

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter



Seneca Ponds

June 1, 2023

Greetings!

Now that the unofficial start of summer has past, we can focus on the blue skies and good times ahead of us! June is Great Outdoors Month, and what better way to get outdoors than to explore Portage Park District? Start looking for our very first Summer Program Guide in the mail to plan out all the ways you can use Portage Park District to fill these next few months. From Owlbert's Adventures for the little ones to our popular senior hikes to nature education on a variety of topics, we have something for everyone. We look forward to seeing how you explore your Portage Parks!

Looking forward in June, we start out with a bang by participating in the very first Triple Trail Fest! Our Moth Nights, Happy Heart Hikes, and Ride with a Ranger will continue this month. We also look forward to welcoming Raptor Hallow, who will bring their birds of prey to Towner's Woods!

Explore all programs and register on our [Things to Do page](#).

In the Parks

New Dix Park Pavilion Ribbon Cutting - June 10, 10:30 AM - 2PM

Earlier this year, we put up our very first pavilion at Dix Park! Since then, our Operations and Natural Areas crew have been busy installing grills, putting in native plants, and adding chip and seal to make the path ADA-accessible from the parking lot to the pavilion.

To celebrate, please join us for the ribbon cutting and a day of family-oriented activities on June 10. Guided hikes, scavenger hunts, reading on the Story Book Trail, and having fun in the Nature Play Area are just some of the options for the day!

A big thank you to the Portage Park District Foundation for making this happen! We are grateful for your continued support!

[Register here!](#)



Trail Lake Park Improvements

Trail Lake Park also had some improvements done! You may have noticed a large ADA-accessible area off to the right of the Osprey Trail, which has now been chip and sealed. Picnic tables will be added to make this a beautiful spot to stop and have lunch or hang out with friends. Both this location and the pavilion at Dix Park are available for reservation, currently at no charge!

Consider Natives When Planting

There is no denying that planting natives is best to support local fauna, but a lot of homeowners don't always know where to start. The good news is that you don't have to overhaul your whole yard in order to be a good host to our native pollinators and minimize the amount of invasive species.

OSU offers great resources to get you started. Consider [this webinar series](#) on Native Plants and Every Gardener's Role in Fostering Biodiversity. And [this fun read](#) on Mulch Volcanos.



If you are interested in sharing your gardening

expertise, Portage Park District is opening a new Garden Ambassador role! We would love your help beautifying and maintaining the beds at Oakwood Street, Trail Lake, and Dix Park. Email Education Outreach Specialist [Becca Rodhe](#) to learn more.



Junior Ranger Program - You Can Still Join!

Chief Ranger Kevin Nietert and Ranger Michelle Lee led a wonderful swearing-in ceremony to kick off our inaugural season of the Junior Ranger Program. It is designed for children ages 5-12, but is fun for any age! If you missed the kickoff, you can still join! Call the office at 330-297-7728 to schedule a time to pick up your booklet. Be sure to check the website for park educator-led Junior Ranger activities. When you complete the booklet, we will have a ceremony for all Junior Rangers to receive their own badge!

[Learn more on our Things To Do Page!](#)

Please welcome our intern Hannah!

Please help us give a warm welcome to Hannah! Hannah is serving an internship with Portage Park District this summer to complete her park management studies through Kent State University. She will support education programs, execute public engagement projects, and explore operations for maintenance, conservation, and more.

Hannah's favorite park is Towner's Woods where she recently observed her first Pileated Woodpecker in person!

Welcome Hannah, we are glad you are here!

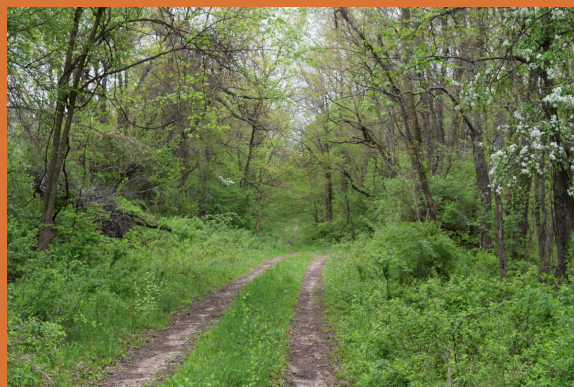


Need to plan a group outing?

Portage Park District has had a blast hosting classes and 4H groups recently. If this is something your group would be interested in, reach out to [Holly Stoneberg](#) for more information.

Kent Bog Preserve Peek June 21

Join us on a sneak peek hike of Kent Bog Expansion Preserve! This property is currently not open to the public due to planning and development, but on this behind-the-scenes tour, you'll get to see what the future of Portage Park District holds! Space is limited!



[Register for 9 AM hike here.](#)
[Register for 11 AM hike here.](#)

Cuyahoga River Water Trail



Very few things beat a paddle down the river on a beautiful summer day! Lucky for us we have a good portion of the Cuyahoga River right in our area. Check out the Cuyahoga River Water Trail for more information on accessing the river, maps, and how to stay safe on the water this summer.

Upcoming Programs



New! Family Game Nights

Perfect for all ages! Come prepared to play as a family or challenge each other on various park-related topics. Themes and games change each month, but this month will be native animal bingo! Come try to fill your board while learning about some of the animals that call Portage Park District home.

[Register here for June 13.](#)

Try our [self-guided hikes](#) at Trail Lake Park and Seneca Ponds!

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 - June 8](#)

[Senior Hike - June 22](#)

Visit our [YouTube channel](#).



Nutrition Talk with Sequoia Wellness June 1 @ 6 PM

Come with questions to ask our guest speaker from Sequoia Wellness. We will cover various topics including healthy eating on the go to keep you fueled up for summer.

[Register here.](#)



Full Sensory Awareness Hike June 16 @ 6 PM

Meditation experts will lead us on a walk through Towner's Woods with a special focus on breath work, mindfulness, and using all of our senses to connect with nature.

[Register here.](#)



Summer Astronomy June 21 @ 9 PM

Enjoy the first day of summer gazing at the night sky. We'll talk about what is up above at this time of year and learn more about the history of the summer solstice.

[Register here.](#)

HEADWATERS

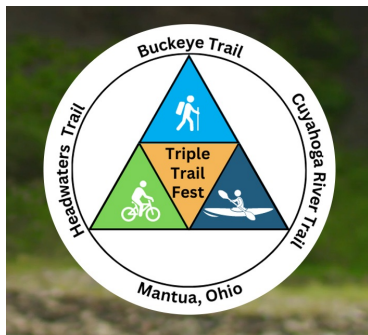
Adventure Race



The Headwaters Adventure Race starts and ends in Mantua Village and involves a 2-mile run on the Headwaters Trail past the Marsh Wetlands State Nature Preserve, a 10 mile pedal past scenic landscapes and preserved lands, and a 5-mile paddle on the Upper Cuyahoga River. Do it all yourself, or join a team to do it together or break up the legs. Money raised from the race benefits the Portage Park District.

Learn more about the Headwaters Race and register here!

A Message From our Friends



Triple Trail Fest June 2-3

If you are looking for things to do this weekend, Mantua has you covered. Join us at the Triple Trail Fest for things like a craft beer tasting, guided hikes, river kayak tours, and much more!

[Visit their website.](#)



ReedFest June 2

Stop by ReedFest, Reed Memorial Library's summer kickoff event. They'll have games, crafts, and activities for every age. Stop by our table and say hi!

[Visit their website.](#)



YEAR OF THE WOOD FROG

Wild Hikes Challenge

Our **2023 theme is The Year of the Wood frog!** You'll even find some Wood frog facts on your hiking form this year.

To participate, download your **Wild Hikes form**, and complete hikes before December 31st to earn a hiking staff and/or a 2023 Wild Hikes medallion. Dogs can earn rewards too!

Our office is open for rewards pick-ups. **Email Eric** to schedule a time to get your rewards.

Visit our website

