



# Portage Park District

July 2018 Newsletter

## Public Planning

### Planning meeting for two properties to be held in July

The Portage Park District is happy to announce a public planning open house for both our Kent Bog Expansion\* property and the Tinkers Creek Greenway\* property. We are inviting the public to attend the open house to share input on how they would like to see the properties developed into parks for future use. In addition to the open house, we invite you to join us for a guided hike at each location.

#### Open House:

July 19, 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
Roy H. Smith Shelterhouse  
497 Middlebury Rd.  
Kent, OH 44240

#### Kent Bog Expansion\* Guided Hike:

July 21, 9 a.m.  
785 Howe Rd.  
Brimfield, OH 44240

#### Tinkers Creek Greenway\* Guided Hike:

July 21, 1 p.m.  
Meet across from 624 Ravenna Rd.  
Streetsboro, OH 44241

\*Indicates these are not yet official park names

Take our [park planning survey](#) to give us your input on park usage and development.

OPRA Foundation Scholarship

## This Issue

[Volunteer needs](#)

[Wild Hikes](#)

## Upcoming events



## RUN, PEDAL, PADDLE

### Headwaters

#### Adventure Race

July 14  
Run, Pedal, Paddle your way to the finish line in Mantua.

[Sign up here!](#)

## Art on the Hill

July 14  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
[Mantua's 8th Annual Art on the Hill & Wine Tasting.](#)

## Portage Park District Seasonal Natural Areas Steward Lindsay Leightner wins \$1,000 scholarship

The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Foundation has awarded three \$1000 scholarships for the 2018-19 academic year to Ohio students planning for careers in parks and recreation.

John McComb scholarship winner **Lindsay Leightner** is a student in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources at West Virginia University in Park Maintenance and works at Portage Park District as a seasonal Natural Areas Steward. The Ravenna resident says "Public activities centered around natural resources are a relaxing way to entertain and give back to park patrons, who support the parks through taxes or donations, and enriching the young minds of potential environmentalists."



The scholarship winners will be recognized on February 5, 2019 at the OPRA Annual Awards of Excellence Dinner in Sandusky.

In addition to providing student and professional scholarships, the [OPRA Foundation](#) undertakes research, educates critical audiences and collaborates with allied partners to further the cause of public parks and recreation.

## Congratulations Lindsay!

### Summer wildlife

#### Four tips for spotting wildlife in the parks

1. Always carry binoculars. Binoculars can be very handy for identifying animals at a distance or small song birds.

2. Keep an identification guide with you. Using a field guide, such as those published by the National Audubon Society, can assist with your time outdoors. Apps like iNaturalist have been developed for on site identification of any species from just a picture.

3. Plan your hikes at dawn or dusk. Most animals will be more active at these time. For best viewing, stay in one spot for a few minutes at a time and remain quiet.



4. Remember that these animals are wild. Never approach, chase, or feed them. Observing animals from a distance is the best way to observe natural behavior of wildlife.

## Kent Lions Sweet Corn Festival

August 4 & 5  
12-5 p.m.

[Additional information](#)

### Foundation News

#### Show your support



Grab a license plate cover for just \$5 and show the community you support the Portage Park District. Stop in our office to get one today.

### Local events

#### Kayak Instructional Classes

Breakaway Excursions

July 26

August 16

1/2 price for Portage  
County residents

[For more information  
click here](#)

#### Like us on Facebook



#### Follow on Twitter



## 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](http://portageparkdistrict.org)

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