

Help Discover....

Archaeology in Superior Township

Superior Township has been occupied for 12,000 years. Beginning with the earliest Paleo-Indians who moved into the area at the end of the Ice Age the township was inhabited by hunting societies throughout the Archaic Period and into the era of Woodland farming societies. The descendents of these Native Americans lived in the region at the time of European-American settlement. Though we do not know what tribes were responsible for the earliest settlements all of these cultures left behind evidence of their occupancy in the form of chipped stone arrow and spear points, pottery fragments, and areas of ancient habitation.

Contemporary growth and development within the Township has begun to radically transform the landscape far more drastically than 175 years of American farming. Archaeological sites, once taken for granted in the first half of the 20th century, are now rapidly disappearing. These sites are non-renewable cultural resources representing a way of life that all of humanity passed through with only slight variations from one part of the world to another. Socio-cultural evolution cannot be replayed. Once these sites are lost they are gone for all time. They can never be replaced and future generations will have lost a remarkable opportunity to study the past.

An effort is underway to salvage information about archaeological sites within Superior Township. Anyone with an interest in history or knowledge of sites or artifact collections contribute to this effort. Artifacts need to be documented and relatively undisturbed areas of the township need to be investigated for evidence of ancient settlements.

Anyone with an interest in this effort or information to contribute should contact township resident and local historian Karl Williams. Every effort should be made to document whatever archaeological information remains in the possession of local residents or may be yet discovered for the benefit and interest of present and future generations.



A.D. 700-1200

**WOODLAND PERIOD
ARROW POINT & POTTERY FRAGMENT FROM
SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP**



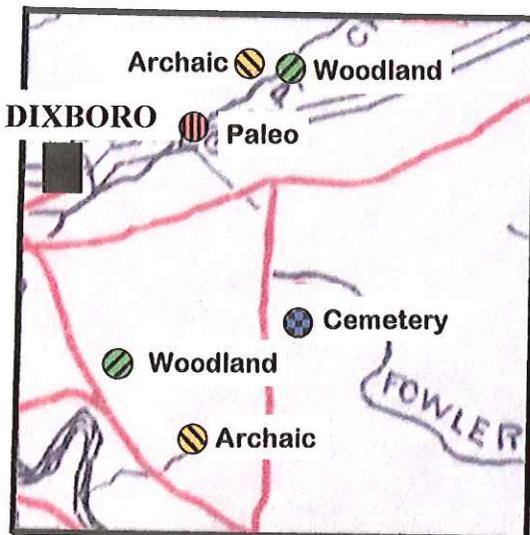
3500-1800 B.C.



7500-5500 B.C.



**ARCHAIC PERIOD
SPEAR POINTS & KNIVES FROM
SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP**



**HISTORIC INDIAN TRAILS &
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN
SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP**

Artifact photographs courtesy of the University of Michigan
Museum of Anthropology.

This document was prepared by Rick Zurel, an independent archaeologist conducting an
archaeological inventory of Washtenaw County.
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