

Moraines: Evidence of Ice Age Glaciers

In the past, the term **ground moraine** was used to describe the glacial sediment **till**, a homogenous mixture of sand, silt, clay, pebbles, and cobbles, and also the low-lying, rolling (hummocky) topography that resulted from its deposition. Currently, the term **moraine** is used to describe mounds or ridges of glacial sediment, predominantly till, deposited directly by glacier ice.

The most common moraines in Indiana are **end moraines**, formed at the margins of glaciers. These moraines are used to interpret the glacial history of an area. Moraines marking the farthest extent of a glacial advance, or that of a major readvance, are referred to as **terminal moraines**. Those formed during retreat are called **recessional moraines**.

Moraines in Indiana are somewhat arc-shaped, discontinuous ridges that in some places, such as near Valparaiso, stand in bold relief, but in areas like central and northeastern Indiana, they are scarcely distinguishable. These moraines define the landscape of Indiana and record the history of the Wisconsin Episode glaciation.

