

A note from the RJRD Board

Recently the bridge just south of the mill had to be closed due to its deteriorated condition. Please note that the remainder of the lower lake trail is open, but the full loop cannot be completed at this time.

We will have all of our bridges inspected and anticipate receiving recommendations for any repairs. As soon as we know how to proceed with this bridge, we will update the public. In the meantime, we apologize for the inconvenience and ask everyone to please respect the closure. Thank you.

- *The RJRD Board of Trustees*

Photos

With the seasons changing, remember to take lots of photos in the park. We'd love to see them!

Boating

Boating is closed for the season. The upper lake will reopen to handpowered watercraft on April 1, 2024.

No Ice Fishing

Please remember that ice fishing is NOT permitted on either lake, and no structures are allowed on the ice.

Camping

Ready to try winter camping? High Lea and Windy Hill campsites are open for camping year round. Visit RecDesk for details and to reserve your site.

November Upcoming Events -

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

Nov. 7 - ELECTION DAY; Issue 16 is on the ballot.

Nov. 12 - SYMBOLS OF THE SEASON; 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Presentation at Richfield UCC; hike to follow at RHP.
Sponsored by Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve..

Nov. 27 - RJRD BOARD MEETING; 6:30 p.m., Richfield Village Hall. Public welcome.

Dec. 2 - WINTER WONDERS; 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. ; The Lodge.
Free annual holiday event sponsored by Friends of RHP.

Save the Date! 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.

If you have a suggestion for a program, or would like to be a program leader or facilitator, please contact the RHP office at 330-888-0511 or office@rjrd.org. We would like to offer opportunities that interest you!

Look at all that's happening in RHP!

From our Park Director

This month is a very important month for us as we have Issue 16 on the ballot. Issue 16 is the operating budget that allows us to carry on our day-to-day operations such as maintaining trails, basic contracted services, and supplies and materials to maintain the park, and about a third goes towards our three part-time staff salaries.



Issue 16 is very important to the park. Currently, property owners are paying \$14.77 per year per \$100,000 valuation of your home. The additional funding in the replacement levy is \$3.23 per year per \$100,000 valuation of your home. That is less than a penny day increase! We think the beauty of this park and the endless benefits are worth it.

If you have any question about the levy or want some last minute information, please feel free to email me at park-director@rjrd.org, or you can stop by the office and I will be happy to meet with you!

As always, take care and I hope to see you out on the trails!

- *John Piepsny, Park Director*
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 for a future newsletter or upcoming brochure. We want to see what *you* see in your park!



This month's photo of the lower lake from the hill above the dam was contributed by Rick Krause. It was taken in fall of 2022. Thank you, Rick, for your contribution.

Oviatt House Inc.

With the exterior restoration nearing completion, volunteers at Oviatt House will now begin focusing on interior work over the winter months. Removing the remaining loose plaster and preparing the old walls for drywall will be the first steps in this process. The planning and installation of electrical wiring will be the next big project before the walls go up. Stay tuned!



- Tricia Steiner,
Secretary,
Oviatt House, Inc.

Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve

The Friends are sponsoring "Symbols of the Season" on Sunday, November 12, 2 - 3 p.m., at the Richfield United Church of Christ (4340 W. Streetsboro Road).

For hundreds of years, Christmas celebrations have been intertwined with nature -- as plants, trees and the environment serve as a backdrop for the holiday. Many of those elements still remain part of our holiday traditions, but their meaning and relevance have been overshadowed by cultural change and commercialism. This seasonal program will remind the audience of why we display decorated wreaths and evergreen trees while also discussing more recent nature-related traditions.

Presenter Chuck Jakubchak, a graduate of the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program, has conducted more than a hundred nature programs throughout Ohio over the past decade. After the program, join the Friends for a one-hour easy hike -- held rain or shine -- at RHP. Those hiking should dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a refillable water bottle.

The event is free, but attendees are asked to RSVP. Visit friendsofrhp.org for registration information and event updates.



Volunteer Update

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic



On Saturday, October 7, 2023, the RJRD Staff and Board members organized a volunteer appreciation picnic to honor volunteers' hard work at the park. Attendees were served a delicious picnic lunch prepared by RJRD staff. Thank you to all volunteers for your many and varied contributions!

Trick or Treat on the Trail and Spooky Tales Event!

We are thrilled to announce that the TOTOTT event held on October 22nd was an incredible success, with over 900 people participating in the afternoon's festivities. The Richfield Heritage Preserve / Village of Richfield Parks & Rec combined event was packed with a variety of fun-filled activities, including candy stations, a spooky story walk, crafts, and even a visit from Sunny the horse.



We express our deepest appreciation to the Richfield Library for generously providing books. Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the event went smoothly. We cannot thank everyone enough for their support in prepping crafts, setting up, volunteering, and cleaning up afterward. We are particularly grateful to those who contributed candy, snacks, or funds for this event. Their kindness and generosity truly made the event a success.

Looking forward to 2024!

Mark your calendars for the annual Snowbird Festival, which will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2024, from 1-4 p.m.

- Susan Czaplicki,
RHP Volunteer Coordinator

Looking Ahead:

Mark your calendar for the Friends 11/26-12/27 Trails & Trivia Self-Guided Hikes and for their annual Winter Wonders fundraiser to be held on Saturday, 12/2, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in The Lodge at RHP. The event will feature artisans' handmade crafts; homemade cookies for purchase; horse-drawn carriage rides; children's crafts, face painting and storytelling; Sunny the Reindeer Horse, a visit from Father Christmas and so much more! Additional details available at <https://www.friendsofrhp.org/events--hikes.html>

- Terry Duncan, Friends of RHP Board Member