



Walk Bridge Program Archaeological Excavation

WALK BRIDGE PROGRAM | 2018

What is the Walk Bridge Program Archaeological Excavation?

This archaeological excavation is part of a deliberate process on behalf of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to ensure any historically significant sites in the Walk Bridge Program area are investigated, and if deemed historically significant, excavated and preserved to the best extent possible.

What are the preliminary findings?

The investigation uncovered a multi-component, Contact Period Native American fort along with several thousand artifacts, with some thought to be more than 3,000 years old. Artifacts uncovered include wampum, glass and copper beads, European flint, iron trade tools, an Orient Fishtail point (below) and a Lamoka point (below), in addition to many others. No evidence of human remains or characteristics of a human burial have been found.

Why is this significant?

This site represents a rare opportunity to gather some of the only information available on Native Americans from present-day Norwalk. Fewer than a half-dozen sites like this one have been discovered in Connecticut and Long Island Sound combined. If not for the CTDOT and the Walk Bridge Program, the opportunity to learn about this aspect of Connecticut history may have been lost. As a result of this discovery, this site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

What will happen next?

Following a consultation with the Federal Transit Administration, the State Historic Preservation Office, federally recognized tribes and local historic stakeholders, the CTDOT will complete the removal and conservation of historic artifacts from this site. Items from the site will be collected for an exhibit and there will be a display placed in the Walk Bridge Program Welcome Center on Marshall Street in Norwalk, CT.

“Contact Period” refers to the period when Europeans first began coming in contact with Native Americans, generally understood to be 1500 to 1700.

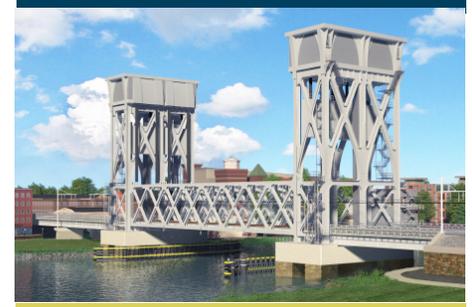


Part of the excavation site in the Walk Bridge Program area

The Connecticut Department of Transportation initiated the **Walk Bridge Program** to replace the 122-year-old deteriorating railroad bridge that crosses the Norwalk River in Norwalk, CT. The existing four-track swing bridge opens to provide access for commercial and private maritime users along the Norwalk River. When closed, the Walk Bridge connects the rail line that passes through the heart of historic South Norwalk on the west side of the river to East Norwalk on the east side.

The Walk Bridge is a critical transportation link between Washington, D.C., New York City and Boston, carrying Metro-North’s New Haven Line with approximately 125,000 passengers daily, Amtrak and freight services.

The replacement of the Walk Bridge is anticipated to start construction in 2019.



Contact Us

- www.walkbridgect.com
- info@walkbridgect.com
- 833.GO2.WALK (462.9255)
- @WalkBridgeCT



Orient Fishtail point recovered from the archaeological excavation



Lamoka point recovered from the archaeological excavation

