



photo credit\_ Brad Bolton



# Portage Park District

## December 2020 Newsletter

### In the parks

#### Meet a Royal Fisher

**Author: Jennifer White, education program coordinator**



**Belted Kingfisher - photo credit Donna Beery**

If you have paddled the Upper Cuyahoga River or walked along the path at [Trail Lake Park](#), you are likely already familiar with the impressive Belted Kingfisher. Personally, this charismatic predator is on my list of favorite birds to watch. You'll likely hear its loud, rattling call before you see it, but that glimpse is unforgettable.

### This Issue

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### Winter Activity Ideas

We've created a calendar with 31 awesome winter activities for you to enjoy!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 For more information and instructions on activities visit <a href="#">portageparkdist.org</a> . Things to do page.	2 Make a snowman.	3 Go out and get a bag of leaves from Woods.	4 Take a walk with a friend from Trail Lake.	5 Go to the park and see the snow.	6 Go to the park and see the snow.	7 Go to the park and see the snow.
8 Watch a winter sports event.	9 Identify animal tracks.	10 Make a photo book for your family.	11 Check out the new snow.	12 Enjoy a snowed out day.	13 Go to the park and see the snow.	14 Go to the park and see the snow.
15 Make a snow angel.	16 Take a winter photo walk.	17 Create a winter photo book.	18 Go to the park and see the snow.	19 Make a snowman.	20 Go to the park and see the snow.	21 Go to the park and see the snow.
22 Go to the park and see the snow.	23 Go to the park and see the snow.	24 Go to the park and see the snow.	25 Go to the park and see the snow.	26 Go to the park and see the snow.	27 Go to the park and see the snow.	28 Go to the park and see the snow.
29 Go to the park and see the snow.	30 Go to the park and see the snow.	31 Go to the park and see the snow.	32 Go to the park and see the snow.	33 Go to the park and see the snow.	34 Go to the park and see the snow.	35 Go to the park and see the snow.

Click to visit our website and download

Check out our [remote education page](#) to download a calendar and get additional activity information.

Kingfishers have a large head and impressive sharp bill that seems out of proportion to its robin-sized body. The Belted Kingfisher is one of a few bird species in which the female is more brightly colored than the male. The female has a bright chestnut-colored band across the chest that the males lacks. [Read more here.](#)

## Park staff

### Happy 5-year Anniversary

Congratulations to Natural Areas Steward Bob Lange, who completed five years of service with Portage Park District this fall. We are fortunate to have Bob's wide range of skills, from GIS mapping and natural resources assessments to on-the ground resource management, including killing non-native invasive species, controlled burns and planting native meadows and forest, while mentoring his staff of Natural Area Technicians. Bob is a park professional who always get the job done well, with good humor and dedication to the park district mission-thanks Bob!

### Changing of the Guard

When our Chief Ranger Doug Shepard decided to cut back to just one full time job (as Chief Ranger for Summit Metro Parks), we were fortunate to attract back our former part-time ranger Zachary Steele to serve as our new full time Chief Ranger. Zach is a wonderful addition to our team, with a degree in Fish Management and experience as a ranger for Sum mit



Metro Parks and a police officer for Bedford Heights Police Department. Zach will be patrolling all of our parks, enforcing the laws of the State and Park District rules, while also assisting with fish

management and programming.

Many thanks to former Chief Shepard for his invaluable support in establishing the Park District's Ranger Department while building rapport with the public, and a big welcome back to Chief Steele to carry on the work of ensuring our parks are safe, secure and enjoyed by all.

## Portage Park District Foundation

**New items to promote our beautiful parks!**

## Things to Do

### Park Pop-Ups

Stop by our table for a socially distanced visit with park staff. Registration is preferred.

### Trail Lake Park

Dec. 2, 3-5 p.m.

Register [here](#)

Turn in your Wild Hikes forms at this pop up! We will have medallions and hiking staffs on hand.

**Bring exact cash or check for your donation.**

### Christmas Bird Count

Dec. 19 All Day

The Portage Park District is again partnering with Hiram College for the annual bird count. For more information and to sign up, [click here.](#)

Need help finding one of our parks? [Click here.](#)

## Like us on Facebook



## Follow on Twitter



Check out the Portage Park District Foundation's new posters, postcards and magnets to support your parks! These items all make great gifts for your park friends. What a beautiful way to always remember your favorite parks in Portage County.

An order form for items can be found [here](#).



## Wild Hikes Challenge 2020 - Year of the Owl

2020 ushers in the Year of the Owl for the Portage Park District Wild Hikes Challenge. Our trusty mascot, Owlbert, is particularly excited about this year's theme. Owls are fascinating, mysterious creatures that are abundant in our county.



To participate complete 8 of the following trails before December 31st to earn a hiking staff (1st year) and/or a 2020 Wild Hikes medallion. Forms can be downloaded [here](#).

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