

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter



Seneca Ponds Park - photo credit Lisa Barclay

October 5, 2023

Hello Christine,

The temperature may feel like summer, but one look at the tree canopy and it's clear that autumn has arrived! Our forests are beginning to display their red, orange and yellow leaves in preparation for winter. Plan to visit your Portage Parks this month and enjoy the colorful show!

All of us at the Portage Park District are grateful for the outpouring of support from our park friends and visitors. Thank you for showing the love and enjoying our local natural world! Help us plan for the future by completing our [Education Program Survey](#). We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events - read about them in our current [Program Guide](#).

In the Parks

Rocktober Museum

Our Education team has transformed part of Morgan Operations Center into a curated rock and mineral museum. There's even a

glow-in-the-dark rock room!

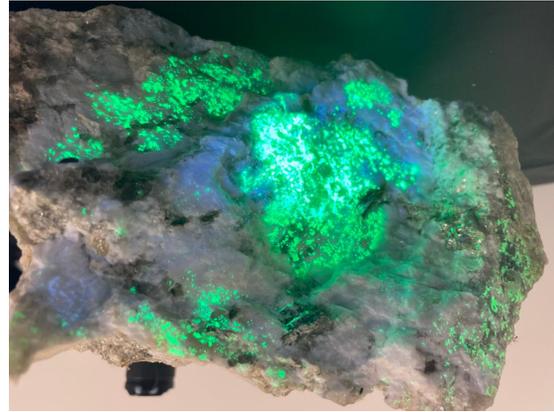
Local geology experts will be present to answer your questions and share their passion for rocks and minerals. You are welcome to bring your own rocks, minerals or fossils for our experts to identify.

The Rocktober Museum is open house style. Visitors can stop by for a short visit or stay longer to explore and learn!

The museum hours are:

Thursday, October 5 - 6:00pm-9:00pm
Friday, October 6 - 10:00am-2:00pm
Friday, October 6 - 5:00pm-8:00pm
Saturday, October 7 - 1:00pm-4:00pm

[Let us know what time slot you choose!](#)



Love for Your Portage Parks

Portage Park District helps to conserve Portage County's rural character and natural heritage while creating parks and trails for all, yielding valuable environmental, social, health and economic benefits for generations to come. We have compiled a list of FAQs about the upcoming Portage Park District levy.

[Read More...](#)

Bench Goal Achieved!

Congratulations to new Eagle Scout Troy Claypoole! Troy worked with our Operations & Maintenance Department to build and install park benches along the Portage Hike & Bike Trail. Troy's benches completed our park goal of having a bench every 1/4-mile along the trail! Park benches offer a place to rest, reflect or enjoy the view. Thank you, Troy, for sharing your time and talent to improve our park spaces!



Upcoming Programs

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 - October 19**

Visit our **YouTube channel**.

Preserve Peeks Continue!

Join us for guided tours of three unopened preserve properties this month: Portage Meadows, Breakneck Creek Preserve and Bird Family Bog Preserve. Space is limited, so register today.

[Learn more about Preserve Peeks](#)



River Health Workshop October 11 @ 10 AM

Join Water Protection Specialists from the Akron Water Supply Bureau as they lead us through water sampling and macroinvertebrate studies. Learn why watershed protection is important.

[Register here](#)

Fall Colors Hike October 18 @ 11 AM

Red, yellows, and oranges, oh my! What a spectacular thing it is to walk in the woods during fall. Walk with us to enjoy the sites and learn about this beautiful process. Photo credit: Jennifer Robinson

[Register here](#)

Owlbert's Adventures: Chlorophyll Curiosity October 19 @ 2 PM

How do leaves change color in the fall? And why? Investigate the amazing adaptations of plants with Owlbert and friends as we explore chlorophyll together.

[Register here](#)

Portage Park District Foundation

Dix Park Pavilion

The Portage Park District Foundation supports the park mission and programs in many ways. Most recently, the Foundation funded the new pavilion at Dix Park. This post and beam shelter has a grill and overlooks the Bunting Trail. The shelter has three large picnic tables and can be reserved for your next gathering or event by

completing the [park reservation form](#).



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.

Visit our website



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