

# Find Your Adventure in Portage Parks!

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT  
PROGRAM GUIDE

  
SEPTEMBER -  
DECEMBER  
2023



**For Fun, For Health, For LIFE!**

## ON THE INSIDE

PRESERVE PEEKS



PARK SURVEY



PROGRAM CALENDAR



PARKS & TRAILS MAP



# ABOUT YOUR PORTAGE PARKS



## Board of Park Commissioners

Left to Right: Allan Orashan, Renee Ruchotzke, Tom Hrdy, Chuck Engelhart, Kurt Ruehr



Portage County  
Probate Court Judge  
Patricia Smith

*The mission of the Portage Park District is to conserve Portage County's natural heritage and provide opportunities for its appreciation and enjoyment.*

Portage Park District is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio, formed in 1991, governed by a non-partisan, unpaid 5-member Board of Park Commissioners who are appointed by the County Probate Judge. The County Auditor and Treasurer are ex-officio members of the Board, and the County Prosecutor provides legal counsel.

We manage over 2,750 acres, including 10 open parks and trails and 17 miles of hike and bike trail, along with another 8 park properties awaiting additional funding for development. Currently, there are 11 full-time and 3 part-time staff, and dozens of volunteers.

Funding comes from a ½ mill property tax levy that provides 95% of its operating revenue, and which expires at the end of 2023. Thanks to many partners, the Park District has brought in an extra 60 cents from grants and donations for every levy dollar—a great return on our local investment that helps fund park acquisition and development.

Special thanks to the **Portage Park District Foundation**, an all-volunteer nonprofit that raises funds and friends to support programs and projects such as the new Dix Park shelter.

A 1-mill, 10-year property tax levy issue (½-mill replacement + ½-mill additional) will be on the November ballot to support the efficient operation of clean, safe parks and trails, free public education and recreation programs for all and continued park and trail development. The levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 property **\$35/year**, or only **\$2.92/month**.

Without additional funds, development of new parks and trails will be extremely limited and take much longer. Please contact the Park District if you have specific questions about plans for the use of levy funds.





# WHY PARKS?

Portage Park District helps to conserve Portage County's rural character and natural heritage while creating parks and trails for all, yielding valuable environmental, social, health and economic benefits for generations to come.

## Environmental Benefits:

Conserved forests and wetlands moderate extreme heat, improve air quality and protect, filter and replenish drinking water sources while reducing the potential for flooding. Conserved land protects wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

*"As wild space disappears daily, Parks become more and more valuable! Portage parks protect critical wild space and I love spending time in the authentic nature space." - Melinda Stahl*

*"They work to promote native plants and green space in the county" - Kara MacDowell*

## Social Benefits:

Parks are common ground for all to enjoy, alone or with family and friends. Parks and trails are available year-round with no entry fees. Free education and outdoor recreation programs connect people to nature and each other, enhancing personal growth and quality of life.

*"They have done a wonderful job with maintenance and safety so all feel secure. They have expanded and offer programs for families and individuals to enjoy and learn." - Jim R*

*"Headwaters Trail got me through the pandemic!! 😊" - Bobby Burkett*

## Health Benefits:

Parks and trails support mental and physical health. Spending time in nature helps to reduce anxiety, stress, depression and symptoms of ADHD. Regular physical activity, even just walking, helps chronic conditions such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes. Accessible trails are enjoyable places for physical rehabilitation after surgery.

*"The trails run by Portage Parks literally saved my life during cancer treatments. Best Psychotherapy ever and helped me cope with the whole ordeal! I love Portage Parks!" - Sally Burnell*

*"I can run the beautiful trails while my daughter bikes within the safety and beauty of nature." - Lisa Morde*

## Economic Benefits:

Parks and trails increase property values. Park users and tourists support nearby businesses. Increased quality of life helps attract businesses. Conserved lands don't require the additional public services that developed land does, keeping taxes lower. Conserved land is green infrastructure, providing free services for air and water quality that are expensive to try to replace with stormwater pipes and water treatment facilities.

*"They are collectively the best asset added to Portage County in the 36 years I've lived here" - Bob Springer*

*"I deliberately chose a location next to the hike and bike trail for my business" - Don Schjeldahl, Owner, North Water Brewing; Principal, DSG Advisors*

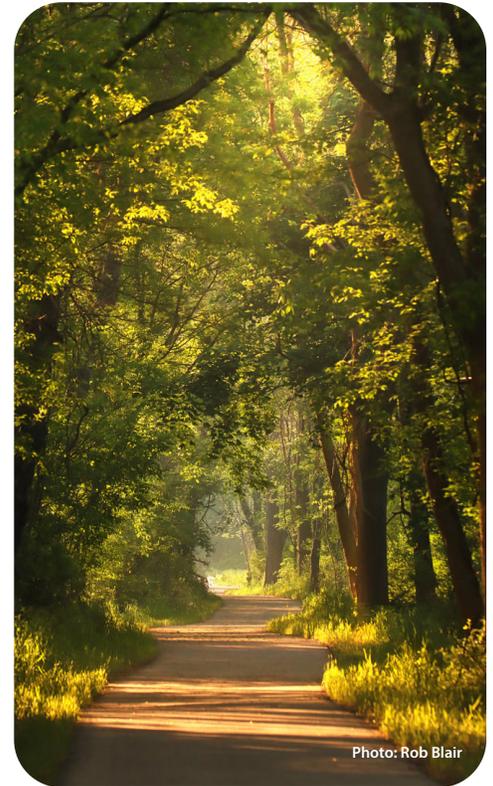


Photo: Rob Blair



**Want to share your Love of Portage Parks? Submit your testimonial here:**



# PARK SURVEY *Tell us what you think!*



## 1. Which parks and trails have you visited in the last year?

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berlin Lake Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> PORTAGE Hike and Bike Trail   | <input type="checkbox"/> Towner's Woods    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dix Park          | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Fox Cuyahoga River Access | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Lake Park   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headwaters Trail  | <input type="checkbox"/> Seneca Ponds Park             | <input type="checkbox"/> Unopened Preserve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morgan Park       | <input type="checkbox"/> Shaw Woods                    | <input type="checkbox"/> None              |

## 2. What do you value about Portage Parks? \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. How often do you/your family visit Portage Park District parks?

- |                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily  | <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly        | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 times/year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-6 times/year | <input type="checkbox"/> Never          |

## 4. What facilities improvements would you like to see in the parks?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> More benches along trails    | <input type="checkbox"/> More accessible trails for those with limited mobility | <input type="checkbox"/> Archery range      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor adventure facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor exercise equipment                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Flush toilets      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved trail surfaces      | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved wayfinding signs within the parks             | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking fountains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational signage          | <input type="checkbox"/> More easy, accessible trails                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural play areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike skills training area    | <input type="checkbox"/> Reservable 3-season park shelter for private parties   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding areas     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open air picnic shelters     | <input type="checkbox"/> Reservable 4-season park shelter for private parties   | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping areas      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Education Center      | <input type="checkbox"/> No improvements needed                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other              |

## 5. In which park properties would you like to see a reservable park shelter for private events?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towner's Woods-Franklin Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Kent Bog Expansion-Brimfield Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Lake Park-Streetsboro      | <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle Creek Greenway-Hiram Township   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                     |  |

## 6. What are the best times for you/your family to attend a program?

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekdays during the day    | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday morning   | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday evening | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday afternoon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekdays after school/work | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday afternoon | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday morning   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday evening   |

## 7. What kinds of programs would you like the Park District to offer?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature-based preschool          | <input type="checkbox"/> Organized groups for hiking and cycling            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature-based summer day camp    | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing private land for conservation and income  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature-based after school care  | <input type="checkbox"/> Programming at places other than parks             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More education programs for all | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor skills like archery, paddling and camping  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature art programs             | <input type="checkbox"/> Job training for working in the conservation field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor concerts                | <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Science programs                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health & wellness (Park Rx)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Activities for teens                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior activity programs        | <input type="checkbox"/> Online programs                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                    |   |

## 8. How do you/your family learn about parks and programs?

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email newsletter      | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Park District social media  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park District website | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth         | <input type="checkbox"/> Park District program guide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local newspaper       | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Kiosk            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                |

## 12. What other suggestions do you have for the Park District? \_\_\_\_\_

- Please email me park newsletters and program guides       Please print and mail program guides and newsletters

Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Portage Park District, 705 Oakwood St. Ste. G-4, Ravenna, OH 44266,  
or email to [admin@portageparkdistrict.org](mailto:admin@portageparkdistrict.org)

You can also take the survey online at [www.portageparkdistrict.org](http://www.portageparkdistrict.org) or follow this QR code:

**Thank You!**





# PROJECTS & PLANS

## Next Projects, Pending Additional Funding:

### Portage Parks' Headwaters Trail Phases VIII-IX.

- Portage Park District's Headwaters Trail VIII is 1.4-miles from Chamberlain Rd east to Diagonal Rd. in Mantua. Portage Parks' Headwaters Trail IX is planned from Diagonal Rd. to Mennonite Rd. as a separated trail within road rights of way.
- The City of Aurora's "Aurora Trail", is 2.8 miles from Chamberlain Rd. west to SR 82 in Aurora, passing by several parks and preserves.
- If grants are received, construction could start as early as 2024 to finish connecting the historic communities of Aurora, Mantua, Hiram and Garrettsville.



### Towner's Woods/PORTAGE Hike and Bike Trail Improvements

- The Park District is partnering with the Portage County Engineer's Ravenna Road bridge replacement project to include a separated bike and hike trail, greatly increasing safety for trail users on the bridge. Construction is expected in 2024-2025.
- With the new bridge and road work, the Towner's Woods drive and trailhead will be reconstructed, and the parking lot updated to segregate trail traffic.
- Planning continues for repair of the Brady Railroad Switch Tower and for uses of the adjacent former residence site, with potential improvements including a reservable shelter with restrooms.

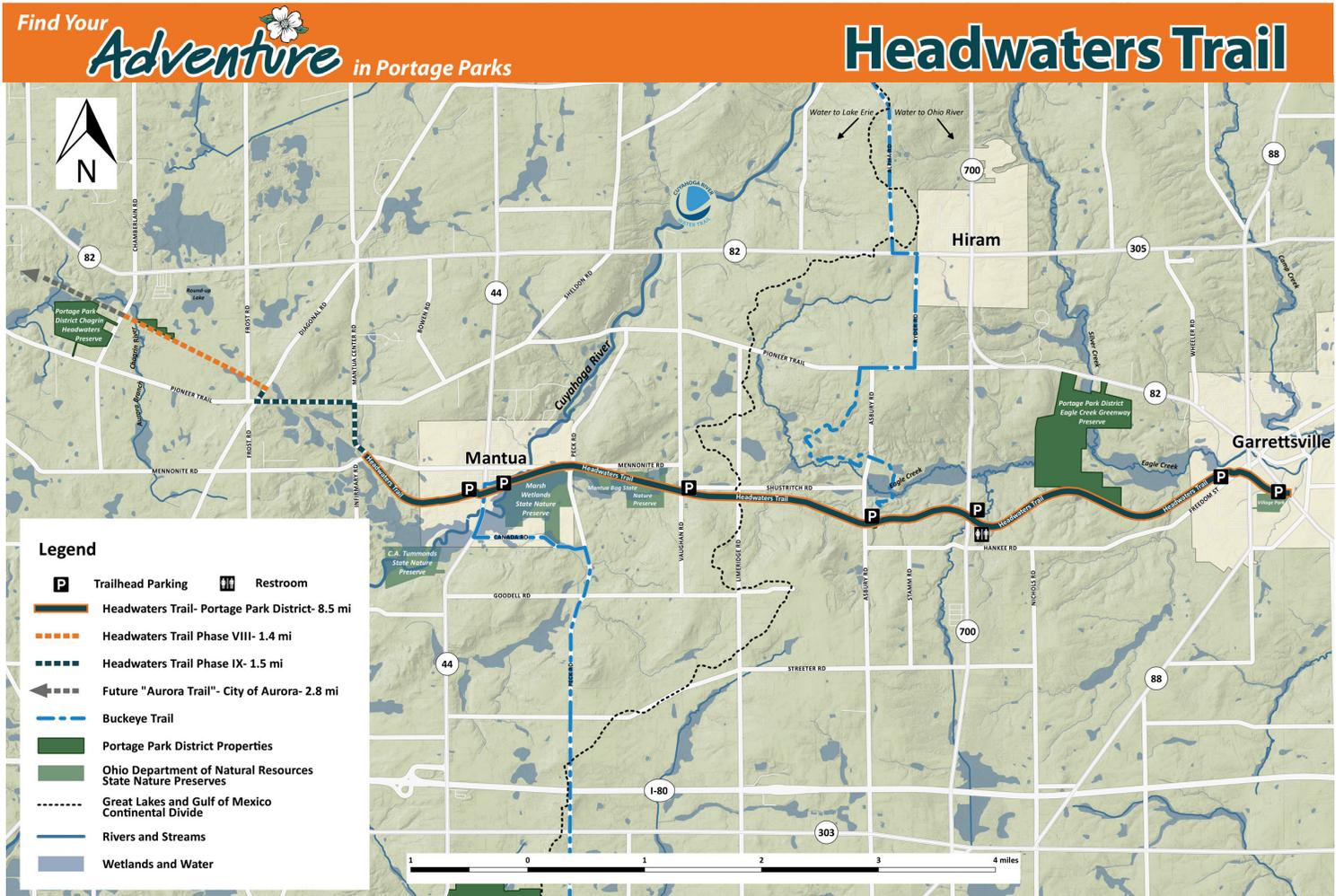


### Kent Bog Expansion Park

- This 215-acre property in Brimfield and Kent, is adjacent to the Cooperrider-Kent Bog State Nature Preserve. It includes mature forests, streams, rare sphagnum bog and meadows.
- Initial park development plans call for parking, hiking trails, restrooms and picnic shelter. Join us on a Preserve Peek to visit the site and share your ideas for park improvements.



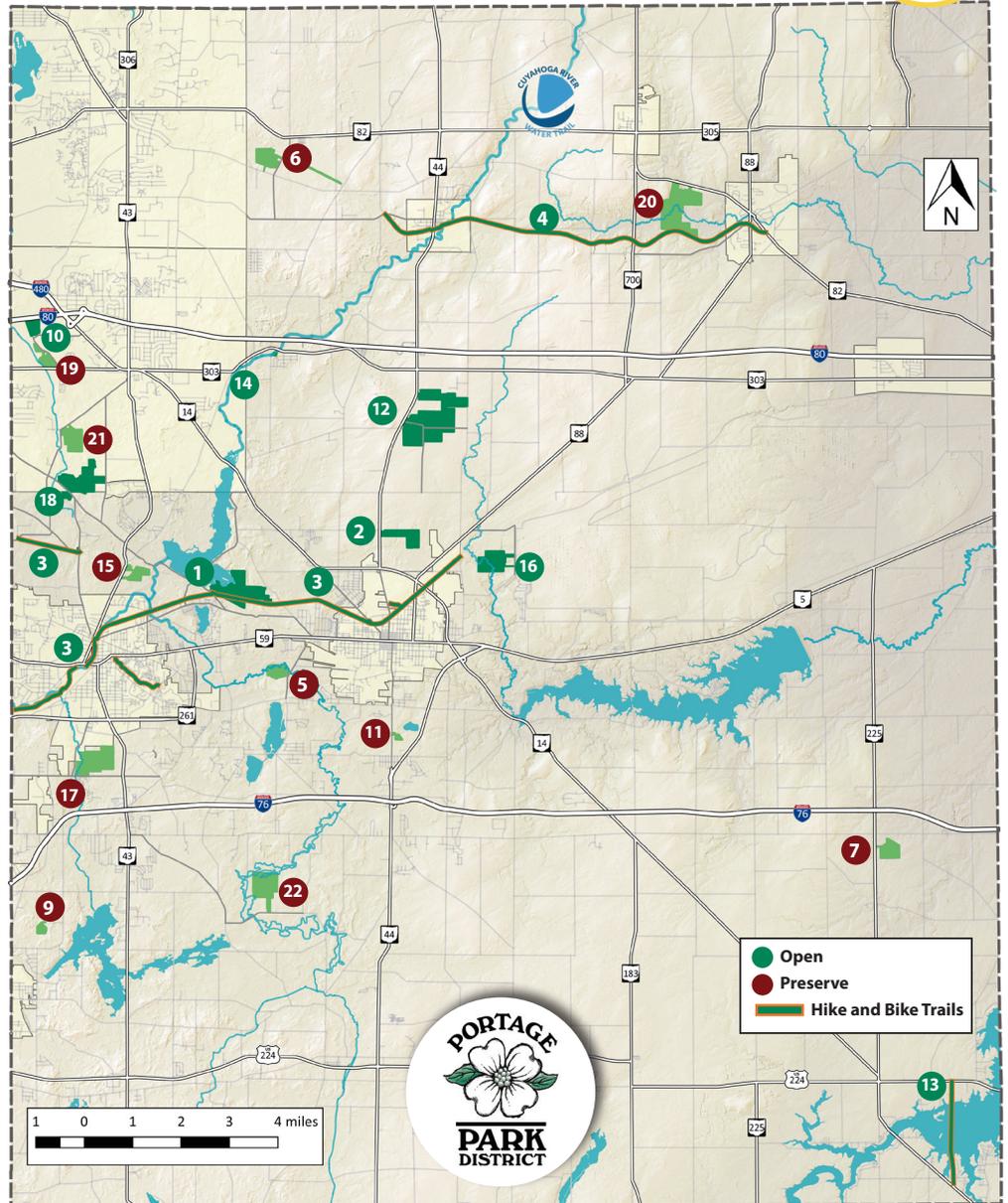
Kent Bog Expansion Preserve



# YOUR PORTAGE PARKS



- 1 TOWNER'S WOODS PARK**  
2264 Ravenna Rd., Franklin Twp.  
254 acres of woods, wetlands and meadow overlooking Lake Pippen. Picnic shelter and accessible gazebo.
- 2 DIX PARK**  
7318 ST RT 44, Ravenna Twp. - 103 acres of woods and wetlands with hiking trails.
- 3 THE PORTAGE HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL**  
535 Cleveland Rd., Ravenna;  
1557 Lake Rockwell Rd., Franklin Twp.;  
784 Judson Rd., Franklin Twp.  
Managed in partnership with the cities of Kent and Ravenna, and Kent State University. Asphalt-paved multipurpose trail.
- 4 HEADWATERS TRAIL**  
4633 Mill St., Mantua, OH  
10602 Vaughn Rd., Mantua, OH  
10446 Asbury Rd., Hiram Twp.  
10480 ST RT 700, Garrettsville, OH  
10647 Freedom St., Garrettsville, OH  
South St., Garrettsville, OH  
Limestone-surfaced multipurpose trail.
- 5 BREAKNECK CREEK PRESERVE**  
Ravenna Twp. - 66 acres of open meadow, riparian woods and wetlands. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 6 CHAGRIN HEADWATERS PRESERVE**  
Mantua Twp. - 95 acres of woods, wetlands and streams. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 7 WALTER PRESERVE**  
Palmyra Twp. - 80 acres of woods and wetlands. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 9 GRAY BIRCH BOG PRESERVE**  
Brimfield Twp. - 22 acre sphagnum birch bog. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 10 SENECA PONDS PARK**  
515 Mondial Pkwy, Streetsboro - 48 acres of woods, wetlands and ponds for hiking and fishing.
- 11 DIX PRESERVE**  
Rootstown Twp. - 10 acre parcel. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 12 MORGAN PARK** ♿  
8828 ST RT 44, Shalersville Twp. - 544 acres of woods, wetlands, fields and streams.
- 13 BERLIN LAKE TRAIL** ♿  
10228 ST RT 224, Deerfield Twp.;  
232 Kirkbride Rd. - 2.1 mile multipurpose trail.
- 14 RED FOX BOAT TAKEOUT - UPPER CUYAHOGA STATE SCENIC RIVER**  
9263 Price Rd., Shalersville Twp.,  
Takeout and fishing access only.
- 15 FRANKLIN BOG PRESERVE**  
Franklin Twp. - 58 acres of woods and wetlands, including a kettlehole lake and sphagnum peat bog. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 16 SHAW WOODS PARK**  
7075 Beery Rd., Ravenna Twp. - 145 acres of woods, wetlands and ravines and the West Branch of the Mahoning River. Hiking and equestrian trails. Buckeye Trail primitive campsite available for reservation.
- 17 KENT BOG EXPANSION PRESERVE\***  
Brimfield Twp./Kent - 215 acres of mature woods and old fields protecting over 50 acres of sphagnum peat bog and a stretch of Plum Creek including fen habitat. Currently open only for guided hikes.



- 18 TRAIL LAKE PARK** ♿  
605 Ravenna Rd., Streetsboro - 222 acres of woods and diverse habitat with 30-acre fishing lake, and an accessible kayak launch.
- 19 BECK PRESERVE\***  
Streetsboro - 63 acres of wetlands and shrubby forest along Tinkers Creek protecting fen habitat. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 20 EAGLE CREEK GREENWAY PRESERVE\***  
Hiram Twp. - 325 acres of rolling meadows and forest with stretches of Eagle Creek and Silver Creek, tributaries to the Mahoning River. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 21 TINKERS CREEK GREENWAY PHASE III PRESERVE\***  
Streetsboro - 112 acres of meadows and woods with high quality wetlands and stream. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 22 BIRD FAMILY BOG PRESERVE\***  
Rootstown Twp. - 171 acres of fields and forest with a large sphagnum bog and streams. Currently open only for guided hikes.

## Park Reminders

- Observe park hours; stay on trails.
- Keep pets leashed and properly dispose of pet waste.
- Alcohol is prohibited except by special permit.
- Motor vehicles are prohibited. Class I and II electric bikes and scooters are allowed on bike trails.
- On multipurpose trails stay right, pass on left. Alert others when passing.
- Release or removal of animals and plants on park properties is prohibited.
- No foraging in parks.

Full park rules found at [portageparkdistrict.org](http://portageparkdistrict.org)



# EXPERIENCE YOUR PORTAGE PARKS

## Park Activities & Amenities

Park Name	Restrooms	Benches	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelter	Foot Trail	Bike Trail	ADA Trail	Asphalt	Limestone	Natural Surface	Horse Trail	Fish	Paddle	X-C Ski	Camp	Sled
Berlin Lake Trail		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓		
Dix Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓				✓		
Headwaters Trail	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓		
Morgan Park	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓				✓		
The PORTAGE Hike and Bike Trail	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓						✓		
Red Fox Cuyahoga River Access			✓									✓	✓			
Seneca Ponds Park		✓	✓		✓					✓		✓	✓	✓		
Shaw Woods Park	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓			✓	✓	
Towner's Woods Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓				✓		✓
Trail Lake Park	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		

### Wild Hikes Challenge

Our Wild Hikes Challenge theme for 2023 is the **Year of the Wood Frog** featuring several hikes where you might see wood frogs. To complete your challenge, download your form from our website or grab one from a park kiosk, hike 8 trails on the list and turn in for rewards!



Photo: Erin Latina

You can earn a hiking staff and a medallion, and your dog can earn a bandana!

### Dix Park Nature Play Space and Story Trail

The Nature Play Space at Dix Park encourages children to interact with natural objects in an unstructured outdoor environment. Nature play enhances imagination, exploration, cooperation, creativity and concentration, while



promoting life-long conservation values. The nearby Story Trail features seasonally changing children's books on signs along a short trail.

### Reservable Shelters



Towner's Woods Gazebo



Dix Park Shelter

### Join our Education Team for FREE Programs all year 'round!

The next several pages include our planned programs for you to enjoy. Programs require registration on the [portageparkdistrict.org](http://portageparkdistrict.org) website (or by calling the park office at 330-297-7728), which helps us keep a good staff to attendee ratio, and provides contact information for registrants in case of program changes or bad weather cancellations.

*Note: Registration opens about one month prior to program date*

### Permits and Reservations:

Permits and Reservations at no cost can be requested by submitting an application found on the park district website for:

- Special events, weddings, group picnics
- Dix Park picnic shelter; Towner's Woods Gazebo; Trail Lake picnic area
- Shaw Woods campsite on the Buckeye Trail
- Research and education projects

## LOOK FOR THESE SYMBOLS TO FIND YOUR PERFECT ADVENTURE

### PARK RX



Join Portage Park District and our partners to focus on a healthier you. We work with partners in health and wellness fields to help you find new ways to nourish your mind and body through nature.

### OWLBERT'S ADVENTURES



Inspired by our mascot, Owlbert, this series is designed for our younger park patrons (PreK-elementary). Owlbert's Adventures will feature engaging activities and a hike length that's appropriate for smaller legs!

### BIRDING CLUB



Did you know that birding is one of the fastest growing hobbies in North America? We know there are many talented birders in the area and our goal is to provide a space for both experts and newbies to learn and bird together at our local parks!

### WEBINAR



Portage Park District offers webinars to learn about nature in the comfort of your own home. Many past webinars are also available on our YouTube channel.

### PRESERVE PEEK



Preserves are properties that are not yet developed and open as parks, and often have temporary names. Join us on behind-the-scenes tours and share your ideas for creating what might become your new favorite Portage Park!



## September at a Glance

All programs require registration.  
Visit our website for the up to date program information.

DAY	TIME	WHAT	WHERE
2	10 AM	Ride with a Ranger: Kids	Portage Hike and Bike Trail
7	12 PM	Senior Hike	Portage Hike and Bike Trail: Franklin Connector
7	6 PM	Tree Identification Hike	Towner's Woods
8	8 AM	BYOK: Bring Your Own Kayak	Trail Lake Park
9	9 AM and 11 AM	Preserve Peek	Kent Bog Expansion Preserve
11	7 PM	Fall in Love with PPD in 2023	Webinar
12	2 PM	Bee Bonanza	Morgan Park
13	8 AM	Birding Club	Seneca Park
14	All Day	Volunteer Clean-Up Day	Various Parks and Trails
14	6:30 PM	Zumba w/ Sequoia Wellness	Towner's Woods
19	11 AM	Bird Migration Hike	Berlin Lake Trail
21	12 PM	Senior Hike	Headwaters Trail: Mill Creek
21	6 PM	History Hike	Towner's Woods
23	10 AM	Owlbert's Adventure: Story with a Stuffle	Shaw Woods
23	10 AM – 12 PM	Green Cleaning and Septic Scaping	Portage County Soil and Water Conservation District Office
23	2 PM	Equinox Hike	Dix Park
24	12 PM and 3 PM	Preserve Peek	Eagle Creek Greenway Preserve
27	10 AM	UH Hike with an Expert	Morgan Park
29	9 AM	Happy Heart Hike	Trail Lake Park
30	9 AM and 11 AM	Preserve Peek	Franklin Bog Preserve

from. Thank you for helping us make the world a little greener today!

### Zumba with Sequoia Wellness Thursday, September 14, 6:30 PM

Shake your tail feathers with Sequoia Wellness as we dance Zumba together at the bottom of the sled riding hill in Towner's Woods!

### Bird Migration Hike Tuesday, September 19, 11 AM

Just because it is still summer, birds are already on the move to their winter destinations. We'll talk about their big trip and try to spot some waterfowl during our walk.

### Senior Hike Thursday, September 21, 12 PM

These slower-paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.

### History Hike Thursday, September 21, 6 PM

Did you know Towner's Woods is our oldest park, and is even older than the Park District? Come learn more about this local favorite, including the Hopewell Mound and the Brady Switch Tower.

### Owlbert's Adventure: Story with a Stuffle Saturday, September 23, 10 AM

Owlbert and friends will be enjoying a nature-themed picture book about a favorite Ohio mammal: black bears! Bring your own stuffed friend, all stuffed animals are welcome, and enjoy exploring these mysterious mammals. After our story time, we will enjoy a short hike through forested trails.



### Green Cleaning and Septic Scaping Saturday, September 23, 10 AM

Interested in learning how to make your home a little more Earth-friendly? Join Portage County Soil and Water Conservation District as they teach us about green cleaners and how to landscape over our septic systems. Registration on PCSWCD website is required.

### Fall Equinox Hike Saturday, September 23, 2 PM

The end of summer might be sad for some folks, but for those who love chilly evenings, fall leaves, pumpkins, and hot chocolate, the Fall Equinox is an exciting time.

### Preserve Peek: Eagle Creek Greenway Sunday, September 24, 12 PM and 3 PM

Join us on a behind-the-scenes tour and share your ideas for creating what might become your new favorite Portage Park!

### UH Hike with an Expert Wednesday, September 27, 10 AM

Join a dietician from University Hospitals on a hike around Morgan Park. We'll discuss various topics, but feel free to bring your questions!

### Happy Heart Hike Friday, September 29, 9 AM

This hike is for anyone who wants to move at a faster pace and potentially even break a sweat! Our goal is to stay at 3-4 mph with minimal breaks. Don't forget comfortable shoes and water!

### Preserve Peek: Frankling Bog Saturday, September 30, 9 AM and 11 AM

Join us on a behind-the-scenes tour and share your ideas for creating what might become your new favorite Portage Park!

### Ride with a Ranger for Kids! Saturday, September 2, 10 AM

Riders of all ages are invited to join Chief Ranger Kevin Nietert on the trails as they venture to Beckwith's Orchard, where young riders will receive a treat from the orchard!



### Senior Hike Thursday, September 7, 12 PM

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower-paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.

### Tree Identification Hike Thursday, September 7, 6 PM

Join our very own Natural Areas Manager, Bob Lange, as he takes us on a guided hike through Towner's Woods. He'll be pointing out the trees, teaching us keys to identifying them, and emphasizing how they change through the season.

### Bring Your Own Kayak Friday, September 8, 8 AM

Let's start the weekend out on the water! Bring your own kayak and life jacket as we head out on Trail Lake to look for birds and other wildlife. Feel free to bring binoculars or cameras if you like!



### Preserve Peek: Kent Bog Expansion Saturday, September 9, 9 AM & 11 AM

Preserves are properties that are not yet developed and open as parks. Join us on a behind-the-scenes tour and share your ideas for creating what might become your favorite Portage Park!



### Fall in Love with PPD in 2023 Webinar Monday, September 11, 7 PM

In this webinar, we will be going over the Fall Mailer that Portage County Residents will receive in the mail. Tune in to learn more about our programming schedule and fill up your calendar with Park events!



### Bee Bonanza Tuesday, September 12, 2 PM

The summer bee frenzy is coming to a close, but Bob Heath will help us identify what end-of-season species are still buzzing around.

### Birding Club Wednesday, September 13, 8 AM

Come practice your avian identification skills in a laid-back setting. Nature newbies are welcome to come try out a new hobby in a safe and welcoming atmosphere!



### Volunteer Clean-Up Day Thursday, September 14, All Day

Help us celebrate National Clean Up Day a little early by sprucing up our local areas. We will have different locations and times for you to choose





# OCTOBER

## Mushroom Hike

**Tuesday, October 3, 5 PM**

Natural Areas Specialist Emmet Roberts will take us on a guided hike and show us all the tips and tricks on how to spot and identify the various fungi that call Portage Park District home.

## Senior Hike

**Thursday, October 5, 12 PM**

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower-paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.

## Rocktober Museum

**Thursday, October 5 - Saturday, October 7**

Did you know that at one point in our history, Ohio was covered with warm, shallow seas? Come visit our curated rock and mineral museum and talk to local geology experts to learn more about Ohio's rocky past.

## Introduction to Orienteering

**Saturday, October 7, 9 AM**

Don't know what orienteering is? Then you are perfect for this event! Join members of the Northeastern Ohio Orienteering Club as they give us an introduction to moving through nature with a map and a compass. You'll learn the basics and then get to practice your new skill in the field, with help of course!



## Preserve Peek: Portage Meadows

**Sunday, October 8, 9 AM and 11 AM**

Preserves are properties that are not yet developed and open as parks, and often have temporary names. Join us on a behind-the-scenes tour and share your ideas for creating what might become your new favorite Portage Park!



## River Health Workshop

**Wednesday, October 11, 10 AM**

Water Protection Specialists from the Akron Water Supply Bureau will lead us through water sampling and macroinvertebrate studies while we discuss the importance of understanding watersheds and water quality.

## Autism Society of Greater Akron Fall Festival

**Saturday, October 14, 1-4 PM**

We invite you to enjoy family-friendly fall activities in a supportive, accessible environment! Treat bags, pumpkin decorating, and photo stations are some of the few fun things you can expect. Registration for specific time slots is required.

## Preserve Peek: Breakneck Creek

**Sunday, October 15, 12 PM and 2 PM**

Preserves are properties that are not yet developed and open as parks, and often have temporary names. Join us on a behind-the-scenes tour and share your ideas for creating what might become your new favorite Portage Park!



## Fall Colors Hike

**Wednesday, October 18, 11 AM**

Red, yellows, and oranges, oh my! What a spectacular thing it is to walk in the woods during fall. Walk with us to enjoy the sites and learn about this beautiful process.

## Spiders, Owls, and Bats

**Tuesday, October 17, 6-9 PM**

What a fitting group of topics for October! Join ODNr's Jamey Emmert, OSU's Ashley Kulhanek, and OCVN Todd Cartner as we learn more about these elusive creatures that call Ohio home.

## October at a Glance

All programs require registration.

Visit our website for the up to date program information.

DAY	TIME	WHAT	WHERE
3	5 PM	Mushroom Hike	Morgan Park
5	12 PM	Senior Hike	Morgan Park
5-7	Various Times	Rocktober Rock and Mineral Museum	Morgan Operation Center
7	9 AM - 12 PM	Introduction to Orienteering	Towner's Woods
8	9 AM and 11 AM	Preserve Peek	Portage Meadows Preserve
11	10 AM - 12 PM	River Health Workshop	Buchert Park
14	1 PM - 4 PM	Autism Society of Great Akron Fall Festival	Trail Lake Park
15	12 PM and 2 PM	Preserve Peek	Breakneck Creek Preserve
17	6-9 PM	Spiders, Owls, and Bats	Morgan Operation Center
17	10 AM	UH Hike with an Expert	Morgan Park
18	11 AM	Fall Colors Hike	Seneca Ponds
19	2 PM	Owlbert's Adventure: Chlorophyll Curiosity	Headwaters Trail - Mill Street
19	12 PM	Senior Hike	Headwaters Trail - Route 700
20	5 PM	Nature Art in the Park	Trail Lake Park
20	7 PM	Birding Club @ Night	Trail Lake Park
21	9 AM and 11 AM	Preserve Peek	Bird Family Bog Preserve
23	7 PM	What a Crows Knows	Webinar
24	6 PM	Batty about Bats	Morgan Operation Center
26	11 AM	History Hike	Headwaters Trail
28	7 PM	Full Moon Hike	Morgan Park

## UH Hike with an Expert

**Tuesday, October 17, 10 AM**

Join a dietician from University Hospitals on a hike around Morgan Park. We'll discuss various topics, but feel free to bring your questions.



## Senior Hike

**Thursday, October 19, 12 PM**

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower-paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.

## Owlbert's Adventure,

**Thursday October 19, 2 PM**

What is going on inside these leaves that are changing color around us? Put on your scientist hat and look inside leaves with Owlbert and friends to see just what our trees are up to in the fall. We will get up close and personal with chlorophyll and then enjoy a short hike together.



## Nature Art in the Park

**Friday, October 20, 5 PM**

Just being near water can boost your mood, but when you add the calming effects of art, you'll leave this program feeling great! Art supplies will be provided but feel free to bring your own tools.

## Birding Club at Night

**Friday, October 20, 7 PM**

For the first time this year, the birding club will meet in the evening. We'll be on the lookout for things we don't usually see in the morning!



## Preserve Peek: Bird Family Bog

**Saturday, October 21, 9 AM and 11 AM**

Preserves are properties that are not yet developed and open as parks, and often have temporary names. Join us on a behind-the-scenes tour and share your ideas for creating what might become your new favorite Portage Park!



## What a Crow Knows

**Monday, October 23, 7 PM**

Crows are known to be some of the smartest birds in the world. Join us virtually for a presentation on these incredibly intelligent corvids.



## Batty about Bats

**Tuesday, October 24, 6 PM**

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist and Park Volunteer Todd Cartner will share with us the interesting world of these nocturnal flyers as well as the data he's been collecting through his citizen science efforts.

## History Hike

**Thursday, October 26, 11 AM**

The Headwaters Trail is rich in history, from the last great train heist to a tragic train crash. Walk with us and learn more about the interesting past of this path.

## Full Moon Hike

**Saturday, October 28, 7 PM**

Also known as the Hunter's Moon, as it was a time to prepare for winter, this moon will light our way around Morgan Park.

## November at a Glance

All programs require registration.  
Visit our website for the up to date program information.

DAY	TIME	WHAT	WHERE
2	12 PM	Senior Hike	Trail Lake Park
2	6 PM	Animals of Ohio	Morgan Operation Center
8	11 AM	Winter Prep Hike	Seneca Ponds
11	8 AM	Birding Club	Towner's Woods
13	7 PM	Nuts about Squirrels	Webinar
14	6 PM	Tour of the Night Sky	Morgan Operation Center
15	9 AM	History Hike	Trail Lake Park
16	2 PM	Owlbert's Adventure: Totally Turkey	Towner's Woods
16	12 PM	Senior Hike	Towner's Woods
18	9 AM – 12 PM	Prepare for Winter Tree ID	Dix Park
28	11 AM	Double Credit Hike	Portage Hike and Bike Trail: Lake Rockwell
30	12 PM	Senior Hike	Berlin Lake Trail (Kirkbride Rd)

### Owlbert's Adventure: Totally Turkey Thursday, November 16, 2 PM



Turkeys are all the talk in November, and Owlbert wants to know all about these exciting creatures living in Portage County. Where do turkeys like to live? What do they eat? Why do they have those crazy colors on their faces?! Let's talk turkey with a good book and a peek into their habitat at Towner's Woods. Turkey's welcome!



### Senior Hike

**Thursday, November 2, 12 PM**

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower-paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.



### Animals of Ohio

**Thursday, November 2, 6 PM**

Ohio is home to 53 mammal species, including you! Join us as we learn more about these varied creatures and the adaptations that make them great at living in our great state!

### Winter Prep Hike

**Wednesday, November 8, 11 AM**

Just like we know to throw on boots and an extra layer before leaving the house in winter, animals know just what to do to survive this tough season. We'll talk and talk about all the ways they prepare for the cold ahead.

### Birding Club

**Saturday, November 11, 8 AM**

Come practice your avian identification skills in a laid-back setting. Nature newbies are welcome to come try out a new hobby in a safe and welcoming atmosphere! Volunteer Leann Whyte will be available to answer questions about how to find birds in the winter.



### Nuts about Squirrels

**Monday, November 13, 7 PM**

You may see them everywhere, but how much thought do you put into these furry little critters? We'll talk all things squirrel and even get into the most common Ohio squirrel, which you may have never seen!



### Tour of the Night Sky

**Tuesday, November 14, 6 PM**

Ever want to look at the stars but it's just too cold in November? We have the solution for you! We'll take a guided virtual tour of the November sky, getting a view as good as you would with a nice telescope. You'll even learn how to continue the tour at home.

### History Hike

**Wednesday, November 15, 9 AM**

Trail Lake Park is our newest property, but it has an interesting history. From being a part of the Native American Mahoning Path Trail to a fish farm that supplied local restaurants, there is a lot that this land has seen.



### Senior Hike

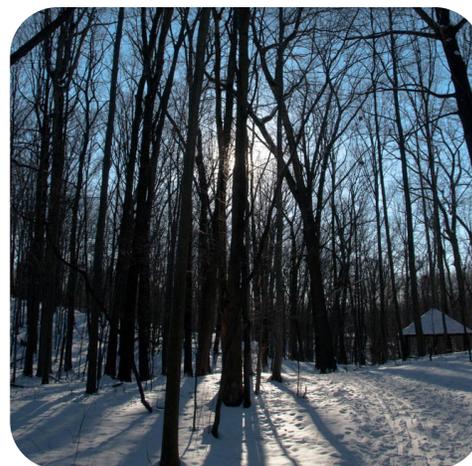
**Thursday, November 16, 12 PM**

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower-paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.

### Prepare for Winter Tree ID

**Saturday, November 18, 9 AM**

This three-hour program will help you develop your tree identification skills so you can practice all winter long. OCVNs will receive continuing education credits.



### Double Credit Hike

**Tuesday, November 28, 11 AM**

In a bind to get your Wild Hikes Challenge completed? Walk with us and check off two locations for the distance of one!

### Senior Hike

**Thursday, November 30, 12 PM**

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower-paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.



# DECEMBER

## History Hike

**Saturday, December 2, 9 AM**

From Native American transportation routes to historic train lines, the Portage Hike and Bike Trail has a fascinating history. Come walk and learn from the Portage County Historical Society and Reed Memorial Library along this path that now connects schools, businesses, and parks with downtowns and neighborhoods from Ravenna to Kent and beyond.



## Backyard Bird Feeders

**Tuesday, December 5, 11 AM**

Backyard birds are a source of wonder for people of all ages. Come learn about the common birds you might see in your yard and make a bird feeder to take home to them!

## Biomimicry Night

**Tuesday, December 5, 6 PM**

Living things have had a lot of time to work on their survival strategies, and humans are able to copy them to solve some of the world's problems. Join us to learn about this incredible topic and challenge yourself to think outside the box.

## Double Credit Hike

**Thursday, December 7, 11 AM**

In a bind to get your Wild Hikes Challenge completed? Walk with us and check off two locations for the distance of one!

## Animal Tracks Trek

**Saturday, December 9, 9 AM**

Winter is the best time to practice your animal track identification skills because they are leaving them all over. Whether it be in freshly-fallen snow or the mud created by snowmelt, we'll point out some features to look for.

## Snowy Owl Webinar

**Monday, December 11, 7 PM**

Any time between Thanksgiving and March is a good time to look for snowy owls. Join this webinar to learn more about these beautiful winter visitors.

## Senior Hike

**Thursday, December 14, 12 PM**

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower-paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.

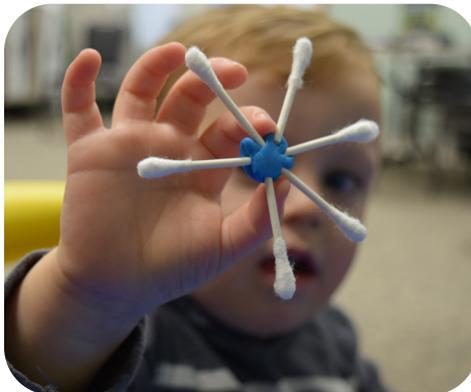


## December at a Glance

All programs require registration.

Visit our website for the up to date program information.

DAY	TIME	WHAT	WHERE
2	9 AM	History Hike	Portage Hike and Bike Trail
5	11 AM	Backyard Bird Feeders	Morgan Operation Center
5	6 PM	Biomimicry Night	Morgan Operation Center
7	11 AM	Double Credit Hike	Towner's Woods
9	11 AM	Animal Tracks Trek	Morgan Park
11	7 PM	Snowy Owl Webinar	Webinar
14	12 PM	Senior Hike	Morgan Park
14	2 PM	Owlbert's Adventures: Winter Adaptations	Trail Lake Park
19	2 PM	Snowflake Walk	Headwaters Trail: Mill Street
21	10 AM	Winter Solstice Hike	Trail Lake Park
28	12 PM	Senior Hike	Headwater's Trail - Route 700



## Owlbert's Adventure:

### Winter Adaptations

**Thursday, December 14, 2 PM**

We put on our jacket and boots when the weather turns cold, but what do all the other animals do? Join Owlbert to learn about how some of his friends survive our cold Ohio winters. We'll make a craft and take a short hike.



### Snowflake Walk

**Tuesday, December 19, 2 PM**

Don't let the cold keep you from appreciating the outdoors. Walk with us as we appreciate the falling frozen water droplets and the magic they bring to the season.

### Winter Solstice Hike

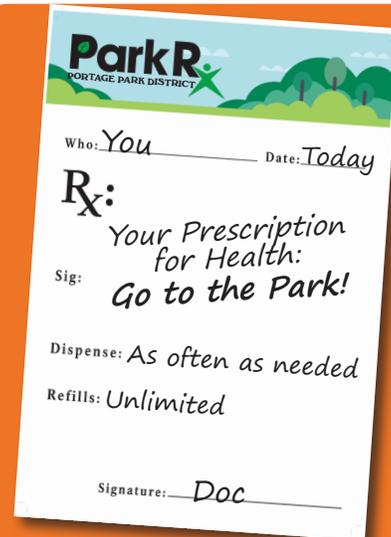
**Thursday, December 21, 10 AM**

It may have already felt like winter for a while now, but it doesn't officially start until today. Let's take a hike together to celebrate the shortest day of the year!

### Senior Hike

**Thursday, December 28, 12 PM**

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower-paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.



## What is Park Rx?

Park Rx is a "prescription for health". The National Park Rx Initiative is made up of agencies that are dedicated to using nature and public lands to improve individual and community health.

## Portage Park District Park Rx:

Our goal is to help our community get healthy and stay healthy while enjoying Portage Parks. Walk or bike to take care of your heart, rehabilitate after surgery or simply relax in the beauty and peace of nature.

Look for the Park Rx events in this guide.



# Find Your **Adventure** in Portage Parks!

Portage Park District  
705 Oakwood St, Suite G-4  
Ravenna, OH 44266



## Let's Keep a Good Thing Growing!

Support  
*Your*   
Portage Parks

There are many ways that you can help support the Portage Park District in our mission to conserve Portage County's natural resources. You can volunteer and give of your time, donate land to leave a legacy of conservation, or donate funds to the Portage Park District Foundation. Your generous contributions will help build and maintain our park system for future generations. Get involved today!



Portage Park District  
**FOUNDATION**



Register for events and learn more at  
[portageparkdistrict.org](http://portageparkdistrict.org)

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