



Portage Park District

January 2018 Newsletter

Property Acquisitions

Nearly 200 acres permanently conserved in Portage County through partnership

Portage Park District and the nonprofit Western Reserve Land Conservancy have permanently conserved nearly 200 acres in Portage County.

The organizations partnered in leveraging grant funds to permanently protect 189 acres of high quality natural areas in the City of Streetsboro, an area under continued development pressure. The project, referred to as the Tinkers Creek Greenway, is comprised of two separate tracts of land: 59-acres acquired by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy then transferred to the Portage Park District, and 130 acres acquired directly by the Portage Parks, who will develop and manage it as a public park.

"The Streetsboro project builds upon a corridor of nearly 300 acres of conservation land in the immediate area, including The Nature Conservancy's Evans R. Beck Memorial Nature Preserve, Ohio Department of Natural Resource's Gott Fen State Nature Preserve, the City of Streetsboro's Wilcox Park, and more," noted Chris Szell, director of conservation project management for the Land Conservancy. He added, "Within one mile of the property, you'll find an additional 495 acres of preserved land."

As with many park and conservation projects, the partners pulled in funding from multiple sources. The Land Conservancy's tract was generously funded by the Ohio EPA through the Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP), with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), being the sponsor in this case. The OEPA funds were used as local match for the Portage Park's Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant, along

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Trail tales



Do you have a Trail Tale?

Send us your stories, photos, or videos and we will feature them in this column and occasionally share on our website or social media. You can choose to share your name or remain anonymous. Send your stories to [Andrea](#).

Important dates

with funds from its voter-approved levy. The landowners even helped out by selling the property at below market value.

"This project provides tremendous value to the community-by protecting rare and important ecosystems, protecting water quality, mitigating stormwater and creating a beautiful new public park for all to enjoy", remarked Christine Craycroft, Executive Director of Portage Park District. Over the next year the park district will be inviting the public to participate in planning for the new park site which includes woods, fields, wetlands and a 30-acre spring-fed lake, previously used as a commercial fishery. Possible opportunities listed by Craycroft include hiking, fishing, kayaking, picnicking, primitive camping and educational programming. The public can stay up to date on the planning process by visiting the park district's website. [Read full press release here.](#)



Volunteer Orientation

Portage Park District is holding volunteer orientations in January

Wednesday, January 17, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 27, 10-11 a.m.

**Location: 705 Oakwood St. (Community Room 101)
Ravenna, OH 44266**

Individuals who are interested in volunteering in 2018 will need to have a volunteer application on file with Portage Park District and attend an orientation. During orientation we will review the volunteer handbook, policies and procedures and how to sign up for volunteer opportunities. We are looking for a variety of volunteers. To review descriptions of opportunities [click here.](#)



**Our offices are closed
on these dates:**

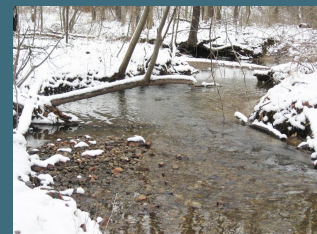
Jan. 15 - MLK Day

Feb. 19 - President's Day

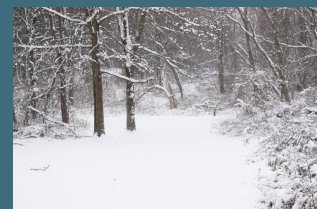
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*Shaw Woods Working
Lands Park*



Towner's Woods



Morgan Park

If you would like to attend an orientation - email Andrea at ametzler@portageparkdistrict.org with the date you would like to attend.

Please complete an online volunteer application before attending. [You may do that here.](#)

Winter Activities

Snow much fun at Portage Park District

Just because it's winter, doesn't mean you can't still enjoy the outdoors! Here is a list of locations where you can partake in some snowy activities.



Dix Park

The PORTAGE Hike and Bike Trail

Headwaters Trail

Berlin Lake Trail



Towner's Woods

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!**

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Visit our website | portageparkdistrict.org