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HOURS

Preserve Site: Monday – Sunday, 7 a.m. – dusk.

Visitors Center: Wednesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.



U.S. Department of Energy

Fernald Preserve

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Legacy
Management

www.lm.doe.gov

the transformation from a uranium-processing facility to a nature preserve

Fernald Preserve



Visitors at the Fernald Preserve have the unique opportunity to see a series of restored ecosystems. In addition to being one of the largest man-made wetland communities in the state of Ohio, the site features large tracts of upland forests, tallgrass prairies in early stages of growth, and a lengthy riparian corridor.

What once served as a uranium-processing facility operated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its predecessor agencies is now a 1,050-acre site that has undergone a massive environmental cleanup and ecological restoration. The Fernald property has been cleaned up to standards established by the site's neighbors and surrounding communities. Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ohio EPA have approved these standards as being protective of human health and the environment.

The property's transition from a contaminated industrial facility to a healthy, restored, complex ecosystem is an ongoing process. Environmental cleanup was a 20-year, multibillion-dollar project that complied with all applicable environmental laws and regulations—at both the federal and state level—for the protection of the public's health and safety. An important phase of the project involved the ecological restoration of the entire site. The \$14-million restoration was completed in concert with site cleanup. The goal of the restoration is to turn the property into an undeveloped park with an emphasis on wildlife. The property is now a nature preserve, operated by DOE's Office of Legacy Management. The Fernald Preserve is located 18 miles northwest of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. The following is a brief description of the site's restoration, habitats, and wildlife that can be found at the site.

- The Fernald Preserve is home to over 140 acres of wetland habitat, including open water, marshland, wet prairies, retention basins, and mud flats.
- The 400 acres of forests at the Preserve include early, successional, riparian, and mature woodlots.
- Fernald's 360 acres of grassland include tallgrass prairies, savanna, and pasture.

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