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New Look Mother Gooseland Park Set to Re-Open

April 22, 2014 (Canton, Ohio) – Nearly a full generation after Mother Gooseland closed its gates, the Canton Park Commission is pleased to announce the park will officially re-open in conjunction with First Friday activities at 5:30pm on Friday, May 2, 2014.

“We are very happy to do our part in returning this beloved site to the Canton community,” stated Park Director, Derek Gordon. “The park is going to be very different from its original construction as the demands of the modern park user have changed and there are features from the original park that could not be restored. However, we are trying our best to honor the historical aspects of Mother Gooseland while providing modern amenities in the park.”

Willy the Whale and the park’s signature entrance gates have received significant makeovers through the generosity and volunteerism of several community partners including U.S. Technologies, ArtsInStark, GE Capital and ystark!. While the goal is to retain the nostalgia and history of the park, nearly every other area of the park is in the midst of receiving updates per the outline of the June 2013 master plan. Nearly the entire finished product of Stage 1 of this master plan will be on display for the event.

Two of the new featured elements to be unveiled at the event will be Canton’s first ever dog park and a new trail constructed in partnership with Stark Parks which runs through the heart of the park. The event will also highlight a new wall mural painted by local artist Steve Ehret, which will reinterpret the historic features from the original Mother Gooseland.

Through the tireless efforts of several community partners, Mother Gooseland is back on track to be a vibrant city destination. Canton Parks will continue to seek partners and donations for the completion of Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the park master plan. The full Mother Gooseland plan can be viewed at the Canton Parks website at www.cantonohio.gov/parks or at the Canton Parks facebook page.