



**Richfield**  
HERITAGE PRESERVE

# FOOTNOTES

May 2024

[www.richfieldheritagepreserve.com](http://www.richfieldheritagepreserve.com)

## A note from the RJRD Board

Excitement is building for the opening of Amity House to guests, both for daily events as well as overnight accommodations. The Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve have worked tirelessly on the project, and have masterfully restored the house to its original charm. Our events coordinator, Shari Green, has been our “designer” who has been working to bring furnishings consistent with the era (1930s) into the home.

The home looks out at the Upper Lake in the park. The backyard of Amity has already been host to a number of weddings. Thanks to the volunteers and the donations, the cost of the renovations has been small. It is anticipated that the costs to the park will be recovered soon and future proceeds will be turned into revenue for the park; revenue that will support park maintenance and upgrades. We are hoping to be ready for occupancy sometime this summer.



Thank you to the volunteers as well the RJRD Board and administration. Also, a big thank you for all the donations.

- Anita Gantner,  
RJRD Board Chair

## From our Park Director

May comes in charging like a goat at the Richfield Heritage Preserve with our second annual Sequoia Financial Group and Broadview Rental Goat Derby scheduled on May 4th! You do not want to miss this exciting event as this year we added the new Petros Homes Craft Fair, more activities and more food trucks. We are looking forward to having as much fun as we did last year on an even bigger scale! Please check our Facebook posts to get the latest updates on parking and the planned events for the day. Make sure that you dress in your finest Derby attire to really get the best experience at the event.



The fun doesn't stop there! Check out the spring/summer Heritage Highlights program guide on our website for the latest programs, classes and events that will keep you busy all summer long.

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

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



## May Upcoming Events -

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

**May 4 - 2nd Annual GOAT DERBY AND CRAFT FAIR;** 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; The Lodge to Amity Lawn. Goat races, food trucks, craft vendors, live music, costume contests, raffle baskets, and more! *Free.* Rain date - May 5.

**May 4 - MIGRATORY BIRD HIKE;** 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m. OR 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Meet at Summer Barn. See Friends article for details.

**May 11 - MAY DAY CELEBRATION AT OVIATT HOUSE;** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Oviatt House history, restoration project tours, spring celebration, and more.

**May 11 - WILDFLOWER HIKE;** 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.; The Lodge. Friends of RHP event. Meet at Kirby's Mill. See Friends article for details.

**May 17 - 6/12/24 HOUR TRAIL RUN;** Saturday, 6 a.m.-Sunday, 4 p.m.; Summer Barn. Sponsored by Fast Girls Running Company.

**May 31 - SURVIVAL 101 WEEKEND;** Friday, 5 p.m.-Sunday, 3 p.m.; High Lea Campsite. Learn the necessary skills to meet any unexpected emergency in the future. Presented by Midwest Native Skills.

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

## See your photo in print!

Reminder: Please email your beautiful or interesting photo of Richfield Heritage Preserve to [office@rjrd.org](mailto:office@rjrd.org). We want to see what *you* see in your park!



Laurie Patton contributed this month's photo of a chipmunk in RHP. It was taken on April 27, 2024. Thank you, Laurie, for your contribution.



## Volunteer Update

### Volunteer groups make a difference at RHP!



Over the past few weeks, volunteer groups have made a difference at the park! The Service-Learning class from Hudson High School returned to the park for the fourth consecutive year. They diligently applied waterproof sealant to picnic tables and benches, ensuring their longevity and usability.

The dedication of the Ernst & Young employees is truly inspiring. With a shared goal of supporting their community, they spent a morning at the park, working tirelessly to ensure Amity House is clean and well-prepared for the upcoming Goat Derby event.

A team of Kent State University Flashes Give Back volunteers demonstrated their commitment to positively impact the community. They worked hard to edge and prepare the mulch beds around the Lodge and behind Amity for a fresh layer of mulch. Their dedication and effort will go a long way in beautifying the park.

These groups have generously given their time and energy to make Richfield Heritage Preserve more enjoyable. We hope their example will encourage others to join in creating a better park for everyone.

To learn how to get involved or plan a volunteer opportunity for your group, please contact the volunteer coordinator/recreation programmer at [volunteer-info@rjrd.org](mailto:volunteer-info@rjrd.org) or 330-317-2597.

- Susan Czaplicki,

RHP Volunteer Coordinator/ Recreation Programmer

## Oviatt House Inc.

Spring restoration is ramping up at Oviatt House! New and restored trim is starting to go up and wall framing is being prepped for drywall and plaster.

Additionally, framing around the stairway was improved to prepare for railings.

Work with our University of Akron Museum and Archives student intern, Valerie Metzger, came to a close after completing 45 hours to meet the graduation requirements of her Senior Capstone Experience. Val was instrumental in researching, collecting, and organizing information compiled as part of Oviatt House's Reference Library, which will provide the foundation for future museum exhibits and research. We are so thankful she chose Oviatt House for her internship!

- Tricia Steiner,  
Secretary, Oviatt House, Inc.



## Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve

Planning to attend the RHP Goat Derby and Craft Show on May 4? Come out a little early and enjoy one of two migratory bird hikes the Friends are offering that Saturday morning.

Expert birder Fred Dinkelbach will lead the hikes -- from 7:30-9:00 a.m. and from 9:30-10:30 a.m. He will review some basic birding skills and then lead attendees on an easy 1-1/2-mile hike through different habitats in the park, listening and looking for our feathered friends. Attendees will meet at the Summer Barn -- 4225 Oviatt Road park entrance. Don't forget the binoculars!

The following week -- on Saturday, May 11 -- the Friends are hosting a guided wildflower hike from 1:00-3:30 p.m. with plant ecologist Jennifer Windus. This moderate woodland walk will feature her insights on the park's native spring wildflowers and their role in the natural world. Attendees will gather by the kiosk near Kirby's Mill at the 3771 Oviatt Road park entrance.

Both hikes will be held rain or shine. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Walk-ins are welcome. Visit <https://www.friendsofrhp.org/events--hikes.html> for details.



Can't make the guided wildflower hike? Take the Friends' DIY wildflower hike available through May:

<https://www.friendsofrhp.org/2024-diy-wildflower-hike.html>

- Terry Duncan,  
Friends of RHP Board Member



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