



# Effigy Mounds

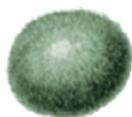
*“A group of two linear mounds, three birds and an imposing procession of ten bears constitute the best monument of the effigy-mound culture in Iowa. It is indeed one of the finest mound groups in all America...”*

—Dr. Charles R. Keyes, circa 1934



**NPS Aerial Photo: Marching Bear Effigy Mound Group Circa 1980.** Agricultural lime was temporarily placed around the mounds to highlight their shapes.

Effigy Mounds National Monument was established on October 25, 1949 to preserve and protect pre-European contact burial and ceremonial earthen mounds built by American Indian Woodland Period cultures between 750 and 2,500 years ago. Over two hundred mounds are protected within the monument.



**Conical**



**Linear**



**Compound**



**Effigy**

Four different styles of Woodland Period mounds can be observed by means of the hiking trail system. Mounds taking on the shape of animals are called “effigy mounds”. Both bird and bear shaped mounds can be viewed in the monument.



Artist depiction of a “bear” mound ceremony during the effigy mound building period. NPS Illustration by George Armstrong.

### What to See:

The Visitor Center is open to the public year round. There is a 15 minute film about Woodland Indian moundbuilding cultures, a museum showcasing artifacts , and an Eastern National bookstore which sells various related books, and other educational items. Fourteen miles of hiking trails, including an ADA accessible boardwalk, run throughout the park and provide access to scenic overlooks, natural features, and many of the Woodland Indian burial and ceremonial mounds.

### Location:

The visitor center is located 4-miles north of Marquette, IA, and 22 miles south of Waukon, IA, on State Highway 76 - the Great River Road.



### Contact information

For seasonal park hour changes and special event information contact:

Effigy Mounds Nat'l Monument  
151 HWY 76  
Harpers Ferry, Iowa 52146-7519

563 873-3491  
[www.nps.gov/efmo](http://www.nps.gov/efmo)