

**Oct. 29, 2018**  
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**Free platform tennis clinic offered at Waterford Oaks County Park**

**OAKLAND COUNTY** – Just because the weather has turned colder doesn't mean the tennis racquets have to go into storage. Platform tennis is a great alternative to traditional racquet sports and one that can be played all winter long.

Learn more about platform tennis during a free clinic from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8 at Waterford Oaks County Park, 1702 Scott Lake Road in Waterford. Instruction will be provided by the Waterford Paddle Club.

This clinic is an opportunity to "test drive" platform tennis and learn about play from local residents who are platform tennis enthusiasts.

"Platform tennis is a great way to stay physically active during the colder winter months. It's also a great way to meet new people and socialize," Jeremy Brown, assistant park supervisor, Waterford Oaks County Park, said.

Platform tennis is a fantastic family sport that is easy to learn. With lighted courts that include heated platform surfaces designed to remove ice and snow, it is the only racquet sport that players can enjoy outdoors in winter weather conditions because after the snow is removed, the courts' special floor heating units provide a dry playing surface.

The game is played on an elevated aluminum deck that is one-quarter the size of a regulation tennis court. Rules vary slightly from traditional tennis as a 12-foot high, taut 16-gauge "chicken wire" fence allows play off the walls, similar to racquetball or squash.

Extra equipment will be available during the clinic for first-time players or those who do not have their own paddles or paddle balls. No pre-registration is necessary, but participants should dress for the weather and wear tennis shoes. No previous experience is needed and all ages are welcome.

Information on platform tennis memberships will also be available during the clinic. An individual or family membership, which covers the cost of the lights, heaters and access to the warming building, is required to play. There is no additional charge for court time.

Platform tennis season is October-April and is split into two halves: October to mid-January and mid-January to April. Half-season trial memberships are also available for those new to the sport.

For more information, call Jay Reynolds at 248-645-9671, Betsy Hodges at 248-892-0580 or Oakland County Parks and Recreation at 248-858-0916.

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