



## Fernald Preserve, Harrison, Ohio

### FACT SHEET

*This fact sheet provides information about the Fernald Preserve, in Harrison, Ohio. This site is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management.*

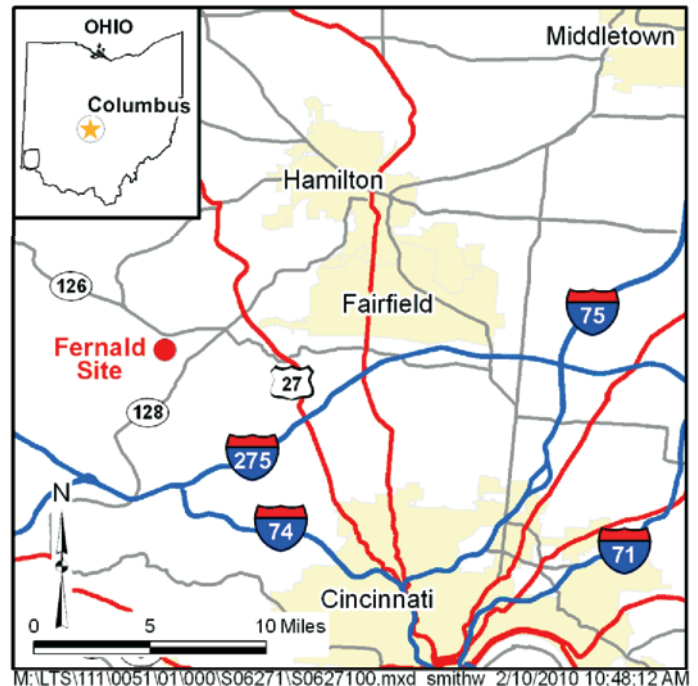
### Site Description and History

The Fernald Preserve is located on the site of the former Feed Materials Production Center, a uranium-processing facility that produced high-purity uranium metal products as the first step in America's nuclear weapons production cycle. The site's production mission began in 1951 and continued until 1989, when production operations ceased and Fernald's mission changed to environmental remediation. The comprehensive environmental remediation and ecological restoration of the site was completed in 2006 at a cost of \$4.4 billion. This cleanup was one of the largest environmental cleanup operations ever undertaken in our nation's history.

The Fernald property was cleaned to standards established by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), residents near the site, activist groups, and members of the surrounding communities. Those cleanup standards were approved by EPA and OEPA as being protective of human health and the environment. A groundwater extraction and treatment operation is Fernald's only remaining remediation activity. Groundwater in the Great Miami Aquifer beneath the site is being cleaned to the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act standard for uranium.

The 1,050 acre Fernald site has now come full circle. The property's natural features have been restored to pre-settlement conditions using native plants and grasses that were identified in an 1819 land survey of the area. Restoration activities at the site have created one of the largest man-made wetlands in Ohio, large tracts of open water, upland forests, a lengthy riparian corridor, and 360 acres of grassland, including tallgrass prairie and savanna. The Preserve features seven miles of trails that provide access to the site's varied habitats. Two hundred species of birds have been observed, and nearly 100 different species have been documented as nesting at the Fernald Preserve.

The award-winning Fernald Preserve Visitors Center is the focal point of the site. Completed in August 2008, the Visitors Center began as a warehouse that was redesigned in cooperation with the University of



*Location of the Fernald Preserve*

Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning. Exhibits in the Visitors Center depict the diverse history of the Fernald property and tell the site's story from the time of the Native Americans, to the arrival of settlers and farmers, to the uranium-processing years, to the environmental cleanup and legacy management period that continues today. The Visitors Center is the first building in Ohio and only one of 100 buildings worldwide to receive Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the nationally accepted standard for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings. Advantages to LEED-certified buildings are lower operating and maintenance costs, a high degree of energy and water efficiency, and a healthy and safe working environment. Environmentally friendly features of the building include a ground-source heating and cooling system and a zero-discharge biowetland where water, plants, microorganisms, and the environment interact to treat the building's wastewater.

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## Regulatory Setting

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act is the primary driver for environmental remediation at the Fernald site. Both EPA and OEPA enforce the environmental laws, regulations, and legal agreements, and both agencies have regulatory oversight of work at the Fernald site. For some programs, such as those under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act, the EPA has authorized the State of Ohio to act as the primary enforcement authority.

## Current Site Conditions

The Fernald Preserve is currently open to the public as a nature preserve. The site's ecological restoration has made the Fernald Preserve attractive to a large number of nesting and migrating birds, including locally rare species.

## Legacy Management Activities

DOE's Office of Legacy Management manages the Fernald Preserve to ensure the continued effectiveness of the site's environmental remediation and the ongoing viability of the ecological restoration. Environmental monitoring of the soil, groundwater, and surface water continues, as do periodic inspections and maintenance of the On-Site Disposal Facility. The entire site is routinely inspected to identify areas of erosion, the presence of invasive plant species, and activity by burrowing animals.

## Hours of Operation

The Fernald Preserve is open daily from 7:00 a.m. to dusk, and the Visitors Center is open Wednesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A Community Meeting Room in the Visitors Center is capable of seating up to 120 people; the meeting room and a resource room are available at no charge to local nonprofit organizations.

## Contact

Site-specific documents related to the Fernald Preserve are available on the DOE Office of Legacy Management website at <http://www.LM.doe.gov/Fernald/Sites.aspx>.

For more information about the DOE Office of Legacy Management activities at the Fernald Preserve, contact

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