

Historical Land Use at the Weldon Spring Site

The U.S. Army produced explosives at the Weldon Spring Ordnance Works from 1941 to 1945 as part of the World War II defense effort. The site was a 17,232-acre facility near Weldon Spring, Missouri, not far from St. Louis.

At the conclusion of World War II, the federal government transferred ownership of a portion of

the facility's land to the State of Missouri for the creation of the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation



Area. Another portion of land went to the University of Missouri for agricultural studies (later transferred to the State of Missouri for the Weldon Spring Conservation Area). Additional parcels went to St. Charles County and the Francis Howell School District. The Army retained what remained of the property for use as a training area.

In 1955, the Army transferred approximately 200 acres of site property to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission for construction of the Weldon Spring Uranium Feed Materials Plant. The plant processed uranium-ore concentrates and a small amount of thorium between 1957 and 1966. Waste generated during these operations was stored at the Weldon Spring Site in four open-air lagoons called raffinate pits.

Site Cleanup

Custody of the Weldon Spring Site was transferred to DOE in 1985 to conduct a major operation that would clean up contamination left from the site's prior activities. The cleanup effort was designated the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project. Surface remediation concluded with completion of a 41-acre, onsite disposal cell in 2001. The cell provides long-term isolation for 1.48 million cubic yards of low-level radioactive waste and chemical waste.



7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304
From I-64/Highway 40/61, or I-70, exit at Highway 94 and continue south toward Defiance.

NO COST FOR ADMISSION

Enjoy your visit!

- 150-acre native prairie
- Native plant and wildflower garden
- Prairie wildlife watching for butterflies, songbirds, hawks, deer, coyote, and more
- Trailhead to the 8-mile Hamburg Trail
- Outdoor picnic area and tables
- Paved parking lot able to serve recreational vehicles and buses

Interpretive Center Hours

April 1–October 31 (closed holidays)

- Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Sunday: Noon–4:00 p.m.

November 1–March 31 (closed holidays)

- Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
- Sunday: Noon–4:00 p.m.

(636) 300-2600

Email: WSInterpretiveCenter@lm.doe.gov



08/2015



Weldon Spring Site

Connecting lessons from the past with a vision for the future.



Discover our history, enjoy the Hamburg Trail, explore the Howell Prairie, and hike to the top of the Disposal Cell for an unforgettable view.

www.lm.doe.gov/weldon



The Weldon Spring Site is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management

Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center

The Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center chronicles the DOE Office of Legacy Management's long-term surveillance and maintenance activities. The center communicates the site's historical legacy and provides education and research opportunities for present and future generations.

Exhibits

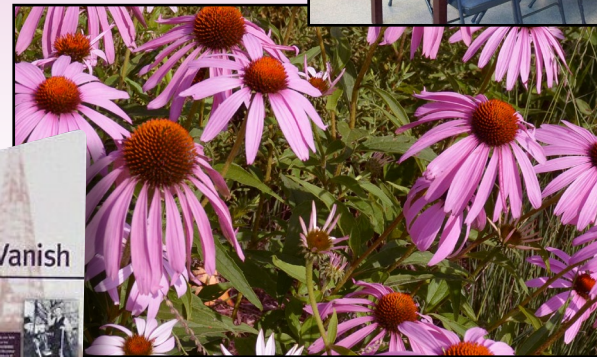
- History of the three lost towns of Howell, Hamburg, and Toonerville.
- A timeline of significant events at the Weldon Spring Site from 1900 to the present.
- Legacy of the Weldon Spring Ordnance Works, the Uranium Feed Materials Plant, and the waste products that remained from their manufacturing activities.
- Events that led to site environmental cleanup and the people who contributed.
- Community efforts toward site cleanup.
- Phases of the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project.
- The natural environment and prairie restoration of the site.
- Engineering and development of the disposal cell.

Meeting Rooms

Two meeting rooms are available for public use. For more information or to make reservations, call (636) 300-2600.

Meeting Room Accommodations

- Mini kitchen
- A/V system
- Free Wi-Fi
- Refrigerator
- Conference-style seating for 60
- Theater-style seating for 100



Weldon Spring Site Ecology

Native Plant Educational Garden

Explore the beautiful, 8-acre native plant educational garden adjacent to the Interpretive Center. The garden is home to insects, birds, and more than 200 species of plants native to Missouri. The paved walking path, lined with benches, features markers which identify many of the plants.

Disposal Cell

Enjoy panoramic views from the highest publicly accessible point in St. Charles County. Four plaques provide information about the area, the history of the site, and the construction of the 41-acre disposal cell.

- The disposal cell is accessible sunrise to sunset.
- A half-mile round-trip path leads to the top of the disposal cell from the Interpretive Center.
- The path surface is mulch and gravel with 47 stairs, leading up 75 feet to the viewing platform.



Howell Prairie

More than 80 species of prairie grasses and wildflowers have been planted on the 150 acres of land surrounding the disposal cell. Plants like the prairie blazing star, little bluestem, and wild bergamot thrive once again in this area, which was a large, native prairie before the days of European settlement. The Howell Prairie is one of the largest plantings of its kind in the St. Louis area.

Hamburg Trail

Venture outdoors! The Hamburg Trail, an 8-mile, gravel trail that connects with neighboring public lands, was originally used during site construction and restoration. Now the trail is a major destination, connecting users with nature and documenting area history through historical markers.

The Weldon Spring Site and Hamburg Trail connect with many trails available through the Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and Great Rivers Greenway, as part of the Busch Greenway.

Trail Connections

- August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
- Busch Greenway – Great Rivers Greenway
- KATY Trail
- Lewis and Clark Trail
- Lost Valley Trail
- Weldon Spring Conservation Area



Birding and Wildlife Watching

Beautiful songbirds, soaring hawks, colorful butterflies, and elusive coyotes all depend on the Weldon Spring Site for a home. The Howell Prairie and Native Plant Educational Garden support all types of wildlife at all stages in their life cycles. Visit early in the day to catch the most bird activity, mid-day for insect activity, and dusk to see larger wildlife, such as deer and coyotes.