

PARKS AND RECREATION
2016 – 2017 WINTER RECREATION PROGRAMS



PORTAGE
A Natural Place to Move



www.portagemi.gov
(269) 329-4522



PORTAGE PARKS & RECREATION WINTER ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER

December

3	Traditional Holiday	City Centre and Celery Flats	page 1
3	Unity in Diversity	Portage Senior Center	page 1
8	The Ice Rink opens	The Ice Rink at Millennium Park	Inside Cover
31	New Year's Eve Skate	The Ice Rink at Millennium Park	page 1

January

10 thru March 31	Indoor Walking	The Stable at Portage Central HS	page 2
16	Prof Talk	Portage Senior Center	page 2
21 & 28	Ice Skating Lessons	The Ice Rink at Millennium Park	page 2
21	Winter Wellness Nature Hike	Schrier Park	page 3
22, 29 & Feb 5	Ski & Snowboard Lessons	Timber Ridge Ski Area	page 3
28	Cross Country Ski Class	Milham Park Golf Club	page 3
28	Winter Jamboree	Milham Park Golf Club	page 3

February

4	Winter Snow Party	Oakland Drive Park	page 4
14	Valentine's Skate Date	The Ice Rink at Millennium Park	page 4
21	Adult Softball Meetings	Portage Senior Center	page 4
25	Snowshoe Nature Hike	West Lake Nature Preserve	page 5
26	Winter Blast Half Marathon, 10k & 5k	Portage Central High School	page 5

March

11	Spring Carnival	Portage Senior Center	page 5
20	Prof Talk	Portage Senior Center	page 5

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 17th season on Thursday, December 8, 2016 and remain open through March 5, 2017, weather permitting. This large outdoor refrigerated rink features skate rental, skate sharpening, snack concessions, restrooms, warming house, lockers and an excellent skating surface!

Ice resurfacing occurs from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. on weekends and daily December 22 - January 8.

December 8 to December 21 & January 8 to March 5	Open Skating	\$ 4
Sunday.....	Skate Rental	\$ 3
Monday - Wednesday.....	Skate Sharpening	\$ 3
Thursday.....	Skate Card	\$25
Friday.....	Ten punches, each good for one:	
Saturday.....	• Open Skate	
	• Skate Rental	
	• Skate Sharpening	

December 22 to January 7

Daily..... 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

December 24 & January 1..... 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Christmas Day..... Closed

Winter School Holidays

January 27 & February 24..... 2 - 10 p.m.

 Friend us on Facebook, Portage MI Department of Parks & Recreation



TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY AND TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 3

7 p.m. at City Centre and Celery Flats Historic Area

FREE

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 while we stroll down Bicentennial Trail behind a horse drawn wagon to Celery Flats, where Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet the children and hear their Christmas wishes at the historic Schoolhouse. Additional highlights include an appearance by Santa's reindeer, local musical talent performing traditional holiday favorites and complimentary desserts at the Hayloft Theatre. Portage Community Center will have hot chocolate and hot cider 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.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY: A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 3

1 - 4 p.m. at the Portage Senior Center

FREE

Every culture has its own holidays and traditions. The Portage Senior Center (PSC) invites you to a special event to learn how holidays from other cultures are celebrated here in our own community. Through interactive displays, food and music, participants will learn and enjoy a variety of new experiences. As we gather together, we will celebrate the unity in our diversity! This event is free and open to the public, however donations of non-perishable canned goods are requested and will be donated to the Portage Community Center. Call the PSC at 329-4555 for additional details.



NEW YEAR'S EVE SKATE

Saturday, December 31

5 - 10 p.m. at The Ice Rink at Millennium Park

\$5 skate & rental package / \$3 skate only

Get ready to ring in 2017 with an exciting night at the rink! Join us for an evening of upbeat music by a local DJ, party lighting after dark and a special countdown at 9 p.m.. This is a great spot for teens and families to celebrate the New Year in a safe and fun environment.

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 & Recreation activities. Please call the Parks & Recreation office at 329-4522 for more information.

INDOOR WALKING

January 10 – March 31, Tuesdays & Thursdays
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. at The Stable, Portage Central High School

In an effort to encourage winter wellness, the Portage Senior Center (PSC) has partnered with Portage Public Schools to offer daytime indoor walking to members of the PSC. Curbside parking and an elevator are available at The Stable. Eight laps = 1 mile. Come and get healthy with us.



PROF TALK: FRESHWATER STUDIES AND PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES

Monday, January 16
3 – 4 p.m. at the Portage Senior Center
 FREE

Join us for this informative, interesting presentation given by Western Michigan University professor, Dr. Steve Kohler, Environmental Studies Program.



ICE SKATING LESSONS

Saturdays, January 21 & 28
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: \$21 per skater

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



WINTER WELLNESS NATURE & SNOWSHOE HIKE

Saturday, January 21
2 p.m. at Schrier Park
850 West Osterhout Road

FREE

Consider your physical and mental health this year and make being in nature a New Year's resolution. Kalamazoo Nature Center staff will lead you on a winter hike and discuss the benefits of nature to your health.

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 explore new wellness opportunities!

DOWNHILL SKI OR SNOWBOARD LESSONS

Sundays, January 22, 29 and February 5
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 18, plus \$60 payable at Timber Ridge on January 22.

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 JAMBOREE AND CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLASS

Saturday, January 28 at Milham Park Golf Club, 4200 Lovers Lane

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLASS

9 – 11 a.m.

Age: 8 years – adult
 Fee: \$15 per person 8–14 years
 \$20 per person 15 years & up

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.

Registration is required by January 25, in person at: Lee's Adventure Sports, 311 Kilgore Road.

Participants may bring their own equipment or arrange for rental through Lee's Adventure Sports, (269) 381-7700.



JAMBOREE 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
- * Ice bowling
- * Fat tire biking demo



WINTER SNOW PARTY

Saturday, February 4

**12 noon – 3 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 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.



VALENTINE'S SKATE DATE

Tuesday, February 14

6 – 9 p.m. at The Ice Rink at Millennium Park

Fee: \$17 per person (due by February 11 at rink)

Private skate, live music and dinner on the ice!! Bring your partner or kids for this unique Valentine experience. The evening will begin with dinner on the ice, servers on skates and a meal from Grampa's The Great American Pasty & Pie Company! Following dinner, the rink will open up for skating to participants of this event only!



ADULT SOFTBALL SUMMER LEAGUE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 21

**Portage Senior Center
320 Library Lane**

5:30 p.m. – Over 50 League Meeting

7 p.m. – Adult League Meeting

All team managers (or other team representatives) should attend this meeting to gather information on the registration process, rule highlights, updates and more. New teams welcome! Summer League team registration open February 15 – March 22.



SNOWSHOE NATURE HIKE – COLD WEATHER ADAPTATIONS

Saturday, February 25

**2 p.m. at West Lake Nature Preserve
9001 South Westnedge Avenue
FREE**

Whether we go to Florida or wear extra layers, we look for ways to beat the cold! Join the Kalamazoo Nature Center on an outdoor hike to explore cold weather adaptations in nature.

Demo snowshoes available on a first-come, first-served basis, courtesy of Lee's Adventure Sports. 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!



PORTAGE WINTER BLAST HALF MARATHON, 10K AND 5K

Sunday, February 26

8 a.m. at Portage Central High School

The Fifth 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 26, 2017 with the Expo on Saturday, February 25. Join us in this extraordinary community celebration of health and wellness. The half marathon, 10k and 5k courses highlight the Portage Trail system with a terrain 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>



MARCH

SPRING CARNIVAL

Saturday, March 11

4 – 7 p.m. at the Portage Senior Center

The Portage Parks & Recreation department will be hosting the 1st Spring Carnival. Enjoy carnival games, treats and much more. Have you ever wanted to stuff a pie in someone's face? You may win the chance to do so at this event! More details to come, keep an eye on the Portager and our Facebook page for updates. Sponsors welcome.

PROF TALK: KALAMAZOO AND THE CIVIL WAR

Monday, March 20

**3 – 4 p.m. at the Portage Senior Center
FREE**

Join us for this informative, interesting presentation given by Western Michigan University professor, Sharon Carlson, Zhang Legacy Center, Archives and Regional History Collections Director.



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



- - - - - Bikeway Lane
————— Recreation Trail
- - - - - Deck Trail

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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
- ❖ The Ice Rink at Millennium Park Skate Card

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