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## **More Exciting Mackinac Parks: 125 Programs Coming Up**

MACKINAW CITY, MICH. — Mackinac State Historic Parks is hosting two exciting and educational events August 17 and 18 in Mackinaw City discussing lesser-known historical aspects of its sites.

The first event, “Archaeology at Historic Mill Creek,” will be held on Tuesday, August 18 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park. This program, presented by Dr. Lynn Evans, Curator of Archaeology, will include a brief history discussion of the site and its excavation followed by a walking tour of the archaeological sites. Due to Covid-19 precautions, this event will be held outside and guests are advised to dress for the weather.

“Mill Creek has been the site of sixteen seasons of archaeological excavation,” Evans said. “Three structures have been reconstructed based on this work and the remains of three more are still visible. This event will examine all six of them.”

Mill Creek operated from about 1790-1839 and supplied lumber to the Straits of Mackinac. The mill was abandoned and eventually forgotten until it was rediscovered in 1972.

Excavations of the site occurred in 1973-1974, 1979 and between 1984-1994. The results of these excavations later helped develop the discovery park into what it is today.

“Hidden Histories: The Grenadiers’ ‘Mutiny’ of 1780” will be held the following night at Colonial Michilimackinac, starting at 7:30 p.m. This program will include a walking tour and discussion that will explore elements of Colonial Michilimackinac’s history and culture that are not currently well-represented in interpretive programming and exhibits, specifically the Grenadiers’ “mutiny” of 1780.

Colonial Michilimackinac was established as a fortified community and became the fur trade center of the Northwest until it was relocated to Mackinac Island in 1781. French and British officers were among the many settlers of the area.

Both events are a part of the Mackinac Parks:125 Celebration and are free to all visitors. Visit [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com) for more information and a full list of upcoming events.

*Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan’s Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks’ rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at [www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com).*

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