

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### HERITAGE BARN TRAIL OPENS IN BATH TOWNSHIP

**Bath Township, Ohio** - The Discover Bath Barns Committee, a group formed to preserve and enhance the barns of Bath Township, has announced the opening of the Heritage Barns of Bath Trail on June 19, 2024. To celebrate the occasion, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the Western Reserve Playhouse at 2 PM. The public is invited to join the Bath Township Trustees, local dignitaries, and barn owners to celebrate this meaningful event that brings focus to the agricultural traditions of the area and the barns that are critical to that history.

The Heritage Barns of Bath Trail is a self-driven route that follows a portion of the existing 39 miles of the Heritage Corridors of Bath's Scenic Byway. The Byway was officially designated by the Ohio Department of Transportation in 2000 and is one of only 27 in the state. The Byway passes through hamlets, traverses streams, weaves along hillsides and offers vistas of farmland dotted with barns across the countryside. The new trail was created to share the history of a collection of barns, most of which are considered Heritage structures, in existence for more than 100 years.

Available on the Bath Township website at [bathtownship.org](http://bathtownship.org), the trail features nine stops. The trail begins at the Heritage Corridors of Bath Wayside Exhibit, 950 N. Cleveland-Massillon Road where a brief overview of Bath's barns will be installed to create the historic perspective for the traveler. The next 8 stops include an array of barns of differing designs and uses throughout the years. Truly meant to be an enjoyable driving experience, most of the barns are visible from the road.

The barn stops on the trail include: the Bath Township Museum and Tool Barn, the Lemmon Barn (Bath Township's North Fork Preserve), the Underwood Barn (Western Reserve Playhouse), the Swigart Barn (Crown Point Ecology Center), Hale Farm and Village Barns (Western Reserve Historical Society), the Hammond/Cranz Barns (Cuyahoga Valley National Park), the O'Neil Barn (Summit County Metro Parks) and the Welton/Barker Barn. The last barn is in the Hamlet of Ghent and offers visitors the chance to explore local shops and restaurants.

In addition to the ribbon cutting, the ceremony on June 19th will also include the announcement of the winner of the Barn Quilt Square Design Competition. Kicked off in April, the winning entry will be enlarged and hung on the exterior of the Western Reserve Playhouse. Barn Quilts have become a popular enhancement and will be a welcome addition to the Heritage Barns of Bath Trail.

The Discover Bath Barns Committee has developed several exciting events to celebrate the opening of the trail. Current activities include a Speaker Series featuring experts on barn history, preservation and quilts. Future events, in conjunction with other organizations within Bath Township include a road rally, the "Barn Burner" 5k run, a day of trolley tours to historic barns and an old-fashioned Barn Social. When available, details will be posted at [bathtownship.org](http://bathtownship.org).

#### **About Discover Bath Barns**

**In 2023, Discover Bath Barns was established by the Bath Township Trustees, through the Heritage Corridors of Bath, to sustain a focus on the Barns of Bath Township, Summit County, Ohio to preserve and enhance these structures for the benefit of the community.**

The Discover Bath Barns initiative has two main goals. First, to aid willing barn owners in the preservation of the history of their Heritage Barn, in conjunction with Bath Township Historical Society and Museum. The second, to enhance the experience of visitors as they travel the scenic byways of Bath. This also includes a pathway for Heritage Barn owners to enhance their barns through the addition of barn art and barn quilts to the exterior.

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