

# PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter



Spring Beauty - Shaw Woods Park

March 7, 2024

Happy Spring!

The earth begins to awaken from its winter slumber this month. Early spring wildflowers are pushing up through the ground, the buds of spring blooming shrubs like Northern Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) are swelling, early amphibians are calling and moving to their breeding pools, and spring bird migration is underway. The signs of spring emerge - even during the cold and snowy days that are sure to happen sometime this month!

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

## In the Parks



## Total Eclipse of the Parks!

Have you heard the news? Portage County is in the path of totality for the Solar Eclipse, which means we will experience a total eclipse of the parks on April 8, 2024! Emergency Management Agencies are predicting a significant surge in visitors to our area to view this historic event. Local residents may choose to view the eclipse from the comfort of their homes, but the park district is offering a few eclipse program opportunities.

[Read More...](#)



## Upcoming Programs



### Owlbert's Adventures: Spring Wildflowers

Explore early spring blooms with Owlbert's friends! Discover why these splashes of color on the forest floor are an important part of our Portage County ecosystems and create a craft to take home. Owlbert's Adventures are recommended for children ages 3-6 and their families. [Register](#) to join the fun on **Saturday, March 23 at 11:00am** at Towner's Woods Park.

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 - March 7**  
**Senior Hike - March 21**

Visit our [YouTube channel](#)



**Spring Into Health**  
March 12 @ 10 AM

The days are getting longer, and the weather is warming up! Now is the perfect time to get outside. Join UH hospitals for blood pressure readings and tips on how to make the most of your time outside.

[Register here](#)



**Spring Garden Prep**  
March 25 @ 7 PM

Join us for a webinar about planning and preparing your garden this spring! Whether you are into flowers or vegetables, the work we put in during the spring enhances our experience all season.

[Register here](#)



**Spring Ephemeral Stroll**  
April 2 @ 5 PM

There is a reason Dix Park has a trail called Trillium! Early spring wildflowers are popping up through the forest floor this time of year. We will look for and learn to identify these spring gems.

[Register here](#)

## Portage Park District Foundation

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
AWARDS DINNER APRIL 27**

**Save the date!**

### Headwaters Adventure Race

Registration is now open for the **2024 Headwaters Adventure Race!** Run, pedal, and paddle your way through the natural landscape of northern Portage County. Registration categories include Solo, All-Phase Team, and Relay Team. Learn more about this fun annual race and register to participate.



### 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**.

# Park Reminders

- Please use designated parking lots when visiting your parks and trails. Trailhead parking lots are indicated on the individual [park and trail maps](#).
- Pets are welcome at all of our open parks and trails! Please follow the rules with your furry friends - keep them leashed, pick up their poop, and dispose of the waste in a trash receptacle or at home.

# Park Partners

## AMATS Seeks Input on Transportation Plan

AMATS is currently working on an update to the Active Transportation Plan (ATP). The agency invites you to share your insights regarding the Greater Akron area's Shared Use Path Network. [This link](#) will take you to an interactive map of Shared Use Path Recommendations that will be included in the ATP. The map includes the existing bike lanes and trails in the AMATS region and recommendations for future connections. Please review this map and provide comments. This is for regional planning purposes only. The public comment period will be open from **March 1, 2024** to **March 22, 2024**.

## Summit Metroparks Native Plant Festival



WILD BACK YARDS

Save the Date

# NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, MAY 18  
10 AM TO 4 PM

**MUNROE FALLS METRO PARK**  
Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls



BROWSE *AND* PURCHASE NATIVE PLANTS,  
ATTEND EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS,  
ENJOY ENTERTAINMENT *AND* MORE!

Summit  Metro Parks  
[bit.ly/wildbackyards](https://bit.ly/wildbackyards)

Visit our website



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