



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hopewell Culture  
National Historical Park

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## Hopewell Culture News Release

**Release date:** Immediate

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**Date:** July 13, 2011

### Guided Walk at Fort Hill

July 30, 2011, 9:00 am – 12:30

Length: 4 miles

Difficulty Level: Moderately challenging with significant ascents and descents. Hikers should wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water and trail snacks.

Fort Hill, owned by the Ohio Historical Society, is one of the best preserved Hopewell hilltop enclosures in the world. The earthen wall is between 6 and 15 feet high, with 33 gateways along its impressive one and a half mile length. Because it was built on a hill top instead of agricultural land, this earthwork fared much better than most Hopewell complexes. Hikers who make the ascent can actually walk beside an intact 2,000 year old embankment wall. At the foot of the hill lies another mysterious enclosure. Unlike most Hopewell walls, this circle covers two rows of posthole molds that were discovered by archeologists in 1952. The postholes suggest that a massive structure of some kind may have been built and purposely dismantled on the site before the 180 foot diameter circular enclosure was built.

Meet at the Fort Hill located on Fort Hill Rd. off S.R. 41, ten miles south of Bainbridge. Call 740-774-1126 or visit [www.nps.gov/hocu/planyourvisit/special-events.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hocu/planyourvisit/special-events.htm) for directions or pick-up a driving map at the Mound City Group visitor center (16062 State Route 104). Fort Hill is a 45 minute drive from the Mound City Group visitor center.

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