

Woodland Interpretive Trail

Honey Creek State Park
 RR 2
 Moravia, Iowa
 (515) 724-3739

NOTICE

As you walk along the trail be aware that this area is sacred. Please act accordingly.

Archaeologists have determined that the mounds in this group were constructed by a prehistoric people during an age called the *Woodland Period*. The Woodland Period has been estimated to have begun around 500 B.C. and lasted until as recently as the 1600's. Three specific factors are evident in Native American peoples lifestyles of this time that were not evident in the earlier Archaic Period.

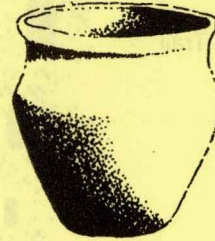
These three factors are :

1. The cultivation of plants,
2. The appearance of ceramics, and
3. The building of earthen mounds.



The emergence of these characteristics indicates that the Woodland Period people began to live a more sedentary lifestyle. In the Archaic Period the people relied on hunting and gathering for their food, which meant a rather nomadic existence. Ceramic vessels are not practical when you must move whenever the food source is depleted.

Early Woodland Period weapons consisted of spears and darts. Most of these had stone tips of sharpened chert. By the later stages of the period the use of the bow and arrow was well established.



Even though the gathering of nuts, berries and wild seeds was still a necessity, the woodland culture began to plant seeds and to cultivate plants to supplement their food source.

Because food became more easily attained, larger groups of people could live together at once. Several family units are believed to have gathered together during the growing season, and then disbanded when food again became scarce.



Cross section of mound

Mound building, it is thought may have been used to draw people together on special occasions, and the mound areas represented ceremonial centers.

Sources : Anderson, Duane, "Eastern Iowa Prehistory"
Alex, Lynn-Marie, "Exploring Iowa's Past"