



Portage Park District

December 2018 Newsletter

In the parks

Restrooms are open

Last month, we installed non flush restrooms at four locations: Dix Park, Morgan Park, Headwaters Trail at Route 700 Trailhead, and Shaw Woods Park. These restrooms are now open. Thanks to levy dollars for making this a possibility in YOUR Portage Parks!

What happens in the parks when the temperature drops?

Author: Bob Lange, Natural Areas Steward

Over the last few weeks, winter has made it clear to us that it is here. We all have ways of enjoying, and sometimes even simply coping with the season. But for the world outside, our local plants and animals have some interesting ways of surviving the cold season.

Nearly all the deciduous trees in Portage County have finally shed their leaves, with some of our oaks still clinging onto a few. While the evergreens in the landscape stay just that, save for the ones that will dry out and shed their needles in someone's living room in January, the deciduous trees have gone into a state of winter dormancy. However, it is not all that simple, let's back up a bit. As daylight and temperatures decreased in the fall, trees began to slow and ultimately cease producing chlorophyll. With this came an end to photosynthesis, and greatly reduced respiration. It doesn't end there, as many trees take advantage, at this point, to pull remaining nutrients such as nitrogen and carbon from the leaves. These nutrients are carried and

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Programs

Splendid Snow Days

Dec. 15, 3 p.m.

Mantua Pop-Up Artist's Market

10676 Main St., Mantua

A part of the Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee's holiday pop up shop - PPD will be on site to share what happens during winter in the parks. How do plants, animals & insects adapt to the cold? How does snow and cold affect all types of things and WHAT tracks can we spot in the snow. The program begins indoors and weather permitting includes a hike on the Headwaters Trail.

Park Commissioner Vacancy

Apply to be a Park Commissioner



stored away in roots and bark for new leaf and flower growth in the spring. Deciduous trees require a certain length of time exposed to low temperatures before the interactions of certain proteins trigger new growth. So, although we occasionally

experience some fairly warm periods during winter, these plants are not fooled into starting spring too soon.

[Continue article here](#)

Green Portage

Volunteering - Infinite opportunities and ways to help

Author: Dr. Erica Eckert, Assistant Dean, college of Education, Health and Human Services, Kent State University

I'm not sure who in my childhood told me this, but it stuck with me, regardless: "You can't complain about something unless you're willing to do something about it." (Family members, you may now begin wrestling for credit.) There is, of course, no shortage of problems one can complain about today. In fact, it might be easy to feel overwhelmed by how large some of these problems are. To attempt to solve them at a broad level is great-but sometimes the best way to see the impact is to act at a local level.



Volunteering is simply giving of one's time and resources; it is not a new phenomenon. Evidence of volunteering to help individuals in need can be found as early as 4000 BC in Egypt (Brittingham & Pezullo, 1990). But today, we have more ways than ever before to engage with organizations. Volunteering is simply one component of the practice of philanthropy, which refers to giving any type of resource (time, services, physical property, etc.) to benefit others.

I'm an animal-lover, a nature-lover and I lost a family member to Alzheimer's. These things informed the "problems" I care most about right now. I care about more issues than those, but I am sticking to three at the moment because, like so many people, I am busy. That's a choice I make to keep things manageable.

[Click here to read more](#)

Those interested in applying for the Portage Park District Board of Commissioners can get more information [here](#).

In the news

Bike trails near Cleveland - 5 great bikeways for long rides
John Pana, Cleveland.com
[Check it out here.](#)
The PORTAGE Hike and Bike Trail was highlighted..

David E. Dix: Cuyahoga River's amazing recovery to be celebrated in 2019.
[Read article here](#)

Notable dates

World Soil Day
December 5

#stopsoilpollution is the objective of this World Soil Day on December 5th and throughout the year
[Find out more](#)

Applications available for 2019 Master Gardener Volunteer Training
Available now,
Due January 16, 2019

10 week training begins on January 30. Classes will be held at OSU Extension Portage County Office. [Link to application.](#)

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Year of the American Beech



The theme for 2018 is the year of the American Beech to celebrate the role of this keystone species of our eastern Ohio forests, and to bring awareness to the leaf disease that has begun to affect the species in northeast Ohio.

To participate, just walk, hike, skip, jog, run or stroll on 8 of the following trails before December 31st to earn a hiking staff (1st year) and/or a 2018 Wild Hikes medallion. **Start your challenge today!**

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Visit our website | portageparkdistrict.org

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