

Mount Sterling manufacturer launching business incubator at Scioto Audubon Metro Park



Ryan Arbogast, CEO of Ohio Willow Wood

Dan Trittschuh

Newly renovated office space at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park south of Downtown has landed its first tenant.

Mount Sterling, Ohio-based prosthetics manufacturer WillowWood has launched WillowWorks, an early-stage investment company that will offer capital, advising and commercialization support to entrepreneurs.

“We view WillowWorks as an opportunity to amplify and expand the WillowWood mission of making life better for others beyond the prosthetics market,” Ryan Arbogast, CEO of WillowWood, said in a statement. “We’re looking to invest in concepts ranging from consumer products to medical devices to technology.”

The concept has a first partner, too, in medical technology company Veristride, which makes high-fidelity sensor technology used to study a patient's movement. WillowWorks is helping Veristride with technology and product planning to integrate the technology into products on the market.

And WillowWorks says it's talking to other companies about other possible partnerships. It didn't indicate how much it is investing in the venture.

WillowWorks has signed a lease for 10,000 square feet in the Audubon Park Office Center building at 371 Maier Place, a 200,000-square-foot single-story office park within the Metro Park just west of Brewery District.

"We are seeking collaborations across industries and markets that deliver positive financial and social impact," John Choi, General Manager of WillowWorks said in a statement. "Over the coming year, WillowWorks looks forward to hosting events focused on supporting Midwest entrepreneurs and investors."

E.V. Bishoff Co. bought the complex in 1990, it is a former warehouse for the Lazarus company and, before that, a distribution hub for the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company.

E.V. Bischoff spent several million dollars renovating the building starting in late 2016 to convert it into an office building with an industrial feel and 20-foot-high ceilings.

“The Audubon is our overnight success story that took 26 years to bring to fruition” David Bishoff, president E.V. Bishoff Co. said in a statement, citing "herculean" efforts of the Columbus Metro Parks on the development.



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