Chapter 6: Cultural Resources

Presented by Mark Doperalski
Division of Historical Resources
Bear Brook State Park

- Bear Brook State Park (BBSP)
  - Merrimack/Rockingham
  - Nearly 10,000 acres
  - NH’s largest developed park

- Location has been inhabited by people for thousands of years
Bear Brook State Park

- Formal archaeological investigations in the park have been lean

- As of 2019, only 3 archaeological sites have been recorded within BBSP
  - 1 pre-contact site
  - 2 post-contact sites

- Great potential for additional pre-contact and post-contact archaeological resources

- Pre-contact
  - NW corner of BBSP

- Post-contact
  - Podunk & Old South roads
Bear Brook State Park

- Recent Survey Work– Fall 2019
Bear Brook State Park

- Pre-Contact Features and Deposits
  - Lithic debitage
  - Calcined bone
  - Ceramic vessel sherds
  - Fire-cracked rock
  - Hearth features
Bear Brook State Park

- Pre-Contact Features and Deposits
  - Lithic debitage
  - Calcined bone
  - Ceramic vessel sherds
  - Fire-cracked rock
  - Hearth features
Bear Brook State Park

- Post-Contact Features and Deposits
  - Cellar holes
  - Wells
  - Historical plantings
  - Architectural artifacts (nails, glass, brick, etc.)
  - Domestic artifacts (tableware, personal items, etc.)
  - Tools and agricultural implements
Bear Brook State Park

- Significant amount of survey work has been completed to document aboveground structures and cultural landscape features (buildings, roads, trails, cemeteries, recreational facilities, etc.)

- Resulted in park being designated as a NRHP-eligible Historic District in 2016
Bear Brook State Park

- Bear Brook State Park Historic District Form – available at NHDHR
Bear Brook State Park

- Management Plan – Identify and preserve significant cultural/historical resources for future research and public interpretation

- Recommendations
  - ID and survey areas sensitive for archaeological deposits
  - Evaluate the significance of identified archaeological sites
  - ID and evaluate natural and designed landscape features
  - Implement a monitoring and protection program