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Please add [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org) to your address book or safe senders list.  
You are receiving this email because you are either a member or signed up for our mailing list.



Image credit: Gary Grossman, 2020, Honorable Mention Landscape Category, Pro Photo Supply Refuge Photo Contest

## The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | September 2024

**Refuge Open Hours:**  
5:30 am - 9:00 pm

You can enter both RNWR units by paying an Entrance Fee or using an eligible Entrance Pass.  
Youth 15 and under are always free.

### **RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

#### **RIVER 'S' UNIT & CARTY UNIT**

1071 S Hillhurst AVE  
Auto Tour Route  
Kiwa Trail

28908 NW Main AVE  
Admin Office  
Walking Trails  
Cathlapotle Plankhouse

Please note: Bicycles, off-road vehicles, & ATV driving are not permitted on the Refuge.

#### **Entrance Fee:**

- **Online: NEW!** Easily pay your entrance fee (or purchase an entrance pass) *before* you visit, by using [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).
- **In-Person:** \$3.00 daily per vehicle, or up to four adults on foot. Cash or check only (for now!).

#### **Entrance Pass Options:**

- **Online: New!** Easily buy an Annual Pass *before* you visit, using [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).
- **In-person** (or by mail): Purchase An Annual Refuge Pass or eligible Federal Lands Pass.
  - \$15.00 for an Annual Ridgefield NWR pass. Purchase at Ridgefield NWR Admin Office, M-F, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm; by mail; or place cash/check in an official fee envelope. Complete details [HERE](#).
- **Become a Friends Member at \$60 or above.**
  - **Join here!** Opt-in when joining, and an Annual Refuge Pass will be mailed to you.
- **Use your current Federal Lands Pass.** [Check HERE](#) to see the list of eligible passes. Note: State Passes are \*not valid for entry to the Refuge.

The Ridgefield NWR Admin Office is open weekdays, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Office phone number: 360-887-4106.

-To verify staff availability, please call the office before you visit the Refuge.

-For general inquiries, please call the office between 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.



## Pro Photo Ridgefield Refuge Photo Contest Ends Tonight!

Take your photos of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and its incredible wildlife, and submit them to this year's Pro Photo Supply Ridgefield Refuge Photo Contest, before the end of the day today, September 3rd!

[Learn More & Submit, HERE](#)

Hooded Mergansers by Angela Vogel, 2014 Honorable Mention

## BirdFest & Bluegrass 2024 Celebrating 25 Years

The official schedule for BirdFest & Bluegrass is now available! To celebrate our 25th Anniversary this year, BirdFest & Bluegrass will kick off with a very special event on the evening of October 4, followed by a full day of music, nature activities, and fun on October 5! Join us to celebrate 25 years of appreciation for birds, our Refuge, and our community.

For the latest schedule updates - and additional details to be posted closer to the event - bookmark our pages or follow our social channels!

**BIRD FEST & BLUEGRASS**  
RIDGEFIELD WA

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4**  
**25TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENT**  
5:30 PM - 8 PM

Join us at the Ridgefield Waterfront for a welcoming blessing with the Chinook Indian Nation and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, a ride in the City of Ridgefield's Dragon Boats on an evening paddle on Lake River, and/or stay for hot chocolate, wine, and music by the water!

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THE PADDLE.

**Parking:** Please park at the Ridgefield Waterfront and catch a shuttle to **Downtown** & the **Carty Unit**. Rides approximately every 15 minutes. Wheelchair accessible. Service ends at 2 PM.

**\$5.00 BALD EAGLE BUTTONS FOR PURCHASE:**

- SEASON'S COFFEE
- BACKYARD BIRD SHOP (VANCOUVER)

**9 AM - 2 PM** **First Saturday Vendors & Family Crafts and Activities**  
Explore over 60 local vendors, or make your own souvenir at Davis Park!

**9 AM - 2 PM** **Children's Entrepreneur Market**  
Find exciting items and support young entrepreneurs at Overlook Park.

**ALL DAY** **Bluegrass Jamming**  
Jam along with others at a dedicated jamming location throughout downtown!

**10:30 AM** **Paddle for the Wild!**  
Register to paddle Dragon Boats at the Ridgefield Waterfront for FREE!

**11 AM - 9 PM** **Bluegrass Performances**  
Overlook Park, Davis Park, The Sportsman's Public House, & Ridgefield Craft Brewing.

**ON THE REFUGE**  
**FREE TO VISIT & SEASONAL TRAILS WILL BE OPEN!**

**9 AM - 2 PM** **Carty Unit Activities**  
28908 N Main Avenue - Carty Unit

- Opening Blessing by Chinook Indian Nation at 9 AM
- Partner Booth Party
- Self-Guided Wander Walk
- Family Activities & Crafts
- Pro Photo Supply Photo Contest Display
- 6 hourly guided walks and talks on a variety of topics!
- Tu Refugio: Naturaleza, Musica, y Alegria

**ALL DAY** **1071 S Hillhurst RD - River 'S' Unit Auto Tour**

- Auto Tour & Kiwa Trail Open
- Spotting Scopes w/Vancouver Audubon

**FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**EVENT DETAILS**

Use the button below to locate registration links, downloadable English, Spanish-translated, and screen-reader-friendly schedules, parking info, & more!

[BirdFest & Bluegrass Link Page](#)



## Go Lights Out for Birds

Peak fall migration season begins in September, and you can help! To assist millions of birds make it through their migration, Portland City Council has proclaimed Lights Out Month from Sept 19 - Oct 19, and even though we are on the other side of the river, we are a big part of the flyway for all migrating birds.

We are asking local businesses and residents to turn off or reduce any unnecessary overnight lighting all month (safety and security lighting exempt).

**Participation in Lights Out means that from 11 PM to dawn:**

- Turn off rooftop lighting
- Turn off or dim exterior architectural lighting
- Turn off or dim lobby/atrium lighting
- Turn off interior lights in unoccupied spaces (or have interior lighting on motion sensors)
- Close blinds or drapes at home as well as turn off any unnecessary lighting

In Chicago, a single building showed an astonishing 80 percent decrease in bird-strike rates after joining the Lights Our movement! Reducing skyglow is a collective effort, and this is an opportunity for homeowners, building owners, and managers to reduce energy usage, cut operational expenditures, and champion innovative angles of sustainability.

[Learn More & Pledge to go Lights Out](#)

## World Migratory Bird Day with Vancouver Audubon Saturday, October 12, 2024

Vancouver Audubon Society is celebrating World Migratory Bird Day to recognize the important and spectacular feat of bird migration! This international holiday was created to build awareness for migratory birds, their habitats, and flyways. No registration required for this free event, and all ages, abilities, and people are welcome.



**When:** Saturday, October 12, 2024; 9 AM - 2 PM

**Where:** McConnell Park, 918 NW 25th Ave, Battle Ground, WA 98604



This family-friendly event offers educational booths by several local organizations, to learn about needs that support bird migration such as clean water resources, insects, and habitats. The day will also include bird walks, games, activities, and food trucks!

**Volunteers Needed:** If you or someone you know would like to help with this event, contact Becky

Boley [HERE](#). Youth volunteers strongly encouraged! No birding experience required.

## From the Friends Get on Board and Make Your Impact on the Future

FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



We are looking for driven individuals to join our Board of Directors. Your role would involve guiding our fundraising initiatives, maintaining strong board governance, and representing the lively community connected to our cherished refuge. Your skills and commitment can have a profound influence on safeguarding this valuable habitat for future generations.

**Interested? Let's chat! Email us to explore how your talents can help preserve this natural treasure.**



Contact Us to Get Started



## From the Contact Station

Check out some of the sightings of the River 'S' Unit Auto Tour - from kids!

Image taken July 17, 2024, by Susan Setterberg

## Birding Enthusiasts



Check out what species are being seen on the Refuge [here](#).

## Ridgefield First Saturdays Multicultural Festival September 7, 2024



Come celebrate our diverse community at the 7th annual Multicultural Festival on Saturday, September 7.

[Get the Full Schedule Here](#)

## Stay Involved:

### Benefits of Friends Membership



Join the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge in their mission to promote the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of native and endangered birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest.

And now, we've teamed up with Zeffy to dodge those pesky platform fees, making sure every bit of your generosity goes straight to the Refuge. Sign up today, and get a new digital membership card to use around town for discounts, special offers, and more!

[Learn More & Join the Friends Today!](#)

### Support While You Shop



[Friends Amazon Wishlist](#)- You can directly support our work and the Refuge's initiatives! Whether it's habitat restoration or BirdFest & Bluegrass, we'll feature items essential to our many efforts toward achieving conservation and community outreach goals. Simply purchase the item, and Amazon takes care of the rest! [Get started, HERE.](#)



When you link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Friends, you help us earn donations from Fred Meyer Community Rewards. It's easy to sign up. [Just click here.](#) Or search, Friends of Ridgefield

## Friends Online Store



photo cards!

Check out our online store to find the Chinookan Steller's Jay design, BirdFest & Bluegrass button art, and the 2023 Photo Contest winning images, on tote bags, sweatshirts, t-shirts, different mug styles, and

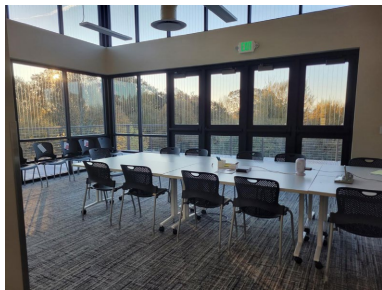
[Start Shopping](#)

*Psst...if you love a good jigsaw puzzle...*

[Click Here for Puzzles!](#)

## Friends Board Meetings

Join the Friends of Ridgefield NWR Board for their monthly meeting. Meetings start at 5:00 PM every second Monday of the month and will be virtual, or in-person with a virtual option. [Contact us](#) to join in!



### Board Meeting Dates:

September 9

October 15\*

November 11

December 9

(\*moved due to federal holiday or special circumstance)

## Become a Business Alliance Member

As a member of the Friends of the RNWR Business Alliance, you invest in one of our urban metropolitan area's most unique and diverse natural and cultural resources. [Find out more](#)

## Sponsors:

Business Alliance Members:

In-Kind Support:



BirdFest & Bluegrass:





Granting Organizations & Partners:



FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 

[Contact Us](#) | [Website](#)

Want regular updates on Refuge events & happenings? Follow the Friends on social media by clicking the logos below to stay connected even when you are off the Refuge.



Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge | PO BOX 1022 | Ridgefield, WA 98642 US

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