

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Doe Mountain Recreation Authority to Hold Groundbreaking Ceremony for Shooting Sports Complex

Mountain City, Tenn. — The Doe Mountain Recreation Authority (DMRA) invites the public to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Doe Mountain Shooting Sports Complex on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.

The ceremony will celebrate the official start of Phase 1 – Mass Grading and Utilities, marking a major milestone in the development of what is planned to become one of the premier public shooting sports facilities in the Southeast.

The event will be held at the future Shooting Sports Complex site within Doe Mountain Recreation Area. Local, state, and regional elected officials, project partners, community leaders, and supporters are expected to attend as construction officially begins.

The Shooting Sports Complex is being developed in partnership with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and has been in development for several years. Phase 1 includes the mass grading and installation of utilities that will provide the foundation for future construction throughout the complex.

"This groundbreaking represents far more than the start of construction—it represents the realization of a vision to create a premier shooting sports destination that will serve Tennessee for generations," said Charles Ridlehuber, Executive Director of the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority. "The Sportsman's Complex will complement the outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities already available at Doe Mountain by providing a first-class facility for recreational shooting, competitive events, hunter education, firearms safety, and youth shooting sports. We are grateful for the support of TWRA, our Board of Directors, elected officials, and countless partners who have helped bring this project to life."

"The Shooting Sports Complex has been a vision we've worked toward for many years," said Mayor Larry Potter, chairman of the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority Board of Directors. "Securing the initial grant funding was the critical first step in making this project a reality, and today we're seeing that vision become construction. This complex will provide safe, high-quality recreational opportunities for Tennesseans while creating lasting economic benefits for Johnson County. I'm proud of the partnerships that have made this day possible and excited to see this project move forward."

Once completed, the Sportsman's Complex will provide a comprehensive destination for recreational shooting, competitive events, hunter education, youth shooting sports, and firearms safety programs. The facility will offer:

- Rifle ranges
- Pistol ranges
- Trap and skeet fields
- Sporting clays course
- Five-stand shooting area
- Training and classroom facilities
- Support buildings, parking, utilities, and other visitor amenities

"As someone who has been involved with planning this project from the beginning, it's exciting to finally see construction underway," said Frank Arnold, DMRA board member. "This facility has been carefully planned to serve recreational shooters, competitive events, hunter education, youth programs, and law enforcement training. I truly believe it will become one of the premier shooting sports destinations in the Southeast and something our community can be proud of for generations."

The Doe Mountain Shooting Sports Complex represents another significant investment in Johnson County's outdoor recreation economy and advances DMRA's long-term vision of becoming one of the premier outdoor recreation destinations in the Southeast. When fully developed, the facility is expected to attract regional and national shooting competitions, expand educational and conservation opportunities, increase tourism, and generate new economic activity for local businesses and the surrounding region.

Event Information

What: Groundbreaking Ceremony – Doe Mountain Shooting Sports Complex

When: Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.

Where: Doe Mountain Recreation Area, Mountain City, Tennessee

For more information about Doe Mountain Recreation Authority, visit www.dmra.gov.

Media Contact

Charles Ridlehuber

Executive Director

Doe Mountain Recreation Authority

www.dmra.gov