

# Joliet Iron Works Tour

April 30, 2022

10:00AM

Joliet Iron Works Historic Site  
75 Columbia St. Joliet, IL 60432

Did you know that Joliet was once home to the second largest steel mill in the entire U.S.? The plant opened in 1869 and ceased operations in the 1980's. There were four blast furnaces capable of producing 2,000 tons of pig iron daily. It was a laborious and dangerous process. Today, the blast furnaces are gone and the site is reminiscent of the Roman ruins. For history buffs like many of us are, this is a fascinating part of local history that few know anything about.



Join us as we tour the remains of the old Joliet Iron Works. This 1.5 hour tour will be led by the Forest Preserve District of Will County which owns the site today. Our tour guide will provide detailed explanations of the history, operations, and remains to create images of an interesting, but grueling process that left this area decades ago. While the site is always open to the public, tour guides are only available to group tours. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn some local history, see your fellow WOTLR members, and take in some fresh spring air.

## Notes:

- Please **dress for the weather!** Tour is lead rain or shine. If there is lighting/storms we will try to reach out to you by email if we do cancel.
- Directions to plug into GPS is under **Joliet Iron Works Historic Site 75 Columbia St. Joliet, IL 60432**
- **Allow extra time** to get to the site. Downtown area has a lot of construction right now and in general Joliet is notorious for the bridge being up or for train crossings.
- **Bathrooms and drinking foundations are located in the parking lot.** We will check-in and start the tour at the pavilion which is visible from the parking lot.
- Wear your best walking shoes! The tour is a **half-mile walking tour** and half mile walk back to the parking lot.

Join us after the tour for lunch at Merichka's Restaurant. They are known for their poor boy sandwiches. The cost of lunch is on your own so everyone is able to order off the menu.

Merichka's Restaurant  
604 Theodore St  
Crest Hill, IL 60403

For questions, contact Fred Butalla at (815) 730-6044 or [fbutalla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fbutalla@sbcglobal.net)