

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
Kira Macyda
January 24, 2008

Native American Historical Markers

Intro paragraph provided by WCHDC

2nd paragraph discusses our property

3rd paragraph describes W.B. Hinsdale map

Parks & Preserves

Staebler; Parker Mill; Burns-Stokes Preserve; Leonard Preserve

Staebler Farm

As early as 1000 B.C., the property known as Staebler Farm was a gathering place for Native Americans. Access to water and high, dry ground made this an ideal stopping point along a trail leading to the Detroit River. Today, Plymouth Road follows this prehistoric trail and serves as a legacy of Native Americans in Washtenaw County.

Parker Mill

Situated along the Huron River, Parker Mill County Park is located along a prehistoric Native American trail coming from present day Ypsilanti. In the early twentieth century, three earthen mounds were discovered less than one mile from the property. Pottery, copper, slate ornaments, a skeleton of a beaver, and a complete human skeleton were uncovered during excavations.

Burns-Stokes

Situated along the Huron River, Burns-Stokes Preserve is located along a prehistoric Native American trail. This trail led to an Indian village two miles east of this property. Early residents in the community noted groups of Native Americans traveling along the trail to plant corn. Evidently, some cornfields could be seen as late as 1866.

Leonard Preserve (or any River Raisin property)

The Leonard Preserve is located along a prehistoric Native American trail following the River Raisin. The river provided a means of travel between Lakes Erie and Michigan with little portage. The region's dense forests and waters of the River Raisin provided an abundance of food for Washtenaw County's first inhabitants.

W.B. Hinsdale

During the 1920s former University of Michigan professor, W.B. Hinsdale, compiled one of the most comprehensive surveys of Native American trails and sites in Michigan. Through research, Hinsdale created a vibrant picture of Native American life around the state before European settlement.