



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2026

Stark County to Plant Heritage Tree as Part of America 250-Ohio Commemoration

Stark County, Ohio – Stark County will celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with the planting of Stark County's official America 250-Ohio White Oak Tree at Monument Park in Canton, Ohio, on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

As part of [America 250-Ohio's Heritage Trees: Planting History program](#), communities across the state are planting native Ohio White Oak trees to honor our nation's past, strengthen our environment, and grow a legacy that will last for generations. Stark County's commemorative tree will serve as a lasting symbol of the community's commitment to preserving its history while investing in the future.

Monument Park was selected as the site for Stark County's Heritage Tree because of its significance to our community. Located in Canton, the county seat and a designated Tree City USA community, the site reflects Stark County's commitment to environmental stewardship, community pride, and preserving the stories that connect us to our past. The tree's proximity to the McKinley Monument creates a meaningful connection between honoring our nation's history and planting a legacy that will continue to grow for future generations.

The public is invited to join local leaders and community partners for this special tree planting ceremony beginning at **5:30 PM at Monument Park**. The program will feature short remarks from Allison Gromofsky, Visit Canton and Stark County America 250-Ohio Community Liaison; Richard Regula, Stark County Commissioner & President of the Board of Commissioners; Dan Moeglin, Executive Director, Stark Parks; and Doug Foltz, Parks & Recreation Director, Canton Parks & Recreation.

Following the program, community leaders will participate in the ceremonial planting of Stark County's America 250-Ohio White Oak Tree, followed by a community photo opportunity to commemorate this historic milestone.

"America 250-Ohio gives communities across our state the opportunity to celebrate our shared history while creating something meaningful that future generations can enjoy," said Allison Gromofsky, Visit Canton Senior Manager of Community & Partner Relations and Stark County America 250-Ohio Community Liaison. "This tree will serve as a reminder of Stark County's role in celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary and our continued commitment to preserving our history and investing in the future of our community."

The celebration continues throughout the evening with additional free, family-friendly activities at Canton Parks and Recreation's Stadium Park and Monument Park.

Following the tree planting ceremony, guests are invited to enjoy [Stark Parks Discovery Days](#) from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM at Monument Park. This family-friendly event offers opportunities to try kayaking, meet live animals up close, learn about beekeeping, and explore interactive nature experiences designed for all ages.

Guests are also encouraged to stay for [Summer Serenades](#), a family-friendly concert presented by the Canton Symphony Orchestra in partnership with Stark Parks and Canton Parks and Recreation. Experience

the spontaneous sounds of nature alongside the orchestrated sounds of music as a string quartet performs from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM at the Canton Garden Center Gazebo.

The [Heritage Trees: Planting History program](#) is part of America 250-Ohio's statewide celebration of the United States' 250th anniversary. Beginning in 2025 and continuing throughout 2026, commemorative native Ohio White Oak trees are being planted in all 88 Ohio counties.

Inspired by the historic Liberty Tree in Boston during the Revolutionary War period, the Heritage Trees program celebrates America's semiquincentennial by creating living landmarks throughout Ohio. White Oaks were selected because they are native to Ohio, thrive in a variety of soil conditions, and represent strength, longevity, and resilience.

The Heritage Trees program is made possible by Presenting Sponsor Cenovus Energy and Supporting Sponsors Ohio Liquor and The Lubrizol Foundation. The program was created in partnership with Dawes Arboretum, Cox Arboretum MetroPark, Holden Forests & Gardens, Keep Ohio Beautiful, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Rowe Arboretum, and Secrest Arboretum.

About Visit Canton:

The Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, d.b.a. Visit Canton, is funded by a lodging tax administered through the Stark County Commissioners. The organization's mission is to promote travel to Stark County. Visit Canton facilitates operations that support a travel and tourism industry in Stark County.

Visit Canton Contact: Allison Gromofsky | Senior Manager, Community & Partner Relations | 330.542.6375 | AllisonG@VisitCanton.com

About America 250 - Ohio:

In 2026, the United States will celebrate its semiquincentennial, which is the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Each state has been encouraged to create a celebration and commemoration of this anniversary to reflect the unique character and contributions of each state to the nation over the past 250 years. Ohio is fully embracing this opportunity. The Ohio Commission for the Semiquincentennial (aka America 250-Ohio Commission or AM250-OH) was created by the Ohio legislature and launched on March 1, 2022.

The charge of the AM250- OH Commission is "...to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States and the impact of Ohioans on the nation's past, present, and future." — Ohio Revised Code (149.309). More information can be found at America250-Ohio.org

America 250 - Ohio Contact: Chris Hurtubise | Communications Director | churtubise@ohiohistory.org