

### A note from the RJRD Board

This summer I had the good fortune to host my two sisters and their families at my home in Richfield. Visiting from Maryland, they could not believe all our community and the surrounding region has to offer.

One whole morning was spent hiking at the Preserve - we took the bridle trail overlooking Kirby's Mill and the lower lake, then the Buckeye Trail all the way to the bridge just below Crescent Trail. They were impressed with our park's natural beauty, its architecture, historical themes and connections, and the many volunteers and other hikers we met along the way. My one sister's reaction? "I cannot believe you have this amazing space only a few minutes from your house!" While her comment made me proud to be associated with the Preserve, it also made me feel fortunate to have this beautiful asset in our back yard.

Many enhancements have been made to the park in 2023, from popular community events like the Snowbird Festival, the inaugural Goat Derby and Music Fest, to the installation of a water fountain (2022) and improvements to our trails, to the restoration of Amity House, a beautiful historic venue which will soon be available to be booked for events in addition to The Lodge.

As we head into the fall, I hope you have the chance for a visit. As my sister noted, the Preserve is "just amazing!"

- Mark Robeson, RJRD Trustee

### October Upcoming Events -

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

**Oct. 1, 15, 22 - NATURE BUDDIES!**; 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., Continuation of 6-week class series for 3-6 year olds.

**New class starting Oct. 29!** Check RecDesk for information.

**Oct. 8 - RICHFIELD SAFETY FORCES CLAMBAKE;** 12 p.m.

Clams, steak, chicken, kids meals, hay ride, trucks to touch. For tickets call (330) 659-9400.

**Oct. 12, 14 - "TOUR THE TREASURE" CAMPAIGN HIKES;** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., led by Friends of RHP.

**Oct. 14 - SING-ALONG/S'MORES;** 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Friends of RHP family-friendly event at Summer Barn.

**Oct. 21, 28 - FITNESS IN THE FOREST;** 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

**Oct. 22 - TRICK OR TREAT ON THE TRAIL AND SPOOKY TALES;** 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Wear your costume, bring a bag, gather treats along the trail, and visit our spooky cabin in the haunted forest for a spine-chilling tale!

**FREE family-friendly event sponsored by RJRD and Village of Richfield Parks & Recreation Dept.**

**Look at all that's happening in RHP!**

### From our Park Director

Fall is here, and it's my favorite time of the year. I would encourage everyone to read the poem "October's Party" by George Cooper, which describes the perfect October and why hiking the trails is so magical this month. As the warm days and cool nights start to happen, we must enjoy these remaining days outside before the cold months come and force us inside more often.



Fall is also a fabulous time to take your family camping, and what better place than Richfield Heritage Preserve, where we have two rentable sites for your enjoyment! You can even reserve shelters right online by visiting our website to host a picnic!

This month is our annual Trick or Treat on the Trail and Spooky Tales event which takes place on October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1pm to 4pm. We are looking for volunteers for the event; however, if you can't make it that day, we could also use some donations of individually-wrapped candy for the event.

We hope that you take the time to enjoy this magical place and enjoy all that it has to offer. Richfield Heritage Preserve ... where the benefits are endless!

- John Piepsny, Park Director  
[park-director@rjrd.org](mailto:park-director@rjrd.org)

### See your photo in print!

Reminder: We need readers' photos! Please email your beautiful or interesting photo of Richfield Heritage Preserve to [office@rjrd.org](mailto:office@rjrd.org) for a future newsletter or upcoming brochure. We want to see what *you* see in your park!



This month's photo of Kirby's Mill and the lower lake was contributed by Don Tyler. It was taken in October 2022, following the completion of the lower dam and the installation of the rebuilt mill wheel. Thank you, Don, for your contribution.

## Amity House Restoration

Amity House is just north of The Lodge. Its beautiful, detailed construction and its location next to the upper lake make it an ideal rental venue. Work is ongoing to restore the house, much of it done by the Friends of RHP and their volunteers.



## Summer Barn Roof

Ohio Horseman's Council raised the money to replace the roof on the Summer Barn.



## Waste Water Treatment Plant

At the south end of the park, the waste water treatment plant was rebuilt, upgraded, and connected to The Lodge, allowing its utilization of as an event venue.



## Lower and Upper Dams

In 2018 the lower lake was drained to allow inspection and repairs on the dam. Using an innovative construction technique known as articulated concrete block, the dam was refurbished and strengthened to meet O D N R standards. Work was completed in 2022,

and the lake is refilled, creating a beautiful backdrop for the Mill and the trail around the lake, as well as habitat for birds and wildlife.

The dam on the upper lake was repaired as well. This lake is open for hand-



powered watercraft and catch & release fishing. The RJRD board has applied for a grant to replace the bridge across the upper lake dam.



## Renovation of The Lodge

Renovation of The Lodge into a beautiful event venue has been a major project. With the remodeling of the restrooms, the addition of a new HVAC system, building of indoor and outdoor bars, and the creation of a lovely, comfortable bridal suite, this space is now in high demand for weddings, parties, and corporate events.



Recently a drinking fountain was added outside The Lodge, and the area in front of The Lodge was repaved.



## Mill Wheel

Friends of RHP raised funds to rebuild the mill wheel on Kirby's Mill. It was reinstalled in September 2022.



## Chagrin Valley Cabin

After upgrades and repairs, Chagrin Valley Cabin was used for the park's first summer camp in 2023. Volunteers

helped prepare this rustic cabin, which can be rented for small gatherings.



## Trail Enhancements

Volunteers added walkways and improved trails, along with many other projects to improve visitors' experiences.



## Oviatt House

Through an agreement and later a formal lease with RJRD, the volunteers of Oviatt House Inc. are restoring the Oviatt House at the south end of the Preserve. The group applied for and received a grant from the State of Ohio, with the goal of creating a museum.



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