Commemoration and Reinvention:
Preservation and Inclusive Storytelling in Post-Industrial Communities



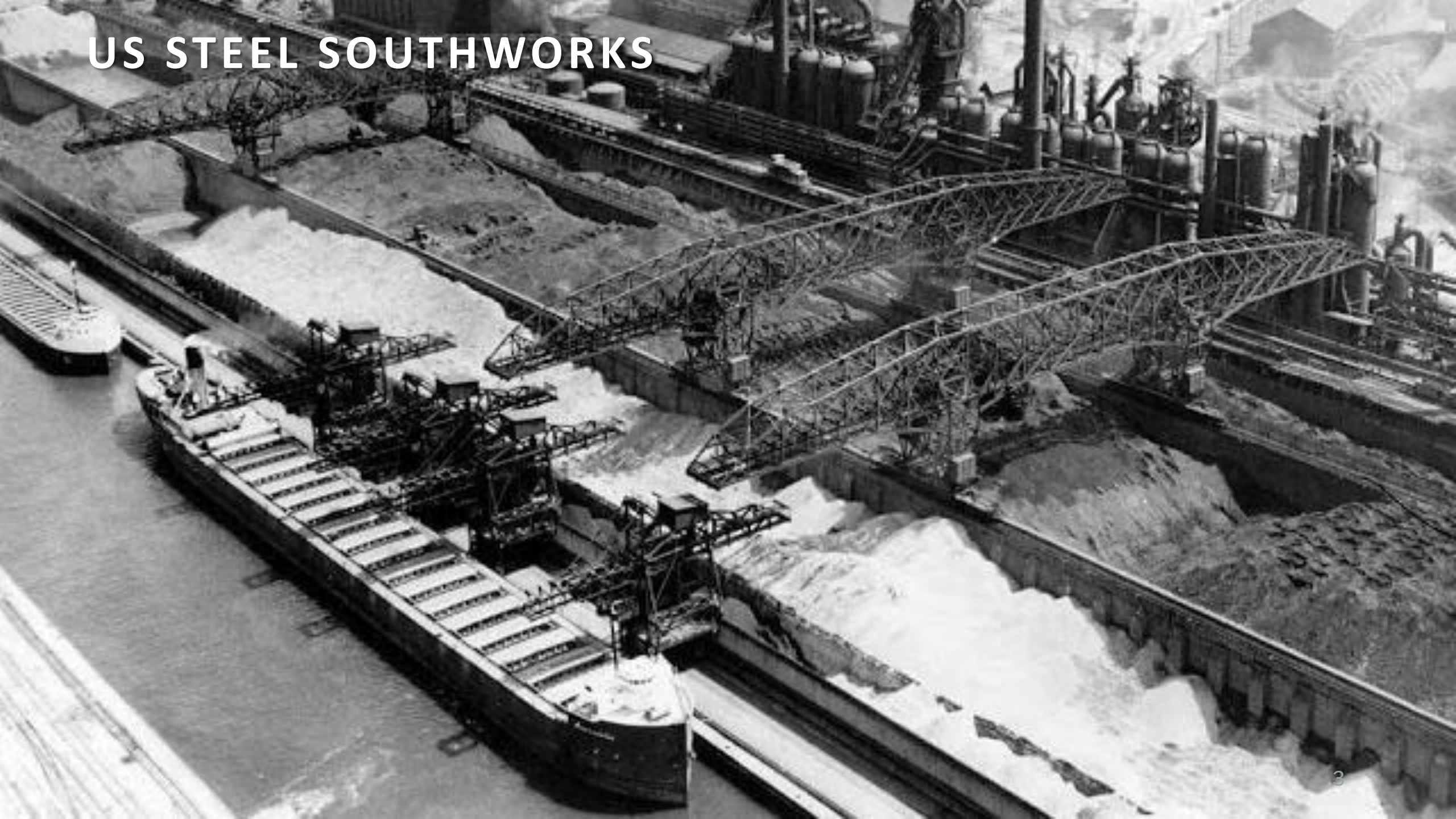
Indiana Landmarks Preserving Historic Places Conference

September 30, 2026



CALUMET
HERITAGE
AREA

US STEEL SOUTHWORKS



INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL PARK





CAL SAG CHANNEL BRIDGES



PULLMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT

ALTGELD GARDENS



THE CALUMET REGION



The Calumet Region is a place of nationally significant natural, industrial, labor, and cultural heritage assets. It contains both globally rare natural areas and the colossal evidence of industrial urbanization.

CALUMET HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP



CALUMET HERITAGE AREA

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3501

To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Calumet National Heritage Area in the States of Indiana and Illinois, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BANKS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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A BILL

To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Calumet National Heritage Area in the States of Indiana and Illinois, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Calumet National Heritage Area Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Calumet region is composed of—

(A) 3 counties in the State of Indiana; and

(B) portions of 2 counties in the State of Illinois;

(2) taken as a whole, the Calumet region—

WHY A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

Serving communities and supporting their partners.



2.5x impact

Leveraged **$74 million** in cash and in-kind support to carry out heritage projects and programs, creating over a **2.5 times impact** of the **$28.1 million** in federal Heritage Partnership Program funding received.

Engaged **2,704** formal partners and **4,788** informal partners in heritage area activities.

Benefited from **24,466 volunteers** contributing over **350,950 hours** for heritage area projects equaling over an **$11.5 million** value.

Preserving our Heritage.
Historic downtowns, landscapes, and culture.



315 historic sites and over **10,000 acres** of cultural landscapes preserved and maintained, including battlefields.

106 collections projects undertaken, including the conservation of artifacts and creation of oral histories.

85 historic preservation grants awarded totaling over **$1.2 million**.

315 historic sites and over 10,000 acres

CALUMET HERITAGE AREA

·DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED·



CALUMET HERITAGE AREA

·DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED·



CALUMET NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA THEMES

1. *Nature Reworked: The Calumet's Diverse Landscape*
2. *Innovations and Change for Industries and Workers*
3. *Crucible of Ethnic and Working Class Cultures*

CALUMET HERITAGE AREA

WHAT DOES THE CALUMET HERITAGE PARNTERSHIP DO?

- CURATE EXHIBITS
- HOST PROGRAMMING
- ADVOCATE FOR PLACE
- ORGANIZE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING
- EXPAND HERITAGE TOURISM



CALUMET HERITAGE AREA



EXHIBITS

Calumet Voices / National Stories Traveling Exhibit



Calumet Voices, National Stories
Exhibit Series

The *Calumet Voices, National Stories* is a series of four exhibitions that brings together local museums from across the region to showcase unique collections of voices and stories that have shaped the American experience. Led by the Field Museum, *Calumet Voices, National Stories* is the first-ever exhibition series of Calumet's intersecting contributions to nature, industry, and culture.

Explore the unique relationship between nature, world-class innovation, and artistic expression that makes this region located at the southern end of Lake Michigan an unexpected national treasure. ***Experience*** the daily life of an industrial worker and the role their work has in the region. ***See*** neighborhoods and nature through the eyes of renowned artists, and ***learn*** about the region's natural areas through specimens like puccoon plants and red-headed woodpeckers on display.



PROGRAMMING

Annual Calumet Heritage Conference



PROGRAMMING

Annual Calumet Heritage Conference



ADVOCACY & ACTION

Critical Calumet – Significant Sites List




St. Mark AME Zion Church
East Chicago
CALUMET | CHRONICLES
THE AWE INSPIRING CHURCH DESIGNED BY WENDELL CAMPBELL

ADVOCACY & ACTION

Critical Calumet – Significant Sites List





THANK YOU!

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