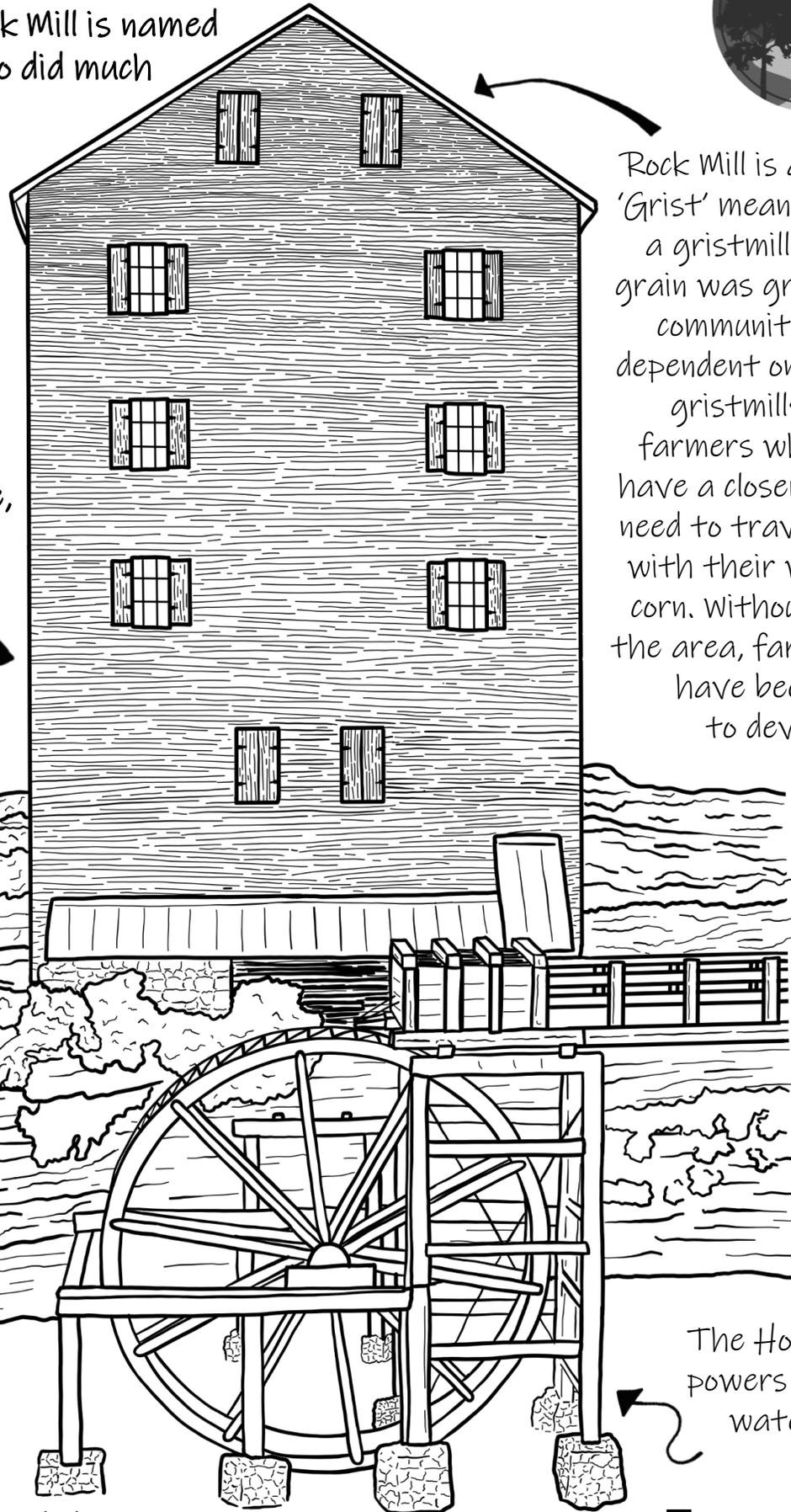


Stebelton Park at Rock Mill



Stebelton Park at Rock Mill is named for Bob Stebelton, who did much to save what was a vacant, decaying mill. Once he decided to donate the property to Fairfield County Park District, a labor-intensive restoration began. In 2017, Rock Mill once again came to life, and ground grain for the first time in over a century!

The present mill was built in 1824. There were two previous mills at this location, both of which were destroyed.



Rock Mill is a gristmill. 'Grist' means grain and a gristmill is where grain was ground. Many communities were dependent on their local gristmills. Some farmers who did not have a closer mill would need to travel for days with their wheat and corn. Without a mill in the area, farming would have been slow to develop.

The Hocking River powers this 26-ft waterwheel.

Visit Rock Mill:

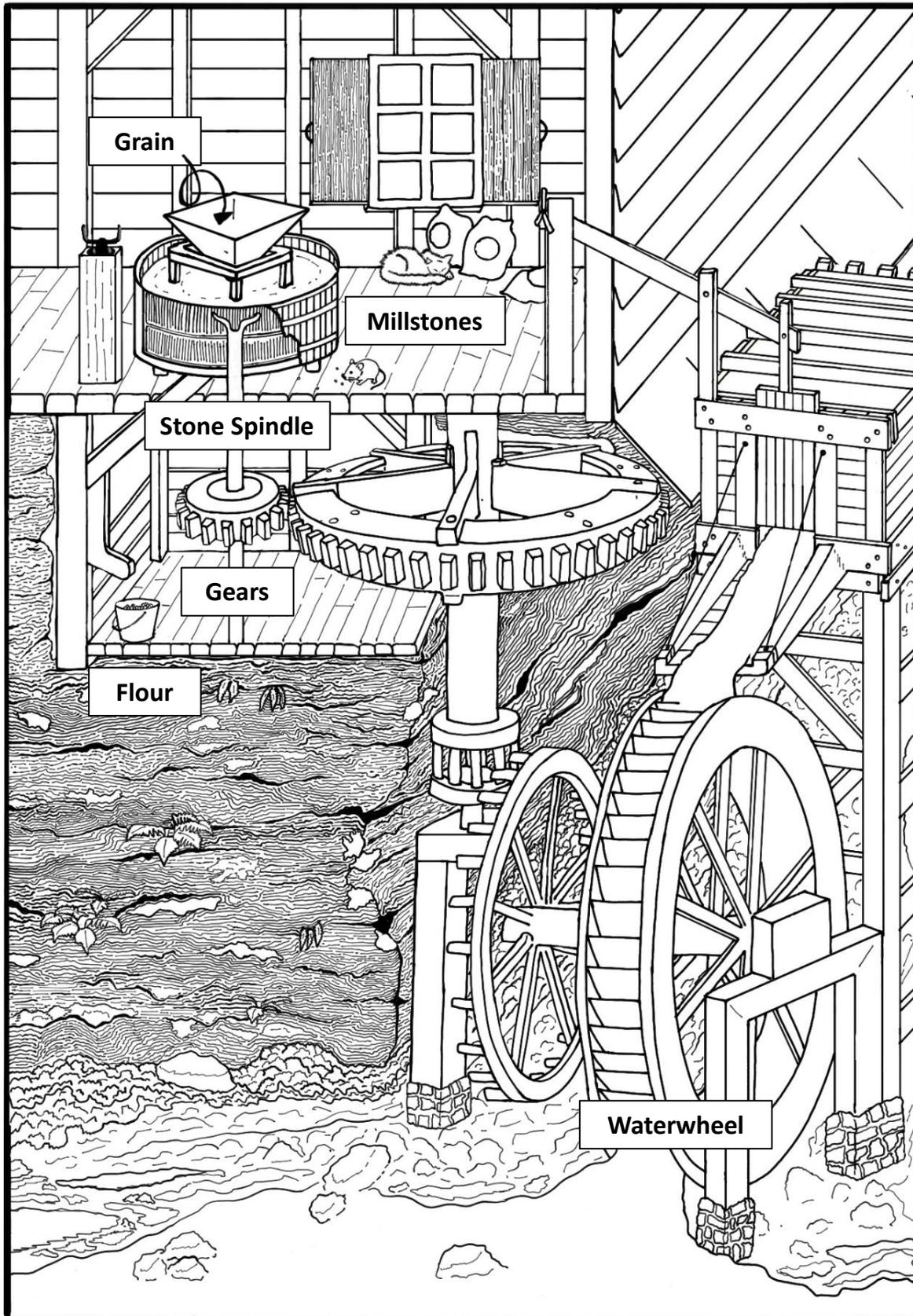
1429 Rockmill Place NW
Lancaster, OH, 43130

For more info:

FairfieldCountyParks.org

What is a Gristmill?

A gristmill is where grain is ground into flour and meal.
The word 'grist' means grain.

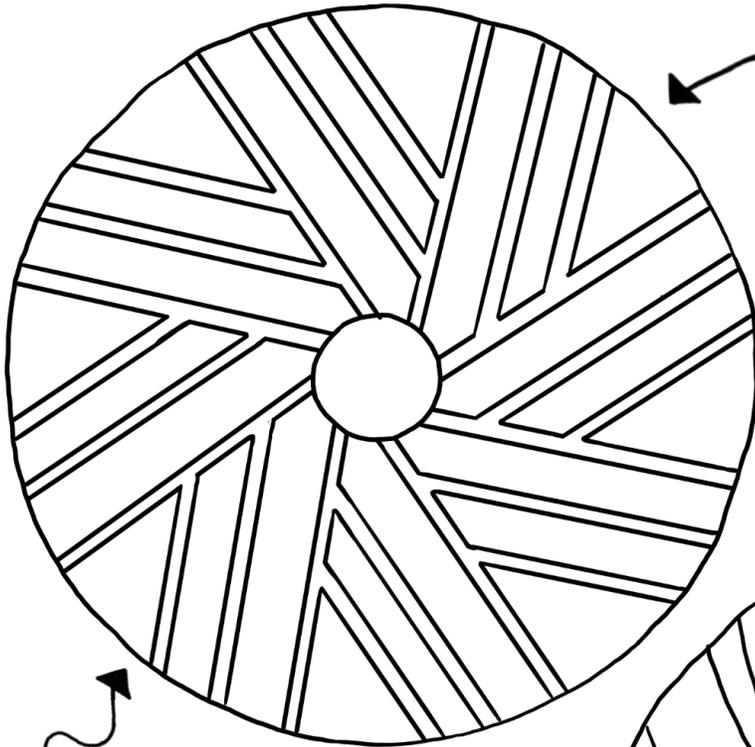


Grains are ground into flour and meal by the millstones, two large and flat, circular stones. The stone spindle turns the upper millstone. The stone spindle is connected to the gears. The energy needed to work the gears is created by the swift current of the nearby river powering the large, wooden waterwheel.



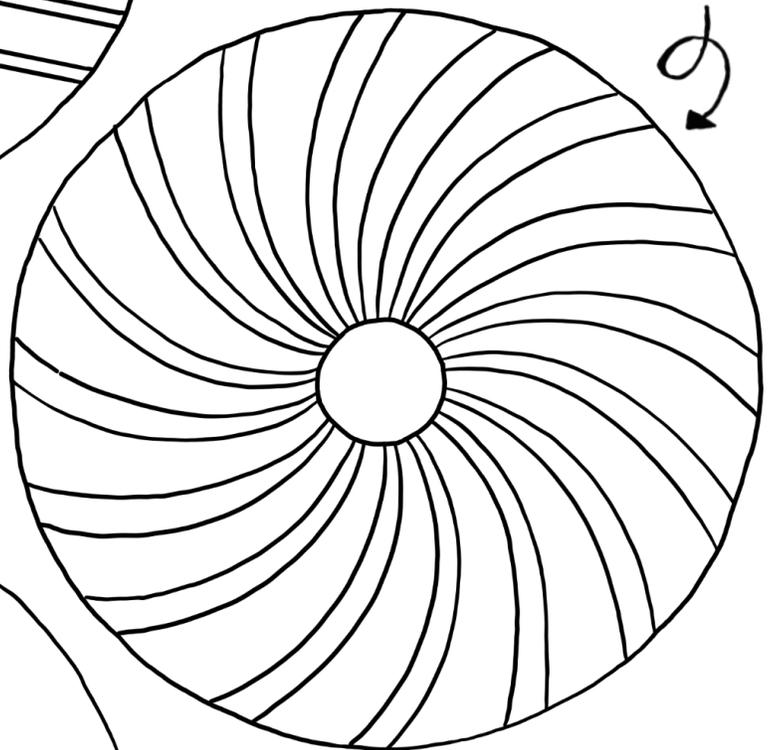
The Millstones

Inside a gristmill, grain is crushed and ground into flour and meal between two large, circular stones called 'millstones.'

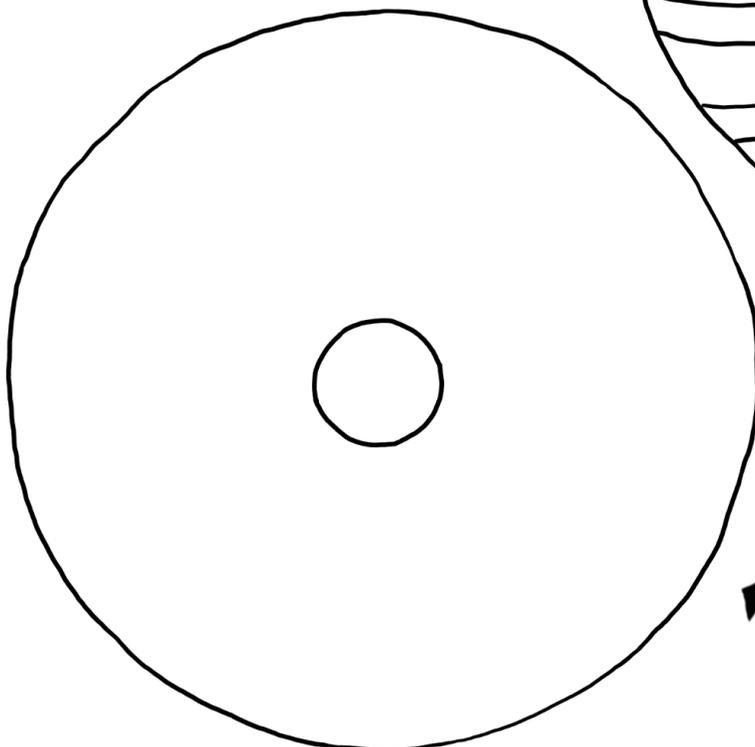


The surface of each millstone has a special pattern. The grooves, also called 'furrows,' push flour out to the edge of the stones.

All sorts of patterns were carved into millstones.



After much use, the millstones need to be redressed. The miller uses a special iron pick to hammer designs into the stone.



Create your own millstone design here!



Hockhocking River

The Hocking River derives its name from the Delaware word 'hockhocking,' meaning "gourd-shaped." The unusual term refers to the waterfall and gorge here at Rock Mill. When viewed from above, the features resemble a gourd. The Hocking River was known as the Hockhocking until the late nineteenth century.

