

# SOCIAL DISTANCING at Portage Park District



## KEEP PARKS OPEN

### #StoptheSpread



## Portage Park District

April 2020 Newsletter

### Keep parks open

#### Practice Social Distancing when you visit

The Portage Park District (PPD) parks and trails will remain open as an essential outdoor activity to support the physical and mental health needs of the community. As per the guidelines set forth by Governor DeWine, Portage Park District urges visitors to comply with social/physical distancing requirements. Portage Park District has offered these reminders for safely enjoying your parks: maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other park patrons, stay home if you don't feel well, practice good hygiene, warn other trail users of your presence as you pass to allow proper distancing, leave no trash, take everything with you to protect park staff. We also encourage park patrons to visit at off-peak times and explore less busy locations, perhaps try a new park. Our complete list of parks and trails can be found [here](#).

#### SOCIAL DISTANCING at Portage Park District



Social distancing is a necessary precaution put in place by the CDC to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

While you are enjoying our parks, follow the CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to heading to the trails - wash hands, carry hand sanitizer, do not use trails if you have symptoms, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, etc.

- 1 Maintain distance of at least 6 feet
- 2 Stay home if you don't feel well
- 3 Warn other trail users of your presence as you pass to allow proper distance to step off the trail
- 4 Bring a suitable trash bag. Leave no trash, take everything out to protect park staff



Additional information can be found at [cdc.gov/COVID19](https://cdc.gov/COVID19)

Contact Portage Park District  
330.297.7728 | [portageparkdistrict.org](https://portageparkdistrict.org)



### This Issue

[In the parks](#)

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### We are hiring!

#### Maintenance III

#### Seasonal Maintenance I

[Learn more](#)

### Local news

Portage County  
Health District  
COVID information  
[Read more](#)

Kent Firefighters  
urge kayakers to  
stay off the river

Additionally, on April 4, Governor DeWine encouraged Ohioans to wear cloth masks when in public as recommended by the CDC.

[Read more.](#)

Our staff, volunteers and friends helped us create a fun video to remind you of the guidelines for social distancing. Enjoy [here.](#)

## Virtual park visits

### Walk with Jen

Jen White, education program coordinator, will take you on a virtual tour of our parks. Each week she visits a new location and provides a short video tour coupled with education about the property and trail.

Take a walk with Jen [here.](#)

### Wild Hikes Challenge

Owlbert says "As we are spending more time than ever in the parks for our physical and mental health breaks - now is an excellent time to complete your Wild Hikes Challenge! After all it is the year of the Owl."

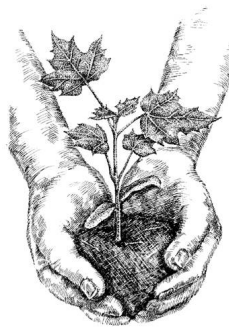


Don't let our trusty mascot, Owlbert down. Want to learn more about Owls? Visit [ODNR's website](#) to learn more.

## Foundation News

### Environmental Conservation Awards Dinner

The Portage Park District Foundation will recognize several local individuals and businesses at the awards dinner, **tentatively** scheduled for September 12. [Visit our website for a list](#) of those being recognized. The Foundation Board wishes everyone well during these difficult times.



## Portage County News

### FCS Stand together campaign

We are experiencing an unprecedented health crisis that has significantly increased the number of

[Read more](#)

### Census 2020, Everyone counts

The Census Bureau wants you to be counted. Complete your census [online now.](#)

### April is Ohio Native Plant Month

Click the LEAP logo below for more information on Ohio's native plants.



### Remote education

#### Nature word of the week

Exercise your mind and learn new nature vocabulary with our nature word of the week. Find out the word each week [here.](#)

### GetOutside120 and Outdoor Activity Resources

It's scientifically proven that time outdoors improves your mental and physical health, and most importantly - you need 120 minutes a week to get that health benefit. Log your hours on our [website](#), and learn about top features of our parks.

### Audio learning

Our friends with the Portage County Safety Council turned one of our Walks with Jen into a podcast so you can listen wherever you are. [Listen here.](#)

### Like us on Facebook



### Follow on Twitter

individuals seeking support services, including food, shelter and transportation.



Family & Community Services provides many of these crucial services for our most vulnerable populations. This giving campaign offers a direct way for community members to be a part of the front line when helping our friends, neighbors, co-workers and family. Don't socially distance yourself from your neighbors in need. Help F&CS help others, [donate here](#).



## Wild Hikes Challenge 2020 - Year of the Owl

2020 ushers in the Year of the Owl for the Portage Park District Wild Hikes Challenge. Our trusty mascot, Owlbert, is particularly excited about this year's theme. Owls are fascinating, mysterious creatures that are abundant in our county.



To participate complete 8 of the following trails before December 31st to earn a hiking staff (1st year) and/or a 2020 Wild Hikes medallion. Forms can be downloaded [here](#).

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