

Ford Motor Company

The Ford Motor Company has made social responsibility and environmental stewardship an integral part of every business decision and action. By connecting people and communities through the creation of wildlife habitat programs on corporate properties and in cooperation with the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), Ford demonstrates an ongoing commitment to protecting and preserving the environment for future generations.

Since 1992, Ford has been a dedicated member of WHC by engaging in numerous collaborative environmental programs worldwide. Ford's emphasis on becoming a leading contributor to a more sustainable world begins locally with their employees and with people in the communities that surround Ford facilities. Strong community outreach and educational programs through partnerships with local schools are important components to the success of Ford's wildlife-based programs. By creating partnerships with local community groups and volunteers, such as Boy Scouts of America, Dearborn Public Schools, Essex Wildlife Trust (United Kingdom), Friends of the Rouge River and Little River Enhancement Group (Canada), Ford demonstrates that people and industry can live in harmony with nature. Wildlife teams at Ford sites implement and regularly maintain projects such as nest box monitoring, riparian restoration, schoolyard naturalization and reforestation.

The Ford Motor Company Fund, through its commitment to link communities with employees and corporate properties, contributes essential ongoing support to help ensure the success of Ford's wildlife and environmental education programs. With this pledge and investment in partnerships through collaborative habitat programs with WHC, Ford Fund is helping to encourage Ford employees around the globe to create natural habitats surrounding their sites. This portfolio highlights some of Ford's recent achievements. The Wildlife Habitat Council commends the Ford Motor Company and its volunteer wildlife teams on their environmental stewardship achievements.

A Portfolio of the Ford Motor Company's Activities with the Wildlife Habitat Council



Photo courtesy of Ford Motor Company

Tim O'Brien

"We're extremely proud of the many caring and ingenious ways Ford Motor Company builds environmentally responsible cars and trucks. We take our commitment to preserving the environment for future generations very seriously and we are pleased to be the only auto-manufacturing member of WHC with certified sites. WHC's 'Corporate Lands for LearningSM' and 'Wildlife at WorkSM' programs provide our employees with an outlet to demonstrate this commitment, and give back to the communities where they live and work." — Tim O'Brien, Ford Motor Company, Director, Environmental Quality Office, WHC Board Member



WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCILSM

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Ford Research & Engineering Center named 2000 WHC 'Rookie of the Year'

Ford clearly demonstrates its continued commitment to environmental stewardship and increasing biodiversity by achieving certification at its Research & Engineering Center, located in Dearborn, Michigan. Here Ford employees further distinguished themselves by winning the coveted 'Rookie of the Year' award, which goes to one newly certified WHC site each year that exemplifies a superior wildlife habitat program. Dan Ballnik, Environmental Control Engineer, received the award on behalf of the site at WHC's 12th Annual Symposium in Baltimore, Maryland, on November 7, 2000.

"Due to the visibility of WHC's 'Rookie of the Year' award within [Ford] and our community, the Research & Engineering wildlife habitat team sees this as an outstanding opportunity to move forward in expanding both our *Wildlife at Work*SM and our *Corporate Lands for Learning*SM programs," said Ballnik.

The dedicated employees at this site, although it is within a suburban/commercial setting, manage over 300 of the 750-acre site for the benefit of wildlife habitat. Significant tracts of undeveloped woodlands and fields surround the site, while the

Rouge River flows through the northern section.

Numerous habitat projects are coordinated by the Research & Engineering wildlife team, including a schoolyard naturalization program in cooperation with local area schools. The program helps establish schoolyard environmental study areas with native plants. To date, ten schools have become actively involved, planting over 4,000 native plant species. Ford team members also demonstrated their commitment to the community through their efforts at Ford Field. (See story below.)

"These [programs] will benefit not only local wildlife habitat enhancement and education, but wildlife programs in other Ford communities as well," said Ballnik. "Our primary goal is a program that will promote and support sustainable land management practices that will be a benchmark for community and corporate wildlife habitat development."

Five Star Grant Awarded to Dearborn Public Schools for Ford Field Streambank Buffer Project

In 1999, Ford, in partnership with local groups from all sectors, including City of Dearborn Public Works Parks Division, Dearborn Public Schools, Friends of the River Rouge and U. of Michigan-Dearborn, began the Ford Field Streambank Buffer Project in Dearborn, Michigan. The project was awarded a \$10,000 grant from WHC under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Five Star Restoration Grant Program.

The Five Star Program encourages local natural resource stewardship on private and public lands by providing funds to assist community-based projects that restore and conserve wetland, riparian and coastal ecosystems, build diverse partnerships and foster environmental education and awareness. The Ford Field Project was selected for its extensive restoration and educational values. The primary goal was to stabilize eroding streambanks along the Rouge River as it passes through Ford Field Park. This project would also provide a working laboratory for stream corridor restoration through workshops and planting demonstrations.

The project was implemented in two phases. In fall 1999, personnel from the Parks Division excavated and amended soil along the streambank. Next, students planted over 1,500 native plants that provide shelter, protective cover and foraging opportunities for birds and small animals. The second phase took place in spring 2000 with a team led by William Clay Ford, Jr. that consisted of over 700 Ford employees, students from several local schools and other Five Star volunteers. The team added more native plants, reduced streambank and hillside erosion, controlled invasive species and cleared river debris and log jams.

Another goal of the project was to increase passive recreational park uses. An informational kiosk was constructed in the park, with interpretive signage, to educate the visiting public on the beauty and benefits of natural landscaping with native plants. In spring 2001, the Ford team added nature trails along the river's edge for people to better access and experience the river and stream corridor environment. They also planted over 5,000 native trees, wildflowers, shrubs and forbs throughout the park, and began a carefully managed woody debris program in the river to increase fish habitat.

This successful project was made possible by the active role of Ford employees and members of the community, resulting in a sustainable project within the community. The Ford Field Project continues to provide environmental education and recreational activities for the community. Teachers use the park as a study area for students to learn about native plants and ecological restoration techniques. Ford employees donate their time to ongoing Rouge River restoration activities. Together, everyone feels a sense of stewardship and community pride.

For more information on the Five Star Program, visit the U.S. EPA Web site at www.epa.gov.



Ford Field volunteers worked together to restore and stabilize areas along the banks of the Rouge River.

Photo courtesy of Ford Motor Company

Certified Habitat Programs at Ford

More than thirty Ford corporate-owned lands have established 'Wildlife at Work' programs covering areas in North America, Europe and South America, providing protection and habitats for wildlife. Currently, Ford has achieved WHC certification at eight global sites. WHC's Corporate Wildlife Habitat 'Certification/International Accreditation' program recognizes commendable corporate wildlife habitat management and environmental education programs. Certification adds value to programs by providing third-party credibility and an objective evaluation of projects. WHC's Registry of Certified Programs provides a more detailed description of the following certified sites.

In June 2000, **Arizona Proving Grounds** received WHC certification for their commitment to increasing biodiversity. This site is in an area where two distinct desert communities converge in Yucca, Arizona. The wildlife team practices a variety of range management techniques such as planting water conserving trees and shrubs to provide protection and habitat for wildlife and promote minimum water use. They also work to increase water resources, a rare commodity in desert environments.

The wildlife team at **Dunton Research & Engineering Centre** in Essex, United Kingdom, manages a habitat program in cooperation with several local partners, including: the Environment Agency (of England & Wales), Essex Wildlife Trust and Writtle Agricultural College. Together, they developed a flourishing program with grassland and shrub habitat on the site's 275 acres. The team re-established native wildflowers and grasses while creating two nature trails that wind throughout the property. In addition, a pond was deepened to promote better aquatic habitat. More than 22,000 trees and 17,000 wildflowers were planted to enhance the site's aesthetics and improve wildlife habitat. The site was accredited by WHC in 2000.

Essex Engine Works, located in Ontario, Canada, was first certified by WHC in 1998. In mid-1995, a small two-acre tree planting was established in the southeast corner of the site. This effort has now expanded to include restoration of an entire oak-hickory forest community on more than 33 acres in place of the regularly maintained lawn. Over 3,000 trees have been planted by the employee *Corporate Lands for Learning* Committee. Local school students, Air Force cadets, Beaver Troops, Boy Scouts and members of the Canadian Autoworkers Union Local 200 assist with the ongoing tree planting project. The Little River Enhancement Group also contributes by reforesting the surrounding site landscape and organizes annual cleanups along the Little River waterway, which flows nearby.

The **Fairlane Business Park** wildlife team in Dearborn, Michigan, continues to develop their habitat program despite the small amount of available property, and achieved WHC certification in 1999. Through WHC's Nest Monitoring Program, employees maintain bluebird boxes and bat and butterfly houses that are scattered around the site. In 2000, the employees took on a larger project, working with Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality to place a dam on a stream near the main office building, which will recreate some aquatic habitat. The team also continues to control the invasive, aquatic giant reed grass. In 1999, the site received recognition and was highlighted on the nationally syndicated P. Allen Smith Garden show.

Photo by Dan Ballnik



A bumblebee searches for nectar from a purple coneflower in the pilot sustainable landscaping area at the Ford Research & Engineering Center in Michigan.

The **Henry Ford II World Center** campus, located in Dearborn, Michigan, houses the Ford World Headquarters and Ford Credit buildings. Inspired by sightings of pheasant around the Center, the wildlife team converted a 30-acre soybean field into meadow habitat for pheasants, songbirds and other wildlife. In addition to the meadow, Ford employees maintain the 'Arjay Miller Michigan Arboretum.' The arboretum contains a collection of native Michigan trees and bushes, and is the largest arboretum in the U.S. devoted to these state-specific native plants. A walking path through the arboretum and across the Center grounds provides opportunities for the public to learn about the wildlife enhancement program. WHC certified the site in 2000.

The wildlife team at the **Romeo Engine Plant**, located just north of Detroit, Michigan, planted over 4,500 trees on the property, and installed numerous nest boxes for wood ducks and songbirds. They monitor and inventory the many species on-site, paying particular attention to habitat needs, including food, water and protective cover. The site has been WHC certified since 1999. The employees also schedule on-site clean-up days that engage the surrounding community, as well as annual events that celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day.

The first Brazilian corporate location to be certified by WHC is the **Taubate Plant** in Sao Paulo, first certified by WHC in 2000. Employees, researchers and university students form a Cross-Functional Wildlife Team that develops and manages the wildlife management program. The team has three long-range goals for the site: reforest with native species; install nesting and cover resources for wildlife; and promote environmental education. The team has a long history of working to integrate native vegetation into the landscape and planted a number of trees on-site.

(See previous page for ongoing habitat projects at Ford's **Research & Engineering Center**.)

International Ford Sites with Wildlife at Work Programs

Ford has been asserting its environmental leadership not only within the automotive industry, but also as an international corporation. Building on its spectacular success in North America, Ford and WHC together have begun to implement habitat and environmental education programs in countries worldwide. Three Ford sites overseas have now achieved WHC certification: Taubate Powertrain Operations, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Essex Engine Works, Ontario, Canada; and Dunton Research & Engineering Centre, Essex, United Kingdom.

International Ford sites with WHC habitat programs:

Campo de Provas de Tatui (Brazil)
Taubate Powertrain Operations (Brazil)
Bramalea Distribution Center (Canada)
Essex Aluminum (Canada)
Essex Engine Works (Canada)
Oakville Assembly Plant (Canada)
St. Thomas Plant (Canada)
Windsor Engine Plant (Canada)
Cuautitlan (Mexico)
Dunton Research & Engineering Centre (U.K.)
Valencia Plant (Venezuela)
Hai Duong Assembly (Vietnam)

“At Ford Motor Company, we want to be keepers of the environment, not just users of it. WHC’s programs give us that opportunity. Ford is dedicated to thinking globally and acting locally. With manufacturing plants participating in Brazil, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, United States and Vietnam to name a few, we are demonstrating not only our diversity of people and locations, but our commitment to making the world a better place. Our participation in WHC programs also provides an impartial testimony to these efforts and our accomplishments.”
— **Andy Acho, Ford Motor Company, Worldwide Director, Environmental Outreach & Strategy**

Andrew G. Acho Receives President’s Award

WHC awarded Ford’s Andrew G. Acho, Worldwide Director of Environmental Outreach and Strategy, with its President’s Award on January 31, 2001. The award was presented in honor of his outstanding commitment to preserving and protecting the environment for future generations. Acho’s creative involvement with WHC has been a major factor in habitat and environmental education programs at Ford sites worldwide. Thanks to Acho’s vision, *Wildlife at Work* is being integrated into Ford’s ISO 14001 efforts, the international standard specification for environmental management systems. His work has provided exemplary leadership to Ford and its employees on projects demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship and restoring biodiversity. By working with dedicated people like Acho, together we will help ensure that the next million acres of corporate property is improved for wildlife habitat.



Photo by Malcolm Heywood

A moorhen glides along the pond at Ford’s Dunton Research & Engineering Centre in the United Kingdom.

Ford Activity

33 sites currently participate in WHC’s *Wildlife at Work* program
8,017 acres of Ford land benefit wildlife
8 sites have WHC certified wildlife habitat programs
25 sites are active in the *Wildlife at Work* Program working towards WHC certification
4 new Ford sites were visited by a WHC biologist in 2000
5 sites achieved WHC certification in 2000
1 site achieved WHC recertification in 2000
11 sites have been featured in WHC’s *Corporate Homes for Wildlife* Calendar since 1998
1 site participates in WHC’s Nest Monitoring Program

WHC is a non-profit, non-lobbying group of corporations, conservation organizations and individuals dedicated to enhancing and restoring wildlife habitat. Created in 1988, WHC helps landowners, particularly companies, manage their unused lands in an ecologically sensitive manner for the benefit of wildlife. WHC also works to broaden the understanding of wildlife values. Over 120 companies are WHC members as well as more than two dozen conservation organizations, plus numerous supporters and contributors. Over 1.2 million acres in 45 states, Puerto Rico and ten other countries are managed for wildlife through WHC-assisted projects. For more information on WHC programs, please e-mail us at Whc@wildlifehc.org or visit us at www.wildlifehc.org.

This Ford Motor Company portfolio was published by the Wildlife Habitat Council, July 2001. Contributing writers: Vanessa Kauffman, Jennifer Nesbit and Cora Rosenhaft. Design by the Wildlife Habitat Council.