



A Stakeholder Vision for the Future of Fernald

Fernald Stakeholders envision a Future for the Fernald property that creates a federally-owned regional destination for educating this and future generations about the rich and varied history of Fernald. We envision a community resource that serves the ongoing information needs of area residents, education needs of local academic institutions, and reinterment of Native American remains. We envision a safe, secure, and partially accessible site, integrated with the surrounding community that effectively protects human health and the environment from all residual contamination and fully maintains all aspects of the ecological restoration.

Adopted by Fernald Stakeholders
at the Third Future of Fernald Workshop, 9/26/00

Achieving the Vision

We believe that this vision can only be achieved through cooperation among all stakeholders and by recognizing the need to identify the funding and incorporate planning and implementation of future uses with on-site remediation. To achieve this vision, we would like to see the following elements implemented on the Fernald Site:

- Adequate property to provide reinterment of Native American remains in a protected park-like setting that recognizes the spiritual nature of this activity.
- Regulated access to the ecologically restored areas of the site through a series of marked and annotated trails that can be used for hands-on learning and discovery of indigenous plants and animals.
- Development of an on-property educational center that provides for the following:
 - A complete history of the Fernald area beginning with the first Native American residents continuing through the Cold War years when the Fernald site produced feed materials for America's nuclear weapons arsenal, and culminating with the current efforts of site remediation and ecological restoration.
 - Museum-quality displays and related educational programming on the role of Fernald in the Cold War and the many impacts of the production of feed materials for nuclear weapons on the lives of area residents and Fernald site workers, as well as the broader social and cultural impacts on the surrounding community.
 - Museum-quality displays and related educational programming on the history of Native Americans in the Fernald region.
 - Permanent housing of the public reading room containing copies of the public record of Fernald production and remediation activities and Fernald Living History materials.
 - Classrooms and auditorium space.
 - Environmental research and groundwater education facilities.
 - Expedient access to environmental monitoring results.
 - Detailed descriptions and displays on the Fernald environmental remediation process and results.

Criteria for the Design and Future Use of an Education Center

Recommended by the FCAB April 19, 2001

In keeping with the Stakeholder Vision for the Future of Fernald, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board is strongly supportive of an on-site educational center to enhance the environmental, educational, and Native American elements on the Fernald site following remediation. The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board recommends that the following criteria for the proposed Education Center be incorporated into all DOE planning activities for Fernald site restoration and that a conceptual design and issues for implementation of the Education Center be incorporated into the Public Use Master Plan. The Fernald CAB recommends that this center be designed as an energy-efficient building that reflects the environmental nature of the future Fernald site and provides for the following:

- adequate spaces for both large and small group learning
- auditorium type space for lectures, videos, and other programs
- environmental research and groundwater education facilities
- housing and access to environmental monitoring results
- facilities to house and allow viewing of Fernald Living History tapes
- adequate space to house Fernald historical and remediation records including all of the records currently housed at the PEIC
- exhibits, displays, and/or videos on Native American history in the region and the likely historical uses at Fernald
- exhibits, displays, and/or videos on Native American burials on site
- exhibits, displays, and/or videos on Fernald before the Cold War
- exhibits, displays, and/or videos on Fernald's role in the Cold War and technical processes at Fernald
- space for examples of equipment/tools/other items used at Fernald
- space for photo and video documentation of the site process
- exhibits, displays, and/or videos on the remediation of Fernald
- exhibits, displays, and/or videos on the ecological habitats at Fernald
- exhibits, displays, and/or videos on impacts of Fernald operations on area residents and Fernald site workers
- space for the final location of the Cold War Garden and other future memorials
- office space and facilities for site stewardship staff and operations.

In consideration of the above future needs, the Fernald CAB requests that DOE begin the design and construction of this facility as soon as is feasible so that it may serve the many needs of the ongoing site operations and be transitioned to an education center following site remediation. Furthermore, the Fernald CAB requests that DOE begin now to prepare the many collections and exhibits that will be housed in the education center and use currently available spaces to begin making these available for public access.

Criteria for the Design and Future Use of Trails

Recommended by the FCAB April 19, 2001

Recognizing the need to incorporate the funding and planning of future uses with current remediation, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board recommends that the following criteria for trails on the restored site be incorporated into all DOE planning and remediation activities at the Fernald site. Work should begin now to design the complete trail system so that proper grading and other work can be incorporated into remediation and restoration activities, and strongly encourage that all site decisions be made in light of the future of Fernald to ensure the efficient integration of future use activities with the remediation process. The criteria are in keeping with the ecological and educational emphasis envisioned for the restored site.

- Trails should provide access to key ecological areas and enhance the educational experience.
- Trails should provide access to areas used for environmental monitoring.
- Areas of the site identified for research should not be readily accessible to the public.
- Trails should be designed to encourage and support learning and field study activities. Trails should be designed to discourage recreational activities such as biking, rollerblading, and jogging. As such, trails should not "loop" through sensitive areas.
- In the more environmentally sensitive areas, trails should be made of materials that have the least negative impact on the environment while maximizing educational access.
- Trails should provide access to overlooks of environmentally sensitive areas.
- Trails should provide access to both the Native American burial site and connect that site with the envisioned on-site Education Center.
- Trails should provide some level of handicap accessibility. The FCAB recognizes that some environmentally sensitive areas of the restored site will not be handicap accessible.
- Historical, environmental, and educational markers should be placed along the trails. These markers should be tastefully designed in keeping with the environment and durable so as to minimize maintenance.
- The design of the trails should facilitate educational field trips.
- The design of the trails should limit the number of points of public access to site.



**Fernald Residents for
Environment, Safety,
and Health**

**Fernald
Living
History,
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For more information, please visit the FCAB website at www.fernaldcab.org, or contact Patti Kidd at 513-648-6478 or pkidd@theperspectivesgroup.com