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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hay Cutters and Summer Pastures at Historic Mill Creek July 21-27

MACKINAW CITY, MICH. — It's Hay Cutters & Summer Pasture at Historic Mill Creek starting Sunday, July 21 and running through Saturday, July 27. Through the week, special programs will explore historic hay making at the Straits of Mackinac. Learn about sedges, rushes, and other wild plants which fed the King's cattle in 1781. See which tools were used to harvest "tame hay," and hay-making artifacts uncovered at Historic Mill Creek. You may leave humming the barley-mowers' song, with fresh appreciation of plants which thrive under the hot summer sun.

"Though it isn't obvious today, growing hay was important at Mill Creek from about 1790-1840," shares naturalist Kyle Bagnall. "During the special week visitors can learn all about the plants, tools, and people of hay making at the Straits. Search for sedges in the pond, hunt for 4-leaf clovers, and see a swinging scythe during daily programs. Also join in the chorus of rhymes that celebrate humble plants of the meadow and summer work of hay cutters in the 19th century."

Special programs will take place at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m., replacing the regularly scheduled Farming at Mill Creek programs. In addition, trained naturalists will also highlight the theme of hay cutting and summer pasture in their regularly scheduled programs.

Guests are encouraged to explore the three-plus miles of hiking trails available at the site. In addition, regular sawpit and sawmill demonstrations will take place throughout the day. All special programs are included with regular admission.

The site opens for the day at 9:00 a.m. and closes at 5:00 p.m., with last admission/last ticket sold at 4:30 p.m. The site features a working water-powered sawmill, pitsaw demonstrations, naturalist programs, guided walks, artifact-rich exhibits, and more than three miles of hiking trails.

More information on the event can be found [here](#). Tickets can be found [here](#). A downloadable version of this release can be found [here](#). Additional pictures available upon request.

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, featuring the Mackinac Island Native American Museum, The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Benjamin Blacksmith Shop, American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum, McGulpin House, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek, 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 online at www.mackinacparks.com.

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