

# PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

## Monthly Newsletter



Ian Marshall  
- Erie, Arifa -  
Kent, Ohio

The Portage Hike & Bike Trail - photo credit Ian Marshall

December 7, 2023

Hello Christine,

Happy winter season! Did you know that being outside - even when it's cold - improves our mental and physical health? Clear your head, reduce your stress, or walk off those extra holiday treats by visiting your Portage Parks this month!

Last chance to complete our [Education Program Survey](#). Help us plan for future education programs and park amenities.

## In the Parks

### What's Next?

**Christine Craycroft, Executive Director**

Thanks to the work of many volunteers and the strong vote of confidence that secured park funding for the next 10 years, we are excited to move ahead in conservation and park development.

Near-term plans include development of the



“Kent-Brimfield Bog Park”, expanding the Headwaters Trail in Mantua Twp., and renovating the PORTAGE trailhead at Towner’s Woods Park in Franklin Township.

We will also be holding several “listening sessions” to update our Master Plan and hear how we can best serve and partner with communities to conserve our natural heritage and create parks into the future. Stay tuned!



Small carpenter bee - Ceratina sp.  
photo credit: Bob Heath

## Ohio Bee Survey by Bob Heath

Pollinators, especially native bees, may be in distress in Ohio – or maybe they’re doing just fine. Your Portage Park District is part of ongoing studies to study that important issue. It’s important because most of our foods depend on insect pollination, and bees are the best insect pollinators in the state. It is believed that there are about 480 species of native bees in Ohio. But where are they? When can we expect to see them? Which are the most abundant? To answer this, 145 observing sites were established in 80 of the 88 counties of Ohio as part of the Ohio Bee Survey. All told, 53,753 bees were trapped over five-months in 2020 and identified to species. Parks are important not only for their recreational benefits but also for research because they are especially protected for the indefinite future and can be revisited to determine changes in pollinator populations over time.

[Read More...](#)



photo: Denny Reiser

## 'Seasons Road Fen' Restoration Update

by Bob Lange

Travelers and residents along Seasons Road in Streetsboro may have noticed increased activity at one of Portage Park District’s newest properties, the 112-acre Seasons Fen Preserve. The District partnered with Western Reserve Land Conservancy in 2019 to obtain funding



through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP) for the acquisition and ecological restoration of the property. Planned restoration work includes the enhancement of the existing 57.3 acres of wetlands, creation of an additional 5 acres of wetlands, and enhancement of a reach of a tributary to Tinkers Creek with installed riffle habitat.

[Read More...](#)



## Upcoming Programs



### Headwaters History Hike

The Headwaters Trail is rich in history, from the last great train heist to a tragic train crash. [Register](#) to walk with us on **December 13 at 11:00am** to learn more about the interesting past of this path.

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 - December 14**  
**Senior Hike - December 28**

Visit our **YouTube channel**



### Snowy Owl Webinar December 11 @ 7 PM

Snowy Owls are a rare sighting in Portage County, but this is the time of year that you are most likely to see them! Join Jen White online to learn more about the life and habits of these beautiful birds from up north!

[Register here](#)



### Christmas Bird Count December 16

'Tis the season for the 124th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count! Volunteers will be up with the early birds to identify and document birds at multiple locations throughout the county. We invite you to join in the fun!

[Register here](#)



### Snowflake Walk 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. Photo credit: Ken Christensen

[Register here](#)



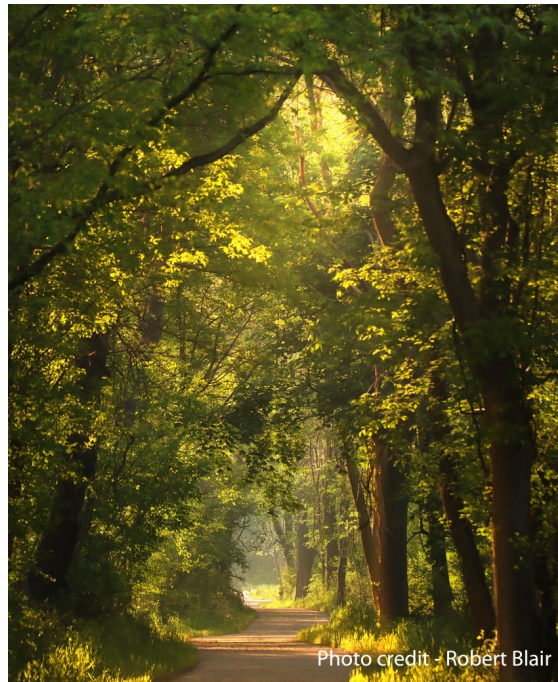
# Portage Park District Foundation

## Friends Campaign Kickoff

The Portage Park District Foundation is kicking off its annual Friends campaign this week. The mission of the Foundation is to support the Portage Park District goals, over and above tax levy dollars. Recent examples of support are an accessible kayak launch at Trail Lake Park, a picnic shelter at Dix Park and over 30 acres of reforestation. Donations may be **made online** or by check payable to the Portage Park District Foundation, P.O. Box 2327, Streetsboro, OH 44241.

You can even shop for park gifts at the Foundation **online store!**

***The Foundation appreciates the support of its current and future park friends!***



## Wild Hikes Challenge

Last call to complete the **2023 Year of the Wood Frog challenge!** 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.

## Park Reminders

- Our park multi-use trails are located next to a number of public hunting areas and private lands that may only be accessible via these trails. Hunting is not permitted on park property without a permit, however park visitors may observe hunters on the trail as they access public hunting grounds during state hunting seasons. Please contact the park office if you have any questions.
- We are entering snow and ice season! Please note that our park trails are not plowed, parking lots will only be plowed after 3 inches of snowfall and trails may be icy. Please prepare for winter park visits by wearing appropriate outdoor gear for your winter adventure and know that trail conditions can sometimes be challenging.

Visit our website



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