

A note from the RJRD Board

December is a great time of year to visit Richfield Heritage Preserve. While some may be discouraged by shorter days, colder temperatures, and yes, even snow, it is just these changes that make visiting the park in the winter so much fun. Whether it is the solitude of the park, the abundant nature that easily viewable, or my personal favorite: the opportunity to be the first to make footprints on a trail after a fresh snowfall, the Richfield Heritage Preserve in the winter really is wonderful.



I hope everyone can find the time during this busy time of year to come enjoy this amazing park!

Happy Holidays!

- Mike Selig,
RJRD Board Vice-President

Thank You, Richfield Voters!

Thank you to Richfield residents for your support of the operating levy. The monies that will be coming into RHP starting in 2025 will not cover all our operating costs. The difference is made up by our tireless volunteers, grants, donations, and our revenue generating facilities and programs.

RJRD is working to keep Richfield Heritage Preserve the wonderful gem that it is for the community, while keeping the cost to the residents low. Thank you for your support.

December Upcoming Events -

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

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

Dec. 3 - HIKE YOGADVENTURE; 10a.m.-12 p.m.

Dec. 17 - NATURE ADVENTURERS; 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. OR 11 - 11:45 a.m.; Waterfront Shelter. Holiday themed outdoor nature activities for 3-10 year olds.

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.

Look at all that's happening in RHP!

From our Park Director

Can you believe the holiday season is upon us? The year sure has flown by, and what great accomplishments have happened at the Richfield Heritage Preserve!



This year we adopted our Strategic Plan, setting a direction on where we will be guiding this park in the future. We held the Inaugural Goat Derby, sure to become an annual tradition! Our new program guide was published, listing all of our wide variety of programs offered by many groups. We introduced our Waterfront Music Festival and continued with many other special programs and events provided by the Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve, Oviatt House Inc., Ohio Horseman's Council, Buckeye Trail Group and the Richfield Library, among others.

Richfield residents also passed the Issue 16 levy by a strong majority, ensuring that the park can continue its operations into the future. Thank you, residents, for that big victory!

Restoration is beginning on the historic homes for future rentals for birthday parties, baby showers, etc. Work continues on many trail enhancements along with the removal of some dilapidated structures in the park.

Thank you to everyone who enjoys the park for its natural beauty and wonder along with all the history that makes this place such a unique park. 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 the mill from downstream was contributed by Barbara Drnek. It was taken January 15, 2023. Thank you, Barbara, for your contribution.

Oviatt House Inc.

The preparation for wall restoration continues at Oviatt House. Second floor framing of doorways, leveling of the ceiling, and adding framing to the ceiling joists are just a few of the things completed by our dedicated volunteers over the last several weeks as we continue planning for the installation of electrical wiring. We are looking forward to joining the Friends for their Winter Wonders event on December 2 and partaking in the seasonal cheer!



- Tricia Steiner,
Secretary,
Oviatt House, Inc.

Volunteer Update

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the numerous volunteers who have made a significant impact at the park this year. Volunteers' unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have led to numerous improvements and enhancements that have made the park more enjoyable and welcoming. We truly value their contributions and are immensely thankful for all that they have accomplished.



Looking forward to a wonderful 2024!

- Susan Czaplicki,
RHP Volunteer
Coordinator

December Wishlist Program

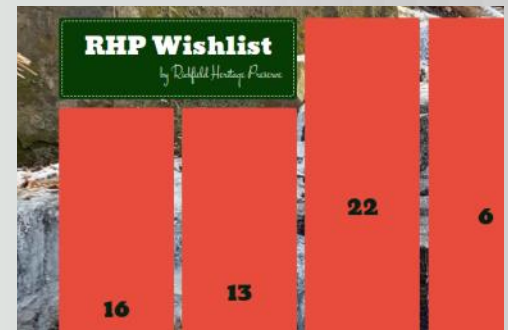
Richfield Heritage Preserve is excited to announce that we will host a Wishlist Program this year to help maintain and improve the park! From December 1 to 24, 2023, you'll have the unique opportunity to make a difference and contribute to this program.

To participate, visit the Richfield Heritage Preserve Facebook page or website. Each day, click on a door to reveal the featured item for that day. Please choose an item, purchase it, and drop it off at the Park Office. Alternatively, you can ship the item directly to the park at 4374 Broadview Rd, Richfield OH 44286. The park also accepts donations online at richfieldheritagepreserve.com.

For more information about the RHP Wishlist Program or how to support this initiative, please visit richfieldheritagepreserve.com or call 330-888-0511. Thank you for making a difference at RHP!

Please note:

The Bridle Trails are **closed** for the season until June 1. Thank you.



Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve

If you are taking a hike through Richfield Heritage Preserve now through the end of the month, enjoy some cheerful seasonal swags that "spruce-up" buildings and shelters throughout the park. Many of the Friends were busy before



Thanksgiving trimming firs, pines and cedars at their homes; crafting swags and making bows to add holiday cheer. A small group of our volunteers found all sorts of places for the swags at RHP — from houses to outhouses, shelters to fences. Look for them while you enjoy our "Trails and Trivia" self-guided hike — map available online at friendsofrhp.org or at the park — until December 26. Answer intriguing trivia questions about the park and nature along the trail. Share selfies on Facebook and Instagram with #TrailsandTrivia2023.

If you are hiking at RHP on Sunday, December 10 or Sunday, December 17 -- stop by Kirby House (overlooking Kirby's Mill and the Lower Lake) and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa with the Friends, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Put your feet up for a spell, share some stories, or take a tour of this remarkable Swiss chalet style home built in 1921.



The Friends join the Richfield Joint Recreation District in thanking the voters of the Village of Richfield and Richfield Township for passing the replacement operating levy for Richfield Heritage Preserve.

- Terry Duncan, Friends of RHP Board Member

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