

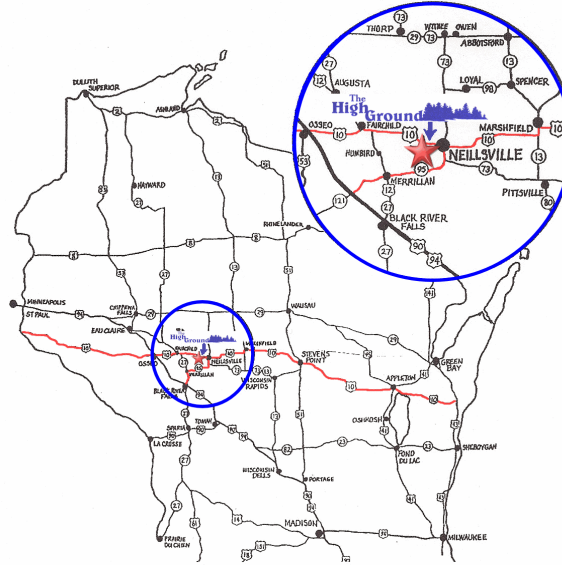
Good things to know about The Highground

- The Highground is a veterans memorial park that pays tribute to the dead, and honors the survivors, their service and their sacrifices.
- Located in the center of the state, veterans from any place in Wisconsin can get to and from The Highground in one day.
- Visitors are welcome in the park 24/7.
- The park is manned year-round with The Timerframe Information Center and Gift Shop open daily.
- The Learning Center is open with its library, media center and gallery.
- Visitors are encouraged to pick up a free audio tour in the gift shop before walking the plaza.
- The 45,000 sq.ft. plaza, Effigy Mound Peace Dove, Gold Star and all Tributes are lighted in the evenings.
- The 146 acre park offers visitors 4 miles of walking trails and two bridges.
- A handicap-accessible treehouse has been built close to Treehouse Trailhead.
- Picnic tables and shelters are available.
- Guided group tours are encouraged.
- One-half million acres of spectacular WI woodland and glacial moraine are visible from the point of the plaza.
- Thousands of hours are volunteered every year.
- The Highground is a grass-roots effort with no on-going federal or state funding.
- All are invited and encouraged to ring our replica Liberty Bell.



Our Country's Premier Manned Veterans Memorial Park

We seek to have The Highground continue to be a focus of healing for all who come, regardless of the name of the battle which left the scars.



Located 4 miles west of Neillsville on US Highway 10 or 30 miles east of Osseo from the junction of Interstate 94 and US Highway 10.

For more information:

Call: 715-743-4224

Fax: 715-743-4228

Write: PO Box 457 / W7031 Ridge Road
Neillsville, WI 54456

Email: highgrnd@tds.net

Website: www.thehighground.org

Volunteers and Contributors are the Heart of The Highground. This brochure is in your hands due to the efforts of many contributors.

When you are finished with this brochure, please pass it on to a friend.



Veterans Memorial Park

.....a place for all of us.



It is the mission of The Highground to honor veterans and their families and to educate about the cost of things---the human cost.

It is the vision of The Highground to honor human courage and sacrifice wherever it is displayed, without either denying or glorifying the pain and suffering of war and of life.



The Highground Learning Center

An Historical Perspective

We heal the past by bringing its lessons into our hopes for the future.

- 1965** -- Tom Miller, holding his mortally wounded friend on a battle field in Vietnam, makes a vow that his death will not be forgotten.
- 1984** -- Miller and others having made similar vows explore the possibility of creating a memorial to Vietnam Veterans. Selection is made from 10 WI site possibilities. The WI Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project (WVVMP, Inc.) formally incorporates.
- 1985** -- First Bicycle Tour for The Highground.
- 1986** -- The 70 foot Flagpole, flag and lights become the first permanent fixtures.
- 1988** -- Dedication of the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park (later to be known as "The Highground") and the Vietnam Veterans Tribute.
- 1989** -- Earthen Dove Effigy Mound is dedicated.
- 1990** -- The Gold Star Tribute is dedicated. Two timber framed shelters are built in the lower park.
- 1992** -- The Nurse and Doughboy are dedicated and The Highground magazine's Premier issue published.
- 1993** -- The WWII Veterans Tribute and Pow Wow Arena are dedicated and the first "Warrior" Traditional Pow Wow ceremony was held.
- 1995** -- The National Native American Vietnam Veterans Tribute is dedicated. The first Legacy Stones are placed.
- 1996** -- The Timberframe Building is dedicated.
- 2002** -- The Liberty Bell Shelter is dedicated July 4th.
- 2003** -- Permanent restrooms open to public.
- 2004** -- Trail system extended and long-range forest management plan including developmental forest established. Wisconsin Counties United In Service Tribute placed on walkway.
- 2005** -- Handicap-accessible Treehouse completed and the first Meditation Stones placed on shelter floor.
- 2006** -- Meditation Garden, Ascension of Doves, Fountain of Tears and WASP Tribute dedicated.
- 2007** -- Korean Tribute dedicated and first tribute stone was placed on the Rice Paddies.
- 2009** -- Statuary within the Fountain of Tears dedicated. The Hero Tribute Ride recreated the first bike tour.
- 2010** -- Learning Center dedicated.

VIETNAM VETERANS TRIBUTE



Photo by: Steve Meurett

The Vietnam Veterans Tribute (known as Fragments) is the first veterans tribute in the United States to include a woman in the statuary. Under her poncho she carries the burden of the WI service men killed in Vietnam. The 1244 names are inscribed on the bundles of bamboo-shaped bronze rods in the back of the statue. They are interspersed with wind-chimes—never meant to be read but to be voiced in sound so that the prayers left here go out to the hillsides and beyond.

You will notice that not one of the figures in the statue is complete. They flow into one, much like war, each are dependent on each other and strengthen each other. The rifle is turned upside down—a sign that a Medivac is needed; a piece of orange glass is seen as a reminder of Agent Orange. Many veterans gave their lives afterwards as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals.

The artist didn't sign the statue. "It was signed with the cost of things. It was signed in sound. It was signed by us all."



Friends of The Highground

Friends of The Highground

The Highground is a grass-roots, non-profit, 501 (c)3 organization which receives no on-going federal or state funding. It has a very small operating budget and only exists because the hands and hearts of hundreds of volunteers and contributors have given generously of their time, talents and personal/financial resources.

Please send me information about:

- Upcoming Highground events
- Stones on The Highground
- Volunteer opportunities on site
- Fundraising Opportunities
- Add to the newsletter mailing list

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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**Our Country's Premier Manned Veterans Park
Gift Shop/InformationCenter
Open Daily—Year-round 10:00am-5:00pm
Park Open 24/7**