



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES GREAT COUNCIL STATE PARK



Mission – To ensure a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all.



Located on State Route 68, between Xenia and Yellow Springs, in Oldtown, the park will feature a cultural interpretive center focused on Ohio’s Native Peoples, their history in their Ohio homeland, and their lives today.

The 12,000 square foot interpretive center will be a three-story structure, designed to pay tribute to the Shawnee longhouse, the traditional dwelling of the Shawnee people. A living stream will be the signature display on the main floor. Also on this entry level is a theater, exhibits, welcome desk, gift area, and restrooms.



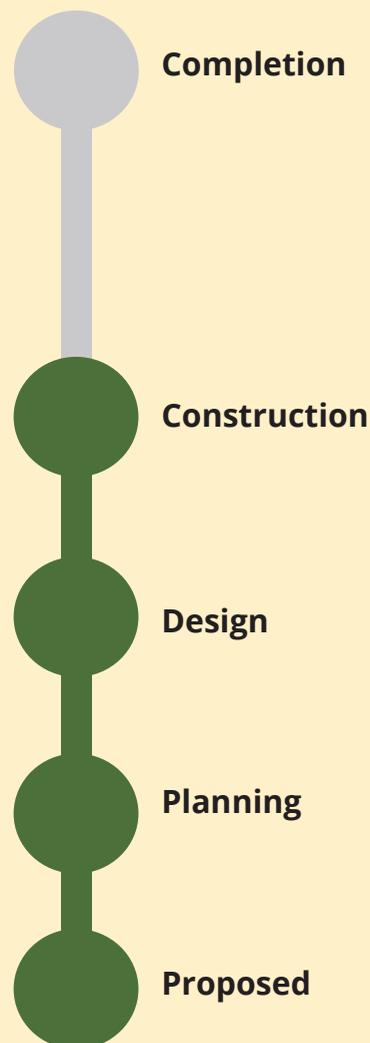
“This is an exciting step toward preserving an important piece of Ohio’s history. This project gives us the unique opportunity to connect future generations with the past, while protecting the legacy of the Shawnee and inviting them to share their story.”
– Mike DeWine, Governor

The second floor will feature displays documenting a historical timeline of the Shawnee People in Ohio prior to European settlement to current day. The timeline is punctuated with interesting stories about people of historical importance, bringing history to life in a way that is relatable and memorable.

The lower level of the building will be dedicated to temporary exhibits about the history, culture, art, and modern-day Shawnee Tribe.

Preserving the site at Oldtown gives us the opportunity to connect future generations of Ohioans with the past, to preserve the legacy of the Shawnee and allow them to share their story, and to share the experience of the pioneers, settlers and frontiersmen in the area.

TIMELINE



ODNR broke ground on the facility in May of 2022. It is expected to open in early 2024.



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The building is a 12,000 square foot modern interpretation of a council house, a central component of the Shawnee village, which would have been used as a primary gathering place.

The building includes a second floor balcony which allows for a view from where the Shawnee village would have been located at the end of the 1700s, including the presumed location of the original council house on site.

The basement gallery has been designed to meet museum-grade curation standards, providing strict environmental and security controls, to allow the facility to house specialized curated and traveling exhibits, displays, and artifacts. Because of the sensitive nature of these exhibits, additional security requirements have been designed into the project as a whole.

The site is developed in an effort to recreate the look and feel of the oak savannah that would have existed in the last 1700s when the Shawnee had established their village at this location, using native grasses as the foreground and wood inspired elements on the building as the backdrop.

The variation of opaque wood-look walls, mixed with clear curtain-wall glazing, mimic the depth of the woodlands that would have existing on site in the late 1700s. This provides for a balanced mix of solid walls for exhibits and displays on the inside and open views to the exterior to create a more direct connection to the site, even while inside the building.

With the acquisition of an additional 14 acres adjacent to the building site, a native prairie with half a mile loop trail will be established.

