



# Prayers in Stone Project

**In collaboration with the Littleton Conservation Trust**

19 January 2024 Strong Bear Medicine and Daniel V. Boudillion

The **Prayers in Stone Project** seeks to protect and maintain Native sacred stonework sites located in and around the Nashoba Valley region, including towns like Acton, Boxborough, Harvard, and Littleton.

**Natives**, Native American Indians indigenous to this land, constructed sacred stonework sites in spiritual places both pre- and post-colonial settlement. Some sites constructed many centuries ago are still in use today by **Natives** in our area, specifically the Nashobah Praying Indians.

**Native Constructions**, sacred stonework sites, sometimes called sacred structures, are filled with living Spirit: Manitou, and considered prayers in stone. These **Native Constructions** are used to honor and commune with Creator, the Spirit, the ancestors, the spirits of sun, moon, water, and seasons to name a few. They honor important tribal personages, and some are burial sites, which should be honored and respected by all just like any other cemetery or grave site.

Please approach **Native Constructions** respectfully. Take a moment to prepare for walking in a sacred place; consider saying a prayer in your heart to the Creator before entering the land. Your experience in a sacred place has much to do with the frame of mind you go into it with. And consider wearing or bringing medicine you may have been gifted by a **Native** which helps the land and Spirit know that you are a friend who intends to tread lightly and respectfully with an open heart.

Be aware of your surroundings and mindful of the signs you may encounter. **Natives** believe humans are one with the land just as the birds, animals, and creepy crawlers are one with the land. You may just hear the Spirit speak to you through the creatures, the wind and the trees which can guide you if your heart is listening.

The **Guidelines** listed below have been developed in collaboration with local **Natives**, the Nashobah Praying Indians, whose medicine people have been stewarding their ancestral land for thousands of years.

## **Guidelines:**

- Keep a respectful distance from **Native Constructions**.
- Do not touch or walk on **Native Constructions**, this is disrespectful and can cause damage.
- Do not add, remove, or reposition stones. These are literally prayers in stone and once they are disturbed, the prayer is broken forever and gone.
- Do not leave objects or offerings at **Native Constructions** if you are not a **Native**. Leave prayers instead.
- Do not clean up trash or debris or cut or clear brush from off or around **Native Constructions**. Trained Land Stewards will maintain the sites.
- Do not trespass on private property. This creates a bad feeling with landowners which is hard to repair. We need private landowners as allies.
- Do not post or publish pictures or videos of **Native Constructions** on websites or social media platforms. It is disrespectful to **Native** culture.
- Report vandalism or damage.

If you have any questions or concerns about stone constructions, **Native Constructions**, and other sites in the area, please refer them to the **Prayers in Stone Project** or the Nashobah Praying Indians, specifically Sagamore Strong Bear Medicine. Contact Prayers in Stone Project: [dan@rayengineeringco.com](mailto:dan@rayengineeringco.com)