



MEDIA RELEASE

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Historical Bicentennial Barn to Be Reconstructed at McCammon Creek Park *Delaware County's Bicentennial Barn Finds New Life at McCammon Creek Park*

SUNBURY, Ohio — The long-awaited reconstruction of Delaware County's Bicentennial Barn will begin this month at McCammon Creek Park in Orange Township. The century-old structure, a local landmark on Bale Kenyon Road, will be carefully dismantled and reconstructed on a new foundation about 50 feet from its current location and come to be known as the Jim and Gay McCammon Bicentennial Barn.

The reconstruction will preserve the barn's historical character, while an attached annex will include modern amenities, including a service kitchen, accessible restrooms with an adult changing station, storage, and office space. A lower level will offer space for future classrooms.

"This project will honor the barn's legacy while repurposing it for public programs and community use," said Mary Van Haaften, executive director of Preservation Parks. "We're preserving a beloved piece of Ohio history while making it accessible and functional for today's community needs."

Construction is scheduled to begin this May, with an opening celebration anticipated next summer.

"Preserving this historical barn—by saving its distinctive slate roof, hand-hewn beams, original wood siding, and traditional timber-frame construction aligns with the park district's mission to protect the historical features of Delaware County," Van Haaften said.

Equity Construction Solutions of Hilliard will lead the \$4.4 million contract for the project. Funding comes from the One-Time Strategic Community Investments Grant through Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly, contributions from the Preservation Parks Foundation, and Park District funds.

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“We are thankful for the support of our community and the dedicated work of the Preservation Parks Foundation for raising awareness and money to support this project,” Van Haaften said. “This public/private partnership supplements tax dollars and helps support and enhance the work we do every day.”

The barn is one of 88 structures painted across the state in 2003 to commemorate Ohio’s 200th birthday. Built in the early 1900s, it holds a prominent spot along I-71 and, according to former property owner Bob Postle, is believed to be one of the most photographed of all the Bicentennial Barns due to its visibility. Bob and Sue Postle donated the barn to Preservation Parks in 2019, along with the sale of 32 acres of surrounding land that will be developed as part of McCammon Creek Park. The barn name will honor Sue’s parents, Jim and Gay McCammon. This section of the park is not yet open to the public.

After reconstruction, the barn will be repainted with the original Bicentennial logo, preserving its place in our local landscape for generations to come.

For updates on the project and future public events, visit:

<https://preservationparks.com/parks/mccammon-creek-park/>

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