

Come join the fun!

Bring your family to enjoy the beauty of Portage Creek Bicentennial Park which connects to Celery Flats Historical Area. Tour the historical buildings of Celery Flats, or walk the paved trail to enjoy the natural beauty of the parkway. You can rent a surrey bicycle for the entire family or



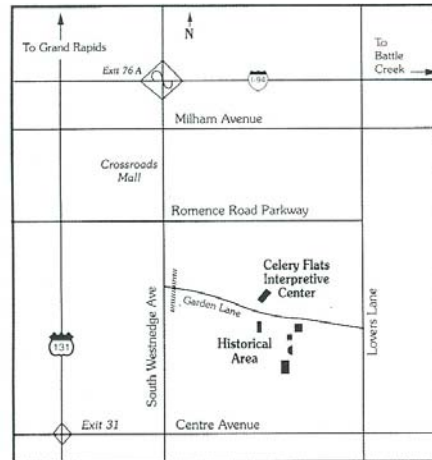
canoe down Portage Creek and be on the look out for wildlife – deer, ducks, or turtles.

Experience what it was like over 80 years ago to grow celery in the fertile fields around the Kalamazoo area.



Easy Access from US-131 and I-94

Celery Flats is located at 7335 Garden Lane, approximately two miles south of I-94 (exit 76A). Take South Westnedge Avenue to Garden Lane, then east one-half mile (follow the signs). For more information call 269-329-4522.



Group Tours Available

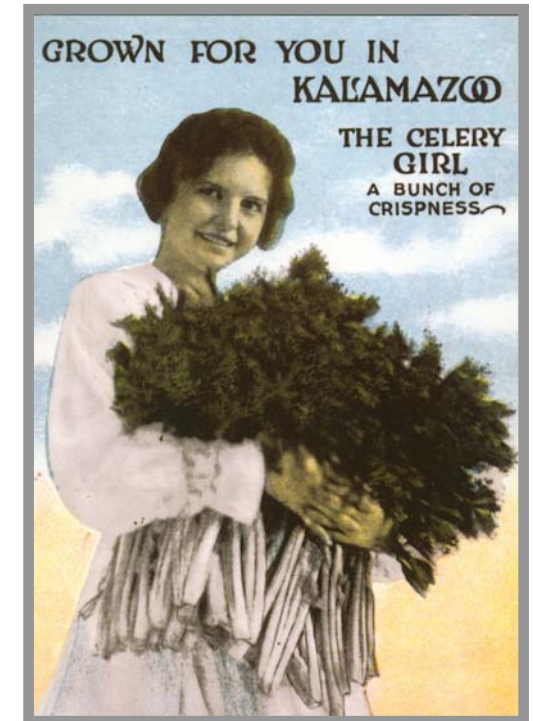
Tours are offered outside of normal operating hours, with discounts available. Groups over eight people are asked to call in advance to schedule hours. Parking for buses is available. Please call 269-329-4522 to make reservations or for questions. May and September tours can be scheduled by pre-arrangement.

Interpretive Center Hours

	June – August
Friday	12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Holidays	Closed



Step back in time and experience the heritage of Kalamazoo County



Celery Flats Interpretive Center & Historical Area

Portage, Michigan

Celery Flats Interpretive Center

The early pioneers who settled in Kalamazoo County avoided the marshlands covering much of the county. The Dutch immigrants, however, recognized the value of this land for celery growing. Beginning in the 1860s, the “Celery Dutch” converted the swamps into choice fields for celery production. From the 1890s through the 1930s, fields of green-tipped celery covered Portage, Comstock and Kalamazoo. Celery touted as “fresh as dew from Kalamazoo” was shipped throughout the United States, and Kalamazoo County became known as the Celery Capital of the World.

Kalamazoo County’s colorful heritage can now be relived at the Celery Flats Interpretive Center in Portage where you will:

- see numerous artifacts on display
- stroll through a celery field
- watch as celery is planted, grown and harvested just as it was at the turn of the century.

The area is equipped with:

- playground facilities
- picnic area
- walking trails



Watch demonstrations of spinning yarn.

Celery Flats Historical Area

Experience a unique park facility dedicated to the preservation of historical structures.

The **1856 Portage Schoolhouse** was in operation until 1947, educating children kindergarten through the eighth grade. The schoolhouse interior is fully restored, with desks, chalkboard, potbellied stove and other artifacts dating back to the 1800s.

Area students experience a day of school as it was when the schoolhouse was originally built in 1856.

The **1931 Grain Elevator** was designed for the farmers to drop off their produce before being shipped to other stations and markets.

Stuart Manor is the oldest remaining residential structure in Portage. Built in 1846 by William Welch, it was the summer home of Michigan’s second U.S. Senator, Charles Stuart.

The **Hayloft Theatre**, a turn-of-the-century barn, was utilized as a summer theater during the 1940s. Today, professional acting troupes perform a variety of programs from children’s plays to dinner theater.

The **Celery Flats Amphitheatre** provides entertainment in a scenic, intimate setting ranging from concerts to Shakespeare in the Park.

Festivals & Events

During the summer months, there are many festivals held at Celery Flats Historical Area. Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department for a current schedule by calling 269-329-4522 or look on the web at www.portagemi.gov/living/summer_series.asp for additional information.

Bicycle Surrey and Canoe Rentals

Bicycle surreys and canoes may be rented from the Celery Flats Livery. Whether biking along the Portage Creek Bicentennial Trail or canoeing Portage Creek, visitors are sure to have fun as they view the scenic beauty of the park area. The livery is open from early May through Labor Day. Group rentals are available in September and October. Call 269-329-4522 for specific operating hours and rental rates.

A family outing in a bicycle surrey on the Bikeway or a canoe trip on Portage Creek is fun for everyone!