

Fall & Winter | 2023-2024



Portage Park & Rec Activity Guide

The Portage Park and Recreation Department's mission is to enrich the community by providing affordable, diverse recreational opportunities to encourage physical fitness and mental health while building community bonds and enhancing the quality of life by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreational facilities. Community through people, parks, and programs.



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


 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

Whether your child aspires to become a professional dancer or you just want to improve their coordination, provide some exercise, or just have fun, this dance program has something for everyone! Our Dance Program is designed to introduce dancers to the world of dance in a fun and relaxed environment.

Dancers are allowed to participate in more than one class if they choose to! Sunday classes are for more experienced dancers to refine their technique and form and will help in other classes. **Dance shoes are required**

Ages: 3+

Dates: Week of September 24th through April 21st.
Specific schedules will be emailed prior to the class start.

Tuesdays:

5-5:30 Tot Ballet (ages 3-5)
5:30-6 Tot Ballet (ages 3-5)
6-6:30 Jazz/Ballet (ages 6-8)

Wednesdays

5-5:30 Tap (ages 5+)
5:30-6 Jazz/Ballet (ages 6-8)
6-6:45 Lyrical/Jazz (ages 9-11)
6:45-7:30 Lyrical/Jazz (ages 9-11)
7:30-8:15 Contemporary/Jazz (ages 12-14)

Sundays:

4-4:30 Flexibility/Technique (ages 6-8; must have instructor's approval*)
4:30-5 Flexibility/Technique (ages 9-11; must have instructor's approval*)
5-5:30 Turns/Leaps (ages 8+; must have instructor's approval*) (No recital routine)
5:30-6:00 Flexibility/Technique (ages 12-14; must have instructor's approval*)
6:00-6:45 Acro/Dance Tumbling (ages 8+; must have instructor's approval*)
6:45-7:30 Advanced Jazz (ages 15+ or up to instructor's discretion**)
7:30-8:15 Advanced Lyrical/Contemporary (ages 15+ or up to instructor's discretion**)

Location: City Hall Basement (115 W Pleasant St)

Fee: \$65-R / \$75-NR; Turns/Leaps \$50-R / \$60-NR (Does not include the cost of costume and shoes)

Min/Max: 4/14-20 per class- register early because spots will fill quickly!!

Registration Dates: August 21st - September 22nd

*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.

**If dancer is more advanced but does not meet age of 15, the instructor may place them in this class.



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 28 - October 19
- Session 6: October 26 – December 21

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: \$20-Residents / \$30-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



ADULT BASKETBALL OPEN GYM

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

Cost: Free

Dates: Monday Nights, November 6 thru March 4
(no Open Gym 12/25 or 1/1)

Location: Bartels Middle School

Times: 7:00-9:00pm
(times subject to change depending on school district athletic events)

OPEN GYMS

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.

Dates: Sundays, November 5 - March 3
(no Open Gym on 12/24, 12/31)

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

Location: Bartels Middle School

Cost: FREE



PUMPKINS IN THE PARKING LOT

Back again this year is our popular Halloween event, Pumpkins in the Parking Lot! Stop by our office on Thursday, October 19th and pick up a trick-or-treat bag with some fun surprises! Kids will be able to pick out a free pumpkin and play a few small games.

Date: Thursday, October 19th

Location: Portage Park & Rec Office
(701 W Slifer St)

Time: 3:00-5:00pm

Fee: Free!



YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL

Fall is football season! We are happy to offer a Flag Football Program this fall will feature instructional practices on Tuesday nights and scrimmages on Thursday nights. Parent volunteers are needed, so please reach out if you are interested in helping!

Ages: K-2nd– 5:00-5:55 pm

3rd-5th– 6:00-6:55 pm

Dates: Tuesdays, September 26, October 3, 10
Thursdays, September 28, October 5, 12

Location: Outfield grass of the Ball Diamond at the Portage Fairgrounds (North end near the Dog Park)

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

Min/Max Per Age Group: 12/30

Registration Dates: August 21st - September 22nd



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! Pizza will be provided. Participants must bring along a pair of dry, clean shoes to wear on the ice. Dress warm!

Ages: 1st-8th Grade

Time: 9 am - 4 pm

Date: Saturday, November 18th

Location: Portage Curling Club (107 W Albert St)

Fee: \$15

Registration Dates: October 2nd - November 17

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFO

Most Fall programs will open for registration on Monday, August 21st at 8am! You can register for our Recreation Programs and Swim Lessons 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.

SAFE SITTER ESSENTIALS

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 2nd

Saturday, October 14th

Saturday, November 11th

Times: 9am-2:30pm

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

Ages: 11-15

Fee: \$35/\$45

Registration: Currently Open online! Registration closes the Monday prior to each class

Min/Max: 2/6 per class

A CALL FROM SANTA

Would your little one like to receive a phone call from Santa this year? We are happy to partner with the Portage Optimists Club to offer this FREE event on Sunday, December 10th. You will fill out a form for each child, and Santa will use that to have a conversation with them and get them excited for the Holiday Season! Call From Santa forms will be available in November and will be located at the Park and Recreation office and on our website. Please drop off or mail completed forms to the Park and Recreation office, 701 W. Slifer Street, Portage, WI 53901.

Date: Sunday, December 10th

Registration Deadline: Friday, December 8th

Fee: FREE!



YOUTH HOCKEY

Thunderbird Youth Hockey (based in Baraboo) is open to boys and girls ages 4-14. First-year skaters skate for free, and equipment is provided! Registration for the 2023-24 season is open now, so check out thunderbirdyouthhockey.com for more information about Youth Hockey and Open Skate times!

YOUTH BASKETBALL TEAMS

Girls- The Portage Girls Basketball Club will be handling all Girls Basketball teams this fall and winter. Information for registration and about the organization can be found on the Portage Park & Rec website (portage.recdesk.com), under the Youth Orgs tab.

Boys- The Portage Boys Hoops Club will handle all Boys Youth Basketball Teams. More information on their teams, registration, and organization can be found at www.pbhc.com

WINTER 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 9th

Game Performance: December 12th

Location: PHS Wrestling Room

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

Fee: \$15

Min/Max: 5/60

Age: 5-14

Registration Dates: November 1- December 1



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.



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 roster

Roster forms can be found on our website

Registration Dates: August 21 thru October 1

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!

SWIM LESSONS

Each session of swim lessons includes 8 classes

Red/White/Blue Classes- \$27/\$37 Level 1 thru Level 6- \$37/\$47 Parent & Child Classes- \$15/\$25

SUNDAY FALL SESSION

Dates: Sundays, September 24th -
November 19 (no class Oct. 29)

Registration Opens Aug. 21 at 8am

TIME	CLASS #1	CLASS #2
1:00-1:30p	Parent/Child	Level 1
1:35-2:05p	Red Level	Level 2
2:10-2:40p	White Level	Level 3 (2:10-2:55)
2:45-3:15p	Blue Level	
3:20-3:50p	Parent/Child	Level 2
3:55-4:25p	Red Level	Level 4 (3:55-4:40)
4:30-5:00p	Level 1	
5:05-5:35p	Blue Level	Level 3 (5:05-5:50)
5:40-6:10p	White Level	

SUNDAY WINTER SESSION

Dates: January 7th- February 25th

Registration Opens Dec. 11 at 8am

TIME	CLASS #1	CLASS #2
1:00-1:30p	Blue Level	Level 1
1:35-2:05p	Parent/Child	Level 2
2:10-2:40p	Red Level	Level 3 (2:10-2:55)
2:45-3:15p	White Level	
3:20-3:50p	Parent/Child	Level 2
3:55-4:25p	Level 1	Level 3 (3:55-4:40)
4:30-5:00p	Blue Level	
5:05-5:35p	Red Level	Level 4 (5:05-5:50)
5:40-6:10p	White Level	

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFO:

You can register for our Swim Lessons on our website (portage.recdesk.com). Login or create an account, and then find the Swim Lessons under our '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.

WHAT LEVEL IS MY CHILD IN?

For information on the descriptions and age recommendations for each level, please check out our website portage.recdesk.com and look under the 'Pool' tab.

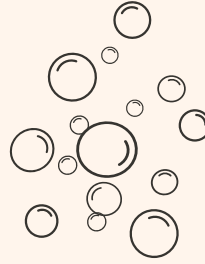
LIFEGUARDING COURSE

Sign up on our website for the program titled Lifeguard Course Interest Form in order to be placed on a list to receive more information about our next Lifeguard Certification Course! Upon passing the Lifeguard Course, participants will be eligible to begin working as a Lifeguard at the Rusch Pool and Silver Lake Beach. Participants must be at least 15 years old to enroll in the course.



PORTAGE YOUTH SWIM TEAM

If you are interested in joining the Portage Piranhas Youth Swim Team, please check out their website www.portageyouthswimteam.com for information on their next sessions!



2024 PARK SHELTER RENTALS

2024 Park Shelter Rentals will be accepted beginning on January 2nd, 2024. 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 2024! Costs vary depending on the facility, so please see our website for individual prices as well as descriptions and info for each facility.

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 20th 8am-10am
Sat, October 21st 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 6, 2023 8am-9am

*Early Move-Out is **NOT** an option*

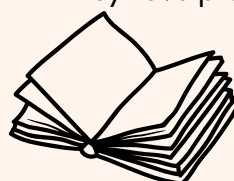
More information and pricing can be found on our website, portage.recdesk.com. Look under the 'Forms' tab for 'Winter Vehicle Storage' or follow our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/portageparknec](https://www.facebook.com/portageparknec)

EMPLOYMENT

We are always looking for hard working and responsible staff members to join our team! Positions include seasonal park maintenance, mowers, program supervisors, youth recreation instructors, lifeguards, and swim lesson instructors. For complete job descriptions, and more details please feel free to visit the employment tab on our website at <http://portage.recdesk.com>. If you are interested in a Lifeguarding position, or taking a Lifeguarding Certification course, please contact our department for more information. Summer park maintenance job postings for the 2024 season will open in February and will be posted until filled. Staff looking for part time jobs working with our Recreation programs or Lifeguarding 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 1, 2024.

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



PARK PROJECT UPDATE

NEW PLAYGROUND AT COLLIPP-WORDEN

The playground equipment at Collipp-Worden Park is scheduled to be replaced excluding the zipline and swing bay that were installed in 2021. The existing equipment was installed in the 90's and is ready to be replaced. Construction will begin in the Fall of 2023 of the spring of 2024. Be sure to follow our Facebook page for updates.

ACCESSIBLE PATHS

We will be installing an accessible path at Pine Meadow Park from Hamilton Street down to the Pickleball Courts and shelter, as well as installing an accessible path at Collipp-Worden Park from the parking lot to shelter #2. We hope for construction to be completed by the end of 2023.

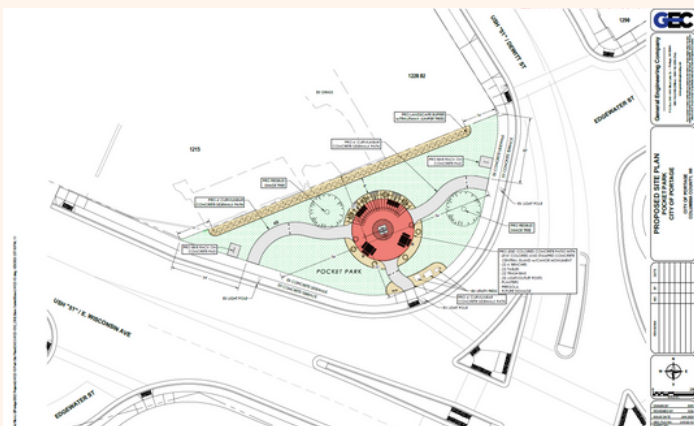
POCKET PARK

The City has received a Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) 'Vibrant Spaces' matching grant in the amount of \$50,000. The funds will be going towards the construction of a pocket park at the intersection of E Wisconsin and Edgewater. We are hoping for construction to begin in 2023 with completion by June 15, 2024.



2024 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, swim lessons, and events we have planned for next year!



CITY NEWS

Fall Clean-Up: October 7, 2023; 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 11th, October 2nd, and November 6th. Brush needs to be out in your boulevard by **7am Monday morning** to be picked up that week. Leaf and grass clipping bags 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.

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 4th, 2023 and October 27th, 2023. If you experience any discoloration in your water during this time, simply run your faucet with cold water until the water clears.

Remaining 2023 Construction/Improvement Projects

W. Conant Street Reconstruction: Specific construction dates are to be determined. The project will consist of the complete reconstruction of the roadway, which will include storm sewer, sanitary sewer, water utility, sidewalk, curb & gutter, and an 8-foot-wide walking path along the Wisconsin River between W. Prospect Street and Pierce Street. The project is scheduled for substantial completion by the end of November of this year.

2023 Community Sponsors

1873 GRILLE, ALLSTATE - SHELLY CIBULKA, AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE - SHEILA LINK, AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE - RILEY KUBATZKE, ARBOR GREEN INC, ASPIRUS, CASCADE MOUNTAIN, COLLECTORS CHOICE COINS & COLLECTABLES, COMMUNITY BANK OF PORTAGE, COUNTRY PLUMBER, CRAIGS POPCORN CORNER, CRAWFORD OIL, CULVERS, EDWARD JONES - JOSH VEHRING, EDWARD JONES - KLAY VEHRING, ELECTRIC 1, FOREVER YOURS JEWELERY, GALLEY STUDIOS, GENERAL ENGINEERING, HAIR SENSATIONS, HART & OLSON FAMILY DENTISTRY, HILLSTAD HEATING, JOHNSON CHIROPRACTIC, KIWANIS CLUB OF PORTAGE, KNIGHT BARRY TITLE SERVICES, KRUGER FAMILY INDUSTRIES (PENDA & TRIENDA), MACHINE LAB FITNESS, MCREATH ORTHODONTICS, MIDWEST DENTAL, PFLANZ, MANTEY, MENDRALA FUNERAL HOME, PORTAGE CROSSFIT COOPERATIVE, PORTAGE FURNITURE STORE, PORTAGE STATE BANK, RHYME, ROTH PROFESSIONAL SOLUTIONS, SAINT GOBAIN, SCHULTZ SMALL ENGINE, SEUBERT FAMILY DENTISTRY, STATE FARM INSURANCE - SEAN MALONE, SMILEY LAW OFFICE, SUMMIT CREDIT UNION, TERRYTOWN PLUMBING, TRICOR LLC - DON RICK INSURANCE, TWO RIVERS SIGNS, WALMART, WALGREENS, WCCU, WEISER CONCRETE, WISCONSIN RIVER TITLE, ZIMMERMAN PLUMBING

*We
thank
you!*