

# FERNALD PRESERVE VISITORS CENTER

Client: U.S. Department of Energy  
Location: Harrison, Ohio  
Size: 26 acre site/ 1,050 acre property



The roughly 1,050 acre site was formerly a secret uranium processing facility that became national headline news when environmental contamination was detected in 1984. The U.S. Department of Energy and many subcontractors decontaminated the facility, removed all buildings but two and shipped contaminants to disposal sites or buried them on site. The site was transformed into a nature preserve with wetlands, prairies and forests.

Glaserworks Architects transformed an existing rectangular box steel warehouse into the new Visitors Center. The entry walk and arrival space inside the building is aligned with the sunrise on the summer solstice. The solstice is symbolic of rebirth and renewal, and this project is the beginning of a new period in the history of this land.



The Visitors Center entry garden includes rain gardens, interpretive panels, restored wetlands, bioswales, and future walking trails.



1987



2007



**AWARDS**  
LEED Platinum Certification from USGBC  
2009 COTE Cincinnati Sustainability Award  
2009 Build America Award - First Place

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