

# INDIGENOUS HISTORICAL USE AT ASHBURNHAM MEMORIAL PARK

## Background

Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group aims to uncover and document the **Indigenous historical use** of Ashburnham Memorial Park and highlight the importance of **traditional knowledges**. We wish to discover the historical use of the park by Indigenous communities, and how, through this project, we can seek to **honour and acknowledge** the rich legacy of the land.

## Research Questions

- What is the **historical use** of Indigenous communities within Ashburnham Park?
- The **cultural, social, and spiritual** importances of the park?
- How does the understanding of Indigenous culture of the area **impact** the current stewardship?
- What **strategies** can be made to ensure a respectful relationship between parties?

## Methods

- Research on Ethic Approval** for future qualitative studies.
- Gaining access to **Trent Archives** to discover historical data on Ashburnham.
- Documentation of secondary sources** on the history of Ashburnham Memorial Park.
- Acquisition of research and contacts for the stewardship group for **future networking**.
- Understanding of the **European history** of Ashburnham Memorial
- Analyzed other **case studies** about parks with connections to Indigenous counterparts.
- Find historical records** of Indigenous communities' use of Ashburnham Memorial Park, including maps and treaties.
- Developing a guideline & timeline** of ethics approval for qualitative study.
- Reach out to more contacts** to address future ecological restoration.
- Discover maps** that may have recorded pre-European settlement.



Figure 1: Photo of Ashburnham Memorial Park

## Next Steps

After gathering all the data provided, This project will continue with **qualitative studies** of the surrounding area, finding oral histories about Ashburnham Memorial Park. With the data provided by this project, the Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group will continue to **inquire and discover** the historical importance of the site. This work will also help provide the groundwork for **meaningful relationships** to begin.