

White Lake Twp. Parks & Recreation

Highland State Recreation Area: located in both White Lake and Highland Townships. The main entrance is on Highland Road but the park that was once called Dodge Park 10 is now part of Highland Rec and has an entrance on Pettibone Lake Road. Highland Rec has a history tied into the area's once thriving automobile industry. Beginning in 1923, Edsel Ford anonymously purchased land to build a country retreat for his family in an area that was originally called Heaven Hill. The name was changed to Haven Hill and that is how it is still referred to today. His widow, Eleanor, sold the land to the State of Michigan in 1946. Some of the Ford buildings still stand and are being preserved and refurbished by a very dedicated group called Friends of Highland Recreation Area. Visit their website www.FOHR.A.org for more information on the history and the restoration.

In the 1920's, Howard Bloomer persuaded the Dodge Motor Company to donate 11 parcels of land to the State to be preserved for park use. Dodge Park 10, referenced above, was located in Highland Township.

Bloomer Park: located on McKeachie Road. It was previously owned by the State but was purchased by White Lake Twp., developed for use and opened in 2013. The park is named after Howard Bloomer who has a very generous history of getting involved in land preservation for park use in Michigan that includes the land he persuaded the Dodge Brothers to donate and his own 211 acre donation. His story is worth further reading.

Indian Springs Metro Park: located at 5200 Indian Trail, White Lake, 48386 (off of White Lake Road). It is one of 13 parks owned by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority which was organized by Oakland, Livingston, Macomb, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties in 1942.

Hess-Hathaway: This 165 acre park is actually located in and owned by Waterford Twp. It was a donation of farm land property, Lone Cedar Farm, by Mrs. Myrtle Hess to both White Lake and Waterford Townships and includes a historic farm house. It is operated by Waterford Twp. Parks and Recreation Dept. and is located on Williams Lake Road.

Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area: With entrances on Teggerdine, Williams Lake and Gale Roads, this is another beautiful State Park that White Lake residents have to enjoy for hiking, biking, camping, trail riding and more. Since 1999, Pontiac Lake has been the location of Quake on the Lake, competitive inboard hydroplane racing held annually in July.

Time spent in these parks allows one to imagine what the area may have felt like to the Native Americans and the early settlers to this area.

There are also two community parks, Ferdinand C. Vetter Park and Judy Hawley Park located at the Dublin Community Senior Center and the Township offices respectively as well as Hidden Pines Baseball Field on White Lake Road.