

Did you know you can tell time using the sun?

Since ancient times, humans have used the sun and markings on the ground to cast shadows that tell them local solar time. The sundial at the 78th Street Heritage Farm uses techniques developed thousands of years ago to enable visitors to use their shadow to tell local time based on the month of the year.

The following instructions provide the basic information needed to use the sundial; for additional history about sundials, please consult the display.

- 1) Find the current month on the ground calendar and stand on the centerline for the date.



- 2) If it's early in the month, point your toes towards the prior month; if it is midmonth, keep them centered, and if it is late-month, point them towards the end of the month.

- 3) You should be standing so that you are "facing" and casting a shadow towards the ring of numbers. To help your shadow extend to the numbers (kids can cast longer shadows), clasp your hands and point them straight up over your head.



- 4) Note which numbers your shadow intersects or is nearest with; the "inner ring" of numbers reflects the time during Daylight Savings, and the "outer ring" of numbers reflects Standard time. This gives you the hour. If your shadow is halfway between two numbers, it is half past the hour. If three quarters past one number, it is three quarters past the hour, etc.

- 5) Have fun!! If you are curious about sunrise and sunset times, stand on the “SR” and “SS” stones, respectively, and see where your shadow is cast.



Insert QR code box here

Thank you for visiting our sundial! It's installation at the 78th Street Heritage Farm was made possible by the WSU Extension Clark County Master Gardener program and generous donations from the Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County Mutual Materials, Stone Art, the Nutter Corporation and U-Haul.

