

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter



Red Admiral Butterfly, Trail Lake Park

August 4 | 2022

Greetings!

We are thrilled to share our latest news with you as YOUR Portage Parks continue to conserve valuable natural spaces in Portage County. If that weren't exciting enough, on August 6 our Nature Play Space and Story Trail will officially open at Dix Park.

And don't miss out on more great summer program highlights from your education team. Find all programs on our [Things to Do page](#).

In the Parks

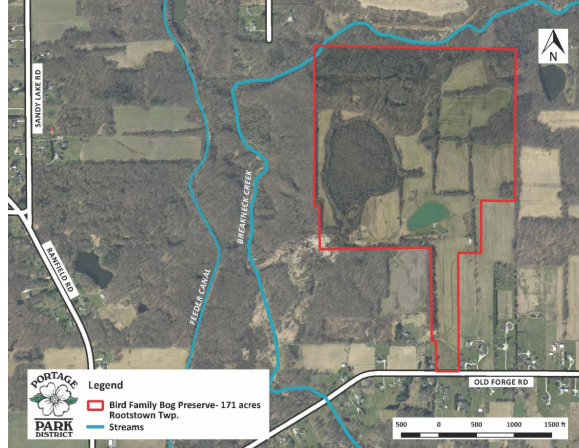
171 Acres Acquired in Rootstown!

The Portage Park District is excited to announce the acquisition of a 171-acre property on Old Forge Road, Rootstown, to be known as the Bird Family Bog Park and Preserve.

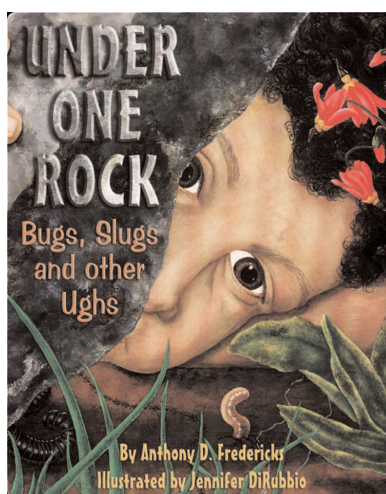
The project was initiated in July 2020 when the real estate listing for a property with a known important bog was discovered. "Knowing that time was of the essence and the Park District

couldn't act as quickly, I contacted Joe Leslie, the Director of Real Estate for West Creek Conservancy on a Sunday and he worked to proceed with the deal," said Christine Craycroft, Executive Director of the Park District. "The owner was excited about the potential to leave a legacy by conserving the land they had loved for years".

The bog had been referenced by biologists in scholarly articles over the decades because of its rarity (only 2% of Ohio's original peatlands remain, concentrated in Northeast Ohio) and the only known occurrence in Ohio of an endangered bog plant. Conservation of the land not only preserves important habitats it reduces the potential for flooding and protects water quality in the Breakneck Creek Watershed, source water for residents and the cities of Kent and Ravenna. The property is adjacent to other preserved property and was also identified in the Park District's Master Plan analysis as being in an area of high park need.



[Read more about this acquisition](#)



Dix Park Opens Family-Focused Amenities! StoryTrail and Nature Play Space open on August 6

Author: Jennifer White

The Portage Park District is thrilled to offer two new family-focused amenities at Dix Park this summer for the community to enjoy! Opening on **August 6** is the Story Trail and Nature Play Space.

Our first story, **Under One Rock**, was chosen by YOU and features all the tiny creatures and treasures that live near or under most rocks! The Story Trail loop is a short 0.16 miles in length – perfect for little legs! Accessible from the Story Trail is the Nature Play Space for unstructured creative nature play.

Special thanks to a dedicated group of our park volunteers that have worked over the past several weeks to prepare the Nature Play Space for opening: Bill Beach, Ann Cartner, Todd Cartner, Ken Christensen, Joe DeFuria, Bill Graham, Diane Graham, Holly Johnson, Emmalisa Kennedy, Nancy Schiappa, Jessica Winchell, Judi Zala, and Marc Gordin. Thanks to Camp Asbury for sharing the large hollow sugar maple tree tunnel and to Independent Tree for providing the wood chips.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Register for Dix Park Open
House

Upcoming Programs



Preserve Peek: Eagle Creek Greenway

We are excited to offer a guided hike to the unopened Eagle Creek Greenway property in Hiram. Preserve Peeks gives participants an opportunity to visit our unopened properties (preserves) and explore with park staff. We will be taking a moderate hike through a section of this beautiful property! **Space is limited.**

[Register to attend](#)

All programs and events can be found on our [Things to Do page](#). Make sure you check out all the great ways to engage with nature!

Our education programs require registration - this helps us keep an optimal staff to participant ratio. Join us and learn about the natural world around us.

Upcoming Senior Hikes:

[Senior Hike - August 11](#)

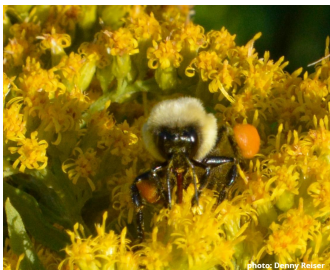
[Senior Hike - August 25](#)

Portage DD Special Olympics Hike Club - open to all ages and abilities:

[Hike Club - August 11](#)

[Hike Club - August 17](#)

Visit our [YouTube channel](#).



Bee Walk-

Did you know that Morgan Park is the Portage County site for the Ohio Bee Survey? Volunteer Pollinator

Specialist, **Bob Heath**, will lead this walk in the meadow at Morgan to meet and learn about the bees that call this park home. You will be amazed at the diversity of bees found at this location!

[Register here.](#)

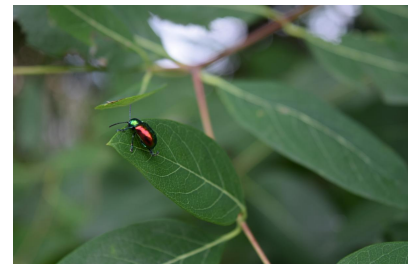


Cooking Demo & Dietician Talk -

Join our Park Rx partners from Sequoia Wellness for a fun evening of cooking demonstrations and nutrition information. Chef Xavier will lead a cooking demonstration followed by a nutrition talk by Sequoia Wellness dieticians.

Space is limited.

[Register here.](#)

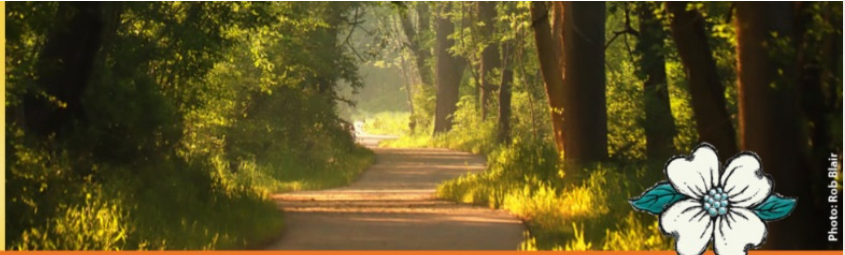


Owlbert's Adventure: Insect Investigation -

Owlbert and friends will investigate what makes an insect an insect while we use butterfly nets and observation jars to view up close and personal! This hands-on program is designed for children ages 3 - 6 to learn about our native insects, and siblings are always welcome to join the fun.

[Register here.](#)

Foundation News



Leave a lasting gift for generations to come!

Portage Park District
FOUNDATION

Help us Reforest YOUR Portage Parks!

The Reforest Portage Parks program is an opportunity for the public to leave a lasting environmental gift in honor or memory of someone special or for themselves. Our children, grandchildren, and future generations will reap the benefits these planted trees offer as they grow and flourish on conserved land.

[Learn more about this program here.](#)

For Fun, for Health, for LIFE! For Generations to come!



Wild Hikes Challenge

To participate, download your [Wild Hikes form](#), and complete hikes before December 31st to earn a hiking staff and/or a 2022 Wild Hikes medallion. Dogs can earn rewards too!

[Visit our website](#) to find more opportunities to pick up your rewards.

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