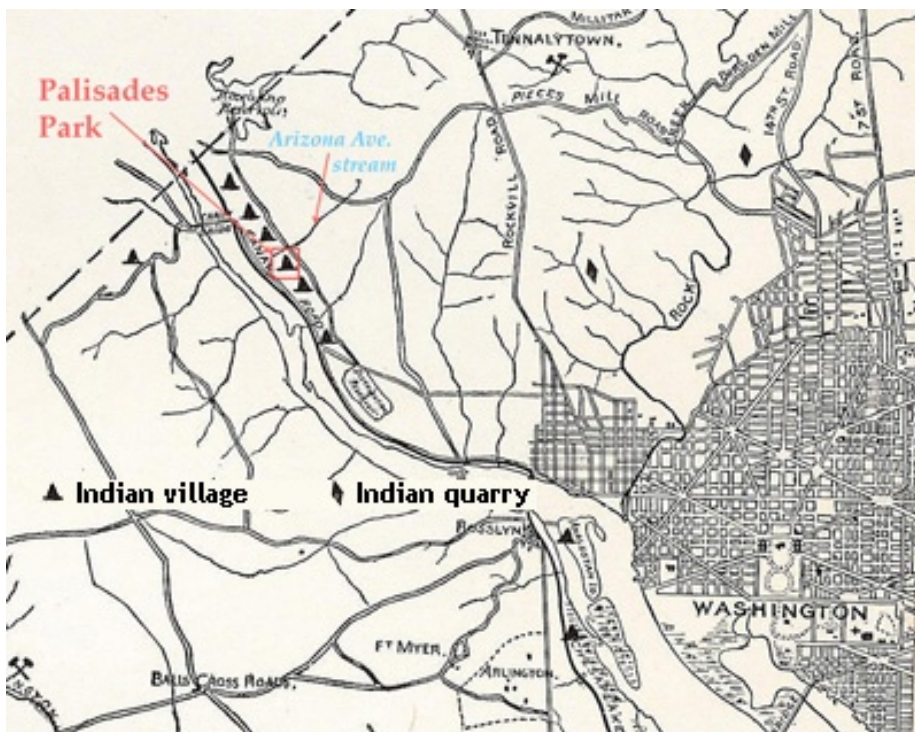


The Palisades Park continues to reveal, by little bits and pieces, the prehistoric past. Some projectile points and pottery sherds are turning up in the topsoil around the playing fields. This soil was initially scraped from the surface, and piled into huge mounds for later use in landscaping. It's likely more artifacts will surface with vernal downpours.

On March 9, Murphy Donovan and I visited the Smithsonian Collections warehouse in Suitland, Maryland. The curator of Native American artifacts, James Krakker, showed us the many cabinets and drawers dedicated to Washington DC. Most of the artifacts were collected at the turn of the century (the previous one) and labeled by toponymy and collector. Place names such as *Chain Bridge*, *Little Falls*, and "north of *Georgetown*" comprise perhaps 25% of the collection. Some of the most astonishing artifacts are the enormous axeheads found at *Rose Hill* which is near the present Soapstone Valley in Rock Creek Park. Spectacular stone specimens from the Palisades include pendants, bannerstones, pipes, and atlatl weights - all with labor-intensive hole borings.

A frequent name on artifacts originating from the Palisades is S.V

Proudfit who also created a map showing Indian village sites and quarries in Washington DC. According to his map, an Indian village exists just to the south of the stream which now runs below Arizona Ave.



In the month of April, the Palisades Museum of Prehistory will be sponsoring primitive technology demonstrations. Artists will manufacture spearpoints and pottery in the style of Palisadian Indians. People wanting to participate in these activities are encouraged to contact the museum before March 27.



quarry pick, Smithsonian Collection

Although the map is rather general, the location of the village coincides with Palisades Park. The several Indian villages running below MacArthur Blvd. (along the old trolley line) suggests concentrated Indian habitation throughout the Palisades Heights neighborhood. The number of artifacts recovered so far from the Palisades Park supports the map's depiction of an Indian settlement there.

- Doug Dupin, Director

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