

PORTER COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION



Community



**Health &
Wellness**



Conservation



PORTER COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAM GUIDE
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2017

From Our Superintendent

The Economic Benefits of Parks & Recreation

At Porter County Parks and Recreation we know and embrace the fact that our citizens deserve a good “return” on their parks investment. We know that well maintained parks and open space increase neighboring land values, provide increased revenue to local governments, improve tourism and attract high quality businesses. Ever since Frederick Law Olmsted proved that his \$13 million Central Park project in New York City increased neighboring land values by \$209 million in less than 20 years, it has been clear that parks, open spaces, and recreation areas provide significant increases to area land values.

In a groundbreaking 2000 article, John L. Crompton, a professor at Texas A&M University who has published extensive research on parks and recreation stated “[T]he real estate market consistently demonstrates that many people are willing to pay a larger amount for a property located close to parks and open space areas than for a home that does not offer this amenity.” This increase in land values generates additional revenue for governments like Porter County through regular property tax assessments. Additionally, parks and recreation facilities encourage developers to conserve and protect land for new subdivisions and residential sites.



Individuals and families are not the only ones who place a high value on parks and recreation spaces. Businesses as well consistently rank outdoor activities and family-friendly attractions as reasons that they will move a facility or open a new one. The real estate industry calls livability “a litmus test for determining the strength of the real estate investment market. ... If people want to live in a place, companies, stores, hotels, and apartments will follow” (ERE Yarmouth and Real Estate Research Corp, 1998).

Parks and recreation also generate tourism dollars. Municipal attractions support these facilities and help to convince visitors to stay an extra night or two and continue to spend their money at our hotels, restaurants, shops and stores. According to the Trust for Public Land, “Organized events held in public parks-arts festivals, athletic events, food festivals, musical and theatrical events-often bring substantial positive economic impacts to their communities, filling hotel rooms and restaurants and bringing customers to local stores. (2006)”

Valerie Rosenblum, President of Greater Northwest Indiana Association of Realtors said, “Parks, no matter the size, are key in providing recreational, aesthetic and environmental benefits to our communities. They've been proven to increase property values and rank high in the minds of homebuyers when deciding where to start their families, relocate because of job responsibilities or simply retire and begin enjoying life's rewards. ...It's easy to see that our parks have been a key component as to why Porter County 'leads the pack' of Northwest Indiana counties in population growth over the past 20+ years – and is expected to do so into the future.”

For all of these reasons and many more that I hope to share with you all throughout this year, I hope you continue to support Parks and Recreation in Porter County.

Thank you,
Walter Lenckos

**Get Ready for Pre-Registration for
Camp FUNset! Coming soon!**



**CAMP
~~S~~SUNSET**

Ready ... Set ... **FUN!**

 **IDEAS**
in motion media

VALPOLIFE.COM

PORTAGELIFE.COM

LAPORTECOUNTYLIFE.COM

NWINDIANALIFE.COM

Programs at Sunset Hill

Yoga at Sunset Hill

Sundays, January 15-March 5, 9-10am,
\$75 series/\$10 drop in

Join Ali at the Sunset Hill Farmhouse for an hour long yoga program that will leave you relaxed and invigorated.

Young Artists at Sunset Hill

Thursday, February 9th, 6-7:15pm, \$8

Join Megan at Sunset Hill for this monthly program geared towards children ages 5-12. During the program the children will create their very own project with step by step instructions. We encourage families to drop their children off, as space is quite limited.

Couch to Foot Pursuit 5K Training

Saturdays, Jan 7 – Feb 25,
8:30-9:30am, \$55

Are you ready to challenge yourself? Come to Sunset Hill on Saturday morning to train for the Foot Pursuit 5K. You will be coached by a certified running coach and experienced trail runners at Sunset Hill to train for the Foot Pursuit 5K on Saturday, March 4th. Program fee includes race registration and t-shirt, weekly training schedule, check-ins, workout tips and motivational emails.

Parks on the GO!

VALPARAISO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Acrylic Painting

4th Thursdays, January 26th and February 23rd, 2-4pm OR 6-8pm, \$10

Susan will once again be teaching a monthly guided acrylic painting project at the Valpo Library. We've also added an evening program on the same day! The same project that is taught from 2-4pm will be taught from 6-8pm. Class size is limited to 25.

KOUTS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Acrylic Painting

2nd Thursday of the month (Feb 9),
11am-1pm, \$10

All skill levels are welcome to attend this art class. A painting surface and all other supplies will be provided.

Be Heart Smart

Thursdays, February 2&9, 6:30pm, FREE
Join Purdue Extension for this 2-part program that will cover topics to help keep your heart healthy.



HEBRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Acrylic Painting

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month,
11am-1pm, \$10

All skill levels are welcome to attend this art class. A painting surface and all other supplies will be provided.

Be Heart Smart

Wednesdays, February 1&8, 11am,
FREE

Join Purdue Extension for this 2-part program that will cover topics to help keep your heart healthy.

Scan Here to
Register!



View our program offerings and register online at
<http://apm.activecommunities.com/portercountyparks>

PORTER COUNTY EXPO CENTER

Programs are a partnership with Purdue Extension and Porter County Extension Homemakers

Downsize Your Financial Maze

Wednesday, February 15, 1 pm, FREE

Happier Healthier You

Wednesday, February 15th, 2 pm, FREE



HAWTHORNE PARK

Acrylic Painting

*Last Wednesday, February 22,
3-5pm, \$10*

All skill levels are welcome to attend this art class. A painting surface and all other supplies will be provided.

Programs at Brincka Cross Gardens



Spa for the Soul

Sunday, January 15th, 12-4pm, \$35

Join Cynthia for a half day restorative retreat that will focus on both mind and body.

Dream Circle Share

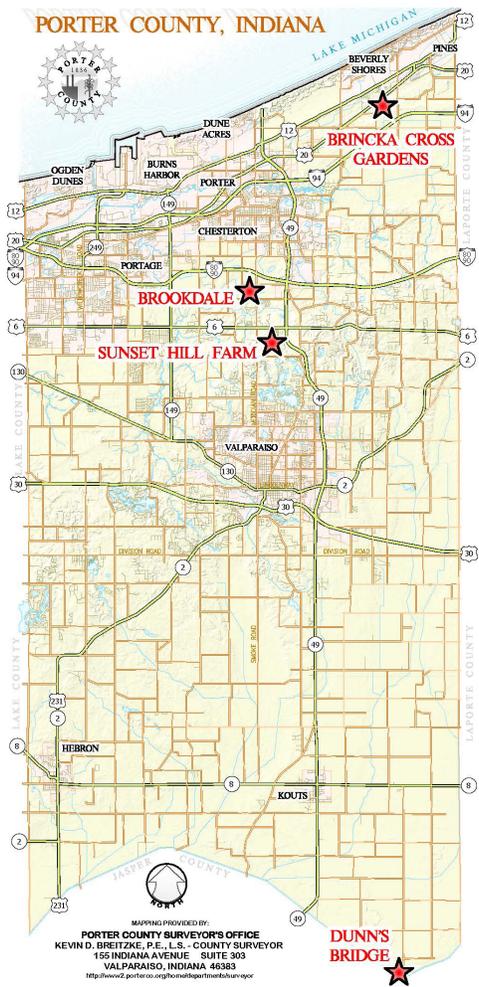
*Saturdays, January 21 & February 4,
10am-12pm, \$10*

Share and explore your dreams in a safe, non-judgmental setting. Take time to consider what wisdom your dreams may offer.

Yoga at Brincka Cross Gardens

*Sundays, January 29 & February 12, 10-11am,
\$10*

Join Kate at Brincka Cross for a relaxing hour of restorative yoga in the serene setting of Brincka Cross Gardens.



Porter County Parks & Recreation Department Contact Information

Main Office

Phone.....(219) 465-3586
 Fax.....(219) 465-3640
 155 Indiana Ave., Ste. 304
 Valparaiso, IN 46383

Maintenance.....(219) 252-9157

Recreation.....(219) 734-0203
 Adult & Youth Recreation, Wellness
 & Enrichment Programs

Naturalist.....(219) 465-3641
 Registration for Nature Programs,
 Parks to Schools, Senior Programs

Camp FUNset(219) 309-0680
& Field Trips

Marketing.....(219) 548-0219
& Rentals



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In celebration of Indiana's bicentennial, The Times will bring you ongoing historical coverage, galleries, blogs and features, in print and online at nwi.com/history throughout the year. Discover our rich history, and learn about influential individuals who make our state great.

