

# AML Site 1816 • South Lake

## History of the Site

The Allandale Mine was operated by Central Indiana Coal Company from 1924 to 1936. In 1937, 185.3 acres was deeded to the State of Indiana "for the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable considerations."

The deed included conditions made to allow the Grantor to remove coal, oil, and gas using non-strip mine methods and to "permit the Grantee to use the area comprised therein for forestry, game management and recreational purposes."



## A Significant Safety Hazard to Visitors

In ongoing efforts between the Division of Forestry and the AML Program to eliminate dangerous highwalls and embankments in Greene-Sullivan State Forest, South Lake was chosen due to the danger presented by multiple highwalls and their proximity to the highway and the Pleasantville community building known as Rock House.



## Construction Challenges

During excavation of South Lake, native coal was found at the north end, leading to the decision to raise the lakebed to 18 inches above the coal seam. While not ideal for providing depth in that area of the lake, it was a necessary compromise from a regulatory standpoint because steep slopes made traversing the site difficult on foot and nearly impossible by any vehicle. In addition, felled trees and tree debris among the multi-flora rose made clearing difficult, even with excavators.

## Ongoing Learning Opportunity

In the ongoing quest to improve tree planting success at its reclamation sites, AML has entered into an agreement with Purdue University's School of Forestry to evaluate tree-compatible groundcover mixes and their effects on herbivory. Damage from voles, rabbits, and deer remain the primary challenges to tree planting survival in Indiana. While tree shelters have proven effective, the high cost of their installation, maintenance, and removal continues to favor spraying, mowing, discing, and supplemental planting instead. Four 198 x 330 foot test plots were divided into three subplots and seeded with three different seed mixes by a contractor. Purdue planted various tree species at the site. Growth and survival will be monitored over several years, and that data will be used to improve tree planting maintenance decisions.

## Community Support

Linton-Stockton High School sent a group of students to the site to volunteer during their spring community day. The students and AML employees spent several hours planting trees. The students learned about the AML Program and the safety hazards that were eliminated at the site during this mutually beneficial experience.



## Community Benefits

The project has expanded opportunities for recreational use. The lake was stocked with fish, and lake access was improved.

A handicapped accessible dock with a kayak launch was installed, and a picnic table was constructed at the site. These features will provide families with recreational opportunities for years to come. The transformation of this site showcases the hard work of the AML Program. Hazards were eliminated and improvements were made to give the public an area they can safely enjoy while making lasting memories.

