



Morgan Park pergola and swing



# Portage Park District

## July 2019 Newsletter

### Paddling safety

#### Safety first - Know before you go

Summer is in full swing and many people are participating in water activities including paddling. Portage Park District encourages those interested in paddling to review the Ohio Department of Natural Resources [safety guidelines](#) for boating safety and hazard descriptions before paddling.

Hazards can include floods and swift water, low-head dams ([click here for a video of this type of hazard](#)), strainers (river obstructions that allow water to flow through them), hypothermia, and foot entrapments. Paddlers should know their abilities and the area they plan to paddle prior to their trip.



Another helpful resource is river gauges. The gauges measure streamflow (also known as discharge), which is the volume of water flowing past a given point in the stream in a given period of time. [Hiram Rapids](#) and [Lake Rockwell Reservoir dam](#) both have river gauges which can be checked prior to planning your paddling trip.

### This Issue

In the parks  
The little things  
Around Portage

### Upcoming programs

**Wild Hike  
Wednesday**  
July 3, 7:30 a.m.

**Lunch break hike**  
July 9, 12 p.m.

**Wild Hike  
Wednesday**  
July 10, 7 p.m.

**Wild Hike  
Wednesday**  
July 17, 7 p.m.

**Lunch break hike**  
July 26, 12 p.m.

**Wild Hike  
Wednesday**  
July 31, 7 p.m.

## Nature education

### Celebrating the little things

**Author: Jennifer White**

It's a beautiful time of year to stroll through your Portage Park District properties! On a recent guided hike at Seneca Ponds Park, we had the pleasure of watching the resident beavers swim and work next to the trail. It is a magical experience to witness the behavior of wildlife! I played the experience over again in my mind this weekend and thought about how many wildlife moments



we sometimes miss along the trail because they are tiny or less flashy than a beaver tail slap on the water.

Our natural areas are full of micro-habitats that are brimming with life and activity on a small scale. Pause next to a tree or shrub to observe "who" is eating the leaves or building a home. Look around a fallen log to open a new world

brimming with life. On a single milkweed plant, you can witness dozens of living creatures interacting with each other and plugging along with their lives. Most of us are familiar with the phrase "remember to stop and smell the roses". The next time you stop to smell a flower, turn over a few leaves or observe the flower closely. I promise you will find many small natural wonders to celebrate!

Please visit our website to register for our upcoming events and guided hikes. There are small natural treasures to discover and parks to explore!

## Around Portage County in July

Come out and visit these awesome events and stop to say hi to Portage Park District staff and volunteers.

**Owlbert** will be making appearances at several of these events as well.

### Kent Heritage Festival - July 6

We will have a booth here from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Stop by and say hello! Want to volunteer in the booth? Email [Andrea](#).



### Main Street Ravenna - Family Movie Night - July 19

We will be available from 5 - 9 p.m. with a children's activity and Main Street Ravenna will be showing a Spiderman movie at 9 p.m.

## Headwaters Adventure Race - July 13

## Passport to Fishing

August 4, 2 p.m.

For detailed information and registration on all events and programs, [click here](#).

## Upcoming events

### Volunteer Orientation

July 2, 5:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to attend this one hour orientation.

[Register here](#).

### Headwaters Adventure Race

July 13, 8 a.m.

Run 2 miles, Pedal 10 miles, Paddle 5 miles.

Canoe and kayak rental available.

[More information](#)

## Conservation Photo Contest

Deadline to submit - July 26, 2019

Portage Soil and Water Conservation District is holding its first annual photo contest. Submit your conservation related photo [here](#).

## Like us on Facebook



## Follow on Twitter



Racers - there is still time to **sign up**. Run, pedal and paddle your way to the finish line. Competitive and non-competitive options. Canoe and Kayak rentals available.

### Art on the Hill - July 13

Owlbert will be visiting Art on the Hill between 12-1 p.m. Come out and say hello to our park mascot and bring the kids!

### Wild Hikes Challenge 2019 - Year of the Pollinators

This year, we celebrate pollinators for the essential role they play in supporting life, and recognize the need to promote pollinator health across the landscape.



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 2019 Wild Hikes medallion. Forms can be downloaded **here**.

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Visit our website | [portageparkdistrict.org](http://portageparkdistrict.org)

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