

INDIAN MOUNDS PARK



Indian Mounds Park



Indian Mounds Park is one of the few public places in the state where visitors can view Native American mounds. Eight, and perhaps more, Woodland Period (1000 B.C. - A.D. 1000) burial mounds are preserved here. Native Americans often marked locations of graves by covering them with a mound of earth. Woodland Period cemeteries are commonly located on the crest of a bluff overlooking a valley.

Archaeologists estimate there once were more than 10,000 mounds in Illinois. Today probably fewer than 500 remain, and most are damaged because of illicit excavation. The mounds in this park are among the few that survive in this part of the river valley, thanks to citizens of Quincy.

In 1887, a group of Quincyans formed a voluntary organization to plan the locations of boulevards and parks in the city. The Quincy Boulevard and Park Association was incorporated on July 23, 1888, as a not-for-profit corporation with 33 directors. E.J. Parker was elected president. Sacred Heights was suggested as a name for the new park; Parker preferred Indian Mounds Park.

"On 10 July 1894, he encouraged the city council, to 'purchase the rugged bluff land comprising the west portion of what is now known as Indian Mounds Park.' The proposal ... aroused considerable discussion and opposition from many members of the city council. It was rumored no trees or shrubs will grow on the land." Some wanted the land divided into lots and sold for development.

Following a petition drive calling for the "preservation of the Indian Mounds," a majority of the city council voted in 1897 to purchase the north 10 acres for \$3,200. Purchases of land continued until 1906, at which time the park encompassed 37 acres. Renowned landscape architect O.C. Simonds of Chicago designed and managed construction of the park.

Over the years, many people drowned in the Mississippi River, fostering discussions about the need for a community pool. J.W. Gardner and the Quincy Rotary Club raised \$31,000 for its construction, and the first Indian Mounds Pool, called the Plunge, opened with great fanfare June 12, 1924. Judging from the distribution of mounds in the park and elsewhere, pool construction probably did not disturb any burial mounds.

In 1965, a new Olympic-size pool was constructed in the footprint of the old pool. After 30 years of use, this pool developed maintenance problems, and the Quincy Park Board voted in 2002 to build a third pool with the agreement that \$376,000 would be raised in the community to help fund the \$1.9-million project. Friends of Indian Mounds Pool appealed to the community and more than \$402,000 was donated by school children, churches, businesses, foundations, organizations, and many individuals. Park commissioners voted to incorporate the history of the mounds and the story of Native Americans in the construction of the new pool and throughout the park. The third Indian Mounds Pool opened July 2, 2003.

The new pool is heated and features waterslides, rain drop and floor geysers, diving boards, a food court, and a beach-like slope helpful to small swimmers, seniors, and those with disabilities. A sand volleyball court is located north of the bathhouse. Today the park is used for picnics, swimming, walking, biking, concerts, viewing the Mississippi River Valley, and learning.

Friends of Indian Mounds Pool: *Joe and Janet Conover, co-chairmen, Jim Bailey, Jacqui Bevelheimer, Joe Bonansinga, Lee Curtis, Howard Dewell, Paul Duker, Marcia Dvorak, Kirk Frageman, Anne Forbes, John Frankenhoff, John Hecker, Harold Knapheide, Carol Mickle, Rocky Murry, Adam Newman, John and Joanne Ortwerth, Quincy Park District Staff, Paul Saunders, Anne St. John, Ray and Rose Scheiter, Mayor Chuck Scholz, Don and Diane Sloan, and Stacie Sparks.*



#1 Stone Arch Bridge. This graceful structure is located in the 1700 block of South Eighth Street and spans Curtis Creek just south of the entrances to Indian Mounds Park (west) and South Park (east). Built in 1889 for \$5,600, Earnest Wood was the architect and F.W. Menke Stone & Lime Co. the builder. The arch is framed by four semi-circular towers and is 60 feet across at the base and 33 1/2 feet high.

Determined eligible for National Register listing by the National Park Service in 1997, the bridge is a designated City of Quincy Local Landmark and was restored in 1994. It can be viewed from a small parking lot just west of the bridge along R.J. Peters Drive. Please be very careful crossing R.J. Peters Drive and look both directions as traffic is sometimes heavy.

#2 Friends of the Trail. Friends of the Trail is developing a walking trail and bike path in the south end of the park that is part of a network of connecting trails around the city of Quincy.

#3 Former Erroke Museum. Opened in 1962, the Erroke Museum featured an in-place burial exhibit excavated by a group of amateur archaeologists. The Museum was closed permanently by the end of the decade.

QUINCY PRESERVES PLAQUE.

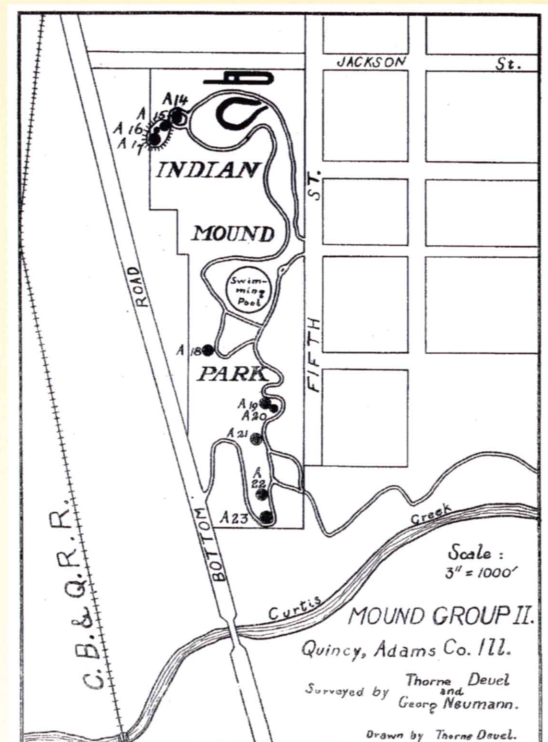
This park is a
sacred place
for Native Americans

QUINCY PRESERVES & QUINCY PARK DISTRICT

#4 Mounds. During the summers of 1928 and 1929, the University of Chicago undertook an Archeological Survey of Adams County, Illinois, as part of a statewide project. Thorne Deuel of Syracuse University and later director of the Illinois State Museum, and Georg Neumann, for many years a renowned anthropologist at Indiana University, led the survey team.

The bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River and adjoining creeks were followed and 62 mounds surveyed and numbered. Ten mounds in Indian Mounds Park were titled Mound Group II and numbered A14 - A23. They range from less than 3 feet in height and 10 feet in diameter to more than 12 feet in height and 24 feet in diameter. Deuel drew a map (below) that shows the mounds, road, pool and two unusual horseshoe-shaped earthworks in the north end of the park (see #11, pg. 14).

Today one can walk through the park and respectfully view the eight remaining mounds.

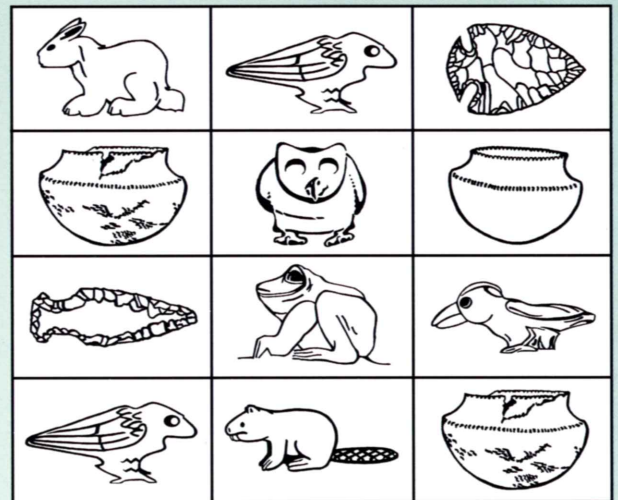


#5 Statue. A statue of a Native American girl was sculpted by Dr. Randall McClelland, an award-winning local artist. Dr. Harry Spell cast the statue. Quincy school children selected the name An-na-mos-sah, a Sauk name meaning "white fawn," for the statue. She holds an Adams Tradition Pot. The original pot was found eight miles north of Quincy along Rock Creek at an ancient village site in the Mississippi River bottoms. Archaeologists named the culture of Late Woodland people here, Adams Tradition, after the county. An Adams Tradition Pot and other Native American artifacts are on display at the Quincy Museum.



#6 Stained Glass Window. A stained glass window, "Sunset in Indian Mounds Park," made by Quincy artist Jan Quintero and designed by Phyllis Snodgrass, is located above the double-door entrance to the Indian Mounds Pool bathhouse.

#7 Border of Blocks. Stenciled designs of ancient Native American artifacts found in this area were surface-engraved on glazed concrete blocks to make a border, or band, of blocks around the bathhouse. These local artists drew the designs from artifacts housed at the Quincy Museum: Trudy Bach (arrowpoint and spearpoint); David Brown (rabbit); Becky Butler (little bird); Gary Butler (owl); Erin Heers (beaver); Robert Mejer (frog); Jason Mejer (crow); and Teresa Spear (pottery).



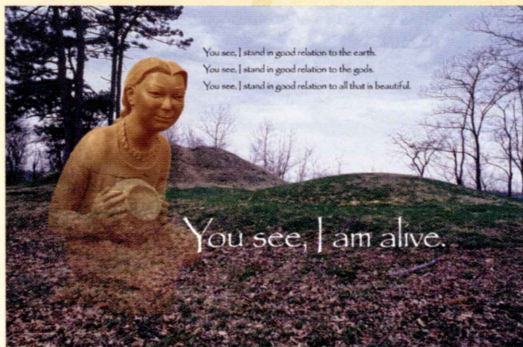
#8 Three Panels for Bathhouse. These panels are located on the west side of the bathhouse and available for viewing when Indian Mounds Pool is open.



A Native American village AD 900
by Gary Butler



Mound Building on a Mississippi Bluff AD 900
by Gary Butler



You see, I am alive.

You see, I stand in good relation to the earth.

You see, I stand in good relation to the gods.

You see, I stand in good relation to all
that is beautiful.

You see, I am alive.

by N. Scott Momaday
from *The World of the American Indian*

#9 Walking Time Line. These eight way-side exhibits introduce you to the history of the people who built the mounds preserved in this park. As you walk from one exhibit to the next, you will "travel" through time from 30,000 years ago to the present. Along the way you will discover the story of Native American culture in and around Quincy.

The Mississippi River

Your walk begins overlooking the Mississippi River. Here you learn that glaciers changed the courses of rivers more than 20,000 years ago. At the same time, dry land connected Asia and North America, and the first people, Native Americans, came to the western hemisphere.

Paleoindian Period: 12,000 - 8000 B.C.

Native Americans arrived in Illinois about 14,000 years ago. Traveling in small groups, they moved often in search of food and other resources. Stone tools are often the only trace of their history. Near St. Louis, archaeologists found a Paleoindian spear point among the bones of a now-extinct American Mastodon.

Archaic Period: 8000 - 1000 B.C.

Warmer climate ended the Ice Age, allowing the growth of temperate latitude plants and animals, and eventually promoting the growth of vast prairies. Native Americans made adjustments, increasing their use of resources from wetlands, rivers, and streams, and they invented a spear thrower to improve hunting. By the end of the period, they experimented with the cultivation of native plants.



Early Archaic Spear Points

Michael Brohm

Woodland Period: 1000 B.C. - A.D. 1000

During this period, Native Americans invented pottery for food storage and cooking and the bow and arrow for hunting and protection. They lived in large villages, often situated near rivers and streams, and cultivated gardens of squash, gourd, and sunflower, and by the end of the period, corn. They buried their dead in mounds of earth like those found in Indian Mounds Park.



Adams Tradition Pot

Gary Andrashko

Mississippian Period: A.D. 1000 - 1300

Cultivated foods became more important: fields of corn, beans, and squash replaced gardens of native plants. Villages became towns, often protected by a log stockade, as population increased. Trade in exotic materials and ritual objects became more important. Powerful leaders lived in buildings perched atop earthen mounds.



Duck-effigy Bowl

Michael Brohm

Marquette and Jolliet: AD 1673

Pere Marquette, a Jesuit missionary, and Louis Jolliet, a mapmaker, explored the Mississippi and Illinois rivers by canoe in 1673. Upstream, at the mouth of the Des Moines River, they visited a village of the Peoria tribe, members of the Iliniwek or Illinois. Later, they visited the Kaskaskia at Starved Rock on the upper reach of the Illinois River. Their arrival signaled a time of change for Native Americans.



French Crucifix

Michael Brohm

Quincy: AD 1822

As American settlement expanded in the east, many tribes were forced to leave and move farther west. When John Wood and Willard Keyes purchased land at the future site of Quincy in 1822, Native Americans were still living in the area. In 1832, Black Sparrow Hawk and 1,000 men, women, and children returned to Illinois. Their arrival caused alarm, quickly escalated to conflict, and resulted in the decimation of the Sauk and the removal of all tribes in Illinois.

In 1838, citizens aided a group of Potawatomis being escorted by military volunteers on a forced march from their homes in Indiana to a reservation in Kansas. By this time almost all Native Americans had left the state, ending a 12,000-year-long history of settlement and leadership in Illinois.

Black Hawk War Monument. Inscription on stone: *Black Hawk War, 1832, Adams County Patriotic Association, 1921*

Indian Mounds Park: AD 1897 - 1906

Citizens of Quincy in 1897 appreciated the importance of the Indian mounds on the Mississippi River bluffs (pp. 4, 5 & 7). Today the park is recognized for the preservation of the mounds and as a recreational and learning area for citizens to use, enjoy, and respect.

#10 U-shaped Ridge. Two U-shaped ridges were identified in the 1929 Archeological Survey of Adams County, Illinois, by archaeologists Thorne Deuel and Georg Neumann. One horseshoe-shaped earthwork is still visible. Located close to mounds along the bluff: Was it a ceremonial site? Its ancient purpose remains an enigma. Perhaps some future investigation will unlock its secrets.

To arrange for a field trip to Indian Mounds

Park: Please call the Quincy Park District at 217-223-7703. The main park entrance is at 1400 South Fifth Street. Parking is provided near Indian Mounds Pool and the first panel of the Walking Time Line. Indian Mounds Park is closed during the winter months.

Visit these museums to learn more about Native American history and culture:

Quincy Museum, 1601 Maine St. Quincy, IL 62301.
217-224-7669

Historical Society Quincy and Adams County, 425 South 12th St, Quincy, IL 62301. 217-222-1835

Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design, 332 Maine St, Quincy, IL. 62301. 217-224-6873

Illinois State Museum, 502 South Spring St, Springfield, IL 62706. 217-782-7387

Dickson Mounds Museum, 10956 Dickson Mounds Rd, Lewistown, IL 61542. 309-547-3721

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramsey St, Collinsville, IL 62234. 618-346-5160

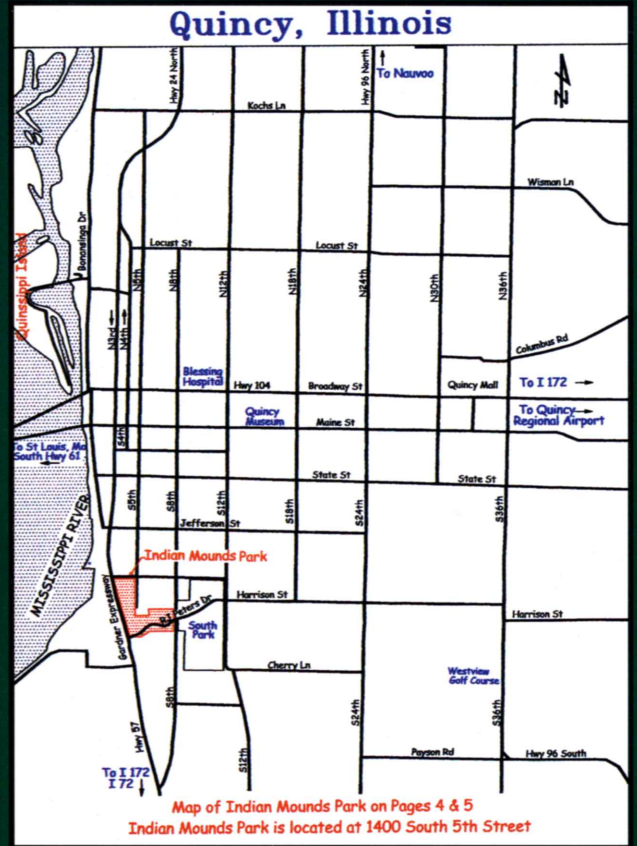
Credits:

This brochure, a Walking Time Line, panels for the bathhouse, posters, and a dedication lecture were made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Illinois General Assembly, and the Illinois State Museum.

Assisting were Friends of Indian Mounds Pool and Park, Quincy Park District Commissioners and Staff, Quincy Museum, the Quincy Visitors and Convention Center, Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County, Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design, Quincy Preserves, City of Quincy Engineering Department, and the citizens of Quincy.

Also assisting were Gary Andrashko and Andy Hanson of the Illinois State Museum, and Tim McClelland of Media Development. Dr. Michael Wiant of the Illinois State Museum was project adviser, and Janet Conover grant project director.

To reach Indian Mounds Park:
From Broadway (Ill104), Maine, State, or
Jefferson streets, turn south on 5th, proceed
to park entrance at 1400 South 5th Street.



*Potawatomi Trail of Death historic markers
are located on Quinsippi Island and at
St. Boniface Church, 7th and Maine Street.*

Indian Mounds Park Research and Statue Committee:

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Ortwerth, John Ortwerth, Ed Seger, Randy Sparks,
Doris Sprinkle, Anne St. John, and Michael Wiant.