

**A map of Tiverton from the 1850's designates this area as Basket Swamp. It is likely so named because this wetland supplied black ash trees, *Fraxinus nigra*, a tree that was once plentiful throughout Northeastern US, but is now scarce. This tree was also called basket ash, because it was a prime source for Native American basket making. The wood could be soaked, then pounded with wood mallets to separate it into thin layers which could then be cut into strips for basket weaving. Native Americans and artisans still create beautiful baskets in this tradition.**

**Native American basket makers include the Mohawk, Seneca, Onondaga, Cayuga, Oneida, Tuscarora, Penobscot, Micmac, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, Anishinabe, and the Abenaki. Organizations such as the Akwesasne Museum and the Maine Indian Basket Alliance have contributed greatly to the preservation of basket making.**

**An Anishinabe legend tells of a dream of Black Elk, with instructions he received for his people to burn his body and spread the ashes in a place where a special tree grows that will provide for their families by making and trading baskets. The Passamaquoddy creation legend relates the ties of that nation to Black Ash, as they came out of the ash tree bark. Efforts are on-going to re-introduce the black ash in Basket Swamp.**

**The Tiverton Land Trust takes pride in preserving these 96 acres for your enjoyment. Hike slowly and use all of your senses. If you would like to be part of the preservation efforts, go to our website.... [www.tivertonlandtrust.org](http://www.tivertonlandtrust.org) or contact us at PO Box 167 in Tiverton, RI 02878**