photo credit_ Jennifer Robinson

Portage Park District

October 2019 Newsletter

In the parks

Fall is in the air

Author: Jennifer White, education program coordinator

Who can resist the smell of fall leaves, the calming sounds of crickets and katydids, the feel of a cool breeze on your cheeks, and the view of landscapes awash in brilliant shades of yellow, orange and red? Fall is truly a seasonal feast for the senses! Visiting our Portage Parks this time of year will reward you with spectacular views of fall color. Have you ever wondered how those beautiful leaf colors are created?

The colorful change is a result of fascinating chemical reactions within the leaf that are triggered by a decrease in sunlight. Chlorophyll is a chemical found in plants that makes them green. Another chemical found in some leaves is called carotenoid. As our days begin to shorten and sunlight decreases, the carotenoid is activated and begins to break down the chlorophyll. Once the chlorophyll is gone, the yellow and orange color of the carotenoids can be seen. Are you a fan of red leaves? The shades of red and purple in some leaves are caused by a different chemical reaction that produces

This Issue

Training Opportunity

Things to do

Upcoming programs

Apple & Cider Hike
Oct. 5, 11 am-1 p.m.

Pond Exploration
Oct. 6, 2- 3:30 p.m.

Morning Bird Walk
Oct. 7, 8-9 a.m.

Fall Leaf Stroll
Oct. 9, 6-7 p.m.

Park Rx - Grocery Store Tour
Oct. 10, 10-11 a.m.

Geocaching 102
Oct. 16, 6-7 p.m.

Register for events and programs **here.**

Click the image below

anthocyanin. It is amazing that the rainbow of colors we enjoy every fall is thanks to a series of chemical reactions.

The color changes we observe are an indicator of more seasonal changes happening in trees: leaf drop. As the days shorten and temperatures cool, tree sap begins to thicken and slow down. The thickening process protects the tree from freezing during the winter. The thick sap clogs the leaf veins. The connection between the leaf and the tree branch is sealed off. The weight of the leaf eventually causes it to fall to the ground. Wind and rainstorms speed up the fall leaf drop.

When we see leaves falling this month, let's celebrate the fact that the tree is effectively preparing itself for winter (instead of being sad that the tree limbs are bare). This process ensures that we can enjoy the bursting of buds and new leaves in spring.

Our fall calendar is packed with opportunities to enjoy this colorful season.

Fall leaf color programming highlights:
October 5 - Apple & Cider Hike with Beckwith Orchards
October 9 - Fall Leaf Stroll
October 19 - Morgan Park Woodland Trail Exploration
October 24 - Fall Leaf Stroll

Register today

Get involved

Volunteering

Volunteering helps the Portage Parks continue to provide conserved land for your enjoyment, deliver great programs and protect our natural areas. There are many ways to volunteer, on your own time and with staff. Learn more at our next orientation:
October 15 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. **Register here.**

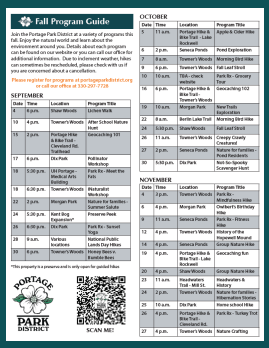
Portage Park District Foundation

The Portage Park District Foundation (PPDF) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that was established in 2010 with the purpose of supporting the Portage Park District. It is overseen by a dedicated volunteer Board of Trustees that meets monthly. PPDF organizes several events to support our parks including the **Environmental Conservation Awards Dinner**, **The Headwaters Adventure Race** and the **Perfect Pooch of Portage Contest**. Learn more **here.**

Spread the word!

Don't have time to spare? Help Portage Parks by telling your friends and family to spend time in the parks! Tell

to visit our website to download a program flyer.


Fall Program Guide

Join the Portage Park District at a variety of programs this fall. Enjoy the natural world and learn about the surrounding parks and trails. Details on each program can be found on our website or you can call our office for additional information. Due to inclement weather, hikes can sometimes be rescheduled, please check with us if you are concerned about a cancellation.

Please register for programs at portagepaksdistrict.org or call our office at 530-207-7728

SEPTEMBER

Date	Time	Location	Program Title
4	6 p.m.	Shaw Woods	Lichen Walk
10	4 p.m.	Towner's Woods	After School Nature Hike
15	2 p.m.	Portage Hike & Bike Trail - Cleveland Rd. Trailhead	Geocaching 101
17	6 p.m.	Ox Park	Pollinator Workshop
18	5:30 p.m.	UH Portage - Medical Arts Building	Park Rx - Meet the Pals
19	6:30 p.m.	Towner's Woods	Naturalist Workshop
22	2 p.m.	Morgan Park	Nature for Families - Summer Salad
24	5:30 p.m.	Kent Bog Expansion*	Preserve Peek
26	6:30 p.m.	Ox Park	Park Rx - Sunset Trips
28	8 a.m.	Various locations	National Public Lands Day Hikes
30	4 p.m.	Towner's Woods	Honey Bees n Bamboo Bees

*This property is a preserve and is only open for guided hikes

OCTOBER

Date	Time	Location	Program Title
5	11 a.m.	Portage Hike & Bike Trail - Lake Rockwell	Apples & Cider Hike
6	2 p.m.	Seneca Ponds	Pond Exploration
7	8 a.m.	Towner's Woods	Morning Bird Hike
9	4 p.m.	Towner's Woods	Fall Leaf Stroll
10*	10 a.m.	TBA - check website	Park Rx - Grocery Tour
16	4 p.m.	Portage Hike & Bike Trail - Towner's Woods	Geocaching 102
19	10 a.m.	Morgan Park	New Trails Exploration
22	8 a.m.	Berlin Lake Trail	Morning Bird Hike
24	5:30 p.m.	Shaw Woods	Fall Leaf Stroll
26	11 a.m.	Towner's Woods	Creepy Crawly Nature Hike
27	2 p.m.	Seneca Ponds	Nature for Families - Pond Residents
30	5:30 p.m.	Ox Park	Park Rx- Spooky Scavenger Hunt

NOVEMBER

Date	Time	Location	Program Title
4	2 p.m.	Towner's Woods	Park Rx - Mindfulness Hike
9	4 p.m.	Morgan Park	Chelber's Birthday Hike
10	11 a.m.	Seneca Ponds	Park Rx - Fitness Hike
12	4 p.m.	Towner's Woods	History of the Hopewell Mound
16	4 p.m.	Seneca Ponds	Group Nature Hike
19	4 p.m.	Portage Hike & Bike Trail - Lake Rockwell	Geocaching fun
20	4 p.m.	Shaw Woods	Group Nature Hike
23	11 a.m.	Headwaters Trail - Mill Ct.	Headwaters & History
24	2 p.m.	Towner's Woods	Nature for Families - Hibernation Home
25	10 a.m.	Ox Park	Home school Hike
26	4 p.m.	Portage Hike & Bike Trail - Cleveland Rd.	Park Rx - Turkey Trot
27	4 p.m.	Towner's Woods	Nature Crafting

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

SCAN ME!

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them about your favorite spot to enjoy nature, hike, bike or kayak. Share our **program calendar**. Your recommendations are valuable! 92% of consumers trust referrals from people they know.

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**

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