



FRIENDS OF
Crowell



Hilaka

FOR RICHFIELD HERITAGE PRESERVE

2019

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Friends of Crowell Hilaka is a nonprofit advocacy group partnering with the Richfield Joint Recreation District to preserve, protect, enhance, and promote Richfield Heritage Preserve, formerly Crowell Hilaka.



→ FRIENDSOFCROWELLHILAKA.ORG

Ohio's Hidden Treasure™

Richfield
HERITAGE
PRESERVE



Friends of Crowell Hilaka (FoCH), the designated friends group in partnership with the Richfield Joint Recreation District (RJRD) board for Richfield Heritage Preserve (RHP)

PROGRESS 2019

July 2020

Dear Friends,

Every year brings notable progress at Ohio's Hidden Treasure™ Richfield Heritage Preserve. Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2019, Friends of Crowell Hilaka worked with the Richfield Joint Recreation District to get the park – as the Camp Crowell-Hilaka Historic District – on the National Register of Historic Places. FoCH continued its work on preservation projects, through the Historic Home Stabilization Task Force. Our enthusiastic group pulled garlic mustard and barberry, and created a plan to comprehensively attack all invasive species, under the guidance of the Invasive Species Task Force. FoCH launched a major fundraising campaign to restore historic Kirby's Mill, boosted with a grant from the Ohio History Connection received early in the year.

Our small non-profit is an amazing all-volunteer organization. In 2019, we fund-raised as well as friend-raised, sharing the history and wonders of the park with as many people as possible (something we will continue to do). Members of FoCH volunteered for projects organized by the Richfield Joint Recreation District, led hikes, gave lectures, and engaged with the community at meetings and events. We were the park's caretakers, cleaning and removing trash, as well as tackling other projects.

We are grateful to the residents of Richfield, the taxpayers who fund RHP. Thank you to our donors for your generous support of the work that we do to preserve, protect, enhance and promote Richfield Heritage Preserve. Thank you to our partners, volunteers and friends who enrich each and every project and activity.

The pandemic of 2020 brought new challenges to all of us. Even in these formidable times, we haven't lost sight of our goals at the park.

We look forward to your continued support and to seeing you at Richfield Heritage Preserve.

Sincerely,

Corey Ann Ringle
President

2019 FOCH BOARD

Corey Ringle
President

Beth Sanderson
Vice President

Lynn Richardson
Secretary

Donna Spiegler
Treasurer

Elizabeth Csontos

Rob Richardson

Karen Smik

Cynthia McWilliams

Rachel Oppenheimer

Barbara Starr

ADVISORY PANEL

Pat Boczar

Molly Eastwood

Clive Fetzer

Joanie Gottschling

Nancy Kanik

Cheryl Lace

Judy Makowski

Chris Naizer

Sandy Norris

Betty Vandermeer

Ralph Waszak, Jr.



friendsofcrowellhilaka.org

216.921.8789



PRESERVE

THE PLAN

Work on the mill will be completed in stages as the funds are raised.

- ✓ Architectural & structural engineering consultation completed
- ✓ New roof installed
 - Structural repairs to the mill house
 - Replacement of exterior stairway
 - Rebuild the swinging bridge
 - Repair of the concrete water wheel pit and support post
 - Reconstruction of the mill wheel and flume
 - Installation of hydropower for demonstration

KIRBY'S MILL RESTORATION PROJECT

Inventor James Kirby built the mill in 1922 to generate electric power. Kirby's experimental design is based on much older grist mill technology, but he adapted it to work with a low flow stream. The hub of the water wheel is balanced on ball bearings and the wheel oriented for the most efficient energy transfer. The restored mill will showcase the technology of energy production, and its picturesque setting will make the mill an inviting gateway for learning about science and engineering. The total budget for this project is estimated to be \$500,000.

\$15,250
GRANT FUNDING

► Received the Ohio History Connection Grant for matching funds for the architect and engineer design documents.

3
CUSTOM-MADE
WINDOWS

► Restored the windows, made possible by the expertise and generosity of Bob Matusek, and a donation for materials from the Antalvari family.

1
NEW ROOF

► Professional Roofing Services installed a new roof, made possible by the generous donations from the Antalvari family and Helen Cappy.

\$65,517
RAISED AS OF
DEC, 2019



**LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE MILL!**



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THIS IMPORTANT PLACE.

RHP IS NOW LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AS A HISTORIC DISTRICT!

The mill, a testing site for vacuum cleaners and household appliances developed by inventor James Kirby, and later part of an iconic Northeast Ohio Girl Scout camp, is significant to the history of American invention and in the memories of thousands of Girl Scouts. The activities supported represent the first steps in making Kirby's Mill publicly available as a part of Richfield Heritage Preserve. The master plan and documents will conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES LISTING

The process of getting RHP listed on the National Register of Historic Places started in 2015, when the RJRD requested that FoCH lead the application process. After a preliminary application was submitted, the State Historic Preservation Office identified the years 1937-1969 as the "period of significance and unifying historic factor" for the property, when it served as a Girl Scout camp. FoCH then secured a grant to hire researchers for the project and contacted camp alumni for their stories.

Former Girl Scouts generously shared their memories of Camp Crowell Hilaka and how this place influenced their lives. A picture emerged of a land and time set apart - where girls could meet challenges, build friendships, and become infused with a love for the outdoors. While this may be true of any camp, Crowell Hilaka additionally provided a backdrop of historic elegance and wonder: the grandeur of Amity House, the delight of the bouncing dance hall floor, nocturnal crossings on the swinging bridge, fairy walks through the tent units, and the tranquility of the Green Cathedral.

Some of the [Memories](#) can be viewed here.

In the successful final application, researchers Rick Sicha and Marcia Moll wrote:

📖 The several hundred acres of land, with its diverse landscapes and striking collection of buildings, experienced by campers day and night, and throughout the seasons, created a place that more than one Girl Scout described as ethereal and magical. 📖





LAND STEWARDSHIP

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM

MAKING MEANINGFUL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PARK

39

INVASIVE SPECIES
PROJECTS

- ▶ Training/surveying and removal



424

LBS.

- ▶ Quantity of garlic mustard manually removed by volunteers
- ▶ Volunteers discovered and identified Amur cork trees, invasives that will eventually be removed by the Invasive Species Management Task Force.
- ▶ September: Native Plant Restoration Project in [the news](#).
- ▶ November: conducted first invasive species management project using trained, certified volunteers to apply herbicides.

Two years of collaboration finally paid off with RHP park partners Jennifer Windus, Ohio Invasive Plant Council president, and Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association (ONAPA) Stewardship Assistants.

First, a task force was formed with local professionals (including biologists) to create the Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) to identify the high-quality natural areas at RHP. Then, with the help of the ONAPA Stewardship Assistants, those areas were mapped and surveyed for abundances of invasive plant species.

The RHP Invasive Species Management Plan is almost completed.

These two projects were conducted by the RHP ISMP Team with members from ONAPA, who normally volunteer to do removal projects at state nature preserves. We will continue to implement the plan and focus on removal efforts – first in the high-quality areas of the property's southern portion and then later in the northern portion's lower-quality areas.

FoCH and RJRD are truly grateful for our park partnerships as none of these environmental improvements would be possible without them. FoCH continues to honor its mission of **native plant conservation through habitat protection**. Managing invasive plant species at RHP helps the RJRD care for the land, as well as comply with the Clean Ohio Agreement and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy easement.

Are you interested in learning more about these projects? [Visit this link](#) for more information.





PRESERVE

HISTORIC HOME STABILIZATION TASK FORCE PRESERVATION WITH LOCAL PROFESSIONALS AND VOLUNTEERS

Professionals Shared their Expertise

Ken Bowman, historic contractor for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park; Tim Ochwat, owner of Meridian Construction; and Chuck Rankin, historic contractor and Countryside Conservancy board alumnus, shared their expertise as they reviewed Amity House, North House, and Kirby House to determine the next steps needed to stabilize each structure. [Thank you for helping to develop a plan to stabilize these beautiful buildings.](#)

Historic Home Documentation Crew

In April, members of the Historic Home Documentation Crew field-measured all of Amity House. The data will be entered into AutoCAD to create an exact model of the existing structure. This is the first step in the Document, Stabilize, and Mothball process as outlined by the [National Park Service US Department of the Interior Preservation Brief 31](#). Thank you "documenters!"



Excavation and Swaling at Amity House

Amity House sits midway down a hill to Lake Linnea, the upper lake. Water was collecting on the east side of the structure and rotting away the wood floor joists that were buried below the grade. Chuck Rankin, Rob Rohrer and crew generously donated their time and excavator to lower the grade and create a swale to redirect the water around the home. It's been dry since September thanks to their expertise and generosity!



Floor Stabilization at Amity House

The floor under the living room in Amity had suffered severe water damage because the rim joist was buried below grade. A team replaced the rim joist and damaged floor joists and spliced new floor joists on the existing healthy wood. The crew was led by Ken Bowman. Thank you to all stabilizing Amity House!



47
WEEKLY
CLEANINGS

13
LATRINES

11
GARBAGE
CANS

FoCH weekly coordinated the maintenance of the latrines and removal of the trash throughout the park.

This year's work has been made possible by generous donations from the Dorn Family Foundation, the Charles and Helen Brown Memorial Fund, and an anonymous donor.



MAINTAINING BRIDGE, ROOF, WINDOWS, AND MORE

Bridge at High Lea Shelter

This fall, professional engineer and Richfield resident Al Muren and his sons generously donated their time, expertise, and the funds needed to lengthen the bridge at High Lea Shelter. They spliced the two existing bridges together, increased the span, and added anti-slip strips to the bridge. Visitors have been safely enjoying this section of the hiking loop thanks to the Muren family!



Ohio History Grant Awarded for Kirby's Mill

Thank you Ohio History Connection for your generous grant towards the restoration of Kirby's Mill and Workshop, a matching grant funding the completion of architectural drawings!



New Roof at Kirby's Mill

Thank you Jon and Kitty Antavari and Helen Cappy for your generous donations to fund installation of a new roof on Kirby's Mill! The project was a complete tear-off, with new substrate to protect the original tongue and groove ceiling. The new roof will protect the mill through the restoration and for years to come. Thank you, Professional Roofing Services!

Windows Restored at Kirby's Mill

Thank you Bob Matusek for your beautifully restored windows at Kirby's Mill. Bob has worked tirelessly to restore the windows and added a plexiglass screen to protect the original glass from vandals.





ENGAGE

EXPLORING THE WONDERS OF RHP - EDUCATIONAL HIKE



5
GUIDED HIKES

- ▶ Developed and executed conservation, recreation, education and history themed passive and active programming.

100s
OF
HIKERS

- ▶ Engaged hundreds of hikers from Richfield and surrounding communities.

129
BIRD SPECIES
IDENTIFIED



In June, FoCH worked with Fred Dinkelbach a volunteer who helps the Greater Akron Audubon Society to complete the 2019 Breeding Bird Count. This is the best time to see and hear nesting birds.





- ✓ The “Behind-the-Scenes” hiking tour of the park was hosted by our partner, Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC), and led by FoCH. Many WRLC members attended and the hike included information about the park history, ongoing volunteer projects, park partnerships, natural resources and restoration of the mill and the dam.
- ✓ Randall Roberts, President of the Crooked River Chapter of the Buckeye Trail Association, presented information about the Buckeye Trail that traverses Richfield Heritage Preserve.
- ✓ Lynn Richardson, FoCH Historian, provided an intriguing history tour along the western side of the park.
- ✓ Dr. Phil Wanyerka, Cleveland State University professor and archaeologist, guided hikers back in time and shared how indigenous people would have lived throughout the park. His tour incorporated numerous demonstrations including how to throw an atlatl.
- ✓ Tom Romito, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, and Beth Sanderson, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, led a hike through a variety of ecosystems and talked about the birds of the park.

During these hikes, FoCH leaders showcased RHP volunteer projects, the natural and cultural assets of the park, while providing a healthy, nature-based experience. Participants were introduced to historical buildings and natural resources.





EVENTS



In addition to great nature and educational programming, FoCH has hosted Kirby Day and Winter Wonders. These annual events build community and help our teams learn valuable skills including public service, stewardship and leadership.

January 2019, FoCH presented "A Wise Woman of Richfield - Eunice Merton". Eunice Merton (born 1894) was a multi-faceted woman who wrote about the Oviatts, pioneer Richfield landowners, and about the natural world.



13
OUTREACH
BOOTHS

110
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENTS

20,700
SOCIAL MEDIA
ENGAGEMENTS

17
SPECIAL
EVENTS

RHP artist-in-residence R Garlen Oviatt created hand-painted "art for preservation" ornaments sold at the Winter Wonders fundraiser.

4
PILLARS

► Developed and executed conservation, recreation, education and history themed passive and active programming.





EVENTS

KIRBY'S MARBLE-OUS MILL DAY



An annual free family friendly **event** to celebrate James Kirby's inventions, held in partnership with the American Toy Marble Museum.



WINTER WONDERS

This annual event is our largest fundraiser of the year, with over 50% of the net profit earned from the sale of delicious cookies!

[Learn more about it here](#)



PRIMITIVE POTLUCK

Every October, FoCH members gather to relax, socialize and celebrate their accomplishments.





STRATEGIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

COLLABORATION WITH RJRD FOR RHP

FoCH and RJRD received a scholarship towards a peer consultation with the Association of Nature Center Administrators to help us come together as two collaborative organizations to fully engage the community and help make the park self-sustainable. Areas explored during the consult were improvement of communications and relationships between RJRD and FoCH, community engagement, and development of plans. For more information see the [linked report](#).



Applied for and was awarded a 12 month project from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program for RHP. RTCA carries out the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the National Park Service in communities across America.



FoCH members and professional consultants provided 7,662 service hours. The volunteer hours were accumulated in various ways to support our mission and programming as well as the RJRD board and RHP events. In addition to weekday & weekend projects and ongoing workplan activities, FoCH representatives attended RHP meetings. FoCH board members also serve on RJRD committees. In 2019, the time volunteers contributed could be equal to up to 6 full-time staff members.



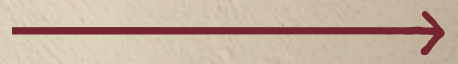
► We are growing and invite you to [JOIN US](#).



*Independent Sector, April 2019



► Awarded in collaboration with Richfield Joint Recreation District.





INCOME AND EXPENSES

2019 INCOME



■ Events	\$ 6,210
■ Membership	\$ 2,456
■ Donations	\$ 43,970
■ Grants	\$ 7,625
■ Merchandise	\$ 2,809
TOTAL	\$63,070

DO YOU WORK FOR OR ARE RETIRED FROM A COMPANY WITH A MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM?

In 2019, we received a very generous donation that included a matching gift, doubling the amount of money contributed by the donor. Some corporations will financially match donations that their employees contribute to non-profit organizations. Matching gifts are usually matched 1:1, but some match 2:1 or more.

Many employees, which can include retirees, are unaware of this benefit, so if you plan to donate to Friends of Crowell Hilaka, please check your employee or retirement benefits about matching gift plans. It's a way to help the park even more!

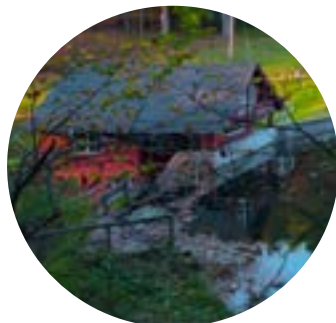
[Explore ways to give.](#)

2019 EXPENSES



■ Park Improvements	\$ 7,991
■ Printing/Advt.	\$ 1,182
■ Merchandise	\$ 1,259
■ Events	\$ 2,781
■ Business Expenses	\$ 1,472
■ Meetings	\$ 413
TOTAL	\$15,098

MILL FUNDRAISING \$500,000 GOAL CONTRIBUTIONS



\$65,517

Dollars raised, 2016-2019 or 13.1% of the goal.

- 3 donations totaling \$1,500 or more
- 10 donors have contributed \$500 - \$1,499

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING!





2019 SUPPORTERS

\$10,000 and up

Anonymous
Dorn Family Foundation
The Ohio History Fund*

\$1000 - \$4,999

Anonymous "long-ago camper and troop leader who loved that property"
BBA50K, Inc.
Helen Cappy*
Judy & Roger Makowski*
Karen Smik*
Troop 4013* in honor of their leader, Debra Robertson

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous*
Anonymous (for bridle trails)
Victor Ceicys, MD and Kathleen Browning Ceicys*
Elizabeth S. Khan*
in memory of Lisa Pruett
Don and Cheryl Laubacher Foundation*
Rob & Lynn Richardson*
Janet L. Schmid*
Jeffery Selerowski*
Derek Wilson*

\$100- \$499

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Elizabeth Brandt
Bohusch Family*
Cynthia Gilmore Clemons
on behalf of the Merton/ Monehgan Family in honor of Eunice Merton
Bethany Darrah
Clive Fetzer*

The Gonzales Family
Jim Gremba
Karen Kannenberg*
Cookie Krizmanich
Debbie Miller
in honor of Ray & Maryanne Messitt
Sara and Barry McWilliams
in honor of Cynthia McWilliams
Albin and Suzy Muren
Network for Good
Paul Provencher*
Charles and Kathleen Rankin
Ruth Rayle*
Barbara Ringle
Barbara Starr
Sally B. Taft*
Lin Teichman*
Doug Wisneski

\$50- \$99

Sunny Baddour
Laurence A. Grewe
Beatrice Linda Hanson
Kathleen Harpley
Elizabeth Howard
Dick & Lynne Johnson*
Diane J. Knuth in honor of Joanie Gottschling and her dedication to the park
Roger and Judy Makowski
in memory of George R. Englehart
Debbie Miller
in memory of Ray and Maryanne Messitt
Barbara Starr for equipment to be used in invasive species removal
John Tedesco
Gene Wimmer
Judy Zivic *

up to \$49

Maryke Bard
in honor of Betty & Pieter Vandermeer
Kathy Donchess
Rhonda Koch *
Cynthia Kunsman
Pat & Sandy Norris
in honor of Josie Williamson
Alan Ringle
Judy Zivic in honor of Florence Snider,
Leader GS Troop 908

IN-KIND DONATIONS

THANK YOU to everyone who made donations in-kind to support our mission and our many events. We are grateful.



* denotes gift to Kirby's Mill restoration





PARTNERS

THANK YOU TO ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT FOCH HAS COLLABORATED WITH RECENTLY

Thank you to those who have shared their time and talent with us.

15
COLLABORATIONS
(OVER PAST 10 YEARS)

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: OHIO HORSEMAN'S COUNCIL

The Ohio Horseman's Council-Summit County Chapter has been a partner of the park for four years. This enthusiastic group hosts equine clinics and raises money, using the funds to improve the park. The OHC rebuilt more than four miles of bridle trails in the park, which they maintain with volunteer work parties. They also funded a gravel parking lot near the Summer Barn, providing ample parking for horse trailers. In addition, several members are on the board of Friends of Crowell Hilaka. We can't thank you enough for all that you do!



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: THE BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Buckeye Trail winds around Ohio in a 1,444 mile loop, reaching into every part of the state - including, since 2016, Richfield Heritage Preserve. The Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) maintains this trail, including the one mile that traverses RHP from the Oviatt Gate to the main entrance on Broadview Road. An important partner to RJRD and to FoCH, BTA supported the park before it was a Richfield community asset, by donating funds to promote passage of the tax levy in 2014. BTA trustee Pat Hayes is the trail section supervisor for the section that goes through RHP. He and his wife Mary are longtime members of FoCH, supporting a variety of projects.



FRIENDS OF
Crowell



Hilaka

FOR RICHFIELD HERITAGE PRESERVE



JOIN • DONATE • VOLUNTEER
SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER AT
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216.921.8789

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