



Michigan's Heritage Park

at Hilt's Landing

10,000 Years of Michigan History in Whitehall

A half-mile paved trail through the woods offers visitors an opportunity to experience 10,000 years of Michigan history in a natural woodland setting in Whitehall.

Michigan's Heritage Park, operated by the Lakeshore Museum Center, will mark its third season when it opens on May 1. The 19 acre park is located just off US 31 and is a perfect day trip from most West Michigan locations.

Costumed interpreters are found at each of the historic stops along the trail which include a Wigwam Village, Settlers Cabin, Fur Trade Post, Logging Shanty, and 1900s Farmhouse. Park visitors can interact with the interpreters and may help churn butter, weed a garden, participate in a drill in the Civil War Camp, or collect eggs in the chicken coop. Playscapes, made from natural materials, allow young visitors an opportunity to play with nature.

During the off season, a root cellar was added near the Settlers Cabin. Root cellars were historically important in preserving root vegetables and other food supplies over the winter months. Return visitors will notice a window has been added to the Fur Trade Post and later in the season, a fur press used by fur traders to pack furs for transport, will be built.

Park staff has had assistance from several groups to get the park ready to open. Students from Whitehall School's Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative program cleared hiking trails in several areas and planted native plants. Members of the Third Michigan Volunteer Infantry Company F (Civil War reenactors) recently spent a day at the park raking, building a fence around a garden, adding sand to the mastodon site, and replacing the doors of the Sargent's Cabin in the Civil War Camp.

Activity Field in the center of the park offers space for special events. The major events for the 2017 season are:

June 10 and 11: Civil War Encampment with members of the Third Michigan Volunteer Infantry Co. F. The men and women of the Michigan Third are as authentic as possible in their dress and manner as they portray what life was like during the American Civil War. They will set up camp for the weekend and visitors will have an opportunity to tour the camp, meet the reenactors, and learn about military and civilian life during the Civil War. **Please note**, for the Civil War event, Sunday hours will be 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. *

July 15 and 16: Honoring Native Heritage Pow Wow. Park visitors will see traditional dancers, fancy shawl dancers, jingle dress dancers, and grass dancers and can also participate in some of the dances. Native drummers and singers will perform throughout the weekend. Over a dozen trade booths will offer such items for sale as jewelry, handmade crafts, and bead work. Traditional Native food will be available for purchase on site. **Please note**, for the Pow Wow event, the park hours are Saturday, July 15 from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm and Sunday, July 16 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

August 12: A Taste of History: Celebrations. The day will include cooking demonstrations and tastings based on different celebrations and holidays such as Valentine's Day at the Farmhouse. Jessica Diemer-Eaton, will demonstrate traditional Native American food preparation and discuss nutrition and food securing practices in the Wigwam Village. Food samples will be available for a small fee. *

October 27 and 28: Haunted Trail. This after-hours event will examine the legends, myths, and ghost stories from the 1600s through the early 1900s. Over a dozen local actors from Muskegon Civic Theatre and volunteers will be stationed at the stops along the half mile trail creating a historic haunted atmosphere. The event is recommended for ages 13 and over. Tours will be from 7:30 to 10:30 pm both evenings and the cost is \$15 a person.-

Additional special activities will take place at the park throughout the season. Details can be found on the museum website www.lakeshoremuseum.org

Michigan's Heritage Park is handicapped accessible. This site of the Lakeshore Museum Center, is located in Whitehall at 8637 North Durham Road with easy access from US 31 at exit #128 just north of the Whitehall Comfort Inn. For more information call 231-894-0342.

Park hours: May and October: Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. June through September: Thursday through Monday from 10:00 am to 4.00 pm. On Sundays (June – September), the hours are 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Regular admission for adults and teens is \$10, seniors (65 and older) \$8, and youth (3 – 12) \$5. Admission is free for 2 and younger.

*Admission for some special events is \$12 for adults and teens, \$10 for seniors, and \$7 for children.

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