



# Portage Park District

## May 2018 Newsletter

### May Flowers

#### Where to see wildflowers

April showers have brought May flowers! Now that spring is finally here, it is the perfect time to get outside and look at what is blooming. Check out these three parks and learn about the spring wildflowers that grow there.

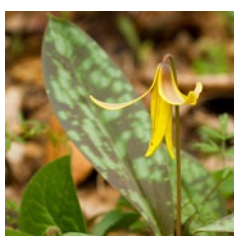
#### Dix Park

Large White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*): Ohio's state wildflower. Look for the iconic three leaves and petals. White trillium will slowly turn to a pink hue as they age. Trilliums have a long life span: some have been reported to live up to 25 years.



Another common name for the Trillium is Wake Robin.

#### Shaw Woods



Picture from ODNR

Yellow Trout-lily (*Erythronium americanum*): This bloom marks the beginning of spring and thousands of tiny plants can cover the forest ground. Look for the yellow, downward facing bloom and mottled green and brown leaves.

This plant is also known as Dog's Tooth Violet, although it is not a true violet.

### This Issue

[National Bike month](#)

[Trending](#)

[Environmental Awards Dinner](#)

[Wild Hikes](#)

### Annual Report

Our 2017 Annual Report is complete!

[Click here](#) to download a copy of the report.

### Important Dates



### Volunteer Bike and Pedestrian Count

May 20  
2 - 4 p.m.

**National Trails Day**  
June 2

## Towner's Woods

Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*): Keep an eye out for this small flower. These flowers can cover the forest floor and hide in the leaf litter. The blooms will only open with sunshine and will have five petals with small pink and white stripes. This plant is also commonly called Fairy Spud for its small, potato-like root.



Picture from ODNR

Learn more about Ohio's spring wildflowers [here](#)

## National Bike month

May is National Bike month. AMATS National Bike-To-Work week takes place May 14-18 and is an initiative to showcase the many benefits of cycling. Participants can enter to win a one night stay at the Hilton Garden Inn in Akron. For more information on how to enter, click [here](#).



To help celebrate Bike month look for commissioner Tom Hrdy's Green Portage article in the Record Courier about cycling in Portage County. Check out past Green Portage articles [here](#).

## Trending

### Plogging



Plogging is the new fitness trend that keeps you and the environment healthy. A combination of the Swedish words "plocka upp" (meaning 'pick up') and jogging, this exercise involves running and picking up litter at the same time. The exercise is simple, all that is needed is running gear and a trash bag.

First becoming popular in Europe, the trend has now spread to the United States and ploggers everywhere are doing their part for their health and their community.

Start taking action and start plogging! [Learn more here](#).

## Foundation News

### 2018 Environmental Conservation Dinner

Saturday over 300 people (the highest attendance to date) gathered to celebrate the awardees for the Portage Park District Foundation's Environmental Conservation Awards Dinner. The evening was filled with wonderful community members dedicated to the conservation of Portage County. Attendees enjoyed

## Headwaters

### Adventure Race

July 14

Race begins at 8 a.m.

[Register here](#)

## In the news

KSU Journalism student, Julie Riedel, visited us in April for an interview project.

[Click here](#) to read and listen to her interview with Christine Craycroft, Bob Lange, Andrea Metzler, and Miranda Linscott. Nice job Julie and thank you!

## Local events

### Richard Louv lecture and book signing

May 4

Cleveland Botanical Garden

5:30 p.m.

\$15 for lecture ticket

Author of the best-seller *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv is coming to speak on the importance of nature in the lives of young and old.

[Register and learn more here](#).

### AMATS Bike-to-work week

May 14-18

Enter the Bike-to-work week challenge for a chance to win a one night stay at the Hilton Garden Inn in Akron.

[Find out how to enter here](#).

### Kent River Day

May 20

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appetizers and dinner, a silent auction and the presentation of awards to those being honored.

### Award Winners:

- Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University - Environmental Education
- Ted and Swanny Voneida - Environmental Activism
- Lynn Gregor - Environmental Stewardship
- Portage County Beekeepers - Environmental Stewardship
- Mantaline Corporation - Green Business
- Kent Natural Foods - Green Building/Development
- Helen Gregory - Lifetime Achievement
- David Dix - Lifetime Achievement
- Christine Craycroft - Kent Environmental Council Edith Chase Award for Conservation
- Honor Roll for Land Conservation
  - Jerry and Jen Vydra - Edinburg Township
  - Walt Carrington - Palmyra Township

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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!**

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