

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter



Trail Lake Park - photo credit Brad Bolton

January 4, 2024

Hello Christine,

Your Portage Park District is full of excitement and anticipation as we usher in the new year! It is the Year of the Eclipse for our 2024 Wild Hikes Challenge, we are accepting applications for a part-time Volunteer Coordinator, and we have a great lineup of education programs and activities to get you outdoors this month.

Our new [Winter Program Guide](#) is available online and posted in our park kiosks. Take a look and register for your next winter adventure.

In the Parks

Where Do the Wild Things Go in Winter?

by Holly Stoneberg, Education Program Coordinator

In winter, humans have three options to handle the limited daylight and colder temperatures. If you're lucky, you might



spend some time in the southern climes of the country – basking on the beaches in Daytona or working on your golf swing in Hilton Head. Some hunker down, laying low and finding it harder to resist that midday nap.

[Read More...](#)

Spending time outdoors is important for both your physical and mental well-being. Our winter activity calendar gives daily ideas of how you can learn and explore during the winter season while visiting the parks or at home! Click the image below to register and download your own winter activity calendar.



JANUARY

Winter Activity Calendar

Daily winter nature activities to do in the park or on your own!

Join our Portage Park District Team

We are accepting applications for a part-time Volunteer Coordinator (up to 20 hours per week). If you have spent time in your Portage Parks, you know we have a fantastic group of dedicated and talented volunteers! We are excited to hire someone just as amazing to give our volunteers the support they deserve. [Learn More...](#)



Upcoming Programs



Wild Hikes Challenge Kickoff

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

Register to walk with us this **Saturday, January 6 at 10:00am** for our first Wild Hikes Challenge hike of the year!

New for 2024: We have heard from you and we will be offering a monthly guided hike that counts toward the challenge. You can earn your medallion while hiking with a group!

natural world around us.

Upcoming Senior Hikes:
Senior Hike - January 11
Senior Hike - January 25

Visit our **YouTube channel**



Citizen Science Tech Talk January 18 @ 6 PM

Join Holly & Jen to learn how to best use iNaturalist and eBird to get connected with nature, contribute to the park district resource inventory, and learn about your environment.

[Register here](#)



Astronomy Night January 25 @ 6 PM

The skies above are always changing, and the constellations and planets we see now might not be visible in six months. We will discuss the changes we're seeing, and if the weather permits, we'll go outside.

[Register here](#)



Using Nature to Combat Depression January 30 @ 11 AM

Seasonal Affective Disorder may be triggered by less daylight. Mental Health and Recovery Board of will explain how to use nature to make the most out these next few months.

[Register here](#)

Portage Park District Foundation

Kent Jaycees Event to Benefit Portage Parks

The Kent Jaycees have chosen the **Portage Park District Foundation** as the beneficiary of their annual reverse raffle. The money raised will be used for new interpretive signs for the Hopewell Mound and the historic Brady Switch Tower at Towner's Woods Park.

The Jaycees are selling a limited number of tickets that may be ordered **online**. Please remember to check the box for the park district after your ticket purchase.



Hopewell Mound at Towner's Woods Park.
Photo credit Denny Reiser

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! Watch our website and newsletter for solar eclipse park programs. Learn more about the eclipse **here**. Download your **Wild Hikes form**.

Please note: Medallions will not be available for pickup until eclipse weekend.



Park Reminders

- It is 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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