



FOUR MILLS BARN RENOVATION IS COMPLETE – WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

ARTICLE BY **MICHAELLE FLEISHER** & PHOTOS BY **JAMIE STEWART**

The Four Mills Barn renovation project is finally complete and the building is again open to staff, supporters, and visitors! We were able to get dramatic results with modest changes, and the beauty of the building truly shines through. The first floor is flood resilient, public program space is enhanced on both floors, and accessibility facilities are improved.



Our focus was to showcase the beauty of the original structure while modernizing it. The ceilings are 16' high and we added natural light. The photos decorating the building were taken by staff and supporters and feature our preserves and local wildlife.



Our renovated first floor has transformed from a maze of small rooms to an open program space and exposing the windows has transformed it from dark to inviting. The concrete floors will provide an easy clean up after a flood.



The conference room's end wall is now a gateway to our new balcony and a bird's eye view of the preserve. The original barn doors are window shades.



The new balcony gives access to the courtyard from the conference room, extending our programming space.



The pathways have been replaced with wheelchair accessible surfaces and the courtyard is re-designed to host our events more comfortably.



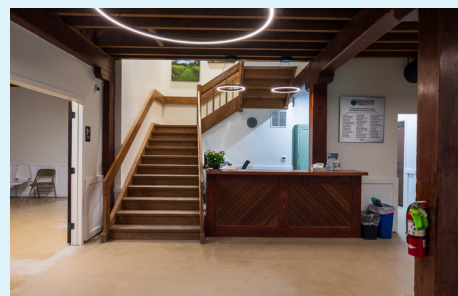
Removable wainscoting panels can be washed and disinfected after a flood. They are easy to remove and the insulation is FEMA rated foam and can also be pulled out, washed, and replaced.



Office seating has moved from many desks sharing poorly lit rooms to open cubicles on the second floor.



The reading nook has become a gathering space for casual meetings and work. The end barn doors have been enhanced by creating windows and adding new insulation.



Our reception area is much the same at the front desk but there is a welcome addition of 5 public toilets, a water fountain, and bottle filler. The staff has a locker room and shower which will be great after working outdoors.