



DNR Archaeology Michigan History Center

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DNR Mission

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

DNR-Managed Lands

4,600,000 acres

Parks & Recreation Division

Forest Resources Division

Wildlife Division

Fisheries Division

Law Enforcement Division

Office of Public Lands

- Identify, preserve and protect significant resources
- Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act review, survey and recommendations
- Land management planning, policies and procedures assistance
- Assist public and tribal consultation
- Collections management
- Training, outreach and education

Wilderness State Park



Photos: 3,000-5,000-year-old site discovered while preparing for DNR-Michigan Army National Guard project.

Underwater Archaeology



38,000 square miles of Great Lakes
Bottomlands

About 1,500 shipwreck and aircraft sites

Partners:

- EGLE
- Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- 14 State Underwater Preserves

Photo: Wooden bulk freighter James Davidson (1874-1883) lost off Thunder Bay Island in Lake Huron.

Tribal Heritage



Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park, co-managed with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan since 2019.



Straits State Park archaeological survey with Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Tribal Historic Preservation staff.



Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act consulting parties at a repatriation.

Michigan History Center Mission

The Michigan History Center fosters curiosity, enjoyment and inspiration rooted in Michigan's stories.



Current Plan: Operations & Research

Educational and training materials for DNR divisions

Collections care, modernization, and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act compliance

Training in and use of ground penetrating radar

In-house and contracted archaeological surveys of state park, state forest, and state game and wildlife area lands

- Including Allegan, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Delta, Grand Traverse, Menominee, Ontonagon and Presque Isle Counties
- Supporting infrastructure, trail, and forest and habitat management projects and whatever else needs doing quickly

Current Plan: Outreach & Education

Assist Michigan History Museum with new archaeology exhibits at Fort Wilkins and Fayette Historic State Parks

Michigan Archaeology Day Saturday, October 5, 2024

Nominate significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places

- Nonesuch Mine, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park
- Salling Hanson lumber camp, Hartwick Pines State Park
- Fayette Historic State Park as a National Historic Landmark

Thank You!
Questions?



Photo: Archaeological survey for infrastructure improvements, Fayette Historic State Park.