

Find Your **Adventure** in Portage Parks!

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT
PROGRAM GUIDE



Breakneck Creek Preserve
Preserve Peek on April 20!
See Inside

For Fun, For Health, For LIFE!



Look for these symbols inside to find your perfect adventure!

PARK RX



Join Portage Park District and our partners to focus on a healthier you. We work with partners in health and wellness fields to help you find new ways to nourish your mind and body through nature.

OWLBERT'S ADVENTURES



Inspired by our mascot, Owlbert, this series is designed for our younger park patrons (PreK-elementary). Owlbert's Adventures will feature engaging activities and a hike length that's appropriate for smaller legs!

BIRDING CLUB



Did you know that birding is one of the fastest growing hobbies in North America? We know there are many talented birders in the area and our goal is to provide a space for both experts and newbies to learn and bird together at our local parks!

WEBINAR



Portage Park District offers webinars to learn about nature in the comfort of your own home. Many past webinars are also available on our YouTube channel.

PRESERVE PEEK



Preserves are properties that are not yet developed and open as parks, and often have temporary names. Join us on behind-the-scenes tours and share your ideas for creating what might become your new favorite Portage Park!

March at a Glance

All programs require registration.
Visit our website for the up to date program information.

DAY	TIME	WHAT	WHERE
2	10:00 AM	Nature Art in the Park: Skunk Cabbage	Dix Park
5	6:00 PM	Extirpated: Wolves and Ohio	Morgan Park Operations Center
7	12:00 PM	Senior Hike	Headwaters Trail: Mill Street
12	10:00 AM	Spring into Health with UH	Morgan Park
13	6:00 PM	Salamander Saunter	Towner's Woods
14	7:30 PM	Astronomy Night	Morgan Park Operations Center
16	8:00 AM	Birding Club	Headwaters Trail: Garrettsville Village Park
16	1:00 PM	Wild Hikes Challenge Group Hike	Trail Lake Park
19	6:00 PM	Equinox Hike	Seneca Ponds
21	12:00 PM	Senior Hike	Portage Hike and Bike: Lake Rockwell
23	11:00 AM	Owlbert's Adventure: Spring Wildflowers	Towner's Woods
25	7:00 PM	Spring Garden Prep: Tips and Tricks	Zoom
27	5:30 PM	Vernal Pool Exploration	Shaw Woods

Nature Art in the Park Saturday, March 2, 10:00 AM

Our earliest native wildflower, the Skunk Cabbage, will begin to bloom even before all the snow is gone. We'll be learning about this fascinating, and smelly, species while using it as our muse for some works of art.

Extirpated: Wolves and Ohio Tuesday, March 5, 6:00 PM

Park Volunteer Todd Cartner will share the fascinating life history, disappearance from Ohio, and the current research and status of wolves today.

Senior Hike Thursday, March 7, 12:00 PM

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.



Photo: Ian Marshall

Spring into Health with UH Tuesday, March 12, 10:00 AM

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



Salamander Saunter Wednesday, March 13, 6:00 PM

Join us on a spring stroll to learn about, and potentially uncover, some of these secretive amphibians.

Astronomy Night Thursday, March 14, 7:30 PM

The skies above are always changing, and the constellations and planets we see now might not be visible in six months. Astronomy Night will allow us to discuss the changes we're seeing, any cool things that are going on up there, and if the weather permits, we'll go outside to take a look.

Birding Club Saturday, March 16, 8:00 AM

Come practice your avian identification skills in a laid-back setting. Nature newbies are welcome to come try out a new hobby in a safe and welcoming atmosphere!



Wild Hikes Challenge Group Hike Saturday, March 16, 1:00 PM

Want to complete the challenge but not quite ready to go it alone? Join our group hikes to get one step closer to your new medallion!



Equinox Hike

Tuesday, March 19, 6:00 PM

Let's take a walk to soak up the sun as we welcome the arrival of spring to Portage County (and the Northern Hemisphere)!

Senior Hike

Thursday, March 21, 12:00 PM

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.

Owlbert's Adventure: Spring Wildflowers

Saturday, March 23, 11:00 AM

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.



Spring Garden Prep: Tips and Tricks Webinar

Monday, March 25, 7:00 PM

Garden season is almost upon us, so it is high time we start getting those plans finished. Whether you are into flowers or vegetables, the work we put in during the spring enhances our experience all season long.



Vernal Pool Exploration Wednesday, March 27, 5:30 PM

Vernal pools may look like big puddles, but those in the know understand there is a whole other world just below the surface. Help us collect, identify, and count the multitudes of critters that can be found in these amazing habitats.



Prepare for the Eclipse!

The April Solar Eclipse will be the last one to pass over our area for another 400 years!

The only safe time to look at the sun is during the eclipse maximum, which lasts less than 5 minutes. Otherwise, always use appropriate eclipse glasses. If you don't have glasses, we will be preparing for the event on April 6 by making pin hole viewers and discussing other safe viewing options.



Spring Ephemeral Stroll Tuesday, April 2, 5:00 PM

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

Senior Hike

Thursday, April 4, 12:00 PM

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.

Equip for the Eclipse

Saturday, April 6, 10:00 AM

Get ready for the big event by learning about solar eclipses and safe viewing. We'll also be making cereal box viewers to take home so that we are prepared for Monday!

Eclipse Hike & View

Monday, April 8, 2:00 PM

Join Park staff as we watch the biggest astronomical event of the year! We'll take a hike and talk about eclipses as we wait for the maximum phase of the eclipse.

Tick and Mosquito Walk & Talk

Wednesday, April 10, 6:00 PM

Ticks and mosquitos are a fact of life when you spend time outdoors, but as long as you know how to keep you and your family safe, there's no reason to worry. Speakers from the Portage County Health District will lead this hike to share information and tips and answer your questions.



UH Hike with an Expert

Tuesday, April 16, 10:00 AM

Get your day started with a hike and learn from a representative of University Hospitals Portage Medical Center.



Listening Sessions

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 PM

We are in planning mode at the Park District and YOU are a vital part of our process. Join us for a virtual listening session to learn about our current plans and to share your ideas and wish list for your Portage Parks.

Senior Hike

Thursday, April 18, 12:00 PM

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.

Astronomy Night

Thursday, April 18, 8:00 PM

The skies above are always changing, and the constellations and planets we see now might not be visible in six months. Astronomy Night will allow us to discuss the changes we're seeing, any cool things that are going on up there, and if the weather permits, we'll go outside to take a look.

Birding Club

Saturday, April 20, 8:00 AM

Come practice your avian identification



April at a Glance

All programs require registration.
Visit our website for the up to date program information.

DAY	TIME	WHAT	WHERE
2	5:00 PM	Spring Ephemeral Stroll	Dix Park
4	12:00 PM	Senior Hike	Berlin Lake Trail: Kirkbride
6	10:00 AM	Equip for the Eclipse	Morgan Park Operations Center
8	2:00 PM	Eclipse Hike & View	Trail Lake Park and Morgan Park
10	6:00 PM	Tick and Mosquito Walk & Talk	Dix Park
16	10:00 AM	UH Hike with an Expert	Morgan Park
17	7:00 PM	Listening Sessions	Virtual
18	12:00 PM	Senior Hike	Hike and Bike Trail at Towner's Woods
18	8:00 PM	Astronomy Night	Morgan Park Operations Center
20	8:00 AM	Birding Club	Morgan Park
20	1 PM & 3 PM	Preserve Peek	Breakneck Creek Preserve
22	6:00 PM	Earth Day Hike	Seneca
22	7:00 PM	History of Earth Day	Webinar
24	6:00 PM	S'more Stories with Reed Memorial Library	Dix Park
26	11:00 AM	Nature Art in the Park: Arbor Day Trees	Towner's Woods
27	11:00 AM	Owlbert's Adventure: Amazing Amphibians	Dix Park
28	2:30 PM	Kayak with KSU	Trail Lake Park
30	6:30 PM	Wild Hikes Challenge Group Hike	Shaw Woods

skills in a laid-back setting. Nature newbies are welcome to come try out a new hobby in a safe and welcoming atmosphere!

Breakneck Creek Preserve Peek Saturday, April 20, 1 PM and 3 PM

Join us on a behind-the-scenes tour and share your ideas for creating what might become your new favorite Portage Park! Space is limited so be sure to register!



Earth Day Hike

Monday, April 22, 6:00 PM

Celebrate Earth Day and the beautiful natural spaces of Portage County by taking a hike with friends!

History of Earth Day Webinar

Monday, April 22, 7:00 PM

It has been 54 years since the first Earth Day. Learn about all the things that brought it about and ways we can keep protecting the planet.



S'more Stories with Reed Memorial Library Wednesday, April 24, 6:00 PM

We will spend time in nature reading stories, making s'mores, and learning about local wildlife with our local library!

Nature Art in the Park: Arbor Day Trees Friday, April 26, 11:00 AM

Trees are sometimes overlooked as we walk past them on our adventures. Let's give them the credit they deserve and make them the focal point of our artwork on a day dedicated to these dendritic masterpieces.



Owlbert's Adventure:

Amazing Amphibians

Saturday, April 27, 11:00 AM

Discover the world of amphibians with us! Frogs, toads, and salamanders are fascinating creatures with a really cool lifecycle adaptation.

Kayak with KSU

Sunday, April 28, 2:30 PM

Join Kent State University's Outdoor Adventure Center crew as we learn the basics of kayaking safety and paddle around the 33-acre lake.



Wild Hikes Challenge Group Hike Tuesday, April 30 6:30 PM

Want to complete the challenge but not quite ready to go it alone? Join our group hikes to get one step closer to your new medallion!



May at a Glance

All programs require registration.
Visit our website for the up to date program information.

DAY	TIME	WHAT	WHERE
1	6:00 PM	Spring Ephemeral Stroll	Headwaters Trail: Route 700
2	12:00 PM	Senior Hike	Trail Lake Park
4	9:00 AM	History Hike	PHB: Cleveland Road
6	6:00 PM	Ride with a Ranger	Portage Hike and Bike: Franklin Connector
7	7:00 PM	Three Feet of Nature Discovery	Shaw Woods
10	9:00 PM	Moth Night	Dix Park
11	12:00 PM	Spring Bee Bonanza	Morgan Park
14	10:00 AM	UH Hike with an Expert	Morgan Park
14	5:30 PM	Mosey for Mushrooms	Towner's Woods
15	7:00 PM	Wild Hikes Challenge Group Hike	Dix Park
16	12:00 PM	Senior Hike	Headwaters Trail: Asbury Road
16	8:30 PM	Astronomy Night	Morgan Park Operations Center
18	8:00 AM	Birding Club	Berlin Lake Trail
19	1-4:00 PM	LPC Family Fun Day	Trail Lake Park
20	7:00 PM	Invasive Instigators	Webinar
22	5:30 PM	Vernal Pool Exploration	Towner's Woods
23	9:00 PM	Full Moon Hike	Morgan Park
25	9 AM and 11 AM	Preserve Peek	Kent Bog
25	11:00 AM	Owlbert's Adventure: Bike Trail Safety	Headwaters Trail: Route 700
28	7:00 PM	Turtle Talk & Walk	Seneca Ponds
30	12:00 PM	Senior Hike	Portage Hike and Bike: Franklin Connector

Spring Ephemeral Stroll Wednesday, May 1, 6:00 PM

Early spring ephemeral wildflowers are popping up through the forest floor this time of year. We will walk together to look for and learn to identify these little spring gems.

Senior Hike Thursday, May 2, 12:00 PM

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail.

History Hike Saturday, May 4, 9:00 AM

From Native American transportation routes to historic train lines, the Portage Hike and Bike Trail has a fascinating history. Come walk and learn from the Portage County Historical Society and Reed Memorial Library along this path that now connects schools, businesses, and parks with downtowns and neighborhoods from Ravenna to Kent and beyond.

Ride with a Ranger Monday, May 6, 6:00 PM

Enjoy a 2.6-mile round trip ride with Ranger Kevin Nietert along the Franklin Connector. A quick trip great for seniors and families!



Three Feet of Nature Discovery Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 PM

Long walks are great, but did you know there is a whole world waiting to be discovered just within arm's reach? Take a closer look at the immense numbers of things that could be hidden right under your nose!

Moth Night Friday, May 10, 9:00 PM

Think moths are small and gray? Think again! You'll be amazed at the sizes, shapes, and colors of moths that will visit when you just invite them in with lights.

Spring Bee Bonanza Saturday, May 11, 12:00 PM

By the middle of May, bees are already busy filling their ecological niche. Bob Heath will show us how to identify them and explain the different roles they perform.

UH Hike with an Expert Tuesday, May 14, 10:00 AM

Start your day with a hike and learn from a representative of University Hospitals Portage Medical Center's Rehabilitation Center on healthy movement.



Mosey for Mushrooms Tuesday, May 14, 5:30 PM

Natural Areas Steward Emmet Roberts will lead us through the woods to look for a variety of specimens that call Northeast Ohio home, sharing interesting facts and identification tips.



Wild Hikes Challenge Group Hike Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 PM

Want to complete the challenge but not quite ready to go it alone? Join our group hikes to get one step closer to your new medallion!



Senior Hike Thursday, May 16, 12:00 PM

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.

Astronomy Night Thursday, May 16, 8:30 PM

The skies above are always changing, and the constellations and planets we see now might not be visible in six months. Astronomy Night will allow us to discuss the changes we're seeing, any cool things that are going on up there, and if the weather permits, we'll go outside to take a look.

Birding Club Saturday, May 18, 8:00 AM

You don't want to miss this – it's the best time and best place to view the spring warbler migration. Berlin Lake Trail is the #1 Birding Hotspot in Portage County and the arrivals are filling the trees.





Leadership Portage County Family Fun Day

Sunday, May 19, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Leadership Portage County has brought together activities, food, and community partners for one great day at the lake! Walk with naturalists, enjoy some Kona ice, or write a poem with the KSU Wick Poetry Center's Traveling Stanzas Makerspace.

Invasive Instigators Webinar

Monday, May 20, 7:00 PM

Invasives are species that are not native to an area and steal resources from our native treasures. Log on to learn about the biggest bothers we see in our parks.

Vernal Pool Exploration

Wednesday, May 22, 5:30 PM

Vernal pools may look like big puddles, but those in the know understand there is a whole other world just below the surface. Help us collect, identify, and count the multitudes of critters that can be found in these amazing habitats.

Full Moon Hike

Thursday, May 23, 9:00 PM

Enjoy the park after dark as we walk beneath the light of the Flower Moon.

Kent Bog Expansion Preserve Peek

Saturday, May 25, 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Join us on a behind-the-scenes tour and share your ideas for creating what might become your new favorite Portage Park! Space is limited so be sure to register!



Owlbert's Adventure:

Bike Trail Safety

Saturday, May 25, 11:00 AM

Hop on your bike and practice bike safety with us! Learning to ride has never been safer with over 20 miles of biking trails in Portage County. Participants will use their own bike to learn biking etiquette and engage in a short ride.

Turtle Talk & Walk

Tuesday, May 28, 7:00 PM

We are at the beginning of turtle nesting season so let's walk and talk about why these reptiles are so cool – and so necessary for healthy ecosystems.

Senior Hike

Thursday, May 30, 12:00 PM

Enjoy a Senior Hike with friends! These slower paced, group hikes offer a chance for all ages to enjoy an ADA-accessible trail at one of your Portage Parks or Multipurpose Trails.

Volunteer with Portage Park District!

If you are looking for additional ways to support your parks, volunteering is just the ticket. Our volunteers help us monitor trail usage and maintenance needs, take part in citizen science, remove invasive species, plant trees, assist with educational programming, take photos, engage with the public at special events and more. There are a variety of opportunities for ages 12 and up to make a difference in Portage County. Visit our website to learn more about volunteering opportunities.

Support Your Portage Parks

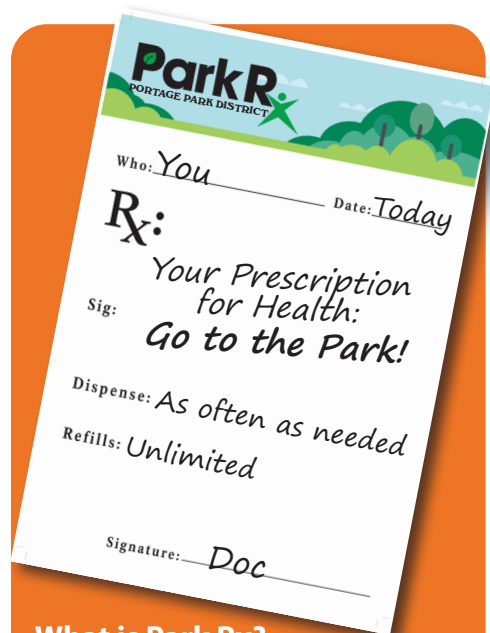
There are many ways that you can help support the Portage Park District in our mission to conserve Portage County's natural resources. You can volunteer and give of your time, donate land to leave a legacy of conservation, or donate funds to the Portage Park District Foundation. Your generous contributions will help build and maintain our park system for future generations. **Get involved today!**



Portage Park District
FOUNDATION



Photo: Denny Reiser



What is Park Rx?

Park Rx is a "prescription for health". The National Park Rx Initiative is made up of agencies that are dedicated to using nature and public lands to improve individual and community health.

Portage Park District Park Rx:

Our goal is to help our community get healthy and stay healthy while enjoying Portage Parks. Walk or bike to take care of your heart, rehabilitate after surgery or simply relax in the beauty and peace of nature.

Look for the Park Rx events in this guide.

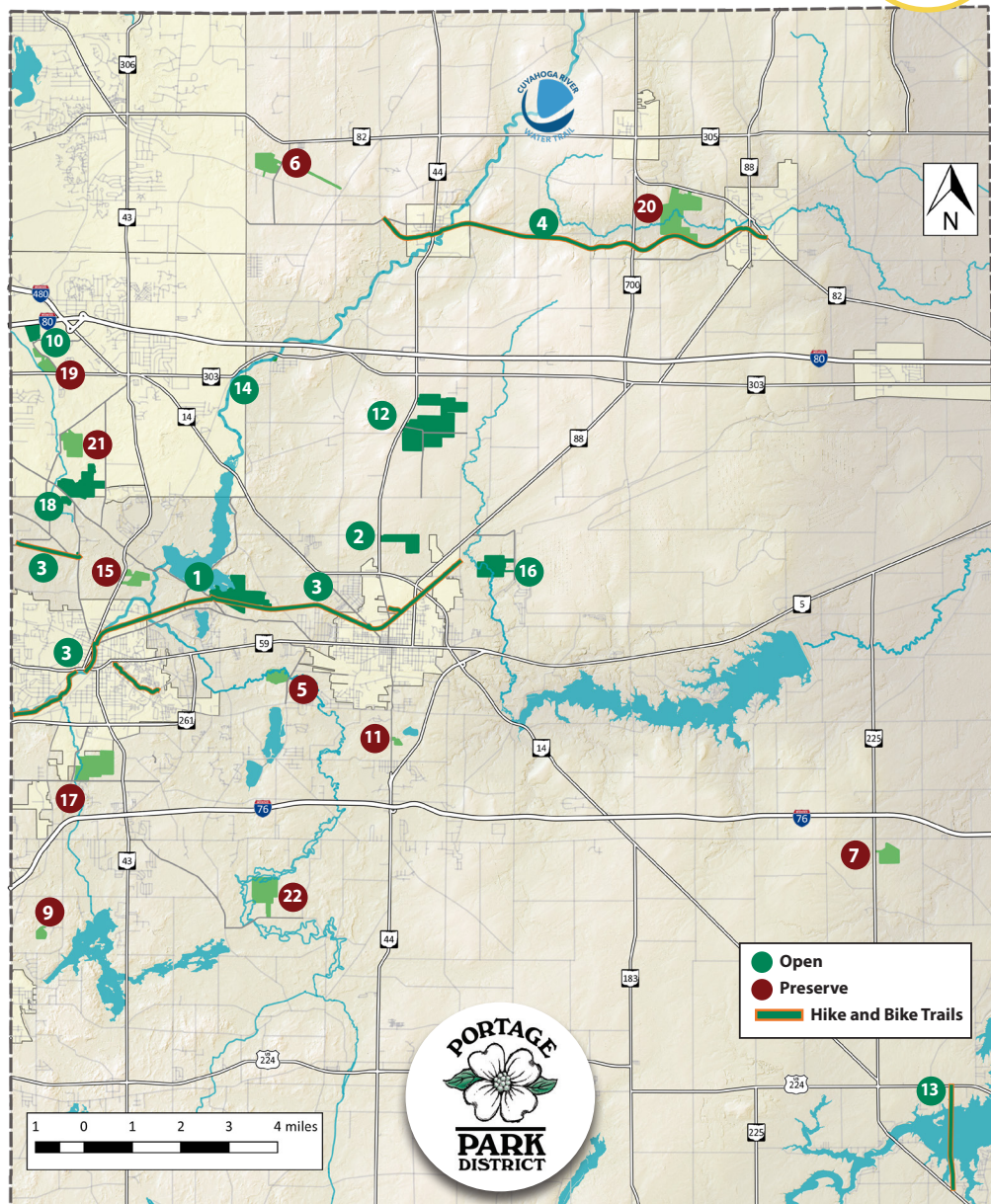


Photo: George Rose

YOUR PORTAGE PARKS



- 1 TOWNER'S WOODS PARK**
2264 Ravenna Rd., Franklin Twp.
254 acres of woods, wetlands and meadow overlooking Lake Pippen. Picnic shelter and accessible gazebo.
- 2 DIX PARK**
7318 ST RT 44, Ravenna Twp. - 103 acres of woods and wetlands with hiking trails.
- 3 THE PORTAGE HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL**
535 Cleveland Rd., Ravenna;
1557 Lake Rockwell Rd., Franklin Twp.;
784 Judson Rd., Franklin Twp.
Managed in partnership with the cities of Kent and Ravenna, and Kent State University. Asphalt-paved multipurpose trail.
- 4 HEADWATERS TRAIL**
4501 Mill St., Mantua, OH
10602 Vaughn Rd., Mantua, OH
10446 Asbury Rd., Hiram Twp.
10480 ST RT 700, Garrettsville, OH
10647 Freedom St., Garrettsville, OH
Limestone-surfaced multipurpose trail.
- 5 BREAKNECK CREEK PRESERVE**
Ravenna Twp. - 66 acres of open meadow, riparian woods and wetlands. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 6 CHAGRIN HEADWATERS PRESERVE**
Mantua Twp. - 95 acres of woods, wetlands and streams. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 7 WALTER PRESERVE**
Palmyra Twp. - 80 acres of woods and wetlands. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 9 GRAY BIRCH BOG PRESERVE**
Brimfield Twp. - 22 acre sphagnum birch bog. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 10 SENECA PONDS PARK**
515 Mondial Pkwy, Streetsboro - 48 acres of woods, wetlands and ponds for hiking and fishing.
- 11 DIX PRESERVE**
Rootstown Twp. - 10 acre parcel. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 12 MORGAN PARK** ♿
8828 ST RT 44, Shalersville Twp. - 544 acres of woods, wetlands, fields and streams.
- 13 BERLIN LAKE TRAIL** ♿
10228 ST RT 224, Deerfield Twp.;
232 Kirkbride Rd. - 2.1 mile multipurpose trail.
- 14 RED FOX BOAT TAKEOUT - UPPER CUYAHOGA STATE SCENIC RIVER**
9263 Price Rd., Shalersville Twp., Takeout and fishing access only.
- 15 FRANKLIN BOG PRESERVE**
Franklin Twp. - 58 acres of woods and wetlands, including a kettlehole lake and sphagnum peat bog. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 16 SHAW WOODS PARK**
7075 Beery Rd., Ravenna Twp. - 145 acres of woods, wetlands and ravines and the West Branch of the Mahoning River. Hiking and equestrian trails. Buckeye Trail primitive campsite available for reservation.
- 17 KENT BOG EXPANSION PRESERVE***
Brimfield Twp./Kent - 215 acres of mature woods and old fields protecting over 50 acres of sphagnum peat bog and a stretch of Plum Creek including fen habitat. Currently open only for guided hikes.



- 18 TRAIL LAKE PARK** ♿
605 Ravenna Rd., Streetsboro - 222 acres of woods and diverse habitat with 30-acre fishing lake, and an accessible kayak launch.
- 19 BECK PRESERVE***
Streetsboro - 63 acres of wetlands and shrubby forest along Tinkers Creek protecting fen habitat. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 20 EAGLE CREEK GREENWAY PRESERVE***
Hiram Twp. - 325 acres of rolling meadows and forest with stretches of Eagle Creek and Silver Creek, tributaries to the Mahoning River. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 21 TINKERS CREEK GREENWAY PHASE III PRESERVE***
Streetsboro - 112 acres of meadows and woods with high quality wetlands and stream. Currently open only for guided hikes.
- 22 BIRD FAMILY BOG PRESERVE***
Rootstown Twp. - 171 acres of fields and forest with a large sphagnum bog and streams. Currently open only for guided hikes.

Park Reminders

- Observe park hours; stay on trails.
- Keep pets leashed and properly dispose of pet waste.
- Alcohol is prohibited except by special permit.
- Motor vehicles are prohibited. Class I and II electric bikes and scooters are allowed on bike trails.
- On multipurpose trails stay right, pass on left. Alert others when passing.
- Release or removal of animals and plants on park properties is prohibited.
- No foraging in parks.

Full park rules found at
portageparkdistrict.org