

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter



Sanguinaria canadensis (Bloodroot) - Headwaters Trail

April 4, 2024

Greetings from your Portage Parks!

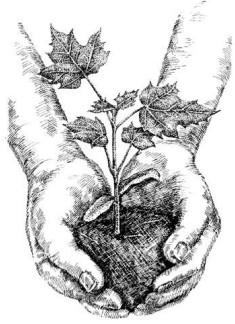
Spring is in full swing and we are entering the best time of year to see our early blooming ephemeral wildflowers along the park trails. Watch our website and social media for bloom updates.

The Park District is also growing this month and we are excited to welcome three new staff members. Diane Sperko is our new part-time Volunteer Coordinator, Chris Poling is our newest full-time Natural Areas Steward, and Wilder Hritz is our new seasonal Natural Areas Specialist. You'll learn more about them in our May newsletter!

The Total Eclipse is finally arriving April 8! Have you registered for our Saturday [Equip for the Eclipse](#) program and do you have a plan for Monday's big event? If you choose to experience this event in the parks, please be respectful of [parking lot capacities](#).

The [Spring Program Guide](#) is available online and posted in our park kiosks. [Register](#) to join us for spring guided hikes, educational programs, and virtual webinars!

In the Parks



Environmental Awards Dinner

Celebrate with us on **Saturday, April 27** as we honor our 2024 awardees. The event includes dinner reception, silent auction, raffles, music, and some special surprises. Fundraising proceeds benefit the Portage Park District Foundation's mission to support Portage Park District in its effort to conserve Portage County's natural heritage.

[Purchase your tickets today!](#)

2024 Awardees Announced!

Lifetime Achievement: Virginia Shaw

Environmental Activism: Sandra Engle

Environmental Education: Herbert "Guy" Gillespie

Environmental Stewardship: Russ Fletcher

Green Business: McKay Bricker Framing and Black Squirrel Gifts

Green Business: North Water Brewing

Green Building Development: Wright Family Farms

Kent Environmental Council Edith Chase Award for Conservation: Jeff St. Clair

Volunteer of Distinction: Fred Skok (posthumously)

Volunteer of Distinction: Brad Bolton

Honor Roll for Land Conservation: Ron Echelberry



Upcoming Programs



Breakneck Creek Preserve Peek

Preserve Peeks (guided hikes on currently unopened park properties) have returned! First up this year is a visit to the small but lovely Breakneck

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 to learn about the natural world around us.

Upcoming Senior Hikes:
Senior Hike - April 4

Creek Preserve. Preserves do not have developed trails and facilities. Registration is required to join us on **Saturday, April 20** at either **1:00pm** or **3:00pm** - space is limited!

Senior Hike - April 18

Visit our **YouTube channel**



Tick & Mosquito Talk & Walk April 10 @ 6 PM

The Portage County Health District will teach us how to stay safe while coexisting outdoors with ticks & mosquitos.

[Register here](#)

Nature Art in the Park April 26 @ 11 AM

Join us to give trees the credit they deserve. We will make them the focal point of our artwork on a day dedicated to these dendritic masterpieces.

[Register here](#)

Kayak with KSU April 28 @ 2:30 PM

This will be a beginner friendly program with Kent State Adventure Center as we learn about the local flora and fauna from our kayaks. Explore Trail Lake Park from the water!

[Register here](#)

Portage Park District Foundation



06.29.2024

**BUCHERT PARK
MANTUA, OHIO**



Wild Hikes Challenge 2024

The 2024 Wild Hikes Challenge is the **Year of the Eclipse** to honor the historic total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. Portage County is in the path of totality and the next total solar eclipse in Ohio will not happen again until 2099! Learn more about the eclipse [here](#). Download your **Wild Hikes form**.

Park Partners

Family Fun Day with Leadership Portage County

The Portage Park District is excited to partner with Leadership Portage County to host the first LPC Family Fun Day at Trail Lake Park on Sunday, May 19! There will

be lots of family friendly activities and community resource tables to visit. Space is limited, so [register](#) ASAP!



Wick Poetry Center
College of Arts and Sciences

Leadership Portage County
Time changes nothing. People do.

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY MAY 19
1PM TO 4PM

TRAIL LAKE PARK
605 RAVENNA RD
STREETSBORO, OH

FREE FOR ALL
Registration is required by car.

ACTIVITIES:

- Guided Hikes
- Fishing
- Wick Poetry Center
- Activity tables
- Light food options

REGISTER:
LEADERSHIPPORTAGECOUNTY.ORG

Visit our website



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