This project is about preserving an important part of local & national history and a quest for recognition for the men who worked for the Pittsburgh Des Moines (PDM) Steel Plant in Warren, PA. From 1962 to 1965, about 280 men worked on the Gateway Arch project welding, cutting, and fabricating the stainless steel sections that would be shipped from Warren to St. Louis, Missouri to ultimately become the Gateway Arch on the national park site known as the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. Each piece was intricately cut, measured, and ground to within 1/64 of an inch to make sure they would fit together perfectly with two other pieces to form the triangle that began the base of each leg of the arch. They were built and stacked continuously in this manner, only to be adjusted as the curve of the arch changed. The magnificent Gateway Arch stands 630 feet tall in St. Louis to this day, more than 50 years later. Due to the name of the parent steel company, visitors to the Arch are often misinformed that the Arch sections were fabricated in Pittsburgh, when in reality, Warren, PA is the birthplace of the Arch.

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This project was the result of the vision of members of the Allegheny Outdoor Club in cooperation with Penn Soil RC & D Council and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Situated along the banks of the Allegheny River, at the base of the Kinzua Dam, is a state-of-the-art, handicap accessible bird viewing station unlike anything else in the Region. Its distinctive designs blends with its surroundings and affords visitors a sheltered, stable viewing platform to observe and photograph bald eagles, great blue herons, hooded mergansers, kingfishers and a wide variety of other birds and wildlife along the shores of the river.

A new asset and a destination in the region that enhances the visitors experience and adds to the quality of life of those who live in the region.

This project demonstrates the partnerships required from conception, design, funding, fabrication and completion of an asset of this magnitude that includes AOC volunteers who cleared the land; Penn Soil RC & D Council who managed the project; the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers who will maintain the site and the variety of local financial investments.

The Station has become the inspiration for another grass roots project born out of a Leadership Warren program.

Photographs include the view from the station, an American Bald Eagle photographed from the station, and the station itself. Eagle Photo by Cheryl Kobielski. Station photos by Wes Ramsey.