



Master Plan

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Master plan made possible by  **THE
PORTLAND
FOUNDATION**



**National Center for Great Lakes
Native American Culture, Inc.**
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Introduction

The National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc. (NCGLNAC) was formed in May of 2001 as a not-for-profit, 501(c)3, organization. NCGLNAC is composed of Native and non-Native members whose mission is to continue and preserve traditional Great Lakes Native American art, history, and culture by helping pass those traditions on to Native people and by educating the general public about the importance of Great Lakes Native art, history, and culture.

For purposes of NCGLNAC, we are defining Great Lakes Native Americans as members of Native American tribes that had a significant presence at some time in the states and provinces that touch a Great Lake. We consider the following tribes to be Great Lakes tribes: Miami, Wea, Piankashaw, Potawatomi, Kaskaskia, Kickapoo, Delaware, Shawnee, Ojibwa (Chippewa), Sauk and Fox, Illinois, Peoria, Odawa (Ottawa), Hochunk (Winnebago), Menominee, Tobacco, Erie, Neutral, and the Iroquois tribes (Seneca, Cayuga, Oneida, Tuscarora, Onondaga, and Mohawk).

Although the corporation was formed in 2001, the experience of the leadership, tradition bearers, and the membership goes back a dozen years to the Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie, Indiana, where many of the current leaders and members of NCGLNAC were involved in an alliance known as the Minnetrista Council for Great Lakes Native American Studies (MCGLNAS). This organization began the preservation of Great Lakes Native American culture about 1989. This preservation activity continued there until 1995, when many of the people involved in MCGLNAS transferred the effort to the Prophetstown State Park, located near Lafayette, Indiana. Cultural preservation activities continued there until the formation of NCGLNAC in 2001. Since the formation of NCGLNAC, this preservation activity has continued under its auspices.

After an extensive search for a location to call home, NCGLNAC decided in March of 2003 to locate in Portland, Indiana, due to the resources available there that will assist in furthering the mission of NCGLNAC. This document now describes our mission and our plans to maximize use of the facilities in Portland, Indiana for the purposes of preserving the traditional culture of the Great Lakes Native American peoples.

Our specific objectives are the following:

1. Provide direct teaching of Native Americans and the general public through conducting workshops.
2. Demonstrate many of the traditional skills required in the daily life of Great Lakes Native Americans.
3. Establish a historically correct representation of a Great Lakes Native American village
4. Grow examples of food plants in a garden next to the Great Lakes Native American village
5. Teach about many of wild plants that were used by Great Lakes Native Americans in their daily lives.
6. Prepare and provide educational programs and materials for use by schools, scouting organizations, libraries, etc., including assisting with Native American scouting badges.
7. Partnership with universities to create course materials and curricula that are accredited for use in schools of anthropology and sociology regarding Native American peoples.
8. Facilitate teaching by tradition bearers in an informal atmosphere with individual students.
9. Conduct powwows in order to educate the general public about modern Native American traditions.
10. Provide a gallery for the display and sale of artwork and crafts created by Great Lakes Native American artists.
11. Conduct research into the history of the Great Lakes Native American peoples.
12. Establish a program for and provide support for Great Lakes Native American artists-in-residence.
13. Establish an elder hostel for education of seniors about Great Lakes Native American culture.
14. Become a resource to the community regarding Great Lakes Native American culture.
15. Provide a means for cultural renewal and revitalization within the Native American community.

Facilities Requirements

Cultural Center Building

- One story building in a design adhering to Native American principles – all handicap accessible, approximately 14,000 square feet
- Basement area if suitable for soil types
- Building needs to be easily expanded in the future as needs demand
- Use of natural materials and sustainable architecture wherever possible in the building
- One large central multi-purpose room – approximately 60' by 60' – non-carpeted
- Two or more classrooms – approximately 30' by 40' each – non-carpeted
- Research library approximately 15' by 15' - climate controlled to protect research materials
- Kitchen area approximately 15' by 15' - large enough to prepare sizeable meals – not commercial kitchen
- Two studio apartments for artists-in-residence, each approximately 15' by 15' with private baths that share a 10' by 10' kitchenette
- Handicap accessible restrooms with shower facilities, large enough to accommodate groups of 100 or more persons, approximately 20' by 25' each
- Climate-controlled Interpretive Center/Gallery large enough to accommodate changing displays of Great Lakes Native American history and culture approximately 30' by 40'
- Art Gallery and Sales Gallery for Great Lakes Native American artwork of all kinds: pictures, bead work, basketry, carvings, flutes, porcupine quill work, ribbon work, etc. approximately 30' by 30'

- Two offices each approximately 15' by 15' – may be carpeted - with adjacent storage and working space approximately 15' by 15'
- Large storage area at least 25' by 25'
- Outdoor concrete pad for classes that by their very nature require outdoor facilities, including covered shelter, electricity and water, approximately 25' by 25'
- Internet cable broadband access throughout building

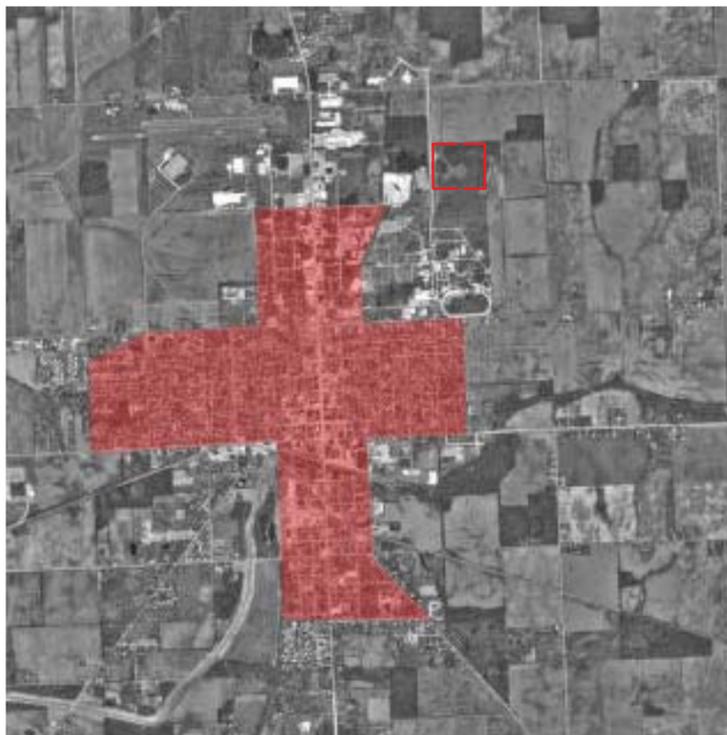
Cultural Center Grounds

- Wetland sewage treatment if not connected to city sewage facility
- Underground electric, phone and cable lines
- Surfaced roads to various sites within the grounds
- Interpretive use of existing pond, wetlands and wooded areas
- Restoration of wetland areas as needed
- Restoration of native plants important to Great Lakes Native Americans
- Planting and maintaining Native American gardens
- Construction of early post-contact Great Lakes Native American village interpretive site complete with longhouse and wigwams
- Fire circle for gatherings
- Sufficient parking space to accommodate large groups and buses, but in a non-intrusive setting approximately 13,000 square feet
- Some handicap accessible outdoor interpretative areas

Site Context

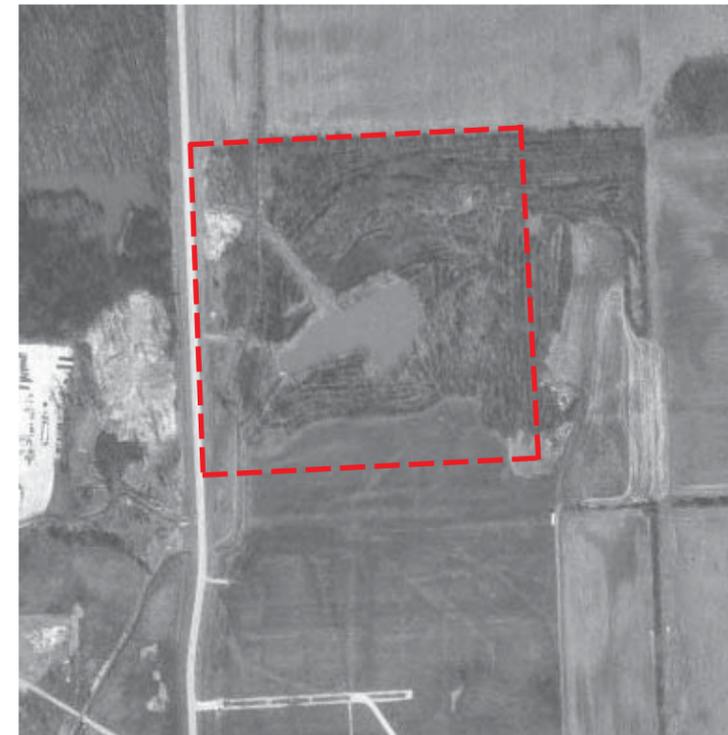


City of Portland, Indiana



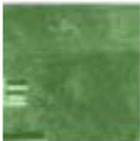
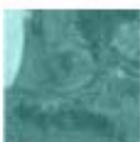
The City of Portland, Indiana is located in eastern North-Central Indiana. Portland is the county seat of Jay County.

National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc.



The National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc. (NCGLNAC) is located to the northeast of the city of Portland, Indiana. North Morton Road is adjacent to the western site boundary. The area is within the traditional Miami homeland and was used by the Miami, Delaware, Potawatomi and other Great Lakes tribes for hunting grounds. It is within the Salamonie River drainage area. The Salamonie River derives its name from the Miami word for the Blood-root plant (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), *oonsaalemoon*, meaning yellow paint.

Site Context

-  Upland woods
-  Agricultural field
-  Open space
-  Jay County Fairgrounds
-  Light industrial area
-  Open water
-  Wetland
-  Drainage ditch
-  Main roadway
-  Site boundary

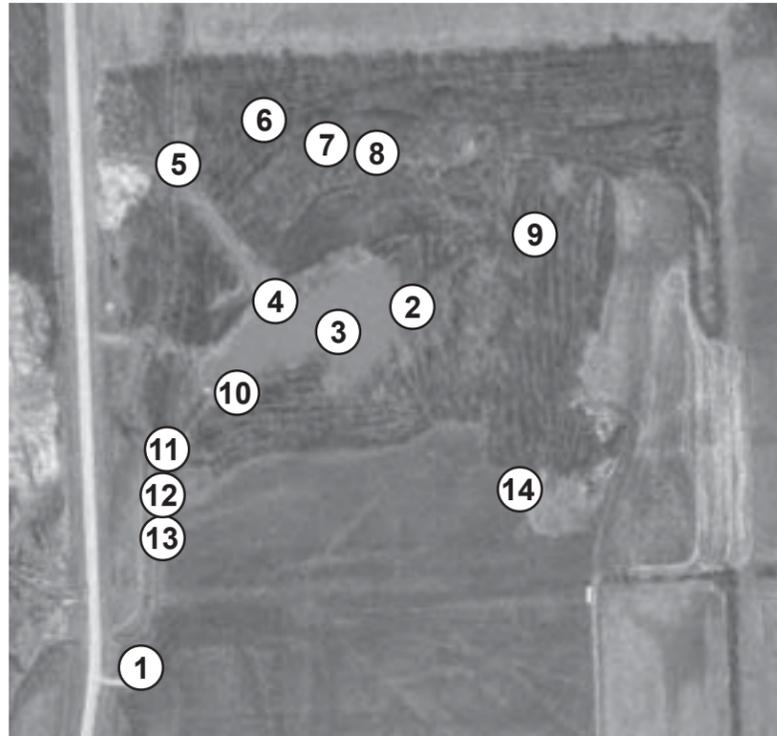


Site Inventory

	Mature woods Characterized by mature Ash, Oak, Beech, Maple		Site access Access area provided by Jay County Fairgrounds
	Agricultural field		Noise and View Noise from road and adjacent light industrial area. Undesirable view of tower.
	Open space Flat open lawn area or unmowed area		Pond overflow Overflow of pond drains into Miller's Branch
	Second growth woods Characterized by Cottonwood, Ash, Willow, Hawthorn and thick understory		Fire circle Area used currently for NCGLNAC fire circle
	Wetland Characterized by dead tree trunks, wetland shrubs, emergent & wetland plants		Chain link fence Existing chain link fence approximately 7' height. Can be removed.
	Open water Deep pond that supports wildlife such as fresh water mussels		Existing path Existing paths connect open space with pond and upland areas
	Borrow trenches Trenches run east to west and are 3-4 feet below grade. Hold water.		Site access road Access easement
	Drainage ditch		
	Main roadway		
	Site boundary		



Existing Site Images



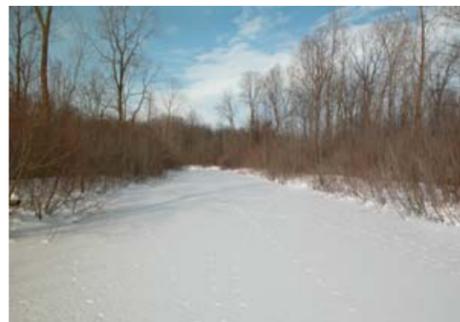
1 View from North Morton Rd looking west toward industrial area, north to NCGLNAC site, and to the east. Access easement is located along the chainlink fence. Visual buffering will be needed to create a greater sense of entry.



2 View looking south to north along western edge of pond area. Steep slopes along edge will need to be lessened to decrease erosion.



3 View looking west toward light industrial area. View needs screened.



4 View looking northwest toward end of pond trench.



5 View looking south from end of pond trench.



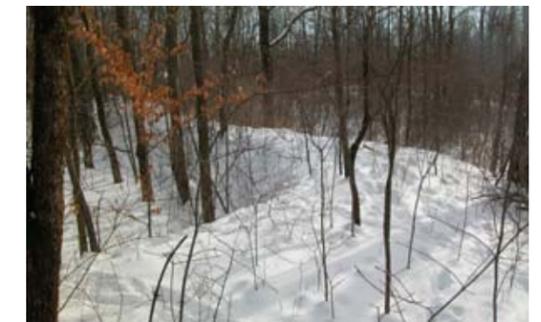
6 View looking toward borrow trenches



7 View within wetland



8 View looking east toward upland areas within wetland



9 View looking south toward upland path



10 View looking west toward pond overflow



11 View looking north from Miller's Branch to pond overflow



12 View looking south along existing fence and Miller's Branch

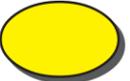


13 Closeup of existing chainlink fence.



14 View looking west toward the eastern site boundary. This is most suitable for building placement. **8**

Site Opportunities and Constraints

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Mature woods
Provides educational and trail opportunities |  | Site access
Crucial area to create a sense of entry to site |
|  | Agricultural field
Fields should be screened from view. |  | Buffer
Need for screening of noise and views to and from site |
|  | Open space
Best area for building placement and parking. |  | Pond overflow
Opportunity to create a waterfall crossing |
|  | Second growth woods
Vegetation should be selectively thinned and native species reintroduced |  | Chain link fence
Fence does not create an inviting entry. It must be removed |
|  | Wetland
Provides educational and trail opportunities. Need for wildlife enhancement. |  | Existing raised path
Could provide unique trail opportunity. |
|  | Open water
Provides educational and recreational opportunities. Need for wildlife enhancement |  | Upland areas
Flat upland areas create opportunities for educational spaces and provide excellent views to wetlands and pond. |
|  | Borrow trenches
Trenches could provide unique opportunities; could be dangerous and should probably be filled in. |  | Site access road
Access road should create a sense of entry into the site with visual buffering from and to adjacent fairgrounds. |
|  | Drainage ditch
With the ditch's steep slope, pedestrian traffic should be avoided as much as possible |  | Pond trench
Pond trench provides opportunity for creating a riverine experience. |
|  | Main roadway | | |
|  | Site boundary | | |



Concept Plan

Learning node (typical)

Provide educational and craft opportunities

Handicap accessible trail (typical)

Trail loop provides access to all node areas on the site.

Outdoor classroom space

Provides education space within close proximity to main building while making use of views to the pond. Open structure that frames view to pond from building.

Wetland stormwater filtration area

Filters excess runoff that is not absorbed through raingardens surrounding building and integrated into parking areas

Main building area

Outdoor building spaces

These include raingardens, native garden area and outdoor gathering spaces. Space also allows for future building expansion to the east or west.

Site entry node

Node is to provide a sense of entry into the site while screened from the adjacent land use.



Great Lakes Native American village (Alternative 2)

Pedestrian path (typical)

Fire circle

Great Lakes Native American village (Alternative 1)

Parking area
Area to be screened from and to adjacent land to the south. Runoff will be reduced by permeable paving and raingarden filtration.

Entry node
Area to provide for pedestrian entry and vehicular dropoff while creating a sense of entry into the building.

Vehicular access road

Visual buffer
Area to be screened from and to adjacent land to the east. Fence will be placed to the east of visual buffer for security of adjacent site

Site Master Plan

Waterfall/seep (typical)

Provides an opportunity for visitors to engage with water and creates a source for "river".

Learning shelter (typical)

Provide educational and craft opportunities

Outdoor classroom space

Provides education space within close proximity to main building while making use of views to the pond. Open structure that frames view to pond from building.

Wetland stormwater filtration area

Filters excess runoff that is not absorbed through raingardens surrounding building and integrated into parking areas

Cultural center building

Outdoor plaza

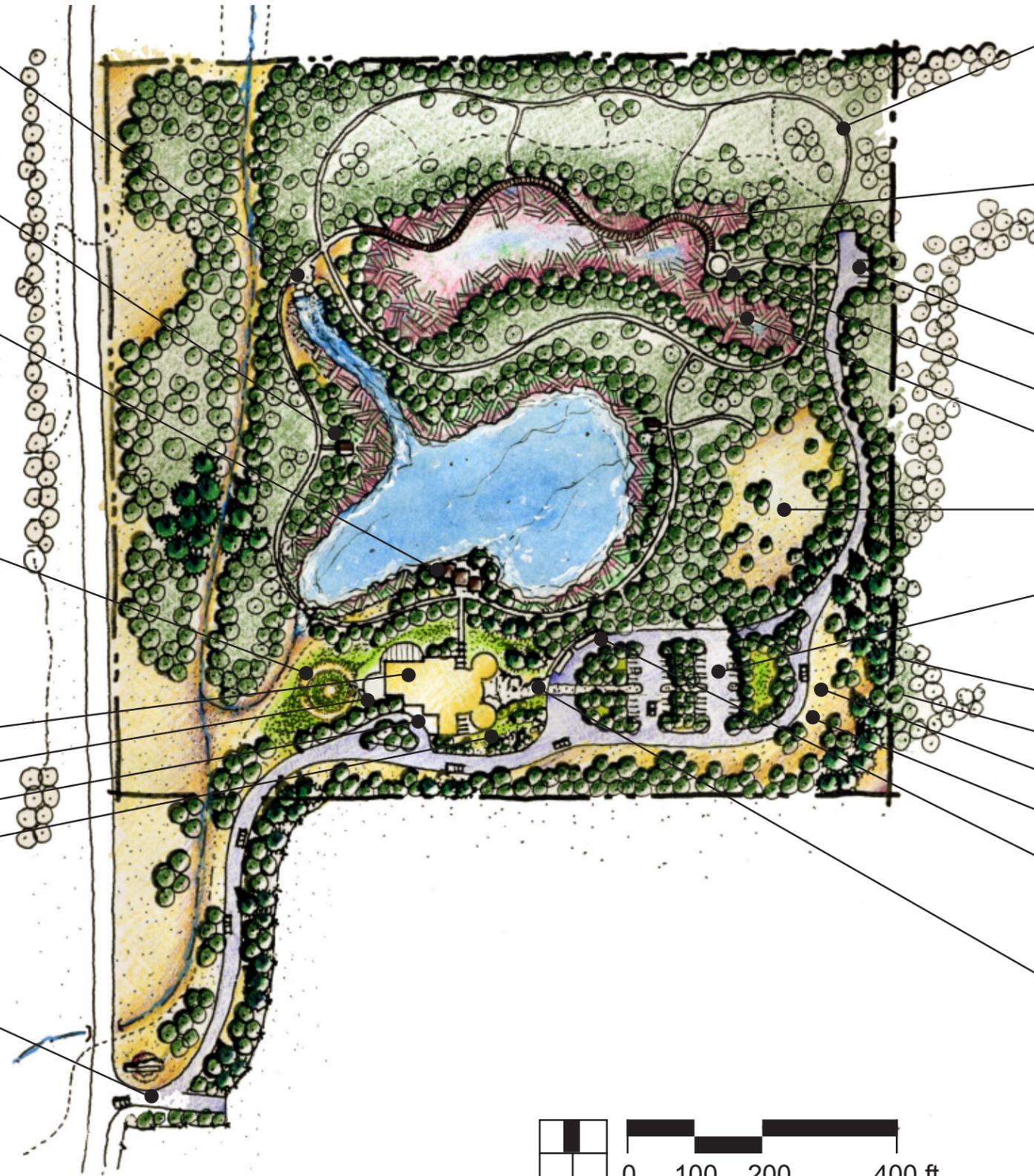
Building service area

Raingardens

Raingardens feature native plants that absorb water runoff from the area surrounding the building

Site entry

Provides a sense of entry with NCGLNAC sign and visual buffer to adjacent land use. Access is provided to adjacent land. Gate and fencing provided behind the visual buffer



Ethnobotanical trails

Provide an opportunity for identifying and learning the uses of culturally significant plants.

Wetland boardwalk

Provide an opportunity for identifying and learning the uses of culturally significant plants and viewing wildlife.

Parking area

Fire circle

Wetland (typical)

Great Lakes Native American village

Parking area

Parking for 40 vehicles features permeable paving and rainwater filtration

Evergreen tree (typical)

Deciduous tree (typical)

Prairie (typical)

Overflow parking area

Bus parking

Parking for 2 buses to allow dropoff and pick up of students and groups.

Entry plaza

A map of the Great Lakes and major rivers provides the visitor with a sense of their relationship with the site and its proximity to these lakes and rivers.



Site Character



Site entry road

Plantings reflect the various plant communities within the Great Lakes area while screening and creating views.



Parking area

Plantings screen and create views that direct the visitor toward the NCGLNAC cultural center building



Cultural center building and entry plaza

The NCGLNAC cultural center building shall reflect the traditional Native American architecture of the Great Lakes region and will be oriented in relation to the four directions. It should also strive for Leadership in Energy and Environmental design (LEED) rating. **12**



Wetland stormwater filtration area

Environmental art references nearby historic mounds. View of mound changes depending upon surrounding water level



Great Lakes Native American village

The village showcases traditional Great Lakes Native American architecture and village layout; includes gardens



Stream bridge and path

Local limestone is integrated into a bridge and waterfall at the pond overflow for a handicap accessible trail loop



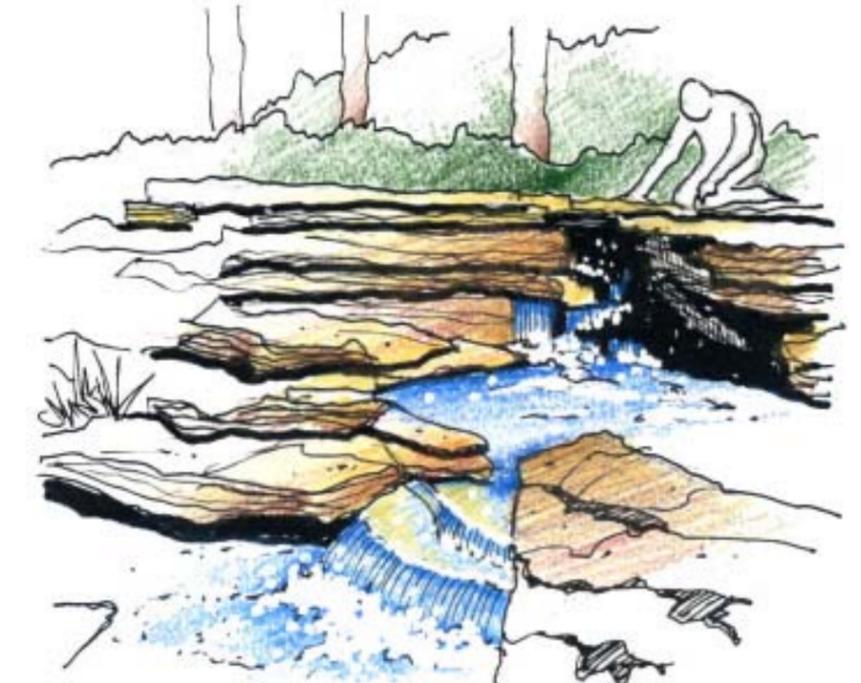
Outdoor classroom space

Structure is integrated into the existing pond and uses local limestone and timber while reflecting traditional architecture



Fire circle and wetland boardwalk

The fire circle is a gathering space and is located on a knoll overlooking the enhanced wetland, & is handicap accessible



Waterfall/seep

A limestone waterfall provides an interactive water element along handicap trail loop & creates a "source" for river



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