



## PARK & TRAIL INFORMATION

### Native Lands County Park

Adjacent to Safe Harbor Water Power Corporation's Klines Run Park, Native Lands County Park is one of 11 parks managed by York County's Department of Parks and Recreation. Once proposed for housing development, the County acquired this site in 2008 as part of the Susquehanna Heritage Park, a regional effort to preserve scenic and historic lands along the Susquehanna for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. The Heritage Park also includes Highpoint Scenic Vista & Recreation Area, the John & Kathryn Zimmerman Center for Heritage and a future visitor education center at Klines Run Park.

### Native Lands Heritage Trail



The one-mile long Heritage Trail provides access and interpretation for the park, following a portion of the Mason-Dixon Trail, a 193-mile interstate hiking path (marked with blue blazes), and the Pleasant Garden Trail (yellow blazes), to the Zimmerman Center for Heritage. The trail features seven numbered waystop posts, each linked to the information in this guide, that provide places for viewing and learning about this historic landscape.

### More Walks in the Park

Visitors may also enjoy trails to the Dritt Family Cemetery and around the Susquehannock Indian Village historic site, or continue north or south on the Mason-Dixon Trail to other heritage, recreation and natural areas. These trails provide additional opportunities for enjoying the park's cultural heritage, natural beauty and plant and animal life.



Explore more of the Susquehanna's rich heritage and natural wonders online at: [www.SusquehannaHeritage.org](http://www.SusquehannaHeritage.org)

Please share your comments with us: [info@susquehannaheritage.org](mailto:info@susquehannaheritage.org) / 717-252-0229

## NATIVE LANDS COUNTY PARK & Adjacent Parkland, Trails & Heritage Sites

York County Department of Parks & Recreation  
[www.yorkcountyparks.org](http://www.yorkcountyparks.org)

- Park Drive / Parking
- Water Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Heritage Trail
- Heritage Parklands
- Park Access
- Structure
- Heritage Trail Waystop



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These parklands and trails are part of the Susquehanna Greenway, a 500 mile network of land and water trails, natural areas, and river towns—Pennsylvania's largest greenway.

[www.susquehannagreenway.org](http://www.susquehannagreenway.org)



SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE PARK

## NATIVE LANDS COUNTY PARK



## HERITAGE TRAIL WAYSTOP GUIDE

*"Treat the earth well.  
It was not given to you by  
your parents, it was loaned  
to you by your children."*

*Ancient Indian Proverb*

Developed & Published by:





## NATIVE LANDS HERITAGE TRAIL WAYSTOP GUIDE

### WAYSTOP 1

Welcome to the Native Lands Heritage Trail—a scenic journey through Susquehanna history. This is a special landscape where many stories come together—a place that many peoples have called their Native Land.

The trail begins at Klines Run Park, created in the 1930s with the Safe Harbor Dam project, located a few miles south. At that time, this site was mostly open farmland. The dam also created Conejohela Flats, the islands and mudflats across the river, which each year host 17,000 migratory shorebirds – up to 38 species—that stop here on their way to breeding grounds in the Arctic and wintering grounds in South America.



Archaeology has documented human settlement along the river dating back over 12,000 years. More than 50,000 Native Americans had lived their lives here before the first Europeans ever arrived. Native people still live here today, as seen by the many local pow-wows and festivals held each year.

The historic sites of the last two Susquehannock Indian settlements are now preserved. The Upper Leibhart Archaeological Preserve, to the north, dates to 1665 and is managed by the Archaeological Conservancy. The last Susquehannock village site, to the south, dates to 1676 and is part of Native Lands County Park. Although most of this Native history is invisible to us, the images they carved on river rocks to the south of here still exist—the only place on the Susquehanna where extensive rock art sites have been found.

### WAYSTOP 2

As you leave the forest, the trail becomes a grass path through the park's rolling meadows. A bucolic scene today, this land has seen much controversy. Battles for possession between the Senecas and Susquehannocks, border conflicts between the Penns and the Calverts, and more recent public debates about development versus preservation have all been part of its history.

Now, as a public park, these lands will forever offer a place for sharing a common heritage. The healing nature of this preserved place has been demonstrated by volunteers from the Mason-Dixon Trail System, York Hiking Club, Lancaster-York Native Heritage Advisory Council, and the Dritt family, who worked with County Parks & Recreation staff to prepare the park and its trails for public use.

### WAYSTOP 3

Visible to the north is the 1930s dairy barn at Lauxmont Farms and Highpoint Scenic Vista and Recreation Area. Portions of Native Lands County Park were part of S. Forry Laucks's original Lauxmont estate, as was Highpoint. The 40th parallel, which Maryland originally claimed as its northern border, runs along the road below Highpoint.

Although evidence indicates that Native People used this land during seasonal visits up to 8,000 years ago, it is most associated with the Susquehannock Indian Nation, the last Native group to live here before Europeans arrived.

The Susquehannocks settled in the area about 1575, building the first of several successive stockaded villages on the Lancaster County side of the river. The three largest were near present-day Washington Boro. In 1608, when John Smith first encountered the Susquehannocks farther to the south, near the river's mouth in Maryland, nearly 2,000 people were living in their Washington Boro community.



Perhaps due to pressure from other Native groups or encroachment from traders and settlers, the Susquehannocks moved to this side of the river about 1665, establishing their first village just north of Klines Run Park. Their last village was about 800 yards down this trail, at Waystop 6.

### WAYSTOP 4

The remains of an 1800's-era farmstead, behind the fence line to the southwest, is the most visible reminder of this land's agricultural heritage. A spring flows nearby—a natural feature that has attracted people for centuries. This land's farming legacy likely dates back 500 or more years.

Growing food was part of Susquehannock life here, and of the Shenks Ferry peoples who predated them. Patches of pawpaws, a native tree said to have been cultivated for its fruit, still grow on the property.

In 1731, fifty years after the Susquehannocks departed, Marylander Stephen Onion received a patent for 600 around this site, which he called "Canhoda", the Iroquois word for "town". Over the next two centuries, the land was developed into a traditional Pennsylvania farmstead.

From the 1930s through the 1960s, the Leibhart family farmed most of what is now the park, cultivating apples, corn, cantaloupes, berries, asparagus and hay. Remnants of their extensive complex of farm buildings, orchards and fields are hidden in the landscape today.



### WAYSTOP 5

A trail leads from here to the Dritt Family Cemetery. Hans Peter (Peter) Tritt, one of two Swiss brothers who came to America in 1739, moved his family from Lancaster County to this area about 1750. His eldest child, Johann Jacob (Jacob) Tritt, born in 1746, later took the name 'Dritt' and married Elizabeth Boyer in 1768.

When the Revolutionary War began, Jacob was a captain in the local militia. He spent two years as a British prisoner and later became a Major General in Pennsylvania's militia. Jacob had many business pursuits—farmer, miller, sawyer, wine merchant and ferry operator. He also laid out and sold the original lots for the village of Washington Boro.

In 1783 Jacob bought the riverside stone house and property known as "Pleasant Garden", originally settled by Marylander Thomas Cresap. When Jacob drowned in the river in 1817, his daughter Margaret (Dritt) Bonham bought the home. It remained in the family until 1851. The earliest known grave in the cemetery dates to 1824, the last 1879. Jacob Dritt is not buried here, but it is the final resting place of his wife and some descendants.

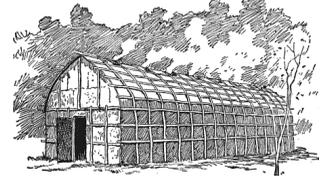


### WAYSTOP 6

The last known village of the Susquehannock Indians once stood at this site from about 1676 to 1680. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Byrd Leibhart site, it is recognized by the National Park Service as worthy of nomination for National Historic Landmark status—America's highest heritage honor.

When first settled, war with other Native groups and diseases brought here by Europeans had reduced the Susquehannocks to about 900 people—down from 3,000 just 20 years earlier. A log stockade enclosed the four acre village, protecting about 16 ninety-foot long-houses, each housing 50 or so family members.

This site demonstrates how dramatically life had been altered for the Native Peoples since the Europeans arrived just seventy years before. In this short time, the Indians of the lower Susquehanna would go from complete self-sufficiency to inextricable involvement with the land's new inhabitants.



It is believed that the Seneca Indians drove the last Susquehannocks into Maryland about 1680. They returned to their homeland in Lancaster County several years later, becoming known as the Conestoga Indians.

### WAYSTOP 7

You've reached the Zimmerman Center for Heritage, home of the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, one of twelve Pennsylvania Heritage Areas. This 1740-era home, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is also known as "Pleasant Garden", and as the "Dritt Mansion", after its longest occupants. The property was first granted by Lord Baltimore to Thomas Cresap in 1729, who operated a ferry here and claimed the area for Maryland. Cresap was arrested in 1736 and driven away after a series of skirmishes known as "Cresap's War—a dispute finally resolved in 1784, when the Mason-Dixon line was established. Today the home plays host to Heritage Area offices and programs, as well as the *Visions of the Susquehanna River Art Collection*.

