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Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

Ioway Tribal National Park
Effigy Mounds National Monument

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Effigy Mounds National Monument becomes a Tribal Sister Park to Ioway Tribal National Park

White Cloud, Kansas – The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska (ITKN) and leaders of the National Park Service (NPS) Effigy Mounds National Monument, signed a first-of-its-kind agreement establishing the first Tribal Sister Park relationship between a U.S. national park and a Tribal Nation’s National Park today. This agreement promotes cooperation and support between [Ioway Tribal National Park](#) and [Effigy Mounds National Monument](#). It enriches the experience and capacity of the personnel at both parks, strengthening the nation-to-nation relationship.

“Today, we advance our co-stewardship commitments with Tribal Nations in establishing the first Tribal Sister Park relationship,” said **NPS Director Chuck Sams**. “We look forward to the opportunity in working together and exchanging information on topics such as Indigenous knowledge, environmental and cultural education techniques, and ecotourism.”

“Wenawine, thank you, to the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, and Vice Chairman Lance Foster for their efforts in making this historic project a success,” said **ITKN Chairman Timothy Rhodd**. “This partnership will help the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska educate our tribal members and community as well as local, state, and federal representatives.”

Effigy Mounds National Monument was established on Oct. 25, 1949, to protect significant precontact earthen mounds found in northeast Iowa. Subsequent legislation expanded the purpose and significance by specifying the wildlife, scenic, and other natural values of the area. Ioway Tribal National Park, or Baxoje Mowatanani in Baxoje the Ioway language, was established by the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska on June 17, 2020, to preserve the land and promote heritage for future generations of its Tribal members and protect its various significant historical and natural resources. The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska was the second Tribal nation to establish a Tribal national park. The Iowa Tribe is one of the descendant Tribes with NPS-recognized affiliation to Effigy Mounds National Monument, with a continued interest in Effigy Mounds National Monument and their ancestral connection there.

“We look forward to a period of healing, not only for the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and Effigy Mounds National Monument but all Tribal Nations,” said **Lance Foster, Director and Vice Chairman of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer**. “There is a long and difficult history between the National Park Service and Tribes; may this be one step forward together towards the future.”

“I am honored to share in the first Tribal Sister Park agreement with Ioway Tribal National Park. This agreement and other national co-stewardship commitments provide a strong framework for parks like

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ours to work more collaboratively in the future,” said **Effigy Mounds National Monument Superintendent Susan Snow**.

This agreement is consistent with and supportive of [Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments](#), [Secretary’s Order No. 3403 on Joint Secretarial Order on Fulfilling the Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of Federal Lands and Waters](#), and [NPS Policy Memo 22-03 which guides implementation of Secretary’s Order No. 3403](#).

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About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 423 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).