



United States Steel



Gary Works Environmental Education, Restoration and Stewardship

September 18, 2008



U. S. Steel Gary Works

Who we are

- Fully integrated steel making facility located in northern Lake County on Lake Michigan
- Plant construction began in 1906, first steel made in 1909
- Approximately 4,000 acres and over 6 miles wide and 1.5 miles deep
- Employ approximately 5,300 people on site
- Twenty acre Wildlife Habitat area at the East end of the plant adjacent to the National Lakeshore property
 - **Identified and designated as a Wildlife Habitat Area in 1991**
 - **Corporate Lands for Learning certified since 2003**
- Part of the wildlife area is characterized by sand dune and Black Oak savanna, the rest is industrial property under restoration
- We are committed to Environmental Education, Restoration and Stewardship



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Plant Aerial Photo



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What we do

- Environmental Education, Restoration and Stewardship are the primary activities conducted at the site
- Environmental Education activities include;
 - **Seed collection and identification**
 - **Web of Life, students act out roles of various organisms in the ecosystem**
 - **The Pollination Game, simulates patterns bee use in pollination**
 - **Nonsense Botany, learn why and how scientific names are selected**
 - **Journaling**
- Restoration and Stewardship activities include;
 - **Seed and Native tree planting**
 - **Invasive species identification and removal**
 - **Wildlife feeder filling**
 - **Butterfly Garden**



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Environmental Education Activity



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Journaling





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Invasive Species Removal



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Tree Planting





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Who we partner with

- The activities are accomplished through collaborative efforts of;
 - **Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center**
 - **U. S. Steel employees**
 - **Wildlife Habitat Council**
 - **Gary Public Schools - Ivanhoe School**
 - **Taltree Arboretum and Gardens**
 - **The Nature Conservancy**
 - **USDA Forest Service**
 - **City of Gary Environmental Affairs**
 - **Groundwork Gary**
 - **IDNR**
 - **Many others**



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Our Results

- Since 2004 we have conducted 44 events with over 1575 attending
- Students, campers and partners attending are enthusiastic about their experience
 - **One child's comment overheard after the event was "didn't know they could save the environment and work at an industry"**
 - **Comments by participating support partners;**
 - **"The opportunity for students to experience the contrast between manufacturing and natural areas within the same corporate boundary is...priceless"**
 - **"There is nothing better for students than hands on lessons. Being there and seeing the looks on students faces as they walk the grounds, plant trees, and feed the birds is pure enjoyment."**
 - **"The program benefits learners in the local community by providing urban school children, with little exposure to natural settings, a chance to study and then experience nature and wildlife"**



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Future Activity

- Expand the program to the Midwest Plant in Portage
- Activities to date in Portage
 - **Native plant identification and inventory**
 - **Planting of 600 native plants by Brownie Scouts, Leaders, and USS volunteers**
 - **Controlled burn at remnant dune and swale parcel to control invasives**
- Planned activities
 - **Partner with Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center to recruit a Portage school to participate in Environmental Restoration and Education Activities**



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Controlled Burn at Midwest Plant





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Questions?