



Preservation 50

Fifty Years of Historic Preservation

Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act can take many forms from consultation with American Indian Tribes, to the preservation of historic properties, to public education and outreach that seeks to raise awareness of the need to preserve social places of community memory. Sometimes these nuanced approaches can merge into a single project. Starting in 2009 the Hiawatha National Forest has sponsored an annual native planting project at the former Anishinaabe logging and lumbering settlement of “Sandtown”. Collaborating with Native descendants of the community, Forest Service employees and volunteers have worked to stabilize erosion caused by illegal OHV traffic across the site. The site is considered sacred by the Anishinaabe and represents a time when Indian families literally and figuratively worked to stay together in the face of Federal Indian policies designed to tear their families and community relations apart.



Left: Forest Service volunteers and staff planting native plants, 2012



Each annual planting project begins with an Anishinaabe smudging ceremony and blessing performed by Tribal elders and descendants of the Sandtown Indian community.



Youth Conservation Corps engaged in planting, 2016