

## **I Really do Love Portage by Audrey Scanlon**

Every time I go on a vacation or trip I am always super excited to be away from home and go on new adventures. However my love for traveling does not discount the love I have for my hometown, Portage.

I have lived in the same house all my life and grown an incredible amount, just like the trees in my front and back yard. I have seen the woods across the street turn into beautiful oranges and reds and yellows every autumn for the last 15 years. Being surrounded by nature is very important to me because I find myself to be humbled and in a peaceful state of mind when I am outside under the big blue sky. In Portage, we have so many opportunities to explore the outdoors! We can go to any of the lakes scattered around our loving and friendly city or walk around Celery Flats, or in the winter, go skating at Millennium Park and sledding at Oakland Park.

I also love Portage for its kind, radiant, and generous citizens. Almost everywhere I go I meet people who are willing to help you if you need assistance or just grant you a genuine smile while passing you on the street which brings me joy. I have been blessed with the kindest and most supportive friends that I wouldn't be able to find anywhere other than here in Portage.

The opportunities we have here extend beyond one's imagination. Personally, I've been able to be taught by some of the greatest teachers, and be involved in an incredible theater program at my middle and high school. But not only that, I played soccer for around ten years with great facilities and coaches, I found my love of horses here, and have served many many people in my service work. Even still, a remarkable amount of opportunities and experiences await me in my years to come while I'm still living here in Portage.

I am grateful to our city for nurturing my passion for the hobbies I have adapted and found in all the opportunities I've had. I am happy to share the great outdoors and many adventures only had in nature with the wonderful people of Portage, my home I really do love.

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