

2023 Michigan Archaeology Month Event Schedule

October is Archaeology Month in Michigan! Learn more about the state's history and pre-history with these public events scheduled across the state. Events subject to change without notice.

October 2 – M-231 Ribbon Cutting, Ottawa County

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Ottawa County Parks are organizing a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the installation of six interpretive panels on either side of the Grand River along the Spoonville Trail. The panels explain to the public some of the archaeological findings made during the excavation of two sites ahead of the M-231 over Grand River bridge project. Learn more about MDOT's archaeology program here: [MDOT History & Archaeology](#)

October 6, 13, 20, 27 – River Raisin Archaeology Project, Monroe

Faculty and students at the [University of Michigan-Dearborn](#), along with students from UM- Ann Arbor and other nearby schools, are continuing to work on the River Raisin Archaeology Project, in Monroe, MI. The River Raisin settlement existed at the nexus of national, religious, and colonial contacts and conflicts. Settled by largely French-descended Detroiters in the 1780s and controlled by the British until 1796, it was an important point of interaction during a pivotal period in the "Old Northwest." The site of key battles in the War of 1812, the events at this location also influenced the course of US-Native relations for a century, providing an excuse for the so-called "removal" process. Students are being trained in archaeological field methods while conducting a real, primary research project on the site. We are working to understand the site's extent and layout, locate pre-1813 buildings important to the battles, relocate previous excavations to allow this work to be used to study the site today.



October 7 – Archaeology Day, Lansing

Michigan Archaeology Day is an annual one-day immersive event organized by the Department of Natural Resources and held each October at the Michigan History Center in downtown Lansing. At this event, archaeologists from across the state gather to share with they've found and what they have learned with the public. Hands-on activities are available for all ages. Learn more and see the schedule of events here: [Michigan History Museum - Michigan Archaeology Day](#)

October 11 & 20 – SHPO & NRCS Fieldwork with Clare County Historical Society

The Michigan SHPO and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) are teaming up with the Clare County Historical society to conduct ground penetrating radar (GPR) at the historic Wood Cemetery. This late nineteenth century cemetery is missing many of the headstones of those laid to rest here over a century ago. With GPR we can possibly identify grave locations so that the community can better pay their respects and manage the cemetery.

October 14-15 – Malcolm X House Excavations, Inkster

Join faculty and students from [Wayne State University's Department of Anthropology](#) as they conduct archaeological excavations at the one-time home of American Civil Rights leader Malcolm X, at 4336 Williams St. in Inkster. The home is owned by the Inkster-based non-profit organization [Project We Hope, Dream, and Believe](#), with whom the department is partnering and successfully listed the home on the National Register of Historic Places in 2021.



October 16 – Lecture at the Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site, Shelby Township

Preservation & Archaeology in Michigan

Sarah Surface-Evans, SHPO Senior Archaeologist

Michigan has a rich archaeological history that spans more than 14,000 years and includes 25,000 sites. Learn about the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Federal laws that protect our archaeological heritage. In this talk, we will discuss the SHPO Archaeology Program and how you can be a good steward of Michigan archaeology.

October 23 – Lecture at Wayne State University, Detroit

Historic Preservation Law & Urban Archaeology

Sarah Surface-Evans, SHPO Senior Archaeologist & Amy Krull, SHPO Federal Projects Archaeologist

The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Archaeology Program records, investigates, interprets, and protects Michigan's archaeological sites. Learn about the laws that establish the SHPO and what the archaeology program does. We will discuss examples of how Federal legislation influences the archaeology of urban centers like Detroit and contributes to our understanding of complex urban histories.

October 26 – Webinar for the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Virtual

A Deep Dive into TCPs and National Register Listed Archaeological Sites in Michigan

Sarah Surface-Evans, SHPO Senior Archaeologist

While Michigan has over 25,000 documented archaeological sites, less than one percent are National Register of Historic Places listed. Join Senior Archaeologist, Sarah Surface-Evans, for a discussion about SHPO efforts to increase the representation of archaeological sites and *Traditional Cultural Places* (TCPs) in the National Register. Online registration required for this free webinar program: [Upcoming Workshops - MHPN](#).

Want to learn even more about Archaeology in Michigan? Visit www.michigan.gov/archaeology!