

A note from the RJRD Board

A very Happy New Year it is for Richfield Heritage Preserve! Richfield voters approved a new operating levy, scheduled to go into effect in 2025. We are very grateful for the support! We are also grateful for the tireless efforts of all our volunteers.

There is a lot to look forward to in the new year including our updated website (stay tuned!) The Upper Lake will be getting a new bridge. We plan to make overnight stays in



Amity available. The Lodge is nearly fully booked for the wedding season in 2024. We continue to see a steady stream of visitors, no matter the season. Look for our next program guide to come out in early spring. See you on the trails!

- Anita Gantner,
RJRD Board Chair

From our Park Director

A new year is upon us, and with that comes the mindset of a fresh start. Whether you are starting a new fitness routine, a new program that you have always wanted to try, or simply just living a healthier lifestyle, Richfield Heritage Preserve can be there for you, on your journey. This year we are offering even more programs for your enjoyment, and that brings new opportunities. We are here to provide a place for quiet enjoyment of the park, miles of hiking trails to meet your fitness needs, and the many programs that bring the family together for wonderful memories.



This January brings the Quadrantid meteor shower, known for its short peak period of high intensity, where up to 60-200 meteors per hour can be seen under ideal conditions. The Quadrantids are thought to peak over the course of just a few hours, compared to other meteor showers that may have a peak period of a day or two.

Make sure to spend some time outdoors and see all this world has to offer! 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! The way you see your park!



This month's photo of her dog, Arko, enjoying a snowy walk was contributed by JJ Schweikert. It was taken in December, 2023. Thank you, JJ, for your contribution.



Join us in The Lodge for the
**Richfield
Snowbird Festival**
1-4 pm, Sunday, Jan. 21
A free, family-friendly event
Zoo animals, Husky dogs, stories from Richfield Library,
kids' games, crafts, refreshments, and more!

January Upcoming Events -

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

Jan. 7 - HIKE YOGADVENTURE; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Jan. 14- NATURE ADVENTURERS; 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. OR 11 - 11:45 a.m.; Chagrin Valley Cabin. "Wander in Winter": winter-themed outdoor family fun nature activities for 3-10 year olds.

Jan. 21 - SNOWBIRD FESTIVAL; 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.; The Lodge. Free winter-themed family event sponsored by Richfield Joint Recreation District, Village of Richfield, and Richfield Township.

Look at all that's happening in RHP!

Oviatt House Inc.

The volunteers at Oviatt House have been hard at work with the tedious job of stripping away the many layers of paint applied over multiple decades to the original woodwork. Additionally, there are several key areas of the house that are being prepared to show case the construction techniques common in 1836.



We are looking forward to the transformative changes that will continue to occur in 2024!

- Tricia Steiner,
Secretary,
Oviatt House, Inc.



Volunteer Update

Begin the new year by volunteering at Richfield Heritage Preserve! Whether you are an experienced volunteer or just starting, we have opportunities for all skill levels. You'll have the chance to make a real difference in the community while enjoying the beautiful outdoors. To learn more about how you can get involved, please contact the volunteer coordinator at volunteer-info@rjrd.org or 330-317-2597. Join us today and start making a difference!

Mark your calendars for the Snowbird Festival on Sunday, January 21, from 1PM to 4PM at The Lodge. Enjoy animals from the Akron Zoo, Husky dogs, stories from the Richfield Library, refreshments, kids' games, and crafts. This free, family-friendly event is sponsored by Richfield Joint Recreation District, Village of Richfield, and Richfield Township. Richfield Heritage Preserve is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual RHP Youth Art Contest, open to all grades K through 6 students from public, private, or home school groups. Art should depict a native plant, animal, or natural landscape in Ohio. Any art medium can be used! The art will be displayed in The Lodge on Sunday, March 10, 2024. For more information, contact volunteer-info@rjrd.org or 330-317-2597.



- Susan Czaplicki,
RHP Volunteer Coordinator

Ohio Horseman's Council, Summit County

We have wrapped up another year of riding at the beautiful Richfield Heritage Preserve. Everyone loves riding in this park!

- Molly Eastwood,
Summit OHC

Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve

In 2023, the Friends of RHP established an endowment fund with the Akron Community Foundation (ACF) as a way to ensure a permanent, predictable stream of funding for its mission. The Friends invited ACF's development team for an autumn field trip to the park. Margaret Medzie, ACF vice president and CEO at that time, and six of her team members toured several historic homes and Kirby's Mill.



Park Director John Piepsny joined part of the tour and was enthusiastic as he showed off the nearly finished Amity House renovation. In collaboration with the Richfield Joint Recreation District, the Friends' Historic Home Stabilization Task Force (consisting of 13 skilled volunteers) is restoring Amity -- thanks in large part to funds raised through Friends' donors.

In North House, ACF members were amazed at the living room framed with timbers to resemble an inverted ship's hull. Amity and North Houses were also integral to Girl Scout Camp Crowell-Hilaka, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The group hiked the Buckeye Trail, enjoying the park's natural areas. Lunch was shared on the Kirby House veranda, where original windows frame a view of the Lower Lake and Kirby's Mill.

The Friends were awarded a \$5,000 grant from ACF's William Wallace Fund to use for their operational expenses. Thank you to ACF for touring the park to help them understand how these

historical and natural resources need to be conserved and utilized to the fullest extent possible by the community - and by future generations.

- Beth Sanderson, Friends of RHP Board Member

Richfield
HERITAGE
PRESERVE