

PORTAGE PARK & REC ACTIVITY GUIDE



FALL & WINTER 2025-2026

Register online at portage.recdesk.com,
or stop in our office at
401 Cemetery Rd, 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. *See Tot Dance info on next page.

NEW THIS YEAR!

Our dance program is now split into two exciting sessions to welcome even more aspiring dancers!

- Session 1 will conclude with a festive Christmas Performance in December
- Session 2 will wrap up with a vibrant Spring Showcase in May

You can register for Session 1, Session 2, or both — whatever works best for you!

Dates: Session 1: Week of September 28th through December 14th

Session 2: Week of January 4th through May 3rd.

Ages: 6+

Tuesdays:

6:25–6:55 **Novice Ballet** (ages 6+)

7–7:30 **Novice Jazz** (ages 6+)

Wednesdays

5:15–5:45 **Novice Tap** (ages 6+)

5:50–6:20 **Novice Jazz** (ages 6+)

6:25–6:55 **Hip Hop** (ages 8+)

7–7:30 **Contemporary** (ages 10+)

7:35–8:05 **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)

6:35–7:05 **Acro 8+** (must have instructor's approval & meet level requirements)

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

7:50–8:25 **Advanced Lyrical 13+** (must have instructor's approval & meet level requirements)

Location: Park and Rec Community Room (401 Cemetery Rd)

Fees: Session 1: \$50–Res / \$60–Non-res (no costume purchase for Session 1)

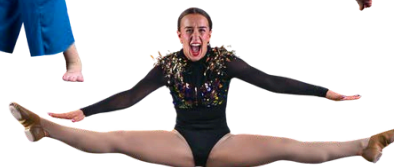
Session 2: \$70–Res / \$80–Non-res (will be an additional cost for a costume for the end of year Showcase)

***Session 2 is a higher cost due to a longer session and more classes included*

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

Registration Opens: August 20th @ 12PM

*To get instructor's 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.



TUMBLING



Our tumbling classes focuses on building strength, coordination, and confidence through rolls, handstands, cartwheels, backbends, and more. Perfect for beginners and developing athletes looking to master foundational tumbling skills in a fun and supportive environment.

Dates: Sunday Evenings | 5:45–6:30

Session 1: Sept 28– Nov 2

Session 2: Nov 9 – Jan 4

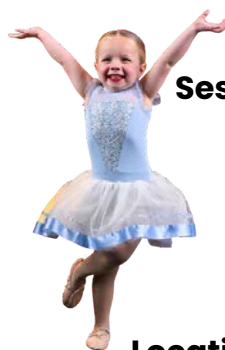
Session 3: Jan 11 – Feb 15

Session 4: Feb 22 – April 12

Location: Park and Rec Community Room

Ages: 6+

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



TOT 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. Each class will learn a routine to be performed on the last night of each session.

Dates: Tuesday Nights

Session 1: September 30 – November 18

Session 2: December 2 – February 3

Session 3: February 10 – April 7

Times: 5:15–5:45 PM

5:50–6:20 PM

Ages: 3–5

Location: Park and Rec Community Room

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

Min/Max: 3/13 per class

PRESCHOOL



OPEN PLAY

Get ready to jump, roll, and play! Our Preschool Open Play program offers a fun and safe environment for little movers to explore and build early coordination, balance, and motor skills. With age-appropriate tumbling equipment, obstacle courses, and creative play stations, kids will enjoy active, hands-on learning through movement.

This parent-supervised Open Play encourages social interaction, physical activity, and confidence—all while having a blast! Whether they're climbing, crawling, or practicing their first forward roll, every child can participate at their own pace.

Perfect for toddlers and preschoolers who love to move!

Location: Park and Rec Community Room

Dates: Wednesdays & Fridays

Group A: 10 AM – 10:50 AM

Group B: 11 AM – 11:50 AM

Ages: 2–5 Year Olds

Fee: (per month) \$25 for residents, \$35 for non-residents

Max: 12 kids per group, per month

Register: Portage.recdesk.com

*Parents will register their child for whichever month and group you would like. You'll then attend that time slot for the entire month on both Wednesdays and Fridays.



Registration Info

Registration for Fall Programs will open Wednesday, August 20th at 12:00 PM.

Register in-person at our office or online at www.portage.recdesk.com

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 Intermediate 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 25 - October 16
- Session 6: October 27 - December 18

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: \$35-Residents / \$50-Non-residents (per session)

Location: Park & Rec Community Room (401 Cemetery Road)

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



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

**2nd graders can opt to play in the older group if parents would prefer*

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

Saturdays- 10:00-10:55am

Dates: Thursdays, September 18, 25, October 2, 9

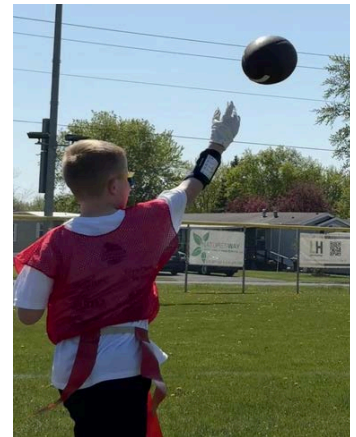
Saturdays, September 20, 27, October 4, 11

Location: Lawton Ball Field (900 Morgan St)

Fee: \$32-Residents / \$42-Non-residents

Min/Max Per Age Group: 12/30

Registration Dates: August 20-September 15



IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFO

Most Fall programs will open for registration on
Wednesday, August 20 at 12PM!

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.

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: TBD-

Location: Portage Soundworks (129 W Cook St)

Ages: 8+

Fee (Res/Non-Res): \$40/\$50 per session
(includes drumsticks and bucket drum)

Min/Max: 3/5 participants per session



TRUCK OR TREAT

Back again 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! Kids are encouraged to wear their Halloween Costumes!

Date: Thursday, October 30th

Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Location: Portage Fairgrounds

Fee: Free!



Truck or Treat 2024

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 6th

Game Performance: December 9th

Location: PHS Wrestling Room

Time: Camp- 9:00am - 12:00pm

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****

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 2 – March 15

(no Open Gym on 12/21, 12/28, 1/4)

Times: Youth/Family Open Gym– 9:00–10:30am

Adult (18+) Open Gym– 10:30am–Noon

Location: Bartels Middle School

Cost: FREE

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

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 2025–2026 season is open now, so check out thunderbirdyouthhockey.com for more information about Youth Hockey and Open Skate times!

GIRL SCOUTS

Looking for adventure, friendship, and a chance to make a real difference in the world? Girl Scouts offers all that and more! Discover new passions, develop important life skills, and build a supportive community with girls who are ready to explore, create, and lead. Come find out what our troop is all about at our Kick Off Event located at 806 Silver Lake Dr, Portage, WI 53901. On going meeting dates and time will be established at this event in hopes to make it work for as many as possible!

Portage Girl Scout Troop #8191

- Grades 2nd – 4th
- Date & Time: Sep. 6th 5:00pm – 6:30pm
- Location: 806 Silver Lake Dr, Portage, WI 53901

Contact: Troop Leader, Annie, at 608–617–3556 or anniebleich@gmail.com

Join now here: <https://shorturl.at/16rBO>

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!

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 and website when the ice is safe to skate on. Please follow safety signs that are posted around the pond.



ADULT PROGRAMS

TAI CHI PRIME



Tai Chi is a slow, graceful ancient exercise that promotes calm mental focus and alignment while building leg strength, endurance, and balance. Research shows that participants have had significant improvement in balance, cognition, strength, and mobility.

Dates: Tuesday/Thursday, October 21-November 25 (11 classes total)

Time: 9am-10:30am

Cost: \$44 resident / \$54 non-resident

Location: Park & Rec Community Room (401 Cemetery Road)

Age: 50+

Min/Max Per Class: 6/15



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 3 thru March 16 (no Open Gym 11/17, 11/24, 12/22, 12/29)

Location: Bartels Middle School

Times: 7:00-9:00pm

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

PICKLEBALL LESSONS



Follow our Facebook page and check our website for future Pickleball Lessons and Clinics!

We have 2 Clinics coming up, August 20th and September 10th from 9am-Noon. Cost: \$50. Register on our website today!



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 20 thru October 10

Location: Bartels Middle School

Game Nights: Wednesday Nights

Season Dates: November - February



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 2026 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, 2026.

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!

2026 PARK SHELTER RENTALS

2026 Park Shelter Rentals will be accepted beginning on January 2nd, 2026 at 8am. 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.



2026 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!

WE ARE
HIRING

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.

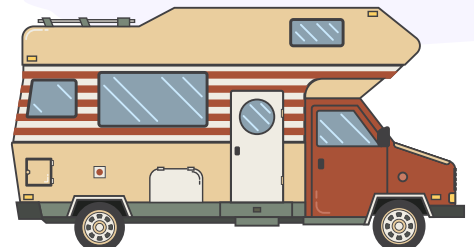
Move-In Dates: Fri, October 31st from 8am-9:30am
Sat, November 1st from 8am-9am

*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 11th 2026 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 PUBLIC WORKS/ PARK & RECREATION BUILDING

The City of Portage Public Works Department and Park & Recreation Department moved into our NEW shared facility located at 401 Cemetery Road. This new facility provides sufficient vehicle and equipment storage, modernized mechanic stations and office workspace, as well as allowing our two departments to better collaborate on projects by being under one roof.

This building also features an indoor Community Room, which will be the new home to a lot of our indoor programs like dance, karate, tai chi, and more. This room will also be available to rent for private events. More information on that will be coming out soon!



CHARTERS OF FREEDOM

The Charters of Freedom Project is being built at Riverside Park, and will feature replicas of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The project will be finished in August, with a Dedication Ceremony planned for Saturday, September 20th at 10am.



Charters of Freedom display in Sylvia, NC

ELECTION INFORMATION

Election Information 2025-2026

- December 1, 2025 First day to circulate nomination papers to run for Alderperson
- December 26, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Deadline for current Alderperson to file non-candidacy papers
- January 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Deadline for filing papers
- February 17, 2026 Spring Primary (if required)
- April 7, 2026 Spring Election
- August 11, 2026 Partisan Primary
- November 3, 2026 General Election

Visit MyVote Wisconsin

(<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>)

- Register to Vote
- Update name and address
- Request Absentee Ballot



ELECTION INFORMATION (CONT'D)

Spring Election (2026)

- Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice
- Court of Appeals Judge District IV
- County Supervisors (all districts)
- City Alderperson District 1, 7, 9
- Portage Community School District Board Member City, Rural

Fall General Election (2026)

- Governor and Lt. Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- State Treasurer
- Representative in Congress
- Representatives to the Assembly (all districts)
- County Sheriff
- County Clerk of Circuit Courts



Fall Clean-Up: October 4th, 2025; 8:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. at the OLD Public Works Garage located at 616 Washington Street.

Guidelines for Brush Collection: Remaining Brush Collection will take place September 8th, October 6th, and November 3rd. 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 29th, 2025 and October 24th, 2025. If you experience any discoloration in your water during this time, simply run your faucet with cold water until the water clears.

Remaining 2025 Construction/Improvement Projects Updates:

Woodcrest Drive Water Main Replacement: Work is expected to begin in August and will consist of the replacement of the water main and water services along Woodcrest Drive between E. Slifer Street and Winnebago Avenue. Following the utility installations, the roadway will be resurfaced with asphalt. Work is expected to be completed in October.

2025 Resurfacing (Northridge/American Legion/Schneider): The roadways of Northridge Drive, from New Pinery to American Legion/Village, American Legion Drive, from Northridge to the Walmart Parking lot, and Schneider Street from Haertel to Albert, are tentatively planned to be resurfaced in August.

2025 Sidewalk Replacements: A variety of sidewalks throughout the City are scheduled for repair in 2025. Abutting properties have been notified of forthcoming work anticipated to take place later this fall.

2025 Chip Seal: Segments of Oneida Street, Townsend Street, Volk Street, E. Slifer Street, and Herman Street are scheduled to be chip-sealed in August. The chip seal will include sealing of the roadway with asphalt emulsion, which is then topped with a thin layer of aggregate.

2025 Community Sponsors

Bremner Granite, Cardinal FG, Cascade Mountain, Collectors Choice Coins & Collectables, Community Bank of Portage (BWD), Compass Counseling LLC, Cordell's Automotive, Country Plumber, Craig's Popcorn Corner LLC, Crawford Oil, Culvers, Cutting Edge Insurance Agency, Dunkin', Edward Jones- Josh Vehring, Edward Jones- Klay Vehring, Electric 1, Portage Flower Company, Forever Yours Jewelry, Galley Studios, General Engineering, Grande Cheese Company, Gumz Farms, Hair Sensations, Hart & Olson Family Dentistry, Hillestad Heating, Johnson Chiropractic, Kiwanis Club of Portage, Knight Barry Title Services, Kruger Family Industries, Lynn Holdings, MachineLab Fitness, McReath Orthodontics, Meigs Transport, Midwest Dental(Smile Brands), Natures Way Landscaping, New Life Physical Therapy, Pflanz Mendrala Funeral Home, Pizza Ranch, 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

*We
thank
you!*