

RICHFIELD PARKS & RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT



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SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

The Parks & Recreation Department hosted our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23rd. We had over 150 children as young as two and as old as ten, come out to participate in the event. Over 2,500 eggs were scattered on and around the snow covered baseball field behind Village Town Hall! Children and families were able to hop over after to get a picture of two with the Easter Bunny!



PROJECT PRIDE

Project Pride and Arbor Day was once again a huge success. The event was held Saturday, April 20th from 9:00 - noon. Community members of Bath and Richfield joined together for the annual roadside litter clean-up. The event included: free paper shredding, electronic recycling, medication disposal, recycling of gently used clothing, roadside clean-up, and tree sapling give-a-way.

- The Richfield Police Department collected three boxes full of unused medications.
- We had a number of volunteers from Council, Park Board, Village Service Department, and the community help make this event such a success.
- 1,025 tree saplings were giving out to our community members in eight different varieties.



POLLINATOR POWWOW

This was a free event that taught families about the amazing world of pollinators. This event allowed families to explore the Eastwood property on a nature hike and learn everything there is to know about the world of pollinators. Master Beekeeper Robert Najjar shared everything about honeybees. Local Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Ellen Daniels shared information about other pollinators like butterflies and flies.



Eastwood Community garden

The Community Gardens are located at the Eastwood Preserve. All of the garden plots are full, with 28 total gardeners. Three of our gardeners mow, and weed whack, move compost, trim apple & peach trees, and plant, weed, & water adopt-a-spot. Other gardeners compost, trim, plant, weed and water. Our gardeners have logged over 145 volunteer hours making the garden the beautiful place that it is. People in and around our community are able to rent a 12 x 12 foot garden plot at the preserve to grow their own flowers, vegetables, herbs, and more! This is an organic, pesticide free garden.



Eastwood Community garden

This year our gardeners had the opportunity to come together at the Eastwood Gardens for a potluck lunch. Each gardener brought a dish made out of produce from their gardens. This was an awesome way to meet each other and get to try new foods!



SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE GREEN

We held four summer concerts on the Village Green this year. A number of people brought their blankets and chairs to listen to a variety of music and enjoy some good food. We had over 150 people at each concert. We had a variety of different food trucks there this year. The Popcorn Truck, Kona Ice Truck, Birdies Food Truck, and Bossies Ice Cream. This is always a wonderful way to kick off the summer. And we had a chance to use and show off the brand new pavilion!

- **Sunday, June 9, 2024 : New Barleycorn**
- **Saturday, June 22, 2024 : The BEAMS**
- **Sunday, July 21, 2023 : Cold Blue Steele**
- **Saturday, August 3, 2024 : Laredo**



summer camp 2024

Summer Camp began on June 10th. Summer camp continued for eight weeks – with us being closed during the week of July 4th. We continued to have two field trips each week. There was also before and after care available for families, half hour before the start of camp, and one hour after the conclusion of camp. We went fishing every Wednesday. And we made a craft once or twice a week. We also went creeking behind Town Hall and hiked Eastwood Preserve.

Field Trips included: Greater Cleveland Aquarium, Memorial Park Pool, Bowling @ AMF, Great Lakes Science Center, Cleveland Zoo, Swings N' Things, Roller Skating, *Inside Out 2*, and Ledge Pool.

Each week our incredible camp staff had a fun theme day, or fun National Celebration. We had Tie-Dye Day, Jersey Day, Olympic Day, National Bomb Pop Day, Root beer float day, Color Wars, National Ice Cream Sundae Day, and so much more. A very special thank you to the Richfield Fire Department that took time out of their day to show us their new truck, all the tools, and even let one of our counselors dress up in their gear. As well as the Richfield Library who spent one morning teaching us a STEM lesson!



summer camp 2024

Summer Camp had a maximum of 50 campers each week. We had a 100% overall capacity with a wait lists with over 30 children each week. We had an incredible staff this past summer, and we would not have been able to have such an incredibly successful summer without the tremendous hard work, and dedication from our high school volunteers. Our volunteers put in over 2,200 hours working we us this summer!



summer camp 2024



Eastwood Speaker series

During the spring / summer months we had an opportunity to include new topics into our monthly Speaker Series located at the Eastwood House and Preserve. We had an opportunity to welcome several speakers to come and share their gardening skills and passions.

This year's speakers included:

- **January 20th:** Master Gardener Nancy Secrist discussed the efficient use of raised flower beds.
- **February 18th:** Renee Boronka from the Conservation Education & Outreach at Western Reserve Land Conservancy.
- **March 10th:** Solar Eclipse Presentation a speaker from the Akron Astronomy Club came to help prepare the community to the upcoming eclipse to learn what to expect and answer any questions there were!



FALL FEST

Pumpkins, hayrides, games - Oh My! In early September we had our annual Fall Fest located at Eastwood Preserve. This event had a number of different activities for families and friends. We had hayrides, a variety of vendors, food trucks, fun fall crafts, live music and more! We had over 500 people in attendance. This is the perfect event to kick off fall before the leaves start to change and the weather gets colder!

2024 Events & programs



Kid's Movie Night took place in February, April, and December. These events are held at Masonic Hall.

We had over 25 kids join us each night in their pajamas to watch *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *The Angry Birds Movie*, and *The Lego Movie*. The kids got to create a craft, build Legos, play board games, eat pizza, and watch the movie.

Mayor's Fitness Challenge kicked off on May 1st. Teams of four were challenged to walk a total of one million steps during the month of May. We had twenty-one different teams compete this year. Our winning team ended with over two million steps!



Cavalittles Clinic served as an introduction to the aspects of basketball through interactive and fun experiences. These clinics provide young athletes with an ideal opportunity to ignite their love for the sport while teaching coordination, agility, teamwork and camaraderie. This was held on May 8th at the new Richfield Woods basketball court!

2024 Events & programs

Akron Zoo Mobile came to Johnson Barn on a fairly chilly May afternoon. Animal experts from Akron Zoo brought a variety of animals for this family-friendly program. We had around 30 children in attendance.



Community Day included a Parks and Recreation Department table. There was arcade basketball for kids to play and win prizes. People also got to see the current programs and events the department offers, as well as what to look forward to in the future!

15th Annual Butterfly Camp took place on Saturday, July 20, 2024. Ellen Daniels hosted her annual Magical Butterfly Camp. During this camp, Ellen educated the public on how to care for and feed their butterflies. Each family got caterpillars and milkweed plants.



2024 Events & programs



Halloween parade was at the Richfield Fire Station. Park staff had a table and was on hand to pass out candy on Halloween night. RJRD & Richfield Parks & Recreation also did a joint “trick-or-treat on the trail” at the preserve.

Toys-For-Tots Collection during the month of November the Parks & Recreation Department collected over two boxes of toys to donate. A special thank you to everyone in the community who helped during the collection.



Yoga was a new program that welcomed participants of all skill levels joined registered yoga teacher, Julie Carquist. This class is open to all, & beginners are welcome! Participants could sign-up for a six week course or take one class at a time.

PARKS

A New Gaga Ball Pit was put in at Richfield Woods, by Boy Scout Troop 387. The pit was built down at the playground right next to the swing set. Construction was started and completed on Friday, July 12th.



New Pavilion on the Village Green was completed this May. The ground breaking began on THIS DAY and the official ribbon cutting happened on May 29, 2024. This is a beautifully designed multi-purpose structure and we looked forward to hosting events there in the future.



PARKS CONT.

Permanent Corn Hole Boards We have two sets of cornhole boards that have been sponsored by National Interstate Insurance Company and HTZ Construction. The plan is to install them by the large pavilion at Richfield Woods Park in 2025.

Village Bench & Tree Program We sold four memorial benches in 2024. Two are located at Eastwood Preserve, one at Richfield Woods Park, and one that we be located at the Carter Pedigo Trail. We sold one Memorial Tree planted at Eastwood Preserve near the pond.





RECREATION

New Pickleball and Tennis Courts construction began on June 5th and the official ribbon cutting ceremony was on October 9, 2024 for the pickleball courts. And October 17, 2024 for the tennis courts. There were six pickleball courts and three tennis courts completed. The department looks forward to future events and programs we can host now that the courts are complete.

recreation CONT.



Jump Start Sports and the Parks and Recreation Department continued their partnership. Jump Start Sports provided our community with introduction to a variety of different sports. This year during the spring and summer months we offered Hummingbird Soccer, and T-birds t-ball for 3 & 4 year olds, as well as 5 & 6 year olds.

Broadview Heights Recreation partnership continued to be a huge success in 2024. Through the Village Parks Department residents could pick up a voucher to join the recreation center. In 2024, 143 vouchers were redeemed with 359 residents that cost the village \$26,350.



WALK with FitKare is an exercise class that has a '3 mile' INDOOR WALK with periods of higher intensity intervals (HIIT). Which is then followed by strength training using hand weights and resistance bands. ALL fitness levels are welcome as modifications will be shown. This is heart-pumping, strength building FUN. This class has a consistent group of six that come every Tuesday and Thursday.

PARKS & recreation 2024

Additional items:

- Starting in June, construction began on residing Fellowship Hall.
- We had over 2,000 volunteer hours logged through our various programs and events.
- Everyone in our department completed the “Allison Rose Food Allergy training” on how to spot anaphylaxis and how to prevent it from happening.
- We have appreciated the completion of various projects within our parks and look forward to continue adding and maintaining our variety of amazing events and programs for the community.



Mission Statement

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