



Richfield
HERITAGE PRESERVE

FOOTNOTES

April 2025

www.richfieldheritagepreserve.com

A note from the RJRD Board

Spring is here, or at least on its way. As the weather warms up, and tiny green buds start to emerge, I always start dreaming about a garden: beautiful, native flowers in abundance, hardy vegetables thriving, no weeds in sight (I did say *dreaming*).

After being cooped up all winter, there's nothing I would rather do than work outside, preparing the beds, trimming and raking up those pesky leaves that fell late last year. Without fail, I buy way too many plants and seeds. But, eventually everything gets in the ground.

Of course, as the heat of summer overtakes the mild days of spring, being outside isn't always on the top of my list of things to do. And the weeds – ugh – I can never get ahead of them. Things start to look a little scruffy, but it's still a lot of fun.

Gardening lets you create a beautiful space but, more importantly, fosters a connection with nature. Even if gardening is not your thing, we can experience nature by walking the many beautiful trails at Richfield Heritage Preserve. There are numerous trees budding and plants emerging from their Winter slumbers. Enjoy Spring, in whatever way makes you happy.



- Holly Price,
RJRD Trustee

April Upcoming Events -

Please see <https://rjrd.recdesk.com> for a complete program listing and to register.

- Apr. 3 - SMOOTHING IT (NOT ROUGHING IT);** 7-8PM; Park Office.
Topic is **TENT CAMPING: Where to Go and How to Enjoy It.**
Session 3: MEALS: Everything but the menu, plus a discussion on water. **TRAVEL:** Camping in southeastern states; emphasis on Blue Ridge Parkway, Skyline Drive, and Smoky Mountains. Lead by Hugh Groth. Registration encouraged. **FREE.**
- Apr. 5 - HIKING CONDITIONING;** 10-11:30AM; main parking lot.
Join a local yoga stretching instructor and hiking Enthusiast for a practice aimed at warming up the body for the trails. Lead by Sarah Waite. \$15
- Apr. 6 - KIDS' YOGADVENTURE;** 10-11AM; Chagrin Valley Cabin. Budding yogis (ages 7-12) can playfully learn and practice nature-inspired yoga movement and rest. Lead by Lisa Meranti. \$17 per child; pre-registration required.
- Apr. 6 - YOUTH ART CONTEST EXHIBIT;** 2-4PM; Amity House.
Come see the art pieces submitted by creative area children. **FREE.**
- Apr. 12 - FOREST BATHING;** 9:30-11:30AM; Kirby's Mill.
Deeply engage with the natural spaces around you, leading to increased wellbeing physically, psychologically, spiritually, and socially. (No actual bathing.) Lead by Jessica Jurcak. \$20.

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From our Park Director

April is a very busy time for the Richfield Heritage Preserve staff. We are busy getting the park ready, after a harsh winter, for the guests to enjoy the nice, warm days ahead. Staff is busy preparing for our 3rd annual Goat Derby which will take place on May 3rd.



Planning is in the works for the relocation of part of the Buckeye Trail off of the Broadview Road entrance, and final touches are taking place for the grand opening of the Amity House, our newest rental facility at the park. So many wonderful things are happening at the Richfield Heritage Preserve!

Until next time, I hope to see you out on the trails!

- John Piepsny, Park Director
park-director@rjrd.org



See your photo in print!

Remember to email your beautiful or interesting photo of Richfield Heritage Preserve to office@rjrd.org. We want to see what *you* see in your park!



Rick Krause contributed this month's photo of the mill and millstream in Spring. It was taken in Spring, 2023. Thank you, Rick, for your contribution.

From our Volunteer Coordinator/Recreation Programmer



National Volunteer Week, taking place from April 20 to 26, 2025, offers a wonderful opportunity to not only celebrate but also express our deep appreciation for the outstanding contributions made by our dedicated park volunteers. These remarkable individuals selflessly devote their time and effort to effecting positive change within the park, while also playing a crucial role in nurturing community connections and fostering a sense of belonging among residents.

The park depends significantly on the unwavering support, commitment, and enthusiasm

exhibited by our volunteers. Their generous investment of time and energy is integral to the success of our programs and events. Each volunteer brings unique skills and perspectives, enriching our efforts and enhancing the visitor experience.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to every volunteer who has chosen to share their time and talents with us. Your embodiment of the spirit of service not only advances the park's mission but also inspires others to engage with our community. Together, we are making a lasting impact, and I am truly thankful for all that you do.

If you would like to learn more about making a difference through volunteering at the park, please email the RHP volunteer coordinator/recreation programmer at volunteer-info@rjrd.org or call or text 330-317-2597.

- Susan Czaplicki,

RHP Volunteer Coordinator/Recreation Programmer

April Upcoming Events (continued) -

Apr. 17 - "DANGER AT DUSK" BOOK CLUB; 6:30-8:30PM; Amity House. Presented by Richfield Library. Contact the library for book title and to register.

Apr. 22 - ASTRONOMY: BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSE; 7:30-9PM; The Lodge at RHP. Join us for an exciting monthly series hosted by the Summit County Astronomy Club. Each session invites participants to delve into captivating facts about the universe, sparking curiosity and inspiring lively discussions. This month's topic is Time and Space. Explore the intricacies of the cosmos while learning more about the Summit County Astronomy Club's impressive telescope, a gateway to experiencing the night sky like never before. Whether you're a seasoned stargazer or a curious newcomer, this series promises to deepen your appreciation for the vast mysteries above us. **FREE.**

Apr. 26 - EPHEMERAL HIKE; 10AM-12PM; meet in Main Parking Lot. Ephemerals bloom very early in the season and have a brief growth period. Learn to find and correctly identify some of these many wild plants that come into season in spring! Lead by Ursula McVey. **FREE.**



Look at all that's happening in RHP!

Goat Derby and Craft Fair Opportunities

On May 3 the third annual Goat Derby and Craft Fair will be held at Richfield Heritage Preserve. This is an exciting, family-friendly event with a variety of enjoyable options for fun and entertainment.



Ways to support the event and RHP:



- **Sponsorships:** different levels of benefits, including naming rights, parking passes, and access to VIP areas. Promote your business or hear your family's name announced while cheering on your favorite goat.

- **Raffle basket donations:** Donate a basket or items including gift cards to our raffle. Each year we offer a variety of baskets for

which Derby attendees can buy tickets and try for a chance to win their favorites. This is a chance to promote your business, too!

All of our sponsors and our raffle donors receive recognition on social media and on signage at the event.

- **Craft fair vendors:** Are you a crafter? Reserve a table to sell your wares at our popular craft fair, adjacent to the goat races.



For more information or to sponsor, donate, or reserve a craft table, contact park-director@rjrd.org or volunteer-info@rjrd.org.



Oviatt House Inc.

Oviatt House has launched a Capital Campaign to raise \$50,000 to match state allocated funding needed to complete the restoration and museum

development to open as a museum. Please visit our website at oviathouse1836.com to learn more about our **Open the Doors to History** Capital Campaign and consider opportunities to support our effort. Thank you!

- Tricia Steiner, President,
Oviatt House, Inc.



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