

Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve April 2026 Report

Maintenance Work:

- Mold reports for Kirby Mill and Kirby House have been received by both the Friends and Park Director.
- TLC continues to clean the latrines, stock toilet tissue and hand sanitizer, empty the trash cans, report downed trees, as well as a myriad of other tasks around the park.
- We look forward to returning to the repairs and painting at Kirby's Mill, previously approved by the RJRD board via the Park Director in October.

Presentations:

- Deb Yandala presented to 60+ guests at the Friends' Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. in The Lodge.
- The Friends are sponsoring a **Guided Wildflower Hike** on **Sunday, April 26 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Led by plant ecologist Jennifer Windus, Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association President and the Ohio Invasive Plant Council Vice President, the loop trail hike will travel through one of the most scenic sections of the park. The event is free and open to the public. Meet at the south parking lot kiosk near Kirby's Mill
- Kirby Mill Docent Training is scheduled for **Saturday, May 9th at 4pm** and **Sunday, May 17th at 5pm**. Both will take place just outside of the Mill basement. Bring your own chair. Program will include information on the Mill history and being a docent. There is no obligation to sign up to be a docent if you would like to attend just to learn about the history of Kirby's Mill!

The Friends continue to offer our assistants for the following projects:

1. Drafting change of occupancy plans for the historic homes, including Garfield Hall, Kirby House, Kirby Mill, North House, and Coach House.
2. Stabilize Kirby House, North House, and Coach House (working with John to start at Kirby House)
3. Draft plans to complete the North House stone porch repairs. We request approval to complete the work this build season to ensure further damage is not done during another freeze thaw cycle.
4. Hilltop House: Minor updates such as repairing the leak at the chimney and cleaning/painting as needed to make the space available for program and/or rentals)
5. Kirby Garage: Tear off existing roof and sheathing, complete mold remediation, install new roof and gutters/downspouts so the building could be used for storage.
6. Nature Hut: Repair roof and siding, enclose window or rebuild flooring/decking to create program space. Perhaps a birding observation area due to its proximity to the Lake.
7. Winter Barn: Repair the damaged gutters and create a smaller, enclosed work area per the Park Director's earlier request.
8. Kirby Driveway Bridge: We have proposed working jointly with the Ohio Horseman's Council to replace the bridge. We have also considered future enhancements at the Garfield bridge (will eventually need replacement, widening, and elevation updates). Kirby House will need a boardwalk to make it wheelchair accessible. The mill needs enhanced pathways including drainage on both sides of the creek.



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Deb Yandala presents the importance of Friends Groups in public parks.



Wildflower Hike with ecologist Jennifer Windus Sunday April 26th at 1pm (meet at the Mill)



Mill Docent Training is scheduled for May