

Shalersville Wildlife Habitat Site

Oldcastle Company: The Shelly Company

Location: Mantua, Ohio, USA

Size: 224 acres

Certifications:

- *Wildlife at Work*, 2010
- Certified since 1994

Shalersville Sand and Gravel, located in Portage County in northeastern Ohio, is one of the largest sand and gravel operations in the state. Situated within the Upper Cuyahoga River Valley, the site comprises 800 acres of forests, wetlands, grasslands and agricultural areas. An employee wildlife team manages habitat projects and reclamation efforts on 224 acres.

Quarry sections are restored as soon as quarrying operations are completed. Their value is further enhanced by creating lakes and introducing a variety of tree species. The lakes are designed and positioned to collect surface runoff to help protect the water quality of the scenic Cuyahoga River. In addition, 53 hectares of lakeshore property have been subdivided and sold to private homeowners.



Two large lakes lined with native plants such as cattails and dogwood provide habitat for migrating Canada geese and red-winged blackbirds. The annual fishing derby allows the wildlife team to evaluate the biodiversity of fish in the reclaimed lakes. Small logs provide perching spots for birds in the center of the lakes.

Wildlife

Coyote, white-tailed deer, beaver, shrew, wild turkey, pine vole, Virginia opossum, Canada geese, red-winged blackbirds

Foliage

Sweet birch, dogwood, cattail, shrub dogwood, teasel, American beech, multiflora rose, elderberry, scouring rush, black alder, poplar, wild strawberry

Additional Features

Numerous lakes, forested wetland, bluebird boxes

Twelve members of a local Girl Scout troop built and painted bluebird boxes to provide homes for native grassland birds. The wildlife team mows the extensive grassy fields to improve the growth of native species. The cuttings are left on the fields to provide cover for small mammals and insects. Edge habitat is maintained along forested parts of the property to provide habitat for fringe species such as white-tailed deer and Virginia opossum.

The National Stone Sand & Gravel Association awarded the site with a Silver Environmental Eagle Award in 2004.

The Shalersville wildlife team plans to continue enhancing the quality of their habitat. Future plans include the continued monitoring of nest boxes and a wetland enhancement project.

281 sites were recognized at the 2010 Symposium for creating a *Wildlife at Work* program. In addition, 56 *Corporate Lands for Learning*SM (CLL) programs were recognized, reaching thousands of learners from schools and scout groups to master gardeners and university researchers. Since 1990, WHC has certified 640 *Wildlife at*

Work and 128 *CLL* programs worldwide. The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, and offers third-party validation of the benefits of such programs. Certification requirements are strict and require that sites apply for periodic renewal.

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. WHC-assisted wildlife habitat and conservation education programs are found in 43 states, the District of Columbia and nine other countries. To learn more, visit www.wildlifehc.org. ■