



Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

Eble Park Barn Removal Project – Frequently Asked Questions

Fast Facts about the Project

Eble Park was created by the generous donation of 33 acres of land to Waukesha County from Florence and Roy Eble in 1987, with the condition that the lands remain a park space. Florence and Roy lived out their remaining days in the house. Per the 1987 deed, the county "shall forever maintain the property conveyed as a public park, which shall be known as 'Eble Park.' The barn is not listed as historic on any local, state or federal registers.

Why are you taking down the barn?

The County previously hired an architectural / engineering firm to evaluate the barn. The report identified a number of issues that should be addressed. The issues ranged from minor items such as deteriorating siding and painting needs, to major structural issues like missing braces, timber columns out of alignment, deteriorating sill beams and the need to use heavy chain link cables to stabilize the wall sway issues. The projected costs to repair the barn to make a safe, code-compliant and useable structure does not make it cost effective to renovate. Therefore we have concluded it would be an inappropriate use of tax payer funds to invest further in that structure.

When will the work take place?

The County is doing pre-demolition asbestos and lead paint inspections, starting Feb. 20th, which will require a lift.

Are any of the materials being re-used or recycled?

Barn deconstruction experts will be brought in to see if deconstruction can be done safely. The County's goal is to reuse and recycle as much material as possible.

Will the silo and stone sheds also be torn down?

The silo is also scheduled to be taken down and the concrete materials recycled.

Will a building be put in its place?

Eble Park is in the first stages of the Master Planning process. The Master Planning process helps to insure that the Waukesha County Park System meets the long term recreational needs of residents while preserving and enhancing the County's exceptional natural resources. The updated Master Plans will guide improvements and enhancements, by determining new uses and facility development for the immediate 10-year and long-term future of each park, which helps prioritize and budget for the projects that make up the County's five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Please take our master plan survey by logging on to www.waukeshacountyparks.com/masterplans

Will the Eble Gardens stay?

Yes. The gardens along with the two garden sheds and garage will remain. The vegetable garden has recently been expanded and water service improved. There is potential for these gardens to be expanded further, with an idea to add an accessible "enabling" garden to serve people. The Eble Gardens, which consist of a floral, herb and vegetable garden, are maintained by the Southeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners, who volunteer their time. The master gardeners donate the vegetables to the Waukesha County Food Pantry and they label the different plant species, so there is an educational and charitable component to the gardens. The gardens will remain open to the public.

Where can I find more information about this project?

For questions or comments, please contact Ginny Bocek, Parks Program Specialist, at 262-548-7803 or gbocek@waukeshacounty.gov.