THE NATURAL HISTORY OF OAKLAND COUNTY: *CONNECTIONS TO OUR PARKS*

Oakland County was once under a mile of ice

For almost **2 million years**, Oakland County was intermittently covered by as much as a mile of ice during a time known as the **Pleistocene era**.





Detroit Renaissance Center

At times, the **weight and pressure** of accumulating ice and snow caused glaciers to advance south across the landscape. When temperatures would increase, the glaciers would retreat back north.



Grateful for Glaciers

When glaciers advanced and retreated, the ice scraped up soil and rock, scouring the land like a giant sheet of sandpaper. Then as the ice melted, it left scraped up soil and rock in piles, **shaping the landscape we see today**.



Mammoths in Oakland County

During the Pleistocene era, many enormous animals lived in Oakland County. Some of these animals included the woolly **mammoth, mastodon and giant beaver.**

Woolly mammoth
Mammuthus primigenius

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

OAKLAND COUNTY'S

NATURAL HISTORY

IN OUR BACKYARD

Remnants from the Ice Age

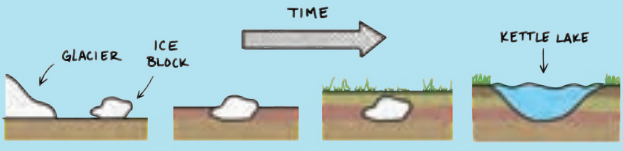
There are many things we pass by in our day-to-day lives that are pieces of evidence that glaciers were here. Listed below are some markers that could be found in your own backyard.

Kettle Lakes

Many of Oakland County's lakes are kettle lakes. Kettle lakes were created when large blocks of ice fell off a glacier and were completely buried by glacial debris. As the buried ice melted, a hole was formed that filled with water.



Walled Lake
Michigan





Glacial Erratics

Glacial erratics are large pieces of bedrock that have been transported by glaciers and deposited in a new location. Oakland County Parks has many trailside glacial erratics, such as this one located along the **Independence Oaks Rockridge Trail**.

Michigan Puddingstones

Puddingstones were not originally found in Michigan and were brought here by glaciers from Canada.





Prehistoric Plants

Some tree and shrub species in Oakland County such as **honey locust, hawthorn and American plum**, developed sharp spines to protect themselves from Pleistocene mega-fauna. These tree and shrub species can be found at **Rose Oaks, Highland Oaks, and Red Oaks county parks**.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS
OaklandCountyParks.com

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