



Holland Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey

The O'sakame Preserve

Native American Legacy and Natural Resources



Credit: Wikipedia

FOR ABOUT SIX CENTURIES during the Late Woodland Period (ca. 1000 A.D. to 1600 A.D.) the entire region now identified with New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, southern New York, and the northern portions of Delaware and Maryland, was the homeland of the Lenni Lenape and related tribes.

This Preserve was part of the ancestral homeland of the Lenape—a heritage reflected in its name, O'sakame. Holland Township and the Hunterdon Land Trust acquired this 70-acre property from GenOn Holdings in 2021, using Hunterdon County and Township Open Space funds. GenOn is the owner of the Gilbert Generating Station that is adjacent to the Preserve.

This preserve falls within the National Park Service's Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic area, which aims to protect the natural, cultural, and historic value of the Delaware River. The O'sakame Preserve offers several attractions to visitors, including:

- A trail that leads to a scenic overlook of the Delaware River, offering a view of the 300-foot high Nockamixon Cliffs across the river in Bucks County.
- A meadow with native plants and flowers.
- A forest with various trees native to this part of New Jersey. Look for trees along the trail and in the parking lot that have been identified with signs and QR codes, including Northern Hackberry, Black Cherry and Silver Maple.
- Views of wildlife that frequent the Preserve, including Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, Ravens and migrant songbirds.

NAVIGATING THE TRAIL: A loop trail of approximately three-quarters of a mile has been hewn around the perimeter of the preserve (Use the QR Code below to access a map). Walk across the top of the property under the row of oak trees before heading downhill towards the river. It is easier to go downhill on the far side of the lot and return coming back up on the parking lot side.

For your safety, there is fencing at the bottom beyond which you should not trespass.

Also for your safety, wear orange or yellow blaze outer gear during hunting season.

