

*You Are Here, But Who Was Here First?



The aerial photo shown as the base for this map was taken in April 2010 after significant rainfall and flooding

fish, shellfish, and upland game. The prehistoric inhabitants of the area gathered here to camp while harvesting these natural provisions, to process and preserve the food for storage and later use, to make and repair their tools, and to cultivate crops in the fertile bottomland soil. Stone artifacts such as chipped flint projectile points known as “arrowheads,” and other stone tools, such as knives, axes, hammers, and pestles have been recovered and used to learn about the pre-historic peoples that used the site, and how they used it.

It is thought that this area was occupied by Algonquian-speaking groups of the Mahican confederacy known as the Lenni Lenape or Delaware. The tribes in the Orange County area were known as the Proto-Munsee. Detailed information about the archeological studies that were carried out at the Park, on Hudson Valley Native American Pre-history, and how the Lenape lived, ate, made use of the land, and governed themselves, as well as information on artifacts found at the site was compiled by Joe Devine, Chairman of the Park at Benedict Farm Advisory Council, in *The Prehistory of the Park at Benedict Farm*, available online at <http://goo.gl/gauBc>.

Benedict Farm was formerly used as a dairy farm; look around and you can see the buildings that were used as part of the daily farm operations. But long before the area was settled and used as a family dairy farm, the property was inhabited by Native Americans for more than 8,000 years. Significant evidence of this prehistoric use still exists on the site, and is preserved untouched within two archeologically protected areas of the Park. Due to this site's rich pre-history contributions to the Town of Montgomery, an application has been submitted to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation to place the two sites on the National Historic Register.

Native Americans were attracted to this site, at the confluence of the Muddy Kill and the Walkkill River, because the streams, meadows, and nearby uplands were rich with

