



ArcelorMittal

Welcome to the ArcelorMittal dune and swale restoration project

ArcelorMittal is the world's leading steel and mining company. We believe our sustainability practices are second to none in the steel industry. Along with the production of safe, sustainable steel, ArcelorMittal is committed to the restoration, management and protection of our environment.



ArcelorMittal launched an exciting project to restore ten acres of globally rare dune and swale habitat at the ArcelorMittal Global Research and Development Center in East Chicago, Indiana.

Dune and swale is a unique type of natural habitat that occurs along the southern rim of Lake Michigan. It consists of undulating ridges of low sand dunes and long narrow wetlands that were created as glacial Lake Chicago (the precursor to Lake Michigan) receded thousands of years ago.

Ecologists from the Field Museum noted the site's unusual topography, undisturbed sandy soils and a few native plants growing in the rougher areas. These were all clues that something very special lay beneath. Mowing of the area stopped and thousands of native plants emerged. The plants attract native insects, birds and bees.

Did you know?

In Northwest Indiana, dune and swale has been greatly disturbed by human activity. Prior to European settlement, about 10,000 acres of this habitat existed; today, only about 1,000 remain.



The site serves as a destination for local school children to learn about the environment.



Interpretive signage dots the mile-long walking trail which surrounds the site. The trail provides a safe way to access the dune and swale for education and maintenance purposes.



On-going maintenance includes controlled fires and native tree plantings.



One hundred fifty different species of native plants are thriving. This includes one state-endangered species and two state-threatened species.



ArcelorMittal Global Research and Development received gold certification from Wildlife Habitat Council for conservation excellence; in addition, Shirley Heinze Land Trust's Bringing Home Nature Award, the Chicago Wilderness Force of Nature Award and Partners for Clean Air Industrial Award.



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