



Portage Park District

October 2018 Newsletter

Park improvements



Morgan park Meadow Loop trail

Thanks to a grant from the [Burton D. Morgan Foundation](#), the Meadow Loop Trail has been improved with a compacted limestone surface to make it much more accessible for a wider range of users, including those in strollers and wheelchairs. It's just under a mile in length and includes a rest area which has been enhanced with a butterfly/pollinator wildflower garden-planted with assistance from volunteers and the [Portage County Master Gardeners](#). More improvements are in the works, but in the meantime, check it out as one of your trails in the Wild Hikes Challenge!

This Issue

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Job opportunities

We are hiring!

Job opportunities can be seen [here](#)

Volunteering

Fall recruiting

We are looking for volunteers for a variety of opportunities. Visit our [website](#) for more information on volunteering. Orientations will begin taking place in late October.

Notable dates

Walk to a Park Day

October 10

[For more information, click here](#)



In the parks

Giant Silk Moths of Ohio hibernate

Autumn is the season for falling leaves, colder temperatures and for moths-pupation. Pupation is part of the moth life cycle: when a caterpillar has grown as large as it can, it then creates a sack around itself to stay safe during the winter until



Cecropia pupa

temperatures become favorable to eclose or emerge from the sack.

While you are hiking the trails this fall, take time to look for Giant Silk Moth cocoons hanging from bare branches or woven into curled leaves. Giant Silk Moths, of the family Saturnidae, are distantly related to the Oriental moth that is used in silk production. Cecropia Moths (a type of Giant Silk Moth) create one of the largest cocoons, which look like large brown spindles attached to thin branches or twigs. Regal and Imperial Moths (also Giant Silk Moths) pupate underground, creating hard, dark colored casings around themselves.

After they emerge from their cocoons, Giant Silk Moths only survive one week as an adult. During their short life span, they do not eat or drink and search for a mating partner. Males and females mate as many times as they are able before they die and females lay many eggs to perpetuate their species.



Cecropia moth

To learn more about giant silk moths of Ohio-check out these sites: [ODNR](#), [iNaturalist](#)

Cuyahoga River Water Trail

Cuyahoga River Water Trail Partners announce public meetings to support the designation of the Cuyahoga River as an Ohio Water Trail

Public open house meetings:

Oct. 9, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The Natatorium

2345 Fourth St.

Cuyahoga Falls

Oct. 15, 3-7 p.m.

Happy Days Lodge

500 W Streetsboro Rd.

Peninsula

Oct. 16, 3-7 p.m.

Buchert Park Lodge

4808 E High St

Mantua

Oct. 24, 3-7 p.m.

Merwin's Wharf

1785 Merwin Ave.

Cleveland

Oct. 31, 3-7 p.m.

Roy Smith

Shelterhouse

497 Middlebury Rd.

Kent



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Peninsula, OH: The Cuyahoga River Water Trail Partners (CRWTP) are organizing a series of public meetings to generate community and organizational support for the designation and implementation of the Cuyahoga River as an Ohio Water Trail. The Cuyahoga River would join [11 existing Ohio rivers](#) under that designation.

The CRWTP, a grass-root collaborative of over 25 organizations, has been working since February 2011 to develop the concept of a Cuyahoga River Water Trail - a paddling route for the entire length of the Cuyahoga River. State of Ohio designation of the Cuyahoga River will improve and promote public access to, and use of, the river as a valuable resource for low-impact recreation, economic development, and tourism; and to support and enhance river appreciation, conservation and stewardship.

Green Portage

Working to be plastic free

Author: Kurt Ruehr, Portage Park District Foundation

I catch it out of the corner of my eye; A little movement in the brush. I turn my head and the creature reveals itself in all of its glory. There, perched in the thin upper branches of a bush sits a plastic shopping bag. This particular creature is of the blue species, though white is also very common along with other lesser seen varieties such as green and brown. They usually tend to live where the wind deposits them into some branches or they get stuck in a puddle. I stop and consider it for a moment in disbelief, then pick it up and stuffed it into my pocket and carry it out of the woods. Alas, what can I do? I'm sure that you've seen them too. I start to pay more attention and begin looking for them. To my dismay I see them everywhere.



Kurt Ruehr

The news is chock-full of stories about pollution in the oceans, plastic bags and trash being found in dead marine life, and the overall harm humans are doing to the wild. While we may not have an ocean in Portage County, there are still problems we face in our own community. [Read more](#)

Wild Hikes Challenge 2018 - 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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