



Fall & Winter | 2024-2025

Portage Park & Rec Activity Guide

Register online at
portage.recdesk.com,
or stop in our office at
701 W Slifer St,
Portage, WI

608-742-2178

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Everyone’s Welcome– The programs that we offer are open to anyone that would like to participate, regardless of ability, experience, race, gender, or sexual orientation.

Employment Opportunities- Anyone interested in part-time or seasonal employment with the Portage Park & Recreation Department should visit our website, or contact our department for information about open positions.

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 for 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. (example- \$15/\$25). The first price is for residents of the City of Portage or Pacific Township. 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.

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 and select programs 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 prior to 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. All refunds carry a \$10.00 processing fee.

DANCE

Our dynamic dance program offers an exciting and inclusive environment where dancers of all ages and skill levels can explore a variety of dance styles. From beginner to advanced, we provide classes that cater to everyone's needs and interests. Whether you're looking to learn the basics or refine your technique, our experienced instructors are here to guide you every step of the way. Join the Park and Dance Program, where every dancer can find their rhythm, make new friends, and shine on stage. Whether you're dancing for fun, fitness, or the love of the art, there's a place for you in our dance family.

Ages: 3+

Dates: Week of September 22nd through May 4th.

Specific schedules will be emailed prior to the class start.

Tuesdays:

5:15-5:45 **Tot Ballet** (ages 3-5)

5:50-6:20 **Tot Ballet** (ages 3-5)

6:25-6:55 **Novice Ballet** (ages 6+)

7-7:30 **Novice Jazz** (ages 6+)

Wednesdays

5:15-5:45 **Tap** (ages 6+)

5:50-6:20 **Novice Jazz** (ages 6+)

6:25-6:55 **Hip Hop** (ages 8+)

7-7:45 **Contemporary** (ages 10+)

7:50-8:20 **Musical Theatre** (ages 10+)

Sundays:

4-4:30 **Intermediate Ballet** 8+ (must have instructor's approval)

4:35-5:05 **Intermediate Jazz** 8+ (must have instructor's approval)

5:10-5:40 **Intermediate Lyrical** 10+ (must have instructor's approval)

5:45-6:15 **Technique/Flexibility** 6+ (must have instructor's approval) (No recital routine)

6:20-7:05 **Acro/Dance Tumbling** 8+ (must have instructor's approval)

7:10-7:45 **Advanced Jazz** 13+ (must have instructor's approval and meet level requirements)

7:50-8:25 **Advanced Lyrical/Contemporary** 13+ (must have instructor's approval and meet level requirements)

Location: City Hall Basement (115 W Pleasant St)

Fee: \$95-R / \$110-NR

Sunday Tech/Flex Class: \$65-R / \$80-NR (Does not include the cost of costume and shoes)

Max: 13-17 per class- register early because spots will fill quickly!!

Registration Opens: August 19th @ 8:00am

*To get instructors approval, please register for class waitlist on RecDesk and email Hayley Wolfe, hayley.wolfe@portagewi.gov, with your request. Please do this BEFORE registration opens.



FLAG FOOTBALL

Fall is football season! Our Flag Football Program this fall will feature instructional practices on Thursday nights and scrimmages on Saturday mornings. Parent volunteers are needed, so please reach out if you are interested in helping!

Ages: K-2nd- Thursdays- 5:00-5:55 pm

Saturdays- 9:00-9:55am

3rd-5th-Thursdays- 6:00-6:55 pm

Saturdays- 10:00-10:55am

Dates: Thursdays, September 26, October 3, 10

Saturdays, September 28, October 5, 12

Location: Lawton Ball Field (900 Morgan St)

Fee: \$25-Residents / \$35-Non-residents

Min/Max Per Age Group: 12/30

Registration Dates: August 19- September 20



TRUCK OR TREAT

NEW this year is a Halloween-themed event where kids get to see and learn about all of the big trucks and equipment they see around town! Kids will also get to 'Trick or Treat' at each of the booths and trucks. Follow our website and Facebook page for more information as this event approaches! This event will replace our Pumpkins In the Park event this fall!

Date: Thursday, October 24th (evening)

Location: Portage Fairgrounds

Fee: Free!



Registration Info

Registration for Fall Programs will open Monday, August 19th at 8:00am. Register in-person at our office or online at www.portage.recdesk.com

SAFE SITTER COURSES

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.

Dates: Saturday, September 14th

Saturday, October 12th

Saturday, November 9th

Times: 9am-2:30pm

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

Ages: 11-15

Fee: \$50/\$60

Registration: Currently Open online!

Registration closes the Monday prior to each class

Min/Max: 2/6 per class



MOVIE IN THE PARK

Join us for a fun evening in the park as we watch the movie MIGRATION on our inflatable big screen! Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and snacks! The movie will begin around dusk (estimated 7:15pm)

Location:

Collipp-Worden Park

Time:

7:15pm-8:45pm
(estimated)

Fee:

Free!



KARATE

Karate Basics

This class is for ages 6+ who are at the introductory level of karate. Participants will learn martial arts fundamentals and a strong emphasis will be put on building confidence, focus, discipline, and respect. Each student will have the opportunity to test at the end of the session. This program is for participants with less than a green belt status.

Karate Intermediate

This is our mid-level karate and will help build and improve the karate participants' skills and knowledge. This program is designed for experienced karate participants and will be fun for all age levels and participants.

Karate Advanced

This program is a step above our Karate Basics program and will teach advanced karate skills to ages 6+. Participants in this program must be a green belt or higher to participate in this class.

Ages: 6+

Dates: (Monday and Thursday Nights)

- Session 5: August 29 - October 21
- Session 6: October 24 - December 23

any participant can register for any session, and registration is currently open for these two sessions

More sessions will be announced in December, with sessions beginning in January

Fees: \$32-Residents / \$47-Non-residents (per session)

Location: City Hall Basement (115 W Pleasant St)

Times: Basics 5:00-6:00pm

Intermediate 6:00-7:00pm

Advanced 7:00-8:00pm

There may be additional classes scheduled for Belt Testing



PHS CHEER CAMP



Join the PHS Competition Cheer Team for a day of fun learning cheers, band dances, stunts, and more! Participants will get to perform at a Varsity basketball game halftime show!

Camp Date: December 7th

Game Performance: December 10th

Location: PHS Wrestling Room

Time: Camp- 9:00am - 1:00pm
Game- 7:00pm

Fee: \$20 (Includes t-shirt)

Min/Max: 5/60

Age: 5-14

Registration Dates: November 1- December 1

PHS CURLING CAMP

Have you ever wanted to see what curling is all about? Now is your chance! Join PHS Curling staff and team for a day to learn all about it at the Portage Curling Club! Participants must bring along a pair of dry, clean shoes to wear on the ice. Dress warm!

Date: TBD- follow our Facebook page for updates!

Location: Portage Curling Club (107 W Albert St)

Fee: \$15



PHS Camps are in partnership with the Portage High School Athletic Department. A portion of each registration fee will go directly towards that high school sport

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFO

Most Fall programs will open for registration on Monday, August 19 at 8am! You can register for our Recreation Programs on our website (portage.recdesk.com). Login or create an account, and then select the 'Programs' tab. If you are creating a NEW ACCOUNT, it may take up to 24 hours for your account to be approved, so please create new accounts well in advance of the Registration Opening date.

LETTERS FROM SANTA

Would your little one like to receive a personal letter from Santa this Holiday Season? We will have a form for each child or parent to complete and send in to our department, and we'll respond with a letter from the North Pole sent directly to each child!

Watch our website and Facebook page as we get closer to the Holiday Season for more information!

YOUTH BASKETBALL TEAMS

Girls- All Youth Girls Basketball will be run through the Portage Girls Basketball Club.

website: www.portagegirlsbasketball.sportngin.com

Boys- All Youth Boys Basketball programs and leagues will be run through the Portage Boys Hoops Club.

website: www.pbhc.com

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: Winter Break Session (December 30 & 31)

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

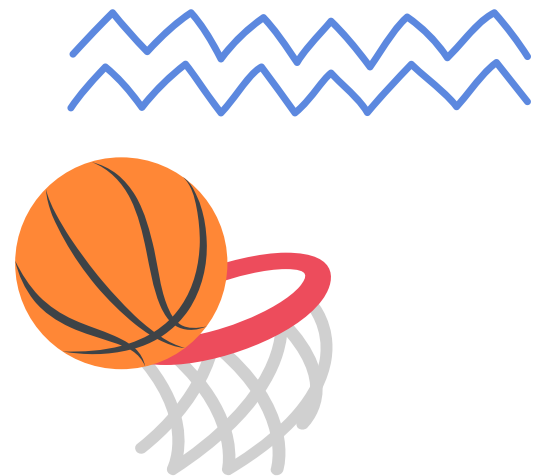
Min/Max: 3/5 participants per session

ICE SKATING

Ice Skating will be available at Pauquette Park this winter. The weather will determine when we are able to safely clear the ice, so we will post updates on our Facebook page when the ice is safe to skate on. Please follow safety signs that are posted around the pond.

YOUTH HOCKEY

Thunderbird Youth Hockey (based in Baraboo) is open to boys and girls ages 4-14 in the Baraboo and Portage area. First-year skaters play for free, and equipment is provided! Registration for the 2024-2025 season is open now, so check out thunderbirdyouthhockey.com for more information about Youth Hockey and Open Skate times!



OPEN GYM

We will be offering Open Gyms again this year at Bartels Middle School. We will provide some equipment, but feel free to bring your own basketballs, volleyballs, etc. Due to the number of kids and adults participating in these open gyms, volleyball nets will not be set up, and basketball games may be limited to half-court play.

Dates: Sundays, November 3 - March 2
(no Open Gym on 12/22, 12/29)

Times: Youth/Family Open Gym- 9:00-10:30am
Adult (18+) Open Gym- 10:30am-Noon

Location: Bartels Middle School

Cost: FREE

ADULT PROGRAMS

EUCHRE CLUB

Join us for our weekly Euchre Club at the Portage Public Library! This is designed to be a fun and social get together so bring a partner or you can be paired with other single players. Register ahead of time by calling 608-742-4959, or drop in when you can.

Dates: Mondays, beginning September 9th

Time: 1:00-2:30pm

Location: Portage Public Library

Cost: Free!



ADULT BASKETBALL OPEN GYM

Adult Basketball Open Gym is open to both men and women, but participants must be at least 18 years old.

Cost: Free

Dates: Monday Nights, November 4 thru March 3 (no Open Gym 12/23 or 12/30)

Location: Bartels Middle School

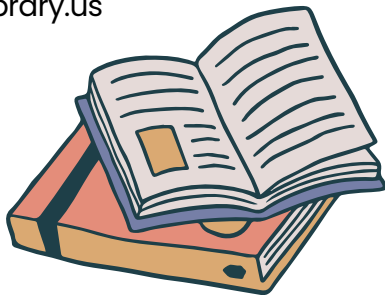
Times: 7:00-9:00pm

(times subject to change depending on school district athletic events)

PORTAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Be sure to check out the Portage Public Library for more great programs and events throughout the year! They have programs for youth, teens, AND adults to keep the whole family entertained!

Website: portagelibrary.us



ADULT VOLLEYBALL

Our Adult Coed Volleyball league on Wednesday nights will run November through February at Bartels Middle School. We will not have a scoring official this year, so teams will be required to keep track of their own scores and report it to the site supervisor.

Team Fee: \$140 with completed Registration Form

(found on Portage Park & Rec website)

Registration Dates: August 19 thru October 4

Location: Bartels Middle School

Game Nights: Wednesday Nights

Season Dates: November - February

HAVE AN IDEA?

Do you have an idea or suggestion for an activity, sport, or program you'd like to see offered in the community? We'd love to hear from you, so please reach out and we can discuss possible action to implement new programs!



EMPLOYMENT

We are always looking for hard working and responsible staff members to join our team! Positions include seasonal park maintenance, mowers, program supervisors, and youth recreation staff. For complete job descriptions, and more details please feel free to visit the employment tab on our website at <http://portage.recdesk.com>. Summer park maintenance job postings for the 2025 season will open in February and will be posted until filled. Staff looking for part time jobs working with our Recreation Programs are encouraged to apply any time, as we have programs running year round. However, if high school or college aged kids are looking to work our Recreation Programs next summer, please apply by March 31, 2025.

Fall Positions: Flag Football Supervisor (must be 18+), Flag Football Staff (must be 14+)

Visit portage.recdesk.com for more information and to fill out an application!



**WE ARE
HIRING**

2025 PARK SHELTER RENTALS

2025 Park Shelter Rentals will be accepted beginning on January 2nd, 2025. Reservations of these facilities can be completed on our website or in our office. The City of Portage has tons of great Park Shelters to rent for your Graduation Parties, Birthday Parties, Family Reunions, or whatever event you are planning for 2025! Costs vary depending on the facility, so please see our website for individual prices as well as descriptions and info for each facility.



2025 SPRING & SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Our Spring/Summer Activity Guide next year will come out in March, so be sure to pay attention to our Facebook page and website next spring for information on all of the programs and events we have planned for next year!

WINTER VEHICLE STORAGE

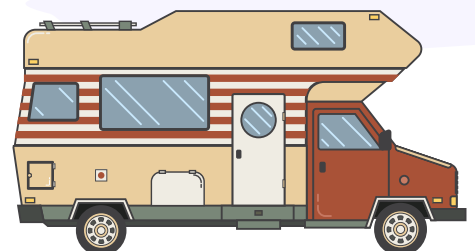
Looking to store a boat, camper, motorcycle, or any other vehicles indoors over the winter? We offer storage in enclosed, locked buildings at the Fairgrounds, as well as under our open-air shelters. This is a first come, first served event. We do not take reservations.

Move-In Dates: Fri, November 1st 8am-10am
Sat, November 2nd 8am-9am

*Unable to make those dates? Call our office the following Monday to inquire about an individual appointment, if we have space available.

Move-Out Date: Sat, April 5, 2025 8am-9am
*Early Move-Out is **NOT** an option*

More information and pricing can be found on our website, portage.recdesk.com. Look under the 'Forms' tab for 'Winter Vehicle Storage' or follow our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/portageparknrec](https://www.facebook.com/portageparknrec)



PARK PROJECT UPDATE

NEW PARK & RECREATION BUILDING

The City of Portage has begun construction on our NEW shared facility for the Parks/Recreation Department and Public Works Department. This facility is located at 401 Cemetery Road and is expected to be finished and operational by summer 2025. This new facility will benefit the community and our departments by providing sufficient vehicle and equipment storage, modernized mechanic and office workstations, and allow us to better collaborate on city projects by being under one roof.

We are extremely excited for this addition to the city and one feature that we are especially thrilled about is the Community Room. This Community Room will provide us a new space for all of our current indoor programs, and also give us our own space to create and offer new programs and classes in the future!

PLAYGROUND AT PINE MEADOW PARK

Construction will begin this fall on a new playground at Pine Meadow Park!



CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH

We have added an accessible Canoe/Kayak Launch at our Highway 33 Wayside park, located just east of Portage along the Fox River. This launch has a paved path from the parking lot and is free to use!



POCKET PARK

Construction is ongoing at our new 'Pocket Park' located downtown at the intersection of Wisconsin St and Dewitt St. This park will feature benches, picnic tables, and is located on the Ice Age Trail that passes through the heart of Portage. This project was completely funded through grants and donations.

CITY NEWS

Fall Clean-Up: October 5th, 2024, 8:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. at the Public Works Garage located at 616 Washington Street.

Guidelines for Brush Collection: Remaining Brush Collection will take place September 9th, October 7th, and November 4th. Brush needs to be out in your boulevard by 6am Monday morning to be picked up that week. Leaf and grass clipping bags must be separated from the brush and be out by 6am Monday morning as well. Leaf and grass bags may be collected separately from our brush collection.

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

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: Crews will be performing fall hydrant flushing between September 9th, 2024 and October 26th, 2024. If you experience any discoloration in your water during this time, simply run your faucet with cold water until the water clears.

Remaining 2024 Construction/Improvement Projects Updates

E. Slifer Street Reconstruction: Paving work associated with the E. Slifer Street portion of the project will take place beginning August 16th, 2024 and continue through August 23rd, 2024. During paving operations E. Slifer Street will remain completely closed for the entirety of the day hot mix asphalt is placed until the asphalt has cooled. Following pavement placement, crews will work to restore the disturbed boulevards as well as replace the pavement markings. Work on E. Slifer is expected to be completed by August 29th, 2024. The Woodcrest portion of the project is scheduled to be complete mid-late September. Work remaining will consist of restoration of boulevards and chip sealing of the disturbed roadway segments.

Election Information

- General Election- Tuesday, November 5, 2024
- Voting Location- Portage Municipal Building, 115 W Pleasant St, Portage, WI 53901
- Photo ID Required- A Photo ID will be required at the polls. Plan to bring an acceptable Photo ID when you vote. For more information, visit <https://bringit.wi.gov>
- Visit MyVote Wisconsin (<https://myvote.wi.gov>)
 - Register to Vote
 - Update name and address
 - Check voting status and history
 - Request Absentee Ballot
 - Find Polling Location
 - See what is on your ballot

2024 Community Sponsors

Allstate- Shelly Cibulka, American Family Insurance- Riley Kubatzke, American Family Insurance-Sheila Link, Arbor Green, Blau Chiropractic, Bremner Granite, Cardinal Glass, Cascade Mountain, Collectors Choice Coins & Collectables, Community Bank of Portage (BWD), Cordell's Automotive, Country Plumber, Craig's Popcorn Corner LLC, Crawford Oil, Culvers, Edward Jones- Klay Vehring, Electric 1, Forever Yours Jewelry, Galley Studios, General Engineering, Grande Cheese Company, Gumz Farms, Hair Sensations, Hart & Olson Family Dentistry, Hillstad Heating, Johnson Chiropractic, Kiwanis Club of Portage, Knight Barry Title Services, Kruger Family Industries, La Tolteca, Lynn Holdings, MachineLab CrossFit, McReath Orthodontics, Meigs Transport, Midwest Dental, Natures Way Landscaping, Pflanz, Mantey, Mendrala Funeral Home, Portage Automotive Center, Portage CrossFit Cooperative, Portage Elks Club, Portage Furniture Store, Portage Lions Club, Portage Rotary Club, Portage State Bank, Rhyme, Roth Professional Solutions, Saint Gobain, Sean Malone- State Farm Insurance, Seubert Family, Dentistry, Smiley Law Office, Summit Credit Union, Terrytown Plumbing, TRICOR LLC- Don Rick Insurance, VFW Post 1707, WCCU (Westby Co-Op Credit Union), Wieser Concrete, Wisconsin, River Title Consultants, Zimmerman Plumbing, Womens Civic League of Portage

*We
thank
you!*