service centers (cash or checks only) or at the Secretary of State outside your license plate registration renewal cycle. (Recreation Passport fee + \$5 convenience fee = \$17).
- Motorcycles: \$6 when purchased with your license plate registration renewal through the Secretary of State.
- Motorcycles: \$11 (\$6 passport fee, plus \$5 convenience fee) when purchased at state parks and \*DNR customer service centers (cash or checks only) or at the Secretary of State outside your license plate registration renewal cycle.
- Moped: \$6 when purchased at state parks.
- Commercial daily pass \$17 when purchased at state parks (24k+ pounds and/or seating capacity of 16+).

- A resident Recreation Passport cannot be purchased online.
- The purchase of a separate Recreation Passport is required for any hitched or unhitched towed vehicles.

The option to purchase passports at DNR customer service centers is temporarily unavailable. You can still purchase passports in person at state parks and recreation areas.

The \$5 convenience fee will not be applied to purchases made at/for:

- Belle Isle Park.
- Non-street-legal vehicles at the Silver Lake State Park ORV area.
- Non-annual renewing vehicles (i.e., historical/authentic, street-legal moped, tribal government, dealer, temporary, manufacture, non-profit organization (Y) plates).
- mopeds (a moped Recreation Passport is not available for purchase at the Secretary of State, so the \$5 convenience fee does not apply).
- Commercial vehicles.

Thank you for supporting your state parks by purchasing your Recreation Passport and by visiting our beautiful state parks.

## OAC Refund Policy

### OAC Programs

To receive a refund for a class, program or special event, you must contact the OAC by email at [DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov) at least three (3) business days prior to the event date. This allows us to place persons on a waiting list in your spot. Without this timely notice, a refund is not available.

### Room Rentals

Fifty percent of your rental fee will be refunded up to three months prior to your event date. If you cancel within 90 days of your event, you will forfeit your payment. However, you will receive the \$500 security deposit. Fees are nontransferrable.

### Contractual Programs (bookings with partner organizations)

To receive a refund for a class, program or special event, you must contact the OAC by email at [DNR-OAC@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@michigan.gov) at least three (3) business days prior to the event date. This allows us to place persons on a waiting list in your spot. Without this timely notice, a refund is not available.

1801 Atwater Street  
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Visit [Michigan.gov/OAC](http://Michigan.gov/OAC) and click on “About Us” and look for the red envelope to sign up.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state’s natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to [Michigan.gov/DNR](http://Michigan.gov/DNR).