



Portage Park District

March 2018 Newsletter

Morgan Park development

Burton D. Morgan Foundation grant awarded to Portage Park District

The Burton D. Morgan Foundation has awarded a grant of \$65,900 to Portage Park District Foundation for the continued development of the 504-acre Morgan Park in Shalersville Township.

Through this grant, the Meadow Loop Trail at Morgan Park will be made handicap accessible. Additionally, signage and small butterfly gardens will be installed. The Park District plans to install a restroom at Morgan Park in 2018 and benches along the trail.

"We're honored to have the continued support of the Burton D. Morgan Foundation to improve access for all to enjoy this beautiful landscape and learn about our local ecosystems," stated Portage Park District Executive Director Christine Craycroft. "For a small park district these kinds of public-private partnerships are especially critical; we greatly appreciate Mr. Morgan's legacy and the Foundation's excellent staff for bringing it to fruition."

To read the full press release, [visit our website](#). To learn more about the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, [click here](#).

Guided hike program

Come explore at Dix Park

This Issue

[Guided hike at Dix Park](#)

[Foundation news](#)

[Wild Hikes](#)

Now Hiring

Seasonal Opportunities

Maintenance Worker I
Seasonal full time

Natural Areas
Technician
Seasonal full time

[Click here for full position description and instructions to apply](#)

Important Dates





Join our volunteer naturalist, Leann on a guided hike at Dix park on Saturday, March 10 at 9 a.m. to learn more about the history of the land and the species that call it home. [Sign up here](#) to save your spot and be alerted of any changes.

Foundation news

Headwaters Adventure Race

July 14, 8 a.m.
Buchert Park



Registration is open for the Headwaters Adventure Race in Mantua. The race features a two mile run on the Headwaters Trail, a scenic 10 mile bike ride and a five mile paddle on the Cuyahoga River. Funds raised will benefit the Portage Park District Foundation in their efforts to support the Portage Park District. [Click here](#) to sign up.

Environmental Awards Dinner

April 28, 5:30-9 p.m.
Kent American Legion Hall
1945 Mogadore Rd., Kent, OH 44240

Nominations are now being accepted for the Environmental Conservation Awards. Nominations should include the nominee's name, contact information and a paragraph describing their contribution to Portage County's environmental conservation. Visit the Portage Park District's [website](#) to download a nomination form. Send form to Portage Park District Foundation, 705 Oakwood St., Suite G-4, Ravenna, OH 44266 or by email to portageparkdistrictfoundation@gmail.com.

Wildlife spotlight

The History of Snowshoe Hares in Ohio

Volunteer

Orientation

March 7
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Portage Trail Walkers Hike

April 7
9 a.m.

[Get more information](#)

Earth Day

Volunteer Event

April 21
Time tbd

Environmental Awards Dinner

April 28
5:30 - 9 p.m.

Headwaters

Adventure Race

July 14
Race begins at 8 a.m.



Owlbert prepping for a busy season of events

Photo challenge

Can you find the following on your next hike?

- Budding trees
- Sprouting plants
- Sunrise over water

Join our photography volunteers and share your pictures with Portage Park District!
[Find out more here.](#)

Project FeederWatch

They may not lay brightly colored eggs for Easter, but snowshoe hares have had an interesting history in northeast Ohio. Once found in the snowy Great Lakes region, snowshoe hares disappeared in Ohio by the early 1900s. Much of the blame for the disappearances is placed on hunting and deforestation which left the hares without a home.



Picture from ODNR
Division of Wildlife

Where does the Snowshoe hare get its name?

These hares love the snow and have adapted to have large, wide feet that act as snowshoes to help them run fast in snowy climates. Their pure white fur keeps them camouflaged in the winter. As the days get longer and the weather warms up, a snowshoe hare's fur will gradually turn brown to match its surroundings.

What is the difference between hares and rabbits?

Unlike the common eastern cottontail rabbit, hares will be larger in size and have longer legs and ears. Hare young are known as precocial, meaning that the young are born ready to be independent and are able to leave the nest just hours after birth. Rabbits, however, are considered altricial. Their young are born blind, helpless and needing constant care.



Eastern cottontail
rabbit track

Where are they now?

From 1953 to 1959 the Ohio Department of Natural Resources attempted to reintroduce 604 snowshoe hares in Ashtabula county but ultimately failed. Another attempt was made from 2000 to 2007 and showed signs of successful breeding. The snowshoe hare is listed as an endangered species in Ohio and has populations in surrounding states.

To find out more about the snowshoe hare, check out [ODNR Division of Wildlife](#) and [Cleveland Museum of Natural History](#)



Cardinal Chickadee
by Bob Vuxinic
(Project FeederWatch)

Learn about winter birds at [Project FeederWatch](#)

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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!**

