

Essex National Heritage Area Land Acknowledgement

The Essex National Heritage Area encompasses land on which Indigenous communities have thrived for millennia. The Pawtucket band of the Massachuset Tribe inhabited the land that is now known as Essex County. The effects of colonization in the 17th century and earlier saw the suppression of Indigenous cultures and voices in favor of colonial European cultures in the dominant narrative. Despite this, the Indigenous communities of the region have continued to live, work, create, raise families, and honor the land which we call Essex County.

Essex Heritage recognizes the devastating effects of colonization and industrialization on the established population and landscape and maintains that this is still Indigenous land and will always be Indigenous land. As advocates for the appropriate interpretation and stewardship of our many natural, historic, and cultural resources, Essex Heritage has a responsibility to acknowledge all stories, past and present.

Indigenous peoples should not be relegated to history, they are still here and are part of our shared story. As we move towards an equitable future, we will celebrate and continue to honor the heritage of the Indigenous communities that have called this region home for generations.