

# PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

## Monthly Newsletter



Towner's Woods, Photo: Tom Euclide

December 1 | 2022

Greetings!

We hope you are enjoying this wintery season as we near the end of 2022. In this month's newsletter, we welcome new staff members, congratulate several new Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists, and share great winter programs.

Join us in December for the Christmas Bird Count, Felt Bird Crafting with Nancy Smith, Senior Hikes, Winter Tic Tac Toe, Owlbert's Adventures, and more! Find all programs on our [Things to Do page](#).

## Staff Announcements

**Welcome to the team!**

Portage Park District is proud to welcome two new staff members this month. We are excited to fill these roles and continue to provide you with great service and programs at YOUR Portage Parks. Eric began his role on November 28 and Holly will join us full-time on January 3.

## Office Manager, Eric Seachrist

If there is one thing I've learned, it's that a few committed individuals can accomplish so very much. The Park District is a great example. Hello, Portage friends! I look forward to serving you as a new member of the Portage Parks team. I have been a park volunteer for ten years, a public servant for twenty, and a lifelong student of the Great Outdoors. If I don't see you in the office, I hope to meet you on the trails. If I'm not with my two dogs, Olive and Jet, you may find me with my crazy friends who like carrying heavy things as a way of staying fit.



## Education Program Coordinator, Holly Stoneberg

Hi park friends! I am excited to meet all of you at park programs soon. I am a graduate of Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a license to teach life and earth science. I have been teaching biology, anatomy and physiology, and environmental science for the past nine years. I love exploring Portage Park District with my husband and dog, Goose. I also have two fish and two cats, Elvis and Priscilla. My hobbies are hiking, kayaking, gardening, traveling and working on my birding skills. I have been an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist since 2016 and am looking forward to sharing my passion for education and nature with everyone that visits the parks!



---

## Congratulations to our new Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists

Portage Park District is incredibly lucky to have four new Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists (OCVN) among staff and volunteers.

The **OCVN program** is a research-based education program of The Ohio State University offered in partnership with several host locations, such as park districts and OSU Extension offices. The OCVN program emphasizes hands-on natural resource and environmental education coupled with volunteer service. Participants in the OCVN program receive 40 hours of combined classroom and field instruction. Upon completing the OCVN course, participants provide 40 hours of volunteer service at any Ohio organization with a compatible program mission.

Pictured are our OCVN grads, Bill Graham (Portage Park District Foundation Board Member), Rebecca Rodhe (PPD Education Outreach Specialist), Pete Mohan (Volunteer), and Emmalisa Kennedy (Volunteer).



## Upcoming Programs



### Winter Bird Craft

The unmistakable Northern Cardinal and the lovely American Goldfinch are two birds that we all enjoy seeing at our feeders over the winter. Join us for a fun craft program and learn how to make one of these birds with Portage Park District Volunteer, Nancy Smith! Registration is limited for this event, and participants will be asked to indicate which bird they would like to make at registration. Materials will be provided. [Register here.](#)

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 - December 1](#)  
[Senior Hike - December 15](#)

Visit our [YouTube channel](#).



### Owlbert's Adventures: Animal Tracks -

Explore animal tracks and signs with Owlbert's friends!

This indoor program will include a take-home animal track craft and children will discover how different animals walk and leave tracks in the snow or mud. If weather and time permit, we will adventure outside to search for real animal tracks! Photo: Ken Christensen

[Register here.](#)



### Christmas Bird Count -

Join us for the Audubon Society's 123rd Christmas Bird Count!

Experienced and beginner birders alike are welcome to join us for this county-wide event to collect data on Portage County's birds. Register below to learn more about participation details.

Photo: Lisa Barclay

[Register here.](#)



### Winter Tic Tac Toe-

It's time to have a little winter fun! Anytime this month you can download a winter tic tac toe and enjoy the season with these park activities.

Try to complete at least three activities to get tic tac a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal row. Upload a photo of your completed tic tac toe for a chance to win a Portage Park District lanyard and park poster!

[Register here.](#)

## Portage Park District Foundation

### Give the gift of Reforestation this season!

Celebrate friends, family, or coworkers by leaving a last environmental gift in Portage Parks. Each gift offsets the cost of planting and long-term stewardship of a native tree species planted by our natural areas team.

[Learn more about this opportunity.](#)



*Leave a lasting gift for generations to come!*

Portage Park District  
**FOUNDATION**

### Wild Hikes Challenge

To participate, download your [Wild Hikes form](#), and complete hikes before December 31st to earn a hiking staff and/or a 2022 Wild Hikes medallion. Dogs can earn rewards too!

## Wild Hikes Challenge

### Reward Pick-Ups

12/8 Administrative  
Offices

12/14 Administrative  
Offices

Register to attend

Wild Hikes reward pickups are scheduled for December. Visit our [Things to Do page](#) to register for these events.

[Visit our website](#)

