

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter



Bald Eagle at Trail Lake Park, photo credit: Denny Reiser

October 7 | 2021

Greetings!

Are you ready to show off Portage Parks swag for completing your Wild Hikes Challenge or Hoot Scoot? Read on to find out how to participate in these programs and collect your rewards.

Earn your Portage Parks Swag

Wild Hikes

Fall is the perfect time to complete your Wild Hikes Challenge! In 2021, we challenge you to complete 30 hikes or 30 miles in our parks to celebrate our 30th anniversary as a park district. Hikers may also turn in eight hikes as a completed challenge using the same form. Completed challenges earn a 2021 medallion, first-year hikers will also earn a hiking staff, and dogs earn a bandana! Already done with your hikes - but need to

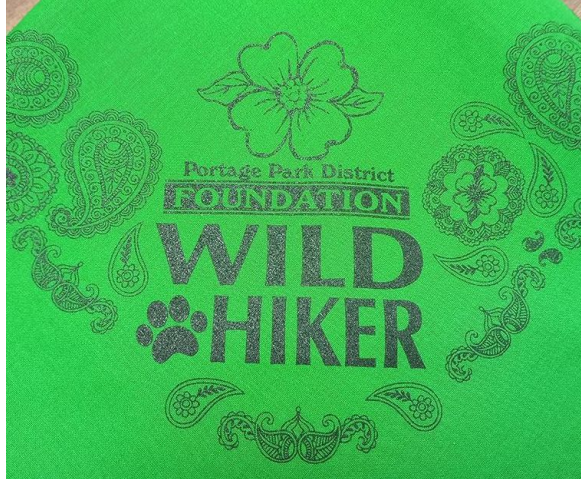
turn in your forms? Check out our [Things to Do page](#) for in-person pick-ups.

Hoot Scoot 5K, 10K Virtual Race

Complete 5k or 10k between Oct. 1-15

Runners and walkers, grab your best shoes and head out to the trails. Running not your thing? You can also walk this virtual race! [Register now](#) - you don't want to miss out on our fun Owlbert socks and wooden race medal!

Check out our newest Park Commissioner, Kurt Ruehr and Owlbert completing their Hoot Scoot [here](#).



In the Parks

Fish Sampling at Trail Lake Park

Author: Bob Lange, Natural Areas Steward

If you were at Trail Lake Park on the morning of September 9, you may have noticed something a little unusual out on the water. The ODNR's Ohio Division of Wildlife was out with their fish sampling unit. Portage Park District has partnered with them in our efforts to responsibly and sustainably manage the fish population in the lake. This unit consists of a small flat bottom boat, a small motor, and electrofishing equipment. Electrofishing emits an electro field out into the water to temporarily stun fish, enabling netting and collection of fish for examination.

For fish sampling at Trail Lake, 3 separate transects about 650 meters long each were sampled for exactly 20 minutes apiece. For each 20-minute effort, only sunfish species were collected in the first 5 minutes, and only black bass species were collected in the final 15 minutes. Throughout the entire 20 minutes, any species of interest aside from black bass and sunfish were also collected. After each transect, the sampling unit was shut down and docked, allowing for identification, measurement, and tallying of individuals by species. Once this process was complete, individuals were returned to the lake in revived condition. [Continue reading...](#)



Your Parks, Your Stories!

Thank you for sharing your stories with us! We were so excited to hear how you are enjoying

YOUR parks. Our park poster winner is **Jennifer Robinson**

Missed the stories - no problem, visit our social media pages to catch up. You can also browse our staff highlights on our [website here](#).

Upcoming Programs



WILD HIKES & HOOT SCOOT REWARDS PICK UPS

photo credit: Matt Keffer

Wild Hikes and Hoot Scoot Reward Pick-Ups

Ready to redeem your Wild Hikes Challenge or pick up your Hoot Scoot rewards?! We've scheduled dates for you to pick up your items in person at the parks! Check out dates on our Things to Do page to see what works best - [view dates now](#).

Our education programs require registration - this helps us keep an optimal staff to participant ratio. Please register for programs you would like to attend! Join us for virtual and in person programs and learn about the natural world around us.

Don't miss out on these awesome programs - see the full calendar - Visit our [Things to Do page](#) to register today!

You can also visit our [YouTube channel](#) to view past programs you missed or want to hear again.



A Log's Life -

You won't look at a fallen log the same after joining us on this hike! Learn why fallen trees and decomposing logs are important to the forest ecosystem. A variety of animals depend on all stages of a tree's life, including this final stage. Come explore with us!

[Register here.](#)



Full Moon Hike -

Join us for a walk under the full Hunter's Moon. The trails will be illuminated by the moonlight if the sky is clear! Enjoy the sights and sounds of an autumn evening.. perhaps we will even hear owls calling! Please dress for the weather and bring a headlamp or flashlight.

[Register here.](#)



Batty About Bats -

Bats are incredibly beneficial flying mammals that are often misunderstood or feared. Join us to learn about some of our local bat species and the good work they do in our communities! We may even spot some flying overhead on our hike.

[Register here.](#)



To participate, download your **Wild Hikes form**, complete 30 hikes or 30 miles before December 31st to earn a hiking staff and/or a 2021 Wild Hikes medallion.

Dogs can earn a green Wild Hiker bandana for the 2021 challenge! Ready to turn in your form? **Visit our website** to find opportunities to pick up your rewards.

[Visit our website](#)

