

# PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

## Monthly Newsletter



Trail Lake Park, photo: George Rose

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September 1 | 2022

Greetings!

It's been an eventful summer in YOUR Portage Parks, filled with great opportunities to engage with the natural world. This month we are happy to share our growth with new staff, as well as opportunities for you to join our team!

And don't miss out on Fall fun. Find all programs on our [Things to Do page](#).

## In the Parks

### Welcome to the Team!

The Portage Park District is proud to welcome three new members to our staff.

In the **Ranger department**, Michelle Lee joins Chief Kevin Nietert in monitoring YOUR Portage Parks. Both Rangers work part-time hiking and biking the trails, attending programs, and offering expertise in enforcement and safety. Michelle, a retired police chief from the city of Kent, shared her thoughts on joining Portage Park District, *"It feels great to be back in Portage County as a Park Ranger and serving the Portage community. Engaging with the public and keeping the parks safe is our biggest goal."*



**Operations** Manager, Craig Alderman, welcomes Marco Ruffio and Dayvon Ferrell to his staff. This team helps maintain YOUR Parks and Trails with great attention. With a growing park system, this team is always busy caring for the trails, managing projects, and creating a welcoming environment for you to enjoy!

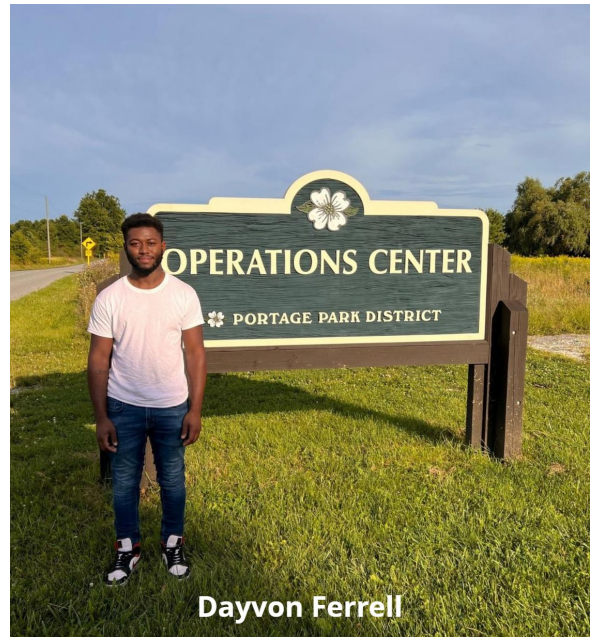
Say hello to new staff when you see them in the parks and welcome them to the team working to conserve our natural heritage in Portage County!



Michelle Lee



Marco Ruffio



Dayvon Ferrell

## COME WORK WITH US!



### Join YOUR Portage Parks!

Explore these great opportunities to work with us

#### Office Manager

The Office Manager is responsible for general office administration and supporting the Executive Director and senior staff in the areas of public reception and routine communications; records management; contract and permit administration; purchasing, payroll, and financial reporting. Successful candidates will have excellent communication, time-management and organizational skills, an understanding of bookkeeping, enjoy interfacing with the public and support the mission of the Portage Park District.

#### Education Program Coordinator

The Portage Park District is seeking creative and resourceful candidates for the position of Education Program Coordinator who are knowledgeable and experienced in the areas of environmental education, natural history, and outdoor recreation. This person will report to the Public Engagement Manager and will plan, coordinate, implement, evaluate and deliver diverse public education and recreation programming in the parks and other settings, alone or with the assistance of other staff, volunteers and partners.

#### Board of Commissioners

The Portage Park District Board of Commissioners has one vacancy. Interested parties may apply by downloading an application and submitting it to the Portage Park District. The Park



District staff is assisting the Portage County Probate Court by compiling applications and answering questions; please contact our office if you would like to talk with someone about the position. Applications will be accepted until the vacancy is filled.

[Employment  
Page](#)

[Board Vacancy](#)

## Upcoming Programs



### A Note from Jennifer White

It has been a privilege serving as your Education Program Coordinator and sharing our parks' natural treasures with you. We are so fortunate to have these ecologically rich public spaces to explore and enjoy. My heart is heavy at the thought of not seeing you in the parks on a regular basis, but I am proud of the foundation that I have helped create for our education program. Remember that everything is connected, including us! Please be patient during this transition and take the time to explore the parks on your own or try out some of our self-guided activities and virtual programs. Looking forward to seeing you again soon on the trail, Jennifer

While in the process of hiring a new full time education program coordinator, we will continue to offer awesome programs with Becca Rodhe, guest speakers, and more. Fall is going to be full of fun!

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.

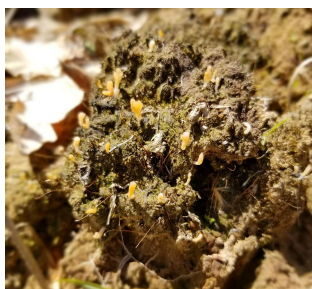
**Upcoming Senior Hikes:**  
[Senior Hike - September 8](#)  
[Senior Hike - September 22](#)

Visit our [YouTube channel](#).



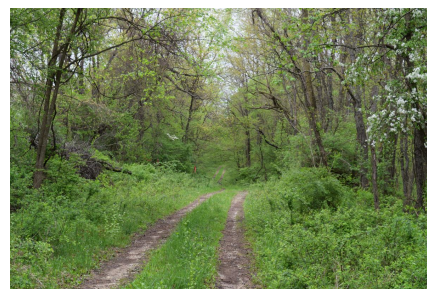
### Ride with a Ranger -

You're invited to enjoy the trail on wheels with our park ranger. Chief Ranger Kevin



### Lichen Walk -

You won't want to miss our annual lichen exploration with park botanist and lichen



### Preserve Peek, Kent Bog Expansion-

We are excited to offer guided hikes of the unopened Kent

will be leading this Owlbert's Adventure family bike ride on the Headwaters Trail! Bikers will also learn basic cycling safety tips on the trail. FREE bike helmets will be available from the Portage County Health District.  
[Register here.](#)

expert, Tomas Curtis! Prepare to be amazed at the abundance and diversity of lichens along the trail. Learn what these unique are and the role they play in our ecosystems. We bet you will be lichen this hike!  
[Register here.](#)

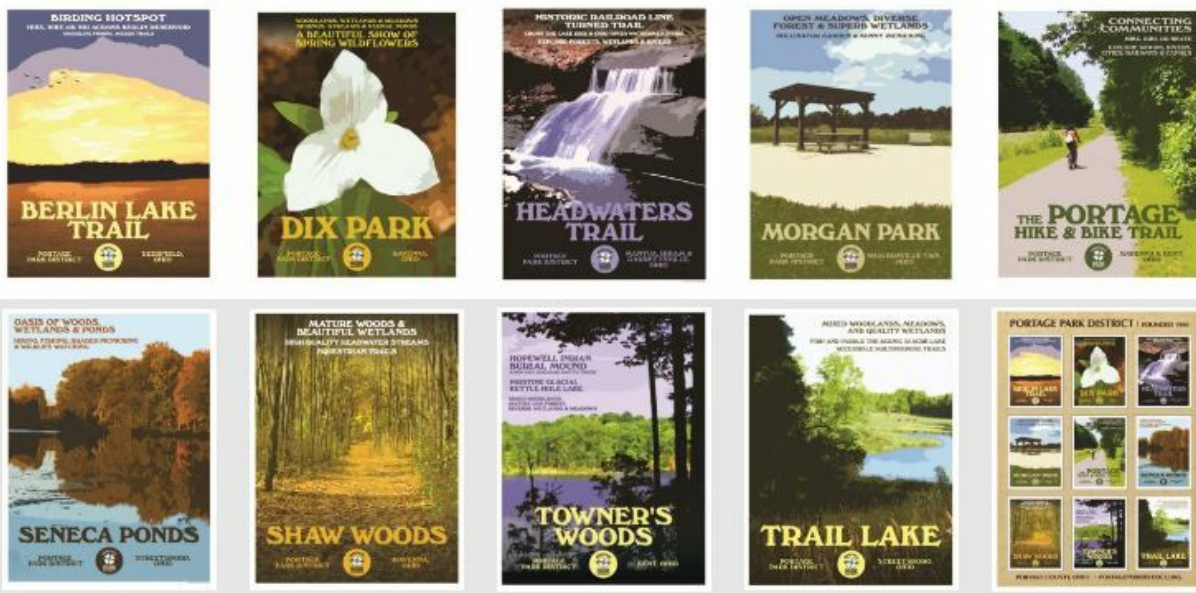
Bog Expansion property. Wear sturdy footwear, bug repellent, and sunscreen. We will be taking a moderate hike through a section of this beautiful property! Space is limited, so register today.  
[Register here.](#)

## Foundation News

# **Shop to Support Portage Park District**

### Shop our Foundation Store to support YOUR Parks

Order beautiful posters, postcards and magnets that show the beauty of Portage County.



**ORDER  
NOW**

## 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!

Look for upcoming Wild Hikes rewards pickups to be scheduled in the parks this fall.

[Visit our website](#) to find more opportunities to pick up your rewards.



Visit our website

