

Site and Facility Components of the CIHC and the Northgate Site

This list with notes is provided to assist with public discussion about the suitability of the CIHC for inclusion in the American River Parkway, and the suitability of the Northgate site for the California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC). It is based on input received in 1991 from Indians throughout California about their vision for a statewide Indian museum, a subsequent report about the kind of site and facilities required to meet that vision, and more recent guidance from the CIHC Task Force. *These site and facility needs will be analyzed in more detail and will certainly be updated and refined.* California State Parks is contracting with a professional design firm to do this starting in May and concluding in November of 2005.

	NOTES
Site – General Features	
About 100 acres	Could be more, or less if the surrounding parcels provide a sense of place and areas of shared use.
Natural setting	The setting of the CIHC must reflect the cultural values and associations of California Indians with the land and water. Most of the available acreage should have natural or restored habitat. A cultivated landscape such as a city park is not an appropriate setting.
Sense of place	CIHC needs a setting that is recognized by its visitors as a special place, and is consistent with its vision. Visitors should feel removed from urban congestion.
Site – Components	
Water feature	The river and the quarry pond at the Northgate site are valued as symbols of life and renewal. They will also be used for cultural demonstration (e.g. watercraft, fishing). Visitors should be able to safely stand close to the water's edge somewhere along its perimeter.
Native habitat	It is assumed that most of the available acres at the Northgate site will have restored habitat that will support animals, fish, and birds. Native plants will be especially important for interpretation, and for use in cultural activities such as making baskets.
Trails, walkways	Walking trails should be available to facilitate interpretation and simple enjoyment of the out-of-doors, and to protect the habitat. These would be in addition to and separate from those used by runners, bicycles or horses. A boardwalk may be used in wetlands areas.

Traditional structures	A few structures that represent different building traditions in California (e.g. tule house, plank house) would be located in appropriate settings. How many and which ones presented at any one time may depend on the availability of persons with the knowledge to build them and the life span of the structures. There is discussion among local Indian people about constructing a ceremonial roundhouse at the CIHC.
Traditional games area	This would be simply an open area where traditional games could be demonstrated. (Not a developed facility.)
Outdoor performance area	This would be an area for visitors to watch cultural demonstrations or enjoy scheduled performances. Some kind of seating would be necessary, such as benches around a fire ring or an amphitheater.
Area for ceremony	This area would be available for tribes to use for their own cultural purposes. Typically, the event participants stay overnight near a central fire in their own tents or vehicles (no motor-homes). No built campgrounds are involved.
Special Events	A means to host special events should be available, even if it is in adjacent facilities such as Discovery Park.
Parking and driveways	A recent marketing study indicated that 3-4 acres would be needed to accommodate the annual average visitor volume on a Sunday. Some of this must be paved parking close to the building to accommodate disabled visitors, deliveries, evening events, and a portion of daytime visitors. Other parking may be further away if connected by walkways, and could be paved or unpaved. Accommodation for bus loading and unloading (but not parking) will necessary be close to building and activity areas. Parking for peak periods or special events may be accommodated off-site with a shuttle service.
Building – General Features	
Functions integrated with natural setting and each other	Natural and cultural heritage not separated artificially. Indoor spaces should be understood in relationship to natural environment. Housing for cultural objects should not be sterile or far-removed from other activities.
Green	Design, technology, and materials employed should be safe for the planet and for visitors and staff. Should demonstrate responsible and sustainable use of natural resources and operational funds. Avoid power lines.

Design excellence	Architectural design should evoke respect for the cultures represented and be consistent with a modern image of California Indians. Inspiration should be taken from traditional forms and materials.
Building – Components	
25,000 square feet for interpretation, public amenities, and associated backroom functions	These are more typical spaces that the public usually sees in museums and cultural centers, such as exhibits, gallery, small theater, class/meeting rooms, and artist-in-residence studio. Areas needed to accommodate visitors are a reception area, museum store, food service, and restrooms. Support areas include security office, staff rooms, and equipment.
25,000 square feet for education and preservation	Research center, collections storage, curatorial functions
10,000 square feet for support functions	Administrative offices, exhibit development, museum network support.

Timetable

2004 to June 2005	ARP: Update Citizens Advisory Committee (UCAC) discussions about American River Parkway planning
Oct - Dec 2004	CIHC: Northgate site identified by CIHC Task Force and State Parks as the preferred location for the CIHC.
Jan to June 2005	ARP: Development of the ARP Plan Update by MIG
Jan to June 2005	CIHC: Site studies undertaken by State Parks, including natural resources, cultural resources, engineering, hydrology, utilities, and traffic
May to Nov 2005	CIHC: Architectural Programming Phase – Confirms (or changes) the requirements listed above
June 2005	ARP: Draft of the American River Parkway Plan Update available
June or July 2005	CIHC: Confirmation (or not) of Northgate site by CIHC Task Force
Nov to May 2006	CIHC: Site and Facility Master Plan and Massing Studies Phase

Note that a site master plan will not be attempted until ...

- the needs of CIHC are outlined more specifically – November 2005
- the results of site studies are known – June 2005
- a recommendation about the American River Parkway Plan Update has been made – June 2005
- the CIHC Task Force has confirmed that the partnerships necessary at the Northgate site are supportive of its vision – June/July 2005