

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter



February 2 | 2023

Greetings!

We hope this email finds you well and you are enjoying many seasonal activities this year. In this newsletter, you'll have the opportunity to nominate an environmental hero for an award, hear about partnerships, download PPD Valentines, and of course sign up for programs in YOUR Portage Parks!

As always, you can find all programming on our [Things to Do page](#).

Portage Park District Foundation

NOMINATE YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL HERO



Nominate a Portage County Environmental Hero!

The Annual Environmental Conservation Awards dinner is celebrating its 25th year recognizing the efforts of those dedicated to protecting our environment. The 2023 dinner will be held on **Earth Day - Saturday, April 22!** The event includes park updates from Executive Director, Christine Craycroft, a presentation of awards, music, raffles, and dinner.

During the past 25 years, the dinner has given over **160 awards** to amazing organizations, individuals, and businesses who are champions for the environment.

Help us find the next batch of awardees and submit a nomination today on our website. [Submit a nomination](#)



In the Parks



Thank you to Habitat for Humanity of Portage County Restore!

Portage Park District recently partnered with the Habitat for Humanity of Portage County Restore to remove usable materials from their property near Towner's Woods prior to demolition.

We are happy to report that several items were acquired during this process that will be sold at the Habitat Restore to help fund home building in Portage County. Thank you to the staff at HFHPC for this partnership!

[Habitat for Humanity of Portage County](#)

Judge Smith swears in Commissioner Tom Hrdy

Last month, Board Commissioner Tom Hrdy was sworn in by Probate Judge Patricia Smith for a

three-year term with the Portage Park District. Thank you Tom Hrdy for your dedication to the Portage Park District and your hard work on the Board.

Interested in becoming a commissioner? [Learn more.](#)



Upcoming Programs



Birding for Beginners (Virtual Program)

Let's come together to learn about our most recent visitor, Comet ZTF. We will also focus on constellations you can view in the night sky right now. We will have a telescope and binoculars, but feel free to bring your own as well!

[Register here.](#)

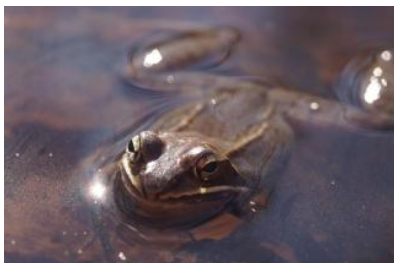
Try our [self-guided hikes](#) at Trail Lake Park and Seneca Ponds!

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 - February 2](#)
[Senior Hike - February 16](#)

Visit our [YouTube channel](#).



Owlbert's Adventures:



Discover Red-Tailed Hawks-



FrogWatch USA Volunteer

Frogcicles -

Did you know that wood frogs can freeze solid over winter and thaw out in the spring?

Explore one of our early spring amphibians with Owlbert's friends as we discover frozen frogs, and create a nature craft. This is an indoor program, and we will venture outside if weather permits. Owlbert's Adventures are designed for children ages 3-6 and their families. photo: Ian Marshall

[Register here.](#)

Virtual Program. Join us from the comfort of your own home as we discuss Portage County's most common hawk.

[Register here.](#)

Training-

FrogWatch USA is a citizen science program that is offered throughout the whole country, but Portage Park District is starting our very own chapter! Come receive training on how to listen to the frogs of Portage County and contribute knowledge to the scientific community about our amphibious friends.

[Register here.](#)



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.

2023 Park Valentines are here!

Get your own Portage Park District Valentine's to share on our website! We've created a downloadable PDF with 6 unique designs for you to print and use OR you can request photo versions to share via email, text, or social media.

[Get your Valentines here](#)



Partner News

Native Tree Sale

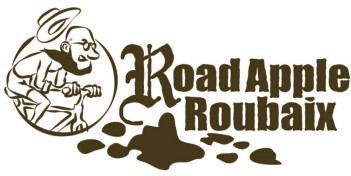
The Portage Soil and Water Conservation District tree sale is live. Online ordering is available until March.

[Check out the sale here](#)



Portage
Soil & Water
Conservation District

Road Apple Roubaix



Kick off your 2023 riding season with the Ninth Annual Road Apple Roubaix on March 4. This gravel road ride will test riders with plenty of gravel, some pavement, potential mud, and perhaps even some snow and ice! This is an opportunity to tour some of the less traveled roads out in Amish country... JUST BEWARE OF THE ROAD APPLES! For 2023, there are

two route options- 27 & 47 miles. [Learn more.](#)

Visit our website

