

Richfield Parks and Recreation Department 2019 Annual Report



Replacement Playground at Richfield Woods

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Honorable Michael Wheeler
Mayor, Village of Richfield

Re: Annual Report, 2019

Mayor Wheeler,

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department, I am pleased to submit the 2019 annual report.

I would like to recognize the part-time staff of this department, Jen Luther and Elisabeth Kelly, for their assistance in preparing this report. These employees searched for program and event data all while managing the day to day operations of the department and planning for 2020 programs and events. Their positive attitude and work ethics to support me these past few months is to be commended and as we face challenges and opportunities in 2020.

In 2020, we are looking forward to:

- Continuing to provide recreational services to the Richfield Community,
- Fostering partnerships with other municipalities and park districts to provide programs and events and,
- Working closely with the 2020 Parks and Recreation Board to obtain their recommendations.

Respectfully submitted

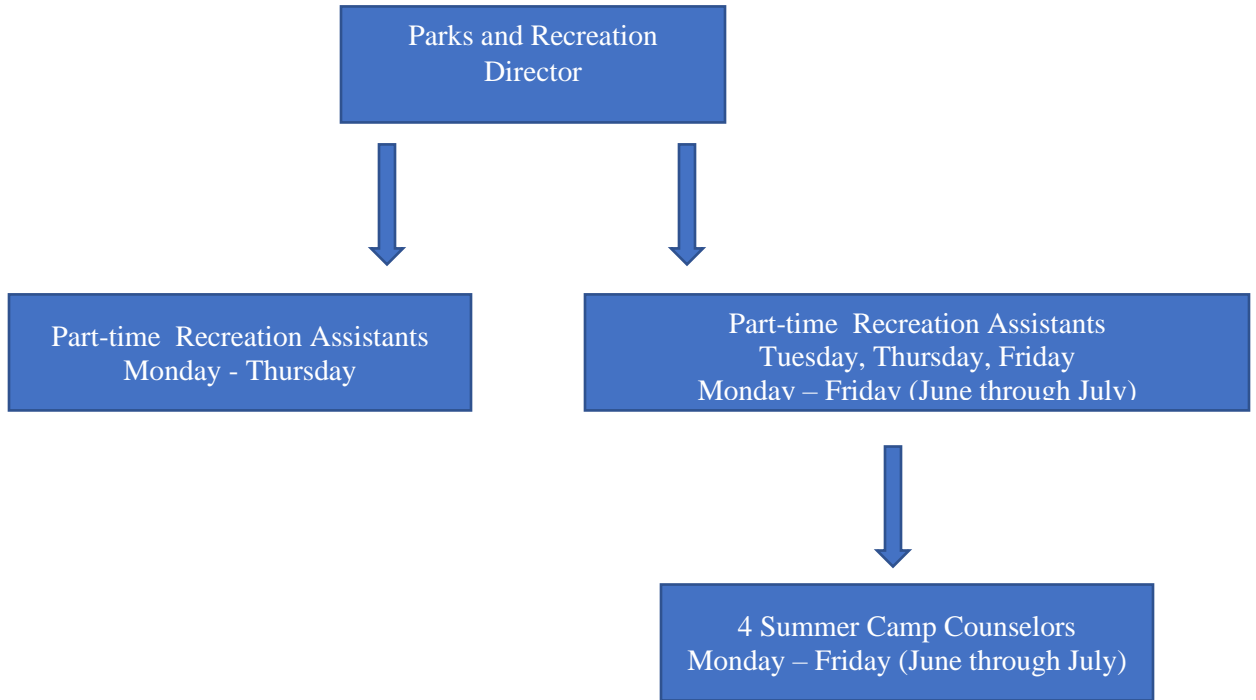
Debbie Bluso Rogers

MISSION STATEMENT

Provide recreational and leisure activities, facilities and public spaces that create opportunities for health, fitness, relaxation and community interaction.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The department has a 2014 Ford Transit with 19,278 miles.



2019 PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Per Charter Article XIII, there shall be a Park and Recreation Board which shall consist of five (5) electors of the Municipality not holding other municipal office or employment to be appointed, for terms of five (5) years, or removed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members elected or appointed to Council.

Board Member	Term
Ellen Daniels, Chair	12/31/2019
Jason Keppler, Vice Chair	12/31/2021
Brian Stulak	12/31/2020
Theresa Kovak, Public Tree and Landscape Commission Representative	12/31/2021
Carolyn Sullivan	12/31/2023
Gary Domanick, 2019 Council Representative	

PARK AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Village RecDesk Software

Installed and implemented 2019

Since 2005, RecDesk has been helping recreation organizations move from managing with paper and spreadsheets to a modern, web-based system that is easy to use and affordable. The RecDesk mission is to radically simplify the way recreation organizations work with and manage the information that is important to them.

They fulfill this mission by:

- Continuously improving their software and ensure that it retains its “easy to use” moniker,
- Finding new and innovative ways to use technology that adds value and drives community engagement,
- Obsessively focusing on design and user experience, and
- Actively listen to customers.

A software license was purchased March, 2019 to mainly alleviate some paper processing and effective December, 2019 all facility rentals and programs will be processed through RecDesk. Payments through RecDesk are secure and provides registrants the ability to receive electronic notifications regarding their rental or program. This management tool provides the department statistical data to monitor programs and revenue receipt tracing.

RecDesk is easy to find on the Village website to enroll and pay for programs. Walk-ins can be registered by one of the Department’s Recreation Assistants and any check payments are entered into the program by one of the Recreation Assistants.

2019 PARK AND RECREATION PROGRAMS & EVENTS

February 10 First Annual Snowbird Festival @ Richfield Heritage Preserve

Partnering with Richfield Township and the Richfield Joint Recreation District, the Snowbird Festival, originally a Township winter event, was reborn. This is a “thank you” to the residents and there is no charge for the events or refreshments. Events included Siberian Husky Club of Greater Cleveland, Storytime and activity by the Richfield Library, horse drawn carriage rides, art activities sponsored by Velvet Studio. Refreshments included Whitey’s chili, hot dogs and hot chocolate. This event was a success and the second annual event has been scheduled for January 26, 2020.

April 6 Art Show

The Art Show is held for local artists at Masonic Hall. There is no charge to artists who use this event to market their art. This program will be under review in 2020 to determine if it will continue due to small number of artisans and show visitors.

April 13 Easter Egg Hun and Egg Dyeing



Held behind Town Hall, approximately 2000 eggs are found in approximately five minutes followed by egg dyeing at Masonic Hall with over 360 hardboiled eggs. This family fun event will continue for 2020 but the egg dyeing program will be under review in 2020 due to the small number of participants and expense.

April 27 Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

As a 24-year member as a Tree City, this giveaway program encourages residents to celebrate the benefit of a community of trees that go far and beyond the shade and beauty in Richfield. It helps with soil erosion and protecting wildlife habitat, butterflies and honeybees.



Photo © Kerry Wilken

The Redbud, the official “unofficial” tree of the Village!

Eight (8) tree varieties numbering over 1000 2-3-foot dry root saplings are handed out for Arbor Day. The 2019 varieties included: Redbud, Sassafras, Red Maple, Tuliptree, American Basswood, White Spruce, White Pine, and Sawtooth Oak.

The Service Department and the Mayor's Office provide the manpower to organize the trees and prepare the handouts for each tree plus general planting information. It is a collaborative effort and each year Theresa Kovak, Parks and Recreation Board representative to Public Tree and Landscape Commission, Gary Domanick, Dale Rogers, Polly Wheeler, and Lois Czekaj, Public Tree and Landscape Commission members, and Mayor Beshara, show up, regardless of the weather, to hand out trees to residents.

Special thanks to Walt Dorsey who always manages to obtain an awesome variety of trees that are different each year and most importantly, ensures that there is a roaring fire in the pavilion to keep us warm.



Project Pride

Recycling of paper and electronics is held behind Town Hall along with street cleanups by family and students. The department partners with Revere Local Schools.



Shredding service for residents at Project Pride

June – July Summer Camp

Camp Richfield is a 7-week program beginning in June and over 350 attend each year. Fun activities at the Village parks and trails occur as well as weekly field trips. Four (4) seasonal camp counselors are hired for Summer Camps plus one (1) Recreation Assistant.



Summer Concert Series on the Green

Three (3) summer concerts were held in 2019, June 29, July 12 and July 26. These are family-oriented events and a portion of the cost is offset by a NOPEC grant of \$1,500. Residents enjoyed the Swizzle Sticks, Chardon Polka Band and the Pop Tarts along with ice cream, perogies and other great summer food.

September Fall Fest



Monarch Butterfly

Fall Fest at Eastwood Preserve was held on September 14. We are very proud to be on the Monarch Waystation Registry and a certified member of the North American Butterfly Association. Each fall, hundreds of millions of Monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to overwintering areas in Mexico and California where they wait out the winter until conditions are favorable for them to return in the spring.

The Monarchs follow the same migration patterns every year and during their migration to Mexico, you often see huge number of butterflies gathered together.

We do our part by providing resources at Eastwood Preserve in the form of providing food sources of indigenous plants and trees and a supply of water. Eggs are also raised and released in to the area. Education of this program is provided at the Fall Fest.



A byproduct of the monarch program includes the proliferation of honeybees and hummingbirds due to the habitat created at Eastwood Preserve. This Fall Fest celebration is the Village’s “goodbye see you next year” event for these pollinators.

Haunted Rec



The Recreation fitness room is transformed for this annual event. Haunted Rec was held on October 24, 25 and 26 and approximately 100 people attended. Set up takes over a week with over 30 volunteers and it closes down the fitness room. Improvements and the inclusion of partners are in the plans for 2020.

November 9 Chili Kickoff

During the holiday season, Mayor Bobbie Beshara adopts one of the Battered Women’s Shelter programs to support the shelter and these victims of abuse. Village staff and residents support this through the collection of needed items. To augment the donations in 2019, an intradepartmental challenge was created, The First Annual Chili Kickoff. Service, Police, Fire, Finance, Service, Parks and Recreation along with Mayor Beshara prepared their signature chili for this contest. Approximately 50 people were in attendance and an additional \$500 was raised for the Shelter. Police Officer Jeff Michel was first, followed by Walt Dorsey, Service Department with Mayor Bobbie Beshara third.

November 23 & 30 Holly Days & December 7 and 14 Holly Days



Holly Days is held at the Eastwood Preserve and Eastwood is transformed with holiday decorations in each room. Local crafters and artists bring their products to sell to the community for the holiday. As a “thank you to the host,” each artisan donates 20% of their sales to the Village.

Other Programs: Safe Sitter Baby Sitting Program c/o Ahuja, Hummingbird 3-4 & 5-6-year-old Spring and Fall Soccer, Jump Start Multi-Sport & Stem Clinics, Volleyball Camps, T-ball and Tennis Camps

These programs are sponsored by a third-party vendor and the Village receives 20% of the total cost of the programs. The Village’s revenue for 2019 was approximately \$6462.

Community Gardens @ Eastwood Preserve



There are 40 community gardens available and in 2019 only 15 were rented for total revenue of \$695.00.

Fitness Memberships



There were approximately 52 fitness memberships that accounted for \$780 in revenue. There is a very small number of regular users since people enroll in a membership and do not attend on a regular basis. The cost of the membership is \$15 per month.

Facilities Rentals



\$5,795.00 in revenue was generated by the four facilities: Fellowship Hall, Large Town Hall Pavilion, Masonic Hall and the Large Pavilion at Richfield Woods

Community Center

The Parks and Recreation Board, along with their sub-committee, analyzed the credentials and scope of service for a number of firms or the intent on engaging a firm to perform a feasibility study. The 2019 sub-committee members were Brian Stulak, Gary Domanick, Jason Keppler and Mayor Bobbie Beshara.

The Board and the Sub-Committee continues to gather community information regarding a community center.