

## How to get to the Preserve

**From I-90:** Take the Whitewater exit (exit 116)

Turn right onto Hwy 59

Follow Hwy 59 East to CO Hwy N

Follow CO Hwy N into Whitewater

Turn left onto Indian Mounds Parkway

**From Fort Atkinson:**

Take City Hwy 12 East to Whitewater

Use Main St. or Walworth Ave. exits

Turn onto Indian Mounds Parkway

**From the East:** Hwy 59 to Main St (City Hwy 12)

Stay on Main St to the West end of the city

Turn left onto Indian Mounds Parkway

## Respecting Indian Mounds

Please respect this area. It is a spiritual place of great cultural value.

Please do not walk on the mounds or disturb the soil in any way.

Please, no pets are allowed in the preserve.

**The Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Whitewater Landmark.**

## For More Information

Please contact one of the following organizations for more information about the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve:

For site maintenance:

Whitewater Park and Recreation Board  
262-473-0540, [www.whitewater-wi.gov](http://www.whitewater-wi.gov)

For mounds preservation and education:

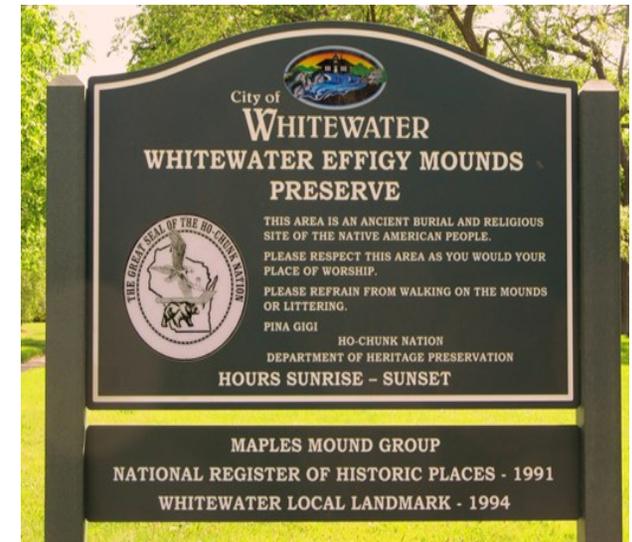
Whitewater Landmarks Commission  
262-473-0102, [www.whitewater-wi.gov](http://www.whitewater-wi.gov)

Hoard Historical Museum  
401 Whitewater Ave. Fort Atkinson, WI  
53538, 920-563-7769

[www.hoardmuseum.org](http://www.hoardmuseum.org)

Tuesdays thru Saturdays, 9:30 to 4:30

# Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve



**288 S. Indian Mound Parkway**

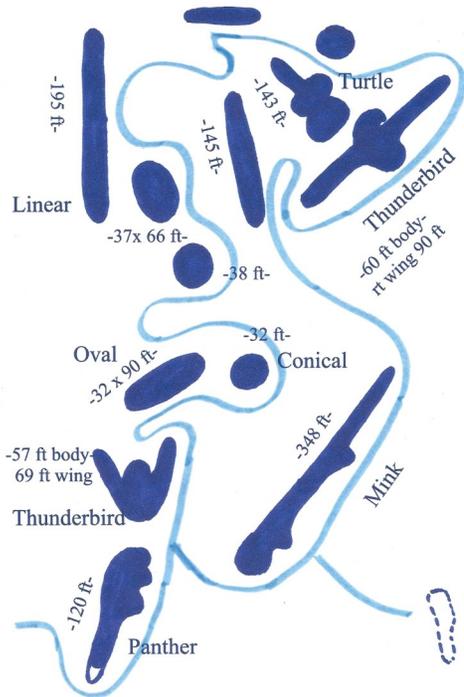
**Whitewater, Wisconsin**

**Hours: Sunrise to Sunset**

## Parking

Free street parking is available along both sides of Indian Mounds Parkway as well as on the adjoining side streets.

## Trail Map



Measurements by Charles E. Brown, 1920

The entrance to the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve is on the west side of Indian Mound Parkway. Look for the Preserve's large sign as shown on the front of this brochure. Walk west through the green space toward the opening in the woods.

A level walking path, less than a mile in length, provides easy viewing of the preserve's thirteen mounds. This path will also take you through three distinct areas of vegetation: an Oak Savanna, a stand of Silver Maples and Bur Oaks, and a meadow wetland.

## The Mounds

When visiting the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve, you will find two distinct types of mounds. One type is geometric in shape, either conical or linear. The other type, effigy mounds, mimic the shapes of various animals.

The majority of mounds in Wisconsin were built by American Indians during a time archaeologists call the Woodland Period. They have divided this period into Early Woodland (500 BC – 100 AD), Middle Woodland (100 BC – 500 AD), and Late Woodland (500 AD – 1200 AD). Indian mound-builders built some geometric mounds during the Early and Middle Woodland Periods. They built effigy mounds during the Late Woodland Period.

Most mounds were built near a source of water – lakes, rivers, streams, and springs. At one time, a small stream flowed through the field on the western edge of the Preserve. There still are some small springs located in the northwestern corner.

All American Indian mounds were considered places of cultural significance by the peoples who built them. There are some mounds that contain human remains. Others may contain special soils or ornaments made of shell, stone, or copper, sacrificial burnings or evidence of ceremonial dance.

Today the mounds are protected by the state, under WI statute 157-20, and the National Preservation Act (1966). All American Indian mounds are considered to be burial sites.



## The Oak Savanna

The remnant of a savanna of oak trees at the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve is especially important to protect and maintain. It is one of the last remaining stands of Wisconsin's oak savanna.

The term "savanna" refers to an area with widely spaced tall trees, but at a density so low that grasses and other herbaceous vegetation become dominant. In Wisconsin in Pre-settlement times, savannas were one of the most widespread plant communities.

Today, oak savannas may be the rarest plant community in Wisconsin. Prior to European settlement, wildfires and human-caused fires burned prairies, wetlands, and oak savannas. American Indians often burned grasslands to flush out game when hunting. Lightning strikes also ignited prairies, often in close proximity of oak savannas. As a result of agriculture, urban development, and the absence of fire, many of these savannas have been lost.

Today at this Preserve, the practice of prescribed burning mimics the natural disturbance of fire as much as possible.