



THE FUTURE OF FERNALD BEGINS TODAY

A Cold War Legacy



FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, Fernald became synonymous with the environmental legacy of the Cold War. Nearly fifty years of nuclear materials production left soils and groundwater severely contaminated. Outcry from the residents in this rural Southwest Ohio Community prompted the government to undertake a massive cleanup and dismantle its facility.

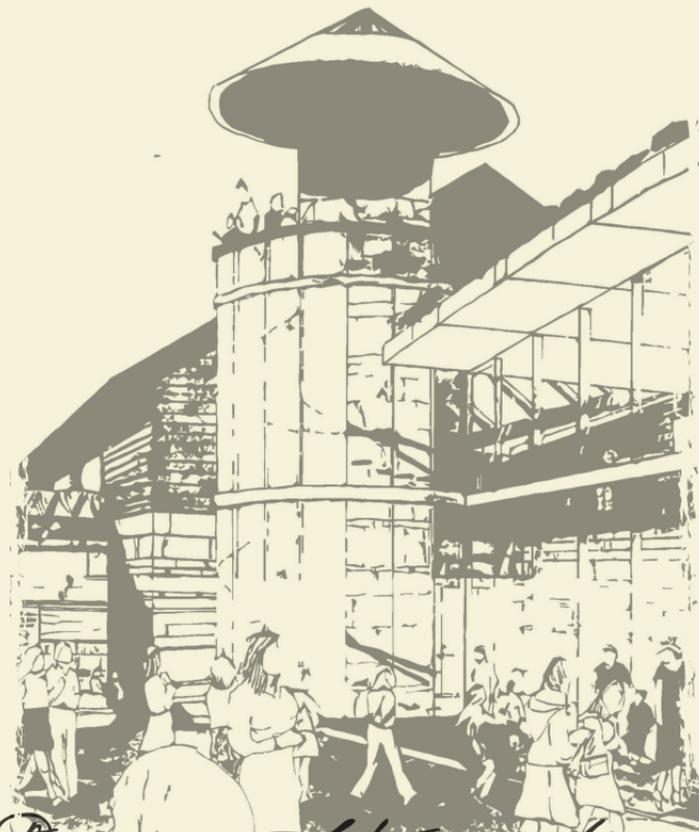
TODAY, grasses are sprouting, trees are taking root, and wetlands are teeming with life where Cold War workers once milled uranium. A grand vision for the future of Fernald is growing where once there was only waste.

A CLEAR VISION

Over the past five years, hundreds of citizens from the Fernald community have worked together to identify a consensus vision for how the Fernald site should be used in the future.

The community envisions a safe and accessible Fernald site that is focused on education of current and future generations, serves the information and cultural needs of area residents, and maintains the ecological restoration of the site.

THAT DREAM IS TAKING SHAPE...



That Dream is taking shape



A COALITION FOR SOUTHWEST OHIO

Cleanup of the site is scheduled for completion in 2006, and implementation of the community vision for the site is well underway. The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board has been the leader in creating the vision and preparing for its implementation. This work has continued the tradition of more than a decade of stakeholder participation in key decisions about this site.

Now the Board is seeking a broad coalition of partners that can guide Fernald into its promising and invaluable future. This coalition will be the cornerstone for creating an unparalleled destination dedicated to learning, research and reflection.

Coalition members will be individuals or organizations dedicated to education, the environment, or the history of Southwest Ohio. These partners will explore how the community vision can be met and sustained for the long-term.

A Tradition of Stakeholder Participation

TRANSFORMING FERNALD

From 1951 to 1989, the Feed Materials Production Center at Fernald played a critical role in the global Cold War, producing uranium for use in nuclear weapons production.

When groundwater contamination and airborne releases of uranium were discovered in the mid-1980s, public outcry and lawsuits led the U.S. Department of Energy to clean up the site.

The Fernald Citizens Task Force (now Advisory Board) was formed in 1993. Within 18 months, a new spirit of collaboration overturned a culture of fear and mistrust. Most important, a vision of a positive future for the Fernald site began to emerge.

The Department of Energy now anticipates that the majority of this cleanup will be completed by December 2006. Nearly 80 percent of the 1050-acre site will be restored to native wetlands, prairie, and woodlands. The Department has agreed that the site will remain under federal ownership and it must manage the site to protect human health and the environment.

On the heels of a \$4 billion cleanup effort, it is crucial that the site create a positive legacy for the people of Southwest Ohio.



From Weapons to Wetlands



A NEW LEGACY

The community vision for Fernald's future focuses on education and ensuring the public's awareness of the site's history and current conditions. Community members envision the development of easy-to-understand displays, written materials and education programs. To house these materials and help attract visitors to the site, the community has proposed the construction of an education center at the site.

Fernald stakeholders have identified three major education messages for the future Fernald site.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

The Fernald site played a critical role in the global Cold War. It also dramatically impacted the lives and health of its workers and the surrounding community. Eventually, the community fought for clean up of the site and won. Local history also includes settlement of the area and its use by Native Americans. In the present day the site has significance as a burial site for displaced Native American remains.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Fernald has a tradition of involvement in Southwest Ohio science education. The site provides a prime example of how environmental contamination occurs and can be managed. It holds important lessons about groundwater and aquifers, the primary drivers for the remediation. Fernald also provides a living laboratory of how an industrial site can be restored to a natural condition. As restoration projects mature, the site will facilitate the study of native plants and animals.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Community awareness is vital to the continued protection of human health and the environment at Fernald. The site will not be cleaned to pristine conditions, so permanent restrictions on some activities will be required, as well as regular monitoring and occasional maintenance of the on-site disposal facility. The site itself will be an experiment in best practices for preserving information and maintaining long-term community involvement. Ensuring community awareness of the site and maintaining environmental controls will require outreach to new residents and future generations.



Community Awareness is Vital

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE FUTURE OF FERNALD

The greatest resource is the people who worked there



1050 acres of open space in a rapidly growing suburban region. Woodlands, prairie, and wetlands will cover more than 80 percent of the site. Parking areas and footpaths are planned.



Tens of thousands of photographs and thousands of video tapes chronicle the Cold War history and cleanup of Fernald, as well as the lives of community members and workers. Many of these are stored in electronic formats.



Archaeological studies of the site have yielded thousands of Native American relics.



Vast amounts of information have been produced during production and cleanup at Fernald. Some information has been condensed into community-friendly formats, but the majority exists in official reports, technical documents, and health studies.



School curricula and other education resources developed at the site have been presented to local school children and used to train many area teachers.



Dozens of Cold War era artifacts have been identified and collected, including scale models and prepared displays.

The greatest resource in the Fernald community is the people who worked there and have been involved in its cleanup. Already, more than 100 of their stories have been captured on videotape by a living history project. These people are eager to share their stories and ready to collaborate with a coalition.

NEXT STEPS

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board is seeking partners that can guide the Fernald site into its future. A coalition of these partners will be the cornerstone for creating an unparalleled destination dedicated to learning, research and reflection.

The Board's goal is to identify interested parties and bring them together to lay the groundwork for this new legacy.

If you have an interest in playing a role in the Future of Fernald, please call The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board at 513-648-6478. More information about Fernald and the Board can be found at www.fernaldcab.org and www.fernald.gov.



The Future begins Today

Join Us in The Coalition

CURRENT MEMBERS

Please join us in the coalition for the future of Fernald.

Current members of the coalition are:

- Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
- Ohio EPA
- Crosby Township Historical Society
- Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety & Health
- Fernald Living History, Inc.
- Morgan Township Historical Society