

## Fermilab and the Community

### Environmental Contributions

Since Fermilab's founding, the laboratory has remained committed to responsible stewardship of the environment.

- The 6,800-acre site offers ponds and interpretative nature trails. Fermilab contains most of the major types of ecosystems representative of the Midwest: tall-grass prairies, oak savannas, agricultural fields, woodlands, grasslands and wetlands.
- The Fermilab site contains one of Illinois's largest reconstructed native, tall-grass prairies. Less than one-tenth of one percent of the state's original prairies remain. Fermilab's native prairies help cleanse area aquifers and prevent erosion.
- Since 1993, residents of neighboring communities have joined Fermilab employees for the annual Prairie Harvest. Fermilab has donated native prairie seeds to more than 40 schools as well as the Kane and DuPage county forest preserve.
- A multitude of wildlife lives onsite or use the lab as a migratory way station. Wildlife includes: approximately 270 species of birds, 50 species of butterflies, 10 species of frogs and endangered Blanding's turtles. Native species have been returning to the lab as the prairie restoration proceeds. Several rare species of birds and butterflies call the site home for portions of the year. A monthly habitat restoration group removes non-native brush to encourage native woodland flowers and trees.
- The lab keeps a herd of about two dozen bison.
- The DuPage County Audobon Society and volunteer bird watchers conduct bird counts onsite twice yearly. Fermilab annually monitors the health of plants, butterflies, frogs and birds onsite.
- Fermilab hosts state and regional early warning monitoring sites for West Nile mosquitoes and invasive pests.
- Argonne National Laboratory and Fermilab study the possibility of using the root systems of carbon-neutral plants and grasses to store carbon to reduce greenhouse gases. Fermilab hosts three test sites.
- Argonne and Fermilab partner on a bio-fuel research program.
- Fermilab maintains the 2,500-square-foot Pioneer Cemetery, an onsite burial ground for early residents dating to the 1800s.
- Fermilab has earned a designation as one of only six National Environmental Research Parks. Under that designation, scientists use the laboratory to conduct eight ecology research projects.
- Fermilab has earned many national awards and consistent recognition for pollution control, environment-friendly "green" business practices, recycling programs and conservation practices.