



## Reading the Landscape like an Archaeologist!

Landscape Archaeology is the study of how humans have shaped the land around them over time. When looking at the landscape from an archaeological point of view, it is important to note sites where nature has been altered. Examples include stones that have been arranged to create a structure or an area where trees have been cleared to create a path or building site. As you walk through the preserve, observe the natural landscape and look for patterns and clues to how the land was used in the past- these are the places where archaeological discoveries take place!

### *Searching for Signs of the Past*



#### **Signs of Agricultural Use:**

- Stone walls- in rural areas, stone walls were created to clear rocks from the land that would have been used for growing crops or an open field for grazing animals

#### **Signs of a Burial Site:**

- Look for upright and flattened stones arranged in a regular linear pattern, often with names engraved on them, but not always legible
- Evidence of an enclosure such as a stone wall, metal or wooden fence encircling a small plot of land
- Uneven land- sunken areas often are a sign of where old caskets have collapsed and human remains have decomposed underground

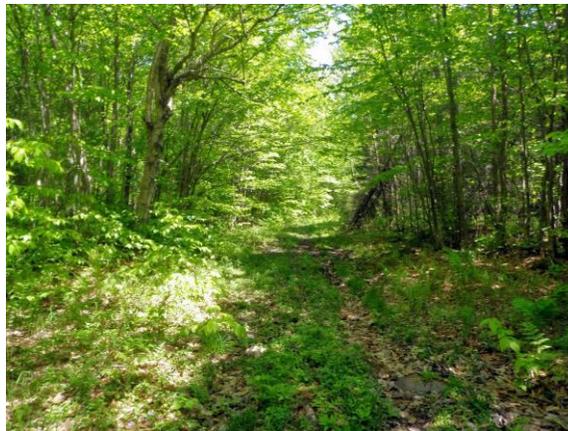


### Signs of a Former Building:

- Often times a stone or brick foundation remains in place long after a historic building has been demolished
- A foundation can be distinguished from a stone wall or other stone structures by the fact that the ground level is lower on the inside of the foundation, where a cellar or crawl space once was
- Chimneys are often found intact after the rest of the structure has collapsed

### Signs of an Old Dam:

- If you notice a pond that has a stream leading into it and a stream flowing out of it with one side that appears raised or walled off, chances are the stream has been dammed
- During the 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> centuries dams were constructed to retain water for human and animal consumption or for irrigation or industrial processes such as a grist mill or saw mill



### Signs of Old Roads:

- Look for grooves where wheels may have made an imprint on the path over time. These might be from cars or from horse-drawn carriages depending on the age of the old road
- On an overgrown old road you'll likely find large old trees on opposite sides of a large path with smaller, younger vegetation in the middle