



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hopewell Culture
National Historical Park

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Hopewell Culture News Release

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Guided Walk at Hopeton Earthworks

Dates: June 27, 2009

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Length: 2 miles

Difficulty Level: Easy, Rolling Terrain

Hopeton Earthworks is comprised of a large circle and a square whose walls were once twelve feet high. No burials have ever been discovered here, but a parallel set of mysterious earthen walls stretch from the heart of the complex for nearly half a mile toward the Scioto River. What function this earthwork served is lost in obscurity, yet archaeologists discovered that prehistoric people regularly gathered here in large numbers. Regrettably, after centuries of plowing, Hopeton's great walls, like most Hopewell earthworks, are now only barely visible. Hopeton Earthworks are not yet open to the public, so this walk is an uncommon opportunity to explore one of the national park's newer acquisitions.

Program begins at 9:00 am. Meet at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park main visitor center at the Mound City Group unit, 16062 State Rt. 104, 2 mi. north of Chillicothe. Visitors will then caravan as they follow a National Park Ranger to the Hopeton Earthworks site. This walk is part of a Summer Saturday Guide Hike series offered by Hopewell Culture National Historical Park to four prehistoric earthworks in the area. If you have any questions or would like more information please call (740) 774-1126 or visit www.nps.gov/hocu.

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