

August 29, 2025

TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

66 Main Street
West Orange, NJ 07052

Re: **Hoofstock Barn at the Turtle Back Zoo**
560 Northfield Ave
West Orange NJ 08086

Essex County is proposing to construct a timber barn within the existing African Adventure exhibit area at the Turtle Back Zoo. The barn will be located within a portion of the existing giraffe yard, just south of the main walkway. The animals to be housed will include bongo, a hoofstock species.

The one-story timber barn will feature a cedar board-and-batten façade, windows, and a shingle roof. The structure will be approximately 52' x 96' in size and will contain six stalls, an indoor arena, hallways, a mechanical room, and storage space. Two off-exhibit fenced areas, each measuring 20' x 40', will be located on the east and south sides of the barn. Daily maintenance will be completed from the rear of the barn in order to avoid disrupting the visitor experience. The timber barn will be accessed via the existing emergency access and maintenance driveway.

The exhibit yard will be designed to resemble the African grasslands. It will include lawn areas and deciduous trees chosen to resemble African species, such as honey locust and willow oak. Along the existing pathway, new ornamental grasses and shrubs will be planted. Three new reed-thatch shade structures will also be installed within the yard.

Very truly yours,

FRENCH & PARRELLO ASSOCIATES, P.A.



Michael J. Piga LLA
Manager of Landscape Architecture