

Welcome to Native Lands



Welcome to Native Lands Heritage Trail—a scenic journey through history. This landscape is a place that many people have called their Native Lands.

The one-mile earth and grass hiking trail provides public access and storytelling for Native Lands County Park, a 180-acre preserve owned and managed by the County of York. The route passes through woodlands and open meadows along the Pleasant Garden Trail (yellow blazes) and part of the Mason-Dixon Trail (blue blazes), linking the Zimmerman Center for Heritage with Klines Run Park.

The Heritage Trail's seven numbered waystops, coordinated with the information in this guide, provide places to learn about and view this scenic and historic landscape. Other trails in the park circle the historic Susquehannock settlement site and lead to the Dritt Family Cemetery.

PARK OPEN DAWN TO DUSK EVERY DAY/YEAR ROUND



Published by:

SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE

Susquehanna Heritage is a non-profit organization and Pennsylvania Heritage Area advancing a vision for the Susquehanna Riverlands as a national destination for outdoor fun and cultural discovery.

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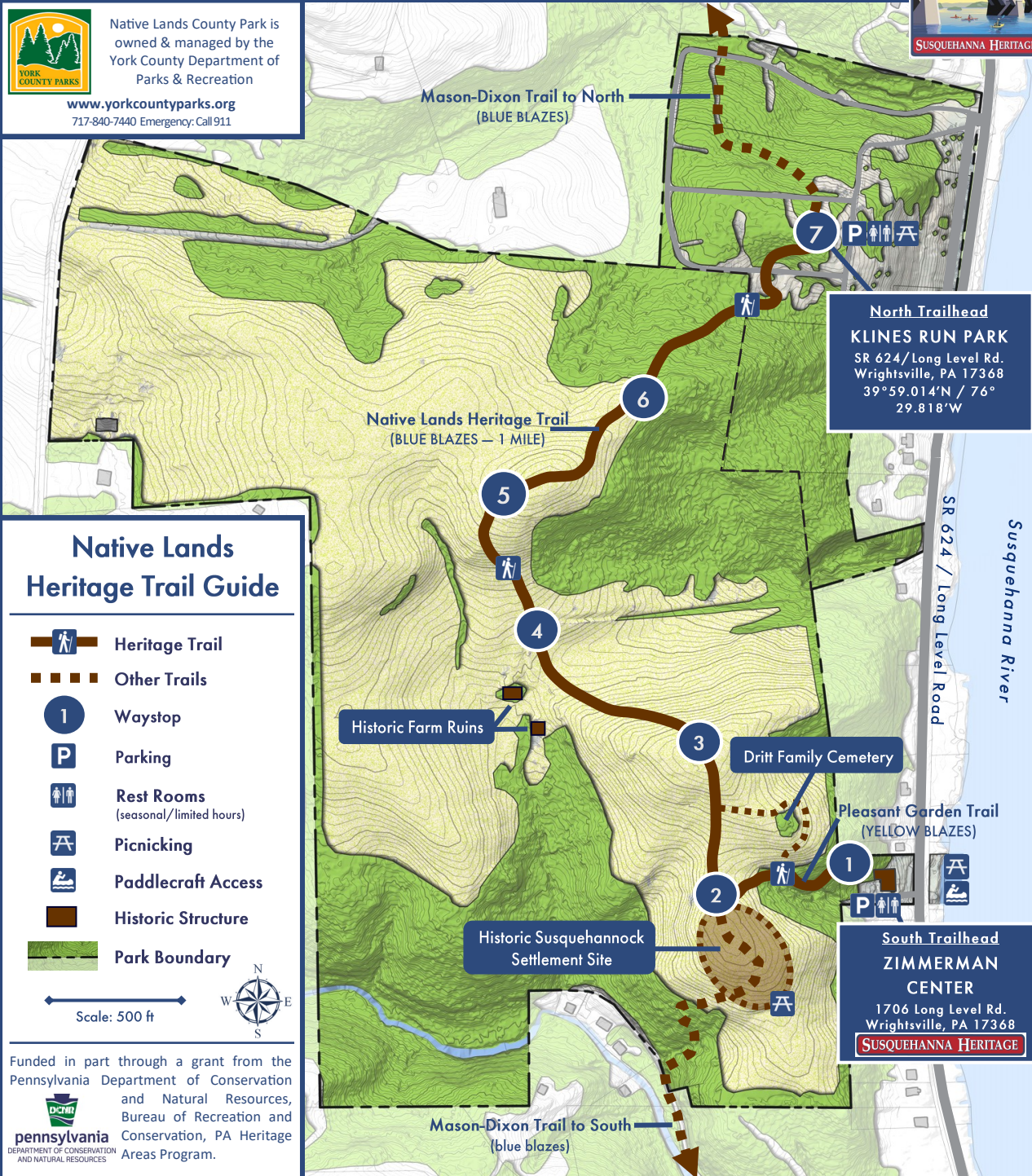
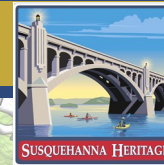
SHC 1-19

Discover History & Nature



Native Lands County Park is owned & managed by the York County Department of Parks & Recreation

www.yorkcountyparks.org
717-840-7440 Emergency: Call 911



Native Lands Heritage Trail Guide

- Heritage Trail
- Other Trails
- Waystop
- Parking
- Rest Rooms (seasonal/limited hours)
- Picnicking
- Paddlecraft Access
- Historic Structure
- Park Boundary

Scale: 500 ft

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NATIVE LANDS HERITAGE TRAIL GUIDE



Walk in the Footsteps of Native Peoples!



SUSQUEHANNA RIVERLANDS

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"Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children."

Native American Proverb

Native Lands Heritage Trail—Waystop Guide



WAYSTOP 1

The trail begins at the Zimmerman Center for Heritage, a mid-18th century home restored by John and Kathryn Zimmerman and then

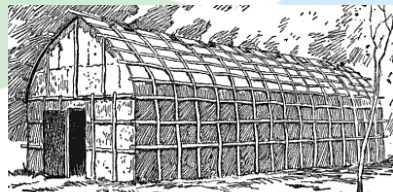
donated to Susquehanna Heritage. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the "Dritt Mansion" for its longest occupants, the house hosts heritage programs for visitors, along with exhibits of river art, Susquehannock artifacts and historic items found during the restoration.

The land here was granted by Lord Baltimore to Thomas Cresap in 1729, who operated a ferry and defended the area for Maryland. Cresap was arrested by Pennsylvania authorities in 1736 after skirmishes known as "Cresap's War", a dispute finally resolved in 1784 when the Mason-Dixon line was established about eighteen miles south of here.

The Zimmerman Center is Pennsylvania's official Visitor Contact and Passport Station for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. This water route on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries follows Smith's early 17th century voyages, showcases the natural environment he explored and tells the stories of the American Indians he met, including the Susquehannock.

WAYSTOP 2

The last known settlement of the Susquehannock was on this hilltop

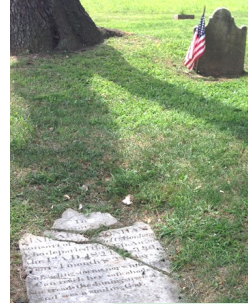


from about 1676 to 1680. War with other American Indians and diseases inflicted by European settlers had reduced the Susquehannock to about 900 people—down from 3,000 just twenty years earlier. A log stockade enclosed the village, protecting more than a dozen ninety-foot longhouses, each housing fifty or so family members. Their fields of corn, beans, and squash covered much of Native Lands.

This site's history demonstrates how dramatically Native American life changed after the arrival of Europeans seventy years before. In this time, the Susquehannock went from being self-sufficient to being inextricably bound to the land's new settlers. It is believed that the Seneca drove the last of the Susquehannock south into Maryland around 1680. They returned to their homeland in Lancaster County several years later, becoming known as the Conestoga.

WAYSTOP 3

A side trail here leads to the Dritt Family Cemetery. The Tritt family of Switzerland arrived in America in 1739 and moved to this area from Lancaster County about 1750. Johann (Jacob) Tritt, born in 1746, took the name 'Dritt' and married Elizabeth Boyer.



Dritt was a local militia captain when the Revolutionary War began, spent two years as a British prisoner, then served as a Major General in the Pennsylvania militia.

In 1783, he purchased "Pleasant Garden," Thomas Cresap's former property, which by then included the stone house that is now the Zimmerman Center. Dritt's business ventures included farming, operating mills, and managing a ferry. He was responsible for mapping out the village of Washington Boro, and although it was never built, received a charter for the first bridge in this area to span the Susquehanna.

In 1817, Jacob Dritt drowned in the river. His body was found and buried downriver in Maryland. After Dritt's death, his daughter Margaret Bonham bought the home and it remained in the family until 1851. Margaret, Elizabeth, and family members were laid to rest in the cemetery. The earliest grave dates to 1824, the latest to 1879.

WAYSTOP 4

The ruins of an 1800's-era farmstead, located beyond the fence line to the southwest, is a reminder of this land's rich farming heritage. A spring flows nearby, a feature that attracted people for centuries. This land's agricultural legacy dates back 350 or more years.

In 1731, fifty years after the Susquehannock abandoned their settlement, Marylander Stephen Onion received a patent for 600 acres around this site, which he called "Canhodah", the Iroquois word for "town". Over the next two centuries, the land developed into a traditional Pennsylvania farmstead.

From the 1930s through the 1960s, the Leibhart family farmed this landscape, cultivating corn, cantaloupes, apples, berries, asparagus, and hay. Remnants of their extensive complex of farm buildings, orchards, and fields are still apparent in the landscape today.



WAYSTOP 5

Visible to the north are the historic Lauxmont Farms dairy complex and Highpoint Scenic Vista. Both were part of a farm estate owned by S. Forry Laucks. A York industrialist, Laucks purchased and developed the sprawling 2,500 acre estate in the early 20th century.

The 40th parallel, originally claimed by Maryland as its northern border, runs just south of Highpoint.

Although early American Indians made seasonal visits here up to 8,000 years ago, this land is most associated with the Susquehannock, the last Native American group to live in this area before the Europeans arrived. They settled here about 1575, building the first of several successive stockade villages on the eastern shore. Three of the largest settlements were located near present-day Washington Boro. In 1608, when Captain John Smith first met the Susquehannock at the head of the Chesapeake, nearly 2,000 people lived in their settlement.



Perhaps due to pressure from other groups, European traders, and settlers, the Susquehannock moved to the western side of the river about 1665, establishing a settlement just north of what is now Klines Run Park. As described at Waystop 2, their last settlement was 1/2 mile to the south of here.

WAYSTOP 6

Although the trail's path across rolling meadows presents a peaceful scene today, this land has seen much controversy. Battles for possession between the Seneca and Susquehannock, border conflicts between the Penns and the Calverts, and modern day debates about development versus preservation are all part of its history. Today this landscape is a place for sharing a common heritage. The land's healing nature was evident when volunteers from the Mason-Dixon Trail System, York Hiking Club, Lancaster-York Native Heritage Advisory Council and the Dritt family worked with York County staff to prepare the site for public use as a park.

WAYSTOP 7

The Heritage Trail ends at Klines Run Park, created in the 1930s with the Safe Harbor Dam project. Silt build-up from the dam



also created the Conejohela Flats, the islands and mudflats across the river. Over 17,000 birds from up to 38 species stop to rest there during their yearly migrations. Archaeology has confirmed human settlement along the river dating back over 12,000 years. It is likely that more than 50,000 American Indians lived their lives here before the first Europeans arrived. Even though most of this rich history is not visible, images that Native people carved on the river's rocks still exist nearby — the only place on the Susquehanna where such extensive rock art sites have been found.