

## History of Indian Heights Park

### Native American use

The land that is now Rochester's Indian Heights Park has likely been used for millennia by Native Americans for summer camps and burial grounds. Pioneer history shows as recently as 1854 that this land was selected as sacred burial ground due to proximity of the Zumbro River and the Eastern "Father Sun" view from the bluff.

### Pioneer use

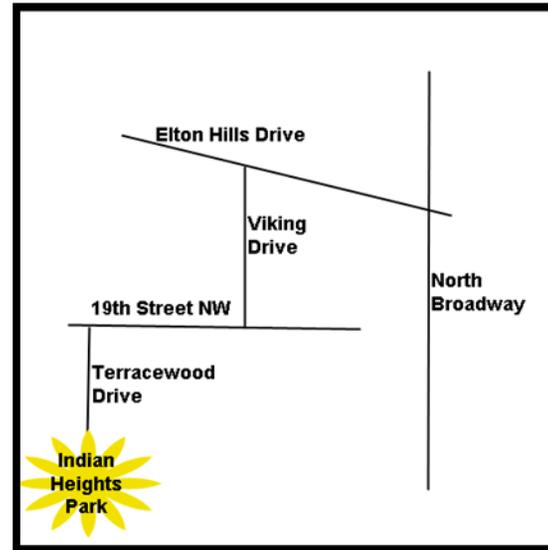
Since the 1850s, the land has been used for grazing farm animals, limestone quarries, and butternut lumber. Pioneer structures existing in 1883 were likely in the path of the historic tornado that devastated north Rochester.

### Modern use

The land became a city park in 1973 when housing could be developed no further. The city indicated *"This particular site is the only undeveloped wooded area remaining in northwestern Rochester"* (section 3 - Purchase Agreement). Since 1973, the park has been enjoyed by Rochester's nature lovers, bird/butterfly watchers, and many others for its contemplative atmosphere where getting lost in the wilderness - within Rochester's city limits - is entirely possible.

In 2010, Friends of Indian Park (FOIH) Neighborhood Association was organized to serve as good stewards of this rare city park in the heart of the neighborhood. FOIH members include people from the community who are interested in caring for this special place.

## Finding the Park



### To Volunteer in the Park:

Email: [volunteer@foih.org](mailto:volunteer@foih.org)

### For Park News and Events:

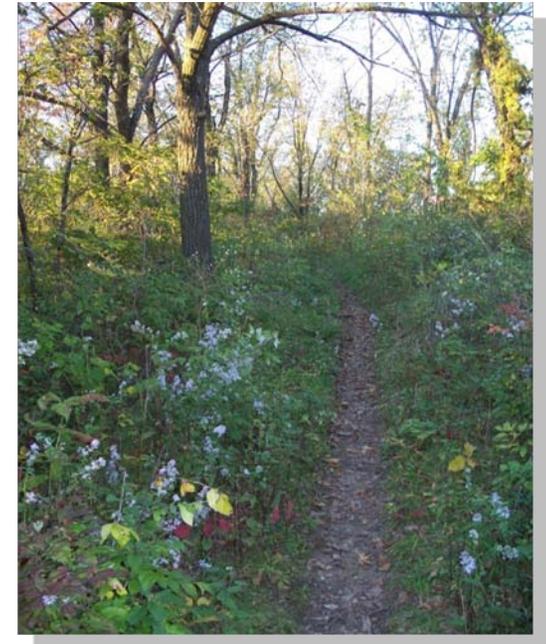
Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/8yurutmt>

Website: [www.foih.org](http://www.foih.org)



## Indian Heights Park

1800 Terracewood Dr NW  
Rochester, Minnesota



The Dakota call living things and all the natural world *Mitakuyapi* or "My Relatives"

## Endangered Environment

## Indian Heights Park Map

Indian Heights Park, situated between the Zumbro River to the east and Assisi Heights to the west, is a 40-acre park with rich natural and cultural histories being explored by enthusiasts and academics even today. Visitors to the Park will be amazed by this wilderness within Rochester's city's limits.

*To protect the flora, fauna, and sacred atmosphere of this fragile and historic environment, Friends of Indian Heights (FOIH) welcomes and strongly encourages only low impact, contemplative recreation including walking, hiking, snowshoeing, butterfly and bird-watching.*

*"The oak savanna component of the Upper Midwest forest-savanna transition is one of the world's most endangered ecosystems."*  
-WWF 2001. (<http://www.worldwildlife.org>)

The World Wildlife Fund and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recognize the oak savanna, dry oak openings, and prairie remnants found in the Park to be extremely endangered environments. Visit [foih.org](http://foih.org) to learn more about current activities or contact us at [info@foih.org](mailto:info@foih.org).

### Visiting Indian Heights Park

Visitors should feel free to explore and enjoy all areas of the Park while being careful of the bluff drop-offs and steep quarry walls. Please stay on the established trails to protect the Park's historic artifacts and fragile soil/rock surfaces. Admission is free to all.

