



WOODLAND MOUNDS STATE PRESERVE



MAP KEY

- Parking Lot
- Public Hunting Boundary
- Gilbert's Grove
- Park Boundary
- Bridge
- Fire Break Loop (2.65 mi)
- Road

The unique qualities of this beautiful wooded ridge above South River have been recognized by inhabitants of this county for thousands of years. Before European settlers came to this area, Native Americans lived along the rivers of Warren County. They were part of a culture of people who dwelled in villages located near major waterways in Iowa. Early cultures did not leave a written record. Instead they left a variety of their cultural objects such as stone tools, pottery, and earthen mounds that help show us how they lived. Evidence indicates that these people lived successfully in Warren County for thousands of years.

One of the most interesting characteristics of the Woodland Culture was the construction large earthen mounds, usually found on the highest point of the ridge above the village site. The mounds are believed to have served either as burial sites for important tribal leaders or as some part of the religious ceremonies of the villagers. A series of conical mounds are located along the ridge at WMSP. A series of linear excavations of undetermined origin is also located here. The area was a sacred place to the Woodland people and continues to provide a link to those who were here so long before modern society.

When visiting this area and exploring the mounds, be mindful of their spiritual nature and remember they are protected by law. All of WMSP is open to hunting within the rules and regulations set forth by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

QR CODE

