

PARKS AND RECREATION
2015 – 2016 WINTER RECREATION PROGRAMS



PORTAGE

A Natural Place to Move



www.portagemi.gov

(269) 329-4522



PORTAGE PARKS & RECREATION WINTER ACTIVITIES

December

5	Traditional Holiday	City Centre and Celery Flats	page 2
10	The Ice Rink opens	The Ice Rink at Millennium Park	page 1

January

9 & 23	Ice Skating Lessons	The Ice Rink at Millennium Park	page 3
16	Snowshoe Nature Hike	West Lake Nature Preserve	page 3
24, 31 & Feb 7	Ski & Snowboard Lessons	Timber Ridge	page 3
30	Winter Snow Party	Oakland Drive Park	page 3

February

6	Cross Country Ski Class	Milham Park Golf Club	page 4
6	Winter Jamboree	Milham Park Golf Club	page 4
14	Valentine's Skate Date	The Ice Rink at Millennium Park	page 5
14	Snowshoe Nature Hike	Schrier Park	page 5
25	Twilight Skate	The Ice Rink at Millennium Park	page 5
28	Winter Blast Half Marathon, 10k & 5k	Portage Central High School	page 5



*Take time for a winter stroll,
Portage Creek Bicentennial
Trail is groomed all winter long
for year-round enjoyment.*



YOUTH RECREATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Through a partnership between the Portage Community Center and the City of Portage, youth age 18 and under residing in Portage and living in a household meeting established income guidelines may be eligible for financial assistance with any of the following winter recreation programs:

- * Downhill Ski or Snowboard Lessons
- * Cross Country Ski Class
- * Ice Skating Lessons at Millennium Park
- * Millennium Park Skate Card

Contact the **Portage Community Center at 323-1942** for more information.



THE ICE RINK AT MILLENNIUM PARK

280 Romence Road
324-9200 for Current Ice Rink Information

The Ice Rink at Millennium Park will open for its 16th season on Thursday, December 10, 2015 and will remain open through March 6, 2016, weather permitting. This large outdoor refrigerated rink features skate rental, skate sharpening, snack concessions, restrooms, warming house, lockers and an excellent skating surface!

Please note: On February 14, the rink will be reserved from 3:30 - 6 p.m. for the **Valentine's Skate Date** event. (see page 5 for details)

December 10 - December 18 & January 3 - March 6

Ice resurfacing occurs on weekends from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Sunday	12 - 9 p.m.
Monday - Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	3 - 9 p.m.
Friday	3 - 10 p.m.
Saturday	11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

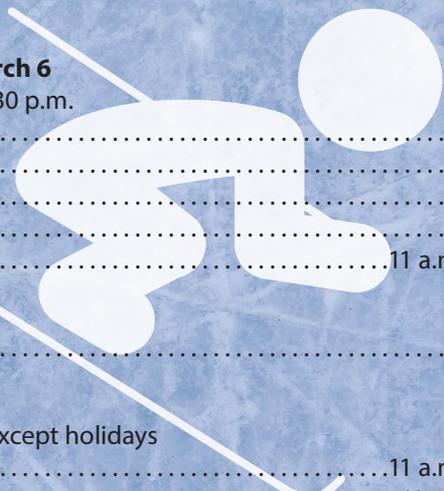
Winter School Holidays

January 29 & February 26	2 - 10 p.m.
--------------------------------	-------------

December 19 - January 2

Ice resurfacing occurs daily from 3:30-4:30 p.m. except holidays

Daily	11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
December 24, 31 & January 1	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Christmas Day	Closed



Open Skating	\$4
Skate Rental	\$3
Skate Sharpening	\$3
Skate Card	\$25
Ten punches, each good for one:	

- ❖ **Open Skate**
- ❖ **Skate Rental**
- ❖ **Skate Sharpening**



DECEMBER



TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY AND TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION

**Saturday, December 5
7 p.m. at City Centre and Celery Flats Historic Area**

Bring your family to experience the spirit of the holiday season. Festivities begin at the City Centre with caroling and a tree lighting ceremony. Join in the caroling and a stroll down Bicentennial Trail to Celery Flats, where Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet the children and hear their Christmas wishes at the Historic Schoolhouse. Enjoy local musical talent performing traditional holiday favorites and complimentary desserts at the Hayloft Theatre. Hot chocolate and hot cider will be available for a \$1 donation per cup. Food and clothing donations are also welcome. All proceeds from beverage sales and donations will support local charities this holiday season. Corporate sponsorships and donations are encouraged.

Parking is available at the Portage District Library, Portage Senior Center and Portage City Hall.



PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY

The City of Portage encourages all individuals to become involved in all activities. Reasonable accommodations will be made to permit individuals with special needs the opportunity to participate in Parks and Recreation activities. Please call the Parks & Recreation office at 329-4522 for more information.



ICE SKATING LESSONS

Saturday's, January 9 and 23
The Ice Rink at Millennium Park
280 Romence Road

Session 1:	Age 5 - 11 years	9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Session 2:	Age 5 - Adult	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Fee:	\$22 per skater	

Learn to skate with expert instructors from the WMU Synchronized Skating Team. Fees for this program include two classes, skate rental and instruction. Pre-registration is required by calling 329-4522. Class size is limited.

SNOWSHOE NATURE HIKE

Saturday, January 16
2 p.m. at West Lake Nature Preserve
9001 South Westnedge Avenue

Let's make tracks! Join a Kalamazoo Nature Center Naturalist to explore the West Lake Nature Preserve in search of signs for insects, birds and mammals.

Demo snowshoes available on a first-come, first-served basis, courtesy of Lee's Adventure Sports. The nature hike will occur regardless of snow conditions; hiking boots may be worn if preferred. Open to all ages, this nature hike will be a great way to make outdoor memories with your family!

DOWNHILL SKI OR SNOWBOARD LESSONS

Sunday's, January 24, 31 and February 7
2 - 3:30 p.m. at Timber Ridge Ski Area
7500 23 1/2 St. Gobles, MI 49055

Age: 8 years - adult

Fee: Pre-registration fee of \$5/individual or \$10/family payable at the Parks & Recreation office by January 21, plus \$60 payable at Timber Ridge on January 24.

Group downhill ski and snowboard beginner lessons will be taught by professional instructors on the snowy slopes of Timber Ridge, just 30 minutes from Portage. Fee includes equipment rental, instruction for three weeks and lift ticket valid until 8 p.m. on each lesson date. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

WINTER SNOW PARTY!
Saturday, January 30
12 - 3:30 p.m. at Oakland Drive Park
7650 Oakland Drive



A great opportunity to enjoy time with your family and friends, all while embracing the white wonders of Michigan outdoors. There will be many activities to enjoy such as sledding and a snowman building contest! Build, decorate and bring your own cardboard sled! Build and dress up the biggest and fanciest snowman! Prizes will be awarded for best in show for both contests as well as the fastest cardboard sled! Cardboard sled contest begins at 1 p.m. with snowman building immediately following. When you need a warm respite from the activities enjoy a bonfire with hot chocolate and coffee available for purchase. The event is hosted by the Portage Youth Advisory Committee and all ages are welcome.

FEBRUARY

WINTER JAMBOREE AND CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLASS

Saturday, February 6 at Milham Park Golf Club
4200 Lovers Lane

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLASS 9 – 11 a.m.

An excellent opportunity to learn the correct way to cross country ski, this introductory class will emphasize safety, proper use of equipment and how to traverse a variety of winter terrain. Learn the diagonal stride with opposite and double poling, moving and stationary turns, uphill-downhill techniques and how to choose and use various cross country equipment and clothing. In addition, personal safety and recommendations on local, regional and state ski destinations are covered in this comprehensive class. Please note a minimum snow cover of four inches is required for this program.

Age: 8 years – adult

Fee: \$15 per person 8-14 years

\$20 per person 15 years & up

Registration is required by February 3, in person at:

- ❖ Lee's Adventure Sports
311 Kilgore Road (381-7700) or
- ❖ City of Portage Parks office
7719 South Westnedge (329-4522)

Participants may bring their own equipment or arrange for rental through Lee's Adventure Sports.

OTHER ACTIVITIES 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Your hosts, City of Portage Parks & Recreation, Kzoo Parks, Lee's Adventure Sports and Pedal Bicycle, have joined together to offer these FREE winter activities! Bring the family, dress for the weather and prepare for some fun in the snow. All recreation equipment will be provided except where noted.

- ❖ Snowshoeing
- ❖ Kayak sledding
- ❖ Sled dog rides
- ❖ Sledding (bring your own)
- ❖ Snowman building contest
- ❖ Ice bowling
- ❖ Fat tire biking demo



VALENTINE'S SKATE DATE

Sunday, February 14

4:30 p.m. at The Ice Rink at Millennium Park

Fee: \$16 per person (due by February 11 at rink)

Private skate, live music and dinner on the ice!! Bring your partner and/or kids for this unique Valentine experience. The evening will begin with dinner on the ice, servers on skates and a meal from The Great American Pasty & Pie Company! Following dinner, the rink will be reserved for only those registered for this event and will re-open to the public at 6 p.m.

SNOWSHOE NATURE HIKE

Sunday, February 14 - Valentine's Day

2 p.m. at Schrier Park, 850 West Osterhout Road

Take your Valentine on a trail adventure! Join a Kalamazoo Nature Center Naturalist and snowshoe the trails of Schrier Park. Identify trees, animal activity and learn a bit of snow science along the way.

Demo snowshoes available on a first-come, first-served basis, courtesy of Lee's Adventure Sports. The nature hike will occur regardless of snow conditions; hiking boots may be worn if preferred. Open to all ages, this nature hike will be a great way to create lasting outdoor memories!



TWILIGHT SKATE

Thursday, February 25

8 – 11 p.m. at The Ice Rink at Millennium Park

Fee: \$5 skate and rental package

\$3 skate only

No school on February 26 means late night fun and excitement at the ice rink on February 25! Bring your friends and skate under the stars as we pump out prizes and dim down the lights. Colorful lighting and upbeat music will compliment this electrifying skating event!



Sunday, February 28

8 a.m. at Portage Central High School

The Fourth Annual Winter Blast Half Marathon, 10k and 5k, presented in partnership by Kalamazoo Area Runners (KAR) and the City of Portage will be held on Sunday, February 28, 2016 with the Expo on Saturday, February 27. Join us in this extraordinary community celebration of health and wellness. The half marathon, 10k and 5k courses highlight the Portage Trail system and include a mix of mostly

flat paved bike trail and roads. All running events start and end at Portage Central High School, 8135 South Westnedge Avenue. Parking is available at Portage Central Middle & Elementary Schools, Portage Community Center, Portage District Library and Portage City Hall.

To register and get more information please visit the event website at:

<https://portagewinterblast.wordpress.com>



CHECK OUT THE PORTAGE SENIOR CENTER
320 Library Lane

The Portage Senior Center (PSC) is open all winter to help you keep in shape for summer fun! Keep your range of motion limber with Yoga, pound "drums" to the beat of music from the 50's and 60's, dance to stirring rhythms that inspire you to get moving in the PSC Zumba class or sign up to learn the mind/body connection of practicing Tai Chi. Open walking times are offered through the Portage school systems when facilities are available.

All this and more is available to persons aged 50 years and better, right in the heart of City Centre — by the Portage District Library. Stop in and check it out! For more information call (269) 329-4555.



PORTAGE

A Natural Place to Move

www.portagemi.gov

(269) 329-4522