

## Aztalan State Park

Aztalan State Park is a Wisconsin state park established in 1952 and designated a Historic Landmark 1964. Altogether, the park covers 0.7 km<sup>2</sup> along the Crawfish River.

This park has a strong historical significance due to being the site of an ancient Mississippian culture settlement where indigenous people constructed massive earthwork mounds in the 10th to 13th centuries. These mounds were used for religious and political purposes, like sacrifices, rituals or public gatherings. Around the area of the pyramid-shaped, flat-topped platform mounds covered in grass are the stockades, a huge wall of wooden stakes, believed to have served both ceremonial as well as defensive functions. Nowadays, three of the mounds are left on site, all differing in size. The largest was built in three tiers with a set of stairs leading to the top and was presumably used for sacrificial and worshipping purposes as was common for the time period.

The indigenous people of the Aztalan State Park Area were part of a widespread culture with important settlements throughout the Mississippi River valley. Their trading network extended from the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast and into the south-east of the present-day United States of America. This trading network was one of the largest in the area at that time, but it was later destroyed in the colonisation, which is why Aztalan State Park was made in order to try and preserve the history behind the site.

