



Portage Park District

February 2018 Newsletter

20th Annual Environmental Awards Dinner

Portage Park District Foundation seeks nominations for Annual Environmental Awards Dinner

The 20th Annual Portage County Environmental Conservation Awards Dinner will take place Saturday April 28 from 5:30-9 p.m. at the Kent American Legion hall, 1945 Mogadore Road and will feature a reception with live music, hors d'oeuvres featuring local foods, a silent auction, a buffet dinner and more.

The dinner steering committee is seeking nominations for awardees to be honored at the event.

Nominations for this year's awards will be considered based on their contributions to Portage County's environment through education, green business, green development, stewardship or environmental activism.

Nominations should include the nominee's name and contact information along with a paragraph describing their contribution to Portage County's environmental conservation. Visit the Portage Park District's [website](#) to download a nomination form. Send form to Portage Park District Foundation, 705 Oakwood St., Suite G-4, Ravenna, OH 44266 or by email to portageparkdistrictfoundation@gmail.com.

Fundraising proceeds will benefit the Portage Park



This Issue

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Trail tales



Do you have a Trail Tale?

Send us your stories, photos, or videos and we will feature them in this column and occasionally share on our website or social media. You can choose to share your name or remain anonymous. Send your stories to [Andrea](#).

Important Dates

District Foundation's mission to support the Portage Park District in their effort to conserve Portage County's natural heritage.

Welcome new staff!

Portage Park District welcomes Kent State University intern



My name is Miranda Linscott and I am the new intern for Portage Park District. I am a senior Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management major at Kent State University and will be graduating this May. After graduation I am moving to California and plan to be working with municipal/city parks. My hobbies include

hiking, gardening, and baking. In my free time I work on video editing projects for an amateur studio that I run with my friends. I am excited for what this internship has in store for me and I am very thankful for the opportunity!

What is your favorite color?

Green and pink!

What is your favorite animal and why?

I really love hamsters! I have one of my own named Hamilton. He's my best friend and is super cute.

What are some other hobbies of yours?

I enjoy being outside the most, especially hiking and trail running. In the summer I like to go kayaking whenever I get the chance.

What is your favorite childhood memory?

Growing up my sister and I spent many summer days playing in the creek next to our house catching crawdads and snails. I loved being outdoors from a young age.

Winter Activities

Tracking your favorite animals in the snow

Five types of animal tracks to look for this winter

While things can seem pretty quiet and sparse during the winter, there are still plenty of things to see in the parks. Many animals are still quite active and you can see evidence of this as you are spending time outdoors.

1. Red Fox



Our offices are closed on:

Feb. 19 - President's Day

Volunteer Orientations:

Feb. 10 at 10:00 am

Mar. 7 at 5:30 pm

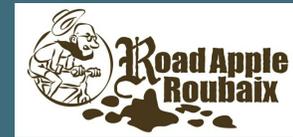
Headwaters Adventure Race:

July 14

Sign up by emailing [Andrea](#).

Local Events

Local events you might BEE interested in.



Road Apple Roubaix

March 3, 10 a.m.

Enjoy a scenic bike ride through Amish Country with the options of a 15, 25, or 40 mile route.

[Find out more here.](#)



Beginner Beekeeping Class

Feb. 8, 15, and 22 from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Portage County Soil and Water Office.

Learn the basics of beekeeping and connect with the Portage County Beekeepers. [Register and find out more here.](#)

These foxes do not hibernate; under extreme winter weather conditions they will reduce activity levels and take shelter for a day or two. Red foxes are nocturnal creatures, meaning that they are most active at night, feeding and moving from place to place. Nonetheless they are often found hunting during daylight hours.



[Click here to find out more](#)

2. Eastern Gray Squirrel



Gray squirrels prefer large expanses of wooded areas of hardwood trees. Gray squirrels will take shelter in leaf nests they have constructed or in tree dens.

[Click here to find out more](#)

3. White-Tailed Deer

Whitetails are active around the clock, but less so during daylight hours. Most often, white-tailed deer are on the move at dawn and dusk. [Click here to find out more](#)



4. Eastern Cottontail Rabbit



Eastern cottontail rabbits are year-round residents. They prefer open areas bordered by thickets or brush areas.

Winter foods may include ear corn, dry hay, and bark of tree saplings, raspberry, blackberry, and multiflora rose.

[Click here to find out more](#)

5. Mink

The mink is almost invariably found near water - both running waters of streams and rivers and the standing waters of marshes and lakes. Minks are especially drawn to areas that are wooded or brushy.



[Click here to find out more](#)



Oyster Mushroom at Dix Park



Sunrise on the PORTAGE Hike and Bike Trail



Sunny winter day on the Headwaters Trail

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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

