



MAGNOLIA FLOURING MILLS

STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

261 North Main St., Magnolia 44643
(follow Rt. 183 into Waynesburg/Magnolia)

Magnolia Flouring Mills was acquired by Stark Parks in 2005. This five-story historic landmark was built in 1834 along the Sandy & Beaver Canal. Corn meal, bird seed, animal feed, and various agricultural products are sold. **Mill products are natural and produced from local farmers.**

The 12.79-acre property in downtown Magnolia includes a segment of the Sandy & Beaver Canal behind the mill, the water rights for the canal, and Dam #6. The red wood structure is at the corner of Canal and Main Streets (Rt. 183) and will serve as a trailhead for the future Sandy & Beaver Canal Trail and the Pleasant Valley Trail, both of which were identified on Stark Parks' Countywide Trail & Greenway Plan.

Hours of Operation

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
8 am to 4 pm

Saturdays
8 am to Noon

Closed Wednesdays and Sundays

Corn Meal ● Shelled Corn ● Animal Feed
Bird Seed ● Buckwheat ● Whole Wheat
Locally Made Goods

For more information on tours or programs go to
www.StarkParks.com or call 330.409.8096

Administration Offices & Sippo Lake Marina
5300 Tyner St NW ● Canton, Ohio 44708

Education Offices & Exploration Gateway
5712-12th St NW ● Canton, Ohio 44708

Operations & Public Safety Offices
798 Genoa Ave NW ● Massillon, Ohio 44646

Sanders Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
800 Genoa Ave NW ● Massillon, Ohio 44646

Magnolia Flouring Mills
261 North Main St ● Magnolia, Ohio 44643
p: 330.866.3354

David Fichtner Outdoor Education Center
12833 Market Ave NW ● Hartville, Ohio 44632

Walborn Reservoir Marina
11324 Price St NE ● Alliance, Ohio 44601

**For information or questions
regarding parks, trails, and facilities
call 330.477.3552.**



www.StarkParks.com



MAGNOLIA FLOURING MILLS



Acquire, preserve, and develop natural areas for passive recreation, conservation, education, and nature appreciation.



Born in Brooke County, Virginia in 1797, Richard Elson immigrated to Steubenville, Ohio in 1820, where he made a living building flatboats and floating them down to New Orleans by way of the Ohio River.

Upon arrival in New Orleans, he would sell Ohio goods such as pork and flour before selling off the boat and walking back to Ohio. After seven such trips, each totaling 1,500 miles, Richard Elson had saved enough money to purchase land in the Sandy Valley.

In 1834, Richard Elson and John W. Smith platted out the Village of Magnolia in the southeast corner of Stark County. Elson established a grist mill and a saw mill (and later his homestead) near the site of the existing flouring mills.

Five generations of the Elson family owned and operated the mill. Augustus Richard Elson, whose name adorns the front of the mill, took over operation of the mill from his father in 1857.



A.R. Elson (rear, center) with his sons Richard (right) and Frank (left); three mill workers sit in the front row.

Powering the family business

The Magnolia Mill experienced many changes in its long history. As technology advanced, the various members of the Elson family made certain that the mill advanced as well. Water powered the mill building for much of its lifetime. Richard Elson originally built a dam on the Big Sandy Creek to supply water to the mill site, although later the Sandy & Beaver Canal would supply water for the mill. A single, wooden undershot wheel originally powered the mill. Over time a wooden overshot wheel would replace the original waterwheel, followed by the use of a single, steel overshot water wheel. The double, steel overshot water wheels present at the mill were installed in 1900.

Other power sources, such as steam engines and gasoline engines, were experimented with as well. In 1948, the mill converted to electrical power and is still run by electricity today.



Water power turned simple wheels and gears, like these shown with Mack Elson, operating a complex system of milling equipment.

Innovation

From the time A.R. Elson took over operations of the mill in 1857, he constantly upgraded the mill as technology improved. Steel rollers replaced the original French buhr stones, new machinery replaced the old, and changing modes of transportation impacted the mill's role in the community.

Steel rollers (right) replaced the original French buhr stones in the mill (left).



Transportation Linkages

Changes in transportation forms dramatically influenced the mill's relationship with the Magnolia community.

When Richard Elson first established the Magnolia Mills, the mill serviced only a small local farming community. However, with the coming of the Sandy & Beaver Canal, mill products were soon reaching communities from Cleveland to Portsmouth, from Buffalo to New York, and as far south as New Orleans.

The coming of railroads to Stark County in the mid-1800s continued to expand the reaches of the mill's business. As railroads opened up the country, the Elson's product found new markets throughout the country.

By 1938, the the tracks were removed due to construction of the Magnolia Levee. A train station, built by the Elson family, was moved from the town center to the mill site where it remains today.

As many mills in Ohio closed forever, the Magnolia Mills returned to its small town roots and continues to serve the local community.

MILL OWNERSHIP TIMELINE

Richard Elson

Augustus R. Elson

Richard Elson

Mack Elson

Augustus Elson

Stark Parks

1834

1857

1904

1949

1995

2005