

BENEDICT FARM PARK
TRI-FOLD EDUCATIONAL HANDOUT
2 PAGES TO FOLLOW

Who Was Here First?

Benedict Farm was formerly used as a dairy farm, look around and you can see the buildings that were used as part of the daily farm operations. But long before the area was settled and used as a family dairy farm, the property was inhabited by Native Americans for more than 8,000 years. Significant evidence of this prehistoric use still exists on the site, and is preserved untouched within two archeologically protected areas of the Park. Due to this site's rich pre-history contributions to the Town of Montgomery, an application has been submitted to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation to place the two sites on the National Historic Register.

It is thought that this area was occupied by Algonquian-speaking groups of the Mahican confederacy known as the Leni Lenape or Delaware. The tribes in the Orange County area were known as the Proto-Munsee. Detailed information about the archeological studies that were carried out at the Park, on Hudson Valley Native American Pre-history, and how the Lenape lived, ate, made use of the land, and governed themselves, as well as information on artifacts found at the site was compiled by Joe Devine, Chairman of the Park at Benedict Farm Advisory Council, in *The Prehistory of the Park at Benedict Farm*, available online at <http://goo.gl/gauBc>.

Why Is There a Man-Made Pond

Next to a River?

You may be wondering why a small pond was built in Benedict Farm Park so close to the Wallkill River. After all, there is already plenty of existing natural surface water features within the Park: the Wallkill River, the Muddy Kill, and their floodplains, as well as both state and federal wetlands. Why add any more? Well, this pond was built as just one component of an entire system of "Best Management Practices" designed to manage stormwater runoff flows from the human activities in the park, helping to keep the river clean, prevent flooding, and protect plant and wildlife habitat.

"Low-Impact Development" and "Better Site Design" are development practices that safeguard water resources by preserving natural areas. These practices encourage stormwater to follow natural flow patterns, allowing it to filter through soil and vegetation. The objective of these practices is to address stormwater runoff close to its source by conveying and treating surface water.

"POCKET POND"



- What is Stormwater Runoff?
- Why Does it Matter?
- Examples of Stormwater Pollution
- What Can Be Done to Protect Our Surface Water Resources?

Find the answers to these questions and more as part of the educational downloads available by going to Website www.townofmontgomery.com Town Parks-Benedict Farm Park

To learn more about Stormwater Management visit www.cwp.org

"BIORETENTION BASIN CONSTRUCTION"



The "Better Site Design" project at the Benedict Farm Park was funded in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The community benefits in viewing the implementation of stormwater management practices at the park's information kiosk & Town's website.

