

NEWSLETTER

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- EMS Referendum
- New Public Works & Parks Department building
- New residential and business developments in the city

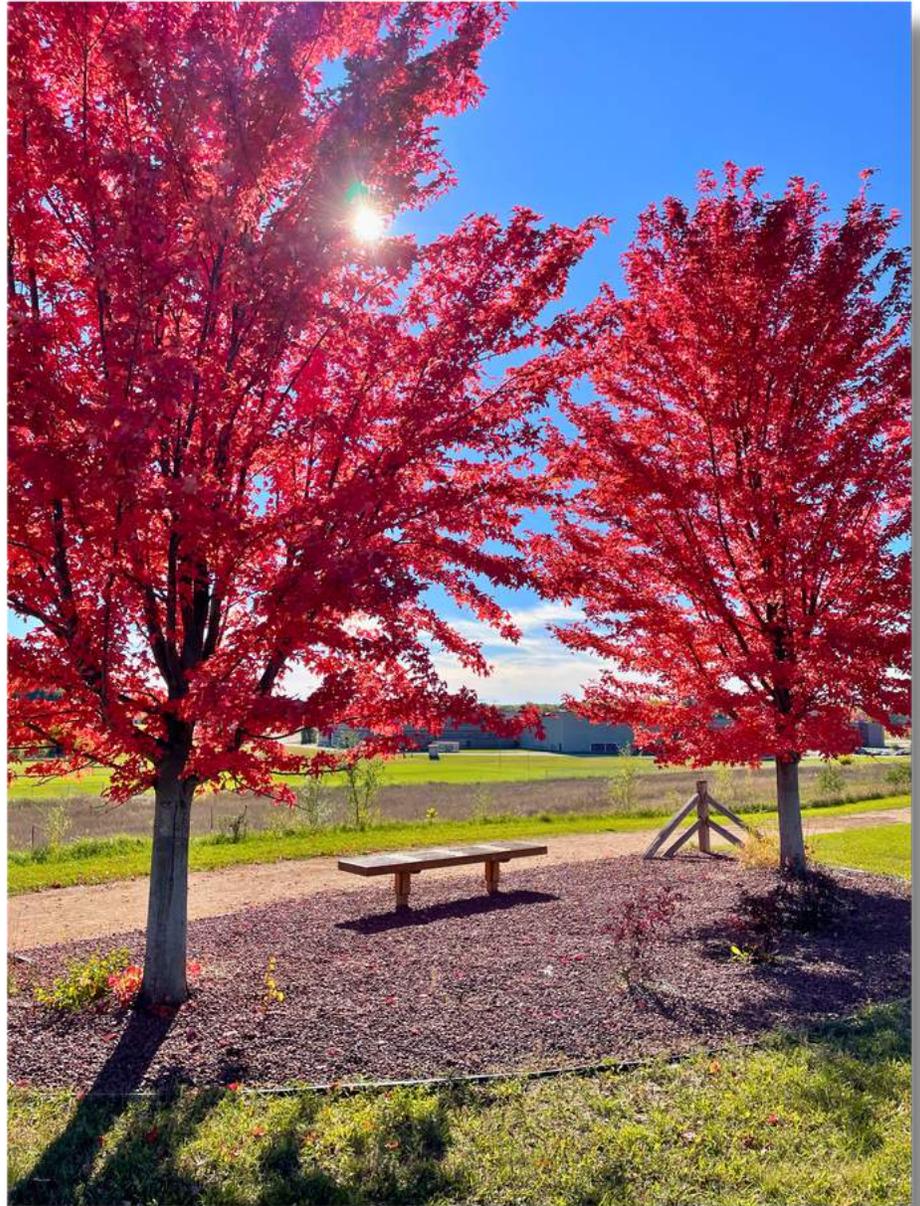


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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

2023 saw the following new developments and businesses open:

- **Lacerta Group/Portage Plastics**, 3000 Boeck Road
- **Nachos Restaurant**, 125 Wauona Trail
- **La Latina Market, Bakery and Taqueria**, Northridge Mall
- **Shopko Optical**, 2921 New Pinery Road
- **S&L Companies Phase 3 Campus Expansion**, 2651 Kirking Court
- **Belco Vehicle Solutions**, 1911 Kutzke Road
- **Ocean Nails**, 2955 New Pinery Road
- **Lebakkens Rent to Own**, 2955 New Pinery Road
- **V Spa**, 2939 New Pinery Road
- **Portage Tobacco and Vape**, 2931 New Pinery Rd
- **Boys & Girls Club**, Rusch School
- **Suni's Dent & Bent**, 2800 New Pinery Road
- **Infinite Ink Shop**, 120 Henry Drive
- **Ping's new Massage Center**, 702 DeWitt Street
- **J&J Portable Sanitation Products**, 1800 Kutzke Road
- **Pizza Ranch** expansion
- **Schu's Pitstop Sports Bar & Grill**, 1207 Dunn Street
- **Portage Craft Mall**, 128 W. Cook Street
- **301 Productionz**, 214 W. Wisconsin Street, a new music venue, rehearsal space, music store, teen center and event center
- **Cutting Edge Insurance**, 109 W. Cook Street
- **Uptown Consignment**, 119 W. Cook Street



New TCMC Train Beginning in March, the new TCMC (Twin Cities to Milwaukee/Chicago) Amtrak train will begin a second train for east and west bound service on the Empire Builder line. Passenger service on the TCMC line will stop in Portage at 2:13pm (westbound) and 3:58pm (eastbound) daily.

New Businesses in 2024

- **Ace Hardware**, Northridge Mall
- **Pets Plus**, Northridge Mall
- **Westmor Industries**, 2222 W. Wisconsin Street
- **Runnings Home, Farm and Outdoor Store**, 2935 New Pinery Road
- **The Groom Room**, 224 W. Wisconsin St, Ste 1
- **JJ's Bar and Grill**, 316 DeWitt Street
- **Shirley's Old Time Barbershop**, 218 W. Cook Street
- **Edward Jones**, 305 E. Albert Street
- **Rustic Rediscovery**, 802 E. Albert Street
- **The Gardner Company**, Downtown Portage
- **Help to Home Appliance Repair Store**, 242 W. Edgewater Street
- **Tractor Supply's Live Goods Center**
- **Sun Sport Aviation**, Portage Municipal Airport
- **Grace Bible Church Expansion**, CR CX

COMING

SOON

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

Upcoming Commercial Developments:

- **Wisconsin Battery Company** will break ground on April 23 on a new 100,000 sf research, development and manufacturing facility in the Portage Industrial Park. The facility will include child care, and manufacture hemp-based batteries.
- **Tax incremental District No. 11** has been approved to facilitate new residential, commercial and industrial development on the north and central areas of the city.
- **Neil's Wine House** expansion, 235 W. Pleasant Street
- **Redevelopment of US Bank**, 238 W. Wisconsin Street
- **Portage Wedding and Event Centre**, 114/116 W. Cook Street
- **River Haven Homeless Shelter** Expansion (New Building)
- **Northside Conservancy and Dog Park**, Gunderson Drive at Rolling Prairie Subdivision.
- **New downtown parks** are planned, including a new pocket park at W. Cook Street and DeWitt Street
- **Portage Municipal Airport** upgrades and improvements, 1011 Silver Lake Dr
- **New Public Works/Park and Recreation Facility**, Cemetery Road (pictured below)



Residential Developments:

- **The Rolling Prairie Subdivision** offering 91 new single family lots ranging in size from .25 acres to .9 acres. 5 multi-family lots will also be developed. The extension of Gunderson Drive to Hamilton Street will take place during Phase II of the development.
- **Holtz Workforce Housing Development**, Northside Drive (2024).
- **The Retreat at Duck Lake Residential subdivision**, E. Albert Street at Mud Lake, offering 50 smaller and more affordable single family lots, some with lake frontage (2024-25).
- **21 new single family lots** will be developed with the extension of Eagle Ridge Drive.
- **AM Development** is developing zero lot line duplexes, as well as multi-family units on Lake Street and the adjacent Silver Lake Hill Addition plat (2024-25)

CITY CLERK

Hello!

I am Becky Ness and am excited to introduce myself as the City of Portage Clerk. I have been employed by the City of Portage since 2009. I was an Administrative Assistant before I became the Deputy Clerk in 2013. I decided to apply for the Deputy Clerk position at the 2012 Presidential Election telling Marie Moe, the previous City Clerk, I really enjoyed elections.

In 2018 I completed my certification as a Wisconsin Certified Municipal Clerk and have continued my education. When Marie Moe retired I knew I was going to apply to be the City Clerk, it was a position I felt I was qualified to do and willing to learn what I didn't know. Since becoming City Clerk in April 2023 it has been both feet on the ground running as fast as I can! Just when I think I've got a handle on a required State report, there's notice another one is coming due. Elections are still a favorite of mine and I'm enjoying learning new things every day.

Stop and say hello. I now have an office with a window so you won't be able to see me from the front desk, but I'm willing to come up front if you ask for me.

Rebecca C. Ness, WCMC
City Clerk

2024 Elections

Spring Election & Presidential Preference Primary.....April 2, 2024
Primary Election.....August 13, 2024
General Election.....November 5, 2024

Check out MyVote Wisconsin, <https://myvote.wi.gov>

- Register to vote
- Update name or address
- Check voting status and history
- Request an absentee ballot
- Find polling location
- See what is on ballot
- Hours for in-person absentee voting



Photo ID Required at the Polls:

Photo ID is required at the polls. Plan now to make sure you have an acceptable photo ID to vote.

Free State Photo ID available. Check out <https://bringit.wi.gov> for more information.



Spring Election, April 2, 2024

- Location- City of Portage Municipal Building, 115 West Pleasant St.
- Polling Place Hours- 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- In-Person Absentee Voting Hours
 - March 19 – March 22, 2024, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - March 25 – March 28, 2024, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - March 29, 2024, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Vote absentee
at your clerk's office



CITY CLERK

Assessment News

Annual Property Revaluation

Every year properties in the city are re-assessed to market value. An annual revaluation ensures all assessed values reflect current market values.

Assessed values will rise and fall to reflect the previous years market. The Assessor will use comparable sales from last year to best determine your new assessed value.

If there is a change in your property assessment; notice of the new value will be mailed out the middle of March with instructions on how the assessment process works and how to proceed. If you have questions on the value the Assessor placed on your property be sure to contact the Assessor's office to discuss. Once the value is set, it cannot be changed.

You can contact the Assessor by telephone at 920-749-8098, or by email at info@accuratesassessor.com.



Notice to Destroy Weeds

The City requires that all noxious weeds be destroyed prior to the time in which such plants would mature to the bloom or flower state. The growth of noxious weeds in excess of eight inches in height from the ground surface shall be prohibited within the city corporate limits. Noxious weeds shall include any weed, grass or similar plant growth which, if allowed to pollinate, would cause or produce hay fever in human beings or would cause a skin rash through contact with the skin.

DOG & CAT LICENSES

Cat & dog Licenses are due: spayed or neutered pet is \$15.00 per pet, if not spayed or neutered \$25.00 per pet. Licenses issued after March 31st will be a charged a \$5.00 late fee per animal. The 2024 Dog Licenses include access to the dog park. Reminder that all cats and dogs in the city limits MUST be licensed. Each household is allowed up to four cats/dogs total. Pet licenses can be obtained at the Portage Municipal Building, 115 W. Pleasant St.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

As we enter a new year, we also take time to look back on what our Department accomplished. The Department answered 527 emergency calls in 2023 with 23 of those being outside of our jurisdiction to help our neighboring communities. Overall, the Department responded to 40 additional calls or an 8% increase over 2022. In addition, we made operational changes to help improve our response and build relationships with our community partners. The Department also completed our 2023 Annual Report which can be found on our website.



Fire Department Staff

The members of the Department are the backbone of our organization and are what allows us to strive for excellence in everything we do. The Department currently has 30 members, 7 full-time, 22 paid-on-call, and an administrative assistant. We are currently starting a recruitment drive and if you are interested in obtaining an application it is located online at the City's website, www.portagewi.gov/apply-for-a-job/



Fire Safety Reminders

The Department would like to encourage residents to replace the batteries in their **Smoke Alarms** and **Carbon Monoxide Alarms**. We have batteries available at the fire station. If assistance is needed with installing the batteries in your alarms, please contact us at **(608) 742-2172** and we will schedule a time to come and assist you. The batteries we receive are donated each year by Energizer.

Burn Permits

The City of Portage requires a burn permit for all open burning other than outdoor recreational fire pits or fireplaces. The permit can be found on the Portage Fire Department website or you can stop into the Fire Station. For those of you that live outside of the City and wish to burn, you can stop at the fire department or contact the DNR at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/openburning> or 1-888-947-2876.

What does a Portage Paid-on-Call Firefighter do? Could I do this? Where do I even start?

Portage paid-on-call firefighters go about their everyday lives and when called upon, answer the call during community need. Our team of paid-on-call firefighters come from vastly different backgrounds, professions, interests and we would value YOUR addition to the team. Gaining exposure to matters only the fire service can provide, learning about and engaging in the community, deepening your professional development and making lasting friendships are all part of the everyday life of a Portage paid-on-call firefighter.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Portage Fire Department wants to thank the citizens of Portage and the surrounding townships for their support in the past election where you chose fire-based EMS over the status quo. We feel blessed that the citizens have placed

their trust in the fire department to provide this life saving care when they need it most.



Now the work starts to build an EMS program that everyone can be proud of. We will be licensed at the Paramedic Level which is highest level of pre-hospital emergency care in the State of Wisconsin. We will be covering the City of Portage and the Townships of Caledonia, Fort Winnebago, Lewiston and Pacific with a projected call volume of 2500 calls. Our busiest time of the day will be between 9am and 9pm with peak call volume being between 3pm and 7pm.

There are many different aspects of starting an EMS Service. We will be working with local, state and national agencies to obtain all necessary documents to be an EMS Service. Over the next several months we will be working diligently to acquire all the necessary equipment to stock our 3 ambulances. We will be working with multiple vendors from across the country to accomplish this. This is no easy feat as there are many different types of equipment that must be obtained from bandages to state-of-the-art cardiac monitors. This will insure that the EMT's and Paramedics will have the equipment they need to be safe, efficient, and be able to provide the best care possible.

Starting in August we will begin the hiring process to look for the best candidates that meet the mission, vision and values of the Portage Fire Department. This will be a multi-faceted process that will involve a written test, skills test and multiple rounds of interviews. This will help provide Portage the best EMT's and Paramedics in the business. Our goal is to start them fulltime in the beginning of November as they will go through an academy process. During this 6 – 8 week process they will learn all aspects of Portage Fire and EMS. Not only will they work with existing staff on the fire suppression, hazmat, confined space and technical rescue, they will be working with our medical director and their team to create a comprehensive pre-hospital emergency program that will advance the medical care provided to our community. Our medical direction will offer innovative and intricate protocols, education and EMS system quality assurance to make sure our community is getting the paramedic care they deserve. If you are interested in employment with the PFD for the new EMS service you can learn more at www.portagewi.gov/fire/ or scan the QR Code.

Thank you again to the citizens of Portage and the surrounding townships for your support. We do not take this request for additional tax levy support lightly and will work diligently to provide the high level of service that our residents and businesses deserve. We will provide safe, exceptional, and compassionate care to our community with an emphasis on highly trained and empowered EMS staff.



Fire Chief Troy W. Haase

FINANCE/TREASURER

Finance/Treasurer's Department

The City of Portage collects taxes for the City, Portage School district, Columbia County and Madison Area Technical College.

How do I get my tax bill?

1. Tax Bills are mailed annually mid-December
2. Online: [Real Estate Tax Parcel \(columbia.wi.us\)](https://www.columbia.wi.us)

In addition, once you pull up your parcel you can obtain your tax receipt. Under tax information, click on the year on the left-hand side, payment information will pop-up and is printer-friendly.

- 1st Installments are due to the City Treasurer by January 31st each year
- 2nd Installments are due to the County Treasurers office by July 31st each year

Tax Payments

- Check or Credit Card- The City accepts checks and credit cards in office for tax payments.
 - Credit cards are processed by a third-party provider and there is a fee (collected by them) based on the transaction total.
- Cash- We contract with Community Bank of Portage/BWD to take our cash payments.

Name Change

If you need to make a name change on your tax bill, you will need to contact Columbia County Register of Deeds (www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/registerofdeeds/)

Address Change

If you need to make a billing address change on your tax bill, please write the new billing address on the tax bill stub and include a copy of the stub when making your payment.

Lottery and Gaming Credit (LGC) Available

Are you a WI Resident and your home is your primary residence? Then you may qualify for the LGC. If you do not see the credit on your tax bill, please go to the DOR Online filing application (<https://ww2.revenue.wi.gov/VaultPublic/lc/interview.html>). Property owners must submit a complete application, with the appropriate documentation, to DOR by October 1, 2024 to have it appear on the current year tax bill.

WATER & SEWER PAYMENTS

Register with Payment Service Network to view your bill, make an immediate payment, schedule a payment, or set up your own auto pay. If you have questions or need assistance, please call our utility payment and billing provider, Payment Service Network (PSN), toll free at 877-885-7968.



PORTAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Portage Public Library
253 W. Edgewater Street
(608) 742-4959
www.portagelibrary.us

Adventure Begins At Your Library

This is the 2024 theme for the Portage Public Library summer library program. Register the entire family. The library offers a reading program for adults, teens and children. The more you read this summer, the more chances to win prizes! The Kickoff Celebration will be held on May 30, 2024 at 6 p.m. at Pauquette Park. Miller and Mike will be performing a family-friendly juggling show. Register at the park or at the library any time after May 30. The Summer Library Program runs June 1-July 18. Join us to be a part of the fun this summer!

The Children's Department has a wide variety of programs for children ages Birth to Grade 5. Sign up for story time for the little ones, or join us for one of our engaging and educational afterschool programs. Storybook Art, Pre-K Friday, This & That Thursday, Block Party, Pokémon Club and Music Together! are just some of the programs offered at the library.

Teens have their own space at the library. Stop by to enjoy board games, relax and read one of the new YA books or just hang out with friends. The library offers monthly programs for teens in Grades 6-12. Check it out on Facebook and Instagram.

Adult Programs are available every month at the library. We offer a wide variety of programs including Euchre Club, Bingo, Zumba, Chair Yoga plus Arts and Crafts. Find out more on our website or stop in for a calendar of events today.

Adult Assistance

Need help with your Smartphone? Do you have questions about your tablet or laptop computer? Sign up for a Technology Assistance appointment available at the library on the third Tuesday of each month. Appointments are scheduled for 15-minute time slots; Ann and Whitney will work one-on-one with you to solve your technology problems. Sign up in advance. Bring your device with you! We can help you with questions on smartphones, tablets or laptops. Appointments are available between 1-2 p.m. Register in advance by emailing programs@portagelibrary.us or 608-742-4959.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance has donated a Trail Explorers Backpack filled with everything you need to explore Wisconsin's flora and fauna on the trail. If you plan to take a hike along the Portage section of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, stop by the library to check out the backpack full of maps, guides, binoculars, and a first aid kit.



PORTAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Services Galore!

Interested in reading Tom Lake by Ann Patchett? Want to catch up on the TV series, Yellowstone? You can read the most popular titles or watch the most recent series by checking them out with your library card. Don't have a library card yet? Library card registration is free and only requires verification of your current name and address. With your library card, you can place a hold on any item that is owned by Portage or any of the 50+ libraries in the South Central Library System. There are countless options for books, large print, audiobooks, music, DVDs, Blu-ray discs, video games and board games, for every age group.

Are you paying for ebooks and audiobooks on your digital devices? Make the upgrade to Libby! The FREE OverDrive e-reader app, Libby, will assist you in accessing free library materials on all of your devices. Libby will connect you with our digital options—your favorite books, audiobooks, and magazines. For assistance with the Libby app, visit the Information Desk. It is the smartest investment that you can make!

Don't have time to browse the library shelves? Stumped for ideas on what to read next? We can help! Register today to begin your book subscription! The Book Bag is our curated monthly book subscription service. Each month, you'll receive three books, selected just for you based on your reading preferences, plus a special mystery gift to keep! Follow the link on our website to fill out a reading questionnaire or stop by the library to fill out a form to register. Hand-picked books will be ready for you to pick up on the 3rd Monday of every month.

A monthly calendar of programs and events is available at www.portagelibrary.us or pick up a copy in the library. Programs at the library are free of charge and available at a variety of times, days and dates!

A vending machine offering drinks and snacks, with cash or credit cards payment options, is now available in the lobby. The lobby now has several tables and chairs available—great for talking on your phone, working on your computer, drinking a coffee, or enjoying a snack from the vending machine. The vending machine is our newest effort to bring more requested services to our patrons and our community. Hot coffee continues to be available at the front desk! Fax services are available for \$1 per page. Scanning and copies are also available. The cost is \$.25 for black & white and \$.50 for color per page. Contact the Portage Public Library at 608- 742-4959, visit www.portagelibrary.us or find us on Facebook and Instagram.



PORTAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friends of the Portage Library

The Friends of the Portage Public Library are asking that you consider donating gently-used books and audiovisual materials. Popular new titles are ideal; they sell well and quickly. The on-going book sale has become extremely successful. Residents of the community are finding used books, puzzles, DVDs and audiobooks at affordable prices. Proceeds from the book sale benefit the library. Becoming a member of the Friends of the Portage Library encourages community, friendship and an opportunity to give back to the Portage Public Library! Activities include sales, fundraisers and community events. Your membership helps finance free library programming for all ages and for a variety of interests. Be a part of something bigger!



PUBLIC WORKS

Spring Clean-Up: May 4, 2024 8:00am – 2:00pm at the Public Works Garage located at 616 Washington Street

Guidelines for Brush/Leaf/Clipping Collection: Brush Collection will take place the week of April 1, May 6, June 3, July 8, August 5, September 9, October 7, and November 4. Brush needs to be out in your boulevard by **7am Monday morning** to be picked up that week. Leaf bags and grass clippings must be separated from the brush and be out by **7am Monday morning** as well. Leaf and grass bags may be collected separately from our brush collection. The Airport Road brush site is open for resident drop off of brush, leaves and grass clippings. This drop off site is not to be used by commercial contractors. Guidelines for brush, bagged leaves, and grass clipping collection and drop off requirements can be found on our City website at www.portagewi.gov/brush-and-grass-collection/. Items not in compliance will not be collected.

Recycling: Columbia County Recycling is the City of Portage's contractor for garbage and recycling collection. Please visit our City website for information on what can and can't be recycled at <https://www.portagewi.gov/garbage-and-recycling/>. Additionally, the City maintains a drop off center for residents to use for household recyclables as a supplement to curbside collection on Washington Street. Please note, this drop off site is monitored by video surveillance to ensure drop off guidelines are followed. Guidelines for drop off are posted on-site.

Water Utility: To ensure utility customers continue to receive quality drinking water, crews will be flushing hydrants between April 14 – May 10, 2024. During this period, you may experience some discoloration in your water. If this happens, simply run your faucet with cold water until the water clears. Water Utility crews will continue to perform meter swaps and cross connection surveys in 2024, these will be scheduled with property owners in advance.

Waste Water Reminders: If you have a sanitary back-up after 4:30 pm Monday-Friday, or on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday, please call (608)742-2171.

Combined Public Works/Park & Rec. Facility: The City is pleased to announce that contractors will be breaking ground on a new shared Public Works/Park & Recreation Facility this spring. The facility will consist of developing the 9-acre site off of Cemetery Road to include a new operations building, cold storage building, salt shed, material storage containers, and a variety of equipment laydown areas. The operations building will house both Public Works and Park & Rec. staff, and will generally consist of office space, mechanic bays, fleet parking, work areas, general storage and a community room. The project is expected to be complete sometime in 2025.

PUBLIC WORKS

2024 Road Construction/Improvement Projects:

- **2024 Sidewalk Improvement Project:** We will be bidding out a variety of sidewalks throughout the City for improvements in 2024. The project will consist of both new sidewalk and replacement of existing sidewalk. After bids are awarded for designated areas, a map will be posted on the City website. Abutting properties will be special assessed at 50% for the improvement costs.
- **2024 Alley Improvement Project:** We will be bidding out 4 EA alleys for improvements which will include new pavement, subgrade, and storm water improvements where necessary. Project funding and bid results will determine which alleys are awarded for construction. Construction dates are to be determined. Abutting properties are special assessed 50% of the improvement costs.
 - Alley No. 79 located between Erie and Wauona from E. Wisconsin to Thompson.
 - Alley No. 31 located between Howard and Pleasant from Jefferson to Monroe.
 - Alley No. 16 located between Franklin and Carroll from Jefferson to Monroe.
 - Alley No. 72 located between Superior and Washington from E. Wisconsin to Thompson.
- **Street Chip Sealing:** Annually, the City contracts to have designated streets in which the pavement is in relatively good shape, structurally sound and does not need subgrade or utility improvements. Chip sealing is a cost-effective preventative maintenance method to improve and extend the life of the street before more intensive improvements are needed. Streets that are chip sealed are first sealed with an application of an emulsion (asphalt and water) that adheres to the pavement surface and then a thin layer of aggregate or chips are immediately applied onto the emulsion. This creates an improved road surface that extends the life of the pavement and improves rideability. The cost for this is 100% funded with Wheel Tax revenues. After bids are awarded for designated streets, a map will be posted on the City website with locations of chip sealing.
- **Street Crack Filling:** Recently paved streets are crack filled to reduce water infiltration and reinforce the pavement surface. This comparatively inexpensive preventative maintenance method extends the life of pavements. The process involves sweeping the streets designated for crack filling, followed by crews using hot air lances to incinerate and remove material in the cracks. This is followed by crews applying a hot sealant into the cracks and spraying a solution onto the sealant and applying bio-degradable paper to prevent the sealant from sticking to tires while it cools. The cost for this is 100% funded with Wheel Tax revenues. After bids are awarded for designated streets, a map will be posted on the City website with locations of crack filling this summer.
- **Signals Upgrades:** In 2022, the City applied for grant funding through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the rehabilitation of the traffic signals at the Collins and Slifer Street intersections on New Pinery Road. The City received the grant funding which includes 90% state funding for the rehabilitation. Design work began in early 2024 with anticipated construction taking place this fall or early spring of 2025.

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Pavement Rehabilitation:** These projects, includes street excavation and pavement resurfacing within the limits of the existing curb line. Suellen Lane and Houston Street are being bid as alternates and will only be awarded if bid award is within budget. Construction dates are to be determined. There are no proposed special assessments for these projects. These projects are partially funded with Wheel Tax revenues.
 - Henry Drive: Village Road to Airport Road
 - Airport Road: Henry Drive to Collins Street
 - Dorothy Drive: E. Albert Street to Karla Court
 - Karla Court: Dorothy Drive to Hamilton Street
 - Suellen Lane: Karla Court to Houston Street
 - Houston Street: Dorothy Drive to Suellen Lane

- **Road Reconstruction:** E. Slifer Steet (New Pinery Road to Hamilton Street) This project, involves a full street reconstruction which includes storm sewer, water utility, curb & gutter spot repairs, and sidewalk curb ramp replacement, and new asphalt pavement. The design for this project began in 2023. After bids are awarded a construction schedule will be determined. Efforts are being made for work to take place starting after the 2023/2024 school year with a project completion prior to the 2024/2025 school year.

- **Do You Require A Building Permit?** If you are planning any of the following, then the answer is yes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Dwelling (Residential or Commercial) • Roof • Fence • Dwelling Addition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remodel • Swimming Pool • Removal of Structure (Raze) • Retaining Wall • Deck/Porch/Patio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached Accessory Building (Shed, Garage, Etc.) • Siding • Windows (new or replacement)
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*This includes electrical, plumbing, and HVAC located at or within these locations
- **Additionally:**
 - If you are digging or disturbing the soil you may also require an Erosion Control Permit. In certain cases approval from the DNR or other State agency may be required.
 - If you are performing work within or adjacent to the City-owned Right-Of-Way (ROW), you may also require a ROW permit. (Examples include: Driveway, Sidewalk, Etc.).
 - Note: please contact DIGGER's Hotline whenever performing any excavation at (800) 242-8511 or 811.

- **Why are Permits Required?**
 - The permitting process is the best way to assure that the work being done meets the requirements of the City and current ordinances. It also protects current and future property owners should there be a change to those ordinances or a dispute relative to the work is performed.

FAILURE TO OBTAIN THE CORRECT PERMIT MAY RESULT IN CHARGING OF DOUBLE PERMIT FEES

Permits are available at City Hall or on the City of Portage Website:
www.portagewi.gov/licenses/

POLICE DEPARTMENT



117 West Pleasant Street, Portage WI 53901
Telephone (608)742-2174 Fax (608)742-1175

“Protecting our community and its’ quality of life by delivering exceptional law enforcement services”

I am excited to say that after 7 hiring processes in 2023, we currently have a full roster which is a huge achievement. I know will be short lived as we have an anticipated retirement this spring. We have many new officers and staff serving this community and I would encourage you to go to our website www.portagewi.gov/police and our social media platforms to keep connected. One item that can provide a lot of information beyond a newsletter is our annual reports. I would highly encourage you read through these and see the incredible work and great staff that make up the Portage Police Department.

Class #12 of our Citizen’s Police Academy is in full swing and we thank those that have taken time out of their busy schedule to gain insight on their local police department. This course is 10-weeks long which allows participants an in-depth perspective of this profession. This year we opened the enrollment to include juniors and seniors in high school hoping to foster interest in law enforcement as a career.

During our annual awards ceremony in January, many officers were recognized for their exceptional service and efforts in 2023. This included 4 VIP Tenure awards, 4 Officer tenure awards, 1 Citizen appreciation awards, 7 team effort awards, 3 life saving awards, 1 Meritorious Award to Citizen Eric Erickson, and two Distinguished service awards. This was a well-attended event which was hosted at the Portage High School.

Though this winter in general has been mild, we have had two snow emergencies that resulted in parking enforcement. We understand that these events generate a lot of frustration, but the intent is to provide full access to our roadways to quickly and effectively clear the roads for safe travel. We want to remind residents that we do our best to inform residents when a snow emergency has been declared via Nixle alerts, Social Media, and other avenues. Best practice is if you know that we are expecting a large snow event chances are a snow emergency will be declared. Further information can be located on the City of Portage’s website or by calling the Snow Emergency hotline at (608) 810-4200. Additionally, it is the responsibility of owners or subjects responsible for city parcels to remove snow/ice from sidewalks with 24 hours after the snowfall has ceased. Our Community Service Officers monitor this activity and seek compliance prior to the issuance of citations. As spring arrives, their focus changes to yard cleanup. Reminder that the city does offer a spring cleanup event on May 4, 8:00am-2:00pm at the City Garage located at 616 Washington Street.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the City of Portage and look forward to seeing you at one of the many events throughout the year. One goal I have for you is to be involved in your community and to make a positive investment with your time. There are many civic organizations and non-profits looking for good help.

-Chief Keith Klafke



PARK & RECREATION

URBAN FORESTRY

The City of Portage was designated as a 'Tree City USA' for the 29th consecutive year by the Arbor Day Foundation. We were able to plant 115 new trees in 2023, around various areas of the city including New Pinery Rd, Veterans Memorial Field complex, Goodyear Park, and Collipp-Worden Park. We received over \$6500 in grants to help fund our tree plantings in 2023.

Pest Update

Over the past year, Portage has seen an increase in **Spongy moth** (formerly known as "Gypsy moth") infestations. Spongy moth can damage trees when the caterpillars defoliate trees primarily during the months of June and July. Spongy moth prefers oak species but will also feed on species such as aspen, birch, willow and crabapple. Healthy trees tend to rebound by pushing out new leaves although this process requires a lot of energy reserves. For this reason, multiple years of defoliation can lead to tree mortality, especially when multiple stressors are present. If you are concerned about your trees, the best thing you can do is keep them well watered during the growing season but especially during times of drought. Adding a layer of mulch 2-3" deep will also help to reduce environmental stressors. If you are still concerned about your trees you have a few options:



Destroy egg masses- Destroy egg masses (November-April) by spraying them with a horticultural oil labeled for spongy moth egg masses (available online or lawn and garden centers) or by scraping them off into a bucket of soapy water and discard after 24 hours. Don't just scrape egg masses onto the ground or crush them with your shoe as they can survive to hatch next spring.



PARK & RECREATION

URBAN FORESTRY

Place barrier bands on tree trunks- Just after caterpillars have hatched (late April), when they are small and young, barrier bands will prevent them from climbing back into trees. Barrier bands can be purchased or made using duct tape or other nonporous material that can be wrapped around a tree trunk and coated with commercially available (online or lawn and garden centers) sticky material such as Tanglefoot or Catchmaster. At a convenient height, wrap a belt of duct tape 4-6 inches wide around each tree trunk shiny side out and with the tape pressed firmly into bark crevices. Smear the center of the band with a sticky material. Sticky material may need to be re-applied periodically due to rain or other environmental conditions as well as when bands are covered with caterpillars.

Burlap collection bands- When caterpillars are about 1 inch long (early June), many will begin a daily migration down the tree to hide from predators. You can take advantage of this behavior by creating a band of burlap that the caterpillars will want to hide under, so you can easily destroy them. Cut a piece of burlap 12-24 inches wide and long enough to completely wrap around the tree at chest height. Tie a piece of string around the middle of the burlap and fold the upper portion down to form a "skirt" around the tree. Every afternoon check under the burlap and brush any caterpillars into a bucket of soapy water to kill them. Remove the bands in August once the caterpillars are no longer seen.

If you have high value trees, or when very large numbers of caterpillars are present, I recommend contacting a certified arborist for treatment recommendations. Additional information is also available by visiting the [Wisconsin Spongy Moth Portal](#). Homeowners seeking assistance can also call the DNR spongy moth information line at 1-800-642-6684 (MOTH).

-Emmett McCarthy, City of Portage Arborist



PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Park Project Updates

Discover the fantastic and fun new updates that have been implemented and are in store for our park system!

Collipp-Worden Park

- New playground equipment
- Crack filled and seal coated Tennis Court, added Pickleball Lines
- Accessible path to Shelter #2



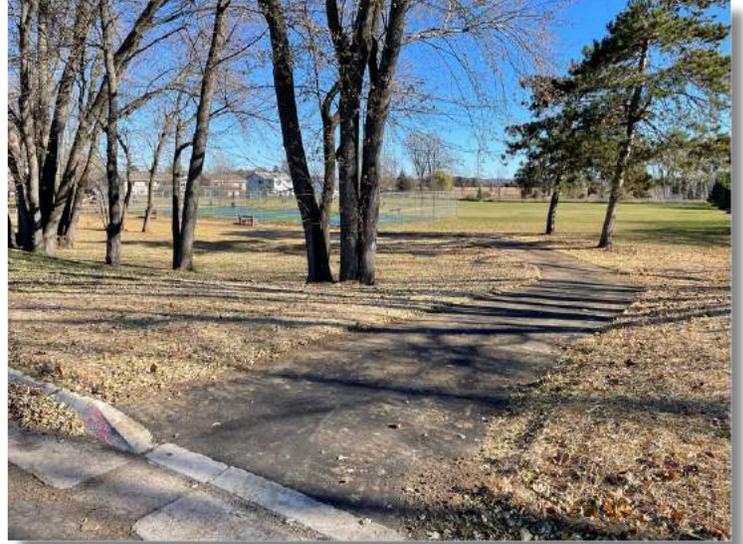
**Click here, or scan the
QR Code to view our
full 2023
Annual Report**



PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Pine Meadow Park

- New Pickleball courts installed
- Accessible path added from street to courts and shelter
- Plans for a parking lot are underway
- New, upgraded playground equipment is budgeted for 2024- stay tuned!



Levee Path & Lincoln Park Basketball Court

- Crack filled and seal coated to improve appearance and extend lifespan



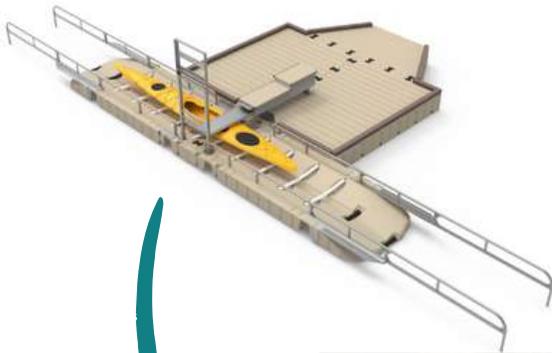
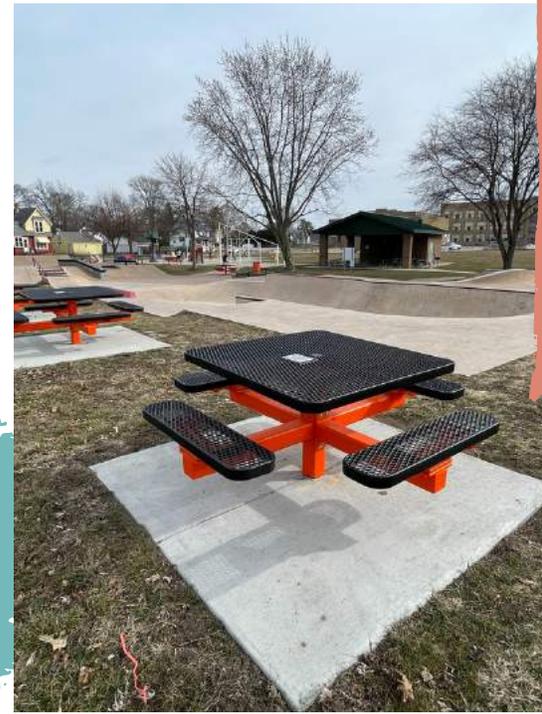
PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Completed Skate Park Improvements

- Phase III completion, adding a bowl feature
- Picnic tables installed

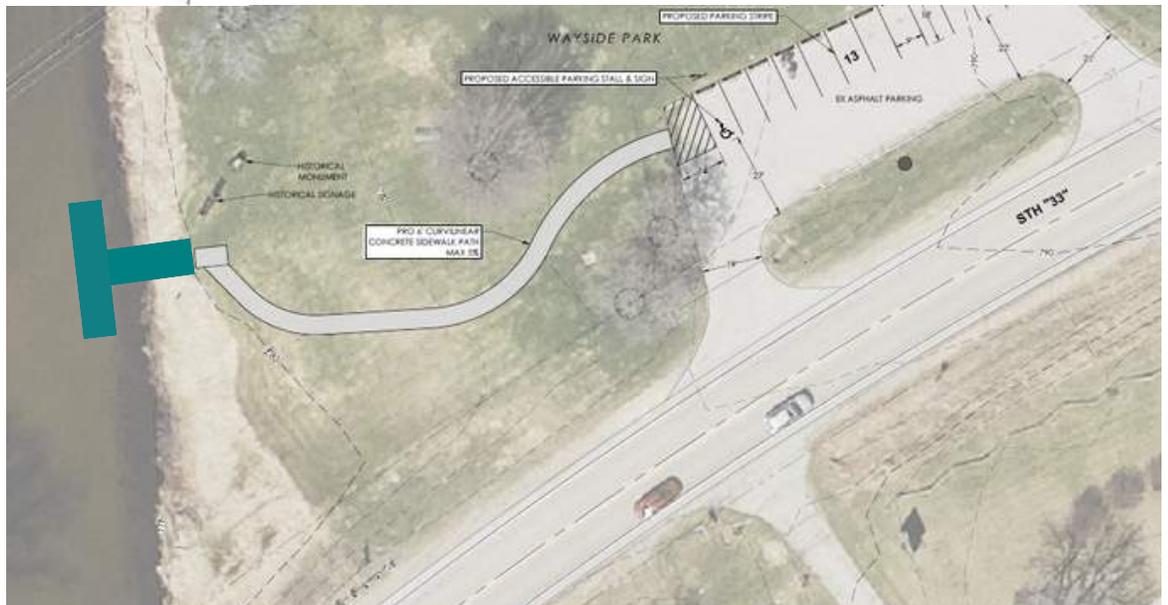
Skate Park Improvements planned for 2024

- Additional safety fencing around border
- Shade structure planned near picnic tables
- Improved drainage to reduce washout
- Pressure washing and seal-coating



Accessible Canoe & Kayak Launch at Highway 33 Wayside (coming soon!)

- Concrete path from parking lot to Fox River
- ADA compliant, accessible Canoe & Kayak Launch



PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Rolling Prairie Conservancy & Dog Park- coming soon!

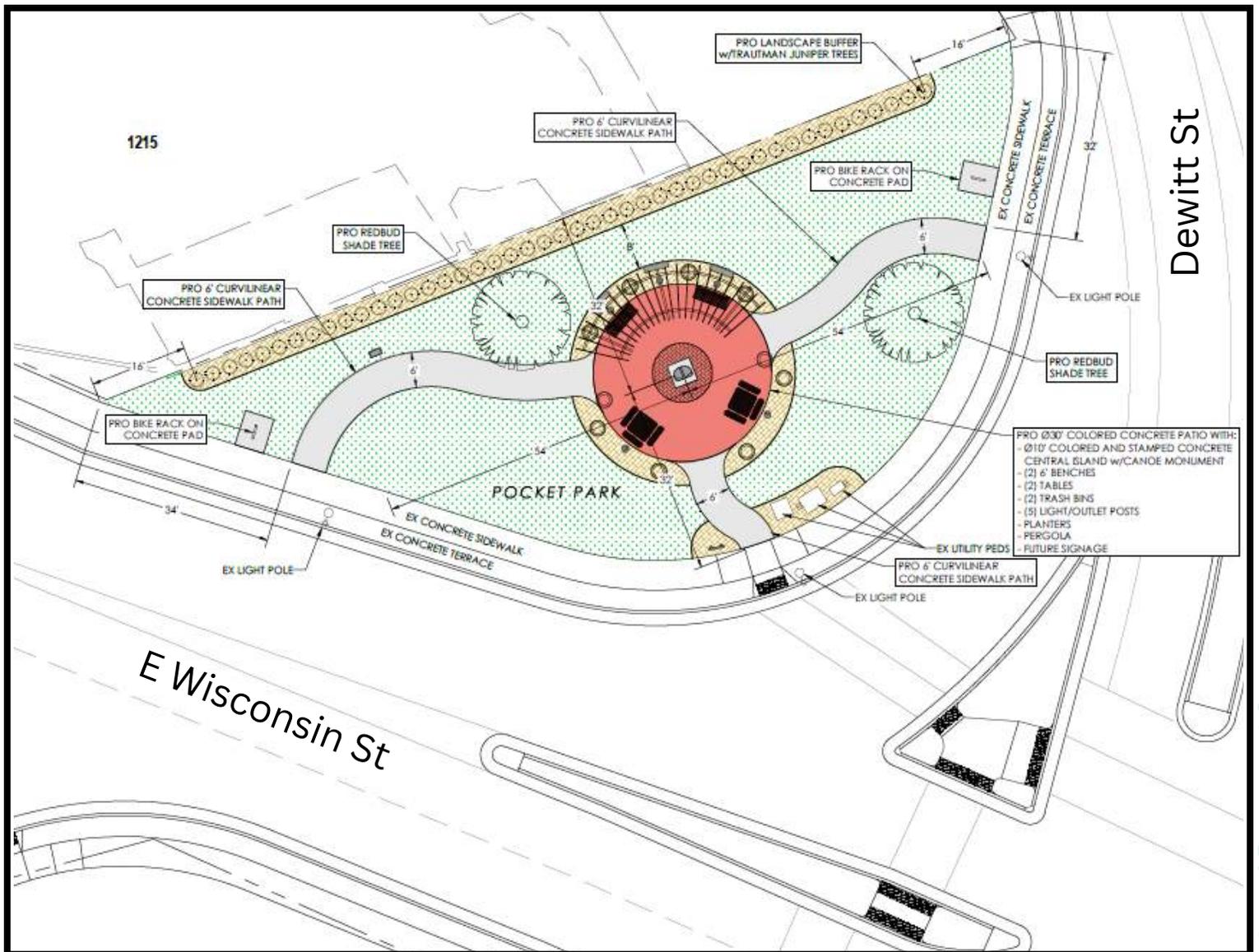
- As part of the Rolling Prairie subdivision development on the north side of Portage, there will be a new conservancy and dog park for people to enjoy
- 8+ acres of fenced in dog park, featuring both large and small dog areas
- 11 acre restored prairie with walking paths



PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Downtown Pocket Park

- Received \$50,000 Vibrant Spaces grant from Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
- Located along Ice Age Trail- Portage Canal segment
- Designed to revitalize and enhance downtown Portage



SPRING & SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE



Table of Contents

- Department Information
- Employment Opportunities
- Registrations & Reservations
- Summer Hot Spots
- Spring Recreation Programs
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- Youth Enrichment Programs
- Swim Lessons & Pool Update
- Adult Recreation
- Community Events
- WPRA Discount Ticket Program
- Memorial Tree/Bench/Brick Program
- Winter Storage Information
- Park Shelter Rentals

PARK & RECREATION

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

 701 W. Slifer St
Portage, WI 53901

 (608) 742-2178

portage.recdesk.com 

[facebook.com/
portageparkandrec](https://facebook.com/portageparkandrec) 

MEET OUR STAFF

Toby Monogue
Department Manager

Mike Percy
Recreation Coordinator

Hayley Wolfe
Recreation Assistant

Emmett McCarthy
Arborist/Parks Crewperson

Mark Fahey
Parks Crewperson

Justin Brown
Parks Crewperson

Employment Opportunities– Persons interested in obtaining part-time or seasonal employment with the Portage Park & Recreation Department should visit the next page, go on our website, or contact our department for information about open positions.

Everyone is Welcome– We welcome anyone to participate in our programs regardless of ability, race, or gender. We want to encourage everyone to participate and join in on the fun!

You Snooze....You Lose– Nothing kills a program quicker than waiting until the last minute to register. If we do not meet the minimum number of participants by the registration deadline, the program will be canceled. We also set registration maximums on each program based on staff, equipment, and space, so be sure to register early in order to reserve your spot before they are all gone!

Say 'Cheese'– For program promotional purposes, photographs may be taken of participants. If you do not wish to have your photo, or photos of your children taken, please notify our department.

Residents vs. Non-Residents– All program and park shelter rentals will list 2 prices under the description. (Ex: \$15/\$25). The first price is the City of Portage and Pacific Township residents. The second price is for non-residents (Lewiston, Caledonia, Fort Winnebago, Pardeeville, etc.). Non-resident fees are charged to help our department continue to maintain our programs and facilities for those who do not pay taxes to the City of Portage.

Scholarships– The City of Portage wishes to offer our programs and activities to all area children. If financial assistance is needed for a child's participation, please contact our department for more information. Park Shelter Rentals, select programs, and special events/tickets do not qualify for our scholarship program.

Typos/Mistakes– Occasionally, there may be an error in days, times, registration requirements, pricing, or location in our program descriptions. When such errors occur, our staff will do everything possible to correct the situation promptly. Our department reserves the right to change program schedules as needed to accommodate demand or school/community conflicts.

Program Refund Policy– Refunds will be granted if requests are made seven (7) days before the scheduled start of the activity. Please contact our department if you have questions regarding refunds due to medical or unavoidable circumstances. All refunds carry a \$5.00 processing fee.

Facility Rental Refund Policy– Refunds for facility rentals will be granted if requests are made thirty (30) days prior to scheduled rental. Extenuating circumstances are occasionally considered. Refunds requested due to poor weather on your rental day will not be granted. All refunds carry a \$5.00 processing fee.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Applications and additional information about our Employment Opportunities can be found under the 'Employment' tab on our website: portage.recdesk.com.

Interviews for positions begin in April, so please submit applications by April 1st

Drop off completed applications at 701 W Slifer St, or email mike.percy@portagewi.gov

Youth Sports Supervisor

This position will lead and run our Youth Sports programs as well as supervise the staff helping with those programs. Applicants must be at least 18 and have past experience working with kids, preferably in a sports setting.

- 5-10 hours per week
- Pay range \$13-\$16/hour depending on qualifications and experience

Youth Sports Staff

Help coach and instruct kids in our t-ball, soccer, and/or other youth sports programs! Employees must be reliable, hard working, outgoing, and able to work well with kids. Must be 14 to apply.

- 5-20 hours per week
- Flexible scheduling
- Pay starting at \$10.00/hour



Seasonal Maintenance Worker

This is a non-supervisory position. General job function is to efficiently and effectively perform maintenance operations; including operating machinery and performing maintenance and cleaning tasks throughout the City's parks. Must be 18 to apply.

- Monday-Friday 7:00 am-3:00 pm / Some Saturday AM hours
- Starts mid-May, working through mid-August (start date may be flexible)
- Pay \$13.00/hour
- **Applications currently accepted, and position will be filled as soon as possible, so apply today!**

Playground Program Supervisor

This position will help the Recreation Coordinator plan and implement various activities and games at our Summer Playground Program, while also helping lead and supervise the Playground Program Staff. Must be at least 18 to apply.

- 30-35 hours per week
- Pay range \$14-\$16/hour DOQ
- Previous experience working with kids required



Playground Program Staff

This position will help at our Summer Playground Program at Collipp-Worden Park. Staff will be responsible for leading games, activities, and crafts throughout the program. Staff will also be responsible for supervising all children attending the program, and ensuring their safety and well-being. Must be 14 to apply.

- 20-35 hours per week
- Pay starting at \$10.00/hour

Lifeguards

We are seeking Lifeguards for Silver Lake Beach! Job responsibilities will include lifeguarding, concession attendant, and facility opening and closing procedures. If you are interested in becoming Lifeguard Certified, contact our department for details on our next Lifeguard Certification Course. Lifeguards must be at least 15 years old to be certified.

- 10-30 hours per week, with flexible scheduling
- Pay starting at \$10.75/hour for Lifeguards

REGISTRATIONS & RESERVATIONS

There are 3 easy ways to register for a program or reserve a park shelter for your next event. We accept cash, check, or credit card for registrations and reservations. All Mail-In or Drop Off payments must be made with cash or check only. We do not offer over-the-phone registrations or reservations because there are liability waiver forms that you must sign.

Online

PORTAGE.RECDESK.COM

Create an account on our website to sign up for programs or reserve a park shelter. You will need a credit card to complete any online transaction. A small convenience fee will apply.

Mail-In or Drop Off

Mail-in or Drop Off registration is available for all programs and shelter rentals. All Mail-In and Drop Off registrations or reservations must have completed paperwork and payment included in envelope. Drop Offs can be placed in our secure drop box outside of our office front door.

In-Person

Check our website or Facebook page for office hours, or call ahead to make sure we are accepting in-person registrations.

SUMMER HOT SPOTS

Silver Lake Beach

522 Silver Lake Drive

Come enjoy this beautiful sandy beach with a dedicated swimming area, dock & slide for children, and a concession stand. This beach is staffed with lifeguards beginning at 11am daily throughout the summer, and is free to use!



Kayaks and paddleboards are available to rent during staffed hours. Price is \$5 per hour, cash only, and can be paid for at the concession stand. Lifejackets and paddles are provided for rentals. All equipment must be used at Silver Lake, no transporting to other locations. A Drivers License will be required as a deposit on-site.

Goodyear Park Splashpad

920 Dewitt Street

Cool off in the Goodyear Park Splashpad this summer, located at 920 Dewitt St. This free facility is fun for kids, and operates from 10am-7pm daily, beginning Saturday, May 25th, and closing after Labor Day. This facility has bathrooms and shade structures.



SUMMER HOT SPOTS

Portage Family Skate Park

920 Dewitt Street

Facility Information

- Located at Goodyear Park
- Free Admission
- Operating Hours: 8am– Dusk



Fritz Port Dog Park

800 Morgan Street

The Fritz Port Dog Park is located at the Portage Fairgrounds, on the corner of Superior Street and Morgan Street. There is a \$2 daily fee to use the Dog Park (pay cash onsite). Residents who have registered their dog with the City of Portage in 2024 receive free use of the Dog Park with their annual dog registration.

SPRING RECREATION PROGRAMS

Flag Football

Back again is our popular Spring Flag Football program! Kids will learn and practice the basics of throwing, catching, and playing games. We will start with individual skill development and evolve into game play as the program progresses.

Dates: Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, April 25th thru May 11th

Times: K-2nd Grade- 5:00-5:55pm on Thursdays,
9:00-9:55am on Saturdays
3rd-5th Grade- 6:00-6:55pm on Thursdays,
10:00-10:55am on Saturdays

Location: Ball fields at the Portage Fairgrounds

Grades: K-5th

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$25/\$35

Registration Dates: March 11th—April 15th

Min/Max: 10/30

*Interested in helping coach? We have paid positions, as well as volunteer positions available. Coaches who volunteer will have their child's registration fee waived.



Registration for programs can be done online at portage.recdesk.com or stop by our office at 701 W. Slifer St

SPRING RECREATION PROGRAMS

Lifeguard Certification Course

We are happy to offer a Red Cross Lifeguard Certification Course this spring. This course will include online assignments in addition to in-water skills training and classroom training. Participants who successfully pass this course will be eligible for employment with the Portage Park & Recreation Department. Starting pay is \$10.75/hour for Lifeguards.

Dates: Monday, March 18th and Tuesday, March 19th
(Portage School District Spring Break)

Time: 9am-4pm

Ages: Must be 15 or older by March 19, 2024

Fee: \$50- for participants who will work for Portage Park & Rec following successful completion of course
\$150- for participants who will work elsewhere following successful completion of course

Registration Deadline: March 11



SafeSitter Babysitting Course

This class will teach middle schoolers how to be a safe, responsible babysitter. Safety skills, child development and behavior tips, rescue breathing, first aid, and general responsibilities will be covered in this course. Upon passing this class, children may gain employment within their community with their certification, and parents will be able to feel more comfortable and confident leaving an elder child to watch their younger siblings. Participants will receive a babysitting bag and notepad.

Dates: -April 13 (registration open March 11)
-April 20 (registration open March 11)
-May 25 (registration open April 15)
-June 8 (registration open April 15)
-June 22 (registration open April 15)
-July 20 (registration open April 15)
-August 17 (registration open April 15)

Times: 9am-2:30pm

Location: Park & Recreation Office (701 W. Slifer St)

Ages: 11-15

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$50/\$60

Min/Max: 2/6 per class

Karate

Basics- Join in on the fun and join our martial arts program! Karate Basics is an intro level class and will introduce participants to the fundamental skills of the martial arts world. This class is designed for inexperienced, new karate participants.

Intermediate- This program is for our mid-level karate participants and will help build and improve the participant's skills and knowledge. This program is designed for participants who have experience in our karate programs.

Advanced- This program is designed for more experienced karate participants. This advanced program will expand and develop participant's knowledge and skills in martial arts. Karate Advanced participants must have a Green Belt or higher in order to register.

Dates: (Monday and Thursday evenings)

Session 2- March 4-April 25 (no class April 1)

Session 3- May 2-June 24 (no class May 27)

Session 4- July 1-August 26 (no class July 4 or Aug 12)

Session 5- August 29-October 21 (no class Sept 2)

Session 6- October 24-December 23 (no class Oct 31, Nov 4, Nov 28)

Times: Basics (5-6pm)

Intermediate (6-7pm)

Advanced (7-8pm)

Location: City Hall Basement (115 W Pleasant St)

Ages: 6+

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$32/\$47 (per session)

Each class may have additional classes scheduled as needed for Belt Testing

Registration: Sessions 2 & 3 Registration is open online right now. Sessions 4-6 Registration begins Monday, April 15



SUMMER YOUTH SPORTS

Tot T-Ball (June)

This program will introduce baseball and softball to beginners. Players will learn the basics of fielding, catching, throwing, hitting, and running the bases. We'll work on individual skill development, as well as play scrimmage games later in the season. This program is about getting kids involved and having fun!

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 4th - June 27th

Times: Session 1- 4:00-4:45pm
Session 2- 4:50-5:35pm
Session 3- 5:40-6:25pm

Location: Ball Fields @ the Portage Fairgrounds

Ages: 4-5 year olds

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$25/\$35

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 31

Min/Max: 10/18 per session



Tot Soccer (July)

This fun and instructive program will teach the basics of soccer to kids ages 4-5 years old. We'll work on skill development with kicking, passing, dribbling, and teamwork. Kids will practice skills and learn the game, and play scrimmages later in the program to get game experience.

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 9th - August 1st

Times: Session 1- 4:00-4:45pm
Session 2- 4:50-5:35pm
Session 3- 5:40-6:25pm

Location: Soccer Fields @ the Portage Fairgrounds

Ages: 4-5 year olds

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$25/\$35

Registration Deadline: Friday, June 28th

Min/Max: 10/18 per session

Tot Basketball (August)

This program will introduce the game of basketball to beginners, and teach them the fundamental skills to be successful. Players will learn the basics of dribbling, shooting, passing, and defense. We'll work on individual skill development, as well as play scrimmage games later in the season. This program is about getting kids involved and having fun!

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 13th - August 29th

Times: 4-6 year olds (Session 1)- 4:00-4:45pm
4-6 year olds (Session 2)- 4:50-5:35pm
7-8 year olds- 5:40-6:25pm

Location: Outdoor Basketball Courts at Collipp-Worden Park

Ages: 4-8 year olds

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$20/\$30

Registration Deadline: Friday, August 9th

Min/Max: 8/15 per group

Instructional Soccer Camp

This program will focus on intermediate skills and drills for soccer players. The first portion of the program will be dedicated to individual skill development, but will evolve into more advanced drill work and gameplay.

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 11- July 18
(No camp July 2nd or July 4th)

Times: 6-8 years olds- 1:30-2:30pm
9-12 years olds- 2:30-3:30pm

Location: Soccer Fields @ the Portage Fairgrounds

Ages: 6-12

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$35/\$45

Registration Deadline: Friday, June 7

Min/Max: 10/24 per age group



Registration for Summer Programs begins Monday, April 15 @ 8am.
Visit portage.recdesk.com or stop in to 701 W. Slifer St. to register!

SUMMER YOUTH SPORTS

Youth Tennis Camps

We are currently working on scheduling our Summer Tennis Camps, and we will have details for these camps shortly! Stay tuned to our Facebook Page and website for more details!

Baseball Skill Development Camp

This program is a skill development baseball program for players ages 9-13. This program will focus on individual skill development, drill work, and having fun. Scrimmage games will occur later in the season. This program will meet Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Dates: Mondays and Wednesdays
June 17-July 24

Time: 9am-10:30am

*Times may be adjusted depending on enrollment and gameplay.
Coaches will announce changes at practice*

Location: Fairgrounds-Lawton & Siegel Ball Diamonds
(north end of Fairgrounds near the Dog Park)

Ages: 9-13

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$35/\$45

Registration Deadline: Monday, June 10



5-8 Year Old TBall and Baseball Leagues

Portage Youth Baseball runs leagues for 5-8 years old in the Portage community. Please contact them or visit their website (portageyouthbaseball.org) for more information. Financial assistance is available through PYB. **Registration Deadline is Friday, March 31**

**Registration for Summer Programs
begins Monday, April 15 @ 8am.
Visit portage.recdesk.com or stop
in to 701 W. Slifer St. to register!**

PHS Sports Camps

We have been developing an amazing relationship with the Portage High School athletic programs to be able to offer these youth sports camps the past few years. Each one of these camps is coached by the Portage High School coaching staff and high school players for that sport. Kids in these camps receive incredible instruction from experienced coaches, and get to learn from skilled high school athletes! As a thank you to each of the teams helping with these youth camps, we share the revenue generated from each camp with that high school team.



Girls Basketball

Dates: June 17, 18, 19

Location: Portage High School Gym

Ages & Times:

- Girls Entering Grades 3rd - 5th (11:30am-1:00pm)
- Girls Entering Grades 6th - 8th (9:00am-11:00am)

Fee: \$15

Registration Deadline: Monday, June 10



Boys Baseball

Dates: TBD- follow our website and Facebook page for updates!

Location: Portage High School Baseball Diamond

Ages & Times:

- Boys entering grades 3rd - 6th times TBD

Fee: \$15

Registration Deadline: TBD



Tennis (Boys & Girls)

Dates: June 24, 25, 26, 27

Location: Portage School District Tennis Courts
(305 E Slifer St)

Ages & Times:

- 5-7 year olds: 5:00-5:45pm
- 8-10 year olds: 6:00-6:45pm
- 11-13 year olds: 7:00-7:45pm

Fee: \$15

Registration Deadline: Monday, June 17



PHS Cheer Camp

Students will work on basic cheer fundamentals including jumps, band dances, stunting, tumbling, and cheering. This is a fun way to develop strength, flexibility, and self-esteem through fun choreographed material. Youth Cheerleaders will cheer with the Portage High School Varsity Cheer Team at a Warrior football game on September 6th.

Dates: Wednesdays, August 14 - September 4

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Location: Portage High School Football Field (High School wrestling room will be used for a rain location)

Ages: 5-14

Fee: \$20 (will include t-shirt to wear at Football Game)

Registration Deadline: Friday, August 9th



We will be working to scheduled additional sport camps, so stay tuned and pay attention to our website and Facebook Page this spring!

YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Playground Program

Looking for a fun and exciting program to keep your kids entertained all summer long? Our Playground Program is a supervised day camp designed to keep kids active and outdoors this summer! Whether you can attend all day every day, or just a few hours each week, our camp staff will lead them in fun structured games and activities, arts and crafts, and much more!

Dates: Monday thru Friday

-June 10th through August 2nd

-No program on July 4th or July 5th

-Start date may change depending on the final day of school for Portage School District

Time: 9:00am-3:00pm

Location: Collipp-Worden Park Shelter #1

Ages: 6-14 (entering 1st - 8th grade)

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$150/\$175

Max: 70 kids (Register ASAP to reserve your spot!)



Dance

Perfect for beginners, those wanting to see if dance is the right fit, or those wanting to give something new a try! Participants will learn a little of everything to help them become well-rounded dancers. Class also helps improve balance, coordination, and rhythm. Dance shoes are recommended but not required. Each class will learn a routine to be performed at National Night Out on August 6th!

Dates: Tuesday Nights

June 11 - August 6

Ages & Times: 4:30-5:00pm (ages 3-5)

5:05-5:35pm (ages 6-8)

5:40-6:10pm (ages 9-11)

Registration Deadline: Friday, June 7th

Location: Portage City Hall (115 W Pleasant St)

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$30/\$40

Min/Max: 4/16 per class



Discover Drums

Is your child's inner musician looking to explore? Would they like to learn about tons of rhythms and to play on a variety of drums? This program is the perfect introduction to the world of percussion and exploring your inner drummer! You'll discover drum sets, snare drums, marching drums, hand drums, mallet instruments and way too many percussion instruments to name them all (ankle bells, anyone?). This program is geared towards beginners and participants will receive a pair of drumsticks and a bucket drum at the conclusion of the class.

Dates: Session 1 (June 26th & 27th)

Session 2 (July 29th & 30th)

Times: 10am-Noon

Location: Portage Soundworks (129 W Cook St)

Ages: 8+

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$40/\$50 per session

(includes drumsticks and bucket drum)

Registration Deadline: Session 1- June 17

Session 2- July 19

Min/Max: 3/5 participants per session



Be sure to set up your online accounts and add any new household members (children) prior to April 15th! There is a brief 'approval' period once your account is created.

**Registration for Summer Programs begins Monday, April 15 @ 8am.
Visit portage.recdesk.com or stop in to 701 W. Slifer St. to register!**

YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Summer Cheerleading

These classes are for anyone who dreams of being a cheerleader! Students will work on basic cheer fundamentals including jumps, band dances, stunting, tumbling, and cheering. This is a fun way to develop strength, flexibility, and self-esteem through fun choreographed material.

Dates: Session 1- Wednesdays, June 5-June 26
Session 2- Wednesdays, July 10-July 31

Times: Kids entering K-4th Grade (4:45-5:15pm)
Kids entering 5th-8th Grade (5:30-6:15pm)

Location: Portage High School Football Field (High School wrestling room will be used for a rain location)

Ages: Kids entering grades K-8th

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$20/\$30

Registration Deadline: Friday prior to each start date

Min/Max: 5/60



Middle School Competitive Cheer Program

Our middle school competitive cheer teams are a no-cut sport for kids entering 5th-8th grade, and there are no try-outs. We will accept any child from any school district, as long as they are able to commit to our practice and competition schedule. We believe in offering a disciplined program to any person that wishes to learn the fundamentals of cheerleading, as well as experience cheerleading in an emotionally and physically safe environment. We strive to teach our athletes the value of commitment, hard work, integrity, leadership, self-confidence, a positive attitude, and a love for the sport.

All practices (unless pre-approved by coaches) and competitions are mandatory to be on this team. No other sport/activity can take precedence over your place on this team. This team is a commitment because once a routine is in place, the team cannot perform without a member.

Mandatory Parent/Athlete meeting will be June 26th.

Practice Dates: -Mon Nights, July 8-February 24
-Thurs Nights, Nov 7-January 30

Times: Monday practices- 4:30-6:30pm
Thursday practices- 4:30-6:30pm

Location: Portage High School *schedule will denote specific location @ HS*

Competition Dates: Select Saturdays in December-February (exact dates will be handed out during the season)

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$175/\$185

*Fee covers registration and apparel/shoes. If financial assistance is needed for a child's participation, please contact our department for more information.

Ages: Kids entering 5th-8th Grade

Registration Deadline: June 21

Min/Max: 7/34



Warrior Spirit Craft Corner

Join the PHS Cheer Coaches with a morning of creating your own Warrior Spirit gear! Participants will make their own cheer bow, spirit scrunchie, and spirit stick!

Dates: Wednesday, July 31st

Times: 10:00am-11:00am

Location: Sunset Park Pavilion

Ages: 5-14

Fee: \$5

Registration Deadline: July 26th

Min/Max: 5/40



Registration for Summer Programs begins Monday, April 15 @ 8am.
Visit portage.recdesk.com or stop in to 701 W. Slifer St. to register!

ADDITIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMS

BattleDarts

Back by popular demand- BattleDarts is a mobile Nerf party that includes nerf blasters and inflated bunkers to provide the layout of a battlefield. All participants will be divided into teams and will have the opportunity to play games such as Capture the Flag and Team Elimination. There will be an official Referee and Game Monitor to make this event run smoothly. Participants must bring their own eye protection (sunglasses, goggles, clear glasses, etc.). All other equipment will be provided by the BattleDarts Game Operator.

Dates: TBD- check back on our website or Facebook page for further details!

Location: Portage Fairgrounds Soccer Complex
(799 Thompson St)
Rain Location- Bartels MS Gym

Ages: 7-13

Fee: \$15

Registration Deadline: 1 week before each date

Min/Max: 12/40 per event

Boys & Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Club is an after school and summer program for youth ages 7-18 years old. Club programming provides homework help, mentoring, friends and a wide array of activities spanning from arts and crafts to gym games and more. The Club aims to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

After School Hours: Mon-Thurs 3:00pm-7:00pm
Fri 2:00pm-6:00pm

Summer Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:30pm

Location: 117 W Franklin St (Rusch Elementary)

Website: www.bgcwcw.org

Contact: Portage@bgcwcw.org



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WEST-CENTRAL WISCONSIN
Baraboo-Portage-Reedsburg-Tomah



Looking For More?

Looking for more youth sports options? Check out these Youth Organization websites for more Youth Sports in the Portage area!

Youth Soccer- portageyouthsoccer.org

Girls Basketball- portagegirlsbasketball.sportngin.com/

Boys Basketball- portageboyshoopsclub.com

Baseball- portageyouthbaseball.org

Girls Fastpitch Softball- portageyouthsoftball.org

Tackle Football- portagewarriorfb.com

Wrestling- portageyouthwrestlingclub.sportngin.com/home

Hockey- thunderbirdyouthhockey.com

POOL & SWIM LESSON UPDATE

Message from Josh Sween, Portage School District Administrator:

The Portage Community School District will be closing the Llewellyn Breese Memorial Pool (Rusch Pool) at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. We are currently working on plans to build a new aquatics facility, and the public will have the opportunity to provide the school district with feedback through community surveys that will be distributed to families that live in the Portage Community School District in early April. If there is support for a new aquatics facility then it will be part of a potential referendum in November of 2024. The PCSD understands that this is an inconvenience and is working hard to find a solution and bring an aquatics facility back to Portage as soon as possible.

There are Swimming Lesson opportunities in Baraboo, Poynette, and Wisconsin Dells. Please contact those organizations directly for more information.

Registration for Summer Programs begins Monday, April 15 @ 8am.
Visit portage.recdesk.com or stop in to 701 W. Slifer St. to register!

ADULT RECREATION

Adult Softball

Adult softball is back in Portage and we are happy to offer our Monday Night Men's League again this year! Rules and Registration Packets can be found on our website beginning April 1st. Teams from last year will be contacted prior to April 1st and will have the first opportunity to register. Each league is limited to 8 teams, and we will accept the first 8 teams to turn in their Registration Packet and Team Fee.

Times: Games will start between 6-9 pm. Exact game times will be determined when the schedule is created after registration.

Location: Portage Fairgrounds (new field at the north end of complex near the Dog Park)

Fee: \$300 per team (no individual or non-resident fees)

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 19th

Season Dates: Mid-May through Mid-August



2023 Men's League Champions- J&T Auto

Pickleball

Come join in on the Pickleball craze this year! Pickleball nets, paddles, and balls are provided in our Community Equipment storage bin at the courts, and feel free to bring your own if you'd like! We recently installed 3 permanent pickleball courts at Pine Meadow Park, and these are open for play through mid-fall!

If you are looking for other Pickleball Players to play with, we recommend signing up with Playtime Scheduler at www.playtimescheduler.com. It is a free website, and allows you to see when others will be playing at the courts!

Courts are free to use and open to the public at all times, unless otherwise noted on the court entrances. At this time, we are not reserving courts for private groups or closed play, so please make sure you are sharing the courts!

If you are interested in setting up a Pickleball League, please reach out to Mike at mike.percy@portagewi.gov to discuss.

Adult Co-Ed Sand Volleyball

We are excited to offer a 6 vs. 6 Recreational Co-Ed Sand Volleyball league this year at Collipp-Worden Park! Get some friends together, bring a cooler, and enjoy a fun night at the park each week! Registration packets can be found on our website under the 'Forms' tab, or in our office.

Dates: Thursday Nights, mid-June to mid-August

Times: Evenings (exact times and dates will be determined depending on number of teams)

Location: Collipp-Worden Park

Ages: 18+

Fee: \$50 per team

Registration Dates: Registration closes May 10th



Friends & Family Sand Volleyball

This NEW volleyball league is designed to be a laid-back, fun weekly event for friends and families. Records and standings will not be kept, and spiking is not allowed. Teams will keep track of the game score and make their own calls, we will not have a referee.

Dates: Sunday afternoons, mid-June to mid-August

Times: Afternoons, roughly 4:00-6:00pm (exact times and dates will be determined depending on number of teams)

Location: Collipp-Worden Park

Ages: 12+

Fee: \$50 per team

Registration Dates: Registration closes May 10th



For more information, visit portage.recdesk.com or call our office at 608-742-2178

COMMUNITY EVENTS

National Night Out

National Night Out is an opportunity to enjoy a fun night in the park to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement, while bringing back a true sense of community! Local Police and Sheriffs representatives will be in the park playing games, handing out safety information, and helping to create a positive relationship between our community and law enforcement.

This has been a HUGE community event the past few years, so come out and join in on the fun in 2024!

Date: Tuesday, August 6th

Time: Evening- exact time frame will be announced this spring!

Location: Collipp-Worden Park

Fee: Free



Milwaukee Brewers Game

Join us at the Milwaukee Brewer game on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th as they take on the Chicago Cubs! Our group tickets will be in the general seating along the 1st base line, sections 206-208. Have a fun day at the ball park as we cheer on the Brewers!

Price: \$29 per ticket (transportation not included)

Game Time: 3:10pm



Movie In The Park

Join us for a fun event as we enjoy a movie outdoors at Collipp-Worden Park! We'll have a projector and our large inflatable big screen. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, snacks, and drinks for this unique experience!

The movie will begin after the sun sets, estimated around 7:20pm

Date: Friday, September 13th

Time: 7:20-9:00pm (depending on movie length)

Location: Collipp-Worden Park

Fee: Free

Movie Choices: We are holding an open vote for which movie to choose this year. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code and vote for which movie you'd like to watch. The winning movie will be announced in July!



Super Mario Bros Movie



Paw Patrol:
The Mighty Movie



Migration

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Taste of Portage

Taking place in downtown on Friday night and Saturday there will be live music, food, drinks, kid's activities, an art and craft show, and a classic car show. Events take place at Market Square Parking Lot, Cook Street and Dewitt Street.

Dates: August 23 & 24

For details visit <https://www.portagewi.com/>



Concert in the Park

Join us at Pauquette Park at the Beasley Pavilion to enjoy some live music this summer. We encourage you to bring your family and friends along with a lawn chair or blanket and spend a relaxing evening at the park listening to live music. Concert is free to attend!

Time: 6:30pm

Date- Friday, July 12

Band Name- Ladies Must Swing (17 piece, all female band, featuring 5 saxophones, 4 trumpets, and 4 trombones)



Portage Fireworks Celebration

The Portage Fireworks Celebration will be held on the north side of Portage, just off Gunderson Drive. We encourage you to enjoy the show from areas nearby including the parking lots of Festival Foods, and nearby businesses.

Time: 9:30pm

Date: Saturday, July 6



Columbia County Fair

Join us as we celebrate this year's fair "Memories- made here" from July 24th-28th at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in Portage.

Questions about the Fair can be directed to the Columbia County Fair Board by visiting ColumbiaCountyFairWI.org, emailing them at columbiaCoFair@yahoo.com or calling 608-697-5043



WPRA DISCOUNT TICKETS

Our department receives discounted tickets to local attractions through our state-wide Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association (WPRA). Tickets are available at the Portage Park & Rec Office (701 W. Slifer St) May 1st thru September 1st Cash or card accepted. No checks. Please call ahead to check availability.

NOAH'S ARK

Price: \$35.00 per person
Children under 36" are FREE
Season: May 28-September 2
Anyone under 17 must have chaperone.

JET BOAT ADVENTURE

Price: \$33.00 Adult (12+)
\$18.50 Child (4-11)
Children 3 and under not allowed
Season: May 11-October 7

WISCONSIN DUCKS TOUR

Price: \$33.00 Adult (12+)
\$18.50 Child (4-11)
Children 3 & under are FREE
Season: March 8-Mid November

UPPER DELLS BOAT TOUR

Price: \$33.00 Adult (12+)
\$18.50 Child (4-11)
Children 3 & under are FREE
Season: April 1-October 27

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO

Price: \$14.50 Adult (13+)
\$11.50 Child (3-12)
Children 2 & under are FREE
Open year-round. Tickets expire 12/31/24

MOUNT OLYMPUS WATER & THEME PARK

Season: March 25-September 2
Price: \$15.00 per person
Kids 2 and under are FREE

PIRATES COVE MINI GOLF

Price: \$8.00 per person
Children 4 & under are FREE
Season: Mid-March thru Mid-October
Only paying players allowed on course

Land of Natura

Price: \$20.00
Season: May-September

MEMORIAL TREES, BENCHES, BRICKS

Our Memorial Program gives you the opportunity to donate a tree, bench, or brick in celebration, honor, or memory of a person or event. Trees and benches will be placed in the Portage Park system, and the Memorial Bricks are for veterans and will be placed at Blue Star Park.

Memorial Trees

Work with our department to select an approved tree and find a suitable location in one of our parks.

Cost: \$500



[Click here](#), or scan the QR code to find our Memorial Tree, Bench, and Brick Order Forms.

Memorial Benches

Work with our department to find a location in our park system for your bench. Some restrictions may apply.

Cost: \$2000



Sample Bench

Memorial Bricks

All Memorial Bricks will be placed at Blue Star Park. This is reserved for veterans.

Cost: \$125



Blue Star Park Memorial

WINTER VEHICLE STORAGE

Looking for a place to store your boat, RV, camper, or vehicle over the winter months? The City of Portage offers indoor and outdoor storage at the Portage Fairgrounds.

Move-In Dates:

- Friday, October 25, 2024 (8am-10am)
- Saturday, October 26, 2024 (8am-9am)

Pricing:

- Resident Rate (Indoor/Secured Storage).....\$15/foot
- Resident Rate (Outdoor/Unsecured Storage).....\$10/foot
- Non-Resident Rate (Indoor/Secured Storage)..... \$20/foot
- Non-Resident Rate (Outdoor/Unsecured Storage).... \$15/foot



***This is a one-time up-front fee paid via check at Move-In. No monthly fees.
The Move-out date will be scheduled for early April 2025***

Resident Rates will be given to people who live within City Limits and pay taxes to the City of Portage, or who live within Pacific Township. Non-Resident rates will be given to those who live outside City Limits and pay their taxes to other municipalities or townships.

Items will be measured at Move In, and will be measured from the trailer hitch to the back bumper, propeller, spare tire, etc. No reservations required, this is a first come, first served program. More information will be shared in our August Activity Guide.

PARK SHELTER RENTALS

Reserve any shelter at portage.recdesk.com under the 'Facilities' tab.
Or stop in the Portage Park & Recreation Department at 701 W. Slifer Street, Portage, WI

TIER ONE SHELTERS

Monday-Friday \$45 R/\$70 NR Saturday/Sunday \$55 R/\$80 NR

Collipp-Worden #1



226 W. Slifer St
-14 picnic tables
-Electricity
-Flush Restrooms
-Charcoal Grill
-Disc Golf Course
-B-ball & Tennis Courts
-Playground

Sunset



1217 W Pleasant St
-12 picnic tables
-Electricity
-Flush Restrooms
-Charcoal Grills
-Playground
-Scenic Overlook of Wisconsin River

Silver Lake



522 Silver Lake Dr
-6 picnic tables
-Electricity
-Flush Restrooms
-Playground
-Beach swimming area

Pauquette Beasley Pavillion



815 W. Cook St
-12 picnic tables
-Electricity

*Please see Pauquette Shelter #1 for additional park amenities.

Pauquette #1



900 W Conant St
-7 picnic tables
-Electricity
-Basketball Court
-Playground
-Flush Restrooms
-Floral Garden

Goodyear #1



920 Dewitt St
-6 picnic tables
-Electricity
-Splashpad
-Playground
-Flush Restrooms
-Skatepark

TIER TWO SHELTERS

Monday-Friday \$35 R/\$60 NR Saturday/Sunday \$45 R/\$70 NR

Collipp-Worden #2



301 W Slifer St
-5 picnic tables
-Electricity
-Charcoal Grill

*Please see Collipp-Worden Shelter #1 for additional park amenities

Pauquette #2



900 W Conant St.
-6 picnic tables
-Electricity

*Please see Pauquette Shelter #1 for additional park amenities

TIER THREE SHELTERS

Monday-Friday \$25 R/\$50 NR Saturday/Sunday \$35 R/\$60 NR

Cattail



510 W. Burns St
-1 picnic table
-Green Space
-Small playground equipment

Pine Meadow



865 Hamilton St
-3 picnic tables
-Green Space
-Playground
-Pickleball Courts
-Portable Restroom

Goodyear #2



1016 Dewitt St
-2 picnic tables

*Please see Goodyear Shelter #1 for additional park amenities

Pauquette Gazebo



900 W. Conant St
-Great Wedding and photograph venue
-Located next to Bridal Pond at Pauquette Park

*Please see Pauquette Shelter #1 for additional park amenities

Sanborn



922 W. Franklin St
-3 picnic tables
-Green Space
-Playground
-Basketball Court

Woodridge



424 Winnebago St
-3 picnic tables
-Playground

Lincoln



404 E Carroll St
-2 picnic tables
-Playground
-Basketball Court

Riverside



300 E. Wisconsin St
-6 picnic tables
-Electricity
-Swings
-Portable Restroom
-Along Wisconsin River
-2.9 mile Levee walking trail