



Portage Park District

August 2018 Newsletter

Meet your summer intern

OU senior Allie Molnar interning with PPD

Allie is a senior Outdoor Recreation and Education student from Ohio University.



She loves hiking and paddling and anything involving dogs! Allie fell in love with the outdoors while on the Kenston High School Outwest Field Experience trip, where students hiked and camped in many different parks out west. She has traveled to Costa Rica and various parts of North Carolina through Ohio University to learn about ecotourism and outdoor leadership. She also spent a summer working in Alaska as a wilderness trip leader for a Girl Scout camp.

Her main goals of the internship are to help promote community engagement and usage of the parks and to inspire younger kids to spend more time outside! Some of her major projects include: Park Rx, community engagement and education.

Favorite color: forest green

Favorite National Park: Grand Tetons National Park, Wyoming

Fun fact: I had a snowball fight on top of an active volcano!

"Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean." ~John Muir

This Issue

[Bioblitz](#)

[Butterfly hike](#)

[Wild Hikes](#)

Volunteers needed

Parade walkers needed

Come walk with us in the Ravenna Balloon A-Fair parade (9/15) or the Brimfest Parade (9/22). No special skills needed!

[Email Andrea](#) for more information.

In our parks

Public planning of two parks

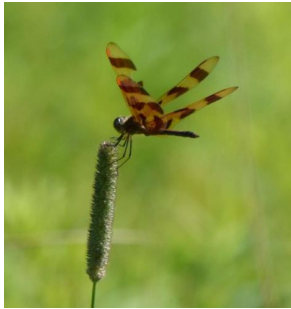
Participate in the planning process for new properties, Tinkers Creek Greenway and Kent Bog Expansion.

[Complete our online survey here.](#)

In the parks

July Bioblitz at Morgan Park

On July 18, 2018 a bioblitz was conducted at Portage Park District's Morgan Park, in Shalersville Township. This one day event aimed to document as many species as possible within the park. This event served as the annual field day for the Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity (LEAP). Nearly 40 participants attended, hailing from over a dozen different conservation agencies, along with Portage Park District volunteers and staff.



Many of the participants' lists have yet to be submitted, but so far we have confirmed over 300 species were documented during the event. This number is sure to grow as we receive additional data. All in attendance agreed that Morgan Park is truly a remarkable resource with highly intact ecological communities

represented by very rich species diversity.

These events are invaluable to Portage Park District's management of natural resources. Knowing as much as possible about what we have in our parks allows us to make the best decisions in how we manage and develop our parks. Partnerships such as LEAP ensure that we are working in harmony with our conservation agencies in our ecological region. Get to know more about LEAP by visiting leapbio.org.

Programming

Butterfly Hike at Towner's Woods

Saturday, August 19

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Towner's Woods

2264 Ravenna Rd. Kent, OH 44240

Judy Semroc and Larry Rosche of the Cleveland Natural History Museum will be your guides on this fun and informative hike on the Butterfly Trail at Towner's Woods. Butterfly nets, ID booklets and catch boxes will be available for your use as we identify, count and record our butterfly and moth findings. All ages are welcome, dress for the weather and be prepared with sunscreen, brimmed hat and water-it will be hot with unshaded parts on the trail. Restrooms on site.

Note: We understand not all guests will want to stay the whole time, please feel free to leave whenever you need to. Length of hike-approx. 1.5 miles total, strollers ok on

Tour des Trees visited Towner's Woods for a tree blessing on Aug. 1.

[Learn more](#) about how this organization is raising funds to research solutions to problems like Beech leaf disease.

Listen to ID sounds in the parks

Lisa Rainsong records birdsong, insect song and amphibian song. [Learn more](#) about her work.

Foundation News



Headwaters Adventure Race Results

Overall Male Winners:

First Place: Mike Foley
Second Place: Vincent Elia
Third Place: Shawn Bruderly

Overall Female Winners:

First Place: Lydia Wallbrown
Second Place: Emmalisa Kennedy
Third Place: Isabel Farnsworth

[Click here to see the full results and photos](#)

Local events

Perils of Plastic

August 14
6:15-8:30pm
Register by August 7th

asphalt trail-Butterfly trail is a natural surface

Meet at Towner's Woods parking lot, walk east on the Portage Hike & Bike Trail to the Butterfly Trail and back.

[Click here to register for the hike!](#)

This allows us to alert you to any changes due to weather, etc.



[For more information click here](#)

Kayak Instructional Classes

Breakaway Excursions
August 16
1/2 price for Portage County residents

[For more information click here](#)

Portage County Fair

August 21-26

[For more information click here](#)

Wild Hikes Challenge 2018 - Year of the American Beech

The theme for 2018 is the year of the American Beech to celebrate the role of this keystone species of our eastern Ohio forests, and to bring awareness to the leaf disease that has begun to affect the species in northeast Ohio.



To participate, just walk, hike, skip, jog, run or stroll on 8 of the following trails before December 31st to earn a hiking staff (1st year) and/or a 2018 Wild Hikes medallion. **[Start your challenge today!](#)**

Portage Park District | 330-297-7728 | admin@portageparkdistrict.org |
705 Oakwood Street, Suite G-4 | Ravenna, OH 44266

Visit our website | portageparkdistrict.org

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