

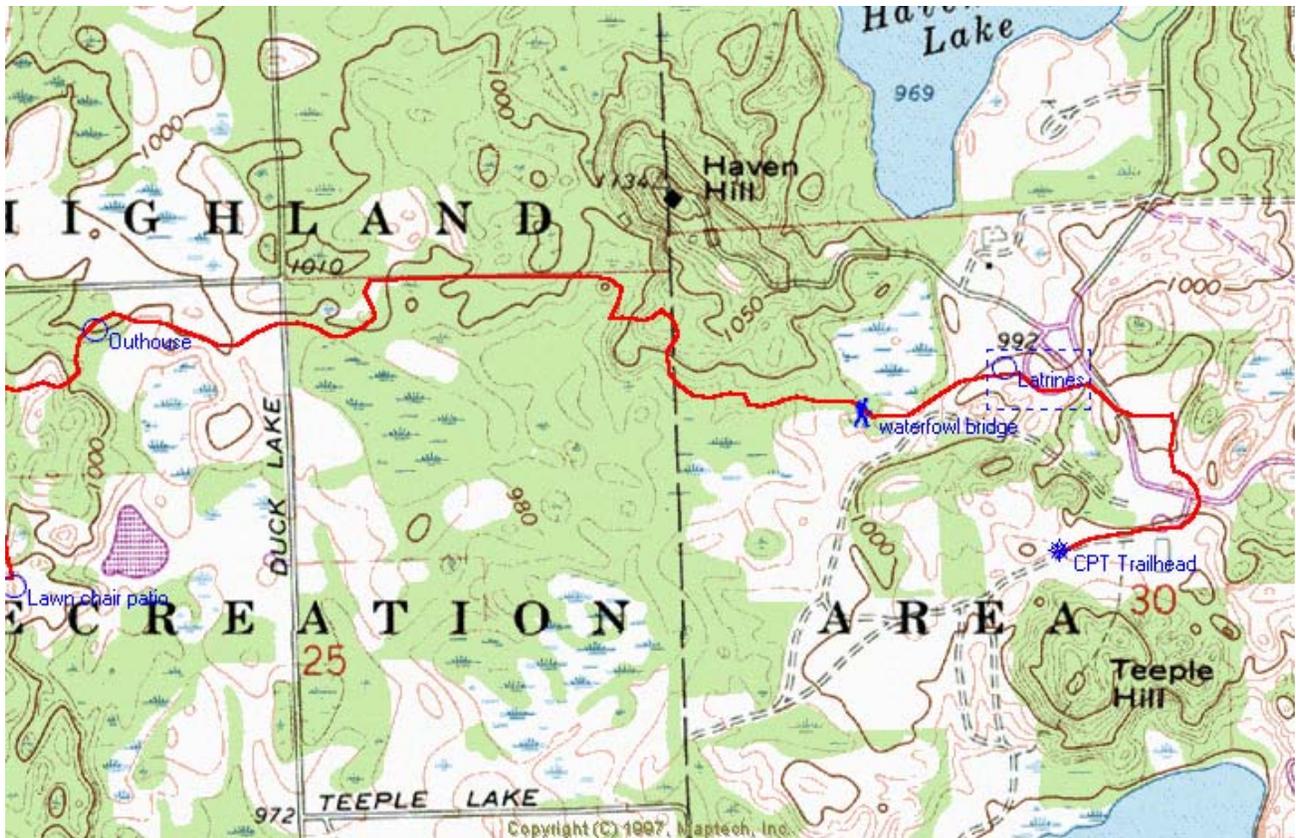
Chief Pontiac Trail Maps

The following maps are provided to assist you on your trek.

Please note that the maps are based on USGS topo maps with a scale of 24,000 to 1, however the maps may have been reduced or enlarged slightly to fit the pages of this manual.

The trail route itself is drawn on the map using GPS way points gathered on a trek, and are accurate only to within 30 feet due to GPS limitations.

Trail markers within the Proud Lake state recreation area are wooden posts with a sign depicting a backpacker on them. When you reach Kensington Metro park the trail is marked by orange ribbon and a few of the old metal arrowhead signs. The ribbon markers are usually on the right hand side of the trail and are mostly placed at major intersections and occasionally along the trail for confidence.



CPT 1st day, CPT Trailhead to Mountain Bike Trailhead (CPT Trek Map #1)

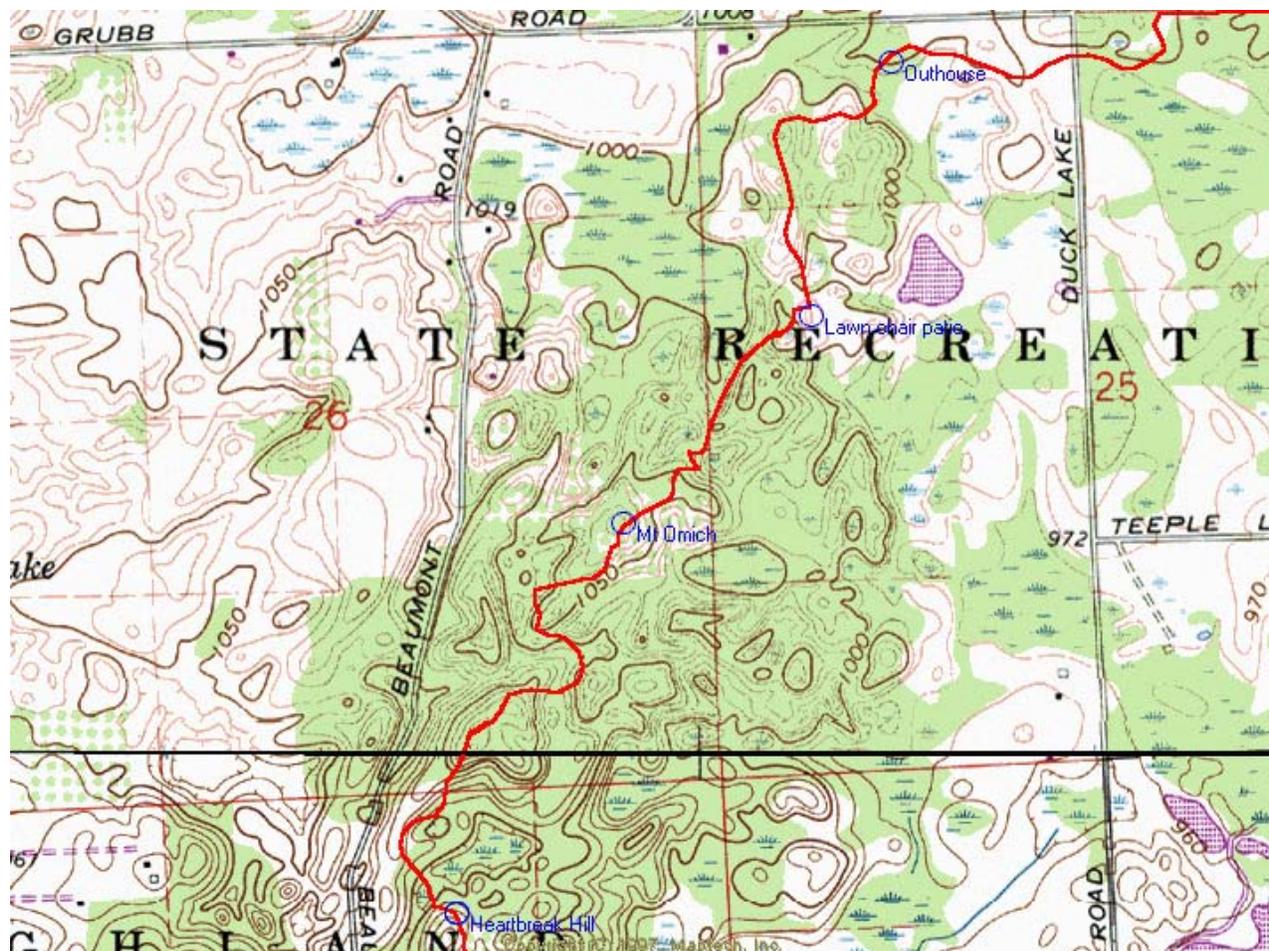
Your days trek begins at the trail had in Highland Recreation Area's Organizational Camp. The trail head is marked by a steel arrowhead sign. This is one of the earliest style of trail marker. There are only 9 of these signs left on the trail route.

The trail proceeds East out of the group camp, across the parking lot and crosses the park road following an equestrian trail. Follow the trail as it crosses the park road again and separates from the equestrian trail near the flag poles. Take a break here before entering the forest, to make adjustments to your packs or use the latrines.

The trail heads West into the forest here and will shortly come to the water fowl observation bridge. It is a CPT tradition to pause here for a minute and set the tone for the rest of the trek. Listen quietly to the sounds of nature, see how many different wildlife sounds ou can hear.

After a pause here continue down the trail. The trial will cross one larger trail and eventually join another trail. It will move to the west and turn southward before reaching Duck Lake Rd. The trail will turn westward again nd pass under Duck Lake Rd. through a tunnel (just before the tunnel you will find another of the old steel arrowhead signs on the South side of the trial).

Follow the trail Westward after the tunnel until you come to the mountain bike trail head. At this point the hiking trails, equestrian trails and mountain bike trails are shown on a large wooden map. There is a latrine here. It is the last one for about 2.5 miles (another one of the old steel signs is located here).

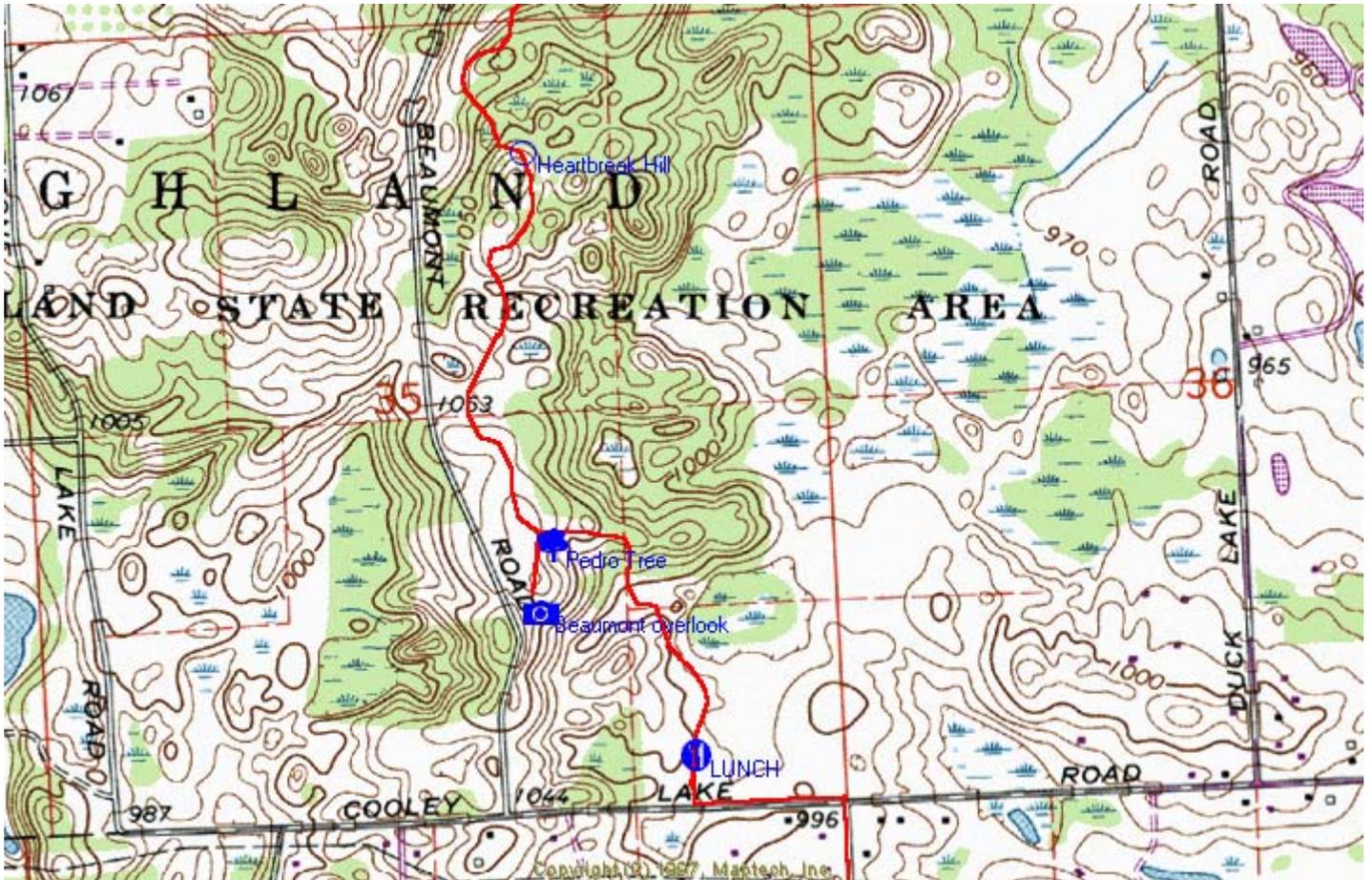


CPT 1st day, Mountain Bike Trailhead to Heartbreak Hill (CPT Trek Map #2)

The trail continues from the mountain bike trailhead to the South. The trail from this point is over some of the most interesting terrain in Southeast Michigan. There are numerous hills and switchbacks. You will come to a spot where the trail comes to a "T" shaped intersection. The trail goes to the right here, but there is a small meadow straight ahead across the intersection. This spot is nicknamed "lawn chair patio" because many years ago the CPT chairman, Mr. Dick Russell, found an abandoned lawn chair on this spot during one of his first treks.

Be very careful at trail intersections throughout the trek. The trail committee makes every effort to keep the trail marked with orange ribbons, however they are often torn down. Look carefully whenever you come to an intersection.

The trail continues to the top of Mt. Omich, one of the highest points in Oakland County, then continues through very hilly terrain. Along the way watch for the USGS bronze marker that lies in the center of the trail. You will eventually come to a short but very steep hill. This hill has been nicknamed "Heartbreak Hill". Watch your footing. The path is strewn with small rocks and is often covered with leaves in the fall and can be muddy in the spring. No matter what time of year it always seems to be slippery here!



CPT 1st day, Heartbreak Hill to Cooley Lake Rd. Dog Trial Area (CPT Trek Map #3)

After reaching the top of Heartbreak Hill, the trail is quite a bit less hilly. You will soon enter the Cooley Lake Dog Training area (there is a sign, warning that dogs off the leash maybe present). After a short while you will come to a place where the trail turns left, and another trail goes straight. At this intersection there is a large old tree known as the "PEDRO TREE". Look for the name Pedro carved in the tree about 5 feet up from the ground. It is faded into the bark but still clear if you know where to look. There is also a place nearby called the Beaumont overlook. If the foliage isn't too high you can see for quite a distance.

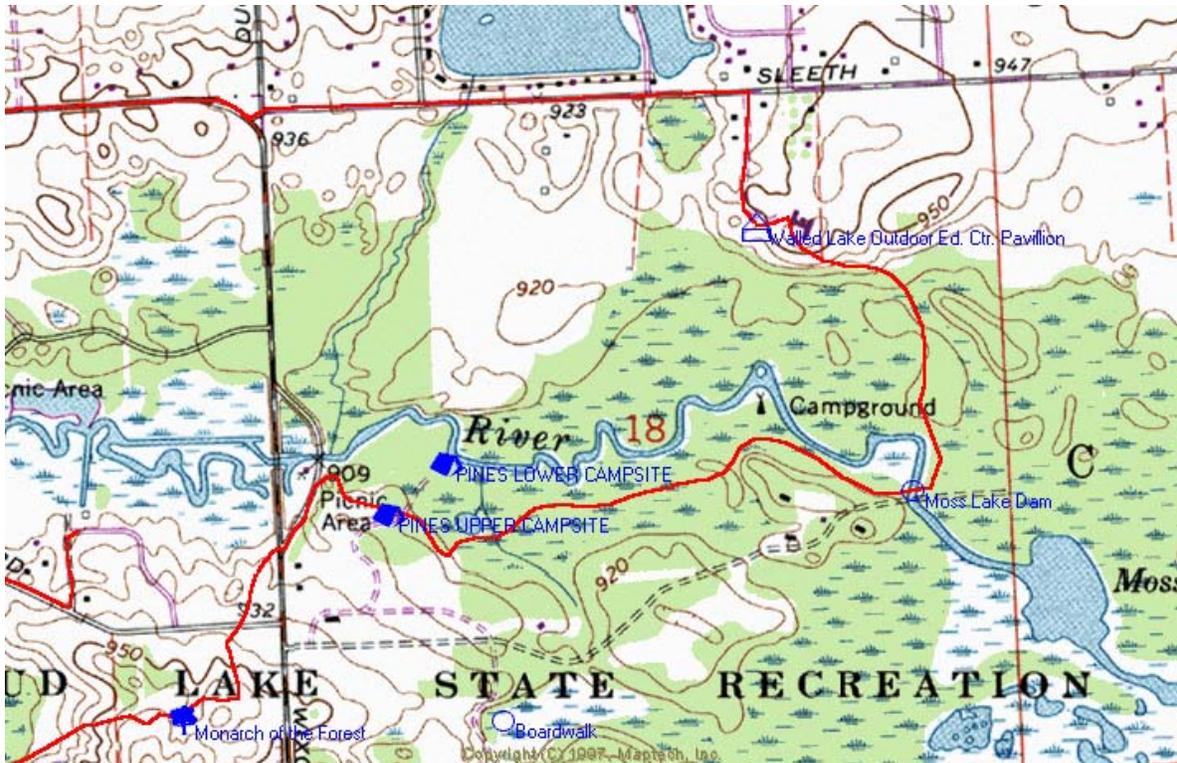
After the Pedro tree you will hike slightly Eastward along a ridge and past several glacial cut terrain features. Finally you will descend and cross open ground to the parking lot at Cooley Lake Rd. This is traditionally where most crews have lunch. There is a picnic table and latrines here.



CPT 1st day, Cooley Lk. Rd. -Walled Lk. Outdoor Ed. Ctr. (CPT Trek Maps #4 & 5).

This is the first segment of the road hike portion of your trek. Please follow all of the rules for safe hiking. Hike against traffic. Stay in single file. Cross roads safely.

The route is East on Cooley Lake Rd. Then South on Burns Rd. to Wixom Rd. Then follow Wixom Rd. to Sleeth and Sleeth Rd. to the Walled Lake Outdoor Ed. Center.

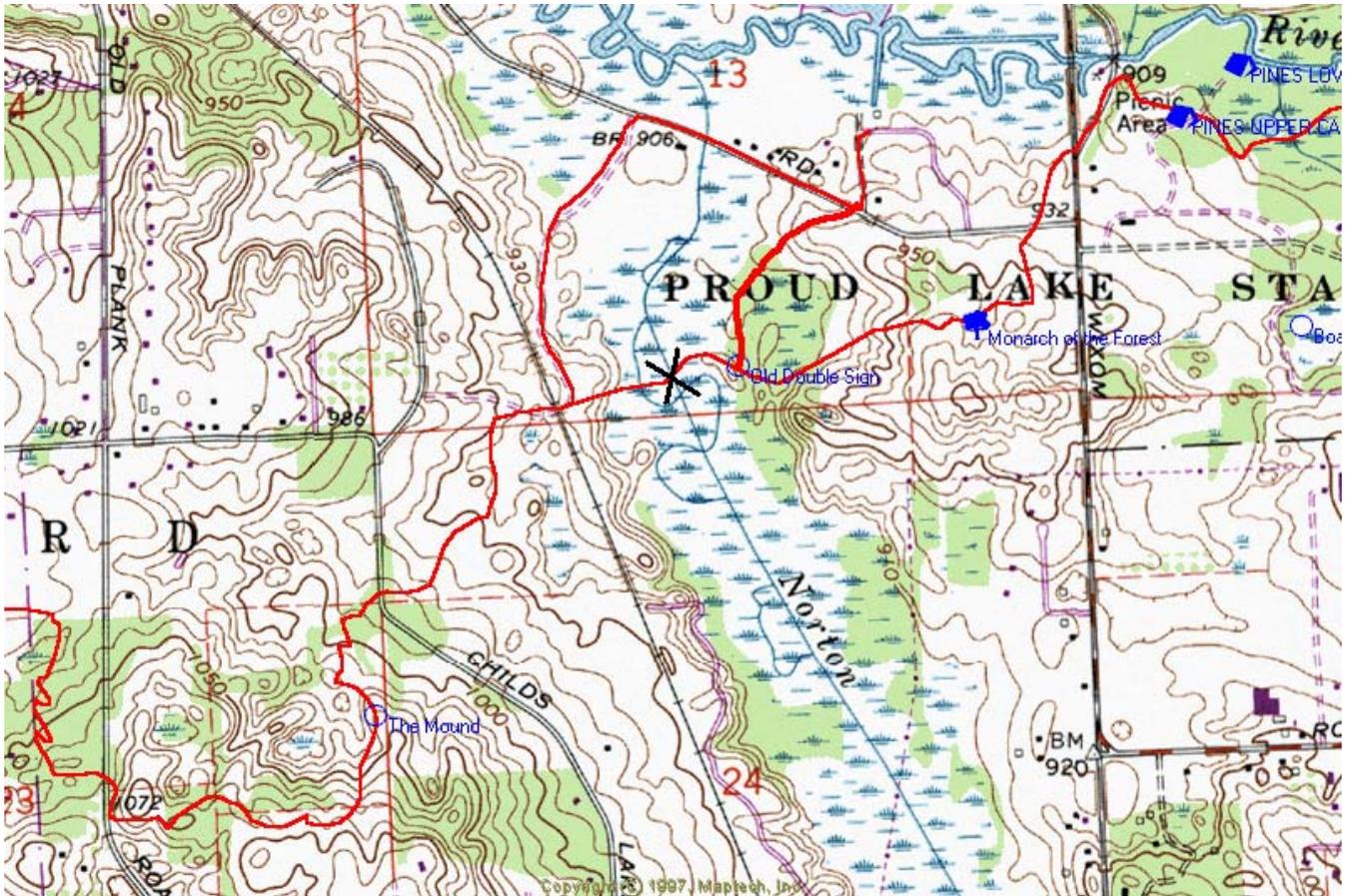


CPT 1st day, Walled Lk. Outdoor Ed. Ctr. To Pines organizational campsite. (CPT Trek Map #6)

The road hiking is over and you are now entering Proud Lake State Recreation Area. The trail enters at the South East corner of the Outdoor Ed. Center property. There is a large wooden sign marking the beginning of the Chief Pontiac Trail from here. The sign has a depiction of a backpacker in the center of it. The trail is marked by this symbol throughout Proud Lake Rec.

Follow the trail from here. It will soon begin to parallel the Huron River, then cross at the Moss Lake Dam. There are latrines here. The trail goes along the river for a bit, then crosses a few board walks. Watch your step, as these can be slippery and may have loose boards from time to time. The trail will bring you to the Pines Organizational Campsite after about a 20 minute walk from the dam.

You may camp at the upper or lower sites. The upper site has a water pump and may be warmer than the lower site. The lower site has a pavillion but no water pump. The lower site is sometimes cooler than the upper because of the river. There are latrines at both sites. If the water pump is not functioning you may need to get water at the back of the park office building. Follow the "two track" road from the campsite to get to the office.



CPT 2nd day, Pines Campsite to Old Plank Rd. (CPT Trek Map #7)

Your days trek begins at the water pump located at the upper "Pines" campsite. Follow the trail to the picnic area parking lot, out the driveway and across Wixom road. Here you will see one of the old metal arrowhead signs showing the entrance to the trail. Enter the woods and follow the trail towards the south, crossing garden road. The trail continues southward for a short distance and then turns generally westward for the rest of the day. In a short while you will come to a large old tree that has been named "the monarch of the forest".

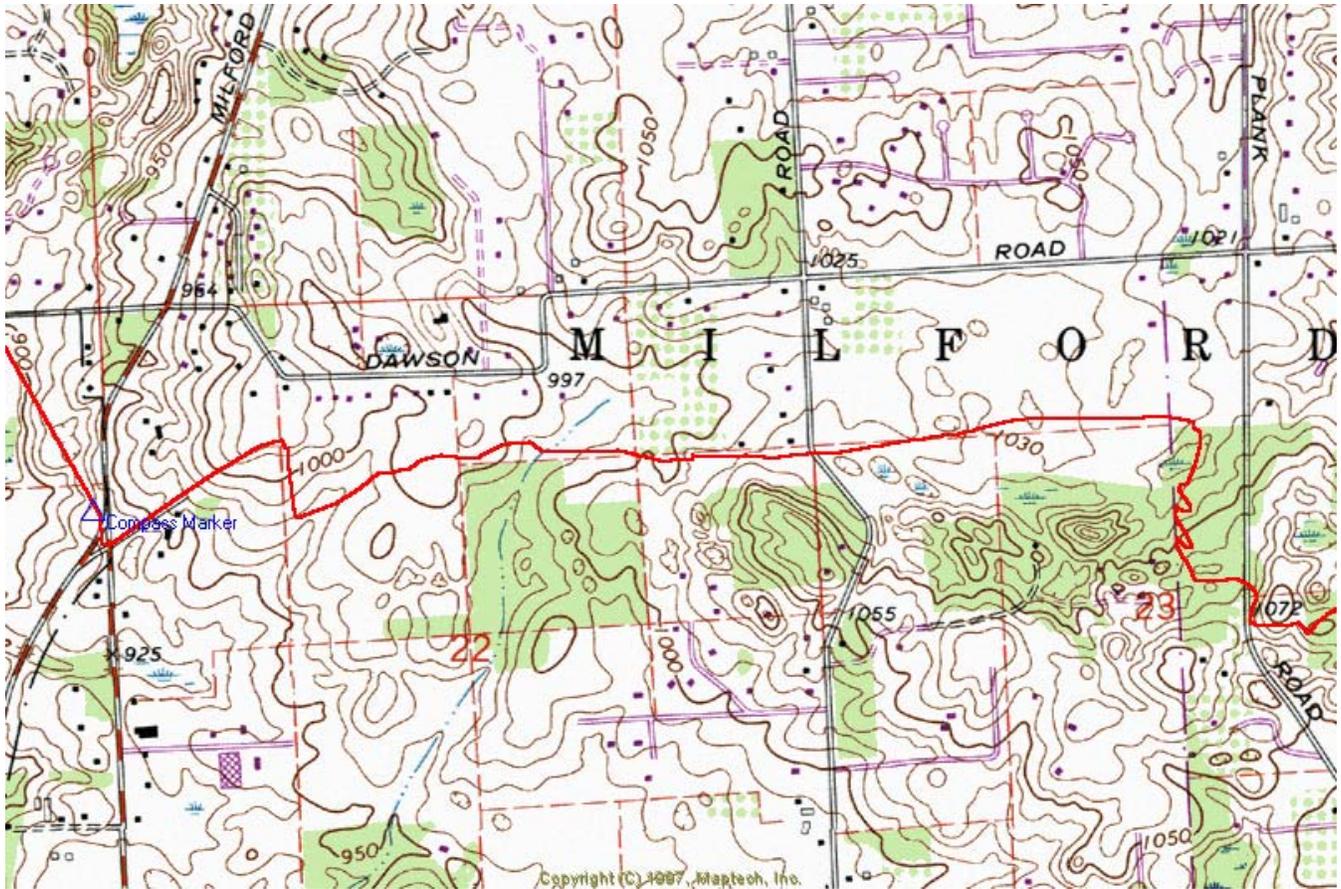
You will cross under some power lines, and soon come to yet another of the old iron signs. This sign is a little different than most of the others. It is a double sign that shows an image of a canoe with two scouts in it on one of the arrowheads. This indicates the old trail to Heavners canoe livery. Follow this trail to Garden Road and then West to cross over the Norton Creek bridge, then follow the two track up to the railroad crossing.

Shortly after the tracks the trail will turn southward. Follow the trail through some beautiful terrain, and cross Charms Road.

The trail continues from Charms road through a beautiful little green meadow, up a slow incline and turns left. Watch the trail markers here.

The trail goes around the base of a natural terrain feature nicknamed the "mound" because of it's resemblance to an old Indian burial mound (it's not one). The trail then proceeds up hill in a southward direction, turning to the west and heading towards Old Plank road. There are a couple of trail intersections in this area. Watch the signs carefully.

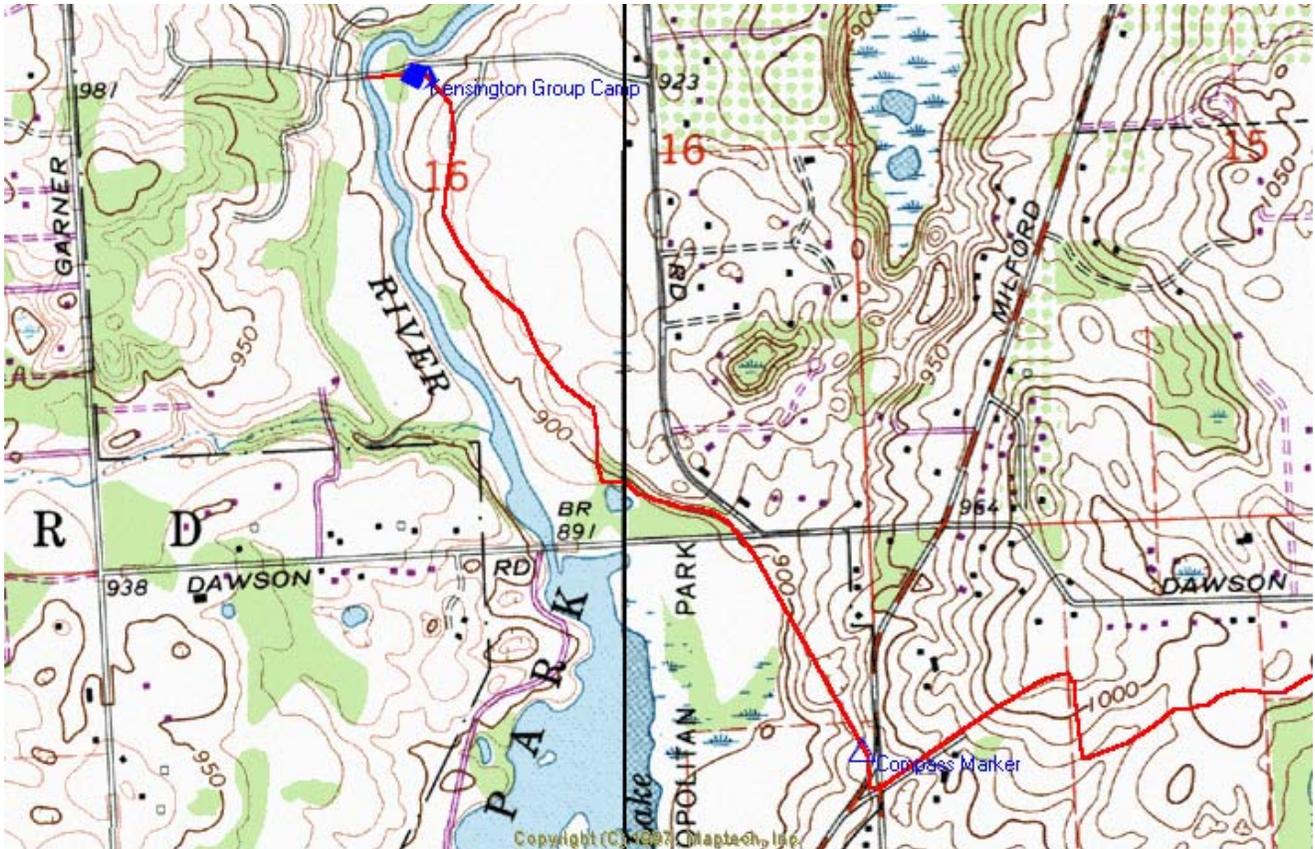
After you cross Old Plank road you will be in Kensington Metro-Park. Watch for deer in this area.



CPT 2nd day, Old Plank Rd. to Milford Rd. (CPT Trek Map #8)

After crossing Old Plank road you will be on Kensington Metropark property that is closely bounded by private property. The trail will wind through a hardwood grove and work it's way slightly to the North, then turn almost due west. This portion of the trail can often times be muddy. Be careful. The trail will cross South Hill Rd. and continue Westward through a straight corridor of small trees an shrubery. Very pretty and easy hiking along here. There is another of the old steel signs on the West side of South Hill Rd.

The trail will cross a meadow area bisected by several trails from the local houses. As you get close to Milford Road the trail makes a sharp turn to the North and up hill. At the top of the hill the trail again turns West, onto a road that proceeds down hill to Milford road near the Dairy Queen. Cross Milford road being very careful of traffic.



CPT 2nd day, Milford Rd. to Trail's End (CPT Trek Map #9)

When you cross Milford road there will be a split rail fence that you must go around to the North.

You will see one of the old CPT metal signs at this point. It contains compass instructions from this point to where the trail crosses Dawson Road. The trail in this area is usually very obvious but it is recommended that you take a compass bearing anyway because of the new trails that often appear in this area from wildlife, and people cutting across.

At Dawson Rd. the trail crosses over and you will see the last of the old iron signs. From this point you have approximately one mile to go.

The trail is easy from here. You will pass a small algae filled pond to your left and then turn right on an equestrian trail for a short uphill section. Then turn left again and head slowly downhill into the group camp. The trail is not over at the group campsite. The official trail end is on the bridge over the camp road. This has been a tradition since the trail's inception in 1958. Literally thousands have completed their trek by ceremoniously walking onto the bridge.

Congratulations! You have walked in Chief Pontiac Steps!

Please return this manual to your trail guide along with your 250 word trail experience reports and hand drawn map sketches, within 30 days of completing your trek.