



Photo credit: Fred Skok



Portage Park District

May 2020 Newsletter

In the parks

Trail Lake Park Development

There is a lot of excitement about the future Trail Lake Park on Ravenna Road! The Park District acquired the property on the southern boundary of Herrick Fen State Nature Preserve in Streetsboro thanks to two Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grants and a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant, matched by in-kind contributions from the previous landowners. The park property provides important buffer and a future trail connection to the fen and includes a 30-acre lake, mature forest, former agricultural fields, wetlands and a remnant early 1800's railroad corridor.



Phase I Plans include:

- 50-car parking lot with bioswales for stormwater management
- Information kiosk, benches, tables
- Handicapped-accessible 1.6-mile multipurpose trail around the lake and secondary natural surface trails for hiking, biking, skiing and nature education
- Vault Restrooms
- Access to the lake for fishing and paddling

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We are hiring!

Maintenance III

Seasonal Maintenance I

[Learn more](#)

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

Learn about phase II plans, see photos and leave feedback on our website by [clicking here.](#)

The PORTAGE Hike and Bike Trail

Starting on **May 12**, the bridge on Ravenna Rd. along the PORTAGE Hike and Bike Trail will be closed temporarily. Pedestrians and cyclists will not be able to utilize the bridge during this closure. Towner's Woods and parking lot will remain open. For a map of this area and alert information, [click here.](#)

In the parks

Practice Social Distancing when you visit

The Portage Park District parks and trails remain a place for exploring nature and enjoying the outdoors. We ask that during your visits, you continue to follow social distancing guidelines as well as trail etiquette. Stay home if you are not feeling well. Additional information on COVID19 precautions can be found [here.](#)

Spring safety reminders

Spring is a good time to review safety precautions for spending time outdoors. Our friends at the Portage County Health District have great resources on ticks [here.](#)



Poison Ivy can also put a damper on your outdoor activities if you don't know what to look out for. The Ohio State University Extension has great resources for identifying and treating all three of these

plants. Review those resources [here.](#)

Remote Education

Stay engaged virtually!



Programming continues to be virtual for the month of May. Enjoy a boredom buster, walk with Jen, birding report, bloom report, or listen to our podcast. To view educational resources, check out our [remote education page](#) on our website.

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

Join Andrea on a quick walk to the Hopewell Mound on [this podcast.](#)

Cancellations

Headwaters Adventure Race



After careful consideration and much deliberation, the Portage Park District Foundation's Headwaters Adventure Race scheduled for July 11, 2020, has been canceled. If you have any questions regarding the cancellation, contact [Kristi Kato.](#)

Like us on Facebook



Follow on Twitter



Volunteer updates

Virtual Volunteers

While we are not able to hold volunteer orientations in person, we are adjusting and offering virtual volunteer orientations. If you are interested in volunteering, fill out an [application online](#) and you will be contacted about attending a virtual orientation.

Volunteer opportunities we are actively looking to fill: Garlic mustard pullers, education program assistants, trail ambassadors.

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](#).

Portage Park District | 330-297-7728 | admin@portageparkdistrict.org |
705 Oakwood Street, Suite G-4 | Ravenna, OH 44266

Visit our website | portageparkdistrict.org

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