

Holly Hill Indigenous Landscapes

You are standing where people hunted more than 8,000 years ago. **How do we know that?**

Two archaeological surveys were done on properties managed by ACLT in 1997 and 1998. More prehistoric artifacts were found on the Holly Hill property than anywhere else in the Parkers Creek watershed. They were tools made from a variety of stone: quartz, quartzite, chert, rhyolite, and jasper.



Left to Right: Kirk Serrated Chert, Piscataway Quartz, Bare Island Quartzite. Courtesy Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum



Above: Archaeologist Molly Stephens conducted the survey in 1998
Left: A volunteer assisting in the survey

The artifacts found on Holly Hill were among the oldest, dating from the Archaic period and were made from 8,000 to 3,000 years ago. The people who made and used these tools were likely to have been hunting game here. Nearby were at least two freshwater springs which made it an attractive camp site and hunting parties came repeatedly to this land over thousands of years.

To learn more about the history of Holly Hill, visit our website: www.acltweb.org

Please help ACLT protect archaeological sites on its property. If you spot any artifact such as a stone tool, pottery, metal, or glass, let the ACLT office know what and where it is. Call 410-414-3400. Removing an artifact is like ripping a page out of a book. It is also illegal.

Thank you!



The people who camped at Holly Hill were mobile and some of the stone tools they used and left here were crafted from rhyolite which may have traveled with them from as far away as what we now know as Frederick County. By the end of the Archaic period, around 1250 BC, people were becoming more settled, the Chesapeake Bay had reached its familiar shape and size, and indigenous hunters and foragers used resources closer to the waterways.



Right: Archaeologist Matt Reeves led the survey in 1997. Both relied on the help of volunteers (above).

